

Galton, Francis to his Family Whilst Studying in Boulogne

Publication/Creation

1830-1831

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Francis Galton

N.B. Foreign letters to be put into the Birmingham
Post Office on Sunday - Mon - Wed - Thurs -

Letters are rec^d at Boulogne on Saturday
& Sunday, Tuesday & Wednesday -

Foreign letters rec^d in Birmingham
upon Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday,
& Sunday —

dates of letters - 1830 - Apr 11 - Oct 30 - Nov 30 -
1831 - Jan 7 - 30 -

My dear Maria - and A. del.
I am in the second class, and in Calcutta
and Durgah, I like the school very much
The Boys are very kind, and particularly
the Fisher, Hammonds, & Larkins, & also
St. Neve. I am getting on very well in
my lessons, particularly in my
classical - I am very happy in my position
at St. Durgah, for I have every thing I
I hope that you dear Maria are better
of your headache, it will get quite better
I have been to the College, & have been
about 10 days, for Papa takes me
out every day, for he is well, & I
am not tired, for the new house is
very comfortable, & I am very happy.





Boulogne Saturday 11th Sept
1880 —

My dear Mamma - and Adèle,

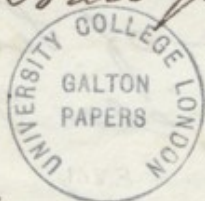
I am in the second class, and in Caesar and Virgil, I like the School very much. The Boys are very kind, and particularly the Fishers, Hammonds, & Lechys, & so is Mr. Neeve. I am getting on very well in my lessons, particularly French, & my Latin exercises - I am very happy, & comfortable at Mr. Burg's, for I have every thing I want.

I hope that you dear Mamma are better of your headaches, & will get quite well.

I have been to the Column, Museum, & all about Boulogne, for Papa takes me out every day from twelve till two, which are play hours, for they are from eight to nine, twelve till two, & from tea till

bed time - so excuse me for I do not know
 what hour we have tea - we have a famous
 play-room when it rains, & we go into the
 yard when it is fine, except when we
 take a walk, and my window looks towards
 the ramparts - I am very sorry that I can
 say no more, for I am going to Mr. Bury's
 directly - except the Postscript - so good
 bye dear Mamma & Adile - and believe
 me always your affectionate Son
 Francis Galtton

PS/ Dear Adile I caught a pretty good
 sized grasshopper - but I had no box in
 my pocket to put it in, so I let it ^{loose} ~~go~~.
 give my best love to Sisters, & Brothers,
 Aunt Sophia, & Grand-papa and all
 my Relations

Boulogne Sur Mer Saturday (3.)
30th Octo 1880

My dear Adèle,

I am very happy at school, the Boys are all pretty kind to me. I am growing very tall, and in better proportion, for I am just able to clasp my wrist — I am invited out every Sunday which I like very much. I was put in the third class a little while ago, because I was not able to keep up with them in lessons — I am reading a French book called Robinson, for I have just got out of the Grammar. — I do Florilegium which I think is very hard in some places for they are taken out of the end of the Dialects, but some are very easy. — I have not begun to learn either Fencing, or dancing — but I think I shall soon begin. — Tell Emma to take great care of my Garden

and to see that none of Sisters take any
of my Hollyocks up, else I shall be in
a most-terrible rage when I come home.

I like Cowper's poems very much for there
is at the end a very entertaining account
of some Hares. - I hope that the Pigs, Dogs,
Horses, & Cows are quite well. Please don't
feed Ringwood so much if you think it
will make him a bad Dog - Give my
best love to Papa & Mamma, Sisters, and
to Grandpapa and Aunt Sophia -

And believe me always

Your most affectionate Brother

Francis Galton



Boulogne Sur Mer, Nov. 30th 5.
1830 -

My dear Mamma,

Thank you for your nice letters, but in your last letter you have no need to praise me for mine, for I had put nothing in it hardly, for I had but a quarter of an hour to write it in - When I said I was put in Robinson, I meant Robinson Crusoe, which I like pretty well. I hope you will come over soon here, for I should like to see you - and to go out to you, for I miss dear Papa's green gage which he used to give me when he was here - we have now such warm gloves lined with feathers, & covered at the over side with fur, for every day, & some lined with wool, but no fur for our Sundays - My dear Mamma I most sadly repent for having made such a deal of fuss about my linings, for really I wish that they were twice as warm as what they are now. Tell Papa to bring at least two bottles of ^{Caustic} ~~Caustic~~, for what you will hardly believe when I tell you that I have one hundred and forty two little warts - Unfortunately I have had a cold which kept me from going out yesterday, and even I am now in the sick room whilst I am writing this letter, I have been ill once before, last Saturday I could hardly

