

and is after all a characteristic feature
in itself. So please to take me for better
and for worse.

I hope you are enjoying a pleasanter
Easter vacation than myself, and in
any case you will have earned a well-
deserved rest, which is not exactly my
case. My health has been exemplary
all through the winter and there was no
extraordinary fatigue of any kind, so
that I might very well have gone on
without any vacation. But to be left
alone in the house with no work and
no distraction is very hard business in the
other direction. It was not intended,

but my mother and I had long planned
a visit to Braunschweig to my mother's
only surviving brother, which was put
off till Easter on account of the very
propitious weather in March. Then my
sister Gail, who was to keep me company
till their return, chanced to be called off
suddenly by the death of one of her
step-daughters, married at Hanover.
As this daughter left a young and
sickly child, my sister has to take care
of it till a suitable person has been
found, so that I am reduced to ab-
solute solitude - a state which I
cannot bear well. It makes me so

frightfully melancholy. I do wish I
could not to give way — to-day I had
arranged an Opera first — I wish for some
young relations and to-morrow I am
going to the birthday — dinner of a little
niece, or grandniece rather — the first
baby of the young wife of Prof Leo Garby
you know, whom we visit on New-Years
Eve each year. She is one of the sweetest
babies of my experience, and I spend
a delightful afternoon with her the
other day, but unluckily they live too
far off to afford one this pleasant prospect
as often as one could wish.

I expect my mother and I see each other
Tuesday nights, and soon after shall have

join her there, at least for part of the
time.

I really find I have no news to tell,
for even the *Agendum* goes on in the usual
routine, except that we are losing one
of our most popular professors - the
one for history - lectures - who has accepted
a call to Haverbury. I am at a great
loss how to replace him, and in a way
he cannot be replaced at all.

The teacher's courses continue with small
numbers and good work, at least in history.
The German class is an inferior set of
students on the whole, except one who
left this October and will be promoted
to teach a higher class at her school in
Darnmouth, which I count as our

first practical result. I am trying to
get teachers from the provincial schools
to join these classes for a time, as there
is more chance of promotion for them
than for the Berlin teachers, who have
to compete against such enormous
numbers of well-trained University-
men at the schools.

Since the Empress Frederick came back
to Berlin I have seen her repeatedly and
whittled a little her interest in our
concerns. Unfortunately she has not
the slightest influence on her son, and
hence not any in the reigning classes,
and there is not by any means ready to
help with her money either.
Have you read any accounts of the reform,

movements in our boys' schools. The young emperor seems to be much in favour of them and ready to take them in hand with his usual energy. It is a shame that no man will think it worth while in Germany to do anything in the same line for girls. For boys' education the new movement is all for natural science, military and physical training, and a special "cult" of national history and literature by the side of foreign modern languages, as opposed to classical scholarship. Of course they are likely to lean over on the other side now, but still the balance may be better adjusted in course of time.

I must come to a close, and I have hardly asked for your own news. I hope they are all good, which is expecting a good deal in so