

Berlin Dec. 31st 08

AL 1384b

My dear Kelly,

Since yesterday evening I am

in the possession of Miss Pringle's English
sketches, which give me great pleasure indeed,

as a permanent recollection of the pleasant
time we had together. The book arrived

several days before and promises to be very
entertaining from what I have read so far.

I thank you cordially for both your
welcome gifts and also for the letter which
I had the other day.

You will have had a right joyful

These sketches are bound by Miss Pringle

Konstantine in the meanwhile, while we
did not feel much inclined for gaieties
of any sort, Ellen had been permanently
grieved and depressed by her step-
daughter's Francis's hopeless state of
suffering and myself having had to be
in bed for a few days just at Konstantine, owing
to an acute attack of the gonorrhoea. We
are having extremely cold weather too
and lately quite a prospect of being buried
in snow, as apparently you have likewise
experienced in England, to judge from the

accounts in the papers. But the over-
whelming interest, or rather sensation
of these days, is the earthquake at
Messina. What a fearful and wide-
spread disaster! His friends, with
whom she stayed some years ago, were
living there, in one of the suburbs of
Messina, so you can imagine we feel
very anxious about them, and there is
no chance of getting direct news from
them or about them at present.
My sisters beg to be very kindly re-

1866

remembered to you and to thank you for
the twin basket-ful's of Brighton you
sent them. I want to send this off before
the end of this year and to wish you
a very happy and prosperous new-one,
So good bye for the present, dear Nelly.
Should you plan spending part of your
Easter-holidays at Paris again, please
let me know about it in due time, because
it would offer a great temptation to me
of joining you there, never having been
in Paris up till now. Yours affectly,
Alice von Cotta.