Vienna

March 22nd
1874

My dear Jenette

I called at the Krankenhaus this evening & then was delighted to get your's of the 4th with the Mothers enclosure. My emotional Thermometer has gone up at least 20° at the good news, and all anxiety on my part about the disfigurement has passed away. It is uncommonly satisfactory. Doctors & nurses, indeed the whole Hospital Staff are to be congratulated on the happy result. The patients themselves no doubt feel "that within which passeth show" – even if the condition of their faces would enable them to express it

Give the patients my best love & congratulations. Your little details were most acceptable, the former account was too general for an M.D. I think this week to begin my homeward progress and will probably get as far as Paris by Saturday. It is a matter of some forty hours by rail & I shall probably break the journey either at Munich or Strasburg, the galleries attracting at the former, the Laboratories at the latter. A good deal will depend on how I feel on getting to Munich after a night in the train. My friend Hutchinson is still in Paris & will act as guide there. I expect to be in London for Easter Sunday. As a pleasing change we had our proper Parson at the chapel to day, in whose place a converted Native has been officiating for some time. Anything - High - Low - Broad - will do for me after six months on the Continent. The chaplain here, a Mr Johnson, is a remarkably fine looking old man, with long white

hair, and a face which reminds one of the portraits of some of the old Musicians. There is a dash of sadness also about it, as though he was one of those who did not "take the current when it served" & hence the consequence – a Chaplaincy abroad, instead of a Bishopric at home. You see I am rather Shakespearian to night. Shakespeare has been my light literature for some time: that accounts for it. We – Steven & S. – went for a long walk this afternoon to the Prater Park and the new Danube Channel in process of making. This latter is a wonderful work of engineering. The River just north of Wien takes a bend, breaks into several streams and unites again a few miles below the City. This channel when finished will unite the river from the point where it divides above to where it again becomes a single stream below. It is really a vast work, but well on to completion. The Viennese justly feel very proud of it. The bed will be quite (& is in parts) as wide as the Thames at London and deep enough for large vessels to come up. The Prater Park is not unlike

Kensington Gardens but treble the size
The Exhibition Buildings still stand, the
material not being worth the expense of
pulling it down. Prater Strasse running
through the Park is the Rotten Row of Wien
and as the afternoon was a fine one, the
youth & beauty of the city mustered in force
The Women dress very neatly, occasionally
overdoing it but 'passing fair' is almost
overpraise for their faces. The private carriages
& horses are good, (as they are English) & if it
wasnt for the number of cabs where drivers
an veritable fehns, one might fancy himself
in Hyde Park. I am going to do the Royal
Treasury & Stables, with one or two other
little things this week & then shall
have pretty well finished the Vienna
sights. My next will probably be dated
Paris
Love to all

Yours
Willie

P.S. I have heard from Mamma lately
she sails in the (2 pgs.)