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My dear Dame Ethel,

Octogenarian Talk

Thank you for your letter of January 13th. I am not answering it in full until I have had an opportunity of consulting [redacted] Maurice Johnstone, but I must say at once that as far as fee is concerned, we are unable to offer you more than your usual fee for a fifteen-minute talk. I think it has been made clear to you that this fee is considerably larger than that usually offered.

I do appreciate the difficulty of writing such a talk and of making it sound as convincing and interesting as you always manage to do.

Yours sincerely,

G.R. Barnes

G.R. Barnes.

Dame Ethel Smyth,
Coign,
Woking.

SM

(5)

Letters from
Bonnemamar (Quoted in "Impressions" some)
From Mr Guthrie (ditto) & others
Mr Reece (etc)

Dannie Gladstone

12/6/1930

BUY NATIONAL WAR BONDS NOW

REACH

3. 45

16 JUN

to

Dr. Ethel Smyth
3 Cheyne Walk
Chelsea
London S.W.

Letters from me
to mother from Leipzig
1877 — 78.
(from which extracts were
taken in my Memoirs)
(Impressions that Remain

Dame Ethel Smyth
Letters to her mother.

3)

Feb 2.nd Do
June 10/05
(the typed ones)

Hotel des Pays Bas
Rotterdam
July 1877.

I doubt if one hit or one realise what a delightful Goodbye it was to my darling Mother & Louisa & Alice & Dear Mother & Sister & Uncle & Aunt & Cousins & Here we are safely landed after a most successful journey – with all our luggage (so far) in tact – and our persons washed & in order – To begin at the very beginning – The only relature we saw in London was Emma Arthurright who, tho' not when I called followed me according to a pencilled note I left – I went to Louisa's & waited, with I can't say how much anxiety, for that lady's appearance – But in vain. I was so sorry

Betsy took me in tow with the boys
who were thrilled with excitement -
over Bob's accident. Well -
once at Harwich we were the
first - people out - of the train &
the first - on board the steamer -
thus getting the pick of the berths
I've sat up on deck tho' till one
o'clock. and (I mount for one
moment into the upper reaches)
and anything more beautiful
than the night you cannot imagine -
a very calm sea & brilliant
moonlight - as we left the
breakwater behind we passed
close to a bell - buoy which
tolled in the most eerie & dismal
manner imaginable - In fact -
(I descend from the upper reaches)
I had no fear for the very ex-
cellent - dinner concealed ab.

my person (as Arlemus Ward says) ÷
I slept like a top till the steward
called me (according to my
wish) just as we were en-
tering the river - we were
on it about an hour & a half
passing thro' quite the highest
country I ever set eyes on - as
flat as a board & nothing but
bulrushes & poplar avenues -
leading to nowhere - & planted
apparently apropos of no trees
in particular - the little villages
are like toy villages & look as
if paneled every morning - &
the windmills are absolutely be-
wildering - & all the colors of
the rainbow. My bullock
(es) seemed to create great excitement
& interest among the Duluth sailors
(as indeed among ~~the~~ some dirty

Gamins in St. James Park – one of whom informed that I'd got his father's hat on!) At present I am writing in the Coffee room – & the dialect sounds like German baby language (as I imagine the latter to be) There are plenty of asphalted patches about the town & Harry & I are thinking of extemporising a net with a table cloth – marking out a court – & solemnly commencing a game of lawn tennis – the only thing is that in the process of marking out we <u>might</u> be taken for wily hostile surveyors & arrested – we go on straight – tonight stopping no where to sleep & arrive at Leipzig abt. eight tomorrow morning – we then repair to hotel – wash – dress etc and so on to the Friedländers clothed & in our right mind – I shall in all probability write from there again tomorrow – darling Mother.

LEIPZIG!!

July 28th 77. Something Hotel – I didn't catch the name. 11 a.m.

My darling Mother. All ideas are flown & I am mentally wallowing in one thought & one only – i.e. "Here I am"!! And I have only just begun to realise that fact – You know we made a brave resolution and left Rotterdam at 4. p.m. yesterday travelling straight through to this place which we reached at 8.30 this morning! A good long spell of it! but we both slept like tops –

Would you mother darling send a card to Augener & Co 81 Regent St. to stop the "Musical Monthly" "Record" & also a line to stop the "Academy" & Paper which the about the weekly times before each It was Save to time to the write to office & people telling them back it –

Tho that being the only fast-
train from Hanover, the
Carriage was too full to ad-
mit of lying down – Jet-
I dont even feel stiff! nor I
believe does Harry who pro-
bably will speak for himself
Ere I close ~~there~~ this – Tho at-
present he is wandering about
– Dear Thekla met us at the
Station and we promised
to be at her Mothers at
12. I will then get the aunt's
address and tell you what
it is (if possible) in this let-
ter or on the envelope. Har-
ry & I on our arrival here
made elaborate toilettes
& sat down with zest to

I will write again a few days

Thought here

Kaffee & Brödchen - (Tho' we had
gone thro' the same performance
at ½ past 5 this morning at
Magdeburg) & I have just-come
in from a prowl about-town. Of
course I at once repaired to the
Conservatorium - & gazed at
that most gloomy edifice with
feelings easier imagined
than described - Tho' some-
what modified by the fact that
we were not "cock-sure"
which, of 7 or 8 gloomy ~~[illegible]~~
edifices in the block - was
actually the Conservatorium
(as the latter joins the Uni-
versity & is much the same
style of building) - There were
a good many "Studentlein"
strolling about - with very

festive hats caps & less festive - not to
say stodgy - casts of countenance.
Most - of them wear spectacles
& all wear broners hat-
bag at the knee - & not a few
are decorated with interesting
cuts on their faces - These
latter swagger a good deal.
We then repaired to the
public gardens where I
saw what my eyes had
often pictured to me - The
masses of chairs round little
tables - the trees - & in the
midst the raised orchestra with
desks all round !! - I see
Egmont is to be played tonight
at the theatre. I wonder if
we shall go. Harry thinks it
is time to repair to Leibnitzstrasse
so I will close this for the present.

2

Later

If said the post doesn't go till
8.30 so can add the rest
of my experiences so far. I
went to the Freedländers &
are charmed with them —
me & all — The Frau seems
a jolly cordial old per-
son — & Marie the other
Isolde a charming face
& manner — both usher

than Thekla I think! The latter walked with Harry & me & the Aunts – who is jolly too, & fat – whereas my Grace is thin. There are three other lodgers besides myself at the Aunts & it will be funn I expect as she doesn't speak <u>one word</u> of English!! By the bye I must write down her address – for I shall be there till Thursday next

bei ~~Frau Steinbach~~
~~Leipzig~~
~~Am Gros Fleischer~~
~~3 Da~~

On second thoughts tho',
if any letter arrives
before Thursday at the
Friedländers address it
will be forwarded to me
at the Aunts (tho only a
100 yards off) - if after
Thursday (as I don't yet
know our address at the
Thüringer Wald - besides
Wh. we shall stop at Halle
en route & not reach the L. W.

till Sat 7) the letter is never to be forwarded from the Freid Länders Marie from Fr. Heimbach's. So it wⁿ be better to write there – It's hot here tho' there's no snow & a few drops of rain have fallen – Give one a foretaste of what it wⁿ be when the weather is bonâ fide hot! I expect you will forward this to dear old Mary to whom I shall write till I've something to tell my dear love Kiss & 1000 thanks for her sweet letter. Redeker is engaged to Dr Semon !!!!

Leipzig!

bei Frau Professor Heim-bach
Place de Repos
Treppe G III

My darling old Girl

Can you believe it!

That I am actually writing from Leipzig! I just begin to realise it - but only just! First darling a 1000 thanks for your dear valedictory letter received just as I was step-ping into the train! But first I will pass over the journey - as I did it - very quickly - we strolled about Rotterdam a good deal - a queer place I never saw - all canals & barges - red-brick streets - and picturesquest costumes. Well. The Friedländers as you know can't take me in

till October - in the meantime I am with 2 dear old Aunts - Frau Professor Heimbach & her sister - They have one lodger - a Mr. Burnand - cousin of the Burnand. Such a comical fellow with long straggly fair hair - quite music mad - & very amusing - & much petted by the old ladies. He plays splendidly and composes a good deal - & some very nice things - he & four make a jolly party - and then go & sit in the gardens with Friedländer & Baedeker & Marie Friedländer (who seems very nice - & her mother too) Yesterday evening we went to the Theatre. & heard Lohengrin. We go nearly every night - & the tickets are — 1/6 !! Ex

Cellent places too – Tomorrow we
go to hear Aïda – of afternoons
(for there is no work going on now)
we go & drink coffee in the gardens
& play whist – or ~~Tho~~ Thekla
& Thedekes play croquet – on
gravel ankle deep in a space
about as wide as y. dining room
& ½ as long in the middle
of which are four little trees!
round wh. they manoeuvre
in a most knowing manner.
The hoops are bits of wire
& bent in anyhow – if the
player can't get through – she
shifts the hoop till she can!!
& if Thekla is croqueed the
balls fly about all over
the place at the nearest
persons too! Thedekes so bothering

So handsome & has a Mädchen
with a splendid contralto voice
whom she means to educate
singing - The cost of life I at
present lead is this :called at-
½ past 6 or 7. I get up leisurely
and ask for my breakfast -
which goes by the name of "Kaffee"
~~which~~ Each person has their own
little tray - coffee pot plate of
rolls - pot of butter etc. You can
have an egg if you like. I do
not. You have this meal in your
own room or else in the sitting
room - quite promiscuous like &
independent of anyone else -
There are beautiful public baths
close by (I have taken a half
dozen. set - shall have a bath
2 or 3 a week.) & after your

coffee for repairs the baths — I
mean to learn brown by &
by. There (at present) reads
smile & practise & dinner is at
1 & consists of hot meat (always
plainly & well ~~cook~~ cooked —
General meal — cutlets (save
the mark!) or slices off the joint —
(seldom the joint) — or else you
have little very chickens cut
into 4 bits & roasted in dripping
(not greasy) The salads are truly
wonderful — all sorts of vegetables
cooked up cold in grease &
~~vin~~ vinegar — with little dabs
of sort-of-forced-meat — & — bread —
dumplings scattered about it —
then one has cucumber & yellow
beans as hard as nails & very
sour — then comes the inevitable

