

Beantw
19 Aug. 870

Marazion
Cornwall
30th July 1870

My dear friend,

Since we unfortunately missed seeing you when I brought my wife and sister-in-law to Vienna last year, I have hardly heard of you except through printed notices of your proceedings, and a letter or two from Heusinger, who after all was invisible at the time of our visit, from a bad attack of illness. We had a few very pleasant days there, falling in with von Lamy, Hochstetter, Suss, and Paternò, and a greeting with Hingeman to meet him at Wiedleyka which we afterwards did with great satisfaction.

In the present threatening state of affairs, I hardly know when we will have a chance of getting again to your side of the continent; and I write to learn if there is any chance of seeing you again over here. Why, it is nearly a generation since you visited us before! The British Association meets at Liverpool in Sept.^r when, although it is a hateful place for smoke and dirt there is a great deal to interest you,



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and where I expect there will be much
hospitality. I expect to be there for 2 or 3 days
taking it en route on my Welsh and Isle of Man
visits of inspection.

At present we are here at a little sea-side
house or cottage which I have for a permanence
to come to in the summer: having opposite
our windows the famous Mount of St.
Michael with very fine granite rocks and
some small stanniferous veins well exposed
to view. Here I place my wife and two little
boys whilst I go off by rail to other parts
of the county, and I hope not to return
to London to abide until November.

I am finishing this letter in the Scilly Islands
where we have come over to pass a few days amid
the gardens of the Hesperides, full of all sorts of
botanical curiosities, Dracaenas, and cacti
and aloes and geraniums all growing out of
doors as if in a subtropical region. And a
curious sight we have opposite to us, in the
anchorage between the islands are ten ships
with North German colours flying, which have
taken refuge here in order to avoid the





French cruisers which are reported to be about in the Channel. I cannot say that my predilections are very favourable to our Prussian kinsmen, but I should fancy that with you in Austria it must be still more difficult to determine which of the contending parties in this war is the more objectionable. I hope fervently that all the other nationalities who wish to live in peace and quiet will form a close league for mutual protection and aid.

Meanwhile please to remember that we have now in London a good house where we can give you a room if you can pay us a visit, and give my kind remembrances to Haidinger, Hingman, Patara, your brother, & any other friend you may meet, and believe me your truly attached

W. W. Smyth



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