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Diary III

I. C. THALLON
VASSAR COLLEGE

Poughkeepsie
NY, USA

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[Aug. 27 (cont.)] by some lively Italianes.
When we got back to Sorrento the children went in bathing so we waited to see them have the time of their lives splashing around. The rest of us there went shopping but could not go as far as we'd have liked to explore. After dinner the Tarantella dances come - they were splendid. We had the dancing in the court of the hotel where it was lovely & cool & there was plenty of room. They were most picturesque, the men in velvet breeches & waistcoats, green, red, and gold, purple, white stockings, slippers with red bows or pompons, broad sashes, red or Roman stripes, white shirts with turn over collars & gay plain ties, ruffled necks hanging

down. Girls in velvet skirts with bands
of gilt, jackets open in front, white
blouses, fichus making sort of sailor
collars, beautiful lace aprons, & many
shiny necklaces. A my David perfor-
mance, some of them playing the
mandolin or guitar in one hand &
dancing in the next. Quite a good
Rigid orchestra, nice - was the fat
man - we had also Belle Napoli, Ste-
phie & various others, some by the girls
dancers (comic) of one girl & the man
who looked like Mrs. Matthews. The
dances were just as full of grace &
spirit as could be. Wouldn't have
missed them for the world. Didn't
take long to go to sleep under my little
Aug. 28. Off at 8 for drive to Amalfi.
Had 5 little dinky carriages; which were

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very comfortable, good horses & nice
drivers and we went off in fine spirits.
A perfectly beautiful drive from start
to finish, following first the drive nearest
the water at Sorrento, then along as Piana
where we turned inland & went up a
fully steep hill road between vineyards
& kept on climbing till we met the
highest that comes from Thessa. Had
beautiful views back over the plain as
we went higher, especially the one to
the headland around which we came from
P. to S. & between it & the next mt. had
a fine view of Vesuvius. Post pictures
which I hope will turn out well. It
did not take very long to get up to the
top of the pass and look over on the
other side & then began the most
magnificent drive imaginable.

High up, directly over the water, rising
along the headlands, opening up one new
view after another, each one lovelier than
the last, sea perfectly blue with a little
ripple, a few boats now & then, great
rocky mountains often sheer down to
the water, rannies to cross, some with
picturesque little fishing villages - do
not try to describe it. Passed two
towns of any size on the way - Got to
Amalfi about 1, brilliant little white
town, very nice, magnificent
situation - Climb to Capricini on
far easier than we thought & not so
hot as might be, but up here on Mt.
it is absolutely adorable, just like
the pictures, only far nicer - Larky
pizzeria where we had lunch & sat
& looked & wrote after meals, on a

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refreshing breeze, long pergola all vines
& lemons - in garden strip close by
are huge lilies, climbing roses a blend
of pink & yellow - all so quiet & lovely
with such a view. Later we went down
to see the different rooms in the old
monastery - Cells were not so small
as they might have been & with
sort of sun parlor balconies they
were most attractive rooms - On
lower floor we went through to a
look out - there through charming clois-
ters to the old chapel which is
still used for service on Sunday - do
it was a most interesting relic
made by the monks, figures
dressed in very conceivable style
from Eastern keys to peasants in
the wine shops or market, while

Every sort of animal climbed around
 the sides of the shrine. The dining
 room is the old refectory to which
 which you go through the sacristy,
 then came another room, sort of pan-
 try. The old monks must have had
 a lonely time there. Tea in the hotel
 Lugola before we left. Everything on
 heard about how attractive the place
 is doesn't come anywhere near the
 reality. Left about 4:30 for Ranillo
 which we reached about 6. After leaving
 the coast we climbed up - up
 through the most beautiful valley, all
 covered with terraces - with little groups
 of houses up the sides. Ranillo is more
 than 1200ft. up but the road winds
 so that the ascent is gradual. The
 peasants had been getting charcoal from