"Mehlspeise" - sort of sodden (but well - mixed) pie - crust stuff with some plums or stewed cherries in between - sort of thing Papa wd like the children & himself to live on - then rolls (my pet "Franz-brödchen" & others) & butter appear & sometimes fresh fruit. After dinner the Frau Prof. & Susie go to sleep I fancy! - and about 3.30 or four we go into the garden - this is a huge house standing back a little from a large Platz in the middle - of which is apparently a huge garden full of trees. It is really divided into about 56 little gardens 30 ft. long - by 20 broad - & in each is a little bower with

round tables & chairs - ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ Each person in the square has one to herself - and here we all congregate drinking milk fresh from the cow, & coffee & rolls - playing cards - or reading. Whist - is a favorite game and ~~the~~ Frau Prof. Thekla. Mr. Burnand & I are topping in an hour or so - There is a forest abt 5 minutes from her 10 miles through - & therein is a little Restauration as they call them where a glorious orchestra plays Mondays & Fridays - One comes in and sups at 7. & then out again till bedtime - You wd be astonished at the cheapness of everything here. Theatre places

are 1/6 – And this morn I bought
all that the soul of woman can desire
in the shape of writing paper envelopes
– steel pens black & white cotton
ink – bootlaces etc for 1 mark. 30
pfennige. That is abt 1/3½.–
Little things are rather less that-
1/3 the regular prices – Harry comes
tomorrow & I think leaves Leipzig
On ~~Th~~ Thursday – at present he
is in Dresden. He was so dear
travelling –
Perhaps darling, Mrs Nies w^d like to
see this letter so do send it on
to Finnhurst –
Write soon & I am always
darling Your very loving Willie
E. M. S.

d)

Döhl Hauptstrasse
Friedrichsroda
Thuringen
Germany.

5ten August

My darling Mother. As I mean Sunday to be my day for writing home I herewith manufacture that festival - setting at 9 o'clock in a little arbour in a little garden in a little town in a little mountainous province called Thuringen. We came here yesterday quite en masse - Frau Fr, Thekla, Marie, and the 2 scotch girls who live with the Freudländers - I slept Binning. "Justchen" - (Fel Redeker) comes on Wednes

day. We were met at the station by the great baritone of whom you have heard me speak. (& of whom Jenny Lind says, he is the finest artist she has ever heard since Stockhausen) Herr Henschel. As he always sang in London with the two they are all great friends and we shall have simply the loveliest music to be had anywhere all the 2 or 3 weeks we are here – for Henschel was brought up to be a pianist & plays splendidly. He is a regular genius – and his compositions are lovely – I hear he whistles and draws most beautifully – but shall soon see for myself – as at 10 o'clock we are going up there

(he is staying with a Herr von Milde
half way up the mountains)
& do music. It is <u>too</u> delicious!
The manners & customs here are
too funny. We live in a little
villa with the whole of which w^h
go into the hall at home — &
in the cellar live four cows!!
On Sundays they are let out
into the fields. You hear — ever
so far off a horn — very fairly
played — & presently a man
appears blowing the same
all about the town — at which
signal all the cows tramp forth
into a most bewildered air
& are driven away — German
beds till I get accustomed
to them are not very com-
fortable. To begin with they
are of wood ~~with~~ & about

the size of an ordinary crib. The mattress is [redacted] fixed in and over that a sheet - exactly the breadth of the bed & a little longer is laid - On the top of you is a sort of pancake consisting of two sheets sewn together with bits of flannel between same size as under sheet - so that even were the mattress not glued to the bed - tucking up is an impossibility! If you are not a quiet sleeper (which I now am) all the things are naturally kicked on to the floor in no time. In the winter you have a feathers bed on the top of you - which you wrapp round you à la martial cloak. And o! the

butter & cream & Franz-
brödchen & fruit and
pure cold air. I assure
You I have worn a jersey.
here – so cold is it – and my
appetite is perfectly alarming –
We went on Thursday last
to Halle where Thekla & Justchen
had been in one of the many
Church Concerts here given –
I decline care about the two
first things much (Mendelssohn's
Laudate Sion & a cantata of
Bach's) but the last third
Mendelssohn's 42nd Psalm
in which the two had a long
duet was quite lovely –
I want to hear Verdi's new
opera "Aïda" in wh. Patti
plays at in London – not here)

but had to go away after the 2nd act to a grand supper at the Rédelhers in St. Simon's honor. He is so nice & declares he's quite jealous of me because I adore Fürstchen! – But to return to Aïda – you know the scene is laid in Egypt & one of the Kings comes in with his victorious army carrying ~~Egyptian~~ trophies – i.e. dogs cats – stocks frogs & heaven knows what else on the end of long sticks – On anything being said of which the army approve all the sticks are waved frantically in the air & the beasts get mixed up. I roared with laughing. Why will they be so realistic!

Yesterday we stopped at Weimar
where we saw Schiller's & Goethe's
houses & then their coffins. It
was awfully interesting — Every-
one [redacted] so fond of
Rothraut. I am going to print
it & the 5 others — tell them
if I can. How dear of the
Brackenburys to send over
Dieguire after me — when they
are so anxious too. But I agree
with you — they shouldn't worry
themselves about it — as the
transmitting of all documents
must be difficult now. Thank
for my darling Mother over
over again for your dear
newly letter — I am more than
happy. Harry will have told
you how completely cured Ettel

at home I am here – & I think
we all are really fond of each
other – The German life suits me
so wonderfully – everything – Eating
drinking – manners – etc – Frau
Professor says I am as if I
had been here 6 months at
least & I feel as if I had been
here for years – In this musical
country strange say, my music
goes farther than in unmusical
England & my accompt. and
singing sight are ~~so~~ much made
use of. Darling Mother indeed
I will tell you everything – whether
I am ill or well or happy – or
(what is impossible) unhappy.
I cannot help feeling glad to
think I am missed – but am
so glad dear old Alice is with
you, tho' by the time ~~she~~ May reaches

2

Jn. She will be gone a fear.
Everyone was much struck
with Harry. That cracked
Jonny Mr. Bernard abso-
lutely silly over him. "He
said he'd never seen
anyone he'd taken such
a fancy to - & evidently
holds him in the greatest
awe & respect - He always is
saying". This time last so &
"so y. Brothers in law was
doing this or that" - He is
such a nice boy - Jn

Can't think how goodnatured
he is to me – & if I allowed
it – w^d give me the very
coat off his back. Old
Frau Friedlander I like the
least of the party. She
struts me as an ample
old humbug – always
"Mein liebstes Theuerstes
"Fräulein" & such grimaces
& posé-ing. I don't think
the Bimmys love her.
They say she is very
kind & so on – but &

shittery. Marie is charming
– the cons again not much.
Hetta is such a duck – & to
the Frau Professor Dam
quite devoted. Such
a plain sailing simple
straightforward old thing.
Well Mother darling I must
shut up – these German
pens drive one wild.
C– you my dear next letter
send me a pair of "J."
"pens" – & in the next –
2 more & so on – as I can
get no decent nibs in
Germany. Dearest love
& the children & best –

Thanks for Mein dear letter.
I am so glad Miss Peri-
ling makes Mein eit up
& hope Mein Lawn Tennis
will prosper when Me heal-
so less intense - Good bye my
own darling Mother

Dearest love from
Your Swedish Child
Ingebjorg

I do hope Papa will send me some more Best Philetto & clean little Nelly sheet for her letter – I will answer Lottie's (?) dear letter & have written to Nollie for with pleasure & great pleasure for want of time I must give up writing myself & leave it to Fritz & Leipzig.

Place de Repos. Leipzig G III

August 22 1873

My own darling Mother

Your letter is only just this minute to hand as I had kept Friedrichroda & the Fried's forgot to give it to me yesterday. So I will write today instead of Sunday & set your mind at rest on various topics! – First of all we all hired a piano together in L – & paid therefore 1/- each!!! Secondly I am not with the L's you know – but with the aunt – my beloved Frau Professor Heimbach! & returned to her shelter with the day before yesterday! The Bennings went to the Leibnitzstrasse tho' the L's went there. That is thought nothing of in Germany!! – but as the Frau Prof. never stirs from this town all the year tho' – I shall have no chance of living chaperoneless – proper or not – for ½ a day even!! Then Kormanin & Heuschel were in Friedrichroda 100 miles away – not in Leipzig – when Heuschel left – the former he went to Switzerland where he is now!

