

Herzenhaus

Brunkengen bei Alfeld a. Leine.

August 12th 95.

My dear Nelly

AL/3775

it seems much more than half a year since I last heard from you or wrote to you, but in the press of business I hardly ever think of private correspondence and now my holidays have actually come to their end without my knowing where you are and what you are doing.

You see from the above direction that I am with my sister Ellen at present, after having spent the chief part of my holidays at Norderny with Miss Leub. I came here on the 2nd of August and a few days afterwards had to retire to bed with a bad cold. I suppose I caught it sleeping with a window open at night, as I am used to,

but the night air is peculiarly damp and cold here, and besides that there is a constant ventilation in the house - doors and windows standing open continually - that would rejoice English hearts, but does not suit my constitution. Otherwise the place is charming: a comfortable old house, fine old trees in the park, and the surrounding country quite lovely to my taste, though on the modest scale of what we call "Jügel landschaft" in German; there are hills all round, wooded at the top, with meadows and fields at their foot, and a bright little river, full of trout, watering the valley and turning several mills on its way.

Ellen is in constant, indefatigable

activity, rebuilding and furnishing her house in the most practical, i. e. least expensive manner, superintending every kind of work herself, planting her flowers and vegetables, and of course keeping house for the rest. If you can comply with the simplicity of the fare - fresh eggs, milk and butter being however of superior quality and in abundance - I am sure you would like the place, and I hope ~~meeting~~ you here sometime, as Ellen wishes you herself to come on a visit.

I found my mother in good health, taking a share as much as possible in Ellen's occupations. She is for the time being away on a visit to a friend of hers with whom she wanted to go sketching. But Trenchard has come from Munich

for her holidays and Ellen's stepson ^{Winfred}
is constantly living here, while her favourite
Clasbach, now Regierungsrath at Hannover,
pays her a visit almost every Sunday.

My cold being better, I shall go back to
Berlin to-morrow and have to be very
busy for the remainder of the quarter. ^{This}
Lent is going to stay with me till my mother
and she returns in the beginning of October.
I dare say you are in Switzerland again ^{this}
summer, and I wish I could join you there
another year and then, or perhaps better ^{to}
stork with, meet you here at ^{Bunthausen}
The sea did not do us any good this year, and
I do not wish to repeat the experience.

Good-bye now, dear Nelly, my mother ^{and}
Ellen send you their love. Hope you are
enjoying your holidays in good health and