somewhere away up higher - came down
 with huge loads of it on their heads,
 such big ones that they carry staves
 to help balance themselves by. Nothing
 could be more lovely and fertile than
 the valley of Alcani, which has ruins of
 Queen Joanna's castle on one side - a
 big cave called after Masaniello. There
 is a wonderful echo which a woman
 by the roadside made for us. Past
 way up there are some mills over a
 pretty little stream - but dinner left
 to go up the steep footpaths which in
 many places is rock cut steps. All
 the time it kept getting lovelier
 but when we reached the top we
 nearly died of joy - dived in a
 little biazza which we did not
 stop to look at long, but climbed

up some steps a little suggestion of
those at Clouby - through some narrow
shuts into a court paved with the
ruins of an old church on one side
and the hotel entrance on the other -
they took us right up to the terrace
where you get the most wonderful
view imaginable, away down through
the vineyards, little hamlets, two
small villages each with its black,
a nearer range of hills (dividing these
two, Macraia & Minora) - a great rugged
mountain range behind forming the
boundary of the sea which stretches
away off as far as you can see on
the right. Over opposite is the low
line of coast with mountains be-
hind. Perfectly magnificent. We had
only rooms right on a loggia over

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the water next to the terrace, in which
we had dinner - Away up here we had a
splendid feast with delicious wine made
by the Professor Causo. Thought Cappu-
cino bianco was fine at lunch, but
this was still better. Afterwards we
went exploring the garden which
has an admirable pergola, various colors
with grapes across, soft green bushes
with little red pink flowers all along
the sides. Then a flight of steps leads
up to another pergola or out beyond
that is the belvedere from which you
can see away down both sides
to the water. It was bright star-
light, so clear you could almost
touch them. Before we left the ter-
race we had seen the most interesting
custom which they have on Thessa.

day - At eight - the village bells in Moscow
begin to ring and people put lights
out of their windows, then when it
stops they extinguish the lights, and in
and all them disappearing one by
one leaving the town only about half
as bright. There were lights too in a
couple of houses away up on the mts.
& across the bay something very big
& bright & we could not make out
whether it was a fire or an illumina-
tion or what. But in the belvidere
there was a delicious wind, all
over the place it was so cool &
fresh & clear & we sat out under
the stars for a time but all were
very sleepy and it proved to be a
splendid night - for such amusement.
29. Look at it when things behind

The mountains were a glorious rose.
Got up & rolled myself in the thick
red blanket - they had put on my
bed & sat in a steamer chair, &
in a couple of minutes I was too
& we stayed out for an hour or more
watching the changing lights till
the sun rose about 6, over a high
part of the range. Breakfast on the
terrace & then we explored some
more. This was an old palazzo or
something & there are many remain-
ders of medieval things. Old columns
at either side of entrance door & of
gate leading to garden, bits of old
carving for door joints, lions, pieces
of statues in the garden, old inscrip-
tions (one on table in belvidere) a
rambling house, party ruins, party

being rebuilt or added to, pierced on here
- there, round Norman arches, or
Gothic, loggias - balconies, an inner
court, a lot of old ruins down where
the kitchen must be. We are in the
garden now but it is impossible to
describe it - Altogether the most
heavenly place in the world. (It is
now Sunday noon in Naples, a delicious
breeze is blowing, will try to catch up)
Got a letter pp to M. from Ravello -
where the children appeared in view
through the funny little streets to the
Cathedral. It has several very interest-
ing things, notably a fine Cosmatese
pulpit with 6 columns resting on
lions - One of the ladies we saw at
Aversa said there was ^{a copy} one like it in
Met. Mus. At the back of it is a fine

Norman's bust, say. Sigilquarta - There is an
ambone with most amusing mosaics
of Jonah, before and after. The sacristan
showed us the old paintings - then we
got some good cards, pulpit, ambo -
fine old bronze doors with their panels.
All this early art is fascinating -
there will be a chance to read lots of
things about Normans and Saracens and
the old pirate chiefs that fortified all
these shores. Next to Pal. dei Rufoli
which is a heaven on earth - of which
we were able to get many charming
cards, some in color. It is hard to
tell which was most attractive, the
great tower with its battlements,
the Saracenic court, the old vault,
the old room where the post cards
were, or the belvedere with its nor-

