

Abendheim. Obermais  
Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> 80.

AL/3698

My dear Kelly

I wonder who takes the trouble to  
invent or spread false rumours  
about my state of health! — but  
none the less I am much obliged  
to that unknown person, since it  
seems to have done you better, so that  
indirectly came. In the first place  
I will answer your questions on  
that theme, just to nip your fears  
in the bud. I am as well as can  
be expected under the circumstances,  
i.e. of course I am not all right,  
or I should not be here, but on  
the whole I enjoy ~~rather~~ better health  
than a great many people who  
are considered all right.

Many thanks for your nice long  
letter with its highly satisfactory  
accounts of Munich. I wish

I could pay you in kind by as amusing  
or interesting an account of my  
own scene of action - or rather  
inaction. But the worst of this  
present phase in my existence is  
its utter want of stirring elements.  
I enjoy a beautiful, sunny climate  
and scenery, with a great many  
creature-comforts to boot, but  
within this pleasant framework  
of outer circumstances my own  
identity is represented by a  
yawning gulf of mental in-  
activity. I just eat and drink and  
sleep, take long walks, read the  
papers and do a little Latin  
every day, besides Mr. Carrice's  
Antiquit. in Antiquit. & Kunst.  
But I am glad to be together  
with my mother and to have

such a comfortable little nest for  
the winter, as our present home  
is. The house in which we live  
lies on the slope of the mountains  
surrounded by beautiful chestnut-  
trees. Our rooms, on the 2<sup>d</sup> floor,  
look to the south, and we have  
a splendid view, especially from  
our balcony. We take our dinner  
and supper downstairs with  
the old countess Kostitz - our  
landlady - and her people, viz.  
an elderly sister and two young  
grandnieces. This arrangement  
is very convenient and moreover  
pleasant, since it puts us in  
daily intercourse with a very  
interesting old lady and nice  
young people. The old countess  
has accompanied her first husband

on great travels into Asia, when  
young, wearing man's clothes and  
joining her husband in all his  
pursuits connected with his study  
of natural science, ethnology etc.  
He was shot by a poisoned arrow  
while on the islands of the Andamans,  
died in consequence, and  
she then went straight to England  
to make good some claims on  
Indian property which they had  
acquired. There she knew a great  
many distinguished people, being  
introduced into the best society by  
Brunsen, then German ambassador  
in London. Afterwards she went  
back to Germany and married a  
count Hottel, with whom or  
rather for whom she managed  
large estates in Hungary, etc.

shipping tobacco-plantations and  
 missionary in the German interest.  
 She is now 78, a widow again  
 and has retired into this quiet  
 work. She is not to rest, for she  
 is still very active in mind,  
 and has not only published her  
 travels quite recently, but takes  
 great interest in the reform  
 of female education in Germany,  
 for which purpose she actually  
 writes pamphlets. Her ideas  
 run much more in with the  
 present movement in England  
 with the momentous difference  
 that she wants less scientific  
 knowledge and more domestic  
 proficiency to be taught, quite  
 keeping with the different  
 social habits of Germany.  
 She is however an isolated pheno

Germany. My mother's  
 organization.

German

menon in this country, and does not even find a hearing, not even at the Russian court, where she used to be a great favourite and tried to win over the crown-princess to an experiment of her scheme. The nices are nice young chicks, but quite ordinary mortals, with whom I speak English now and then.

It is nice of you to inquire after Thee. She is established at Munich, visits the *Prinzessinnen* there, but is constantly chafing under the restrictions by which women are hampered there.

They are only allowed to come in by a back-door and throw away into what spare room the men will kindly let them have. The teaching is fearfully

thorough the says, so that the first average human life is too short to allow of any definite result; still she takes an interest in her lessons and will, I think, be the better for one year's course of them.

You are a naughty girl to treat my coming back to England almost as if it were out of the question! Did I not tell you in my last letter that I had an invitation to visit a friend at Leves (south-coast) in the spring, and that I confidently hoped to carry out that plan, and come to see my London friends also? How true there is no danger of my forgetting you, even if it were my fate never to

Do you know that I actually take great interest in you?

set foot on Engl. shores again.  
 I wonder how you will like your  
 home-life after your brilliant  
 official career. I hope you will  
 write and tell me when you  
 have had a sufficient taste of  
 it. It is very fortunate that  
 you were allowed comfortably  
 to get off with the old love before  
 you get on with the new. New  
 ham-duties would not have  
 done to fill the life of a largely  
 made woman like yourself. <sup>It</sup>  
 this ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> not meant ~~as~~ <sup>for an</sup> allusion  
 to your personal dimensions,  
 which were quite modest when  
 I saw you last. Now good bye,  
 my dear Nelly - I hope this  
 letter will still meet you at  
 Newham. Please do give my  
 love to Miss Clough and the