

Rome Apr. 30. 527

It was a month yesterday since any letter
arrived from you, my beloved & best sister,
which possessed the mail & gave us equally,
& for the first time such a miserable trick?
The papers come at times & the reports
of the trial become more & more interesting. It will
be a great relief when it is fairly certain
that the man is indicted. It did not seem
possible when Beaumont stepped out, that
a man more infamous wd. ever step on
the stage of the Roman emperors,
to keep us modest in our judgment of human
nature.

May 2. Your letter of the 14 Apr. arrived
last evening, with no report of the missing
one - Had that last letter really been
a very interesting one. There are hints in this
of some of the events mentioned there - And
other things learned in that way. I gather
that it could not have been the last
thing in earth I shd. have expected. For
if ever I heard the word through the
ambassador's, & dread for the moral state
of man, expressed by human lips, those
lips were A. C.'s. Well, we know what we
are to the sup. etc. I hope perhaps
God's creation justified the latter word
wh. we use of encouragement. Poor Henry
Locke, & poor mother of him! I am so sorry
that he disappointed them! & what else
will Henry do but work on the farm?
Now, my dear Sarah, I grieve to check yr
personal gratitude or zeal. If those pickles
& things wh. were not intended for yr relief
when

but ^{very sorry as I said to} ~~for~~ Mother & Father - I suppose
were intended to be directed to Mother Sarah
Wentley - Abby is extremely disappointed
that half of them were picked - as she sent
word that blackberries & more especially
cherries w^h. She says are very delicious
sh^d. be put up with the rest. But they
will keep you kind & I dare say can be eaten
in time - Mr. description of April in Belmont
made us laugh - Did'nt I say, that such
weather was impartial & went the rounds
& I dare say you are having a touch of
summer. We have it in full. & the garden
of the Princess is a mass of bloom & color.
Such heaps of roses - of nigelleth - jessamine
petit point & all flowers that we hold
most refined & delicious! - Such great stretches
on the top high walls of orange & lemon
trees in full blossom & fruit - it is a
paradise - Last week her H. sent for
us to come & see her as she was sick
& about to depart for some mineral
baths. She had left her garden to us
to go there as often & stay as long as
we desire - but alas, that I sh^d say so.
there was no mention of any picking
privilege - & of all that enormous wealth
of roses - I saw by next week on the bushes
she plucked two & gave us each one - But
congratulation I say of those who court at
what they don't get - & are not grateful
for what they do. We saw there the
Princess Somebody & perhaps I forgot
to tell you that among our guests or illu-
minations might was another Princess

Somebody - Do you feel awed by this liberal
mention of Princesses? Don't - don't waste
any one's that way - You wd. at if you saw
them - But we did meet with a very attractive
young girl - friendly & beautiful in manner at
Tully's plate - a former P^{ts} she was then some
day with her Father & mother & took quite
a liking to us. She spoke English & Italian well.
But I shall begin to wonder, if we see any
more nobility about these parts who they
are who compose the rank & file. Our Rus-
sian friend - whose title we do not know - to
whom we have given the Soubziguel - of P^{ts}
invited us there to meet the Duchess of some
thing from Florence (russian) - who is a
Duchess - but we did not see her - & at
that time I forgot to ask why she was not
present - As regards nobility here I suspec-
tively Princesses - I don't know the law of
them multiplicably, perhaps I might do -
but the time may come when plain John
& Jane may be distinguished - Let us hope
& perhaps you have seen in the papers
at home a small fire-work of H.
business with red c^o. to the monopoly of
the honors of the hunt (fox) (wh. is pur-
sued here thro' the winter with great con-
quest) by the Stalians. In wh. said H.
complains that the "Brush" has never
been presented to her, nor to any other
than Stal. Lewis, tho' they are always
last - & in after "the death" - Then had
over a little tempest - in a lie - got - &
the American part of it has received

from the Club in consequence - I don't wonder if some of our smart new papers like the Nation, & the Spectator treat the affair with a little sarcasm - Miss Cochrane & Miss Tibbels have come on the 17th for America - & will not return till just before Christmas - Miss S. thinks she may be obliged to remain there this winter - Miss C. has had a pretty severe winter - never she says has there been such a rush & her time is all given to taking strangers in - It is an unmerciful talk wh. she imposes on herself - to see & entertain crowds of people whom she does not care for, & wd. never know again - She is going to give readings to the music-hall people in the fall - in order to put into merble some medallions presented to them by herself & bought of a Danish Sculptor here.

