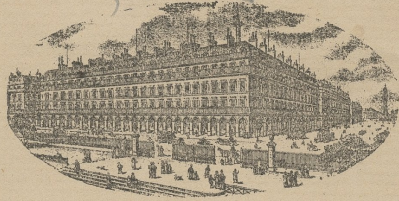


[TO: MR. ELIAS CARR, 1889]

Hôtel Continental

3. Rue Castiglione

PARIS



Paris le Mar 26,

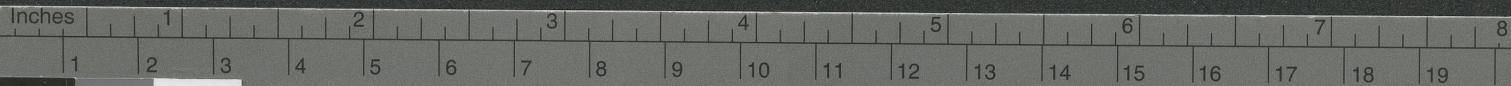
Dear Father:

In looking over my note book this morning I came across the only allusion I have made to farming since landing in this country. & notwithstanding it is inclined I shall copy it as you are interested in the subject.

I have enjoyed no part of my trip more than my brief acquaintance with the Campagna. The Agro Romano is a level plain of volcanic origin surrounding the city of Rome, & comprising about 445,500 acres. Its general appearance was very much as I had expected. The Appian Way, the tombs, especially that of Cecilia Metella, & the ruins of the aqueducts were its most prominent features, & these by reason of

The general level appearance
of the surrounding country stood
out most prominently. The environs
of Rome are unlike those of any
other city in the world, there are
no suburbs, & once outside the
walls one is alone with the si-
lent ~~mitasses~~ ^{of the city's}
greatness, I say alone, not entirely
but practically. The animated life
of the Campagna is limited indeed,
& what there is of it suggests only
the most melancholy train of reflections
- a few shepherds, crowned in sheepskin
attended by dirty white dogs, & occa-
sionally the solitary figure of a
horseman in picturesque garb &
carrying a long lance - these,
with the sheep which they attend
is the most common picture
in the neighborhood of the Roman
walls. Further on the landscape
changes somewhat, & there is some
pretence made to agriculture, though
of the most primitive sort.
The Campagna is owned by a
few very wealthy men in Rome,

who not once in many years
will pay a visit to their domains,
but leave the supervision thereof
to a ministro whose duties are
very much those of the average
southern overseer. He will in
turn have his subordinates & thus
it happens that often times
there are 30 or 40 persons employ-
ed not to work, but to make
other work. The buildings attached
to these immense tracts of land
consist only of a stone dwelling
house, occupied by the ministro
& his aid de camp, a barn &
a stable, - provisions inadequate
for the decent maintenance of the
large number of persons employed.
There is no shelter whatever for the
common laborer, & these poor devils
are forced to seek security from
the elements in huts of their own
making, temporary affairs build of
mud & straw, or in the town which
line the way side or in the small
cases of which by reason of the



volcanic origin of the soil, & the
abundance of lava, there is no
In no country in the world I
believe is the laboring class reduced
to such a deplorable state, though
the soil of the Campagna is fertile,
producing in abundance wheat, rye,
oats & corn only about 1/10 of the
land is arable, the reason for
this is obvious, the raising of
cattle & sheep is much more
remunerative, And while here I
might as well observe that the
gray oxen of the Agro Romano
are the finest cattle I ever saw,
they ^{not only} furnish Rome with its best
beef, but all the drudgery of the
farm is delegated to their broad &
faithful backs,

Another familiar figure on the
Campagna is the buffalo, their
movements like those of the cattle
are never restricted, they are allowed
to move over the plain where they
will, the consequence is they
grow often wild & sometimes
saucy when taking them for

Hotel Continental

3, Rue Castiglione

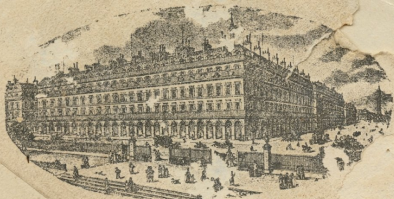
PARIS

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North Carolina

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United States America





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