

1 Vienna. Nov. 1st

2

3 Darling Harry.

4 Since writing to you from Dresden, I have had a letter from your mother
5 and Alice, dated Oct 12th. You doubtless have heard as recently,—but in case you have
6 not you will be glad to hear that they were all well.—The only event was our good old
7 Ellen’s departure for another place. She had had trouble with the temporary incumbent in
8 the cuisine and resolved, to your mother’s great consternation, to “make a change”.

9 Before leaving however she had a complete break-down—poor thing! and sobbing told
10 your mother that she would come [^]back[[^]] to her if the woman she had engaged did not
11 suit her. We are having as enjoyable [^]a[[^]] time in this place, as this shocking, raw snowy
12 premature winter weather will allow. It seems from the papers to have been a most
13 remarkable season every where. Your mother tells of a dreadful tornado in Cambridge
14 which among other damage up-rooted 25 trees in the Norton woods alone. I hope they
15 are by this time arrived [^]not the woods, but the Nortons[[^]] and settled in Florence, and
16 you have the comfort and enjoyment of social intercourse with them. I am longing to get
17 to Venice to find a letter there from you telling me that you are yourself again. You say
18 you fear that the food or climate of Italy does not agree with you. It occurs to me that
19 perhaps you may not know that the skins of grapes are very constipating. I had once a
20 very severe illness brought on by swallowing them. ~~with the~~ I was always under the

21 impress- until lately that the effect of the fruit entire was otherwise—without the skin
22 they are relaxing but with it just the reverse, and the “grape cure” is conducted with this
23 knowledge—I hope however you don’t need prescriptions now—Your mother said that
24 Will has more marked ups and downs than he had had, the only effect he saw from D^r
25 Wilkinsons prescriptions. Alice was doing bravely she added. Minny Temple was
26 talking of going to St Francisco this winter with Elly, and Elly Morris had a daughter.
27 Wilk found the Caterpillar worse than ever—but his other produce was fine—this was all
28 the news—except that the first edition of the “Secret of Swedenborg” was nearly
29 exhausted!! We expect to leave here on the 4th for Adelsburg, see the famous grotto, and
30 proceed at once to Venice. If we have such weather as this, our visit there will be ill-
31 timed but we must make the best of it. Vienna is dreadfully crowded with the rush to the
32 opening of the Suez canal. and dreadfully dear also. It is a beautiful city. We are all as
33 usual. Cousin H. had a long pleasant letter from Kit Griffith this mo^g They were all
34 better than usual. Helen R’s weekly bulletin from home keeps us posted in N. York
35 news.

36 Adieu darling Harry—hoping soon to be near you—ever your loving old tante.

37

C W.

Notes

26 Elly • Ellen (Elly) Temple Emmet

26 Elly Morris has had a daughter • Henry James's first cousin, Ellen Van Buren, married Stuyvesant Fish Morris (presumably known as “Steve” and born in 1843) in 1868; their first child, Elizabeth (Bessie) Marshall Morris (1869-1919), was born 4 October

28 the “Secret of Swedenborg” • Henry James, Sr.'s, *The Secret of Swedenborg*

29 Adelsburg, see the famous grotto • Adelsberg, German name for Postojna, in western Slovenia, famous for its system of caves, the Postojnska Jama

33 Cousin H. • Helen Rodgers Wyckoff Perkins

41 Cousin R • Helen Ripley

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To cite this letter, according to MLA style guidelines:

Walsh, Catharine. Letter to Henry James. 1 November [1869]. James Family Papers. Houghton Library.

Harvard University. Cambridge, Mass. Dear Henry James.org Ed. Pierre A. Walker et al. 2005.

Salem State College. [insert your date of access here] <http://www.dearhenryjames.org>.