dupful group over the bay, or the gar-
dens with their terraces, the row
of cacti along the edge, the little
cherry bush where we sat, the pink
lilies or the oleanders or the tea rose
shading from pink to yellow, with
their red tipped foliage. There was a
mass of flowers of all sorts, asters,
roses of every color, little flowers whose
names we didn't know, anyway
the place was a paradise, and
I think of living in it! We were so
charmed that we stayed nearly
all the morning, then went to the
piazza where the Moorish fountain
is - lunch on that lovely terrace. The
nice man is an artist, we saw
him painting the church opposite.
Nothing could have been more lovely

than right there at the hotel, and we
decided to stay until it was time
to leave, so we settled down in easy
chairs for a beautiful rest - all
read something frivolous, mine being
short stories by Gautier, starting with
Chap. rights. If ever we hated to
leave a place it was Capri and we
could not say enough in its praise
to our host Sig. Caruso who came
to wish us Bon Voyage - Au Revoir.
The dinner was most inspiring.
Our wicked drink had deserted us -
substituted one Antonio who, he said,
had a far better horse - And it was a
fast & fiery steed so we went along
like mad much to the disgust of our
curly headed boy who couldn't keep
up such a pace. The splendor

shore road kept along for several miles
passing Maison - Minori whose lights
we had seen the night before, fine
little fishing villages, where ship building
was going on, & great nets were out
on the shore to dry. And all along the
coast were the same terraced farms
& no one need ever say these Italians
at any rate are not industrious. The
amount of patient labor involved in
building the terraces - keeping them at
such a point of perpetuity is tremen-
dous. Men, women & children are all
busy at it. The people on this pe-
ninsula are such a nice looking
lot, far from shiftless, impudent
crowd like those about Naples.
At Vietri we turned inland - followed
a nice valley to Cava - This was very

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civilized with a tram line etc. Cava
is in a beautiful situation among
the mountains. I had remembered
their shadowy look very well when
we went through before. It is a great
rest - tourist centre, quite a contrast
to Capri, hotel very modern & up to
date, cement tennis court, Victoria etc.
The hotel rooms with a nice little ter-
race opening out from them & a fine
mountain view that high conical
one (like a wooded Sycabotto) at the
left & a long range at the right.
After dinner went to the garden
around the coast & some of them
danced on it. To bed - to sleep, pre-
served to dream? but for the fear-
ful mosquitoes which chased us
with a passionate fury. Took in a

little while & found it was up trying to play them. Finally, after a great deal of difficulty we managed to get the maid & porter to find us nets. It seems inexplicable that a place so pretentious with them has not nets on all beds, as otherwise the hotel is excellent.

Aug. 30. Managed to sleep from about 1-5 when I looked out of the window & then went back for another nap. Sun rose about 6. Off on 9 o'clock train for Paestum. As usual, train was late & kept getting later. They are not so bad when they go, but the waits are interminable & nobody cares. The rule is to give freight trains precedence every where, to open all the carriage doors about six times after

they have been closed. Train runs via Salerno, with fine views of the bay - starting to see of Salerno as we went by the edge of the city. Country this which we went to Battipaglia was more like America as to vegetation, particularly the kinds of trees - Change at B., the railway system at its most Italian. From there to Paestum, flat marsh country & finally a view of temples to the right, and how splendid they did look. Frightful dust on the road from station to temples, no conveyance of any sort, but our benches had been beautifully put up in canvas bags which were easy to carry. In spite of dust & heat there was a fine breeze. Wonderful view of temples before you enter. At cross roads are

remains of Roman structures recently
excavated. Spent a glorious time at
temples. Poseidon is the most wonder-
ful golden brown color, a different
golden from that which Pentelike takes,
this is Travertine, creamy & porous.
Had our lunch on NW corner, on the
steps in the shade, wonderful breeze
& a glorious view with the sea in the
distance. Lovely feeling of leisure
about the day & we took our time at
it. I knew it was lovely, but there
is nothing like them in the world.
Afterwards we went all around
getting views from every angle inside
& out. Then out to end - along the
old road (uncovered since 1900) to
the sea. Basilica, with its archaic
columns & central division row.