We met Dr. Lymer the American Episcopal Clergyman at a neighbors the other evg. who gave us some acct of the doings of the Archaeological Society - of wh. any one I believe becomes member by the pay^t. of 5^{/-}. Mr. Parker the head of a celebrated publishing house in Oxford Eng. spends all his spare time & means grubbing in & about Rome - Gov^t. is too poor to carry on excavations of itself - & makes them only so fast as it is furnished with funds by various outsiders. If one had the time it wd. be

interesting to join in the search - Tho I doubt if I have the genuine mania to follow it-up! They found the other day some enormous ^{columns} ~~rocks~~ cut out of the solid rock with the pillars of rough stone standing just as they were hewn - This is more puzzling than anything yet come across - but they know it to be the site of an old city - Also they came across a great reservoir of delicious water wh. formerly was one of those wh. supplied Rome - never was a city - & will provide for in this respect - To see what great fountains shed their burrowing & burrowed now when but one or two of the acqueducts remain gives some idea of what must have been then - Mr. Parker thro previous researches knew of the existence of this res^{er}. in the Campagna - but had sought for it in vain - & found upon it at least of course with the delight of a discoverer upon a new planet - They found a big piece of acqueduct cut out of solid rock - The reason that so much of the acqueducts was built above ground is that it was necessary on acct. of the force of water to make the movement gradual - since they found did not understand or had not the iron pipes the only thing that is able to resist the pressure - Last Sunday we went to see the old wharf lately brought to light (a part of it) on the muddy bank of the Tiber - It is built with great neatness & beauty of design bricks with solid stone projections & festoon roads to - & large blocks of hard Egyptian marbles lie about imbedded in the mud -

It is a wonder to me how such things were
get-covered up. The river is not altogether
the kind of stream I had imagined - It is a
deep strong turbid thing much more of a
river than I had supposed. But the color
does not disappoint you - it is darker
than the Mississippi if that is possible. The
banks ~~are~~ beautiful in their spring time.
Some of green - & we are thinking it wd.
be a pleasant thing to go down to the
sea in a boat. Yesterday as I was
passing a workman who was with others
was digging a new pit. He showed me the
little bronze leg-foot of a bird with a cor-
nelian globe in its claw, very nicely executed
wh. he had just found - this with a few
old coins I exchanged for a few copperards. There
was never such a place for any one who has
time to grub about - as this - not simply
under ground & mean but - every where shops
galleries museums. old relics & Indian
relics. There seems to be search for every
thing that may not find rare & sets of fashion
here. I am affected sometimes when I get
little side-glances of the pursuits that
may be concerned on here, I think how
many things I miss confined to my usual
line of grub. But - one life-time after
all ~~is not long~~ for but one thing - or I creep
right & left - lie on a little poorer -
then the persistent clutching of one thing.
However this must be said - that with
the material means one might constantly
be thrown in the way of acquiring material
highly useful in one's own walk - even if outside

the line of drink-study. So very occasionally
I am smitten with a touch of envy when I
see people with much means & more leisure
philanthropic & picking up things.
Monday May 10. I am very grateful for the
cold of last winter or whatever agency it might
have been wh. constituted gladness to such a
degree. I am sure I speak within bounds
in saying ^{that} that is as a hundred to one.
but everything is backward. Strawberries are
too dear for our eating still - & if Belmont
"chills in the rear" in its degree you will
not be picking till 4th July. I trust
your mother is not suffering with neuralgia
still. The excessive cold of the winter must
have aggravated that & other ills. I long to hear
again of Mr. Lambert too - who was just
getting better of Engrip^s. Love to them & sym-
pathy in their several troubles. It is certain
that a hard winter always brings forth
a crop of distresses of one sort & another
& how our families forebears lay the ghost
& settle on that rock with the whole at-
lantic coast stretching north of it is one
of the mysteries of human existence.
Before I left home James wrote me for an
noon on Appleton Is. for some of my rods.
I sent him one for 10 copies. If any way
by which 2 or 3 can be sent out to me I shd.
turn up 1 shd. like it - but do not return
it worth taking too much trouble for.
Yesterday I had a photo^{graph} at my studio
to take a picture of the statuette, wh. Dr
Gold wants to send to a friend in Buffalo
who has commissioned him to buy a statuette

