

Via Genoa

April 17

Norddeutscher Lloyd
per "Werra" Apr. 20



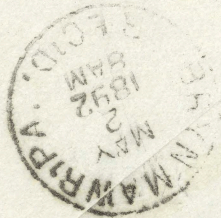
Miss M. Carey Thomas

The Observatory

Bigu Maw

Pennsylvania

United States of North America





Easter Sunday
Kane, Apr. 17th 192


Dearest Mamma

If I had been sure of you
whereabouts to-day, you would have
had a cable Easter greeting, but as
it was I think I had better not - I wonder
how you spent the day - I wish it might
- have been spent together in my sitting
room or your study at Bryn Mawr or
out among your vines with all your
birds & blossoms close by - I have a
much stronger attachment than I believe
you know to your cottage - It seems
like a part of yourself & an outgrowth
and expression of your own individuality
as few people's homes are - & then as a
rule I don't care for the individuality of
the people or whether they can impress
it on their surroundings or not

② I promised you that I wd destroy the
letter of 13^m that was too much the
product of a mood & in a few moments
I will tell you that it is done, but I
do not want to - I think about you
and my love for you - & yours for
me & very great longing to see you &
to see you much & often - a certain
homesickness in your interpose.
Themselves very often, and in one
way they give me a great deal of
unhappiness or rather in how -
one you know, all about but the other
you do not - It is the dread of losing
it, for it seems so impossible that
you can go on caring for me unless
I get better & become some thing besides
a being lying between in a state
between sleeping & waking -
I don't know how to describe it except
to compare it that of a person in a catalepsy

3
I am, vividly & unceasingly conscious
of all that is going on in the world with-
out me, but utterly powerless to
lift a finger or make a sign, &
yet not accepting it passively, but
struggling all the time to get up &
take part in active life once more.
Of course this gives me a part of it,
for sometimes I am too tired to care
and feel no interest in anything -
But it isn't worth while to try to
analyze my sensations or feelings
and fortunately - for Merriam me I'd
not possibly endure it - I have my
of the qualities of a nervous tempera-
ment, of sometimes getting excited
or stimulated & under that spur
being able to do a lot to protect myself
The reaction that is bound to come -
In consequence of one of these states,
my observance of a Korean Easter -
had was limited to ^{Wednesday} Holy Thursday &

(4) Good Friday - Wednesday aft. I sleep
went to the Lateran - to hear the
Misereere - late in the afternoon -
Thursday aft. after having spent more
than an hour in wandering about the
Holm - (the just time) where I suc-
ceeded in walking off the stake of
mind I had got into over Valborg &
the opinion the Doctor had given me
of her, & also in ^{mapping} walking myself
so tired that I dine at the Villa
Boeshe for a little while & by 12
get rested - The next aft. I went
to the Scala Santa & again to hear the
Misereere & the Teutae at St. John Lateran.
On Friday, as I think I will never
spend another Good Friday in Rome,
I got up & started out ~~at 10.30~~ by
10 o'clk to hear Misereere sing
the Reproaches for a half hour at the
Lateran & then after wandering all the

and sitting there quietly. In some time,
 I went again to the top of the
 Scala Santa  to watch the people
 who were climbing it so devoutly
 (with their hope of release fr. 9 yr.
 of Purgatory, ye know, for each step
 and their kissing of the dreadful
 feet of the Christ with printed arms so
 that they should not be broken by the enthus-
 iasm of the poor wretches who kiss out
 of the wounds. But forehead, mouth,
 heart, stomach, thighs & knees indiffer-
 ently, showing rather a preference it
 seemed to me for the mouth — It was a
 most striking & most painful spectacle &
 it was amazing to see some of the people
 who were doing it, but with the majority
 it seemed to be performed by — Do you
 know how long the White Chapel above New
 St. is, in which you can see the gilded
 statues as it is so holy? Then I went to
 the Circo in S. S. Giovanni, just beyond
 the Basilica which is on the site of part of the Emperor
 Helena's Palace, & where the "Lith of the
 True Cross" was found. & Here I saw

