

Pat. Kal. Aug. II,  
Cantabrigiae.  
[ca. 1713]

Pater mihi carissime!

Cras ibo in castra Borensia.

Hodie omnes labores examinandi  
complevi. Examinatioes ambo, et  
de geometria analysis, et de calculo  
minimorum, perfaciles erant. Nequeo vero  
comprehendere, quomodo stultissimo  
fallere liceat, quod quaestiones et puero solvi  
posse arbitror. Exempli gratia, <sup>mandatum</sup> ~~quaestio~~ est regionem  
infra curvam secundi gradus mensure, circulum per  
~~punctis tres~~ scribere et aequationem eius investigare,

et alia similia facere. At timer et  
in exercitum recipiar, oculorum causa.  
Vero, omnia quae fieri est facere, facere  
possum tam bene quam ab aliis faciuntur,  
<sup>sed mihi non dicit.</sup>  
~~Ad~~ Epistolam ad praesidem concilii  
militaris de examinationibus meis, in  
qua dixi, me omnia militaria haec  
bene percesisse.

Per dies quattuor, urbs urbatur.  
Nemini licet laborare, nemini dormire.

Post dies decem ero apud  
vos in montibus! Gaudetis ~~litare~~  
~~esse~~ Vale!

Zilive tuus  
Noibat!

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

2245 College Ave., Berkeley, Cal  
February 24, 1913

My dear Wirner:

I am glad to hear from you, and to learn that your work for the degree is nearing completion. May you have all good luck, as I doubt not that you will! Knowing nothing about symbolic logic, I can't comment on your thesis subject.

As for teaching chances for next year, the only place I know anything about is the university here, and so far as I know there are not likely to be any ~~ass.~~ changes here or additions to the staff. Nor have we any assistants who receive enough remuneration to count for much - Assistants in Philosophy here simply assist by reading & marking papers, and are paid 25¢ per hour - If however anything turns up which might interest

you, I will let you know. I shall certainly  
be interested to hear from you anytime  
and to know what you are doing and  
writing. If you publish your Thesis,  
send me a copy, despite my ignorance.

Kindly remember both Mrs Adams &  
myself to your father and mother. We  
have many pleasant memories of our  
Cambridge year, not least our friendship  
with the winners,

Faithfully yours,

George P. Adams.

[ca. Summer, 1915]

Dear Wolff.

We shall meet (if convenient) at Sen Gupta's room at 6<sup>30</sup> Monday morning. We take the train at the North Station at 7.55 AM for Ashland, N.H., arriving at 12.16 P.M. We then walk a mile to the boat landing on Squam River, where we take the 1.30 boat, which lands us at Sandwich at 3.30. Mr. Bullard's team will meet us there, and take us to his house.

(Dr.) Norbert Wiener

# POST CARD

CORRESPONDENCE HERE

Dear ma.

I climbed  
the Dome yester-  
day & White-  
face today, descen-  
ding by blueberry  
ledge. I could  
not write yesterday  
as I did not come near  
a post office. Had  
an A1 time  
Norbit

ADDRESS ONLY

Mrs. Leo Wiener  
29 Sparks St.  
Cambridge,  
Mass

JUN

4

1913





Whiteface Mountain, N. H.  
Photo by E. J. Tilton, Fitchburg, Mass.

1439

Lot

29 Sparks Street,  
Cambridge, Mass.  
June 15, 1913.

Hon. B. A. W. Russell,  
Trinity College,  
Cambridge, Eng.

Esteemed Colleague:

My son, Norbert Wiener, will this week receive his degree of Ph. D. at Harvard University, his thesis being "A comparative Study of the Algebra of Relatives of Schroeder and that of Whitehead and Russell". He had expected to be here next year and have the privilege of being your student in the second semester, but as he has received a travelling fellowship, he is obliged to pass the whole of the year in Europe, and so he wishes to enjoy the advantage of studying under you at Trinity during the first half of the academic year. He intended to write to you about this matter, but his great youth, - he is only eighteen years old, - and his consequent inexperience with what might be essential for him to know in his European sojourn, leads me to <sup>do</sup> this service for him and ask your advice.

Norbert graduated from College, receiving his A. B., at the age of fourteen, not as the result of premature development of of unusual precocity, but chiefly as the result of careful home training, free from useless waste, which I am applying to all of my children. He is physically strong (weighing 170 lbs.), perfectly balanced morally and mentally, and shows no traits generally associated with early precocity. I mention all this to you that you may not assume that you are to deal with an exceptional or freakish boy, but with a normal student whose energies have not been misdirected. Outside of abroad and liberal classical education, which includes Greek, Latin, and the modern languages, he has had a thorough course in the sciences, and in Mathematics has studied the Differential and Integral Calculus, Differential Equations, the Galois Theory of Equations, and some branches of Modern Algebra (under Prof. Huntington). In philosophy he has pursued studies under Professors Roice, Ferry, Palmer, Münsterberg, Holt, <sup>Schmidt,</sup> etc.. at Harvard and Cornell Universities. His predilection is

Trinity College, Cambridge, Mass.



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entirely for Modern Logic, and he wishes during his one or two years' stay in Europe to be benefitted from those who have done distinguished work in that direction.

Will he be able to study under you, or be directed by you, if he comes to Cambridge in September or early October? What should he do in order to enjoy that privilege? I have before me The Student's Handbook to Cambridge for 1908, but I am unable to ascertain from it that any provisions are made for graduate students wishing to obtain such special instruction or advice. Nor am I able to find out anything about his residence there, whether he would have to matriculate in Trinity College or could take rooms in the city. This is rather an important point to him as he is anxious, as far as possible, to get along on his rather small stipend. For any such information, which would smooth his first appearance in a rather strange world to him I shall be extremely obliged to you.

I shall take great pleasure to thank you in person for any kindness that thus may be shown to my son, when, next year, you come to our American Cambridge to deliver lectures in the Department of Philosophy.

Sincerely Yours,

*Leottier*

Professor of Slavic Languages and  
Literatures at Harvard University.

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TRINITY COLLEGE,  
CAMBRIDGE.

26 June 1813

Dear Sir

It will give me very great pleasure to have your son at my Lectures, & I shall hope to see a good deal of him privately as well. My Lectures will begin about Oct. 13.

If he only wants to hear my Lectures, he need not go through any formalities at all. But if he wishes to make a longer stay in Cambridge, & become a member of the University, his best course

will be to become an "Advanced Student"; which, for a graduate, involves no examination or other tiresome fuss. In that case, if he stays long enough, he can submit a thesis & get a degree if he thinks it worth while - and students get their degree on a thesis, not on examination. To become an ordinary undergraduate, he would have to submit to two examinations, Little-go, & College Entrance, which,

tho' very easy, would be tedious. It would be as well, if he is to become an advanced student, to communicate with the Senior Tutor of Trinity College, Dr. W. M. Fletcher, if Trinity is the College he chooses. This ought to be done at once. But so far as I am concerned, he will get just as much of me if he ever takes lodgings in the town & has no connection with the University.

Yours sincerely

Bernard Russell.

Whiteface, N. H.,  
July 10, 1913.

My dear Professor Perry:

We have just received an answer to the letter which my father sent to Russell. In it Russell says that if I only intend to hear his lectures and to consult with him privately about my work, there is no need of ~~going~~ going to Cambridge University; if, however, I wish to make a longer stay, or to be connected with the university in any way, he advises me to be an advanced student, which, as a Ph.D., I can become without going through any examinations or other tiresome rigmarole. If I am an advanced student, I may become a candidate for a degree by having a thesis accepted, without examination.

I have consulted with Professors Schmidt and Huntington about my plans for next year. Both agree that I should take up some mathematics, particularly the theory of functions, as essential to my subject.

This, of course, I could do to best advantage at Cambridge, and I suppose that it might be more convenient for me to be an advanced student for this reason. Moreover, as far as I can see, there is no other place in Europe where I could profitably spend a full term in Symbolic Logic. According to Prof. Huntington, Whitehead is a terrifically busy man, and not available for prolonged consultation. Couturat has almost given up Symbolic Logic for Esperanto. Frege, if alive, is probably inaccessible. Bodea is not worth a visit. Peano, though well worth meeting, both for his own sake and for the sake of the other members of his school, is, as I have heard, a most uninspiring man under whom to study, and has little or nothing to say which I cannot also get from Russell.

