

Berlin Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> 1910.

AL/3854

My dear Kelly, it is a long time since I last wrote to you, but my summer has been so utterly uneventful since I came back from England, that there was nothing to tell.

It is very much the same even now, so that I only write to wish you a merry Xmas and a happy New Year, both of which, considering the general prosperity of the family, circumstances and the school, I venture to consider as pretty certain.

As I think you do not generally care for my books I send you this time a reprint, "Description of Lucas Cranach's picture, 'Die Ruhe auf der Flucht'", which I am very



fond of and which I think is not in  
your possession. The only drawback to  
these modern, "Hohlen-Drusche" is, that  
they give the impression of being partly  
in relief, but the fault disappears when  
they have been mounted, which I could  
not very well do before sending by post,  
or at least it would have been exceedingly  
"unständlich".

We are rather busy preparing a Xmas  
party for all the Goetz family with a  
great variety of surprises, viz. of parcels  
thrown in as "Lul Clapp" — the old  
northern custom of giving presents, all  
of them wrapped up in ever so many  
papers, addressed to different persons,

and at last they reach their destination,  
and they are all to be accompanied by  
"Schittel-Beese".

This proceeding will show you that we  
are all of us in good health and in  
moderately good spirits, though my own  
are rather troubled by the approaching  
prospect of our "dissolution", since  
we must leave this house by October  
next and I have requested my dismissal  
at the same period. Of course all these  
coming changes are throwing their shadow  
before them, but since they are owing  
to my own resolutions, I ought to be  
reconciled to them and mean to be so.  
When you write to me next I hope



to hear something of your summer-  
adventures or experiences. My sisters  
went to Samaden in the Cuyadin, while  
I stayed at Brunnhausen with a guest  
I had invited partly for charity's sake,  
to give a country-recreation to a  
young friend and protégée of ours.  
Good bye, dear Nelly, with love  
from my sisters to you and kind  
remembrances from me to yours and  
to Miss Pringle, if you see her at Xmas.

Yours very affectionately

Alia von Cotta.