I wrote a hurried post card this morning Mother darling will now say in full – that it is probable I shall at once begin the instrumental part of my studies (wh. are carried on independently of the Harmony lessons) – at

the Conservatorium when I go to Baron Uchlei-
tity on Monday he will choose my master
for me! This is a great honor & the very best
thing in débût I could possibly make. Thus
I begin under the special patronage of the greatest
musical authority in Leipzig is more than I
hoped for! I have got a beautiful grand piano
(hired) at a most extraordinary rate of cheap-
ness. The reason being that it is so big, most
people dont care about having it - My
room here is so large & airy & the piano
looks quite small - I pay for it £2.5
a quarter. whereas for a first-rate pianino
I can pay £2.3 & for an ordinary grand
piano by the best makers from £3.3 to
£3.12 a quarter - Mother darling what-
I alluded to in describing my encourage
was only in Friedrichsroda - a little
primitive mountain village where we
stayed only a fortnight & pic-nicked it-
the whole time! We all had to make
shift - & dicht mind little discomforts
such as I describe for the beautiful
air! - & beautiful everything! Still
I'm glad to be back in Leipzig. Here

everything is too comfortable. I have a huge airy room with stained floor & ~~#~~ 3 big windows - I could have 2 rooms if I liked - but I prefer all my things together, and as I have great hanging cupboards & presses for my clothes & a shut up wash stand - & great green oilskin cover for my bed, it doesnt look the least like a bedroom even. Then on one wall I have you Papa & the 2 girls & their husbands - On another Mrs Vaughan Rubinstein Frau Schumann Fred C. & Reder. Then a very comfortable arm chair & hanging in one corner my hammock! Here I lie & do my reading in the afternoon - Then I have a good big square table with drawers - & a bureau for small articles. I have bought myself a little dirty-clothes basket (for 6/-) & a basket paper ditto (for 1/6). These are articles Germans are quite happy without!! My room here looks east & great high houses are round me first - near enough to keep off all sun after 8.a.m. & far enough to give me plenty of fresh air - & one look out (Norte) is over the gardens - So I am as cool as possible in this boiling weather - and shall be sheltered from the winds in the Winter - Altogether I sighed to think

of leaving here for I liked Frau Meinbach so much – whereas I must confess I have rather a dislike to Frau Fried – not not quite that – but I don't love her – She's so fearfully cringing & flattering!! but a good old soul in the main – well – one day Thekla said to me "I don't know how "you'll manage about composing at our "house – pianos (there are 3 there) are going "morning noon & night – & you want com- "plete quiet for composition don't you" I was in despair – My rooms at the F's are at present occupied by a gentle- man who didn't at all want to go – but w^d come (on Oct. 1st) here if he was obliged to – Then the F's are quite a mile from the Conservatorium & the Ge- bandhaus – & as I sh^d have to go there sometimes 3 times a day – I thought – "how very unpleasant in this heat" "still more so in bad weather" – Here all is quiet as death – I can't hear Mr Bu- nand playing when all doors are shut. & above all no one sings here whereas 3 persons sing at the Friedländers – & the voice penetrates so. So I spoke to Frau Prof. She said she w^d be quite con- tent to keep me – if the F's didn't mind. I went there this morning – they at-once said – they weren't a

bit surprised to hear what I said. That Thekla had from me first said - how c'd I compose in perpetual din - unless I sat up at nights & that I don't want to do because I don't want to hurt my eyes - they said it was just - the same to them only they were very sorry not to have me (so am I - as I like them all so much bar the old Frau.!) - & of course there were great advantages to be had here - particularly on account of the nearness to the Conservatorium. Then again - the second piano master I shall have (you always have to have two) hairs curiously enough in this very house I occupy G - only on the 1st Etage! Just think how convenient - Instead of trudging to his "Lehrstube" in the Conservatorium I just go down 2 pr. stairs & his "Lehrstube" here. However I may not have him - I don't think Mother darling you will do Mentioned Frau approve of this move. The very F's themselves advise it! as of course as their present lodger seems "like to be a fixture" it is the same to them - & I shall see them every day. £75 is the usual charge here for board & lodging - & you'll forget absolutely everything you want - Once a month I have in a work woman to repair my

garments & pay her — 9d for a whole day - & Frau Prof feeds her!!!! I cut it quite absurdly cheap! So then Mother darling address to me here - Your dear letters are so very very welcome - I think of you I dont know how many times in the day - & like to think that of as someone said your 3rd daughter wd give you a great deal of trouble the time may come when you will be proud of her - Do you remember how I told you I sh be just as all the kit in the Leipzig Conservatorium - that we were treated like prisoners - known only by our number so to speak! well it is so - but here am I not yet entered & known to the 1st masters - Is that not something to be pleased at! - I wrote my first letters to the Irvings & Mrs Schwabe & told them abt Herschel & got such letters from all three!! Goodbye my darling Mother. Tonight I go to see the Flying Dutchman (Wagner) & tomorrow go to the Gewandhaus weekly concert - given in the Conservatorium - only pupils - or picture pupils admitted - my beloved F. Moll Quintett - Brahms which we heard Saturday Mme Schumann played "his" piano quartette in Eb - I heard "Lucrezia Borgia" the other day - & was much bored. I do not have over letters - but have not yet heard freely

Your darling Mother Jenny must forgive

Ever Yours

Aug 27 (4) Friedrichsruhe

My darling Mother Just a little scrap in Nina's letter I tell you – not at all! – staying in the house with Heuschel as your old Wildbad friend Herr von Rournanism! He asked me if I had any relatives who had been in Germany in '73 and was so delighted I found out you were my Mother's sister. He raves about Mary!! He is a pleasant man & bade me remember him most kindly & respectfully to my Frau Mutter & Fräulein Schwester! –

Also I was to tell you that now he wears his hair long – not all cut short as when you knew him!!!!

I have had several talks with Heuschel about my music & am most awfully happy about it. He thinks more of my talent than even I did!! – & has written ab!

me to Brahms - (with whom he was almost brought up) & Simrock. All live in Berlin and he says I shall be received with open arms - It is so glorious to be told by competent persons that ones future & lies in ones own hands - that the material for realising hopes I hardly ever - I think never breathed at home even - is there - & I shall but work hard & steadily & not be too soon pleased with myself. Everyday I become more & more convinced of the truth of my old axiom - that why no women have become composers is because

they have married - & their very pro-
perly made their husband & children
the first consideration - So then when
if I were to fall desperately in love
with Brahms - & he were to propose to
me - I'd say no !!!!! So fear not-
that I shall marry in Germany !!
I told Heuschel my opinion and he
said perhaps I was right - but as he
himself has a dam told - an un-
glücklicher Liebe on hand. I don't-
think he's a judge! He is so good to
me - corrects my songs for me (I
have composed lots more) - sets
me basses on which I construct
chorales & all sorts of things - & yet-
I know if I were Heuschel it would be
a great pleasure to me to get
hold of a new pupil to give a
friendly shove on it - during a
3 weeks do-nothing-stay in a little

primitive town !!

Well Mother darling for the present goodbye – think of me always as very very happy – & O so well !!!!

Dear love to all at home from your most loving child

Mad.

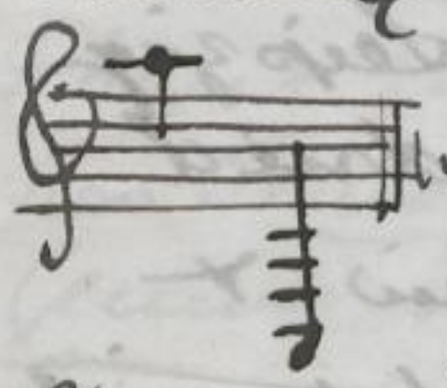
Dresden.
Friday Eve.
Feb. 27th.

of his glorious genius - but chiefly by his compositions - thus he is gradually making a name for himself
No! he is but 27. & musicians take on an average 40 years to do this. Well - one day when I was out of the room Herr Ca told him I composed - & on my return he asked me (as he afterwards confessed to me - as a matter of politeness & with no expectation) to see something I had done - I produced a song (we have no piano - but of course he reads it through like a book). Mother he said such things of my talent!! - things I never even dreamed of - He said it was simply wonderful - & would not believe I had had no tuition - Of course he found faults & afterwards told a friend of his whom I know that they were the faults arising from talent. In the afternoon we went up to the Von Mildes. He - though a "Von" - is one the first-man in the Berlin opera - old now (about 50) but a great musician with a voice like a god - & his wife is also very musical - There of course Heuschel was there - Herr Ca - the Kedeker & several musical dilettante - I was asked sing some things of mine!! Mother! I wish you had been there - they were astonished - they all came round & said it was "merkwürdig - wundervoll" - and all the afternoon when Heuschel was strumming as he only can strum between the various songs - he kept on coming back to the modulation at the "Schwerig" still mein Herz" in "Rothraut" which pleased him hugely - Afterwards when

we were all supping on Wed - proposed the health of the Künstler & coupled with it the name of "one who has but lately come among us - whom we hope to keep" - & once again I was feted - and — oh! I wish you had been there! The bliss of knowing that - when I went on so about cultivating my talent - I was not - wrong - for tho' I felt it myself - I sometimes doubted whether it was not only for a woman & an Englishwoman not-living in a gang and gas musical circle that I was anything particular in music - whether I had such talent - as I have deserved to have everything she put aside for it! & now I know it does deserve it! The greatest musical genius I know has seen my work & so bespeak given it his blessing - & it is well with me - Don't think Mother darling that this makes me lose my head - that I fancy I have only to put pen to paper - & become famous - It is just this - men who have lived among musicians all their lives - who have been hand in glove with Schumann & Mendelssohn - & are with Brahms & Rubinstein & all these have said they seldom saw such talent - in a woman never - & I can but tell you all this - I know tho', that years and years perhaps of hard work are before me - years in which little or nothing I do shall be finished (this I have resolved upon) & in which I shall be nobody - and at the end of it all is perhaps - a laurel crown awaiting me - in the shape of - a name!!! But - the end is worth the

up-hill struggle & application and hard steady work can do anything! – I ought to get it. But – what they were all agreed in was – imploring me not to stay in Leipzig which is – I find in Germany – considered very old fashioned & pedantic – & the Gewandhaus concerts – tho' quite splendid are surpassed both at Berlin & Vienna. In fact with Leipzig still remains much of the halo of renown that it gained when Mendelssohn & Schumann lived there – but all there are the old school – at length however they agreed it was just as well that I sh^d be at Leipzig for a year learning form & cut & dried rules – after that I sh^d go to Berlin & study under Kiel – Brahms's great pupil & the apostle of enlightenment in musical Germany – Henschel says after I have learned form no one in Leipzig c^d take me farther. However as he & all say it is just as well that at first I sh^d come among friends at Leipzig to get into ways musical & otherwise. After that he c^d give me special introductions to Joachim, Brahms, Grieg – & all these great people who live at Berlin & it w^d be still better with me. However of all that there is yet time to speak. I go up every day into the mountains & compose – then to the Von Milde's. (am very fond of the daughter really!) I go a good deal & am very welcome I think! So it seems! Then we

go up to the meadows & play croquet — and then up to where Henschel lives — and sing — sing — sing! O! More so! Thekla is not in good voice — but "meine Königin" "meine Geliebte —". "die Axe" chas Del Rédekes in first rate voice — the music we have simply defies description — She is at this moment wandering about in a pink dress — silk gown — singing scenes out of an opera of Rubinstein's & it is rather distracting — Do you know she sings from



— It is a glorious voice — & won't be kept in — She is literally bubbling over with singing — Yesterday — She & Thekla Henschel Herr von Milde sang for a charity in the Church — but I never do care for sacred music — except O I must except — the bass duet — "the Lord is a man of War" which is certainly a grand tune — & O! how they sang it! Henschel sang it with fervency at the Handel Festival — Well Mother darling for the present I must shut up. You will send my accounts to Papa (not this sheet!! I sh^d think!!!) I w^d have written them to him but for your letter — Do tell me all as about the Theseigers & w^n you give my special love to Mr. T. & say she will be glad to hear the umbrella is quite well Has only been left in promiscuous houses twice as yet. My Germanisms are A.1. I always speak it. Even to the Scotch girls — all

Ever my darling Mother with dear love to
your most loving child. SMS.