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A herd of goats in it did not take
away from the effect. Bell temples are
now wired with lightning rods. They
have found altars in front - odd
semi-circular approaches which I do
not remember elsewhere. To the S. of
Bas. the foundations have been un-
covered. Vegetation not as thick as
before, dry summer. Back to Pos. where
we sat with our backs to columns
and were, oh so comfortable. Later
took naps, all of us stretched out
flat on the steps. Then went on to
Atrium & Vestibule and loafed there too.
Have tried various views, the Peristyle
with hills in background, out to the
sea, the cols. to basil. etc. We were
too happy & comfortable to explore
much more, but had a glimpse

of slight ruins of amphitheater. Then
all made for a little book or note
the Rom. remains but had to hurry
fearfully there & could only see
high podium of a temple which
came very close to another struc-
ture, & remains of a series of founda-
tion. A hurried glimpse at other
etc. which were a long colonnade
behind which came a number of
structures, whether rooms, shops or
ap. houses I hadn't time to see.
Two col. bases in front of a flight
of steps leading up to a building.
Tables all used up, but got a post
card which called it Rom. Tribunal.
There is really not time enough to
see everything and enjoy life quietly
in the breezes between trains, has.

particularly where they are late enough to
cut off nearly an hour. Did nothing
to go on walls as the sun was a
bit hot, but had good views of the
circuit & of course came in thro E
(Sardinia) gate. Were rather hurried at
the end & very hot & dusty when we
reached station - (once more an inter-
minable wait at B., but it discovered
that la Lellura (Sept. no) had an article
on Strozzi's Villa with excellent illus-
trations so we all got copies. In
spite of the dust we had a comfort-
goining, carriage to ourselves & it
was nice & cool. At Capri the em-
barked an excellent little fellow)
met us with bags, coats etc. & we
kept right on to Naples. Started about
7:45 & the girls now have nice

rooms on the front - & we had our
same too. Were glad of a nice bath
& dinner. Did nothing in eve but
a little washing & off to bed. A
day like this made a lovely finish
to the beautiful week we have had.
If it weren't for seeing the family I
shouldn't want to go away, but I
hope it won't be 15 yrs. before my next
visit. Writing from Miss Crowell. It is
a card from Cambridge, whom we just
missed seeing there, strange to think
of her being here again too.

Aug. 31. Fine long rest. Went early
to Museum arriving just after 9
& spent two good hours. Just did
sculpture - I hadn't been in bronze
rooms the time before - we must
see them pretty carefully, & into

Some of the portrait (Rom.) rooms. The
Gk. portraits are closed for repairs.
Then wanted to do Pomp. frescos
but they are closed on Sunday -
so are the top floor things, incl.
vases, so we must then 'small be.
rooms again - those with the burnt
food & banquet scenes. We got a
lot of photographs & cards & then
I wanted to do inscriptions but
they were closed too - On way back
we stopped for an ice & then saw
part of fishermen's festival, crowds
of men in bathing suits, boys in
trunks, some blacked up, & a group
erecting a ship on a wagon, just
a paper or cardboard ship. Opposite
the hotel by Costello, things were
around the bathing place where

They shove people into the water - a
view of it from balcony. Lonely breeze
in the rooms - in here doors open
- cool as can be. Went out at 4 -
drove up to left for Sublimis, where
the view is splendid - It was a little
cloudy but streaks of light kept coming
- though we could not always tell
places we got - a fine idea of the
whole bay - a fine silhouette of Capri.
Had tea on a beautiful terrace
overlooking everything. Do not think
much of city of Naples, unspeakably
noisy, vile landmarks, few attraction
stunts on here seen. The natural
parts are a quiet contrast. In the
upper part of town much building
is going on but a great deal of it
is very tasteless. I should not think

anyone who could help it would want
to live in Naples, the surrounding
places are so much more attractive.
Had a drive afterwards up - down
the front - and were much amused by
the people we saw. After dinner
I read a little in Lot's room which
was a corner one with delicious
breeze. Packed rest of evening.
Sept. 1. This is the day of departure
- have tried to get things done ahead
so as not to rush.