

1279

HATFIELD HOUSE,  
HATFIELD,  
HERTS.

Jan. 9. 1867

Lord Salisbury presents  
his compliments to General  
Pitt Rivers, and is much  
obliged to him for his  
kindness in forwarding  
to Lord Salisbury a copy  
of the facsimile reproductions

HATFIELD HOUSE  
HATFIELD  
HERTS

John Chapman (Carbuncle  
Chase, privately printed  
by General Pitt Rivers.



I was awake to the consciousness of  
its true character when I heard our  
clock strike such like struck Hotel  
Clock had not gone over the  
came here. On looking out of the window  
instead of seeing the sea-haze which  
I thought surely accompanied  
the earth-haze. The surface of the  
sea was most calm and the sun  
brilliant a splendid crown was  
brightening up the horizon. With a  
be more hoar - But irony of the  
whole thing was to see a map of  
Magnificence (Carnival folk  
irony from the Wall in all their  
fantastic costumes & masks  
running about in the greatest terror  
in which perhaps they had some  
cause. With our very best remembrance  
I Mrs Pitt-Rivers & yourself

Remembrance

Yours very truly

N. Merritt-Meydell

(1279) A

Hotel d' Italia  
Spezia

February 26. 1887

My dear General Pitt Rivers

I have been wishing  
to write to you for some time past  
but have been prevented through  
an illness contracted at Rapallo  
a most lovely place but affected  
like many of the towns on the  
Riviera with typhoid malarial  
which without entirely killing our  
victims the victim a miserable  
creature. If you have a spare  
moment I should like to know  
how you are getting on with your  
Village and if others light upon  
the work you have already done.  
I am glad I came on here as  
it has many points of interest  
especially in its magnificent  
trading - capable of holding any  
number of warships. The place  
is full of soldiers & sailors. None  
appear to exceed the age of 24  
and an enormous bell conducts



a striking contrast to the civilian  
part of the population who are fearful  
aboard. and vie with us in  
this respect. The draivens of the  
European youth for the army must  
have a bad effect upon the national  
character, habits are acquired which  
must incapacitate them for  
home life. The genius of the age  
is almost exclusively directed to  
the destruction of human life.  
Electricity I apprehend will be  
largely employed in future wars  
especially by the navy if I may  
judge by the practice going on here  
every night and most interesting  
is it to watch from our windows  
which command a splendid view  
of the Gulf. Every ship appears  
to be furnished with an electric  
apparatus & it is curious to  
see what a sweep of sea the  
bright cone of light can bring  
within the power of its rays. The  
operator has the power of directing  
it in every direction for 1 mile  
at one moment one can see from

These windows scope after ship just  
them to stem in detail - at the west  
the one brought down to a focus  
large enough to discern the jugs  
of a torpedo or small steam boat  
stealing along sheering up not along  
its course but also the crew & as  
steam reflects the light the craft  
under their electric surveillance  
has a funny like appearance. The  
Italian officer at our table told  
me the French Seman has an  
incentive. They appear to be  
friendly to the English & expect  
that we shall be their allies  
& can we & they are charged on  
I am very thankful we escaped  
the disaster of the Earthquake  
which devastated so many  
places on the Riviera last Wednesday  
The shock was severe here at 1/2 past  
6 A.M. Our room rocked and the  
bed (iron one) rattled and rang  
again. it lasted about half a minute