77 Leite Aug/99 (h) 33

My own darling Mother. Yours delightfully long & jolly letter safe to hand - Also Papa's & the £80 cheque for which best thanks. It is alright - I paid Frau Professor this way - ~~[illegible]~~ on the 28th. I had been 2 weeks in Leipzig & 2 in Thüringia. While away one pays ~~[illegible]~~ 1/4 of the sum for one's room etc. So that I paid her £3 for the 2 weeks I had been with her & 15/- for those when I had been away - that made one month then I paid her for two months £12.10 up to Oct. 28th - I paid her in Germany ~~[illegible]~~ money wh. is rather less valuable than English so that I shall just find out from the Banker what exact sum of Germany money £15 is worth & add the few shillings over to ~~[illegible]~~ the last 3 months in Nov & Dec I pay her. She's a dear old thing & never so much as hinted that when I paid her. It suddenly struck me - however it doesn't make much difference! I will indeed not forget the chauferette when the cold comes - Cold feet are so very detestable - ~~[illegible]~~ I am working very hard - and to prepare for the Conservatorium had to take six private lessons with Herr Maas (in this house) at 6/- a lesson - He makes me begin at the very

beginning of "teknik" (it looks so odd in German!) & for 4 hours a day do I do finger exercises & nothing else!! but a little sonata of Hummels!! Now that I find I can't get in Violin I am going in for piano more than I ever dreamed of. & mean really to do all I can as a pianiste. Already I feel delight in thinking when I see you again Mother darling what a pleasure it will be to you. You never even thought of my doing it so thoroughly. Just think how delightfully we can begin at the very beginning. & have no one to say as drawingroom holiday always do "& now play me a piece as you've been studying for 6 weeks with a master!" On Tuesday I got up too early (5 a.m. instead of my usual hour 6.) & did 9 hours work. Too much. I shall stick to 6 at present. as on Wed. I got a cold & had a sort of bilious attack with headache & sickness for a day. Yesterday am all right again now. Go to breakfast at 7. & never can eat meat for breakfast. I have instituted a little pot of Liebig (1/2) & take a tea cup full of broth at 11. I thought I'd do this for now till I get accustomed to the work. For every Keen student who

comes here is done up in a month thro' over
work - at first & I now I won't! then Mother
darling as I always wanted to learn
to swim
to swim - & as when once you do swim
swimming baths are much cheaper than
others (& as I am always here the economy
tells in the long run) I have begun learning
to swim. The whole course of teaching costs
9/- however long it lasts - ~~& then~~ & 3/-
tip to teacher - for then can take every
day for 3/9 every 3 months - whereas
in the other baths bathing twice a
week costs nearly £1 every 3 months.
So in the end its cheaper. If however for third
this unnecessary I have still enough of the
£5 left - Papa gave me on my departure to
pay for it - So please Mother darling tell
me if you think so - Your room must look
lovely - I wish I c^d see it. & you in it darling
Mother. It will be great - jokes if Mrs Clarke

come here! I wish she would & Hyde too! How?
he such fun. There seems every prospect of Mr-
Irving coming here for a few days in Novem-
ber or ~~the~~ Decr. I wish she c^d come too. She may
be able. No Wilde as yet! How dreadful that
Miss Macey Thompson dying. She was the medal'd
one I suppose – whom I never saw. Whenever I
can manage to write st out – I am going to send
you & my setting of those words – sweet-
delicious things they are "I'ay perdu ma
"tourterelle" – I like it – ~~[illegible]~~ better than
anything I've written – but now Maas
has set me a Sonata to write!!! I've done
the first 3 movements – & very ugly 2 are!!
Maas hasn't seen it yet. All my news
Mother darling is in Violet's letter – I owed
her a letter – Dearest love & all specially
yours dear self. Your dear dear letter
was so welcome – Your devoted child
I Pyns! I Pyns!

S McMyn

Place de Repos Frappe G^III

Sept: 29th 77 Leipzig

My own darling Mother

A thousand thanks for your letters received yesterday - That Friday letter of mine was not in regle as I mean Sunday be my day for writing home as I allow myself a comparatively idle time. Other days <u>now</u> I am hard at it all day & fear I shall have to knock off an hour of composition when the Conservatorium goes begins - The swimming is going on famously. On the 3rd day I was in a great fright as the Frau Doctor who <u>began</u> with me c^d do it better than I! & as you know owing to my muscularity I generally do athletic sports better than most of my age. However on the fourth day I balanced myself on the end of a sofa while Frau Prof. who is not small sat at the other end and flourished arms & legs to much advantage that the next day I swam (with a cord) all round the bath several times & the Frau Doctor was plunging about like a porpoise swallowing pails of water & leaving

nothing to be seen above water but an agi-
tated pair of heels going like a semaphore.
Now I have beaten her all to mesh - & small
credit to me as she's above 150 lbs. - Think
& goes about (on dry land) in a muslin
cap with sort of butterfly bows in yellowish
red - I discovered to my intense astonishment
that she lives in this very house au premier
- is in fact - Herr Maas's landlady. One
day when I went for my lesson I heard
a scuttling down the passage & the banging
of a door half way up the same - so being
versed in the manners & customs of the fatha-
land I stood still & waited - & sure enough
out comes the head ~~with the~~ yellow bows
& all - is half withdrawn - & then I saw
recognised and out-dashes the Frau
Dr. in schlafrock & curl papers - & you
can imagine what an affecting meeting
we had! - The poor Königin (Redeker) is
only just able to get about now. It is very
lame but has to start for England
on Wednesday - to sing in the Leeds
Festival & some other festival - The whole
Thuringer Party was photoed yesterday -

day - & the man good naturedly showed us all the glass; I think it will be capital - It consists of a group of 6 Thekla; Marie Friedländer, the 2 scotch girls, Prede- her & self. I am very angry with the last - latter - she has lately been doing her hair like mine & with that beautiful figure and her 5 ft. 7 in. of stature it be- came her wonderfully - but she wd. in- sist of piling it up in her own old fashion for the photo & won't come out half so well. We had all agreed that I sh. be done standing behind her with a cardboard crown (as I always call her the "Königin" after Brahms beau- tiful song that she sings so divinely "wie bist du meine Königin") but at the last Thekla objected - so I was done with her by myself - & shall have 6 done - one for you - one for her- one for her "Schatz" (Dr Simon) - one for Frau Redeker - one for Heuschel - & one for self! I hope to send it & the group next week. The rude Heuschel said about my hairy photo "Sehr hübsch

alt Bild, auch als Photographie – aber Sie müssen mir zugeben daß Sie nicht so hübsch sind!" I told him he had never seen me with my hair down that that made all the difference!" – There are two or three things in Rita Germans that I w^d fain alter! As regards men – that they smoke the vilest cigars & expectorate so recklessly! As regards the women – they have got it into their heads that the fashionable ~~[illegible]~~ & chic thing to do is to scratch all their hair up on the "beud of the head" I used to talk so much about then plant a very fly away hat on the extreme back of the erection – the result is something like this

& not satisfactory – for w^d scream at the fashions & the too exquisite attempts at something very killing – particularly in the theatre. As regards both sexes – I w^d endeavour to impress upon them that it is positively to walk in the town without laughing

against every soul you meet – I
cant describe to you how unmannerly
<u>everyone</u> is – bar the students – in
this respect. At first I innocently made
way for people & fancied that everyone
I met was in a great hurry & must be
excused – But finding that my pro-
menade ~~[illegible]~~ had degenerated into
a perpetual hopping on & off the pave-
ment like a canary between 2 per-
ches I resolved to pocket manners
& do in Rome as the Romans do –
Since then, Mauto & aforementioned
muscular development of which I
am so justly proud & to which I now
give <u>full</u> play – I have met su-
perjable & exhilerating walks!