Zermelo impresses Huntington as a man well worth looking up, but I do not know where he teaches, nor whether he is accessible.

Since things stand this way, it seems to me that the best plan, at least for the present, is for me to become an advanced student at Cambridge, at any rate until Russell leaves, and to spend my vacations in meeting the symbolic logicians of the Continent.

I hope that this plan will meet with your approval and that of the department.

Respectfully yours,  
Norbert Wiener

TRINITY COLLEGE,  
CAMBRIDGE.

26 July 1913

Dear Sir,

I have your application of July 10 for the admission of your son to this College.

The University rules do not allow a student to be admitted as a so called "Advanced Student" who has not reached the age of twentyone . This is a technicality which I do not defend; it is the rule of the University and not of the College.

You will find full details of the regulations affecting Advanced Students in the Student's Handbook to Cambridge, published by the University Press, price <sup>s</sup>3/- and to be obtained from all booksellers.

The only course open to him would be to join the College in the ordinary way, technically as an undergraduate. This would be his University status, but he would be able, and given liberty, to study under Mr Russell or any other of the teachers here, as he found profitable, and he could gain an Honours Degree (B.A.)



in the University , if he so desired, after keeping  
nine terms by residence and after passing the Moral Sciences  
Tripos . *But I gather that he would not wish to stay so long .*

He would not be able to have rooms within  
the College walls in October because the vacancies have  
long ago been filled for the freshmen who are coming  
then. Like many other freshmen he would live in licensed  
lodgings close to the College, subject to exactly the  
same rules.

If in the circumstances you still wish to  
apply for his admission in October it is important that  
I should know at once.

It will be necessary for him to be admitted  
as a special case in addition to our ordinary numbers,  
and this will require special permission from the College  
Council. I should confidently expect to obtain this per-  
-mission when you make the application. You should also  
send me for submission to the Council testimony <sup>to</sup> your  
son's good moral character from the Harvard authorities,  
together with some simple evidence from his chief teachers,

TRINITY COLLEGE,  
CAMBRIDGE.

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to show that he is able to follow with profit the course  
he proposes.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

Wm. Fletcher

Professor Leo. Wiener.

18 New Square, Cambridge, England,  
Sept. 27, 1913.

Dear mother,

Father has doubtless told you already about our adventures and misadventures in looking for rooms, and about our meeting with Russell, so I need say nothing about these matters. I have unpacked my trunk and satchel, and put the things neatly away, just as you have told me. I went shopping this morning, and I am a little afraid that I was badly done, for I got a bath-sponge for 7/0 after having been offered one for 8/6, and afterwards saw one in another store; inferior, it is true, to mine in size and quality, for 4/6. I spent 1/0 on a tooth-brush, and 1d. for a fair-sized bottle of ink, and 2d. for 6 brass stub-pens. I cashed a cheque

at a bank, taking my money in silver,  
as father said I should.

I am quite satisfied with my lodgings,  
as the rooms are large, the food good,  
and the landlady accommodating.

Cambridge is an interesting old  
place which has never more than  
half outgrown its medievalism. The  
colleges are beautiful old gothic build-  
ings which are so complicated in their  
ground-plan that they almost form a  
labyrinth. Constance would be charmed  
with the place.

This afternoon my work begins, for  
I am going to show Russell my thesis.  
I wonder what he will think of it.

I hope you will be satisfied with  
this letter, but you know I can have  
but little to write, as I have not  
been here 24 hours yet. I shall write  
again Tuesday. I expect letters soon  
from all of you.

Your loving son,  
Norbert.

pleasant trip, and that everyone is  
in tip-top shape. What have you decided  
to do with Constance, Bertha and Fritz?  
Is mother rested yet? Please tell  
me about all these things in your next  
letter.

Your loving son,  
Norbert.

P.S. When should I write to Schmidt  
and Perry?

P.S. Don't ~~imagine~~ imagine that I have  
made any break before Russell, for  
I haven't.

18 New Square, Cambridge, England

September 30, 1913

Dear father:-

Many thanks to Constance for  
her letter. I am taking good care of my appearance.  
I shave regularly. I took a sponge-bath in  
my wash-basin Sunday evening, and I am  
having one pair of shoes reheelled.

I have begun my work. Following  
Russell's advice, I bought Gourzats' "Cours  
d'analyse", ~~which~~ yesterday, and have  
covered more than 30 pages thoroughly  
already. It is a big book, in two quarto  
volumes of about 685 pages each. I paid  
12/0 per volume for a second-hand copy.  
Its first-hand price is 16/0 per volume.  
I had quite a time finding it in the book-  
stores, as most of them were out of it.  
Excuse my spending so much money, but,  
as Russell told me, it is a book I should  
own.

attitude seems to be one of utter indifference, mingled with contempt. I gave him my thesis to read, and he said he was so busy that he could not tell when he would get through, whereas you know that he told us that he was free every evening. I told him about the particular work I was interested in, but asked him for advice as to what particular work to take up, but he said, "Our method of doing research work differs from the German and American methods in that we let the students find their own problems, instead of assigning problems to them, and I think our method is better."

Russell has invited me to his rooms, ~~but he is telling me to come without~~, however, naming any particular date, further than saying that Thursday is his especial "evening at home." However, I think that I shall be quite content with what I shall see of him at lectures.

I hope that you have had a

Russell, as you know, invited me to his room Saturday evening. He had in his room at the same time another fellow of the college, a ~~old~~ mathematician. Between them, they made it very unpleasant for me. Half the time they were talking entirely between themselves; ~~on things~~ the other half, they were casting aspersions upon my mathematical knowledge. One would say, "I wonder whether Mr. Wiener's mathematical knowledge is sufficient to enable him to take up this course of study with profit?" The other would answer, "But this line of work requires very little real mathematical preparation, you know." Then the first would say, "But it isn't so much the amount one has studied as the way one has been trained that counts." And so on for an hour. I have read a good deal about the studied insolence and conceit of the English University man, but this is the first time I have had the misfortune to encounter it.

As to my research-work, Russell's

Oct. 1, 1913,  
18 New Square, Cambridge.

Dear father,

I am afraid that I have sadly misunderstood Mr. Russell. Yesterday, as I was walking around back of Trinity, I came upon him, and he invited me to tea. He gave me back my paper, with a list of criticisms carefully made out (though, I believe, mostly invalid), and said, that as a technical piece of work it was very good, and showed a thorough acquaintance with the use of symbols. He said that he looked forward to my making things interesting in his course, and was, in general, very pleasant to me. He also gave me a copy of Vol II of the "Principia".

By the way, it is very likely that ~~but~~ Santayana will be here in a fortnight or thereabouts. From what Russell tells me, he has been staying in Paris, and not, as the

legend at Harvard runs, at Madrid. I shall most certainly try to meet him if he comes.

It is Wednesday now, and I have had no letter from you yet. Please tell me all about your trip.

Your loving son,  
Norbert.



18 New Square, Camb.  
Oct. 4, 1913.

Dear father, -

I went to the Union today and looked it over. I find that if I am a member of the Harvard Union, I have the right to attend the Cambridge Union for one term. Now, as the fee for a non-resident member of the H. U. is \$3 and the fee per term at the C. U. is £1, I would save \$2. if I joined the H. U.

I am rather isolated now at Cambridge, and so I would like to know if you would think it extravagant for me to join the H. U.? If you do not, could you send \$3 to the H. U. not waiting to answer me. Please state my academic status at Harvard in your letter to the H. U., and state that it is a non-resident membership.  
Your loving son,  
Norbert.

POST CARD  
UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION



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GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

4 OCT 13

4 OCT 13

Herrn Professor L. Wiener,  
Schraudolphstrasse 2a,  
München,  
Bayern,  
Germany.

ment in the Transcript last year quoted from some English periodical that the 'movies' have had a tremendous influence in Americanizing England. I can easily understand that now.

I am glad that all of you are settled. How are the children learning German? Of course Constance has passed ~~her~~ her exam. Please tell me soon about everything.

I got my suit from London the other day. I just got my laundry this morning. It was  $2/10\frac{1}{2}$ . I paid my rent yesterday. I practically spent the whole of my first cheque by Thursday but it was all on extraordinary things I needed for the whole year. I was forced to get some collars to tide over the time from Wednesday from Saturday.