6-
Speak and yesterday which was a going out F.4v
Sunday, I was kept in bed all day - I am
getting on with my Latin pretty well, but now
I must end my letter for its getting very dark
Good bye & believe me always
Your most affectionate Son
Francis Galton -

Mr. Bury begs to add his best complts
His young friend has been suffering from
a heavy cold the last 2 - or 3 - days - but
with care & a little good nursing he is
now quite well again - Mr. Bury un-
derstands Mr. Galton prefers his writing
freely, therefore he never looks over the
letters - He hopes they are not very full
of errors -

Boulogne sur mer - Nov^r - 30 -
1830

Boulogne sur mer Jan 7th 1831 -
(recd - 11th Jan)



My dear Papa,

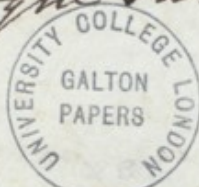
I hope you are very well - It is very mild weather here, except to day, for the bad weather has begun again - I like the school very much, & the Boys are very kind to me - And altogether I am very happy - It is now the last day of the Christmas holidays, & tomorrow we begin school at nine o'clock - I have spent my holidays very happily - we have now a new master, & one has left! - In your next letter give my best love to Darwin & Erasmus. - Thank you for your nice letter which you have just sent to me. - Please to tell Emma & Bessy to take the greatest care with my carnations, & other flowers, for when I come home, I shall expect to see about twenty roots - and please take up all the weeds that you can. - Tell Dr. Booth that the School would be just the thing for Johnny.

8.ⁱ and I think that he would be in the fifth
class - all of my wants are gone off - except
one that is remaining - Thank you for say-
ing that you would keep a bit of caustic.
My flannel drawers & waistcoats are
very comfortable. - I am very glad that
you have left off being a Banker, for
you will have more time to yourself
and better health - I must now leave
off - so Good bye, & believe me
always your affectionate Son
Francis Galton



Recd - the 2^d Feb^y 1831

Boulogne sur Mer Jan^y 30th 9
1831.



My dear Aunt,

I hope that you & Grandpapa are very well, Please tell Papa that the letter that he sent a little while ago must have been lost, for I have not received one for more than a month ago, & that he need not tell me next letter what Pirates were, for I think he knows that I know the meaning to it. - We now only walk on the ramparts because it is such bad weather here. - I am now in Virgil's Aeneid.

I go out some where every Sunday, so you may think that I am very lucky. - I hope that the Robbers that came to Dudson did not take any thing besides that pane of glass - I am very happy here. - Please tell Doctor Booth that this would be the nicest place for Johnny, & that he need not be afraid of sending him. - for the greatest care will be taken of him, particularly as he is so young. - I hope that all the things go on well. - Please to give my best love to Grandpapa & accept the same yourself. - So good bye & believe me always your affectionate Nephew
Francis Galton

Boulogne sur Mer, April 6th 1831 - F 6V

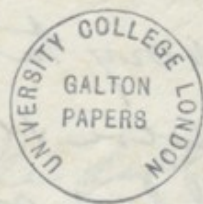
My dear Papa,

I hope you have been pretty well lately. It is now the Easter holidays, & I was asked out last Monday & then I saw a review of the National Guards which I liked very much - It has been very warm for some months, & I think we shall soon begin to bathe in the sea - Thank you for buying me those five shillings of flower seeds. - Please to thank Emma for taking such care of my garden, & Bessy for my carnations when they return home. - I suppose that almost all the flowers at home are beginning to blow, I hope that little Herman is better of the croup.

Please to tell me if the Alderney Cow has yet calved. - I can now speak French pretty well, In your next letter please to tell me if Adèle has any German master, or mistress now Mr. Abich is married. - It will not be more than three months to the Midsummer holidays. I have learnt a great deal more of Conchology lately, I hope that all at home are

quite well. - Have you had any letters from ^{f. 7c} H.
Darwin, or Erasmus, when do you think that
Erasmus will come home, for it is a long time
since he left us. - I suppose that Mr. French
has a great deal of land to herself, as Mr.
Mullington is dead. - I have neither begun
dancing or Fencing - Good bye

and believe me your most
affectionate son
Francis Galton



20th - September 1831

Boulogne

My dear Mama,

I am now very well. - Johnny Booth is a great friend of mine. - he is neither hurt nor teased by any body in the school. - he says he likes it very much - I am very happy here ^{indeed} - ~~indeed~~ & I do not feel the loss of home as much as I did last half year. - That little box is very useful indeed particularly the steel pens. - I have not yet had the key of my play box. nor has it yet been picked & I think I shall not have the key at all - I arrived here very safely. It was very calm indeed I think but all the other People thought quite the contrary.

