

Brunsviken, February 14 20.

My dear Kelly,

AL 73869

consider this as merely
an echo from the past, such as I took
your letter to be, which I do not like
to leave unanswered, as I did the last
which reached me via Holland at the
beginning of the war.

I shall never forget our old friendship
of former days nor all the kindness I
have met with in your country, but
any further exchange of sentiment or
opinion is impossible between us.

What remains — the bare fact of the con-

diminution of my most undesirable existence
I hardly think of any importance to you,
however at present both I and my sisters
are alive and even not actually starving,
though penny and want stare us in the
face, as indeed the common fate of most
our unfortunate contemporaries. We
almost hope to see it shortened by the
inevitable consequence of epidemics follow-
ing in its wake, for life under the present
circumstances is a burden one would most
willingly throw off, were it not for the

ties of love and duty that bind us to
our nearest relations.

Forgive me, if these lines strike you
as harsh. They are the outcome of
a situation that may well be called
desperate — the agony of a whole
nation in its death struggle. Maybe
that its remnants will generate a
new life in times to come, but we
shall not live to see it.

Yours obed. friend
Alin von Cotta.