Cambridge is an awfully sleepy little place, - far sleepier than our Cambridge. I really don't like it a bit, notwithstanding its beauty and

18 New Square, Cambridge,

Oct. 4, 1913.

Dear father:

I must confess that I feel guiltily lazy nowadays. You see, though term began on the first, lectures do not commence until the thirteenth, and I have as yet no access to the library. I am trying to make myself study up my 'Cours d'Analyse', but then, I have gone far enough to persuade myself that the subject is well within the range of my mathematical comprehension, and no matter how far I do go, we shall cover all that work in class anyhow, so I feel myself justified in not putting over an hour or two a day into it.

As to my research work, I am really at a loss what to do. Russell at first protested that a theory of types without an  $\varepsilon$ -relation was impossible. I carried my work far enough along to convince him that it is possible, and that Schröder is consistent

half a dozen works to which I had no access. So I gave that up as a bad job.

I went to bring my results to R. Thursday evening. As I said before, I succeeded in establishing my point. R. ~~gave me a sort of~~ <sup>invited me</sup> invitation to a sort of meeting of students he held later on that evening, and as I wanted to meet students, I went. One of the things the discussion turned on was the Cambridge Union. I was surprised to learn that it played a much less important place in student life than the Harvard Union. In fact, from all I can gather, there is less genuine ~~at~~ 'college life' here than at Harvard.

Yesterday afternoon I went to a moving-picture show. I paid 3d for my seat. It was rather interesting for me to note that all ~~but~~ one of the pictures represented some phase or other of American life. I saw a state

on this point, thereby substantiating the results of my thesis. So far, so good, but what am I to do next? I thought, from what I had read in Russell's books that he tries to base his philosophical dogmas on his mathematical work, but apparently it was the other way round. Now, this removes much of the significance of the line of work I was intending to pursue, which was simply directed at undermining the claims of his mathematical work to philosophical importance. This leaves me in grave doubts as to whether I should continue this line of investigation, especially as R. keeps urging me to take up work that does not simply deal with other books. And I haven't any other problem as yet.

I tried the other day to write a philosophical essay, but I found before I got through with the first sheet of paper that a philosophical essay can only be written in a philosophical library. The very first sentence would need to be verified by references to

associations. But then, of course I haven't  
got used to it yet. I'll try.

Your loving son,  
Norbert.

P. S. I got a registration blank the  
other day from Harvard, and sent it  
off.

P. S. I believe I can live all told (except  
for books and University fees) for 30 s. a  
week, or about \$7.50. If this is too much, tell  
me so, and I can cut it down to 29 s., or  
about \$7.00.

My landlady makes me pay  
for the washing of my bedlinen and  
table linen. This amounts to about  
ten cents a week.

I ordered 100 cards with  
my name and my degree for  
3/6 (84 cents) the other day.

Please explain why the  
Gazette (see enclosed clipping) says  
that father has leave for a whole  
year.

Tell me all about the  
family. Love to them all.

Your loving son,  
Norbert.

14 New Square, Cambridge  
Oct. 8, 1913.

Dear Mother—

I am heartily sick of this  
old hole. I meet no one, and am as utterly  
isolated as it is possible to be. Whether  
I work or I loaf, I have no interest in anything.  
Russell has refused to make any suggestions  
as to what line of research I take up, yet he  
seems to think (and I am inclined to agree  
with him) that I have worked my present  
line of investigation dry. I cannot write  
a philosophical paper without talking  
it over beforehand, and I know of no one  
with whom I can talk it over. What little  
work I have done on my Mathematics seems  
to have had no effect other than that  
of deadening my interest in it when  
I shall take it up in class.

From all I have heard, there is  
little of the spirit of comradeship which one

gymnasium, or in their own rooms, there is often a rough-and-tumble of intellectual conflict that ~~br~~ puts a man on his mettle, and brings out the best in his work. Here, there seems to be no opportunity for any such thing. In ~~Holt's~~ Babewell's Seminary, when Rattray and Babewell were arguing, there was a delicate fencing of wits which it was a joy ~~to~~ and an education to hear. In Holt's seminary, even, the clever way in which Rattray finished off Holt was a pleasure. It is true of course, that Rattray's training was English. Still, I can hardly conceive of such ~~dis~~ discussions taking place here, while Rattray was not our only clever disputant. I expect that, in Philosophy, at least, Harvard will produce more important men in the future than Cambridge. I expect to hear much in the future from Sengupta, Chenoweth, Eliot, Wolff, Roback, and others of my colleagues.

A Hindu has just moved in downstairs today. He seems a nice fellow.

finds at Harvard, at Cambridge. At Harvard the gymnasium, the Union, the common-rooms of the dormitories, the dining-halls, are so many centers ~~of~~ where students may meet in a free and easy way; and discuss their play or work, as the case may be. Here, everybody stands on terms of ceremony with everybody else. At Harvard, a fellow would be considered a boor who required an introduction to a fellow student. Here, it is considered rude to talk to a person to whom you have not been introduced. How I would like to see some of these Cambridge cads in the Harvard gymnasium! They would have their nonsense knocked out of them pretty quick!

The intellectual life at Harvard may be cruder than that of Cambridge, but it is far more vigorous. In the seminars, in the department clubs, in the meetings of students with one another at the Union, ~~or~~ the dining-halls, or the lockers at the

14 New Square, Cambridge,  
Oct. 15. 1913.

Dear Dad,

Work began Monday, and I am already feeling more satisfied. Of all the men I am under, I believe I shall like Mr. Baker, under whom I shall take work on the theory of the functions of a complex variable. I have permission to use the college library, and I shall do work there in the future. My work with Russell begins today.

I don't like Cambridge yet. The students are as close as oysters. I was talking last night to a German student from Christ's named Rücker, and he feels the same way that I do. He says that the German students are far more sociable than the English ones. I met him after the Union debate last night, which I attended. It was rather interesting; the subject of the debate was, 'Trade Unions'.

I wrote to Schmidt the other



day. I am wondering when I shall write to Perry and tell him which courses I am taking. I couldn't tell him precisely in my letter, because I hadn't decided yet.

Mr. Baker is giving his class a set of test examples, to find out how much they know. Most of those are easy for me.

I haven't any more news, for there isn't any. I wonder why I haven't any letter from you this morning? I hope all are well and happy.

Your loving son,  
Norbert.

P.S. The laundry bill on my landlady's account came to about 12 or 13 cents. She is very obliging, so I don't think I had better kick, especially as what she is doing appears to be the custom here.



THE UNION SOCIETY,  
CAMBRIDGE.

Oct. 11, 1913

Dear Ma-

I'm feeling fine & dandy.

I've picked up an acquaintance with a nice fellow next door, so I don't think I'll be lonely. Work begins in earnest Monday, though I have just succeeded in forcing myself to buckle down to business today.

I am reading French and German to prepare me for my Christmas vacation — at the Union, as I used to do at Harvard.

I'm going to take the following courses:

Berthakin today. How's Fritz? And, above everything else, how are you and Dast?

I wrote to Perry the other day, and shall write to Schmidt today. I have also taken steps to get permission to use the library here.

Please get Cona to write to me soon, to tell me about her work, the letters she has sent and received etc.

With love to all,  
Your loving son,  
Norbert.

Theory of the functions of a real variable.

Mr Hardy. J. Th. D. 12

Theory of the functions of a complex variable.

Dr. Daker. J. Th. D. 10

and two courses of lectures by Russell, one with the hour yet undetermined, and one at 5.30 on Thursday.

I'm sorry for poor Cona. It's a consolation, it's true, to have talent, but it's a sad thing, hitherto unknown, for a Wiener to fail at an exam. It gives my confidence in her to pass any and all exams. Such a terrible jar! However, I am sure that she will retrieve her reputation by passing a brilliant examination in the middle of the year, ~~when~~ after a splendid year with the private teacher.

I'm glad the kids are O.K. I got a nice letter from you &



THE UNION SOCIETY,  
CAMBRIDGE.

Oct. 18, 1913.

Dear father:-

I met Santayana at Russell's rooms  
Wednesday, and had a pleasant talk with  
him. It seemed good to meet an American among  
these damned Britishers, whose idea of cor-  
diality is to ask you to tea <sup>towards the end of</sup> next week.  
Imagine one Harvard student asking another  
to tea! I am hating this country more  
every day, and the people are such icebergs that  
I wonder how India can maintain its climate, now  
that it is a British possession. By the way, a Hindu  
invited me to tea the otherday. From what I  
heard, <sup>the</sup> Sen Gupta's family is well known in  
Calcutta.

