

Berlin Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> 98.

My dear Kelly

AL/3803

I feel quite shabby in not having answered your letter of the summer-holidays, that seem to be half a century back! But when you wrote to me out of your idyllic state of much leisure, I was back in Berlin, patiently carrying the goke, and ever since the regular day's work has been quite enough to absorb the average amount of my energy. Had there been any extra demand for it with regard to your interests I suppose it might easily have been stretched to meet the requirements but there seemed to be none. I had nothing of any particular interest to tell you,

and did not either feel very responsible  
to you on the score of correspondence.  
Your own conscience not being over-  
sensitive in that ~~direction~~, I fancy I need not  
go on making any more apologies, but  
will plunge into matters as, wishing  
you a happy New Year and hoping you  
have had a pleasant Xmas time and  
will have a useful time in the holidays  
after the inevitable woe of getting  
into the new house. I am looking for-  
ward to hearing about it and also about  
there being any chance of the empress  
Fredericka's coming over to see the school  
during her present stay in England.  
Should you be ready to receive her and

have you taken any of the steps that you  
thought of last summer, in order to bring  
her to the point?

I hope you were able to get into the new  
house at the time appointed and that  
you are at least beginning to feel comfortable  
in it now. I dare say it must have been  
a period of rush and bustle and worry  
at first. But there will be great pleasure  
in getting everything into completeness  
and progressive comfort by and by.

I have had a lonely time at Pulz in  
since the 16<sup>th</sup> of August when I had to  
return there, till the middle of October  
when Lee came to join me. My mother  
stayed on in the country with my sister  
Greta till the middle of this month, and

Ellen joined us quite lately only. It has  
been a busy time for all of us, she being  
quite taken up by her artistic work for the  
artists' fair at Kenas and engaged with  
the Beethovenian - Rinfrey and several  
other matters of importance till up to Xmas  
day almost. However we have spent a  
very pleasant "Hidge - Bend" and "Fice"  
days since, enjoying the companionship with  
and comfort and a splendid Xmas - tree.

My holidays come to an end at the beginning  
of next week already, I am sorry to say, and  
I have to write an article before then for the  
new "Encyclopedia for Women" that is to be  
published. You see we are <sup>is</sup> advancing in  
Germany! I wrote <sup>articles</sup> about modern  
English schools (girls' schools of course)

this autumn, for which ~~Boardman~~ Boardman School  
of course furnished me with the chief  
pattern of excellence!

As to family news, I must tell you  
that Henry Goody — the one whom  
you met at Brumhensen — has actually  
got married this autumn, and now  
resides near Dresden, in the country, with  
his wife. Of course his leaving Brumhensen  
makes it rather lonely for Ellen in the  
winter, and that was the chief reason why  
my mother remained with her so long,  
but personally she does not miss him  
much, and I have rented his rooms now  
which have been re-papered and are getting  
furnished for me by and by. My mother  
and sisters made me present of some of

The most necessary articles of furniture  
bought at my birthday and now, and  
I have actually had some of them made  
after her designs and decorated by herself  
so that it will turn out a neat little  
summer <sup>apartment</sup> ~~quarters~~ for me in time.

Ellen's eldest step-son died rather  
suddenly in the autumn, almost at  
the same time that Mary got married,  
and has left a widow with two boys.  
Ellen's youngest <sup>son</sup> Leo (whose acquaintance  
you made at Berlin) is expecting another  
addition to his family, the sixth, one of  
three days, and we are to have all the  
children with us during day-time at  
least, when the great event sets in.

and especially  
Dolly  
and  
Milly.  
Lionel's Gaiety is at her, I think at present  
after having celebrated her solemn in an  
vacation there in September, with  
most of the family present. She will  
however proceed to Munich in the course  
of the winter and I hope she may join  
her there in the spring, if my mother  
keeps well. Both she and my sisters  
send their love to you and beg to be  
remembered to your mother.  
Good bye, now, dear Nelly, and a  
happy New Year to you and yours!  
I hope you will let me hear from  
you during your Xmas. vacation,  
which, if I remember right, is a much  
more generous one than mine, stretching  
far into January! Yours very affectionately  
Alex von Coblenz.