6) a most effective & picturesque ceremony
and again a painfully impressive
one, as the mass of the people were
not of the lower social strata, but
consisted apparently of large numbers
here - The ceremony was the exposure
of four of their most sacred relics
from the Tribune overlooking the right
side, by the Duke Cardinal Abbot,
a very handsome & most eminent
ly intelligent looking man, with
several assistant priests. - The
relics were first the very finger with
which Thomas the Drinker was
allowed to allay his doubt to,
2^d, the Nails of the Crown of
Thorns, 3^d, the Tittle of the Cross
and 4th, a Nail was a piece of
the Cross - One of their relics is
some of the milk of the Virgin, but
this they do not expose! Then, following

a number of others I finally got into the
Society where for a few minutes I
was the much interested spectator of
a charming little "recommen^{ti}
of the Cardinal about a year ago
a number of evidently important
papalini (some of them very pretty
attractive women too) a number
of decidedly the most interesting &
intellectual looking men I have
seen during the day here, leaving
his suite - This was in walk to the
little room where people went to
have things consecrated & blessed by
touching the wonderful relics with them.
This was interesting & picturesque & I regretted
that I had not seen about it before hand
so that I could have had things blessed for
my bottles - Then after lunch
I went to a no. of churches
some in their own sake & some to see
the epulchre, wh. in each case had already

⑧ been taken down, I assisted for a few moments at the service at the Gesù & I went up at St. John Lateran to hear the same service as the ev'g before. It was even more beautiful than it had been on Thursday - & I went up by driving over to San Pietro in Vincoli to hear the same man sing there at a curious service which lasts p. 7-9 & consists of an alternation of music & exhortation or preaching & the effects of Meneschi's voice for it was chief his singing in the church nearly filled with a very quiet & attentive crowd & dark except for the brilliant illumining fire about the altar. The chairs have been moved and I wonder what will be over the altar of who just served to make the naves visible, inside of & beyond it all, was very wonderful & I should have stayed in divines till the end.

if I had not realized that Miss Beckwith
 wd be waiting for me - so at 8 I'd dig
 up my camp stool & chle away with
 the beautiful daylight - It wasn't
 a prudent day, but it was one very
 full of impressions & with some
 moments of perfect enjoyment.
 The next day I stayed in bed till 5 o'cl
 but you read anything but the papers, much
 less write & the greater part of the morn
 I slept & dazed - In the aft. I let the nurse
 Dr - a Miss Vaughan of St. Leonard's by the
 way, ^{me of 7} daughter of a clergyman here,
 whose second wife is a sister of Goschen,
 and who makes it more agreeable in the
 daughter as well as the son in go out into
 the world - 2 are nurses, one is going to be a
 physician, one was emp. housekeeper at
 Neunham & c. - I asked whether she
 knew the address (not confiding any thing
 that Miss W. may be sure) she knew at
 their school & had had a cousin educated
 here, but she was all -

Tuesday aft. - This time you will get yr.
 letter by the Genoa steamer, but I'd not
 (I'm late) last week, that I was mistaken &

⑩ There was some that week - To-morrow
I am going to try to write to the Countess.
I am up my passage for the 7th May
as, as things are all Valbray, I'd not
think of going at Barjas that - To-mor-
row she will begin to go down when
meals, & then if all goes well, possibly
in a week I will although that wd
be a pretty short rest - I will try moving
on with her - Saturday aft. I felt
as if I must have a breath of air &
when I was dressed, I took her out
with me for $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hr., just driving
in the Piazza, for the view of light was
something wonderful, & then drove along
the Corso to see how she stood the
crowd - I turned off before the ladies
she was looking a good deal excited,
but that was all - 4th Sat. aft. she
had the first violent headache she has
had since the attack, & she was inclined

It be excited & cried in some time ^{because}
not only for the pain, but because
I had got her to give me her prescription
& that she did take with it help the pain.
However, I read to her & before very
long she fell asleep & woke up sev-
eral hours later all right, much
to my relief.

Last night Mrs. Fields Miss Jewell
came back when I went down to sleep
in them in a few moments after dining
I'd them in such an uncomfortable
room that I suggested their taking
my extra one, as V. is of course still
in the room adjoining me. Qualitly
while Mrs. F. came up to say they w'd
like very much to do it, so I got Valborg
to help me clear the room for them &
then went to bed instead of finishing
my letter. They want me to go on to
Florence with them & tonight they
are coming in here to dine & we will
discuss plans. I have been thinking

(12) In 5 min. today - but this morn'g I
could not manage to do any thing but
a few lines of writing cheques, &c.
and when Mrs Beckman came
to visit for me after church (instead
of at 10), I could not do a little &
then for her to go out with Valborg for
a little while.

There, the letter is written up small,
after being read me - must ship us
I have not a few more - address
in dinner - the mail goes
before it is over.

Dear yours,
May 22.