The work I am taking under Mr.  
Hardy seems well within my comprehension,  
but in Dr. Baker's course, after nine or ten hours'

cock-sureness. Now, I did not behave differently than I did in my Harvard seminaries, or when you were here, while his language, though he excused himself, it is true, was most violent.

The day I shall enjoy most of all during my stay in Cambridge shall be the day I leave it. I am heartily disgusted with the place, everyone in it, and, most of all, myself.

Tell ma that I take a sponge bath in a big tub twice a week. It is thorough. There are only Turkish baths in town. I think ma asked me some other questions, but I haven't my letter with me. I'll answer them next letter.

I am reading about 20 minutes each of French and German each day.

I hope all of you are enjoying your trip more than I am. I pity you if you aren't.

Norbert.

steady work I was unable to complete even six out of nineteen problems. To my knowledge, however, I made no errors.

My course-work under Mr. Russell is all right, but I am ~~dis~~ completely discouraged about the work I am doing under him privately. I guess I am a failure as a philosopher, and stand no chance of getting a renewal of my fellowship (for I dread to think what Russell will tell Perry about me). You see, I wrote a little paper stating my own views, rather hurriedly, and without, at the time, any access to the library. I unfortunately gave it to Russell to read. He wrote out a severe lot of criticisms about it, and invited me to his rooms to discuss the matter. Since I have not really gotten 'warmed up' to my philosophical work yet, I made a batch of my argument. Russell seemed very dissatisfied, not only with my views, but with my philosophical ability, and with me personally. He spoke of my views as 'horrible fog', said that my exposition of them was even worse than the views themselves, and, like Löwenberg and Southard, accused me of too much self-confidence and

father.

Your devoted son,  
Norbert.



THE UNION SOCIETY,  
CAMBRIDGE.

Oct. 22, 1913.

Dear ma-

I am taking good care of my appearance in every way. I had my pants pressed yesterday, and tomorrow I shall have a haircut. I take a good, thorough sponge-bath twice a week. I not only look, but feel far more self-respecting than I did at Cornell. I feel confident that you would feel quite satisfied with me if you saw me. I shave every morning.

Yesterday I got into a little philosophical tiff with G. E. Moore, one of the big bugs hereabouts. Of course I got neatly squelched. However, as a student that was with me at the time remarked, when G. E. is really disgusted with a person's philosophical ability, he gets very rude, while he was entirely polite to me.

Friday the Moral Sciences Club meets in Russell's rooms, and he reads a paper. I'm

plishing something.

My life here is about the same mixture of loafing and work that it was at Harvard. On the one hand, it is neither possible nor profitable for me to put in several consecutive hours of highly concentrated effort - it pays me rather to work, and then knock off work for a short while, and to work again, and knock off work again, and so ~~on~~ on. On the other hand, in my last two years at Harvard, I have formed habits of work and concentration that make it quite impossible for me ever to fritter my time away again, as I did at Cornell. I am, I hope, far more of a man now than I was then. I feel that I am accomplishing something during my stay here.

You must remember that in the lecture-rooms my fellow-students are the pick of the mathematicians of the pick of the mathematical colleges of the pick of the mathematical universities of the world. And I feel that I am quite holding my own in these courses, though my technical knowledge is much less than theirs. I hope everybody, and you particularly, mother, is well. I am sorry ~~that~~ you must go to the inconvenience of moving again. Write to me soon, and tell me of everyone from Fritz to

invited to butt in. Friday afternoon I go to tea with a Scotch phil. student, who will have some of his philosophical friends in also.

My math. work isn't so bad as I thought it was; I apologized to Baker for the feebleness and incorrectness of my problems, but he said that he had no fault to find with me, and that for the scantiness of my previous technical training and the time that had elapsed since I went over my work last, I was doing very well. My work with Hardy is flowing along smoothly enough while, so far, I have no work to do in Russell's courses, for I have covered all the ground myself.

I licked the work I did last summer into some sort of shape, and showed it to Hardy and Russell. Hardy seemed rather indifferent about it, but R. is highly interested and pleased by it. I think, as things look now, that I may get something of genuine mathematical value out of it - that I may develop, perhaps, a theory of circular ordinal numbers from it. I couldn't have done anything with it last summer, however, without books. But here, that now that I have gotten into the ~~guts~~ guts of my work, I feel confident of accom-

mistake they made it out in your name.

I'll send a post-card to Fritz to-  
morrow.

Goodbye.

Norbert.



THE UNION SOCIETY,  
CAMBRIDGE.

Oct. 25, 1913.

Dear father:

My work is progressing fairly well in general, except that in Baker's course we go so fast that I can neither take notes nor follow it completely without taking notes. The student that sits next to me in that course is one of the most damnable cads I have ever met. The other day he made several entirely unnecessary <sup>remarks</sup> indignation of American students, and today, when I brought in some problems which were not rigorously done, he went out of his way to insult me about them.

Yesterday I visited a Scotchman, I forward. He is rather a pleasant fellow, - the Scotch, in general, are, I believe, more sociable than the English. Last night I attended the meeting of the Moral Sciences club at Russell's rooms. Russell read a paper. The whole thing was very formal - the club is for



inches each way. His type of mathematical analysis he applies as a sort of Procrustean bed to the facts, and those that exceed the contain more than his system provides for, he lops short, and those that contain less, he draws out. He is, nevertheless, within his limitations, a wonderfully accurate thinker.

Hardy is a typical Englishman; he plays cricket; lectures on his subject in a remarkably lucid manner; is, however, utterly indifferent to the students under him; and mispronounces his French and his German in a particularly atrocious manner.

Baker lectures at such a rate that few can follow him, but seems far more interested in his students than either Russell or Hardy. He has a marvellous mind - I can hardly understand a thing he says.

One particularly provoking thing is that to hear when you speak to Hardy, say, about some of your plans in which he has not shown the slightest outward sign of interest ~~to him~~ 'I have just spoken to Russell about that'.

I hope it will not be necessary for me to stay another term in Cambridge.

I am keeping my personal appearance up; I had a haircut yesterday.

I got my card from the Union today. By

large and unwieldy to be anything but formal. Today I met an American ~~man~~ - a Gale man - who invited me to his rooms. The Anglicized American ~~as~~ combines all the faults of the Englishman and the American, with the good qualities left out. I went to see a football game this afternoon. Of course, I could not completely understand it, but it seemed far less interesting than the American game, and the spectators seemed rather bored with it.

The Cambridge student, damn him, prides himself on a blasé attitude to everything in general. It is considered bad form to talk to a man at the Union without an introduction, and even students sitting beside one another in class all year long, or living next room to one another do not in general know one another. It is the deadliest, most desolate phase in the world.

I have a great dislike for Russell; I cannot explain it completely, but I feel a detestation for the man. As far as any sympathy with me, or with anyone else, I believe, he is an iceberg. His mind impresses one as a keen, cold, narrow logical machine, that cuts the universe into neat little packets, that measure as it were, just three

München.

Schraudolphstrasse 2<sup>a</sup>

D. 27. Oktober 1903

[1913]

Dear Herbert,

Your last letter indicates that the moon must have been in apogee and that you had in mind "Nou, was für ein schief Gericht macht die denn heut"! Get yourself a pair of pink glasses and put them on when you write to us next.

Whatever you do, stick to your post and hold on to the job. The world is not all made of gall, and Cambridge is not the worst hole yet. The German students are not a bit more communicative. I see a lot of them every day at the university, and I have not seen any body speaking to his neighbor, except he wears the same kind of a skull cap, green, red, blue etc. You have got to find resources in yourself and stop bothering about

English inconsiderability etc. The fault is as much yours as theirs. Leave them alone and treat them as they treat you, and all will square up. You will not find any where sociable fellows except in the woolly West and in Vienna. The Viennese Germans, of course, are of a different type, but elsewhere all beings are very selfish. You have got to learn to find enough resources in yourself, not to bother about anything else. You would be just as unhappy elsewhere if you did not concentrate on yourself.

