

Perseus Lucchesi, Florence Italy. 3 May 1883

1883

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Dear Friend

Your kind letter of March 7 found me at Athens but I had been wishing to answer it until my tour was over. Besides visiting nearly every place of interest in Attica we went to Argina Tiryns Argos Mycenae and Corinth. There is now a carriage road all the way from Mauthia to Corinth making the tour very easy. I had a friend with me and as both he and I spoke a little modern Greek, we dispensed with the costly aid of a dragoman. Afterward I went alone to Olympia taking steamer to Patrae then rail to Pyrgos and finally walking to the excavations, 4 1/2 hours going and 4 returning, on a port which costed much longer. Among the natives who like the Hahn's never sold when they have a profibility of riding or driving. The remains of the great temple near the station vividly recall to my mind that I have so often felt in reading Pindar - the wonderful religious veneration which the Greeks continued to give their otherwise rather brutal deities. The sculptures of Alcamenes disappointed me, for I had been led to expect something nearly equal to the pediment of the Parthenon, whereas what I saw

think me as far inferior both in design
and workmanship. However the statues
are seen to such disadvantage, being huddled
together in an ill-lighted shed, that
perhaps one hardly does them justice.
The famous Hermes of Praxiteles seemed
to me wonderful in technical finish, but
hardly so perfect an example of ideal
beauty as some other ancient statues.

By the way what do you think of the
theory that the Venus of Melos is not
an Aphrodite at all but a Victory
like that at Brescia? On the way
back I stayed a few days at Zante, a
very civilized island, and also again at
Corfu where I saw a most beautiful fête
on the Greek Palm Sunday, which was
also St. Spiridon's day. Whatever aesthetic
faculty the Greeks still retain seems
to show itself entirely in the arrangement
of religious processions.

I hardly know except whether my book
is succeeding or not. Within a fortnight
after its appearance 120 copies were
sold which looks well, but this
demand may have been due to the

price of the book merely and to the
credit of its publisher, which is considerable.
Only three reviews have appeared, favour-
able on the whole, but not going to the
heart of the subject. The popularity of
Lewes I cannot expect; still there is
a large class of English readers misprising
every woman who takes sufficient interest
in philosophy and ancient literature
to appreciate whatever good there may be
in my contribution to the subject.

Meanwhile I hear with much satisfaction
that there has been a great fire in the
warehouses of my publishers, and hope that
a good stock of my unsold copies may have
been consumed. I shall have to be paid
for them, and it is a quicker mode of dis-
posing of them than the book market.

The remarks in my preface were not in-
tended so much for a criticism of your inter-
pretation of Plato and Aristotle as for a
brief statement of the more obvious reasons
which permitted me to republish views of
Plato and Aristotle formed without a
knowledge (or only a very imperfect knowledge)
of your views. I also thought that you
might like to have an opportunity of
stating in print how you would dispose
of the various objections which I have

mentioned. Should the fire above
mentioned have ceased of my first edition
I shall have an opportunity of once more
revising the whole question sooner than
I hoped.

Among the advantages of a
vegetarian diet can not only be wanted the
Euripidean δι' ἀφύου βορᾶς σίτου κεννίδιο
for the father with me yes the more ex-
clusively does the food provided for trav-
ellers consist of wheat. I have never found
such a scarcity of vegetables anywhere as in
Greece. Does your system exclude milk,
butter cheese and eggs as well as meat?
I don't take much of any of them, but
should feel total privation very much.

If you could send over des Nerven d. Liebe
to be sent to me I shall have great pleasure
in studying it. I am staying here until
the 25th after that my address will be
Hotel Bellevue, 18er Kitzlerland.

Your books Coleridge, Mithras and Volch
Rem a little now with their edition of fescoring
Hebrew Lexicon part II. I have been looking
for it (after buying part I.) nearly six months
Perhaps at the publisher's hands.

There is a very sharp critique on Edwin Wallace
in late Saturday's Academy (April 28) but I have
not had time to read it yet.

Today all our good Portinians are out in the basin
catching cicale. By the way many years they will live
longer as many as the cicale live, days.

Ever yours A. W. Benson

Hotel Bellevue Berne Suisse
(Christiana Post-Post.) 10 June 1883

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Dear Professor - Thanks for
your note. I shall be starting
for a tour in Norway and Sweden
this week (Thursday or Friday) and
do not expect to be back until
the beginning of August. I don't
if you have left Rotterdam by
that time. We might still meet
as I am thinking of returning by
Gronow. W. L. L. I have just
finished. As usual I find much
to agree with, something perhaps
to differ from, and something
needing further elucidation.
Wishing you much pleasure in
your journey,
Yours ever
A. W. Benson



Postkarte.

Carte postale. — Cartolina postale.



Herrn Professor Leichmiller
W. Behrenstrasse 1. I.



Berlin
München

Hotel Central Berlin 125

21 July 1883

Dear Friend,

I have just returned to this part of the world from my Scandinavian tour which lasted a month. After leaving Bie on June 14th I reached Christiania on the 19th, Drontheim on the 21st and the North Cape five days later, performing the voyage in an excursion steamer which is running for the first time this year and achieves every success. The whole journey from Drontheim and back lasted eight days. The

Weather was generally warm and sunny and the scenery most beautiful. The midnight sun itself be only seen twice, on both occasions at Tromsø; other times it was hidden by mist or mountains.

