

Berlin January 23^d 1900

AL/3808

My dear Nelly

I have just been to Fel.
Levin's sister and heard to my disappoint-
ment that Fel. Betty has left a week ago.
It is very vexatious and entirely my own
fault, for she told me the terms of her going
back and I must have forgotten it, also I
trusted to see her or to hear from her before
she left, as I had asked her to take a few
letters over to you, which it is not worth
while to send by parcel-post with its ridiculous
delays and "Unst ndlichkeit". We received
a parcel from the Lechs, which they sent before
longer just 3 weeks after its departure!
So my mother's pretty little box of sweets
had better wait for another opportunity, and
I resign likewise sending a small opera-
book and hope you may be able to enjoy the
fun of the little book "Di Gloria-Floce"
which can travel by book-post. We laughed

I enclose my mother's little note without the sweets

hears over it when we heard it read at a party and the author is one of our most renowned modern humorists - still humorous it, I think, a speciality of a strictly national character, and perhaps you will not be able to appreciate the kind, made in Germany.

We have been living rather in a rush of late, considering the quick people we are for. She is busy preparing the costumes of 6 pretty young girls whom she dresses after the pictures of Walter Crane's Rose, Lily, Violet, Sunflower etc. in Flaxton Street, and Ellen helps her with the cutting out as well as with her own dress, which is to be some sort of modern art-combination. It promises to be very handsome indeed and even I lend my humble assistance in considering the flower patterns in silk

I hope you will be able to visit us before you go to Leipzig

and ~~visit~~ ^{beauty}. Besides that my sisters go to some practical courses in nursing, or rather assisting learning to lend a helping hand in case of accidents, and Ellen has just begun to learn bicycling, so you can imagine we are rather a bustling family for the nonce. My mother, I am sorry to say, still suffers a good deal from rheumatism, which seems to be a very common complaint in this wet and changeable weather we have had of late. Nevertheless we plan a masquerade musicale on the 11th of February, when my cousin, the concert-singer from Vienna, comes here for her concert on the 13th. She will sing besides another lady with a beautiful contralto-voice - also a professional performer - and a very good violinist and a pianist, and ~~our~~ our musical authority, Dr. Fried,

Lieder, who is reputed the best Lieder -
singer in Germany. So I hope, it will be
a success, if all goes well. We are going to
ask all our private friends, and it is to be
in the big lecture-hall on the ground-floor,
where a cold luncheon will be served likewise.
We are going to ask Ruth, and at first I
thought of asking her to play the violin too,
but she did not seem to like the idea, and
we are told that two violin-players are desired.
I suppose she will go to the Hinstlecinnes
Fest on the 1st of February, for which every
body is now preparing their costumes. I
forget to say, that is of course the object of his
preparations.

Good bye, dear Nelly, thank you for your letter,
which however I will not answer, for our views
of the war are hopelessly afar. Still I trust
the hair time this difference will be effaced.
In the meanwhile believe me always
Yours affectionately
Alice von Coblenz.