I do not believe Russell is half as bad as you make him out, even if his philosophy may be shaky and if that card of a student reproved you for a not very strong proof, bully for him: it will do you good to be told the truth without

circumlocution, even if it is rude  
of the student to do so.

Before you get through with  
the English, you will be thank-  
ful to them for the ~~shocks~~  
they give you.

Let me hear about how  
you are getting on in your math  
exercises. I hope, if you cannot  
follow the course, you may be  
able to get the notes somewhere.

Everything goes here the  
usual way. The weather is ex-  
tremely beautiful, and the children  
go to school, and we do not bother  
about our neighbors, and we  
find contentment in ourselves.  
An revoir!

Your loving father

[1913]

RIDGE Printed in Britain.

POST CARD

6 45 PM  
OCT 21

6. The Address of  
Written here

27001

Fritz Wiener,  
Schraudolfstr. 2a,  
München,  
Bayern,  
Germany.

Dear Fritz,

~~This is where I go to~~  
School. It looks pretty, does  
it it? I have to work quite  
hard. I shall be glad to come  
and visit mother and father  
and you at Christmas.

Your loving brother,  
Norbert.

This is a real photograph

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TRINITY COLLEGE, GREAT COURT, CAMBRIDGE.

ROTARY PHOTO, E.C.

GONVILLE & CAIUS COLLEGE,

CAMBRIDGE.

1 Church Rate Walk

29. 7. '13

I would be very  
pleased if you would come  
along to lunch on Saturday at  
1 P.M. You may remember  
that we met at Dorwood's.

Yours faithfully

B. Muscio

I didn't have anything to ask on  
the main subject, but as the chair-  
man asked me, I had to ask something

under our window. At this, the honorable president and the reader opened the window, and applied divors and sundry unhallowed epithets, such as "You damn blackguard!" to the chauffeur. Quite like Harvard.

Wishing good health & happiness to you all, I remain,  
your loving son,  
Norbert.

P.S. Vacation begins Dec. 19 & lasts to Jan 8.



THE UNION SOCIETY,  
CAMBRIDGE.

Oct. 28, 1913.

Dear ma.

I have just had a nasty cold, and I am not quite over it yet. It has tended to hinder me in my work somewhat. To make up for this hinderance, and to overcome a fatal tendency to laziness which I have felt creeping over me, I put in a good stiff day's work today, only knocking off when I could do no more. I worked for about a quarter of an hour before my class at 10 o'clock (My cold made me slow in getting up), and after class put in more than an hour grinding at the library, and then worked another <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hour on my own research work at the Union. After dinner, I worked till 3.30, went out to get a cap (126d), and worked till 4. At 4.45, I went over to Russell



He goes so fast that I can not follow him without notes nor take intelligible notes. He is known as a hard man to follow. With Hardy, however, my notes are intelligible, but not necessary, while with Russell I take no notes.

Sunday afternoon I went and dropped in on a neighbor of mine, and he lugged me over to the St. Catherine's College Theological and Philosophical Society, where an ignoramus read a paper on theosophy. His style was strongly reminiscent of that of some of the decrepit clergymen in our own philosophical seminaries. I was called on for a few remarks, and was as kind as I could be under the circumstances. After the president had opened with prayer, and the speaker, a deacon of the Church of England, had gotten well along with his philosophic argument, a motor car made a fearful racket right

rooms & talked about my work till 6. I was really rather interested with the trend my work is taking. After supper, I worked till 9 on my own work. I have, I put in about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hours of work, 1 of lectures, &  $1\frac{1}{4}$  of discussion about work. I now intend to spend 45 minutes reading German & French, making in all an  $8\frac{1}{2}$  hour day.

My work with Russell &

Hardy requires little effort on my part, but with Baker it is different. I have, however, found a text-book which covers exactly the ground we have gone over in class, and I am going to put in a lot of work studying it. I am unable to do more than three or four problems at a time for Baker, but practically all the other students in the course are in the same plight. But I shall try to do better before long. A more serious difficulty is in following Baker's proofs of theorems.

may be translated into words as, "I here goes another of those American 'doctors', and into gestures by a shrug of the shoulders. I am by no means loafing or getting slack in my work or appearance, but nevertheless I cannot put forth my best work under these circumstances. One has the feeling with these men that one's best work will be unappreciated by them <sup>not</sup> a bit more than one's worst work, and it is hard to do one's best work under the circumstances. I am trying my hardest, but I cannot produce such good work for Russell as for Schmidt or Huntington, because for Schmidt and Huntington one feels it worth while to put in every last bit of effort, and for Russell it does not. A few icily complimentary remarks are the best one can get out of him. It is more encouraging to be criticized by Schmidt than to be praised by Russell.

It is humiliating to work in a place where you feel everybody sneers at you, your work, and your training. I would far rather go and teach school

18 New Square, Cambridge,

Oct. 31, 1913.

Dear father:

I cannot agree with you that the only place where students are sociable are Vienna and the U.S.W.U. You remember the large circle of acquaintances & friends I had at Harvard. I have come to understand why the ice-box is an unknown institution in England. There is no need for it. The Englishman is born a snob, and is carefully trained throughout his childhood in the art of cutting his neighbor, so that by the time he enters the University he has become letter perfect in all the qualities that go to make up the complete cad.

I went to the moral sciences club this evening, and found it a far less cheerful institution than Josiah's seminary even. I felt ~~like~~ as cheerful as I would feel

hours a day, and am beginning to understand it. His course is about infinite series of complex terms, singular points, Riemann surfaces, elliptic integrals, etc. Hardy's course, which is easy for me to follow, is about sets of points, continuity, transfinite numbers, Cauchy's theorem, etc. Russell's courses are the same old stuff. I have had time and again, and so far require ~~none~~ no work. All my work is more advanced than that required for the Mathematical tripos. In addition, I am carrying on my original work. R. returned my notes today, saying that he found them very interesting and logically satisfactory. I am developing them still further.

I really feel no hope of getting reappointed for next year, for R's attitude towards me seems rather indifferent, and I have not made a brilliant success of my stay here, though I am keeping up with my course work and doing my original work. There is an attitude towards me here that

at a funeral - and not Hall's, at that. I entered into the discussion once or twice, and ~~so~~ relapsed into silence each time with the feeling that I had made an ass of myself. I shall not talk more than is absolutely necessary there in the future. It is funny, but I do not seem to do as good philosophical work as last year. I can't understand it, for I prepared ~~for~~ very little for my seminar work. It is a fact, however, that my discussions have all been failures, and awkward failures at that, so far. I shall give a paper before the <sup>moral sciences</sup> philosophical club sometime this term. I shall try my best, but I feel sure I shall be unable to produce a good one.

Tomorrow I dine with a phil. student.

As to my mathematical work, I am doing all right, yet whenever I try to answer my question of the lecturers, I usually make a flat failure. I am spending a lot for Baker's course. - 4-5

When you spoke about him last year, you did not give an adequate idea of him. you only told me that he had a wrong idea of science. but now I see that he is a full-fledged braying ass, both in his manners and in his methods.

About our Epistemologist of last year, the less said the better. ~~His~~ One of his courses in Psychology is a null class; perhaps the other is a unit class.

I shall be very much interested to hear about your new environment. Please give my respects your father & mother when you write to them.

more in my next.

Sincerely yours,

Sen Gupta.

[Nov. 1913]

35 Holyoke House  
Cambridge.



THE HARVARD UNION

Dear Wiener

I got your letter a few days ago. I have been rather busy lately; so I could not write to you in time.

I am glad to hear you had almost a Greenacre on board the ship. I believe you missed Mr. Schermerhorn. His presence would have had a lightning effect on all the Masters of Psychology and Christian Scientists.

Emerson Hall is quite full this year. There are about 65 graduate students. Perhaps you will be glad to know, at least you ought to be glad, that the Hon. Mr. Feingold is back amongst us and is kindly imparting

his ennobling philosophy whenever and wherever he can. However, there is one consolation that he is absent from most of the seminaries and so we won't have any extra dose of wisdom to cause a philosophical dyspepsia. Like wise, I hope, you will be highly grateful to God for sparing us Dr. Schemmhorn for another year. That most worthy and revered gentleman is almost omnipresent. You can see the white beard almost anywhere you go. As to his highly instructive discourses, with which you are so familiar and which has undoubtedly elevated your life about two or three inches (if it has not, you are a philistine - according to recent measurement taken by Professor Münsterburg by means of red and green cards on a tachitroscope, all the ~~best~~ philosophical souls showed an average elevation of that sort), I need not say anything. You will be glad to learn however

that he has recently put his thoughts into black and white (I wish it had only been in white) and has published them in book form. Please ask your friend King George, Prince Arthur, Gloucester etc, to order them + do it yourself. I assure you, you will get the first part of your work from it - namely, the Symbolic part. The logical part, unfortunately, does not exist in the author's brain.