There was a very fine Newfoundland Dog - but he was very tame indeed - Almost all the Women were sea sick - I lost my Berth, but even if I had not, I would not have slept in it.

When I was asleep we past the Hector (the ship in which Capt - Parry sailed to the northern regions) but when I awoke I found myself just opposite Gravesend - There were many Brig & Frigate. One of them fired two guns, which I suppose

was a salute - I did not see Sheerness, nor ^{F. 8c} 13 -
any three deckers any where up the Thames -

We past the Wallisley & the other ships at the
Downs - Fisher Senior for a fortnight has been
about the same three ships that I went in -

I have still a private Tutor. - I find those
little books of great use to me for writing
my sermon in - I have used up all my
gum, but next Wednesday I shall buy ten
sous worth more -



11th - November Boulogne
1831

My dear Mamma,

Please will you send me the desk which you
gave me, by somebody that comes over here, or
in any way that you can, furnished well with
wafers, sealing wax, a gimblet (for mine is broken)
a turn screw, good paper like that which you write
on to Erasmus, & a little packet containing about
twenty nails, & the same number of screws, with a

14 file.. all the wire is come off that chain which
Adile bought me, so I am obliged to tie my keys
to the button hole of my jacket by a piece of string.
I have got the key of my play box, which I quite
forgot to tell you in my last letter. - My Greek
Lexicons have not become of great use to me but
I think they will soon, but I am always wanting
my Classical Dictionary when I do my Virgil -
I am quite well, & I hope that you are also. I
get better notes a great deal than I did last
half year - and am much happier. - One of the
Masters saw my candle in my desk which I
brought last half year - & he slyly took ~~the~~^{it} away
and put it on his desk, intending as I thought
to keep it - but as soon as he was gone to the
other end of the room, I ~~snatched~~^{snatched} it up & took
it away, & put it in my cap - but alas! he
found it out, & I do not think I shall get it
again, so please add a Paper to the various
articles, & a pretty seal. - Desks are so much
in fashion this half year, that there is hardly
any big Boy that has not one. - Send a

quantity of pounded gum Arabic, as I cannot 15
manage to get it here. - I send in my desk with the
other articles a great quantity of impressions of
different seals - for a great many Boys are always
asking me to give them the seals of my letters (as
I have the most) for gum seals, which indeed
are very pretty. - I quite long to see my gallant
desk arrive. - Edward Fisher is not come to
School - Schonswar is very kind to me, & he
always gives me wafers when I want them. -
but now in the Even^g - we are not allowed to
stir from our places, & in the morning he is
doing French. - So good bye

& believe me your affectionate son
Francis Galton

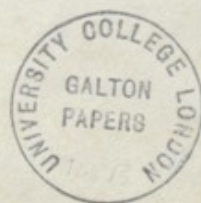


My dear Mamma,

I hope that you will send me my desk as soon as you can, I think that the best way of sending it will be by trusting it to some Person that is going to London, & for him to give it to a Person going to Boulogne in the Queen of the Netherlands, & in particular remember to send those color'd powder. - please to send about 15. of the screws as large as this ? - and the other of the smallest kind but one, & the nails about this size ? - I now when I am trying for places, generally get a very bad place for my Latin, but for my Greek I get very good ones indeed, so I expect to find my place in the Class where it is decided, about ~~the~~ 8th or 9th. - I now have my private Tutor very seldom, & I think that after the Christmas holidays, I shall have him no more - I now continue very happy at School, & in very good health. - we have a fire now, & it is very near me, so I am very cozy - I am so desirous of having my desk, that I am making a very nice place to put it in, where no Boy can get at it, & I am always thinking of it. - I am very sorry to hear that the Cholera morbus is in England, but I hope that it soon will go out again, I hope at all

events that no shocking thing has happened from ^{F. 40} 17
it. - In two weeks it will be the Christmas holiday,
but there will be no hurrahs, nor any fear, on
account of it, as not above half of the Boys go home.
We have had no snow whatever yet, at which I
am very much surprised, but some while ago,
there were a few pieces of ice in one gutter, &
it was pretty cold that-day to, but nothing like
what it will be, I hope very much indeed, that
Aunt Sophia's arm is much better, & that both
she, & Grandpapa are in very good health in-
deed, & that they will continue so. - I wish very
much indeed just to go to Birmingham again
& to see the Larches, & Sudson. & other parts
of Birmingham again. - I must leave off now
as school will begin very soon, & I must do
my lessons so Good bye