How I wish I could hear Col Black-
ruby on the War. Those splendid
Russians! I admire them more
than ever and do so hope they'll
lick in the end – But the Turks
too are doing wonders – Perhaps
this war will <u>raise the tone</u> in

Turkey supposing the latter win - but then ~~Dam~~ it is the tone of the upper classes in Turkey that wants raising - twas won't affect them so much as the people. Poor France! But now like the French to quarrel over Thiers body & come & blow over the funeral -
I'm going today to Damhäuser - It will be most interesting after having seen the Wartburg with my own eyes -
On Tuesday & Thursday great treats are in store for me - I am to hear Don Giovanni (in German) & Il Flauto Magico for the first time. The other day I saw the great Marie Seebeck in my pet play - Schillers "Maria Stuart -" The Seebeck was such a Maria as one dreams of - She is very very beautiful - and oh how she acts - I always wept when I read that play - (even the story Charles Mary wept at Miss Darke's - I remember when we read it -) So you may imagine how I howled in the Thea-

tre! Seistinger's voice is so wonderful - deep & thrilling & she has more jewels they say than Patti - In one piece she plays in next week she wears them all nearly! She is equally good in comedy - but then there are many first-rate comedy players (by comedy I mean Mrs Bancroft's parts, etc) & I don't think many can play like tragedy like the Seistinger. She is a Baroness by birth & marriage & became an actress a real actress (not a d-d Sarah Bright) from sheer love of it - & her husband stands in the wings! I saw sure to meet her at the Brockhaus. They are the great people (with the Lauchnitz) in Leipzig & Mme Schwabe kindly means to give me an introduction - They have a splendid house - & hold court of all the talent of the stage & studio in the town.

You remember I got a very kind little note from Mr Napier just before I left - home thanking me for the

studs I returned Ther - saying a lot of kind things. When in Thuringia I wrote Ther to thank her - got in return a few days ago the very kindest letter you can possibly imagine - She seems to have had a dreadful time with that dear Mr Bunbury. I'm afraid she is in a very bad way - Do you see anything of them or are they not home yet? I am keen to hear all about the Brackenburys &c. Darling Mother my very dearest love to all at home - from your most loving child

M Smyth.

Does Mr Clarke know my address? What fun her coming here!!!

1000 thanks for your

16th Sept '77. i a Place de Prayer Dreppe G III
Leipzig.

My darling Mother. A thousand thanks for your last dear letter - I was much amused about poor Flo Shaw & the coffee - or perhaps I sh^d rather say poor carpet!! It is most unfortunate that she "fait la malade" to such an extent - for the result is that she is perpetually acting & lays it on so much too thick! I was so glad at last to have news of the Thesigers - I hope you gave them my love - & also all news about Mr Knollys interested me ~~vm~~ mensely - poor creature - it really is a marvel how she keeps body & soul together! Papa will have got news of Dr Grant from them wh will have interested ~~them~~ him - it was really too dear of the Brackenburys' to get that up Brahms so very like her & think of it - the other think w^d be by Rubinstein - not ~~Brahms~~ Schumann. Col Brackenbury & in fact they all ought to send me their photos! do tell them. Photos of English friends are now-

doubly valuable. That reminds me Mother darling I shall be able to send you the two photos of the group & of me & the Königin tomorrow & you must tell me how you like them. In the group I am capital - in the one with the Königin I seem to have such a very fat rubicund jolly looking visage - wh I object exceedingly. The K. herself is pretty good in the latter but horrid in former - however you will judge for yourself - The weather here is too horrid one day cold & another hot - & how to dress myself is a puzzle. I have managed to get a cold - I fancy I didn't dry my head sufficiently one day after repeated immersions (quite impromptu) in the swimming bath. It's fearfully difficult really! However in another 8 or 10 lessons I hope to get along all right - The human form divine in swimming costume is something fearful & wonderful - thank Heaven I am thin - & can despoil my person of its stays without presenting

the awful appearance of my sister's sisters - Just at present the event in Leipzig - the great fair - is going on - the town is full of great open paved squares - about half again as large as the big field - some of course smaller - the chief one a great deal bigger. These now are covered with little huts quite in the style of Aldershot - & tomorrow these huts are all to be opened - You can imagine what a national affair it is when it tell you that though the old Queen of Saxony died on Friday last - & all theatres etc etc elsewhere are closed for 8 days - everything is open here going on as usual - People come from all parts of the world - literally - I mean from such remote places as China - Persia - India - Egypt etc & thro fair - which lasts 3 weeks - You can imagine the sight Leipzig will be tomorrow! Interesting from one point of view but to my mind very disagreeable - I hate

anything that raises prices & brings all the canaille at one's ears! Meanwhile all the best bibs & tuckers are produced & the effect is too absurd - Such combinations of color! Haven't the French a delicious expression about people wearing - "ribbons" for molance "that swear"!! I often think of that when I see a Fulton arrayed in her Sunday best - strolling - mo - fortune ladies can't stroll - either jogging or stalking (à la Miss Janet Hall) down the Promenade - I am going tonight - to see Marie Geistinger in "Adrienne Lecouvreur" - translated into German of course. I daresay you know the piece - Adienne was one of Rachel's great parts - & from what I've read of Rachel - I sh^o think the Geistinger c^d do all Rachel's rôles - & I nearly took a fit today at hearing she is nearly 50!!!! She has the movements figure & voice of a girl! of her face one can of course not judge - & this soon

& Awful creature is here for 4 years! It is very delightful! Nothing much has happened this week. I get more fonder of the Frau Prof. who is really an old dear - & I must say I get more less fond of the Frau D[r]. She is so very hard upon other young men too lenient to her own sons - It's very common maternal failure always has & always will rile me! By the bye Mother darling I forgot to tell you that coffee more than supplies the place of Jamar! I saw most well (bar the cold) & if I wanted any medicine it w[d] be the other way round! But as a matter of fact I don't want any - I've bought some very warm slippers with felt soles - in fact all felt - & am at present gorgeously warm at the feet but the weather is now comparatively warm again. We have had 4 degrees of frost! Imagine! - I have bought myself one or two of my pet books - Tauchnitz Editions - & finding that my swimming - now that I

have & try & do without – support – or rather tiring – repose a good deal in the musical hammock & read English or German. Please Mother darling thank dear old Ike for her letter. I still owe Nelly one! Can she forgive me for one week more? I am a little behind hand with my work. This week & must make up before bed t. – I am so glad Violet can do backhanded ½ volleys. She sh^d practise against the house & tell her I don't mean that she & Nina shall beat me when I come! Darling Mother the picture that always hangs on the wall of my memory is Summer! & home again! – I must be very careful of the coin – & if at the last minute it shd be found better for me not to come home – I will not grumble – but it is a long time hence! Kiss my darling Mother with dear love to all

Your most devoted child
Ethel McSmyth

Local news interests me immensely! Nine Pence!!!

Place de Repos Treppe G[III] 1/6 23rd Sept[r] 1877
Leipzig.

My own darling Mother - Doubtless by this time you are safely installed in Mary's dear home & have danged your coiffure as many times as you c[d] wish against her adamaw-ine drawingroom-door-curtains! I am half expecting yet a letter from you today but shall urge on my wild career till the post comes - It is (or has been) freezing here! & yesterday for the first time I started the stove! (as you know - there are no fire places in Germany) I was nourably frightened of it - when first lit it groans in a most alarming way - but is as a matter of fact quite harmless - the heat these stoves throw out is enormous. & the room warms in abt five minutes as completely as if there had been a fire there all day - but the nuisance is that you unless you wish to be frizzled up with heat you must put on a very little coal - & keep on so doing about every half hour. This makes me

rather wild - but for a person living the sort of life I do here it is much better to have a thing like a stove that acts at <u>once</u> than a fire. I let out the stove (which retains its heat all night) at 7.30 (supper time) & it is then laid & all ready for lighting next day. In the morning I fly out of bed at 5.30 & apply a match thereto (unlike a fire it <u>always</u> burns when once lit!!) get into bed again set the alarum on ½ an hour & when I get up at six the room is warm & the little pot of water I placed on the stove boiling - so that I am sure of hot water to wash in (all Germans wash in <u>cold</u> - all towels through this I am sure is a key to the inadequacy of the performance!!) My "Schmuggler" continues immutable as fate! However I have lots of pocket handkerchiefs & what the Germans call "<u>Gold</u> Cream" - foolly imagining this is how we call the article known as "Cold Cream" - the cause of this mispronunciation is that the "C" on the china boxes always

looks quite as much like a G!! The practising goes flourishingly. I already begin to feel a change in my technik & my facilium master is very much pleased with my assiduity & its results. The great Sonata is finished!! That is I am putting a touch or two & the last movement (a Rondo) but by my next lesson on Wed.y all will be ready. Maas is very complimentary abt. it & I myself am pretty well satisfied with the latter movements - more because I feel how I am getting into working easily in the harness of form. Mau because I think the Sonata itself particularly good. 3 weeks ago I never c.d have believed it possible for me to launch out at once upon & bring to a satisfactory conclusion a piano work like a Sonata. & it is so encouraging to find a mountain melt into a molehill when you commence to scale it! The week after next is the "Aufnahme Prüfung" - where all the

new pupils have to enter the Cons. &
play before the Directory - in fact show
off! Maas says I am playing the
Sonata!! & as it is difficult - I am
now studying it with him! This will
be a great recommendation for me
at the outset of my career within those
newly whitewashed walls - Did I
tell you that - every Friday the pupils
give concerts in the Concert-room
of the Cons? You would be astonished
if you heard them - They play string
quartettes & Concertos & what not -
most beautifully - & as for the piano
playing - it seems to me that almost
all the pupils who have been there
a year play as well as the very
best English amateurs I ever heard.
But of course more than half of these
pupils make piano the chief thing -
& if I were to do so I could would
practise 7 hours a day as I believe
many of them do - But if composition
is as with me the chief thing from
3 to 4 hours is the most you

(at the piano)

can manage without tiring himself too much for composition. He swimming goes also well - but after all I am not particularly quick at it - not slow - but about average! Fat people learn quickest as they float better & have more leisure to think abt making the movements properly - those who like me have heavy bones & a thin muscly frame have at first greatest difficulty in keeping afloat but make the best swimmers in the end - & can dive etc better - Enjoy the Schwimm-Bassin immensely - The other day I came rather early - the gentlemen were not yet out - so I sat in the lobby & chatted with the Swimming Meister & her 2 daughters - & I said it was a great pity they had no piano there (in Germany you always find a well tuned piano in all waiting rooms & restaurants etc) At this moment in came a tall woman in black - who owns the whole "Raphinbad" & hearing my remark

entreated me to come up stairs & play on her piano. So I did – rang away like fun. They were enchanted of course!!! & begged me to be "too early" as often as possible – That reminds me – The singing lessons at the Conservatorium seem to me (judging by the result) rather feeble as to "Vortrag" but not bad for the developpement of the voice – So if I have time I shall take lessons – more really in order to be able to sing my songs at the Abend Unterhaltung – than hoping to benefit much thereby – It seems to me that at a Conservatorium as at a School all depends upon yourself & you needn't do much unless you wish it in the way of practice – So if I found the lessons did me harm I sh.d just say I didn't want them any more.

