

Hotel de Gènes  
Genoa.

Wed. March 28. 1877.

My dear Father

You will have seen from postcards that we have got so far safely. I am enjoying the trip immensely though of course the best is to come as companions form no unimportant elements in a journey I will begin by a word or two on mine. Maliaffy you know. He is most amusing & interesting, and the like him better the more I see of him. I had a long talk with him coming over on the steamer. He is very sorry now that he ever wrote his review of Jebb in the Academy and says he wd certainly never have written it had he known what a sensitive man Jebb is was, though he maintains that he said nothing the least unfair. He told me also that Colvin had come up to him first the other night & expressed a hope that he had not been offended by the review in the Academy. They got on very well afterwards. He has a great idea that an edition of Anaxagoras should be done by some modern Greek professor, because the customs of the Greeks of today throw so much light on those of antiquity. This seems to me a splendid notion - But I must get on. The next man to be mentioned is this young foulding whom you all abused so, but who turns out to be a right good fellow in his way -

very full of spirits - delightfully ignorant  
about anything like innocent of what we  
call culture, but still thoroughly entering  
into the delight of what we see - whether  
scenery, pictures, palaces &c. In fact he  
is a good downright honest wild  
Irishman, with no end of fun in him  
& no particular harm - quite an entertaining  
companion, & a very good contrast to the  
last man of the party - for we are four.  
This last, who joined us at Charing X  
just as we were starting, is an old pupil  
of Mahaffy's, and a scholar of Magdalen  
Oxford, by name Oscar Wilde. He is  
a very nice fellow, whose line lies as  
decidedly in the direction of culture as  
Goulding's lies away from it. He is  
aesthetic to the last degree, passionately  
fond of secondary colours, low tones,  
masses papers, and capable of  
talking a good deal of nonsense thereupon  
but for all that a very sensible & well-  
informed & charming man. Being  
very impressionable he is just now rather  
~~become~~ fascinated by Roman Catholicism  
& indeed is just now on his way to  
Rome, in order to see all the glories of the  
religion which seems to him the highest & the  
most sentimental. Mahaffy is quite  
determined to prevent this if possible, & is  
using every argument he can to check him  
at first he tried hard to persuade him to come to

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freece withans, pointing out to him by the way  
all the worst faults of Popery. Finding this  
not altogether effective though it had some  
weight, he changed his tack, and when Wilde  
began to say that perhaps he would come,  
Malinoff said "I won't take you. I wouldn't  
have such a fellow with me" which of  
course as W. is somewhat of a wilful  
disposition has raised in him a firm  
determination to come, and I quite expect  
he will and hope so. Perhaps this is  
enough about my fellow travellers, but I  
assure you I find them endlessly interesting.  
Three men more entirely different you  
could hardly conceive yet we all get  
on capitally. Both these fellows are very  
fond of Malinoff, though they tell me his  
unpopularity in Ireland & in I.C.D.  
especially is something remarkable.  
For the journey so far. We had a  
food passenger & reached Paris at 6 on  
Sunday - dined - & left for Turin  
at 8.40. We woke at Dijon at about 6.  
It was a most perfect morning. As we  
got further on snow began to appear &  
we got most lovely views <sup>the whole</sup> ~~right away~~ <sup>down</sup>  
to Modane. You know the country, & so I  
need not describe it. After the Mont Cenis  
it clouded over & snow came on. We  
accordingly consoled ourselves with whisky  
till we reached Turin at 6.40. The  
journey - 23 hours! - had really  
passed off very comfortably. We had ~~the~~ a  
carriage to ourselves from Paris

The next day - Tuesday - we started at 9.40 for Genoa. To my great delight I met at the station two Eton men - Welldon - the new senior classic - & Donaldson a Trinity man, 9th or 10th classic. They were on their way to Florence & Rome in high feather, & very glad to have come so well through the toils of the Tripos. We travelled together as far as Alessandria & had much talk. They were both very glad to meet Mahaffy to whom I introduced them and much enquired me my tour to Greece in his company. We reached Genoa at about four. Mahaffy went up to stay with his mother & sister, which we came here. We had a stroll before dinner. Genoa is I think the most picturesque & characteristic town I have seen. The profusion of white marble is something wonderful. Besides the old palaces which are splendid, many public & private houses as well as the public buildings have most beautiful marble doorways. Then the houses are painted all sorts of rich & delicate colours, blue, orange, deep red, &c. - & the people, especially the children, are very pretty & picturesque. The houses are very high & the streets narrow & winding, & the whole town is very much up & down hill. You get charming peeps down narrow alleys & there are gardens full of Camellias, oranges, lemons, olives & all luxuriant shrubs. The weather is just delightful - warm but not too hot. I am quite losing my cold. Will write again tomorrow.

Love to all your affectionate Son  
G. Macmillan