

*Murray*

29th June, 1925.

My dear Friend,

I am quite sure that you will be in great anxiety not knowing what has happened to us, since we were in Vienna and left our greetings and card on you.

Our train from Basle, where we visited Henry who has just passed his degree as Doctor of Science, with special Honours, arrived very much delayed in Vienna, on our way to Budapest. We were told that the next train going through would be in the night, and this is why we hoped to spend the evening with you. On our arrival at the station to leave our luggage, we were told that there would be a train leaving - so you will understand that we used this opportunity of going straight on to Budapest.

You will have heard that they arranged a retrospective Exhibition there of my works from my earliest youth, at the Kunstlerhaus, to celebrate my Silver Wedding, which took place on the 11th June. There were also many other festivities prepared, of which you will probably have heard through the newspapers. We ought to have lunched with Horthy, and with the English Minister and the Prime Minister and other notabilities. In fact every hour was engaged during the four days we had intended to stop there. Our host was the Secretary of State to the Prime Minister, De Barcozy, but we had only arrived a few hours when we received the serious news that our youngest son Johnny had had to be operated on for appendicitis, complication had set in and pneumonia followed, so we had to start immediately for London, having just had time to see my Exhibition and to be present at the first reception at our host's palace, where we received the Diplomatic Corps and all the leading people.

We came straight back to Brighton, where Johnny is now lying in a Nursing Home, and you can well imagine what anxiety we went through. During the whole of the long journey we did not succeed in getting any news, and only on our arrival at Dover heard that he was a little better. Wednesday to Thursday he was in a dangerous condition and almost given up.

To-day I have just come up from Brighton and I am very pleased to be able to tell you that he has now passed the crisis and has been out of danger these last three days. He is progressing very well but is still very weak and it will take a long time to complete his recovery. My wife is staying with him and will hardly be able to come up to town, but will go straight on to Surrey, where we have taken a house and hope to spend a happy time throughout August and September.

I have had to resume my work to-day as I am very busy with many interesting portraits and I wish to be as free as possible to be able to have a quiet time next month.

We deeply regretted that we were unable to see you. We had intended staying a few hours again on our way back, and then going direct to Paris to my friend Gramont, and to see also the Salon - but all our plans were upset.

We are intending to leave at the end of September for a three months stay in the United States and have a great many preparations to make.

I would like to have written more to you but at the present moment am overwhelmed with so much correspondence and other duties, that I have no time.

Please let me know what your plans are. I do hope you will be able to make arrangements to meet us this summer.

Most cordially yours,