

Brunshausen bei Alfeld <sup>9/2</sup> a/L.

August 24<sup>th</sup> 1847

AL/384

My dear Kelly,  
Your letter found me here, where I spend all my summer-holidays, having been away to the "sächsisches Erzgebirge" at Whitsuntide and having invited here a whole family, viz. the youngest of my cousins with 4 small children. Perhaps you remember that I told you about her last summer, when the catastrophe of her husband's being found out a swindler had just happened. She has undergone great hardships last winter and I wanted to give her a good time to recover from them, so I asked her to come here for 3 weeks with her small family. My sisters originally wanted to be away at the time, but were discouraged by the bad winter they had all through July to carry out their plans, and have remained here after all, not much pleased with this "Cinquartierung", but submitting to it with tolerable good grace.

Fortunately we have been enjoying lovely weather almost all the time since they came, so that the nursery was able to camp out of doors during the day. They are leaving next Saturday, which will in a way be a relief, but I am glad I have been able to give them a holiday.

Your letter was most welcome and I confess that I might as well have forestalled it, but somehow I thought there was not much chance of your caring for letters in term-time and that you would probably let me know where you were going when your holidays had begun. I came here at the beginning of the month when I found all the Götz-family from Berlin staying with my sister - a house full of rather turbulent guests, and as soon as they had left, the other family arrived, who do not leave me many quiet moments all day long.

But we shall be having a very quiet time after this week till my return to Berlin about the middle of September. In the beginning of June Caroline Petas came over and stayed a fortnight with me at Berlin, afterwards 3 weeks at Brunsbüttel together with the Götz-family. Like you I retain very pleasant impressions of my Paris trip. Meeting you there was indeed seeing it under the most auspicious circumstances. I had not thought before that I should enjoy it so much. You were so well and active then that I can hardly believe you have since become a subject to gout and I am very sorry for it. But I think you will be able to check the disposition and prevent further attacks by suitable diet and way of life. Besides one consolation is, that this complaint is said to be the accompaniment of strong constitutions and long-lived people.

My sisters send you their love and hope you  
will give them a chance of seeing you again  
some time by coming over to Germany.  
They both envy you your excursions by  
motor-car, which is their Schwaärmerei,  
while I preferred on the whole our drives  
in the little Paris-voitures.

I have half a mind to make a trip to Eng-  
land during next year's holidays, but  
I suppose it would have to be in June in  
order to find my friends at home.

Goodbye for the present, dear Polly;  
please remember me to Miss Pingle, our  
companion of last summer's delightful  
Engadin-excursions.

Yours affectly,

Alia von Cotta