

Berlin. 14<sup>th</sup> January 1910.

AL/3851

I thank you a  
great  
deal  
for  
the  
New  
Year  
wishes,  
which  
I  
hope,

My dear Kelly, I have to thank you in  
the first place for your delightful Xmas  
present, which my sisters enjoy quite as  
much as myself, declaring that it is much  
better than seeing Shakespeare acted on  
the stage. It has been quite a treat for us  
and will continue so, a thing of beauty  
is a joy for ever.

Your letter has touched me in another  
way through the cordial interest you  
take in the fate of the Lyceum as connected  
with my own. Only a very sincere friend  
could enable you to go into the matter

so thoroughly and try to find out remedies  
for what unfortunately I think irreparable.  
All the new lines you suggest and have  
so kindly thought out, are exactly those  
that ruin us through their victorious  
competition, having begun some years  
ago, while we were still busy completing  
our own tasks on the old lines. On the  
other hand it is decidedly a compensating  
and consoling consideration to find that  
we have all this time been paving the  
way for the new state of things.

We began having lectures on political

economy many years ago, before the  
subject was thought to be of much value  
for the education of women. Now they have  
been started everywhere, and chiefly by  
the new "Frauensschulen", with the express  
purpose of educating young women for  
their social tasks in the community and  
for a practical share in political interests.  
It seems to me that Germany is at present  
certainly not behindhand in this respect,  
or rather that, owing to its theoretical  
and systematic proceedings in educa-  
tional matters the state is now taking

she lead in a very decided way, so that it  
would be a wasting of means to try and  
enter into competition, where there is no  
demand for it. You know the German  
saying, 'Alles Ding hat seine Zeit', and the  
Victorian Lyceum after 42 years of successful  
progress on all the lines which have led to  
the present state of things, has certainly had  
its day. German women are now — so  
far as they wish for it — being systematically  
prepared for university-studies and for their  
participation in the social and political  
life of the community. They are fully

reached you, on account of its characteristic instructions.

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admitted to the universities and to all  
its degrees. The rest will follow with  
logical necessity, even to the suppression  
of political suffrage, in due time.

If I were younger, I doubt not that  
I could find some other sphere of action  
for the Victoria-Lycæum and for myself,  
but I have carried out its mission here  
for nearly 26 years, our committee is  
dying out and its interest in the institution  
has been fast declining, so that it would  
now require an enormous amount of  
energy to organise new aims and means,  
certainly more than I feel at my com.

mand. ~~When~~ By the time when our  
last generation of students has been pre-  
pared for their last Oberlinian - Cam-  
inations I shall be more than 70 years  
old, which is, I think, the proper time  
to retire from the stage into private life.  
But as I have no wish to assist in the  
last stages of this final process with  
its reduced aims and numbers, I think  
of withdrawing myself before then,  
and probably before we leave this house,  
which will be at the latest by October  
~~autumn~~ of 1911.

With a view to the manifold tasks that  
will fall to my share in this, "Abolishing  
Prayer", I meditate a visit to Eng-  
land either in the early summer of  
this or of next year, before I move to  
another house if not to another town.  
But as yet all my plans are vague and  
I do not like to look forward.  
Of course it is a melancholy prospect  
rather, still at present there are  
mitigating elements at work to reconcile  
me to what after all is a natural  
decline. — We have had quite a  
pleasant comfortable time at Xenos,

with a good deal of visiting between  
the Gutz-family and other friends. Ellen  
is with us and will stay on till about  
March. The students of the Lyceum  
arranged a very charming "Wifemaster's  
feast" just before the holidays began,  
and next Tuesday we are going to a per-  
formance of Schiller's *Tamandok* by the  
students' committee at Groll's Opera  
House.

What a charming Xmas party you seem  
to have had with your telegraphic sur-  
prises! I hope you will enjoy the rest  
of your holidays equally well. My  
sisters send you their love, and so do I, dear

Ever yours affectionately,  
Ellen

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