Of the less interesting members of the Emerson Hall, Tolman, Roback, Kellogg, Bridges, Givler, etc. come all back. Cheneveth is an instructor in Public speaking. Heffelbauer, McIntire, Blake, Underhill, Brogan, Coburn are also back.

You will be interested to know that Hoernli's Seminary is almost as interesting as the last year's famous Seminary. The Realists are being cornered systematically. I am taking Royce's Seminary too. F. A. Wood is there.

18 New Square, Cambridge,

Nov. 1, 1913.

Dear father:

Last night I went to a very dreary meeting of the Moral Sciences Club, and left with the feeling that I had made a fool of myself in the discussion I do not know why it is, but I do not feel as able to enter into a good philosophical argument as I did last year. I shall have to give a paper soon, and I very much fear that I shall not do justice to myself in it, because I am limited to 7 minutes. Today I go out to lunch with a member of the club.

My work with Baker is on infinite series of complex terms, integration of functions of complex variables, elliptic integrals, connectivity, Riemann surfaces, etc. My work with Hardy is an exhaustive analysis of the stages necessary to prove Cauchy's theorem (that  $\int_{(C)} f(x) dx$ , where  $x$  is a complex variable, and  $C$  a closed path inclosing

R. returned my paper on circular order yesterday. He said that it was very interesting, and that he had no criticisms to make. I have hit on an idea of treating a circular number as a class of ordinal numbers,  $\alpha$ , and that if  $\kappa$  and  $\lambda$  are  $\alpha$ s, there are ordinal numbers,  $a$  &  $b$ , such that  $\kappa = a + b$ ,  $\lambda = b + a$ . It will work out quite simply.

I must confess, I feel that my chances for reappointment next year are mighty slim. None of the men here, not even R., seem particularly ~~strongly~~ interested in my work. I feel that R. will talk to Perry somewhat as follows - "Yes, his mathematical work is interesting, but his mathematical training is insufficient, and his philosophy shapeless." I feel that attitude of his and of the other men in every word they say to me. It really humiliates me more than I can express to feel this.

I am working hard, and I shall be glad to come out of this dreary place for the Christmas vacation to see you. I hope that all of you are well and happy. I am glad Fritz liked my letter.

good bye  
Norbert.

no singular point of ~~text~~  $f(x)$ , is equal to 0). We are working now on transfinite numbers & sets of points. It is a dead end, <sup>but</sup> Baker's course is not. Still, I feel that I am following Baker's work as well or better than most of the class. I put in 4 or 5 hours a day on it for the last few days, and this helped me tremendously to understand it.

Both Russell's courses attain the acme of superficiality. He has not given us as much as anyone could gather in an hour or two ~~for~~ <sup>from</sup> his book, for he proves no theorems in class. I am sure that Schmidt's class has much more genuine knowledge of the subject than these classes will have. I know that not more than one, or two, at most, of his students have as much as looked at the Principia. Probably nobody there could make the most elementary use of the book. I find, however, that I remember the book so well that I can tell almost at any moment just what he is going to say.

Schraudolphstrasse 2<sup>a</sup>

München.

2. 3 November 1913

Dear Robert, -

At least your last letter was not written with a chimney sweep's broom or with a witch's broom, and that is already a gain. It is true in the address you aspired high with my name, but you left room enough for a stamp to squeeze in, so the latter got here, and that is a gain, too.

As to your getting a fellowship next year, the less you worry about it, the sooner you will be to get it. Besides, I do not know that I shall want you to stay another year in Europe. So slide along, work hard, get the best you can out of the Baker and the candlestick-makers etc., and let the future do its own worrying.

Above all else, work! I am glad you are making headway with Baker. Hardy and Russell, who seem indifferent to you, I am sure think it well if you only your seat to be plate taker in the ultra blue rays too easily, that's all.

We are getting along well. I bought a Rücksaek today, and when you get here, we shall get some for you. They have wonderful mountaineering paraphernalia here. Fritz was delighted with your letter, and Constance will be delighted with the one you will write her.

Your loving father.

P.S. Mother is not ill, as Fritz writes, but only is trying to get rid of a rheumatic stomach ache. That's all - you see. The cause is a case of rheumatism, so we had to change our boarding place, although we live here.





THE UNION SOCIETY  
CAMBRIDGE.

November 4, 1913.

Dear ma:

I am entirely over my cold, and am perfectly well. I take a walk every day for exercise, and am satisfied with my food and my landlady. Last Friday evening I went to the Moral Sciences Club, last Saturday I had lunch with one student and tea with another, who was once a school teacher, and is even more down on the English schools and Universities than I am. Sunday afternoon I went over to the St. Catherine's Philosophical Society, where I was asked to

my 2nd letter to Perry.

I believe I am beginning to feel just a trifle more contented with my situation. Mind you, I still feel homesick, but less so than before. But I am beginning to fit in to the place & make acquaintances.

Constance must tell me how she enjoys her art work. I would like to hear also how dad's work is getting along, and how your health is. I hope you are all enjoying yourselves ~~how~~ thoroughly.

Goodbye,

Your devoted son,

Norbert.

P.S. I hope you are satisfied with my letters.

preside, but refused, and Sunday evening some Hindu acquaintances of mine invited me to a meeting of the University society of Hindus, where a Hindu poetess read some English poems of hers.

Yesterday afternoon I went over to R's rooms to talk over my work. He advises me not to try to do any original work, but to read. He

thinks 5 hours a day quite sufficient, and I am doing this, in addition to an hour of German and French. Wednesday I take tea with another Hindu.

Friday I shall attend a meeting of the East & West society, which I have joined. I shall write about my work to Huntington & Perry tonight. This will be

THE UNION SOCIETY,

CAMBRIDGE.

Nov. 6, 1913.

Dear father:

I just write this note to remind you, ~~that~~ in case you have forgotten, about the paper you were to give before the American Historical Society at Charleston. What ~~say~~ are you going to do about it? It just occurred to me you had forgotten all about it. Are you going to send a paper over & have someone else read it?

I have just succeeded in ~~solving~~  
proving a new & highly important  
theorem concerning transfinite  
ordinals. Another student happened  
also to hit on exactly the same idea.  
You see, Hardy asked us to see if  
we could construct  $\omega^{\omega}$ , and we  
both hit on a method that would  
lead us to "<sup>writing</sup> $\omega^{\omega}$ ". Both H. & Russell  
have seen our solutions & found them  
correct. H. is going to get them pub-  
lished in the Mathematical Messenger,  
or the Quarterly Journal of Mathe-  
matics.

I just got a letter from Sen  
Gupta. There are 65 students in  
the department this year. Feingold  
is back. Schermhorn is back, &

has written a book. Holt has no students in one course and one in another. Hoernle is a very interesting teacher & his seminary is very good. Last, but not least, E.G. finds F. A. W. a far bigger ass, both in his manner and his methods, to quote his own words, than I predicted. Lots of my old friends are back there.

Goodbye,

Your loving son,  
Norbert.

P. S. I shall write a more detailed letter concerning my work with Hardy soon.

THE UNION SOCIETY,  
CAMBRIDGE.



THE UNION SOCIETY  
CAMBRIDGE

November 11, 1913.

Dear dad.-

I shall write my article tomorrow, and I do not seem it advisable to write my letters to America till I have completed it. The other fellow has been acting in a way that makes me think that he wants to rob me of my share in the discovery, but hardly sticks up strongly for my rights.

Baker does not seem satisfied with my work. He said that for a time he doubted that I would be able to continue the course. He said, however, that now he felt sure I would get something from it. I have put a lot of good stiff work into the course, and so I felt rather disappointed. However, I am going to consult with him about my work this evening and he is going to mark his corrections on my papers, so that I shall endeavor to do better work in that course.

out? If it appears while I am here, send me  
a copy.

Goodbye,

Your loving son,

Norbert.

