

Belgium.

Mary Cotten

~~Handwritten scribbles in blue ink~~

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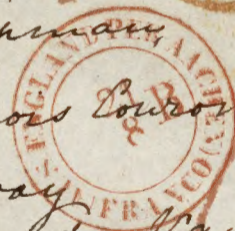
~~Handwritten scribbles in brown ink~~  
Mr H. G. Chapman

Hotel des Trois Couronnes,

Vevey

Canton de Vaud

Suisse.



NY  
AUG 23 1893

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Ms. A. 7. 3. 73



... I shall begin to  
... a letter  
... that of  
... what  
... a great  
... about, but  
... rarely takes  
... from per  
... of experience  
... I want  
... political  
... this year  
... which will  
... to light  
... always  
... me in  
... of  
... will  
... to write

... an earlier acknowledgement, my  
... had not been intended to the value of my  
... tokens of your love, but overfull hands  
... refused to put on paper the thoughts with  
... which it was charged. If Miss Pugh is  
... near you, by she has received two American  
... letters, <sup>of</sup> forwarded to her "Poste Restante  
... Army" one on Aug 1<sup>st</sup> - the other Aug 7<sup>th</sup>, she will  
... have given you my reports of my Father  
... up to that time. She has written to me  
... several times in great dismay at not hearing  
... but I have written to the places where she  
... told me to direct, & the fact of her not reaching  
... <sup>letters</sup> at the expected time, must not be  
... put down as a defect in the Swiss postal  
... regulations. I have endured a good deal of  
... smarting down by my amiably consenting  
... forward Miss Pugh's & Mr. M. Kim's letters! Such  
... holdings, & grumbings, & wondering, - because  
... (forgetting their instructions they gave which I have  
... scrupulously obeyed) they did not find their despatches  
... at places where they never told me to send to  
... however I am beginning to see the end of the trial  
... now, & do hope to get thro' it. No wonder if Emma was  
... not so well



received little notice from my father about  
little things & a Bristol and Glasgow with an  
article on the same subject. We hope to hear  
from you soon & very truly all the love for this town  
Dear Mrs Weston is daily in my thoughts  
The simplicity of our occupations mixed  
with my ever abiding love to look her friend  
with me, I suspect the imaginary talk  
correspondence I have with her. My anxiety  
is not so great as here for there is little to  
do other way of direct matter for my father to be  
his still less hind him from the rest of the  
which travels are perpetually liable.  
We have only to wait patiently & gather the  
madra which every day supplies leaving  
the more without attempting to find a  
definite exception to the firm it porters  
well, as since the fall of the year has been  
with one or two retrograde days a balance of  
improvement to my father. He is not quite  
so weak as I am afraid to be truly banished  
without a violent reaction of exhaustion  
as well as uniformly the equal of any pleasure  
conceivable or continued reading or attempt  
at magnificence or scientific pursuit. I see  
degrees of power in his hands second with the  
amount of mental strength he possesses. I think  
various very much. It is rarely seen in his



except when lying in bed or on the sofa,  
or sitting when riding out if he does  
not go far. His progress is so gradual that  
he is less conscious of it than I am, he  
perceives more clearly what he has lost  
than what he gains, for he has forgotten  
how helpless he was at the  
commencement of his illness. He is very  
cheerful, particularly animated when  
conversing with friends. Now he is able  
to bear being two or three in the course of  
the day without being permanently affected  
by it. Wearing always follows sustained  
conversations. I am being thus circumstan-  
tial because I know that remote as you are  
from the scenes of his life & surroundings  
you would to have a definite notion of my  
father's state not to be left to supply by ima-  
gination a vague outline. The same ac-  
count, in words that led some people to pre-  
sume that he is almost recovered, & that  
to think him past all consciousness of  
what is going on, whereas he is himself  
mentally miserable, but the prospect of  
resuming his suspended activity is as distant  
as when his attack first came on. He can  
not write, the effort of composition causes  
giddiness & vertigo, at the same time  
his interest in everything is so vivid, this







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bodily presence. We invariably suffer  
from my being lost in meetings over  
schemes of movements, & meetings, writings  
& talkings which ever & anon flash thro'  
my mind. <sup>all day long</sup> So while we are together I  
limit my antislavery writings to carrying  
out any notion that has thoughts are  
gaining upon, for the sooner it is dis-  
posed of the better, & whatever inde-  
pendent writing or planning I accom-  
plish is only in the short periods of  
retirement walks & <sup>at</sup> the <sup>midnight</sup> hours after he is  
in bed. Tho' this is disappointing it is not  
worth dwelling on for the Cause can't  
suffer from our doing our duty, nor from  
that duty being patience & forbearance while  
we crave free scope for action. We have  
some amusing incidents going on now  
but they are too long to write. My Father  
is being called to account by a Unitarian  
minister of Bangor, Maine (Rev. J. A. Allen)  
for some remarks he made at Chatterham  
& the Dr. Register is full of wrath at him,  
saying he has made assertions for which there  
is not <sup>the slightest</sup> shadow of ground. Bro. Dr. W. F. Bishop  
is always up to the mark ready to put his hand  
to the wheel, & we have an energetic ally in a young



