

Berlin W. Schellingstrasse 6. May 2<sup>d</sup> 88.

My dear Kelly:

AL/3725

My mother says you have been there is pretty well.

I think I owe you a letter, at least that you wrote to me last; but somehow I expected to hear from you again in the Easter-holidays, while I did not like to write before being able to make up my plans for the summer. I have been engaged in very interesting and absorbing business during these last weeks and have with the help of the Empress achieved quite a coup d'état. You must know that there has been this winter a strong agitation among the liberals, I might almost say, the radical party, for pushing on the women's question. One branch of it, viz. the Diabolis under which women-teachers labour,

have formed a special point of attack, carried  
by one of our clearest and most successful  
women-teachers, M<sup>rs</sup>. Helene Lange. A  
petition has been addressed to the Prussian  
ministry and the House of Deputies asking  
for the same course of studies being opened  
to women as to men in preparation for  
the profession of teaching, and further claiming  
the employment of women as chief teachers  
in girls schools. Both these demands have  
been thrown off, the former even unanimously  
by the house of Deputies and the ministry,  
which of course at the same time admitted  
both the latter. But this very movement,  
which has been backed by respectable numbers,  
has prepared the ground and opened the way  
for the Victoria-Lyceum to carry out a

of Helene Lange in the summer of 1891  
the most successful of the  
and  
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cherished long ago, i.e. arranging courses  
of study, each extending over 3 years, for  
women-teachers who have passed their ordinary  
exam. and holding them up to the same  
standard with the men-teachers. Until now  
the theory could not be put into practice,  
because the funds for so expensive an ex-  
periment were wanting and chiefly, because  
as long as the state would not acknowledge  
a higher standard by a separate and higher  
exam. there was no opening into practice  
and no students would be forthcoming.  
I have gained both these points now, at  
least in their essentials, though our ex-  
periments will most necessarily be small  
and humble both with regard to numbers  
and extent. We shall set out at present

with two branches only (in that particular  
department of those studies) i. e. with Deutsch  
and Geschichte, for both of which a consecutive  
course of study of 3 years will be opened at  
the Lyceum, leading up to what is materially  
the same standard as that required of the  
~~same~~ academic men - teachers in that parti-  
cular domain of knowledge. The exam. will  
be a compulsory one both for admission  
and at the end of the course and will be  
acknowledged by the government, which will  
send its delegate to it. We are also going to  
have a grant of subsidies for the work of the  
understanding, which at first will attract  
but very small numbers, being a kind of  
experiment, whose result we can forget  
I still feel as if I had gained a great victory.

I cannot believe to you as a German <sup>and that</sup> <sup>is quite</sup> <sup>out of</sup> <sup>the question</sup> <sup>James</sup> <sup>very</sup> <sup>effectively</sup> <sup>of his</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>John</sup>  
 by this step in advance, but if I have some  
 merit in the matter, or far as readiness and  
 diplomatic tact in carrying on the trans-  
 action goes, it is after all chiefly due to  
 the energetic help given by the emperor  
 that I have succeeded with comparatively  
 little trouble and in a short space of time.  
 In the midst of her great trouble, she has  
 not forgotten one of her promises, given  
 at a time when there was a bright prospect  
 of power and security before her, and she  
 has bravely tried to carry out what she  
 could. I shall always reverence her for  
 this faithfulness and <sup>generous</sup> ~~selfish~~ devotion  
 to public concerns at a time when a  
 weaker and more selfish woman would  
 have put off every extraneous claim.

Do not care to say much

Seeing that the time for action was short  
and my needs urgent, she has conducted  
the matter so energetically, dealing directly  
with me over the heads of all our wiser  
Councillors, and presenting my exposé  
herself to the minister of Education  
with a warm recommendation, that  
the whole thing is actually as good as done  
within a fortnight. Of course there remain  
some formalities to be got through, and they  
I have to lay the plans — but all ready —  
made — before our council, who will  
needs have to approve and sanction them  
“by order of Her Majesty”. I have already  
engaged my teachers and the respective  
plans of study were discussed and arranged

yesterday evening between us and the minister's  
delegate. I gave the gentlemen a very nice  
supper with some particularly good wine,  
and apais soupe all went smoothly,  
though there were some points of difference  
to be got over. My chief care now is, how  
the matter will work in practice, but  
I will try to put that off till the autumn.  
The fact is, my state of health requires  
going to the Tannus as soon as I can  
get off here, and I do not know how long  
I shall have to stay there. If matters are  
serious, it will be all the time I can  
spare from Berlin; if more favourable  
than I now fear, I may hope to get off  
perhaps by the beginning of August,  
or end of July, and in case my purse is

not too much drained by that time, I meditate a trip to England during August. I should like to make Cambridge my headquarters, if I can get admittance as a boarder to Newnham College in the Long and thence would go to see my friends as far as they were in reach. I dare say you would not be at Brighton, but perhaps I might <sup>meet</sup> you somewhere else. In any case I shall write to you again, when the time draws near, supposing my plans can be realized.

In the mean time I should like to know how you are going on and how the German teacher has answered. Do let me hear from you, a line, soon. My mother and sister Elizabeth are going to Sassenitz again with Frau Gottlieb, also to Schramm and Munich, and the Bavarian Highlands, if possible. Goodbye, dear Kelly,

Fawcett Library  
27 Wilfred Street  
London S.W.1.

1858

hope this morning you  
I have written to you  
I hope this morning you