

Putnam, New Windsor St.

April 16<sup>th</sup> 88.

My dear Kelly!

AN 13708

I feel very much ashamed to have kept you waiting so long — and for such scanty results! My excuse is that I really did the best I could under the circumstances, but not with considerable obstructions. At the well-established here they did not know what was meant by the "Lehrer-Lese-Method", whose introduction is apparently of such an old date that it has ceased to be spoken about. At last, but after long delays — since the weather prevented my going out and I had to do everything by writing — the proper person was recommended and I got a speedy answer; then I waited for the results from my Leipzig inquiries, waited from day to day, and cannot now understand why so much time was wanted to answer such precise and simple questions as yours. The only explanation is, that German people as a rule have no

business-like habits of promptitude and punctuality, except in official relations.  
I hope the enclosed accounts may not come too late to be of some use, though I am much doubtful. You will be disgusted with me with regard to reliability etc. and my credit as a correspondent will have been ruined, but I really could not help it. As to private affairs, the chance held out in your letter, i. e. of seeing you in Germany this summer, delighted me so much, that I should not have waited for the business-concerns to communicate with you on the subject. Only, conscious of my dependance on my sister, with whom we are to spend the summer-months, I wrote to Bernhausen first, wishing to make arrangements for asking you to come to us there on a good long visit.

Unfortunately my sister wrote back to say that the house was going to be full all the summer, and much as she would personally have liked to have you there, she could not dispose of the other guests, i. e. the married children with their families, so as to make room for you. I was dreadfully disappointed, and I know my sister was almost equally so, for I know we should all of us — i. e. we of the Cotta-family — have enjoyed nothing better than to have you with us, and we could have made it pleasant enough for even of your simple tastes. Also my sister's unmarried children — the girls and boys at home — would have welcomed you with pleasure, but of course their married sisters and brothers have a prerogative in claiming hospitality, especially

as it will probably be for the last time, the  
estate being sure to be sold by next year.  
That is the reason too, why we cannot give  
up our visit there, which I should otherwise  
have wished to do, in order to ask you to  
come and stay with us here at Studgack.  
As it is, it cannot be, unless you could come  
in May and stay till about middle of  
June, or come in ~~September~~ the 2<sup>d</sup> half of  
September and stay <sup>into</sup> till October, both which  
plans will, I am afraid, not suit you.  
The latter would really be nice enough, as  
Studgack has its bean garden in autumn  
and at the time of the wine-harvest. The  
weather would not be too hot any longer  
for making excursions etc. So do consider the  
matter and say what you can do. If you  
cannot arrange it, I shall be very much  
disappointed, but shall hope for another  
year, when anyhow we are likely to be over

own masters either here or somewhere else.

You will understand how busy I am, when I tell you that I have at last settled to translate Mr. Francis Carlyle and want to finish it in the course of the summer.

Besides that I have a few Oxford courses, some - pupils for the summer, with the Cambridge - courses alongside with it.

They offered me the German correspondence - class for Oxford quite of their own accord, which pleased me not a little, since it certainly shows Tenjoy some credit in point of reputation.

I have also written and published several articles of late: on Female students in England (German of course) on the Art of reading, Old and new society. The two first have actually had a great success, the third is still in the press. I mean to write another on General culture before long. The payment for these things is bad.

at best, but I like having a vehicle for  
expressing my opinions and I think I  
am positively doing a little good to the  
German public, especially the female part  
of it. The leading people from the Victoria-  
Lyceum at Berlin (the only place for higher  
education of the higher classes) have actually  
inquired after me and written to ask for  
suggestions towards the reorganisation  
of that establishment on something  
approaching to the more advanced and liberal  
plan of English Lady-colleges. Of course I  
sent every possible prospectus and recommen-  
dation, and hope it may perhaps have  
some small result.

I must hasten to send this off. So good-bye  
for the present, dear Nelly. Let me hear soon  
from you about your plans. We are all  
pretty well, my mother and I are sending love  
to you. Remember me kindly to your people!  
Yours affectionately  
Alice v. Cotta.