he rebukes me for not photographing
my things, - but except when there is a special
call for it - as in this case - there seems
to me not much use in it. The finished
window wh. will be sent for this week is
so much better in all respects than Comins
& Edwards that I am afraid they will feel
ill treated shd. they see the picture, wh.
I have not seen yet - (it was taken yesterday
with the other). It is beautiful done in the
marble. Friday P.M. is memorable as
the time of our first visit to the Baths
of Casacelle. Wh. we were taken by Dr.
& Mrs. Gould. Except the Coliseum of all
the river runs it - stands as the most
magnificent. It occupies an immense area.

140,000 sq yards & tho' within the
walls seems as if it were out in the
country. Surrounded as it is by verdure
& shuttress & approached by a delicious
flowing lane. But - here as usual I can
behold to describe. The great halls &
chambers are open to the sky - & the groves
seem like frames to the most gorgeous Lapis
Lazuli. Everywhere roses are growing & the
great swimming-bath that was her one
continuous border of them. A thing that
Casacelle never dreamed of. nor of the endless
olive that girds the top most-chambers of
his delight - (the poor devil!) When the
granite columns wh. supported the roof of one
of the halls were removed it fell in with
a jar that made Rome think it an earthquake.
& wh. you see the huge masses of masonry -
rent into brothers in vigors to the borders of New
Hampshire with patches of mosaic on the smooth

side wh. in places fill up the one - you wd.
think the romans had ^{had} good argument - There
are long patches of beautiful floors - or mosaic of gold
& green porphyry - & here & there a piece of the
living marble left with the beauty of wh. they
used to hide the ugliness of their work of
medony. These ruins are still comparatively
very coveted - but there have been found there
some of the most beautiful works of sculpture
now in the Museum of Naples & the Vatican.
A torso lately found was out there under
the light - for us to see - 'A splendid thing!' -
But the thing of most interest to me is the
fact that Shelley wrote here his Prometheus
unbound / read his paper to the poem.
I wd. live a day there without food on
that fact. O Shelley - man of men - most
beautiful - most beloved - how one loves him
here not in the in Rome & men, in that
old fox's hole of learning & deceit - Shelley
dead in Rome - buried here - but now here
one so close as he here, I imagine him
sitting smiling beside his wedge at the feet
of Pape's throne. We stayed till sunset
& then drove to the Collium not far off &
walked into it - & heard the old cry - Shelley
again - & then came home - Oles - Adelaide
has left us here - no, not she - but with
a girl who would - fill her place - The Pe-
drone (landlady) of the house where her hus-
band is porter has let - a good part - of it
& wanted her to return & take charge - think-
ing that if she did not - he wd. burn them
both out. If we'd. offer it - I think we

Shd. take to the trottonic ³int for the sake
of being less care. Hoive & women to come in
only twice a day. but perhaps things will
settle soon. It is something to have the
earthquake fairly over. a revolution or
not so great when they are made on one
floor. Tell me if you have to pay any
thing on my letters in Boston? & have you
ever given my love & best remembrance to the Adams?
I do recd from yr letters to Ady. but I
thought as there were seldom sent to them
& we were so far from home (for wd. have no
objection). When that picture was taken
it was probably midsummer. but yr eyes
have failed probably to discover the sleeping
dog. Mrs. thro that porch we enter & depart
every day - We had a note from F. B. & J. S.
the day since - which she says that they
Thomson is rid of her fever - but has not as
yet much appetite - rides out every day
in rain. She will recover her strength more
rapidly when they go north (they were to go
the last of last week) she is probably
now feeling the effects of the medicine taken
to break up the fever. A great many thro you
have had some touch of fever this winter.
Fortunately Mr. Jr. is well. Miss Adams has
not been in Rome - is in Paris I believe - At the
end of a week probably - all whom we know but
the permanent will have gone - I shd like
to have a bill of 4 change for 1000 francs
(one thousand) sent me - this shd reach you
about the 26th. The response wd reach me in
time - tho it did not come immediately - with the
bill I hope to stay till July 1. I trust dear Mother
is all right again. Love to the dear all.

4-30-1868

Letter from Anne Whitney, Rome, Italy, to Sarah Whitney, 1868 April 30

Anne Whitney

Wellesley College Archives

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