

Berlin, May 1st 18.

My dear Nelly,

AY 3838

I have to thank you for your very kind and prompt answer to my last letter and should have done so before this, but that I hoped to see your niece in the interval and tell you about her. I had asked her to come and see me last Sunday to a 5^o clock tea, but she wrote to tell that she dared not go out alone before she knew the way and that there was no one to take her. I have since described to her exactly how she is to set about getting here and hope she will come to an early dinner with me next Sunday, when I will take her to an afternoon-performance either at the theatre or circus, whichever she prefers.

Now as to your sister Agatha's exceedingly kind offer of hospitality to Thee, she begs to thank her through you most heartily - i.e.

"heiliglich" in the German sense of the word —
in fact, she was quite touched by it, but as
she has managed to get a room promised at
the Lyceum Club for the 28th, 29th and 30th
of May, that will suit her plans more
effectually, since she only wants to see a
little of London in the way of shopping etc.

She hopes to get Caroline Peters to meet her
at the club and take her about. Should these
plans miscarry after all, she will be very grate-
ful for being authorized by your sister's kind
proposal to address herself to Mrs. Blythe
and ask perhaps for a night's rest. However
I still think it would be more to the purpose
to go to some private hotel, of which you
were kind enough to promise giving her some
addresses, in case the club-rooms should not
be vacant or that there should arise some

difficulty about admitting her, because of
the crash of the German branch. In fact the Berlin
Lyceum Club has failed entirely and is in a

state of utter dissolution, so that they may
consider the connection as broken in London.

She is delighted with the prospect of being
allowed to come to you for a few days and
will of course take heed of your disposition
about the best time of her visit. She now
thinks it will be best to depart to Brighton
immediately from London, i. e. on the
31st of May, before going to the Lakes. But
of course she will write to you before then.

With regard to your summer-plans it would
be a great pleasure to me if we could arrange
a meeting somewhere in Switzerland or the
Tyrol. However, on second thoughts I am
afraid it would be selfish to make you consider
my own comfort in choosing the locality, at
the cost of your personal taste. I know you
prefer places of great altitude, while I feel
physically uncomfortable at the height of
say 2000 metres, at least for a few days,
before I have got accustomed to it. Also I

am unable to climb mountains on account of
my deficient lungs, so that we either should have
to part company or you would be tied down
to ^{an} unequal companion. Therefore you had
better make your own plans quite independent
of me, and in case I should be able to go to
the same place, I will of course do so with
pleasure. So please to keep me informed, when
your plans are settled.

She has left me at the beginning of this week
to bear Ellen company at Brunhensen till
she starts for England. I shall myself spend
a few weeks with my sister Ellen about
Whitsuntide and then return to Berlin to stay
there till the end of July.

Goodbye for the present, my dear friend.

I quite look forward to this enjoying
himself at Raudern as I did, and feel grateful
to you for your hospitality in prospect.

Yours affably

Alison Cotta
1861