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Vernon Lee: Letters Home

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7-16-1885

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

Vernon Lee (Violet Paget)

Matilda Paget

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18 July 85 | Girls at Wiesbaden
So much love etc.

Dearest Emma - Alice is
dimyout, & I am alone (as
Mary is dining out also) so August
as will begin at last!

Saw Ursula last night. He is
willing to give me £100 for the
first 1500 copies of American
rights of Baldwin, which I
appear somewhat interested in.
He also proposes, from an
American firm, a commission
to write a brief history (333p)
of the National Republics, one
of a series. He says he thinks
that we will give me a year or
18 months + pay £100. I
feel disposed to accept as
all the reading is useful to me

for my second series of
Euphoric forms Rinalpha
stays.

Yesterday we were
at home. Mr. Stittman came,
looking really lovely, much
up thin & more beautiful than
I have seen her for along
while. Then there James
& Gomer. James is very
friendly, with that
curious mixture of (I
should think) absolute
social & personal incineration
& extreme intellectual public
& plain speaking. He
seems to think that

When in a bad way, since
the gathering of one
two other portraits, women
are afraid of him lest
he should make them too
eccentric looking. A certain
Miss Mason, an ex beauty,
has got quite a storm
against him about a
portrait of her which is
in the Grosvenor, & which
I think was designed
beautiful.

Thank the F. R. paper
Mamma - Oh that

old mixture of Nicastro
and Captain Costigan is
so awful - a boasting
fulsome melodramatic
swaggerer. He made
a most ridiculous
~~scene~~ with Mrs. Stinson
"Is this - is it really -
am I mistaken etc etc
And then boasted about
the great nobility of his
family, in which he
somehow included
King Arthur. Then he
said some, in very

and white ones (a professor of
 Lisa Stitman) handsome! But the
 beauty, the beauty —
 "pointing at Alice
 and waving his hands wildly.
 "She is divine! She is
 queenlike! She is a Queen!
 after him nothing in Paris
 can be at all surprising
 Arthur Lemon came. Altho'
 Kury James was very
 brilliant, he really seemed
 the cleverer & more

Suggestion of Metewo. He
is very nice.

Just got your card and
I don't believe I need
de Chazal's cone have
been a servant, as the
father is with off.

This morning I lunched
with Emily Ford - a
semi-vegetarian un-
nutritious brainy -
her old untidy room.

She is clamorous that I
shd go to bed, but I

don't think I can. If ever
I go to Mr. Calverton
at Brookings or somewhere
me to do when he is
absent, I will go to Leeds.

By the way Prof. Johnson
died most unexpectedly
a month ago, of blood
poisoning caused by
unsuccessful operation
for varicose veins. The
malady merely impeded
his taking much exercise.

pub. summer, no more
London, but at another

Sat. 18th morning.

Last night Alick went to
see Sarah Bernhardt when
New play Theodora. Outas
whollet is poor & poorly
got up, but there are
two scenes, one, particularly
of a discovered conspiracy
in Justinian's study, which
is really fine.

Alicia leaves me a wonder,
Jamsony to say. She
has proved a remarkably
nice, friendly & intelligent
girl, with remarkably
good ear, manners. Lucy
is in town, but at an hour

in Regent Street, so we shan't
see her till tomorrow.

Did I know Mr Pittman is one
of the candidates for the Oxford
State professorship, left
vacant by Ruskin? One of the
others is Paton, who ought
certainly to get it, but
certainly, I think, will not.

The Pittmans are going into
the country on Monday.

I see it is quite useless
coming to London at this time
of year; no one has a minute
for anyone is thinking of
leaving. Indeed I give you
certainly, with a view to

new connections, which are
are coming after the 1st day.
Look at Mrs Elliot: she
certainly wants to see me,
but we never can arrange
it, and Missington appears
not to have a minute's
time. Mrs R. Green is
leaving in a day or two, but
have seen her only twice.
It is not the Robinsons
who take up my
time. It simply is ~~that~~
where everyone has
recurring days to a
hundred engagements, one

cannot get at them except
at rare intervals. The example
of the rapid acquaintance
made in Florence - as for
instance, Bourget, Musurus,
M. Gortchakoff etc. is absolutely
miraculous. If I arrived
with a ton of letters
of introduction, I should be
no better off. Alice says
very truly that the way
one makes acquaintances
in England, is in country
houses. Now, you
see, it is quite impossible
to write another novel.

(having used up the only set
I knew) on such terms
as these. I feel, day by
day more, how impossible
it is for me to tackle
this huge life.

This afternoon we go
to Coombe. I fear the
weather very much.

Shall try to call on Mrs Green
this morning.

After the 23rd address c/o Mary.
I shall be at Cambridge & don't
know exactly where I shall go then.
I hear Mrs Cakandri's mother has come, but
let her in charge of the