

via France

HEIDELBERG
17 Sep 1

Mrs Sarah J. Humphreys

Versailles
Kentucky

United States of
America

Am. Service

42
27
N.Y.



MARTINE
BUREAU

E L 24 SEP
CUL L X

But lace and jewelry I expect
to smuggle through as indeed everything
else possible. I went in Paris and
examined a large variety of clocks
of black, russo antico, & veined marbles
very pretty ornamented - together with
bronzes claudelabras (antique) and Coupet
(for cards &c) which stand between the
clock & claudelabras - that is a whole
mantel set - which ranged from 500
to a thousand francs - The clocks are
surmounted by the most exquisite
statuettes of bronze (not brass bronze
but the dark kind) mathematically
reduced from the models in the great
statuary galleries - They are perfect copies
of Venus, & Minos & Medusa, Apollo Belvedere
Diana, Minerva, The Boyer of Canova
&c &c - The fine bronzes of Paris are
the best things in the world, have got
I should say and are nearly as hard as
as the antique. If I had a million
I would send you some specimens -

but a little money won't do anything
in the way of art - You rich people
ought to come over here and enjoy
such things - It only gives the artist
to look on -

Heidelberg, Baden, 14th Sept. '60.
Care of Koster's (for us all)

My Dear Sister:

Yours was the last and
the best letter I have had from home
for these days - months. And so
Hart is a Paterfamilias. Time surely
flies. To think that the last time I saw
that young gentleman he was wandering
about sighing for some young lady
to persuade into marrying him, and to
think that now - his days are over.
I suppose it is all very natural -
"every dog hath his day" and things
I suppose come, if not before, at the
proper time. I daily bless my stars
for freedom - you & Preston & Hart
are "old folks" - I rather think that
you keep up the best spirits, if indeed
you are not the youngest of all, & I
begin to look upon you with some
anxious with family, like other women,
as something wonderful beyond
comprehension. I would like mightily

to see your children - they must have
greatly changed in four years - Day
was then the beauty and the height of
Annie's conversational powers was to
call the letter dog and imitate the
Woodford County, Mocking birds. I wonder
if Lucy remembers me - I suppose not -
I thought that the little girl who was
born when I was with you was to be the
pretier of the last birds. What sort of
a little fellow is the boy? He will be
talking too when I see him & so will
Daddy Hart. I am sorry I did not
get your photographs in Paris I might
have ^{sent} them in you should be copied to
Heidelberg where they do miniatures as well
as in France and much cheaper. I have
some advantages in that way as I
have artist friends who will get everything
of the best & cheapest. He has all
been greatly disappointed in not getting
all the photographs by Mr. Hewitt or
Hiram Shaw; and we would give
anything to have them get - It is very
easy to make a little package & send
them by Express to New York & Paris.
just like sending a letter.

By the way all of your commissions
shall be attended to, but you must
wait. Pa's clock can't be had until
next year. You see I am not like
Lee in money matters. I have just 20
much per month & per annum & no more
& no credit. and before I can really
get things I must have either the
money or the credit. Before going
home next summer I shall have
some arrangement made which will
not ~~not~~ enable me not only to fill
commissions but also to make some
little presents. It is hard to wait
but after all it will be better for
me to go home with real things - to
take care of them - avoid charges - &
put them through the Custom House
when they lay an enormous tax on
all such articles, at least 25 percent -
A mantle clock, for instance, with its
bruges that cost in Paris five or
six hundred ~~francs~~ ^{francs} - adding Customs of
two hundred francs - & Express & other
charges a hundred more - makes
nine hundred - possibly a thousand
francs. With lace it is much worse -

I hope this will find you fat and
pretty and strong - I really don't see
why you Mr. Humphrey can't come over
to Europe to establish your health &
begin the children's education - I rather
think it would cost you about the
same - Has you ever thought over
the matter? I have seen families with
as many children & less money than you
come here & live and educate the children
and live very well at that -
At least just Mr. H. might try it
for a short time - However, I know
nothing about it.

Where is Louisa? She never writes.

Tell her I would like very much to
get a letter from - we all would

Give love to all & write often.

Your affectionate brother

Charles Gibbons.

I began this letter a little after sunrise
which you undoubtedly think very early,
rising for lazy people like me. But
it is not too early for my piano - tuned
who has just come in and has made
his excuses and is now banging and
screwing my piano. This reminds me of your
music - I will try to bring you home a
quantity of it. A great deal of nice music
has been written since I came to Europe -
Nyerbeer has composed "Parson de Ploemel"
which has two beautiful pieces in it
one a chorus the other a waltz by himself.
Then about a dozen smaller operas have
come out this last year - "Opheé and Enfant"
"Philomon & Baniel" &c &c - I have not been
much to Opera this year, it costs too much.
I have been perhaps a dozen times by in-
stigation to private boxes - but only once
on my own hook. However I have heard
the great gun Tarabetchick who outdoes
everything on earth but Maria according to me.
And then I have heard Ristori act, so
I ought to die contented. My place of
amusement was the "Théâtre Français" where
the classic pieces of France are all
played - I have not been able to pay
much attention to my flute - I find
it hurts my throat - I have a little

Do you get the review des deux Mondes?
and French papers? or brochures? -
or would you like them? There are
one or two which made a great stir
that I will endeavour to send you -
Do not stop writing - you see
yours is the only letter I have had
since I had your last ^{or two}
the only ones since May. I think
Toby or Kim might be that I should
have had one again. But that
is a great strike - you without any
news whatever from home - yet
I have not so far failed to write several
letters often more than monthly - Do ought
to complain? Remember we all depend
on you and Pa and other letters
came rather as Extras and surprises.

