

June 29th

1902

FRENSHAM HALL,
SHOTTERMILL,
HASLEMERE.

My dear Hill

Many thanks for your letter
and for the newspaper with your
speech on railroads - I read all
these things with great interest
and try in that way to keep
myself a little up-to-date. Though
I know quite well that I can't
really grasp the figures of Nor. Pac
and C.B. & Q. yet - One does not
learn as easily when one is over
60. as one did at 30. I find

You can have no idea how things
have been upset and every
kind of business put out of joint
by the Coronation upset. I can
say that I was very enthusiastic
over the Coronation. A Jubilee
over the events of a long prosperous
reign. appeals much more to my
mind. But this calamity with
the dramatic coincidence of that
particular moment, makes every-
thing very different. I have been
ailing for about three years with
digestion troubles. gastric catarrh and

no physic relieved it - but at
last - I was sent off to stay at
different places for two days at a
time. then change to another
place. doing the same thing. and
in three weeks, I see my way to
shaking off. the diabolical ailment
though. it is a most dreary life
and I'm going on with it for
about a month again hoping to
have. a real marked benefit at the
end of that time. I envy you
in Labrador. Alas! the older I
get. the more firmly I get-rooted
to my home. I wonder what

has come over Mr Morgan. It is
curious to see a man of his undoubted
business ability, suddenly breaking
out and throwing ridiculous sums
of money away buying things on
all sides evidently without the
slightest discrimination or knowledge
of their merits or demerits, like
a Californian miner in 49. only on
an enormous scale. I suppose there
is no ~~prob~~ previous instance of
an educated man going on to such
an extent. in absolute ignorance of
what he is doing

You would be very much amused
if you saw this place. I have been

FRENSHAM HALL.

SHOTTERMILL,

HASLEMERE.

acclimating. American mud
turtles snapping turtles bull
frogs and other frogs in some
small ponds. and they are
some of them beginning to breed
I found a tortoise's nest with
some eggs a day or two ago but
another tortoise came round this
morning & eat all the eggs. The
bullfrogs have spawned, and
all the neighbours come to look
at the enormous bull frog
tadpoles. We have no large

frogs or croaking frogs native
to this country. And the note
of the American tree frogs delight
us all. I've got a turtle
but he isn't a success in fresh
water.

Years ago I went up the
Labrador coast in a Gaspe schooner
in search of a salmon river
but I found no river that
seemed tempting to an angler
though I delighted in the coasting
trips, in other ways. I'm not
quite sure that I didn't like

my trip all the better for not
having found the right sort of
river. I wish I could manage
to get over to St Paul next
year - but I know something
will crop up to keep me at
home. at the last moment. and
it is no use hoping that I shall
get out of the regular groove
of my existence. In your Chicago
speech I delight in your assertion
that next to the Christian religion
railroads have been the greatest benef-
actors of the human race. I think
you wouldn't have been far wrong

if you had given the Christian
religion the back seat. certainly
as regards the Great Northern of
Minnesota. R.R.

About 30 years ago I spent some
time in Martinique, I thought it
was the most beautiful place I had
ever seen - and the pleasantest
climate. at all events in winter as
one could live at a considerable
height above sea level on the mountain
side. And one had no more idea
of the possibility of such a catastrophe
happening there. than I have of
an eruption here.

Yrs. sincerely
Charles Ellis