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7-9-1885

Violet Paget (Kensington, England) to Matilda Paget (Bagni di Lucca, Italy)

Vernon Lee (Violet Paget)

Matilda Paget

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Kensington July 9. 1885

Dearest Mamma — Your letter received last night is rather mysterious. What report? And about whom? Surely you don't mean that anyone says Mme de C. has been a servant? What nonsense! And I can't make out whether F. is misconducting herself again. Altogether I feel very mystified & horribly afraid she is making herself a nuisance. Do be explicit.

I dined with Mrs J. R. Green, the historian's widow, quite alone, the night before last. She is an interesting

woman, & intimate with
the chief statesmen of
the Cobden school. I wish
I could see more people
like her. But I am a
billiard ball which has
got into a pocket.
She tells me that owing to
the expense of armament
navy, England is seriously
threatened to be
entirely outbidden
in manufactures by
America, which can
afford to produce
everything much cheaper.
And she says, what

believe to be true, that the coming years will be so absorbed by political, economical & social questions that no literary interest sufficient to call forth much great work will be possible in the nation at large.

Have you heard the Pall Mall scandal? The journal is utterly gone for good. It is publishing a series of "Revelations of London Vice" or something

similar, which have been as
unanimously considered as obscene
literature, that the sale has
been stopped by all the news agents,
& such persons as are found
hawking about copies are fined. a
prosecution against the journal
is pending. I don't the rights of
the matter, but it is certain that
the paper has been tending to be
a thing of sensations.

Tuesday the 21st - had a train
my honour. There weren't
many people - Mrs Tennant
was most effusive about
Lyff Brown. I wonder whether
She has recaptured her part
in it - the Corbers were rather
frigid. # Yesterday Alice
I were at home. Linn came
Loved. Then Monkhouse,
who is pretty, but decidedly
rather vulgar. Then Mrs
Cotton. Then Mathilde
Blind, whom I hadn't
asked, who had clearly
wanted to see me
about Ly B. - but who
couldn't meet the

temptation of unbosoming
herself somewhere.
On the whole I am very
glad I have come
into a different set
I have not got, perhaps
known at all (things
take too long & I am
here for too short a time)
but at all events I
have got the better of
any intention to give
them the cold shoulder. Last
Sunday Mrs Stephen, who

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(the Burne Jones' intimate friend) was a great friend. Only the Rossetti's, Ward's & Watts seem to sulk.

Last night I dined with the Robinsons to artists party at Tristram Ellis's, the brother of Edwin E. The chief amusement was watching the Chinese lanterns as they one by one caught fire & tumbled down. Lady Anne Blunt was there but no one could

point in view. Also Dr Crawford
who was enthusiastic for
Miss B and said he would call.

Alice is remarkably intelligent &
nice - She is deeply impressed with
the smugginess of all these people.

This afternoon we called on
Miss Stanley & Miss MacCarthy

and dine (dinner party) with the Robinsons.

I have written to Stock.

this is all my news for the moment. Goodbye & so much love.

Yours J

Johnt Bourgthasse not yet appeared.