

Berlin Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> 09

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My dear Nelly, I wish you a merry  
Xmas and pleasant holidays and send you  
a book which I hope you will like and  
therefore beg you will condescend to read.  
I took the same to Brumhensen this summer  
and they were all delighted with the tale,  
chiefly with the descriptions of the Alpine  
peaks and the mountain-scenery, so that  
I thought it would meet with the same  
sympathy from you, particularly as you  
have been an alpinist yourself.  
I still remember with delight our stay  
at Silva Plana and with equal pleasure -  
though of a different kind - our Paris days.  
Since then there have not been many pleasant  
impressions in my life, though I enjoyed  
my holidays at Brumhensen in a way.  
But that concis of mine with her 4 children  
has been something of an encumbrance <sup>ance</sup> ~~ance~~ all



this last year, when she was constantly in  
need of money supplies and a course of  
anxiety too with regard to her maintenance.  
After she had been staying at Brumhenses as  
my guest for 3 weeks I suddenly found out  
that she had absolutely no home to go to with  
her children, her husband having run deep into  
debt at their place of residence, so that there  
was no longer a roof over their head nor a single  
article of furniture at their disposal. On the  
other hand Ellen had had rather too much  
of them, so that I did not know where to bestow  
them. Accidentally a home for them was found  
at a charitable institution at Hamburg, on  
the supposition that her husband would work  
there in a subaltern position. However, he fell  
ill, so that the temporary residence there  
came to a sudden end. They now are housed  
gratuitously at a convalescent home near  
Wistbaden, while their children have been  
separately bestowed on friends at different places.

But what is to become of them in the future,  
heaven only knows, the husband suffering  
from chronic epilepsy besides the present  
complaint. As to me, I cannot have them  
dependent on my pecuniary help any longer  
with the prospective deduction of my own  
income in near view. I do not remember  
whether I told you last spring, that the  
Victoria Lyceum is going to shut up for  
good in a year or two, when our lease here  
comes to an end. Up till now I hardly ever  
looked that eventuality in the face, though  
I knew it was on the way, but of late there  
has been such a diminution in the attendance  
of our lectures — though their quality  
is not inferior — that I must tell myself  
it is time to beat a retreat. There are  
several causes for this resolution. One of them  
is, that in future, i.e. to date from the year



1913 there will be no more "Hochschulreife-  
Prüfungen", but instead the same examination  
per facultate docendi for women and men  
alike, on the understanding that the former  
have undergone the same training for univer-  
sity study as the boys, preparing them for  
Akkumulierung. The reform of the higher  
education, <sup>for girls</sup> which has become an actuality  
since last year, is even now represented by  
a good number of these new schools for girls  
preparing them for the university.

Besides this radical change in study for  
women, there is a growing tendency among  
women to transfer their former interest in  
intellectual culture, as represented by their  
attendance of our lectures, to subjects of more  
immediate practical significance, i. e. a  
training in political economy and state-  
organisation and the new religious views,



all of them aiming at public work with  
the ultimate result of political suffrage,  
however long time that may still take in  
coming. Thus we lose not only the women  
who earnestly take up university-studies,  
but also those who are anxious to prepare  
themselves for public duties of different  
kinds, at present beginning with charity-  
organisation, representation on the school-  
and church-boards, factory-inspection etc.  
All this considered from an impartial  
point of view is certainly cause for rejoicing  
rather than complaint, but of course I  
shall feel it a great wrench to give up  
my special work in the progress of in-  
tellectual advance, even though I felt  
myself that the Victoria-Lyceum has  
helped to bring on the very results leading



to its resignation. At the present moment  
we are of course still bound to keep up  
our classes for the Oberlehrerinnen and  
they continue to be comparatively well  
attended, but by and by they too will  
shrink into small numbers of the last  
candidates going in for the final ex-  
aminations in 1913.

You see my prospects for the future  
are not exhilarating, but then I am  
going on to my seventies, so that  
resignation is the only becoming move for  
it. One of the consequences of the present  
situation is that I have rather more  
leisure than I care for, even in term-  
time. Just now my Xmas. holidays

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have begun and Ellen is with us to stay  
over the winter. months. Both she  
and I see by to be kindly remembered  
to you and I charge you with the same  
to your sister Polly and Mr. Benson,  
as well as to Miss Pringle.

Shall we meet somewhere in the  
summer, I wonder? But it is too  
early to lay any plans, so Good. bye  
with much love from

Yours affectly  
Miss von Latta