Sept 5 - 1912

HÔTEL DE CRILLON
PARIS

PLACE DE LA CONCORDE

Dearest Nellie: - I'm afraid the family will begin to think I'm forgetting & happening to me over here but that's all over now. I know I owe something to somebody - you & Bessie & Jessie & Ruth & I got here last Monday morning. The 2d - I was a fearful sight! Yards of plaster around my head - a bird-nest hair over that - & a bird-shawl over that - & I wasn't going to get cold! Sara knows the particulars I'm sure. Will be that - my life an angel as he is. I didn't wind my hair - only that - I'd be there this morning. But they looked it up & could scarce believe their eyes when I saw them - I was so glad to see a familiar face. Will we

Digital Images, 2010, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

Sept 8. 7 a.m. Well here as far as I was able to get and now I am far away from Paris in Brittany. I am sitting in a big wooden rocking chair in the most delightful little room in the world — at least as beautiful as there is. In spite of my mind everything is beautiful if you only look. Versailles till I confronted Paris in that way as lovely as that — but oh so different. I left Paris Thursday night: I got in the two days after my departure Thursday a.m. early. In spite of my hurts was Wednesday and getting rested. So as to start his first complete Mary Lawton turned up at the hotel, came & dressed me & then we dressed ourselves at the Crillon to [illegible] I was not lonely. I left for Brittany at 6.40 Thursday night. There was no sleeper but what they call a couchette which is a seat of an ordinary first class carriage with the back turned up to give you room. — for which luxury you pay 5 francs extra & as the journey is 8 hours & you reach about 5 o'clock & spent 2 hours waiting for my station. The country is so different! Such a green after country & the element you can't see in Paris. Jeanne came & met me & took me home in her motor car. I reached Painpol at 8.35 - & there was dear Mme Marillier unchanged and so glad to see me & cried really to find Marie so happy to have me. You know Marie is supposed terrible looker. 13 of them family - but 2 the daughter-in-law were drowned off this coast a few years ago. Marie buried near here & terrible thing - & only the other day she lost her only son. So all Clarisse & the old friends

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

came to this errand & really beautiful
velvet (awful expensive also) I got some
coffee & went to my landlady & I
after praising a little friend they
would wash all right. I washed it
with sodium, put in ammonia powder
and two pails [illegible] I did only pt.
a bad burn of some sort = this velvet
cost them 2 25 ct piece & getting
smaller every moment. And this
the card of total extinction.

By eleven this I was ready for
business & rushed a dress & a hat
as he put in. Bless it. It's a wonder
ful shopper. She finds cheap good
places. I told her what I wanted
and I never got such an error
in shopping before. Sir getting myself
a suit & a little evening frock. She
will ask about what a good
suit would be N. Y. I also have
begun to buy your presents. The dancing
hair is bought & in my trunk. I also
have pt each of your face & the same
powder & the velvet cost 10 francs!

Original Image 2015 The Vida V. Scudder Collection at Wellesley College, Wellesley College Library