

Letter written by Alfred Rix Habershon to his mother Mary Gidley Habershon, Parkfield Road, Rotherham, Yorks

Massmann Hotel  
Rudesheim

Monday July 25<sup>th</sup> 1898

Dear Mother,

I have not time to write much this evening but will just send you a few lines to show I have not forgotten you. We reached Heidelberg safely on Saturday about midday and went to the Nassauer hotel. After lunch we went out to see something of the town; we bought an English paper at a book shop – The Daily Telegraph – for 3d; we only get a chance of seeing what is going on occasionally. Afterwards we walked along the edge of the river – the Neckar. I took some views of the town. On Sunday morning we went to see the old castle, which is the largest in Germany, I daresay you have heard of it before. I don't know what to tell you about the castle, it's such a big one. There are about a dozen different towers built at different times, the Gesprengte Thurm or blown up tower is very interesting. This tower was blown up by the French in 1689. Half of it was thrown into the moat but was so solid that it did not break up and still remains there all in one piece. Another feature is the "great tun" in one of the cellars, it was built in 1751 by the collector(?) Charles Phillip and is capable of holding 49,000 gallons. It was a huge thing about as big as an ordinary house. We had "table d'hote" in the middle of the day and afterwards went to sleep until late in the afternoon. Then we went up Heiligenberg on the opposite side of the Neckar to the castle and also walked along the Philosophenweg which again you may have heard of. From the summit of the Heiligenberg a very fine view is obtained of Heidelberg and its surroundings, also the Rhine valley right to the Vosges and the Jura Mts. This morning we came by train to Mainz and from there by steamboat up the Rhine to here (Rudesheim). This afternoon we have been across the river to Bingen and from there up to the Rochus Capelle from which place we got a very fine view of the Rhine. Don't be angry with this pen; one can only pity it in its misfortune – it's one of those wretched turned up nibs with which you were good enough to supply me. I expected to get several snapshots on the Rhine on the way here but it was too flat scenery, the best comes later on, from here to Kongswinter. I believe I was talking about Bingen. After leaving this chapel we went further down along the bank of the Rhine to the Mouse Tower. The romance of this place is spoiled by the enormous, filthy railway station of Bingerbruck. Tomorrow we are going to see the Niedewald, which is on this side of the Rhine, and the national monument there. The day after, we shall go on by "dampschiff" to Konigswinter. I have no time for more. Goodbye. Much love etc. as usual.

Yours,

Alfred