

Vienna Jan 10. 1863.

My Dear Graham (and Wife)

I feel the want of you sadly after you left and wd all my experience in making and immediately losing new and pleasant acquaintances kept me from having a sort of homesick feeling.

However I took to looking at it as a great thing to have seen so much of you, and did not ~~allow~~ allow the thoughts to dwell upon the fact that I saw you no longer. Fiske and I are daily together and I feel towards him just that kindly sentiment which I find he raises every where. - I am going to America! I shall leave Vienna, I suppose, next after next and mean time - that is the "mean time" while I am in the ocean and 'good time' while I am in Yankeeedom. - Fiske is to be my 'locum tenens' here in the Legation. - Can you believe it - the President has reinstated Canisius! so the hope of this Pickens is cut off in that direction. I mean to 'hore' for Berlin.

I am exercised about that life of Beethoven - but have no great hopes that it will turn out of great importance if found, still I very much desire to know what it really is.

I have at length really got to work on the Beethoven book and have real delight in seeing how the notices collected in all quarters fall into smooth mosaic work and each helps the other in making a complete picture. I am quite surprised sometimes at the amount of the new & valuable, which ~~has~~ thus far escaped other writers and has only been found by a person from that Barbaric Land - America.

Fiske is busy not as a bee - but as half a dozen bees - in choice bibliography, and other things too numerous for me to mention but which are doubtless, recaded in his letters to you.

I suppose you have had horror and anxiety as we have all had -

needless too in a great measure, as it
now appears, and caused by the Lomille
lying and fiendish hatred of the Times
and its fellow workers for evil. Such
malice, such scoundrelism, such utter
want of honor & truth, has never been
paralleled in my experience except by
Demmet's Herald. London Times & New
York Herald - par uobis fratrum.

Now the question is - did Lincoln
issue the Emancipation proclamation on
the 1st inst. ? I hope & believe it. He
could not do otherwise especially after
the defeat of the attack at Fredricksburg

When I reach New York I shall
be four weeks behind the news - what
will that news be?! Shall I find
on landing that all has gone backwords,
or that success is really bringing on
the beginning of the end? - God knows!

Let me only add the pleasure it gives
me to have added you two to my list of
Dear friends! We shall sometime or other
meet again and then we will clinch the
nail which has been already driven.

God bless you both!

Alex^r. W. Thayer