

Berlin Dec. 21st 97.

My dear Kelly,

A-13836

I send you by book-
post a small volume of Rosegger's, the
author of the "Waldschmied", whom
I remember you much appreciated at the
time you read him. Generally speaking I
find that my English friends hardly ever
read the books I send them — either from
want of a cosmopolitan taste or, in some cases
from imperfect knowledge of the language,
perhaps also that they are already satiated
by the high tide of English literature. But
I fancy from what I recollect of your stay
at Ober-Ammergau, that you have a special
taste for what we call "Das Volksheimliche
in den Alpenländern", so that I hope you
may cast a gracious look on this little
volume, which, if anything, is thoroughly of
genuine in its accounts and descriptions.

also felt tempted to send you last year's al-
manach, which of course is out of date
now, merely for the sake of the characteristic
and pretty pictures of the old town of Berlin,
and chiefly an account of the little picture,
which is to remind you of your frequent and
pleasant dealings with the old type of the
Berlin Droschkenkutschke, which is now
fast dying out, being entirely superseded
by the ^{motor-car} ~~automobile~~. As one hardly ever
uses this kind of almanach for its special
purpose, you will not mind its being
out of date this year; the new one is
neither pretty nor characteristic.

I hope you and the school have been
all right this term, so that you may
enjoy a happy Xmas-time, enlivened

by looking before or after.
I have had rather a lovely time till
after the middle of November, when Thea
at last joined me here, and now Ellen
too has come to stay with us till March.
But the Lyceum-classes, especially those
for the "Oberlehrerinnen-Prüfung" have
been unusually well attended, in fact
so full, that I had to establish parallel
classes, which never happened before, and
last Sunday night the students have
been celebrating a charming "Weihnachts-
feier" with their professors, enlivened
by all sorts of performances.

After that our own Xmas-festivities are
rather tame. We shall have the whole
family of the Lu Gärbes for dinner
on the 26th, including 5 of the children

and the mother in law, which family -
meeting I consider more of a business than
a pleasure. But we plan a few treats
at the theatre, when my nephew Cusbeck will
join us at the end of the month.

I hardly know what more to tell you to-day,
though I should have the leisure to do so,
the Xmas. holidays having begun to-day
at one p. m., just in time for an incipient
cold of mine to be nursed in bed.

My sisters beg to be kindly remembered
to you and I remain, with very cordial
wishes for a merry Xmas and a happy
New Year

Yours affectly
Alice von Otter.