Dali has hitherto been most unkind to me – I haven't seen Adrienne Le-Couvreur yet! Mantes to the death of the old Queen of Hayony – But to-night – oh bliss – I shall hast in

the genius of Geisteinger were her play
her pet part. She must be grand in
the 4th act where Adrienne discovers
!!! the Princess's guilt – I hope you do
know the play Mother darling as then
you'll understand my raving for
it. Will you tell Mary from me that
I mean to send home my Xmas of-
ferings by Mr Spring or Mr
Clarke. – Wo she like books? I saw
at Tauchnitz's edit of all the best
English books – for instance Daniel
Deronda – in 4 vols – Wo she like
that or can she name any others she'd
like better – or if indeed she'd rather
have ~~Aa~~ something else altogether than
books? The fair is in full swing – & is
a great nuisance I think – there's
no getting along the streets – & the
crowd is so very third rate! However
I don't go much in the town except – to the
Conservatorium or the theatre – to my
great joy – with the hot weather the
creeping things have disappeared!!
Tho' I must say I have never seen

any of the B b's Mr Cobbett alluded to. Talking of fine fancy - Sir Herbert Oakeley is coming to stay with the genius I told you of - young Röntgen - & Frau R. has promised to be there when he comes. Imagine how jolly it will be talking over Düsseldorf (he goes straight back there) & sending verbal messages to Alice & the D's at large - & having the latest news of all our friends there! Well Mother darling - I must shut up as I'm going to write to Papa & Nellie & Alice before the post goes! Very dearest love to Mary & Charlie. How the cold weather is coming I sometimes get a sort of sick feeling - "Heimweh"!! - But one can't have everything - & if you have what is best in life you can't expect to enjoy what is second best!

Ever my darling Mother

Your most loving child

Felix Mendelssohn.

Rubinstein comes in Nov? - also Schumann - Preis next month!! Glory! Joachim also! What of the photos I sent?!

j

Place de Mapes Jr Pepper G III

Thursday Eve 5 ~~Sept~~ Oct. 9th

Darling Nina - there's a grand chance of writing to you which may not come again - though I won't out today begin various documents & wear strange coats at the Conservatorium Bureau I am by no means fit for much after my cough & throat - & only called forth because I threw delay in such matters may make a great bore afterwards (tho' you can't be blamed) - otherwise I'd better have stayed at home luckily I met my beloved music master on the stairs & told him practising made me cough so horribly that he mustn't expect anything of me - It is also lucky that I have got a name for industry (as I think I told you in one of my letters) as he hastened to tete me I needn't trouble myself - So as I am up & have nothing to do I will indite an epistle to my sister - First I must tell you a proud moment is drawing

all this!

near for me. In the Conservatorium you must have cards as almost every interview with the "heads" must be prefaced by a sending up of your card. This is natural as people of all nations are at the Conservatorium - the names of 300 pupils are not easy to learn off by heart - My dear - there are two real live mulatos & one negger here! The negress (for she is of the fair sex) is by way of being a great dresser. Nature manages her hair of course (& I'm sure no art c^d manage it) - Int - she affects long gold earrings & most skittish bonnets & wears gloves on all occasions. I suppose she forgets her face - & therefore that - then no one 'll see her hands - Then we've got a Norwegian with a red cap tassel who parades about in a cassock & altogether is not unlike Uncle Charles. & 3 fine worshippers who wear chimney pot hats with no brims. (sort of busbies made of top-hat - material) & flowing robes

like Papa's military cape — only more so!
But I am wandering from my subject — I
meant I show you that it was not your
sisters unbridled Vanity — nor reckless
expenditure on my part — that caused me
to order _____ 100 Visiting cards
for 1/3 with my name & address !!!!
If ever there was a peacock I am that
peacock — almost as grand a girl as you
will be when you can read writing —
well — Mr Schwalbe has sent me
a card & hers to the people & told Ma-
ma of the Brockhausers — & has al-
ready written to them about me —
& tomorrow — I go & leave my
card with them with Nero !! Oh glory! —
— Tomorrow begins the musical season here —
I feel quite bewildered & think of all
the music I shall hear at Leipzig
~~with~~ just needing to step outside my
door as it were to be in the concert
room — And when one thinks of
London & the difficulties to be overcome —
the journey to town — the chaperone —
the full dress & other bothers — Oh it's
gorgeous. However I won't rave about

that to you as it can't be interesting!
How odd you not having seen Mr
Vaughan. Can't you persuade Papa
to take you there some day just
to see how she is & tell me. I was so
glad to have news of Mrs Theeges.
There are two people I shall pant
to see when I get home more than
all the rest of the neighbours put to-
gether — Mr & Mrs Napier. I'm
going to send home such a sausage & ha-
ma by Mr Suring — it's like the most
beautifully delicate forced meat you
ever tasted — many w.d eat a whole one
at a sitting I fancy. By the bye —
just fancy. The wife of the "Capellmeister"
here (the second musical authority in
Leipzig) is a Hungarian of noble birth
who came here to take lessons of him — &
married him — tho' he'd had 2 wives —
had 9 children & is the ugliest — man
I ever saw — with a face à la Major
Griffiths but — all over!! Quit my future
delightfully mapped out for me! As
everyone here has 2 piano makers

the difficulty lies in deciding which to capture!! – Do my love – fear not – I never was matrimonially addicted – had I been so I sh^d not be here – that is quite certain – but I don't think I ever appreciated the necessity of temporary single-hood (at any rate of not total) & certain kinds of lives, till I came here!! You may rely upon that & fear no brother in law!!

Supper is ready & the very sausage "Leber-wurst" it is called awaits me! I fly –

Dear love to all at home & write soon huge long letters. My cold has pulled me down & made most employment pro tem rather a bore – so home letters are all the more welcome

Ever darling Your devoted Sister

Mud.

P.S.

I fear there's no chance of the contingency Violet suggests – that I sh^d tire of Leipzig & come home ~~[illegible]~~ before my year!

Ihna

Oct. 21st/77. K Place de Respos à Reppe Gm III
Leipzig

My own darling Mother. At last I can sit down in peace write you a respectable letter – for you will be glad to hear that my contrapuntal efforts surpassed my own expectations – & that I draw well up with the others & my yesterday's exercises were absolutely faultless! That is satisfactory isn't it! How singing the work I can't tell you – it is fifty times more interesting than the Harmony I used to do with Mr. Ewing – & that was delightful enough in all conscience – I wish you could hear how really pleased Tadassohn is to teach me – (he is Mechla's brother in law) – Yesterday in a fit of absence I went to the Conservatorium at 12 instead of 11 for my Counterpoint – met Tadessohn coming down en route to his dinner – He said "why what ever became of you? we waited & waited all in vain" – I, in real grief at having lost my lesson said I'd muddled up the hours – Thereupon the dear man said "well never mind – come up to my class room & I'll look over your work" He gave me a

private lesson for nearly an hour. I don't think many of the masters w^d do that — & Hekla says he must take very much interest in me to do so — In fact tho' I have composition lessons with the great man Carl Reinecke — of whom you have of course heard Jadassohn takes such interest in my compos. & always asks me what I've been doing & is curious to hear what I have last composed — Now I must give you my Stunden Plan — those things marked "⊙" one need not go to & if (as is the case with me) you have much else to do it is not expected of you to go.

Monday

⊙ Solospiel mit Begleitung 4–6 Herr Kapellm Reinecke
{anyone who has anything to play can come.}

Chor Gesang 6–7 Herr Klesse

Tuesday

Singing lesson 9–11 " Klesse
Harmony " 11–12 " Richter
Piano lesson 3–4 " Jonas
Ensemblespiel ⊙ 4–6 " Hermann
(often very nice — String quartettes etc etc by pupils)

Wednesday

Vorlesung über Geschichte & Aesthetik der Musik	2 – 3	Herr Paul
Ensemble Spiel	4 – 6	Reinecke
Chor Gesang	6 – 7	Reinecke

Thursday

Composition lesson	8 – 10 a.m.	Reinecke
Counterpoint	12 – 1 –	Jadassohn
Solo Spiel mit Begleitung	4 – 6 Violin sonatas	Schradieck

Friday

Singing lesson	9 – 11	Klesse
Piano "	3 – 4	Maas
Harmony "	4 – 5	Richter
Abendunterhaltung	6 – 8	

(very nice – the pick of the pupils play Concertos (a piano playing the wind instrument's part) – string quartettes & solos – piano & violin & singing – Quite a nice concert. My songs will be sung there)

Saturday

~~Vorlesung~~

Vorlesung	9 – 10	Paul
Chor Gesang	6 – 7	Klesse

So if you take into consideration how one has to work up for all these classes at home – you can imagine how every minute of the day is valuable – & how – if you wish to go & take coffee with a friend or go to the opera or theatre you must work up extra in order to find time & amuse yourself. I enjoy the life immensely

