

Sassnitz. Rügen. June 12. 87.

My dear Kelly

AL 13716

I was on the point
of writing to you when your long-ex-
pected letter came, which I now hasten
to answer only in order to express my
pleasure at your readiness to meet me.
It is true I am a little disappointed
you can not come before the middle of
August, as I have to be back in Berlin
by the beginning of September. However,
if no unforeseen difficulties arise,
I can perhaps manage to stay away
the first week of that month, which
would give us 3 weeks together.
Now as to the place. We are at present
established here, quite by ourselves -

viz. my mother and 2 sisters with a step-
son of Ellen's — and mean to stay as
long as possible. For my mother and
sisters that term will probably extend
till September, for me the case is a
little different, since my doctor at
Polbenstein has expressed a wish of
seeing me in the course of the summer.
His reasons are not absolute or urgent
enough to necessitate unconditional
compliance if my state of health
continues good or even goes on improving,
but there might ^{arise} other combinations
which would induce me to go to the
Parsons in August. You must know
that the house where we live at present
belongs to a relation of ones who kindly

lets us have the use of it while she is not
here, and also together with herself
when she comes, which certainly will
not be before July or August. However
she has been suffering from a nervous
affection lately, and oh present is at an
establishment for Goutenbrunnen, where
she may possibly be detained all the
summer if she does not improve rapidly.
In that case we should be masters of
the situation, and — supposing my
health left me freedom of action —
I should ask you to come here and
of course be my guest. Should she
however join us, we could not think
of asking a stranger, nor would it be

pleasant for a guest under the circumstances.
I should then certainly evacuate and
go somewhere else where we could spend
your holiday together in liberty. Probably
I should prefer the Tannus for several
reasons, unless you have some objection
or other. The scenery is decidedly pretty,
though not on a large scale, the climate
excellent and the distance not very great
either for you or me, which reduces the
expenses of the journey. Perhaps you would
prefer the Harz-mountains, because
nearer, if you come by Hameln, but
I hear that is accursed by Berlin Jews,
the prices very high and commodities
bad, whereas in the Tannus one can live
pretty well for about £2 per week or less.

Of course I would much prefer having
you here as my guest, and still hope
that may eventually come to pass —
my mother and sisters too would enjoy
it, and it would fit in excellently with
your wish of coming by sea to Hamburg,
whence the journey is short and cheap.
On the other hand I am afraid you
would find Germany a very poor place
after your English sea-coast. You
know the Baltic has no tide, in fact
it is no sea, and the air accordingly
is not bracing, though quite pure and
fresh, owing to frequent winds, wide
exposures of wood and water and scarcity
of population. Unfortunately August

is not a good month for it, though. It
is part of the bathing-season, when
thunder of uninteresting families
flock to it and swamp the place. At
present, with all the freshness of
spring in its lovely beech-woods and
almost free from visitors, it is very
charming and quiet. We have brought
books and work, and keep house ourselves,
having brought our coach, so that altogether
we find the life very refreshing and
resting after Berlin. But you would
find neither sea nor mountains,
though the coach is decidedly picturesque
and would have to lead a rather hum-
drum family-life with us.

Bill Thayer, out of friendship for me,
you will agree to one or the other
alternative and make the best of it.
Should it have to be the Tannus, you
had better not come by Hamburg, but
via Cologne to Frankfurt ^{am}, where
I should meet you. I would then
propose your returning by Hamburg
paying your visit there, as we could
travel together as far as Berlin and
I hope you would stop here with
me for a little while. I think that
by the middle or end of July latest
I shall know exactly what can be done
and I will then make a definite
proposal. Meanwhile I rely on your

willingness to effect a meeting in some
way or other and look forward to it
as to the chief treat of the summer.
My mother sends you her love and bids
me say she would be very much disappointed
if we could not have you here. There is
a little bit of a fear of you, i. e. of your
cleverness and pedagogic turn, but I
promise her we should turn out the
other side of you, which I hope has not
become quite extinct.

Goodbye for the present, dear Kelly,
and good night Misses.

A. S.
I write to you
and Mrs. Mackinnon
lovely.

Yours affectionately
Miss S. Colton.

had not done so, I much trouble you to
take charge of that too. Perhaps you can
make use of it on the way, as for a sea-^{or} ~~travelling~~
one generally wants many things. If so,
please to introduce it here as your own
property, since I mean it for a birth-day
present for Lisa and therefore shall keep
it in reserve till November.

I have asked Mr. Peters to put themselves
in communication with you, as to the
best way of transmitting the above-
mentioned articles to you. Besides
taking charge of them, I beg you will do
another little commission for me, which
will not, I hope, cause you any trouble.
I want several boxes of "Perry & Co's
Ladies' Pens, Fine Points" — being the only

pens with which I can write decently. I
think they are sold by all stationers, in
small paper-boxes.

There is a chance of your meeting here
with Mr. Charles Lock — the brother in
law of Caroline Peters, whom I think
you have met before — who has promised
to visit us here and stay with us for
a little while. He is so nice, that I
fancy you will rather like being together
with him, at least we consider that
chance as one of the little bests which
we can possibly offer you. Otherwise
our life is rather tame and dull and
no interesting people at hand to introduce
you to. Mr. Lock is engaged on an official

journey of inquiry into the German ways
of poor relief, which will bring him to
Berlin and Hamburg among other places,
so that he can easily find his way to us, if
his time will permit.

How good-bye, dear Kelly — it is so
pleasant to be able to look forward to
viva-voce conversations, that I will not
deduct a single matter more from that
more enjoyable way of communication.
Please to make haste to get off as early
as possible and come here without any
delay, except perhaps sleeping 1 night at
Hamburg, which I will allow for humani-
tarian sake. By the bye the time from Bergen ^{to}
Lassnitz takes 3-3 ½ hours, and from Lantupfel
to Lassnitz about as long or a little longer.