

Berlin W. Schellingstrasse
Jan. 16th 94.

AL/3763

My dear Kelly

I have been waiting to answer your letter and thank you for your charming present, for the promised visit you sister, which your mother had announced for the beginning of this month. But since then we have been in daily ex-pectation and scarcely disappointment, that I should suppose the whole trip to Berlin to have come to nothing, were it not that my sister some time ago happened to sit in the same box with your sister and her friend at the opera, though no recognition took place. I am chiefly disappointed, because I wanted to send you a book that it was to be had on the spot and for the ordering of

Hand by my dear friend
Many good wishes for a better New Year than the last
from
Yours
affectionately
Alice an
Cotton

which about a week has to be taken. I should have had time enough, had I been informed of your sisters' arrival, but expecting her on the 3^d of January, the time was too short, as your mother only spoke of a few days' stay at Berlin, and since then we have been kept quite in the dark, or rather in daily expectation of your sisters' call.

I am very sorry, my dear, you had so uncomfortable a Xmas-time after so many dismal impressions, but hope the visit at Cambridge has made up for it. With us too the year has been an un- fortunate one in many respects.

Just now we are made comfortable and cheered by the presence of my sister Gaiety, who came shortly before Xmas to stay till April and help us moving into the new house at the end of March. That will be a time of bustle and discomfort, I fancy, especially as our new quarters are so much smaller than the old ones. There are as many rooms, but all of them of one window only and small in ^{proportion} ~~consequence~~, only my "parlour" is a beautiful, large room, but then it is the same time my official reception-room, through which all the lecturers and all official visitors as well as a great many of the students constantly pass and therefore exclude it

from private use.

Your little parcel came all right, but there was a long delay on account of the customs house, which it makes away and from which it had to be fetched. My mother and sister send you many thanks for the pretty little book and card-case, and I am delighted with the pen. I will be very useful travelling.

Should your sister call soon enough to leave me time for getting "Thyris, Sicchen, book" I shall send you that brought her, feeling almost sure you will appreciate this beautiful and touching little tale. Otherwise I must content myself with sending you a bag of buttons and a Gosh's almanach, both kept ready for the purpose.