Unitarian minister, Mr S. Alfred Steinhilb,  
whose name you may have noticed, he has  
succeeded Russell Carpenter in being on  
effecting an A.S. revival at Bridgewater. Then  
there is another young man, <sup>a real helper</sup> Mr Chepman  
whom you have heard of before, I am glad  
to have succeeded in bringing about an inter-  
view between him & Mr M<sup>r</sup> Kim when the  
latter paper & Mrs Manchesters, & Mr C. writes  
in much gratification at the result, & also  
in the same letter for numerous facts  
about the Am. Constitution &c. &c. for a pamphlet  
he is writing in which he defends the Am.  
A.S. Society, & proves Mr Garrison's consistency  
in his Hartford convention speech &c. I have  
handed Mr Chepman over to Mr Webb after sending  
him all the pamphlets I could hunt up,  
unfortunately this is one case out of a  
hundred constantly recurring in which  
openings close up for want of machinery  
to keep them open. If we had one person  
in the three Kingdoms thoroughly versed  
in A.S. politics who could make it his  
business to supply information & keep  
the various wheels oiled &asting we should  
get on delightfully, but our transient visitors  
only make us more keenly alive to our  
destitution. It was most tantalizing to get  
no more out of Mr M<sup>r</sup> Kim's long anticipated  
visit to Bristol than a few brief days (false



I think) of personal intercourse, chiefly on  
other topics; but with this I had to content  
myself, as discussing business & plans before  
my father is sure to harass & fatigue him,  
& collecting people together or even looking  
them up for the occasion was wholly  
impracticable. I hear from Miss Lupton  
that they are more fortunately circum-  
stanced at Leeds. I am much pleased with  
Mr. Kinn's visit. <sup>Worship</sup> They are looking impatiently for  
him at Doncaster. I know, I have promised to  
help him to a sight of the people & things both  
worth visiting in Bath, Glasgow &c. He said he  
would come to us again before he returned to  
Philadelphia, which he talks of doing on the  
1<sup>st</sup> of October; I dare not venture to calculate  
on turning his second coming to more account  
than his first, tho' it may be that some of  
our Committee who are now absent will  
have returned & be glad to see & talk with  
him, & perhaps <sup>be able</sup> arrange a meeting. It is  
anything but pleasant to feel that the  
movement of so many wheels is stopped  
for want of the little invisible touches we  
were in the habit of giving them. We have  
been always aiming to make them self  
acting, & a very little more training & fixing  
would have achieved the desired object.  
On the other hand however it is a great blessing  
not to be entirely withdrawn from the



field, & to be able to adjust a few things that  
seemed likely to be scattered in the general  
panic my Father's illness threw people in  
just at first. It was partly ludicrous &  
partly aggravating, & partly affecting to see  
how dependent, people were, or thought  
themselves, upon him. There are still  
incessant applications from patients  
who write making appointments (which  
have to counter order & to refer them to my  
cousin as a substitute), & still people pre-  
sume he is well enough to look over their  
manuscripts or documents, & to attend  
just to their little requirements. But I  
am quite skilled in speedily repelling such  
the thing is so positive that there is no  
need of parleying, & my Father's inability  
to sign his name is effecting a gradual  
transference of trusteeship duties, & reac-  
ships, &c. &c. which is a source of great  
satisfaction to me, tho' the passage of each  
thru' my hands wears up time. But now we  
are in the way to break thro' these matters  
more summarily for the time being at least,  
having at last seen our way to a temporary  
change of abode, only to a distance of five  
miles, to a friend's house which has been  
placed at our disposal for ten days during  
the absence of its inmates, but it will suffice  
to prove <sup>at</sup> my Father's fitness for a further  
change of air. This is the fourth country  
seat that has been offered him, but until



Came to us a few days ago & is delighted  
to get into the country. My father & she  
always gambol like children when  
they are together, so all things combine  
to revive & refresh him. We are favored too  
with a little carriage in which he can  
drive about the lanes & roads of this  
beautiful neighbourhood, if he is able to  
stand the exposure to air of which he  
has hitherto had but little trial. I am  
filling my sheet with personal details  
in faith that this meets your wishes; in  
a little while I hope to write to dear Miss  
Weston & then things may present themselves  
in better perspective than they do now to eyes  
that have been like mine long strained  
in vain attempts to discern some distinct  
image rising out of a vast <sup>extending horizon</sup> ~~prospect~~ of mist.  
I never felt less solicitous about the form the  
future would assume, or more confident that  
it will be ~~best~~ with blessings equivalent to those  
which crown the present & have signalized the  
past. The cloud that conceals the mountain  
summit does not obscure the green spot on  
which we have to place our foot at each  
step of <sup>our</sup> ~~the~~ ascent, & that is quite as much as  
I want - being quite sure all the <sup>journey long</sup> ~~road~~ that the  
summit is lightened by perpetual sunshine.  
With a few temporary fits of headache & other  
indications of having come to the end of my strength  
for a season I have kept very well thro' the long  
nursing & watching, & suffered much less than I  
have expected from deficiency of fresh air & sleep, & cold



If now he has not been in a state to entertain  
the idea of leaving home. Now he can be  
riding his able to walk a little I will no  
doubt be better for getting out of doors  
now than is practicable in Park St.  
We are just arrived at this country house  
so I can <sup>as yet</sup> only report <sup>two</sup> good nights & a day  
to the prospect of amendment. The place  
I think you visited, it is called Shire  
Hampton, the ride to it is thro' a  
Park with very fine trees, & at the  
extremity of the ride you reach a spot  
called Penpolo point which overlooks  
the mouth of the river Avon, the Severn  
the Monmouthshire hills (where Tenbury  
& Chepstow lie) part of Somersetshire  
& a good deal of Gloucestershire. Never  
mind whether you remember the view  
however, you can fancy it <sup>sufficiently</sup> & as my father  
has a peculiar taste for watching vessels  
in full sail & as this is the point for  
which they all make, you will understand  
its adaptation to his fancy. The house is  
an old fashioned one, but filled up with  
every luxury an invalid could desire, & it lies  
in a beautiful garden with the lawns & shrubs  
in abundance. We have moreover the  
advantage of Kate Parkes's company, the

Ms. A. 1. 3. 73