Frank Galton

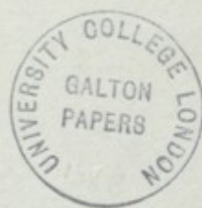


My dear friend,
I have just received your letter of the 10th inst. and am
glad to hear from you. I am well and hope this letter
will find you the same. I have not much news to write
at present. I am still in the same place and doing the
same work. I hope to hear from you again soon.
I am, my friend, ever your sincere friend,
J. B. [Signature]

F. 44

Francis when he came back from Mr. Burg's for the Summer
Holidays 1831. was in the middle of the first Book of Virgil
was beginning Caesar's Commentaries - & had read 16 pages
of his Greek Selects -

M. Adèle Galton





My dear Maria

Thank you for your nice letter, but in your
last letter you have no need to praise me for mine for I had
just nothing in it hardly for I had but a quarter of an hour
to write it in. When I said I was put in Robinson I meant Rob-
son & no one which I like pretty well. I hope you will come over
soon here for I should like to see you and to go out to you for I miss your
Papa's green goggles which he used to give me whenever he was
here. We have made a dark warm gloves lined with feathers
and covered at the outside with fur for our every day and some
lined with wool but no fur for our Sunday's. My dear mamma I must
sincerely express for having made a such a deal of fuss about my

linens. For nearly I wish that they were twice as warm as

where they are now. Tell Papa to bring at least six bottles of

Coslin at least for what you will surely believe when I tell you

that I have one hundred and forty two little ones. Unfortun-

ately I have had a cold which kept me from going out yester-

day and even I am now in the sick Room whilst I am writ-

ting this letter I have been ill once before. Last Saturday I

could hardly speak and yesterday which was a going out Sun-

day I was kept in bed all day. I am getting on with my Latin

pretty well but now I must end my letter for it is getting very dark.

Good bye and believe me always

Your most affectionate son

Francis Galton

12
Mr. B. May² begs to add his best Com-
pliments, his friend has been suffering from
a heavy cold the last 2 or 3 days,
but with care he is little good
nursing he is now quite well again.

Mr. May undertakes Mr. Gallon
prefers his writing freely, therefore he
never looks over the letters - He
hopes they are not very full of
errors.

Boulogne Sur Mer.

Nov. 30. 1830.



Francis Galton
Rev W. M. Barry
Pentagon
30 Nov 1830

[Faint handwritten notes and signatures, including a large signature at the bottom right.]

1830
NOV
30

BOULOGNE
FEB
21

1830
NOV
30

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Boulogne sur Mer
April 6th 1831



My dear Papa

I hope you have been pretty well lately. It is now the Easter holidays and I was asked out last Monday and then I saw a ~~review~~ review of the National Guards which I liked very much. It has been very warm for some months and I think we shall soon begin to bathe in the sea. Thank you for buying me those five shillings of flower seeds: please to thank Emma for taking such care of my garden and Bessy for my carnations when they return home I suppose that almost all the flowers at home are beginning to blow I hope that little Herman is better of the croup. Please to tell me if the Aldinny Cove has yet calved. I can now speak French pretty well. In your next letter please to tell me if Adèle has any German

master or mistress as M^{rs} Abick is married. It will
not be more than three months to the Midsum-
mer holidays. I have learning a great deal
more of ~~Conchology~~ Conchology lately. I
hope that all at home are quite well.
Have you had any letters from Darwin or
Erasmus: when do you think that Erasmus
will come home for it is a long time since he
left us. I suppose that M^{rs} French has a
great deal of land to herself as M^{rs} Milling-
ton is dead. I have neither begun dancing
or fencing.

Good bye

and believe me

your most affectionate son
F. Galton

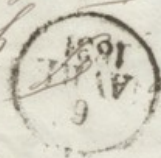
F. 4v

Francis Galton
Boulogne
6 April 1831



Stourmouth
England

Francis Galton
The Duchess
R. P. G. N. H. E. R.



f 5r

Francis Galton
Boulogne

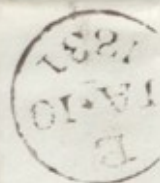
7 Jan. 1881

W. H. Barry

My dear Sir:

Having left London somewhat earlier than I had at first contemplated, your letter was forwarded me hither by a friend. I beg to thank you for your kind & instant compliances with my suggestion: I have the best hopes the trial will be successful.

