



BERTOLINI'S PALACE

NAPLES

Thursday. Feb. 6th

My dear uncle Walter & aunt Maggie,

I feel, as if some time had elapsed since I last wrote to you and I know you have this aunt Maria heard of mother's severe illness. You I asked her to send all my letters (three in all I think) down for you to read. Mother is now so much better, really convalescent & I feel quite easy about her. The doctor has ceased to come every day & is only keeping an eye on her to please her. The past three days have seen steadily

improvement & a gain each day of strength & we are feeding her up well and now I am reading aloud & lecturing. Tomorrow she can write a letter & each day I hope you a little advance but I am going very slow indeed. Yesterday for the first time nurse & I carried her into my bed in the adjoining room for the day & she walked back at 5.30. Today she has had a few clothes on & sat up in a chair 2 1/2 hours. She now looks quite herself but still a bit pale & peaked. I will not dwell on the first awful days when she was so ill. You I can't bear to think of the awful pain she suffered & the terrible fever. I have never in my life seen anyone so ill & yet I know that this was a quite light case of pneumonia; not the kind that has a crisis.

I think both Dr. Courme were surprised that she pulled thro' which is rare in

persons of her age & her heart action
was remarkably good & respiration.
I myself feared the worst for she was
so ill & we stay the fever 104! I think the
good nursing, the wise doctor & the
good general condition she was in after
her long rest in Macedonia saved her life.
Mother does not know she has had
pneumonia & I do not wish her to in
any case. She feared it greatly. She knows
she has been very ill & cannot write an
ace of it, but does not know I was
frightened. When she asks me I tell her
I was very much frightened for fear
it would turn into something serious.
For three days she was not allowed
to ^{make} move an unnecessary movement in
bed on account of the heart. We had
to turn her & lift her. The fever was bad
but all this is now happily past &
the inflammation in the lung has healed

rapidly & well. She had much pain
of various sorts & affecting stomach
bowels etc & much suffering before the
disease developed & the dr. was continually
looking for pneumonia symptoms.
The nurse is English & so kind & nice.
Of course we are keeping her on until
mother is well for she sits up at night
& relieves me immensely in a hundred
ways & takes much responsibility off me -
I had to make all arrangements & plan
do everything & I hardly know now how
I got thru those anxious days but some-
how I did. Now I shall not talk about
it any more only to be sure and
ask you not to refer to mother's illness
by name when you write. Call it a
cough & some bronchial trouble due
to the sudden chill caught on board
the Adriatic just before landing.
Just 2 weeks ago today - We have
much to be thankful for. We are well



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placed in a fine hotel in
beautiful sunny rooms, a
balcony which overlooks the
whole of Naples & the Bay.
All are kind & I can get
the most of food for mother - I seemed
to have everything we needed, eggs, water
bays, old linen for a poultice & a tea bottle
Everything we had in our hearts came in
play. Emma was so kind & I always felt
I had her help in the back ground. She lent
me some fine old brandy which was very
necessary - I got the doctor's address thro'
a friend to whom I had a letter of intro-
duction - Jim was there. I hardly knew where
to turn as Naples is not like Rome. Nurses
are very few & it was just luck the doctor
could get me this Miss Shepherd. If
mother had been ill alone on board it
would have been far worse, but she had
a perfect time, sat at the Captain's table
met some old friends, & was particularly

under the charge of Mrs. Mrs. Irving
Taylor of N.Y. (Blandys agents there)
who were on board & who were de-
lightful people. He thoroughly enjoyed
his work at sea & was perfectly well.
I had brought all the tickets to Rome & we
were all packed up to go at 3 P.M. that day.

So many thanks under W. for your
nice letters rec'd Jan. 31st. The ^{first} one
& the added one of Jan. 19. The beautiful
bookplate & all the enclosures. I was able
to enjoy them as mother was feeling easier,
& later I read them aloud to her & gave
Emma the one to read about the Shakespeare
Club, it was so interesting. Also gave to
mother came - So glad you got my postals
safely & you are good to take so much
interest in them.

Now let me tell you, Aunt Maggie,
how very slow to hear you had
had a pull down due to being tired
out. Later letters report you well, but
you must be careful.

A heap of letters, about 12 or 15,
came for mother just after her arrival
& I had to read them all - Some I have
read aloud to her & all are in a big
bundle waiting for her to go over.

I don't want her to tire herself over letters
or accounts at this time, but
just to read a light novel & be read
to & rest for the next few days.

Please excuse this scrawly
scrawl - The "Cedric" came in today
& there were 75 here for dinner -
I have just (I am in the writing room)
asked a young girl what kind of a
passage they had & if they had
a good day in Madeira!

I called Helen Tues. P.M. so she
would get a reassuring cable just
before the letter arrived Wed. I had a

reply yesterday at 7 P.M. & I sent
another cable at 8 as I knew how
worned she would be. I kept a diary
last, writing each day. Now however
she will not be worned. The doctor
would not allow me to cable her at
first as he did not deem it necessary
for it would have given her a whole
week of terrible anxiety before a letter
could come -

Good night -

Affe.

May.



Dexter, Mary Deane. 1913. "Dexter, Mary Deane Feb. 6, [1913]." *Walter Deane correspondence*

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