P.S. The reason I waited so long before  
writing is that I expected to have by  
this time something more definite to tell  
you about my article.

I find Hardy's course very  
easy. In fact, I believe that H. thinks  
well of me. Most of the students find the  
work very hard. But I feel so at home  
in the subject that I was able to  
solve on inspection a problem that  
one of the mathematics students here  
had been puzzling over a long time.

Of course, on the other hand, which  
is easy to many, because they have  
covered the ground before, is extreme-  
ly hard to me, who am entirely new at it.

In Russell's work, I have had  
so far nothing to do. I have been  
reading way ahead in the Principia,  
doing much more work than is ex-  
pected in the course, and I find it quite  
easy sailing.

At the Moral Sciences Club  
last Friday night, we had a very  
good discussion, in which I quite held  
my own.

I have met quite a number of  
students.

When will your  $\mu\sigma\mu\omega$  article come



write again to Schmidt. I have already  
written to Huntington & answered Sen Gupta.



THE UNION SOCIETY,  
CAMBRIDGE.

Nov. 15, 1913.

Dear dad.

Baker's objection to my work was chiefly that in the problems I handed in I spent too much little space in explaining my formulae. He said, however, that he thought I would profit from his course. I have been doing a considerable amount of grinding this week on his course and am just beginning to see a little light. He has the reputation of being perhaps the worst lecturer here. The other students all say they couldn't follow him if he hadn't been over the ground before, as all of them have. He has just finished a brief discussion of elliptic integrals, which was absolutely unintelligible to me, so that I was entirely dependent on text-books for what little information I have obtained on the

Sciences Club next week Friday.

It is beyond my comprehension how any human being can pass the Cambridge Mathematical Tripos. The Moral Sciences Tripos, however, though it requires a more detailed knowledge of certain books than our Harvard Ph.D. examination, really requires far less genuine acquaintance with Philosophy and far less real ability to think ~~it~~ philosophically. I am under the strong impression that one of the first requirements of a Cambridge honor degree is ability to cram.

How is our artist getting along? Kratst sie noch zu viel? as her teacher complained. Why don't she write to me? How are all the rest of you?

Your loving son,  
Norbert.

P.S. I have written again to Perry & told him about my article. I shall soon

subject. I n neither Hardy's nor Russell's course, however, do I have any such difficulty. I told Russell all about how I was doing in B's course, and that I felt rather discouraged at the way things were turning out, but, as he told me that that was but to be expected when I, whose training is chiefly philosophical, come into competition with a picked lot of technical mathematicians, as all these students are.

As to my original work, Hardy decided that my work was essentially different from that of the other student, but that both were well worth publishing; that his had the greater mathematical, mine the greater logical interest. He criticized the briefness and abruptness of the form in which I presented my problem, however, although he said he thought my conclusions were correct. At present I am revising it, and I expect to hand it to him in a form fit to be published next Monday.

I have been meeting other students going to club-meetings, etc. as usual. I give a paper on "Relativism" before the Moral



THE UNION SOCIETY,  
CAMBRIDGE.

Nov. 19, 1913.

Dear ma-

Work stops on the 8th, —  
that is, that is when full term ends. Classes,  
however, let out on the 6th of December.

Full term begins again on the 16th of  
January. Won't I have a good time Christ-  
mas, though!

My article, now that I have  
rewritten it, seems entirely satisfac-  
tory & clear to Hardy, & will certainly  
be published, together with that of the  
other fellow.

My work with Baker is not  
much better; I have read up a lot, however,  
and I believe I have covered all the ground  
up to the last two or three lectures.

entitled, 'Alice's Adventures in the Backward Domain', with Russell as the main matter.

I'm glad to hear of Contar's success, also that you are all well. I wish to know particularly how you are feeling, ma.

I'm keeping up my looks O.K. just had my shoes re-heeled.

Wishing to come down & see you all <sup>soon</sup> at Xmas, I ~~am~~ conclude,

Your loving son,  
Harbert.

I have talked over my work with Russell, & he has told me that I need not feel alarmed at my work in math.; that I do not, like the other fellows, need the stuff for a Tripos, and simply want a good general knowledge of what it is like. He says that mathematical logic is my real line of work & that at that I am very good. He half apologized for the severe way he set down on me & my philosophy at first, & said that he thought he had been too dogmatic, that he realized that there were no really valid arguments against my view, & that my standpoint was quite a legitimate alternative to his.

My paper comes off next Friday, not this Friday.

One of Russell's students is going to write a skit on Russell et. al.

18 New Square,  
Nov. 23, 1913.

Dear dad -

I got your letter today, and have arranged everything with my landlady; I looked for Russell, but he was out. I do not intend to go by way of London; it is cheaper to take a train direct to Harwich. I shall make all further arrangements tomorrow, when I shall go to the Great Eastern Ry. office in Cambridge & find out whether a straight 3rd class ticket or a 2nd. class round trip is cheaper.

I got my paper back from Hardy today, after he had given it to Russell to look over. He seems to like my way of expressing myself & my mathematical symbolism very much, saying it was very good indeed for a first attempt. It only needs one or two trivial alterations of expression to be ready for the printer. It will not, however, be put in the hands of the printer until Wakeford, the other

glad to be with you all for the Xmas vacation,  
though, and I am counting the days till  
the time I see you all once more.

student, completes his article, when they will  
be published together. If they are published  
in the Messenger of Mathematics, we are liable  
to have a whole number to ourselves. I have  
just written to Schmidt, telling him about  
my discovery.

As I have no news, I must close my  
letter rather abruptly,

Your loving son,  
Norbert.

P.S. I think that Russell expects me  
here next term. If I should term after  
next study in Germany, I would either go  
to Jena, where, I believe, Frege is, or to Mar-  
burg or Berlin, the two chief centers of Ger-  
man philosophy. I do not believe Munich  
is noted for its Philosophical department,  
so, much as I would like to spend a term  
with ma & the kids & Constance, I am really  
afraid that a term could be spent to  
better advantage elsewhere. Besides, I am  
not sure but that Russell wants me to  
stay out the year here. I shall be awfully

will be somewhere between 324 pounds.



THE UNION SOCIETY,  
CAMBRIDGE.

Nov. 27, 1913.

Dear Ma —

I got your letter, and thank you all for ~~remembering me~~ writing to me on my birthday. I am longing to see you all again. I wonder what in the world you got for my present!

Next Sunday I am going to try and take a stroll to Ely & back — a distance of some 30 miles. Tomorrow morning I am wanted by a student in the psychological laboratory as

Mr. Russell ~~is~~ wants me here next term, but thinks it best for me to go to Göttingen in the third term.

My landlady is satisfied as to my leaving for the vacation & not paying, but wants me to pay for my coal next term. I told her I would write to you about it. I wouldn't like to have to move, and, as I am usually out, the expense is but a trifle.

I'm glad you are all well,

Goodbye,  
Norbert.

P.S. To go second class, even with the reduction for a round trip ticket is nearly twice as expensive as a third-class ticket. I cannot, by the way, get a through 3rd class ticket. I can reduce my fare by taking a round-trip ticket, good for 60 days, to the Hook. The expense both ways, I figure,

a subject; I also send in my article to be published tomorrow. In the afternoon, I go to the East West Club; & in the evening I read a paper before the Moral Sciences Club.

A week from next Saturday, I

leave Cambridge at 6.43 P.M. for Harwich. I get there at 9.32, and take the boat at 10.0. This brings me to the Hook at 5.10 AM Sunday. I leave the Hook for Rotterdam 7.7, and get in 7.56. I leave Rotterdam 8.30, and get to Cologne at 2.0 PM. I leave Cologne at 7.25 AM the next day, and get to Frankfurt 11.55 AM. I leave Frankfurt 2.23 PM, & get to Munich 8.55 Monday evening. Or, if I do not mind sleeping in a 3rd class carriage, I might just as well leave Cologne at 2.15 P.M. Sunday, & get to Frankfurt at 9.50 PM, leave Frankfurt at 11.13 PM & get to Munich at 7.20 A.M. Monday.



TRINITY COLLEGE,  
CAMBRIDGE.

