

Charles Eliot Norton to Henry James, 6 June 1869, from Vevey

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1 Vevey. Sunday, June 6,
2 '69

3 ~~10, QUEEN'S GATE TERRACE. W.~~

4 My dear Harry

5 Instead of my going to Geneva to see you, you must come here to see us.
6 I found I could get money from the Lausanne banker, and we all came here (to the
7 admirable hotel des Trois Couronnes) yesterday, to stay here for a few days before
8 getting into the house which we have taken for the summer. Our [^]prospective[_^]
9 habitation is half an hour out of Vevey, in a lovely country, en pleine Suisse, with a noble
10 view within three minutes walk. It is called La Pacotte,—which signifies I know not
11 what. The house is a little “trop paysanne” for tastes corrupted by the gauds & luxuries
12 of the palaces of London. It is just large enough for the household, & we can perhaps
13 live quietly & economically in it. Close by is a farm house in which I am told that one or
14 two neat & pleasant rooms may be hired. I hope you will come & try. I think you would
15 like the place, & feel yourself more in Switzerland than while you are at hotels &
16 pensions where our fellow countrymen do much to make America beloved & respected.
17 This lovely summer Sunday mornng. with lake & mountains in their noblest beauty, with
18 every aspect [^]& form[_^] of nature impressive to the imagination & elevating to the soul,
19 my ears are delighted with nasal talk of, T rails, corrugated iron roofs, & glory,
20 hallelujah! big America.

- 21 Ah! vulgarity.
- 22 The mail goes in five minutes. We get into La Pacotte on Thursday.
- 23 Love from all. Ever Yours C. E. N.

Notes

3 ~~10, QUEEN'S GATE TERRACE, W.~~ • Norton wrote this letter on letterhead stationery from the address of his family's London residence during the winter of 1868-1869.

9 en pleine Suisse • in deepest Switzerland

11 trop paysanne • too peasant-like

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