

Berlin, April 3rd 98.

DL/3796

My dearully

From Fr. Alice V. Cotta
Principal of the Victoria Lyceum
Berlin

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X My Easter-holidays were just begun and I made use of the first free evening to tell you what I have achieved relating your request to the Comptes Rendus. I happened to be asked to one of her tea-parties soon after her coming to Berlin, and there ventured to touch the matter to her. She graciously promised to look at your plans etc., so I sent them almost immediately, requesting at the same time the favour of an interview in case she wanted any explanations or would allow me to lay the matter before her in detail. However I did not receive

any communication to that effect,
but her faith lady in writing came
in person to ~~return~~ the plans to me
and left word in writing - as I was
not at home - that Her Majesty
had been highly pleased with the whole
concern; still she could not make
the wished promise, as her visits to
Clyland were too uncertain. I felt
a little downhearted, though it was
not exactly a refusal, rather an
encouragement to try once more when
the term came nearer, as she had ex-
plicitly stated, I might refer to it
later on. Since then I have been asked

to be once more and the Empress Ferdin
told me herself that she had been delighted
with your plans and would be quite
willing to pay a visit to the school
when the building was ready, though
she could not bind herself to a promise
of coming to the Transfiguration, the reason
for that being so uncertain and far off.
Of course I told her, you would suit it
to her convenience as far as possible, and
I think there is on the whole a good chance
of your gaining your point, especially
if you could manage to get some-one
connected with the English court to
brush the matter to her once more at
her next visit to England. When that

will be, I do not know, certainly not
at present, as she has gone back to
Crossbery now, where she expects the queen
of Greece for a long visit.

By the bye she has imposed on me the
rather onerous duty of going to Chel-
ham-College to look at the establish^{ment}
about which she is in raptures, and give
her love to Miss Beale!

Now I will finish up by our home-news.
My mother and I are quite alone at
present, she having gone to Munich
on the 1st of March, to join Tomalis and
enjoy himself as well as take lessons in
decorative art. If my mother continues
well — as has fortunately been the case

Planning to come to England

A2/3796

cont

all this winter - She will probably stay on over this month, and perhaps the next, and then join my mother in Brumhensen only. Ellen has been with us in January and February. She now expects Tom's back, but only for this month, to pack up all her belongings and ~~return~~ remove to her own home at Steubeny (in High-Hills) in the beginning of May.

Fanny has just left us, to her own great regret, and ours too, but my mother would not keep her now that she does not necessarily want a help, as the expense really is beyond our means. I still stick to my plan of going over

on a visit to England at the beginning
 of my holidays. They do not begin
 before the 9th of July this year, but
 I hope to come off some days earlier,
 so as to have at least a good 3 weeks
 for the stay there. Miss Bonham-
 Carter kindly asked me to stay at
 her house in London, even in case she
 could not be there herself, and I think
 I shall avail myself of this offer for
 a day or two at any rate. Then I
 mean to go to you first, and see the
 rest of my friends according to their
 convenience.

I believe I shall probably
 be engaged to his lady
 here (the
 Commodore)
 in the course
 of this month.
 The whole
 family is in
 suspense!

I will not reproach you with your
 silence since I was, but I hope to
 get a letter from you during your
 Easter-holidays. Alas I shall indeed
 think you a sluggard, or at best a very
 lazy girl!

My mother sends you her love and
 they to be remembered to yours, as
 well as to your sisters, cousins and
 aunts so far as they care to remember
 me, and of course only when occasion
 offers. Have you ever heard or seen
 anything of the Peters', or Miss Bidwell
 or Miss Harrison, and do you happen
 to know the address of these two last?
 Good-bye now, my dear Nelly, and love
 from Yours affectly
 Thos. von Colton.