

1                   Vienna. Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>

2

3   Darling Harry.

4                   Since writing to you from Dresden, I have had a letter from your mother  
5   and Alice, dated Oct 12<sup>th</sup>. You doubtless have heard as recently,—but in case you have  
6   not you will be glad to hear that they were all well.—The only event was our good old  
7   Ellen’s departure for another place. She had had trouble with the temporary incumbent in  
8   the cuisine and resolved, to your mother’s great consternation, to “make a change”.

9   Before leaving however she had a complete break-down—poor thing! and sobbing told  
10   your mother that she would come <sup>^</sup>back[<sup>^</sup>] to her if the woman she had engaged did not  
11   suit her. We are having as enjoyable <sup>^</sup>a[<sup>^</sup>] time in this place, as this shocking, raw snowy  
12   premature winter weather will allow. It seems from the papers to have been a most  
13   remarkable season every where. Your mother tells of a dreadful tornado in Cambridge  
14   which among other damage up-rooted 25 trees in the Norton woods alone. I hope they  
15   are by this time arrived <sup>^</sup>not the woods, but the Nortons[<sup>^</sup>] and settled in Florence, and  
16   you have the comfort and enjoyment of social intercourse with them. I am longing to get  
17   to Venice to find a letter there from you telling me that you are yourself again. You say  
18   you fear that the food or climate of Italy does not agree with you. It occurs to me that  
19   perhaps you may not know that the skins of grapes are very constipating. I had once a  
20   very severe illness brought on by swallowing them. ~~with the~~ I was always under the

21 impress- until lately that the effect of the fruit entire was otherwise—without the skin  
22 they are relaxing but with it just the reverse, and the “grape cure” is conducted with this  
23 knowledge—I hope however you don’t need prescriptions now—Your mother said that  
24 Will has more marked ups and downs than he had had, the only effect he saw from D<sup>r</sup>  
25 Wilkinsons prescriptions. Alice was doing bravely she added. Minny Temple was  
26 talking of going to St Francisco this winter with Elly, and Elly Morris had a daughter.  
27 Wilk found the Caterpillar worse than ever—but his other produce was fine—this was all  
28 the news—except that the first edition of the “Secret of Swedenborg” was nearly  
29 exhausted!! We expect to leave here on the 4<sup>th</sup> for Adelsburg, see the famous grotto, and  
30 proceed at once to Venice. If we have such weather as this, our visit there will be ill-  
31 timed but we must make the best of it. Vienna is dreadfully crowded with the rush to the  
32 opening of the Suez canal. and dreadfully dear also. It is a beautiful city. We are all as  
33 usual. Cousin H. had a long pleasant letter from Kit Griffith this mo<sup>g</sup> They were all  
34 better than usual. Helen R’s weekly bulletin from home keeps us posted in N. York  
35 news.

36           Adieu darling Harry—hoping soon to be near you—ever your loving old tante.

37

C W.

## Notes

26 Elly • Ellen (Elly) Temple Emmet

26 Elly Morris has had a daughter • Henry James's first cousin, Ellen Van Buren, married Stuyvesant Fish Morris (presumably known as “Steve” and born in 1843) in 1868; their first child, Elizabeth (Bessie) Marshall Morris (1869-1919), was born 4 October

28 the “Secret of Swedenborg” • Henry James, Sr.'s, *The Secret of Swedenborg*

29 Adelsburg, see the famous grotto • Adelsberg, German name for Postojna, in western Slovenia, famous for its system of caves, the Postojnska Jama

33 Cousin H. • Helen Rodgers Wyckoff Perkins

41 Cousin R • Helen Ripley

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