& mean I be very careful about
overworking - (So many do) and
- come what may to go at all events
for a good swim every other day -
Now I have achieved a great
deed - I dive & swim under water
very quickly - & appear at the other
end of the bath - & as the water in winter
is very brown (its just the river - somewhat
filtered & mixed with hot water) the effect
is most startling - as you disappear
utterly from view - & no one knows where
I expect you! The worst of it is that no
amount of oilskin caps will keep the
water out - & my hair takes hours to dry -
So on busy days I have to keep above water
- the Brockhauses are delightful - & went
& call there one Friday & she was out -
next day a footman appears with an
invitation bone to go there "to tea" on
the Sunday - wasn't that dear of her!
Tea I must tell you means - you go
at 8 & at 8.30 sit down to an elegant
cold collation & drink alternately beer
& tea! As it happens I now can't bear tea -
as the coffee in Germany is to German
tea what English tea is to English
Coffee - very much better - The tea drunk
in Germany is the very weakest stuff
you ever tasted - much weaker than
what Bob gets at breakfast! and

about 2 drops of "weiss" there is - which is the idiotic name for "milk" in Germany. The word "milch" is seldom or ever used. Isn't that queer? Frau Brockhaus is a clever little woman who lives in society - has parties every day in Winter - that sort of person. Their house is superb - quite one of the finest in Leipzig - & most artistically furnished - My English eyes were so delighted with the sight of a "Kamin" - quite like the drawingroom fire place at home - instead of the everlasting stoves - in fact - like many wealthy families in Germany - they evidently aim at English manners & customs - wh. is quite natural. As to the delightfully simple comfortable life I lead is almost impossible of reproduction in England - There is no comparison between English & German life on a grand scale - (bar our insane hours of recreation - particularly in London) - Fancy ~~life~~ fashionable life here is horrible stuff & stupid - at all events so many ladies sigh to me that they cant adopt our modus vivandi - yet may be surpassed than that very are called "die vernünftige Engländer"! -

We now revel weekly in a Gewandhaus concert - & anything like the perfection

of a Beethoven Symphony given by that
Orchestra & conducted by Reinecke. You can-
not imagine. There is something in the
building of the Concert room that has
much to do with. Plans of the forward-
hans, with details as to the position of
every pillar & cornice - & the materials
of the plaster & ornamentation have been
taken to Paris & America & where not -
but there's a secret in it that no one can
find out & such utter harmony is not
to be produced anywhere else - It is terribly
small - about $\frac{1}{8}$th the size of St James'
Hall - but were one stone removed from
another to make it bigger the whole of Leipzig w.d be up in
arms to prevent - the experiment - in
case the wonderful effect sh.d be lost -
by extending the walls or hollowing
out under the galleries - (wh. w.d make
the place more than three as big!!) -
All the reserved seats are handed
down from father to son & the only place
anyone can get a seat in is a room
at the far end of the hall where you
can hear everything but see nothing

unless you happen to get in front of the door connecting it with the big room - They will not knock down the partition wall for fear of damaging the acoustical ~~properties~~ qualities of the room -
The Euterpe Concerts are also very nice - I have a ticket for all 10 - They take place every fortnight - At present the quartette renowned Joachim All Germany are here - the Florentiner Quartette Verein & last Sunday & today & next Sunday give 3 delightful concerts - No singing or solo playing - but just 3 string Quartettes Each time played as beautifully as Joachim Strauss Ries & Piatti play in London - perhaps even more absolutely together - tho' of course the 1st Violin has not Joachim's breadth of tone - I have just got a card from Frau Brockhaus asking me to go to tea there after - She is a dear woman today - such glory for me - I shall have a face to face interview with the great Tragedienne Sistinger! the honor of it! for she and

her husband lives a most secluded life - receives no company & goes into no society. She is just buried in her art - studies - rehearses - & sleeps all day (this I know from the sempstress who got my Miller things ready (worked here all day for 1/- !!) - She sometimes is had up to help at Meiningen's extensive Wardrobe preparations - Imagine what a treat for me - Next week there are the 3 Shakespeare nights - The first 2 nights Henry VI is given (the 3 parts condensed & divided into 2) & the 3rd night Richard III !! The whole put on the stage as we may in vain hope to see it in England. Mme Meiningen plays Margaret of Anjou in the 2 first - & I suppose Queen Elisabeth - Ed IV's widow in Richard III. She is a queer woman - about 43 or 45 - never laughs (except on the stage) is seldom seen to smile - It is a puzzle to me how she is so wonderful in refined comedy - tho' one can see at a glance how great she is in tragedy. Well Mother darling I must shut up for the present; as I must write a line to Papa abt funds - Your devoted child. Ever with very tender love E. M. Smyth. Last night I dreamed I came home for the holidays!

K. /a

Oct 26 (approx) / 77

Leipzig - Sunday.

Geliebteste Donnerlot!

(all blue letter)

My own darling Mother -

I've written the bulk of my weekly Budget - & Violet - bless really does deserve it - The child is too good at writing & writes such capital long letters - Later:- Brig.-Gen. R. Smyth 16th or 17th Lancers Bob is a little wretch tell him! He hasn't written to me once since I've been in Germany. It was so funny this morning - I had been dreaming that I was at home & showing you the new hat I have bought - & you were saying "well - it looks a great deal better on the head" than in the hand!" when I awoke - I have so often dreamed at home that I was in Leipzig

Leipzig!

~~Leipzig~~ that this morning before I knew where I was I found myself feeling the wall & staring round the room to see if I was in my bed at home or here. I saw that the wall was brown - said to myself "Then I must be in Leipzig" & dozed off again." In fact often now I wonder if I shant "come to myself" in my bed at home and find I've had a fever or some-thing, like people in books!!
The work over that counterpoint told on me a little - tho' the only symtoms are generally sleepiness & disinclination to compose - of-course I took that latter very easily as often at home I felt - "is it possible that I, who to day feel like a doll with a mashed turnip for a brain ever composed!" The inclination always comes again

rem effect returned to me yesterday when I got on a bit with my new "Geistinger Sonata" & wrote a song - (The first Sonata is dedicated of course to your Mother darling) - The story of the Geistinger Sonata is indeed a queer one - it was begun last Sunday. I had already begun to feel "verstimmt" & unimaginative - when, taking a bouquet - to my Geistinger (after a supper) rendering the might-be-fore of Margaret of Anjou in "Henry VI." the lady's maid opens the door & says the Gnädige Frau w^d so much like to thank the English lady herself - that at present she was sleeping & the ladies maid didn't like to disturb her - w^d I come again at four. I went - & on the threshold I felt ready to collapse - because of course this woman is idolized - but goes nowhere so no one knows her. In I went - into a superb "logis" - saw a little

figure disappearing in the darkness
– Whom I recognised as her little
whippersnapper of a husband –
I ~~was~~ was shown into a room all
carved oak & silver – & waited – pre-
sently a rustle – & in glides the
Sleepwalker!! I couldn't help thinking
at the time of that glorious chapter
in "John Halifax" where Charles
speaks with Sarah Siddons. I
always c^d so thoroughly enter into
his feelings & now much more so!
I hardly know what I said at
first – she spoke of my "unerhört
liebenswürdig Rei[illegible]" but in two
minutes I was quite at home with
her. She has a <u>wonderful</u> deep voice
(which enhances on the stage – still
more so in real life.) & laths away
so rarely & sweetly. She looks about
40 in real life (coiffée'd <u>very</u> simply
& <u>no</u> embellissement curiously enough)
& her manner is <u>very</u> soft – I always
fancied she w^d be <u>rather</u> severe
& cold off the stage – Grace she
is but nothing more – One little
touch of nature (the ordinary ~~woman~~
inquisitive woman peeping out
behind the great tragedienne) charmed
me much – I had with me a little
German edition of Ruchler's Harmony

over to page 2

But I am quite forgetting to tell you what this has to do with the Sonata. However you can imagine it! I came home - felt another creature & forthwith composed I think the best thing I have yet done - the skeleton of a "first movement" of a new Sonata - It is really programme music tho' no one w.d know it! I have the whole scene there - going up the stairs - the "Herz Klopfen" at the door & all!! When it is finished I have secured the services of the best player in the Conserv. to play it at the Abendunterhaltung - But that may be ages hence. I haven't fitted up the first movement yet & don't feel at all into a "Sonata" mood at present. I shall show it to Reinecke next Thursday.

which I had bought on my way to her, & one of the first things she did was to take it out of my lap & look at it with "Entschuldigen Sie – aber was haben Sie hier?! Das? possess a book that has been in her hand!! I only stayed a minute or two as she was just off to the theatre & had probably no time to spare – She twice asked me to come & see her again – I said I knew what a life she led & that she had no time to spare on adorers. She answered "Aber ein Viertelstündchen Vormittag ist nichts"!! So I shall go some day – but not soon – for it can't be any gratification to her to see me ..."

The counterpoint master is always urging me to make the acquaintance of some girl who sings well – & get her to sing some of my songs in the Abendunterhaltung – I always put it off but

must see about it this week.
It rather a round thing to
have to do but as everyone
~~done~~ does it I may as well!
Well Mother darling for the
present goodbye – I could
not read quite all of your
last letter!! The ink was bad.
Hoping soon to hear from Papa
I am always darling Mother
Your most loving child
E M Smyth

Oct 77 (sixth piano!) Place de Repos

Sunday. Early Nov paris etc. Frippe C III

My own darling Mother

Yes so many thanks for your letter but do you know Mother darling it took me more than 20 minutes to read it & almost ½ a page is still a mystery to me - Do ask Papa to give that horrid cheap blue paper to the Children who write with spider-leg pens - & whose letters are almost readable even when written on that paper - But you write large & black & its utterly impossible to make out ½ your letters unless you write on only one side of the paper - & in the end that wo be false economy. When Aunt Judy wrote to me from Frimhurst she had to write so - & her hand is also very black - If you write on blue Frimhurst paper I only get such a short letter &

as we depends a good deal upon letters from home surely he could get some other paper? I'm sick d'am rather one on this subject." as I have already sent two fruitless appeals to Papa!!

