

Bumpersen bei Alfred ⁹/₂,
18. Juli 09.

My dear Kelly AL/3816

It is only now that I find leisure
and a fitting word to thank you
for your letter of sympathy and
condolence. It did me good through
its sincere appreciation of what we
lost in our dear mother, and indeed
I must say, that most who knew
her at all, seem to retain a lasting
impression of her striking personality.
There is a kind of continued existence

or rather a lasting shadow of her existence
to us in this remembrance, and I need
not add, that to us her memory is
and will ever be present. It is the only
way in which I can realize an after-
life, but, incomplete as it is, there is
a consolation in it, especially when
death has touched the real life with
so gentle a hand as in my mother's
case. She continued active, and even
uncommonly so, to the last moment.
There was no symptom of decay, no
kind of illness to warn us or herself

The was thankful that we shall have an excellent portrait

of my mother, painted by a very clever artist about a year ago.

of the end. On the memorable morning
she had been looking out of the window
just after getting up, and cheerfully
saluting my sister Gerty from the
window. Then, while she was washing
she heard her utter a slight groan
from the work room, and she flew to
her just in time to catch her up
~~in her arms~~ and bring her to the bed, where
she lost consciousness at once after
having complained of a pain at her
breast. Death followed almost immediately.
Of course it must have been a death

ful shock to my sisters as it was to
me, when the telegram reached me
at Berlin. Yet our worst feeling was
a grateful one for the kind of end;
it is such a relief to know she was
spared all pain and agony, also that
of parting, and that she had actually
continued to enjoy life and sweeten
it for her children up to the very last
moments. Nevertheless she had been
quite ready for death, as for a voyage
to be entered upon any day; we found
everything prepared for it, even to the

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smallest detail of arrangements, and as she had always wished to die and be buried at Brunhensen, there was hardly any trouble and no kind of harshness connected with her burial. It was a simple and peaceful act, such as she would have wished it, eight of the nearest neighbours carrying the coffin to the churchyard, after there had been a short service in the "Halle", which had been decorated with fir-trees all round. Many of the village-people came to assist at it and brought wreaths for the grave,

for she had been extremely popular
with all who were in the slightest
connexion with her.

I had to return to Berlin after a few
days, and Lou came with me just
to bear me company during the first
sad weeks. Then we joined Ellen again
at the beginning of this month, and
I shall spend all the rest of the holidays
here, i.e. till the middle of August.

We have had lovely weather so far
and have lived in a very peaceful way,
dwelling very much in the memory

of our dear mother, recalling her
acts, sayings and doings and all the
characteristic traits of her personality
at every occasion. Since the beginning
of this week two of the Geigy-boys
have come here for their holidays, and
a third will join them to-morrow,
so that there is no lack of liveliness
now.

I am only getting through my private
correspondence now, after having been
absorbed by Lyceum-engagements
till lately, and you are among the

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such correspondents because I wanted
to write to you at length.

I hope you have quite overcome the
shock of which your letter tells, by this
time. Such experiences must be ~~inev~~
evitable in so large an establishment
as yours and there is no other help but
to get a little more thick-skinned to
bear them. I wonder where you will
spend your holidays, and wish with
all my heart that they may be both
useful and enjoyable. Please remember
me and my sisters to your mother and
sisters, and believe me, always
840 Yours affectionately Miss A. C. C.