Afterward I went by another steamer from Drontheim to Bergen, saw the Hardanger Fjord and the two greatest waterfalls in Norway, the Voring Fos and the Skjeggedal Fos, drove five days through Thelamarken, was back in Christiania on the 13th of this month, then took train to

Stockholm where I spent three days, and finally, finding the weather too impossible for a canal journey, travelled express to Malmo, crossed over to Skatstund by the steamer, and arrived here yesterday. I don't know how long I shall stop in Berlin as I am wishing for some luggage which by the almost inconceivable stupidity of the steamer people at Malmo was bonded over to a certain prince bound for Copenhagen and will have to be recovered thence; but I am expecting it every hour.

and should it come before
them, may leave on Monday
or Tuesday next for Dresden
where I mean to spend three
or four days and the same
time at Munich. I think
therefore that if you could
write to me Poste Restante
Munich, that would afford
the best chance of my finding
you in Switzerland, as I shall
be travelling across that country
back to Ber about July 29
- 31. This a letter after Aristotle's
own heart - without any philo-
sophy, but I hope the heart
will be different.

Ever yours

Alfred Russel

Hotel Bellevue, Basle Switzerland 126
7 Aug. 1883

Dear Friend - The weather is so cool
that I am most likely to remain here
through August, devoting myself to rest
and study. In all cases letters addressed
to here will find me. This is on the
route both to Chamonix and Zermatt
and there is some very beautiful scenery
in the neighborhood, so I hope you
may find time to include it in your
tour.

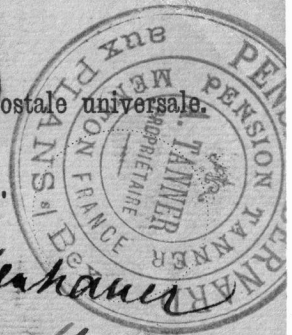
Ever yours
A. W. Benson
I got the copy at Munich
all right

— Carte postale.

Union postale universelle. — Weltpostverein. — Union postale universelle.



SUISSE. SCHWEIZ. SVIZZERA.



von Paparint des Hollehaner

an Herrn Professor Feichmüller



2 Braunschweig

~~Poste Bestante~~
Nikolaistrasse 12

Hotel de la Poste, Berisal
Simplon, Suisse 25 July 1884

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Dear Friend,

Since we met at Box last autumn I have been living a rather unsettled life. First I went back to Florence and remained there for a few months. Then in the winter I took an Eastern tour beginning with Egypt after which came Palestine Syria Constantinople and the Danube to Buda-Pesth. Finally I returned to Italy by Adelsberg, spent May in Florence June partly at the Baths of Lucca partly in Interlaken, and the rest of my time since then here and there in the high Alps until the other day when I settled down here with my books meaning to devote the rest of the summer to quiet study. Paris pleased me very much although the climate was rather disappointing.

being much colder and above all
rainier than I expected. I went up
the Nile as far as Assuan and saw
most of the famous antiquities. From
the introduction to Baedeker's guide
which is written by Ebers and other high
authorities I gathered that the Egyptians
did to some extent believe in metem-
psychosis, so that after all the tradition-
al account of the derivation of Pythagorean-
ism from that quarter may be correct.
When in Egypt I studied the literary
Arabic, reading Lozman's Fables and some
of the Koran, but did not make any
great progress. The spoken language has a
much greater resemblance to Hebrew, my
knowledge of which soon enabled me to
understand several of the street-cries.
The Arabs, counting among them the modern
Egyptians, have a quite astonishing
linguistic faculty. Not only does one
find a much greater proportion of them
who speak English than in Southern

Europe, but they speak it with much
more intelligence, entering so to speak
into the genius of the language. It
must be added that their vanity is
at least equal to their cleverness.

Last May I met Lewis Campbell
again in Florence. He is preparing a
new translation of the Republic in particu-
lar with Jewett, and also an article on
Plato for the Encyclopædia Britannica. He
had been reading the second series of your
"Begriffe" and I lent him the Lit.
Zeitschen. What his total impression
was I do not know as he returned the
book after leaving Florence; but he
observed that you were "very persuasive".
The other day I spoke of your theory of
the composition of the Ethics to Prof.
Sellar of Edinburgh who, rather to my
surprise, as he is in general rather con-
servative, was quite disposed to admit

it as *prima facie* probable. I must
mention also that Lewis Campbell
was much struck at hearing that your
own philosophy was opposed to that
which you attribute to Plato; it is so
common to read one's own views into
ancient authors.

Occasionally I hear that a favourable
opinion has been expressed of my book
by this and that scholar; and a
number of ladies have to my knowledge
read it; but for the rest it makes
slow progress, partly I fear through the
ill-will of the publishers who made an
unsuccessful attempt to overcharge me for
the printing.

Remember me kindly to your children.

Yours ever
Alfred Bunn