When you get over to Sister Liza
Oak give my love to all - and all
the servants and especially to Aunt
Milly - it alone to wash who ought
to be shining like the moon among the
lesser lights -

I have come to my papers
and - and will close to the joy of
both - affectionately your brother
Clara Gibbon.

The John Preston and family (except two
little girls who remain at school) left
yesterday for home - I saw something
but little of them whilst here. They are
all very accomplished & polite people -
I hear on all hands that Charley
bookier was to have sailed some time
last month for Europe - but has not
appeared either here or in Germany -
I would not be surprised if he had
given up the idea - We had a rumour
from America last week that Mr
John Floyd was appointed to take the
Mason's place, but they say at the
legation that there is no truth in the
report.

I have paid very little attention
to political affairs since the vote of
a Conference at Zurich was called - but
from all I can learn that conference
was only to delay an inevitable war -
There is every reason now to believe that
England will go into an European Congress
at an early day, and once there she
will have to choose between making
a war single handed against several
powers or ~~the~~ backing down from a
position which the Ministry assumed
several months ago in opposition to a then
circumstantial but now principal article
of the bill for ^{agreement} peace, namely the restoration of
them already little princes - There will
be a change of ministry or a war or both -
It is all as complicated as usual - every
body picking through the net at the mysterious
fish that Napoleon has in his hand -

But we do hear of some very fearful
news from America - the begin insurrection
at Harper's Ferry - and I think political
news not that. I believe it to be every
bit a move of the Republican Party - a
counter move being calculated upon -
That is to say the Republicans count that
the hot headed Virginians and Democrats
generally will perceive the agents of the
North so far as to bring odium and
disgrace upon the persons - thus shifting
the onus from the villains over to
the Democrats in about time to help
the martyred Republicans next summer.
I ^{have} seen nothing but the news - but
watch the discussions - and see how
the wily men of the North will turn all to
their advantage -

Paris is, of course looking very
grand and beautiful - It is beautiful
fall weather - bright as crystal & not
quite cool enough for frost. The monde
is out in new & clothes - & the thousands
& tens of thousands - rich & gay - young
& wild who go like a ceaseless tide
back and forth on the Boulevards &
Champs Elysees is enough to make one
man feel very small - all the cafes
& restaurants & shows & big & little theatres

on fire with gas lights are bewildering
to a country gowger like myself - There
is no end to dances & balls - Casino, balaites
Concerts de Paris - Soirees dantes & Musicales
It is a hubbub and a heavenly Pandemonium
from midday till day break - and
surely Paris looks like a great giant
splendid and drunk at a ~~fast~~ feast.
But Heaven bless your ignorance if you
think I am the bitingly to be simple in
the face - I have seen something of that
mysterious elephant in ^{my} those quibbles
days and know it well as any man
how heavy a twenty franc piece is.
Cependant on peut savoir sans voir ou
on peut voir sans dechoir.

There must have been ~~be~~ be
many changes in Paris since you left.
The Boulevard de Sebastopol now goes
from the depot of Strasbourg across part
the Larboune cutting through & scattering
the dingy hovels of the Latin Quarter to
the rays of light & clear lines - several
pretty bridges are going up - thousands of
magnificent houses being built - whole
quarters completely changed - like St Honoré
Beaujon - and out towards the Bastille.
But I could not write a twentieth of them.

My health is perfect - appetite
fine as usual in Paris - and animal
spirits clear and bright as the weather.

to receipt of the satisfied -
I have just had letters from
the boys at Geneva & they
are both well - They go to
Lyon next week in the friend
of my mine just from Heidelberg
reports Charles looks well
in "excellent sanitary condition"

I have not a moment to
lose in getting this letter
off -

Give best love to all
& if merchants, fair weather,
& the Lord smile upon me
calculate that I shall be
put in the heels of the
letter - Give affectionate love
Claude -

Paris, 7th March, 1861.

My dear Sister:

I am much
obliged to you for your kind
letter written on my birth-day
and I shall answer immediately,
only hoping that this may get
off in time for Saturday's steamer.

As soon as I had a definite
statement of affairs from Pa
I left Geneva and started for
home stopping of course in this
little village to take my last
look at the town & Fallerien, my
last promenade aux Champs Elysees
& the Bois de Boulogne get some
nicknacks tell my friends
good bye & cut stick for the
other side of the Fish Pond.

I made every arrangement to
sail two weeks ago; but
then comes a letter from
the merchants in Liverpool, saying
that there had been no authority
given for my leaving - so I
must stay. being sad but
absolutely necessary - as I don't
know I have many months
for such trifles as getting home -
I have written again but will
not be in time this week -
If Providence favors me I
shall leave in the Africa
about sail from Liverpool,
on the 16th March. I have
written to that effect but
am not sure that Stewart Ho
will forward the money -

If not I shall try to borrow
the - cannot certainly on seeing
me one week after getting
this note - There is some wind
and storm to pass through
but as I have been to sea
five times & seen fine storms
I ought not to expect anything
else -

The Lord knows what will
become of the commissions -
There is no money to get things
with & if there was I have spent
so much that I would not ask
for any more - So don't be
disappointed - I shall get
some comfort but don't
I can't say - If I can get
my blessed body home with
one copper in my pocket you ought

BOULEVART DES ITALIENS, N° 18
au coin de la Rue Laffitte.

LAURENT RICHARD & C^{IE}

TAILLEURS

PARIS, le 10 juillet 1858

Livre à Monsieur Claude Gibson

un pardessus redoué etature bronze

160

un habit noir habillé

120

280

Pour acquit
Laurent Richard & C^{ie}