

chez M. Richard.

27 rue Sambin.

Dijon.

12<sup>m</sup> Sept. 1905.

My dear Prof

You will have been informed of the safe arrival and enthusiastic reception of your splendid letter. I was en train de give Charlie a glimpse of Paris when I received it and news of you all was most welcome. I don't harrow your feelings by reiterating my statements regarding our correspondence but my thoughts are free - however let the typewriter be the sheet anchor of my hopes - or is it already a



cast-off toy. To recall your news  
of Ballan Abbots affairs, the day  
after your letter came I saw Miss  
Daisy Cunningham. She is  
chaperoning a young American  
girl on her travels and we visited  
the Conciergerie with the Slayters.

They are all very well. Mrs. S.  
read your letter with interest and  
asked me to convey her regards  
to you and Madame. Charlie  
passed his exams but not quite  
high enough to be admitted to  
L'École des Beaux-Arts. They only  
take in a few foreigners - as a rule  
about 10. this year only three.  
Charlie I hope will have recounted  
our adventures and I shall only



say that I stayed two or three days after he went.  
The evening before and I went to the Comédie Française  
to see "Nemours". It was splendidly played and very  
exciting. I was reading it at Dijon and had only got  
halfway through. You can imagine the glee with which  
I seized the chance to see it played when I noticed  
the affiche which said it was to be put on that night.

After leaving Geneva about Aug 3. I made a four-  
days journey through the Oberland, by Berne, Interlaken  
back up the lac de Thun & Spiez, thence to Montreux  
Geneva and back to Lausanne. <sup>From</sup> Interlaken I made  
the excursion by rail and rack-and-pinion to Grindel-  
wald, Schynig & Lauterbrunnen and at Schynig  
was right under the Jungfrau. It is magnificent.  
If I ever get the account of my voyage finished which  
I am writing in French I'll send it to you to  
read.

Since my return here about the 8<sup>th</sup> of Aug except  
for my bust in Paris I have been quiet. Reading  
some history, and reading & writing French, strolling  
in the town and biking in the country. There  
are some delightful spots and wines every where.

Since coming back from Paris I have been  
"following" the course for foreigners at the University



It is rather good. There are about  
25 persons of all nationalities and  
both sexes taking it. Germans  
predominate, then Swiss, Italian  
English, c'est à dire, un Ecossaise,  
un Irlandaise, un Ecossais, et  
un seul Anglais et moi - then  
Poles and I think that is all.

There are practical courses  
where one reads and talks and  
newspapers & books are explained,  
a course of translation, courses  
of lectures by professors on historical  
literary and social subjects and  
other lectures by private citizens  
in every conceivable institution  
incident or industry.

You may have seen the programme.  
It seems to me we had an affiche  
from Grenoble at Daichoncel  
one year. Grenoble lies in the  
 Alps and is much livelier  
and puttier but there are  
too many foreigners there, houses  
of Germans & English who all  
talk their own lingo when together.

There is a splendid museum  
here too - some excellent pictures  
and a lot of sculpture - some  
modern French and a lot of  
the Burgundian school. It is  
in the ancient palace of the dukes



two of whose tombs - Philippe le hardi, & Jean-sans-Peur  
are set up in their former Salle-d'Armes. They  
are magnificent things the tombs and the room also  
has a splendid big chimney piece. Burgundy was  
a great place for sculpture and the town is full  
of the hôtels of the counsellors of the Etats de Bourgogne  
The house occupied by the English Embassy has a most  
luxuriously sculptured facade and there is another house  
which has each story supported by a row of caryatides.

I have lately been struggling with a street view I  
was trying to render in water-colour - it was trying for  
I hadn't realized the amount of perspective and the number  
of windows and details that there were. Besides that I have  
done four or five sketches and some pencil notes as  
well.

We go up on the 13<sup>th</sup> Oct. and I shall probably  
leave here about the 1<sup>st</sup> and go I know not whither -  
perhaps stop in Paris, and London, perhaps go to Edinburgh -  
but I don't think the exchequer will stand that.  
Gerrie and her two H.B. L's are in Devonport.

Cam has a dockyard appointment - with a house so  
they are very pleased. Plymouth is the nicest of the  
ports and there of ~~to~~ are lots of people there that



This letter is full of "Is" but  
I hope you won't mind - Do  
you think the Gazette would  
appreciate a short description of  
the vintage if I have the luck to  
see it or would such a publica-  
tion injure the name of the college  
in the bigotted districts of the  
province and prejudice people  
against it?

Now I must stop - having written  
six letters today - My love to la  
famille Acklom and of course  
most particularly to vos enfants  
et madame, dite Mrs Archie.

I hope to hear again from one of  
you soon - and remain

Yours ever Gilbert S. Stairs