J. J. Gallon
The Satchel,
near Birmingham.



I am happy to say he & all my Pupils are quite well. I name this more particularly; for there has been a disorder prevalent among very young children here (from children under to 5 or 6 years of age) which, being magnified by reports, might otherwise cause you anxiety. - I feel & see no reason for any apprehension on any

ground. This space I wish to reserve for the
rest of my life. I have no more to say for
this time. I am, dear Sir, your very
obedient servant, J. G. Galton.

A circular stamp from University College London. The outer ring contains the text "UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON". The inner circle contains the text "GALTON PAPERS".

My flannel ^{wa}drivers and waistcoats are very
comfortable I am very glad that you have
left of being a Barber for you will have more
time to yourself and better health I must now
leave off so.

Good bye
and believe me always
your affectionate son
Francis Galton



20th September 1831

Bologna



My dear Maria

I am now very well. Johnny
 Booth is a great friend of mine, he is ^{rather} ~~not~~ teased
 by any body in the school he says he likes it very much
 I am very happy here indeed and I do not feel the
 loss of home as much as I did last half-year that
 little box is very useful indeed particularly the shell
 pens I have not yet had the key of my play box
 nor has it yet been picked and I think I shall
 not have the key at all. I arrived here very
 safely I was very calm indeed I think but all
 the other people thought quite the contrary There
 was a very fine Newfoundland dog dog but he
 was very tame indeed almost all the women
 were sea sick I lost my ~~Pr~~ Birth but even
 if I had not I would not have slept in it

When I was asleep we past the Hector (the ^{big} ship in which Captain Parry sailed to the northern regions) but when I awoke I found myself just opposite Greenwich there were many brigs and frigates. One of them fired two guns which I suppose was a salute. I did not see Shermers not any three deckers any were up the Thames. We past the Wellesey and the other ships at the downs Fisher Senior for a fortnight has been about the same three ships that I went in. I have still a private tutor. I find those little books of great use to me for writing my sermons in I have used up all my quorn but next Wednesday I shall be ten sous worth more.

Chas. V. Hall
Wm. Hall
J. H. Hall
J. H. Hall



183

Fr. Galtz
Boulogne
- 20 Sept. 1831 -

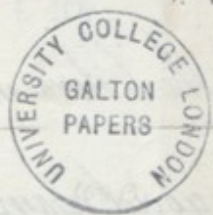


G. J. Galtz & Co.
Handlung
England
PP



has to





My dear Mamma

I hope that you will send me my desk as soon as you can. I think that the best way of sending it, will be by trusting it to some person that is going to London, and for him to give it to a person going to Boulogne, in the train of the Libertainards; and in particular remember to send those coloured penholders. Please to send about fifteen of the screens as large as this **T** and the others of the smallest kind but one, and the nails about this wire. I now, when I am trying for places, generally get a very bad place for my Latin, but ^{for} my Greek I get very good ones indeed, as I expect to find my place in the class when it is decided, about 8th or 7th. I now have my private tutor very seldom, and I think that after the Christmas holidays I shall have him no more. I now continue very happy at school and in very good health. We have a fire now, and it is very near me, so I am very cosy. I am so desirous of having my desk, that I am making a very nice place to put it in, where no boy can get at it, and always thinking of it. I am very sorry to hear that

the Colera morbus is in ~~Eng~~ England, but I hope that it soon will
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 from it. Soon it. In two weeks it will be the Christmas holidays
 but there will be no ~~late~~ merry-making nor any fun on account of
 it, as not above half of the boys go home. We have had no snow what-
 ever yet, at which I am very much surprised, but some while
 ago, there were a few pieces of ice in our gutter, and it was pretty
 cold that day too, but nothing like what it will be, I hope
 very much indeed, that Aunt Sophia's arm is much better
 and that both she and Grandpapa are in very good
 health indeed, and that they will continue so. I
 wish very much indeed just to ~~go~~ go to Birmingham
 again and to see the Larches and Denton and of other parts
 of Birmingham again. I must leave off now as I shall
 will begin very soon, and I must do my lessons so

Good bye

Frank Galton

f. 10r

Handwritten text, possibly a list or address, in cursive script.



