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Vernon Lee: Letters Home

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6-17-1887

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

Vernon Lee (Violet Paget)

Matilda Paget

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13 Edwards St. N.

19<sup>th</sup> June

1889

Dearest Mamma —

I have been unable to write  
before, owing about an hour;  
I have had a nice little letter  
from you & a little book  
from Maudie. The day before  
yesterday I went to the  
shop to buy a book at the little  
shop in Bond St. N.  
Cheaper than mine, but  
you can have a very  
good one for 1/6. There's no  
oil for the salad! Thank  
you & call on the way  
out, & on Alice Callender,  
in, very cordially.

beautiful. But I had no  
 talk with her as old  
 Papafava was there morning  
 about his son. I talked  
 one hour with her some  
 day; but at present all  
 full. I dined that evening  
 at Aida's - pleasant.  
 old Mrs. Miss Gordon (Mrs  
 Rop's aunt) Black & Co  
 publisher. Dotted Blomfield  
 once to such architect  
 Mrs. Van Rensselaer &  
 Sir T. Dick Landen, who  
 is nice & asked to call in  
 Florence.  
 Yesterday I called on a

488  
S  
A lot of people in Bloomsbury  
the Republic's industry  
nice indeed.

This afternoon I got to  
be at Lady Shrewsbury's  
& then to supper at Miss  
Blair's, who takes  
me to a strenuous  
conference between  
the Moderates & Socialists  
& the Immoderates.  
Mrs. Morris is with  
them. Yesterday I got an

invitation from Mrs. Wood  
to come to Communion, and  
a pastoral plan at  
Trinity; but as it's  
the jubilee day, I have to  
refuse.

Yesterday morning Mrs.  
Stroman came, radiantly  
beautiful, & after her  
who but Mary  
Wanfield, as if we  
had always been bosom  
friends. She certainly  
is, in character,  
good natured, and

I've told her in as many  
words that I could not  
harm her at Linn's.

I am sure she is not  
of further news. Please

write to me as soon as you

Sat. Yesterday ~~she~~ went

to Lady Shrewsbury's in

Downing Square: an agreeable,

youngish woman (almost

she has a married son,

beautifully dressed in a

beautiful house. She evidently

did not know me from

Adam, being I imagine

less tenacious of Mrs

Austin than he later  
supposed. But he  
was most exquisitely  
polite in a quite informal  
way. It interested me  
to watch him & the people  
there, all equally  
rague about me, & all  
equally polite in the  
abstract, as they might  
have been to a Governor  
come after a place.  
I was very pleased.  
Thence I went & had

supper with the Misses Black  
in their dining room. Frank  
P. was there: he father  
I presume at Aliafollande:  
rather a companion. The  
youngest Black is certainly  
very pretty in her own  
coarse style, & has certainly  
a very determined idea.  
They are perfect ladies,  
quite as nice as Lady  
S. in their way.

The youngest Black took me  
to the meeting of the  
Fabian Society in Willis  
Road St James' Place.  
The Fabians are the



branch of socialists who  
hope to do all by means  
(parliamentary) method.  
The members run more  
gentlemen; the discussion  
extremely courteous.  
a rhetorical blow with  
without a cause, action  
They worry & insist  
to marry (?) presume  
he is the plumber in  
question, but his plumbing  
must be very good)  
came to be on the  
part of a more  
revolutionary club to

disavow the feelings of  
 the Farman and the  
 Proceedings, but in  
 saying that in some  
 parts of the country  
 there might be riots,  
 while in others the  
 people would induce  
 capitalists, by peaceful  
 means, to go into  
 the workhouse. I failed  
 to see that he proposed  
 anything. Morris  
 seconded him: a fine  
 cry, excitement, and nature

rather theatrical creature.  
 Mr Besant, of mathematical  
 fame, made the best speech.  
 Burns, a sort of comic  
 gap between a mathematician  
 & a comic opera singer,  
 made a loud & rather  
 rather comic speech  
 saying that 'e considered  
 all things legitimate  
 in view to a social  
 revolution, 'e would  
 there & lie and murder  
 if necessary (roars  
 of disapprobation) 'e.

would learn content  
to select members to  
the cause of 'Commons'.

Finally every one agreed  
that the working class  
did not feel in the least  
inclined to revolutionary  
line, as Burns said - "Other  
my ears some of yr  
ridiculing haucardist  
my part says 'There's  
a crank been worked  
up in that filler and  
hauled it's run out

See 'll just have  
to talk on —

I am now going to

Mr. Jones.

So much love

M

Italy



334c

Mr. Fayet

Farmacia alla Villa

Bagni di Lucca

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