28 Nov. 1913

Dear Professor Wiener

Many thanks for your letter  
of Nov. 17. I am glad to think you  
now no longer feels so homesick as  
he did; I suppose at first it was  
unavoidable that he should feel  
rather lost in such a large society  
of strangers. He seems to me to  
be getting on very well with  
his work; the difficulty he finds

in Baker's lectures is not enough,  
I think, to prevent him from  
profiting by them. He has  
produced some very nice bits  
of work for Hardy & me.

The other day he was  
talking about where to go when  
he leaves here. My view was  
on the whole in favour of  
Göttingen rather than Marburg,

which he had contemplated.  
Göttingen is much better in  
mathematics, & I personally do  
not greatly admire the Marburg  
School of philosophy, especially on  
the mathematical side.

Yours very sincerely

Russell

when this finite world of ours is  
going to be, once for all, liberated  
from the veil of Ignorance. Now speaketh  
the Sage his eternal words of Wisdom.  
Messrs. Heffelbauer, Eliot + Brogan also  
have passed. Messrs. Brogan, Blake +  
Underhill are writing their thesis on  
"Value". Eliot is writing his on Bradley's  
theory of knowledge. Heffelbauer's thesis is  
something about Mr. God in Mr. Locke's  
time. I suppose he wants to determine  
once for all whether that fellow ate  
drunk + made merry like the rest of  
the people of his time.

Ah! I have entirely forgotten  
about our first Scholar of the year!  
But whatever we may do, ~~be~~ that  
worthy gentle man has not forgotten  
himself. He ~~is~~ ~~is~~ Of course you  
know whom I mean. ~~¶~~ If you  
hear him talk, you will at once  
shout "Gee!" He is in the

35 Holyoke House  
Cambridge,  
Mass.  
Nov. 28.



THE HARVARD UNION

[1913]

Dear Wiener,

I am delighted to hear from  
you. It is a great pleasure to learn that  
you are going to publish an article in  
the Quarterly Journal of Mathematics. Though  
I did not understand fully the subject matter  
of the paper, I know it must be something  
very ~~brassard~~ scholarly and shall try to  
digest (at least to taste) it after it is  
printed.

I am glad to hear that you met  
Sawty. Has he any intention of settling  
his foot to this Continent? I believe  
he was visiting Russell as the result

of his article about him in the  
"Winds of Doctrines".

I am not surprised to hear your  
remark about Russell. But I did not  
know that he was so impatient about  
other of other people's criticism. That  
must be a common disease amongst  
the Realists (including those who think  
that they are Realists).

I shall be very glad if you  
will tell me about things there. Are  
they like anything we have here at  
Harvard? — I mean the lecture-  
system, types of student + teachers  
etc. By the way, what do they think  
there about Harvard? — Do they  
recognize it as a university which  
can claim equal any they have  
there? I shall be much obliged if you  
could send me some catalogue of the  
courses of study, like our departmental

pamphlet, if it can be had free.

you shall be sorry to learn  
that our janitor Walter died the  
other day in the basement of Emerson  
Hall. It is suspected that he  
killed himself; for they found some  
poison in his pocket. We have not been  
able to ascertain the details yet.  
He was such a fine fellow! Every one  
is sorry for him.

Our days here are not passing  
quite tediously. How could they, with  
all the interesting personages we  
have here? you will be delighted,  
transported and carried into ecstasy  
to hear that Mr. A. J. Fringold  
M.A. (Harvard) M.Sc. (Trinity College) Ph.D. (Harvard  
Philosophical Club) has passed his preliminary.  
"If you have tears, prepare to shed  
them all". For, now cometh the time

The Sage of Greenacres is holding a Seminary in World Religion. If you have any aspiration to spiritual life, if you want to lift yourself up from this mundane existence, if you ever want to stand face to face with God, at once buy a ticket for Cambridge and seek admission into the Spiritual Laboratory of Dr. Schemmhorn by paying 25c in advance.

I am glad to know that they appreciate Theosophy at Cambridge. Philistine and Heretic that you are, you don't realize the importance of spiritual messages. Do you know anything about the power of inner vision? ~~He~~ Listen! Mrs. Annie Besant has recently published her autobiography of last 7000 years. ~~She could not~~ Not only of her own, but of her friend Mr. Leadbeater's too. And here is the most vital point

that explains a whole lot of things. Mrs. Annie Besant says that he (that is, she) was the husband of Mr. Leadbeater who was a woman with 10 children 7000 years ago. Now, why do you laugh? The Mahatmas are not liars. — Oh, you are impossible.

I have known for some time that my countrymen were not treated fairly in England. I am glad I came here & we are going to try to have more students come here.

By the way, I am thinking seriously of going to Germany next year. I wrote to Jena. They are willing to let me take my doctor's examinations in June 1915. I shall have to write a thesis, pass a general examination in Philosophy, in a ~~period~~ of English literature and in Sanskrit. I do not think it will be any harder than it is here. The only difficulty


is that I don't know German. But I am  
taking a course now & when I get  
there I shall learn it better. Besides, I  
shall do ~~most~~ <sup>my</sup> work in English.  
I believe a German Ph.D would count  
more in India than an American one.  
Besides I shall learn German & see  
a new country. Only, it does not seem  
fair to finish up elsewhere after  
doing all my work at Harvard.  
However, I shall be glad to have your  
opinion.

You must have heard the  
cheering from the Harvard Stadium  
on the Nov. 22. Harvard beat Yale  
by 15-5. So I shall finish  
my letter with Rah! Rah! Rah!

Yours

Sengupta.

P.S. Do you know anything about Rathnay?  
Where is he?

Metaphysics Seminary. He started  
to talk a few times. But every time  
he has made an ass of himself &  
has been talked to silence either by  
me or by Eliot.  Once he ~~has~~ said something  
and Professor ~~Woodruff~~ <sup>Woodruff</sup> remarked that that  
was the most "original" idea he ever  
had.

Royce's Seminary is getting on  
very well this ~~to~~ year. We had 4  
papers so far. Professor Royce gave  
us a talk one evening about a  
new discovery he has made in  
the Algebra of Logic. He has published  
it in the "Phil. Psych. & Sc. Method".  
It is about the properties of pairs  
of entities in the Boolean Algebra  
of Logic. He says that the discovery  
will bring about an enormous change  
in the Algebra of Logic. You'd better  
~~so~~ look out. Your whole thesis  
may be turned upside down.

Woman's rights!

Saloman is an enthusiastic student of animal & plant breeding, & was very interested to find that I wasn't utterly ignorant in this respect. He had been to America, and there met my friend Dettlefson, of the Bussey institute.

My paper on mathematics is in the hands of the publisher,  
editor.

An revoir,  
Norbert.



THE UNION SOCIETY,  
CAMBRIDGE.

Dec. 2, 1913.

Dear dad:

I got your letter today, and I shall be careful to follow your directions for my journey. Many thanks for your thoughtfulness!

My paper at the Moral Sciences Club was not exactly a failure and not exactly a success. The discussion was fairly good, though only a few took part in it, but many of my hearers left early. I did not quite succeed in convincing anybody of the correctness of my position, but I succeeded in convincing

I received an invitation Saturday from a Mr. Dalaman of Trinity Hall, to come out and visit him Sunday on his farm at Barley, 14 miles from Cambridge. He had heard of me from Zangwill. I walked out & had a first-rate time. However, some blisters had developed on my toes, so I didn't want to hike fourteen full miles back. So I hit the road for the nearest station, Royston, a distance of 4 miles, on a pitch-dark night, took the train for Cambridge, & walked home from the station, a distance of some 14 miles in all for a days hike. I know I ought to have walked the full 28, but blisters will be blisters.

The Dalamans seem to be down on Russell, and, judging from what they told me of the way he treated his wife, I don't blame them. And to think that this man is willing to go to Parliament as the advocate of

all of its irrefutability, and one or two of the wrongness of Mr. Russell's position. I believe I have ~~so~~ helped to sow the seeds of discontent here against the preposterous position of Mr. Russell, who dares that we can be acquainted with certain individual things which we know to be unanalysable: that we can name a thing without involving any description of it. It is a position so intrinsically absurd that if a man of Mr. Russell's standing had not propounded it, ~~no~~ no one would think of taking the trouble to refute it. Nevertheless, it is the prevailing position among the students here at present. It is far less sensible than what I thought Mr. Russell believed.

I was invited to help out in an experiment over at the Psychology laboratory Friday, and while there I met Dr. Myers, the well-known psychologist, who invited me over to see him sometime. I surely shall visit him