



April 2. 1877

11. a.m.

My dear Mamma

Here we are at last on true free soil, though we can't get to the mainland till Wednesday. It was a lovely night yesterday when we started about 8.30 P.M. from Brindisi. We stayed on deck looking at the stars till about 10, then to bed. I woke about 3.30 with the moon shining on to my face through the little cabin window. No land in sight. I woke again about 5 and saw two little islands lying to our right - outposts of Hellas! I could not sleep any longer so I dressed hurriedly threw on my big coat, & rushed up on deck. We were passing on the left under a rugged shore, with a ridge of snowcapped peaks. These I soon discovered to be the Acroceraunian Mts, - the mainland of Greece!!! See ancient

The sun was shining brightly behind

to make out the details, but I could see
the country was very rugged & barren. In
front lay Corfu the peaks quite
buried in masses of white cloud. The
sea was a rich green blue, broken up by a
slight breeze into innumerable white horses.
The sky was still quite pale blue. After a
time as the sun rose higher the peaks
of Albania to the left were lighted up
& deep shadows thrown down the sides.
This was behind us - in front - I.E. S.E.
the peaks were still unintelligible for the
gleam. Soon a lower promontory, broken
up into rounded slopes ran out S.W.
from the main ridge - covered with brush-
wood. & a white bank of cloud ran
between covering all but the peaks of the
inner range. Meanwhile a low neck of land
with higher ridges in clouds behind began
to appear faintly seeming to bar further
progress. This was the ^{North} Eastern extremity of
Corfu. The N.W. end was now quite
distinct, and I could see that while the
main ridge was bare the lower slopes
were covered with olives. I then went
down & got half an hour's more sleep.
When I came ~~to~~ up again - joined this
to the last - the scene was quite

smooth as glass - & brilliant pale green - between
Corfu & the mainland. The sun was
quite up & the clouds had risen from
the heights of Corfu - though still
clustered round the inner peaks of
Epirus - the Pindus range. On the left
a fine fiord ran in, with a fertile
plain beyond rising up to the foot of the
mtns which could only be faintly seen
through steam & cloud. Corfu on the
other hand was now quite close &
brilliant in the sun. The bare ridge above
was just tinted with rose colour (just as
in Attica says Mr Mahaffy). The slopes
below were covered with olives - a few
houses dotted here & there. Now in
front to the S.W. yet new clusters of
mountains began to appear faintly.
These are Cephallenia & Ithaca. ...
We shall pass close by them tomorrow
on our way down to Zante (woody
Zacynthus). We soon came into
the bay of Corfu which is perfectly
lovely. The citadel is on two small
peaks close to the shore, & there is another
fortified peak a little way along. An
island lies in front of the harbour -
covered with very light green herbaceous
plants.

blue. The town is very picturesque. built
along the shore - white houses with green
blinds. Clusters of boats came round
us, one of which conveyed us to shore
amid a great bustle. There to my delight
was actual freek over the houses &
the people were talking away in the same
tongue, though I did not ~~but~~ make much
out yet. The town. We went first to Mr
Woodley, the American Consul - with whom
Mr M. has been in correspondence. He
received us very kindly & told us we were to
leave for Zante tomorrow at 5, where his
son had made arrangements for a drafoman
& a boat to convey us to the mainland.
Another Englishman - a Mr Taylor - turned
up & helped us through the Custom house
& to the Hotel. The town as we passed through
it was full of people in picturesque Albanian
costume - turbans - white pellicots - wide
breeches - bright coloured sashes. &c. This
is a very pleasant hotel. We have just had
a delicious late breakfast - capital, white
wine of Patras & such oranges. We
shall sail forth soon to view the town &
its manners. It is so delightful seeing the
names of trades & persons written up over the
doors in regular fresh characters. Please
keep all my freek letters. Fancy my
having written all this without a word about
Ravenna - one of the most wonderful places I have
seen. But have got some photographs. The mosaics
are beautiful. Portions - but I came, to see freek