

Berlin January 1st 1901.

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My dear Nelly

I wish you a very happy and prosperous New year in the first place, and then thank you for your kind Xmas gifts! The little books are a charming collection of poetry and wisdom, and the photographs fine specimens. My mother and Thee, before going to bed just now, charge me with their love and thanks to you.

I hope you are having a good time some-where and are resting from your responsibilities. I have enjoyed my holiday-week in the usual way of German Xmas-celebrations. Ellen being with us and my

I am afraid it cannot be more than a temporary respite.

another quite well for the time being,
we spent quite a cheerful ¹⁹ ⁷ ⁷
family - dinner - party etc. I had a
big piano given me by Frau Goldsch,
and only regret that there is no one in
the family now to make use of it. However
I hope for some musical friends to perform
on it by and bye, and in the meanwhile
practice my old accompaniments in
spare moments. She had a very busy
time before Xmas, getting her things
ready for the exhibition of Decorative Art,
and she reaped quite a triumph with them.
They were criticised as being of the very best
in that line, and the greater part of them
has been sold; also she has been chosen as
a member of the jury.

We now plan a holiday for her at Easter,
to go and see some cousins of ours, who
have established a kind of "Naturheil-An-
stalt" on the Lago Maggiore. They wear
very few clothes, eat no meat, in fact
hardly anything but fruit, and live almost
entirely in the open air. Of course she would
not go there for the cure, but to enjoy herself;
she is very fond of these cousins and the
place where they have settled, seems delight-
ful. However her going at all depends
entirely on my mother's state of health.
I am happy to say, she has been well on
the whole throughout this summer and
autumn, but at her age one never feels
sure of the morrow.

I had a letter the other day from one of
our very well-reputed Schub. Directors
(at Darmstadt) who appeals to me for

helping him to find a situation for his
daughter in an English family or school
to teach in return for her board. She has
passed her "Lehrerinnen Prüfung" the other
day with very good results, has already
begun to teach at her father's school
which is a big "höhere Mädchenschule"
and now wants to go abroad for a time in
order to improve her foreign languages.

I suppose you have no opening for her.
It is so long since I last heard from you
that I may well inquire after the condition
of your numerous family, belongings as
well as yourself. How is your mother
and how does Ruth get on? Please
remember me kindly to them all and
believe me always

Yours affectionately
Alex von Cotta.

I have from Dr. Dehmel's letter that Mr. Compner's Turkish is really better, but