I'm in a great state of mind having a return of my Schnupfen! however everyone has one now – the weather has been horrid – a hot sun & a wind to which Edinbro East winds are a joke! Then I've overworked myself a little and fear I must continue to do so for a day or two till my present Beethoven Concerto & the Feistinger Sonata are finished – I am practising five hours a day at least – & till all compositions in hand are completed it's hard work – Today I shall have taken five hrs. Frau Prof is going to chaperone me & 2 friends to one of those Restauration Concerts one can only find in Germany Re Continent – at which Feistinger

husband - who looks an angel little donkey is going to declaim! (for a charity) - The 2 friends are the two prettiest girls here - one my blonde friend Miss Melmo - the other a Fr. Heimlicher - the browness brunette you can imagine with jet black hair & eyes like black diamonds. I am quite sure she & Melmo (who have not yet met each other) won't hit it off - & expect some fun with my two beauties!

The Jubilee Singers have been performing in the Fewanedhaus & - as you may imagine - astonished the Germans not a little. - I think one of the gentlemen (primo basso) must be Capt. Gratman - with his face dyed. Then last night - at the Chamber Music (do you remember at Aunt Louisa's that day our discussion abt the Chamber pieces!)

Saint-Saens - the great french composer - who besides that is the greatest player I ever heard has Rubinstein (tho' probably he is not so many sided tho' he knew him as well) played - & has called back 9 times - & played 2 encores!! at the end of all things for the benefit of the Conservatoire who went utterly wild over him & (when he was here a month ago) sent him a testimonial!! When Saint-Saens drove away such a row you never heard - They wanted to take the horses out - & drag him home - luckily for him however (as he was undoubtedly hungry) his coachman drove on at the first cry of "Spanne die Pferde ab!!" While I have been sitting writing this letter at my window which looks out on the Promenade abt 100 yards away I've seen 3 dwarfs go by!! This will give you an idea of the number in Germany - Its horrid - well Mother darling - I've written 3 sheets to Aunt Susan & must shut up - dear love to all - Alas for Phillis she won't be my only joy any more now - but of course she must be used somehow.

Your ever devoted child

L Neal

m

Place de Repos Reppe Cgt III
Leipzig.

Nov.^r

My darling Mother

I write in deep woe! consequent upon a decision I have adopted feeling as conscious of its wisdom as of its unpleasantness. I found it absolutely impossible to get through more than 2½ or 3 hours piano per diem - with all the rest of my work & be close - specially now, when, as my cold is over at last, I am beginning singing lessons - & that entails at least ½ an hour of "a - a - a" all the way up the scale daily! I found that after the necessary work was done I had no time for composing - or worse still - after meal at strain all the day - no strength & application for composing - Even Reinecke advises the step that my beloved piano

masters is for ever urging that for a year I sh^d make the piano the first consideration (that is at least 4 hours of it per diem — more when I can) till I have got technik — For the acquiring of that ~~it~~ becomes harder & harder the older you get. whereas the mere fact of being here — & living a musical life makes the com posing spirit grow & way strong without your giving it any de- finite work to do as I to Paris arise sh^d have done. such as embarking on string quartettes — & things that want your whole time while they are in course of composition — Of course I am au- fully sorry — its like putting off a great treat for a year but

I am so convinced of the wisdom of the steps that my head controls my heart & I shall stick to my resolution - It is so absurd for a composer not to be able to read or play her own composition - & I am utterly incapable of anything of the sort - So I shall only compose when I can - that is when by a lucky conjunction of musical planets I can sit down with 3 or 4 hours before me & say "I'll be nothing particular to do" - a thing that I assure you has not <u>once</u> happened since the Conserv. opened. Thus it may be - I shall become a respectable player - Virtuoso <u>never</u> but one can do a great deal & give a great deal of pleasure tho far behind the Virtuoso point.

The weather here is - <u>beastly</u> - Leipzig mud is quite as bad as London ditto - in fact worse - as it's so clayey & slippery - I've

had my boots re-soled & can't help laughing at my clumsiness - But Codner's book never looks clumsy - under any circumstances - Poor Professor Brockhaus (brother of my friend) has died of that - horrible disease "trichineen" - caused by the existence of little animals in pigs - which (when the diseased pigs are made into a particular kind of sausage eat almost raw) remain alive in the sausage - & eat up the inside of the poor person who has taken that particular sort - with the Prof. they settled in his lungs & behind his eyes - so that he first became blind & then died a most painful death - there have been but two instances of death from trichineen - wh. is not generally dangerous - but lots of people are ill - luckily I hate that sort of wurst - & only tasted it once abt. 3 months ago - at which time the pigs were not infected - now no Schweinfleisch is eaten in Leipzig - we might be Israelites! The poor little Frau Prof. who is very

young & such a dear is almost broken-hearted - & my ~~[illegible]~~ Frau Brockhaus is awfully miserable - as the Prof. was her favorite brother in law. In fact everyone was devoted to him - I saw more of his wife than of him & am so fond of her - poor little thing - Well Mother darling I must close this for the present - Dear love to all at home - Nina has only written to me once since I have been in Germany!!

Your darling Mother

Your most loving child

Sidney

Sat. Night

(2)

Place de Repos
Frappe G. III
Dec: 14

My darling Mother - Your very dear welcome letter reached me safely - I thanked Mautro for it and, above all for Papa's very kind present - for such it is in reality - I would write to him myself, but as I must write to you about Pommers etc I will postpone my letter to him till next week - In my coming boy Mother darling one thing I sh^d be very glad of - that is a pair of lined warm dogskin gloves - with fur round them & springs instead of buttons - I can't get them here in Leipzig and never knew what it was to have really warm hands. Yet Willie Hunter presented me with a pair last winter - You can imagine how one prays for warm hands in vain for the Conservatorium! Now that the winter is coming on I go a great deal in Gesellschaft & find that far from making me disinclined to work it gives me a fresh impetus thereto - For of late I have been overworking myself a little & have in consequence been catching it from Frau Brockhaus & her Mother in law! Hearing so much music "greift - so furchtbar an" as they say here (a very pithy expression) - In these Gesellschaften one goes either in ordinary evening dress - or in a high dress - like the

Where are Bianchi & Gerville Réache?

linsaw & blue - Then the Ascot dress will be most useful - as it will be worn only by candlelight do you think the faded dress matters? - As it is so such a, to Germans, marvellous make, if you can not get it dyed in England without letting it to pieces they do them here whole very well & cheaply - Also Mother darling W.ᵈ you send one or two of my long petticoats - petticoat bodices I fancy I have with me - at the bottom of the box a - mong my summer things - If you can do send the Ascot dress with the other things as that will come in so useful - Towards Xmas darling Mother I feel Heimweh too & think oh so often of home & you all - I wish they'd be quick and set up a telephone between Damboro' & Leipzig! But the person who in Loengway tries to fill the place of Mother to me - Who interests herself for me & gives herself more trouble on my account than I can describe to you - Who scolds me & letts me I am hope - lessly childish & inexperienced - Who tells me what to do & what not to do - & who I do believe is getting fond of me - is Frau Edouard Brockhaus of whom I shall always speak as "Frau Doctor"

(Her husband is a B.A.) through her I have free entree into all the best houses in Leipzig & "move in the circles" (vide Calverley!) after a fashion that – w^d delight Herr Schlesser's heart!! But what I prize more than anything I get through her – is her friendship & guardianship – I can go to her beautiful house & sit there & talk to her whenever I have time – I tell her everything I have been after & whom I have seen – & she always tells me she feels responsible for me! I am indeed in luck to have her for a friend – Marie Geistinger has returned at last! I was told by a gentleman who had seen her arrival in Leipzig that she left the station in five cabs – one for herself & maid & dog & four others "Lauter Koffer"!! The expense can be of course! – The other day I met the director of the Stadt Theater & his wife (Great swells) at a party – & that's nice for they took a fancy to me, & I met all sorts of interesting people there – including the Geistinger –

I have just come from a quiet "Thee" with Frau Dr (it is Sat-y night 12 p.m. but on Sundays I sleep till I awake of my own accord) – On my return who do you think had called to see me when

I was out & gone away in grief as he was only passing thro' Leipzig - Heuschel! I am so savage - for I w^d so much have liked a talk with him & he w^d have sung to me & Frau Prof w^d at last have heard him - (which she w^d have given her head to do) & it w^d have been so delicious - It was most unlucky - but such things will happen in every day life - Thank you Mother darling so immensely for your photo of Hugo - most excellent - but what I want is one of my beautiful Mother - Today by Frau Dr B's desire I took her all the photos I have of my family - but you I wouldn't take as I do so hate to show people such a vile likeness - Any of my pictures w^d be welcome that wouldn't make the box too heavy - I rather wish I'd brought some with me at first - they make a room so much cosier - but as I shine all "besuch" from other girls - because it takes up so much time it doesn't matter - Next time I write I want to give you an account of a German Gesellschaft - I think you w^d be amused - it is so funny - I was so delighted with the Minister's reply to the Clergyman.! I don't see much of Alice's friends - they are an old lady & her daughter - very kind people - but they live such miles off! Her Mother darling I am indeed very comfortable - Ask anyone who knows Germany - about a

Before the Balls + Aldons costume

K/6 Place de Repos Treppe G

Leipzig

Dec/77

My own darling Mother

I have just discovered that all my writing papers r at an end so must write to you this the very few lines I have time to send today - I shall try & write again in the middle of the week - Thank you darling Mother immensely for your letter - About the importing of my box! - I don't know anyone now that W Ewing is not coming - or at all events not yet awhile - who could bring it - I

mean to send my Xmas
presents at Easter by the
two Scotch girls who will
be en route for Scotland -
About the quilt Mother
darling do you know it
would be no good - as
German beds have two lean
of bed clothes a featherbed
on the top of all things -
You have been various
thicknesses according to
the temperature of mine
is a beauteous big one
that hangs over on all
sides of the bed & keeps
me very warm - of course
on the top of that a

quill - would not - be much
use even if one wanted
extra clothing Wh. I really
do not - The Leipzig dress
makers do not understand
Princesse dresses (as I have
learned from one of the girls
here who ~~wanted~~ had one
made in fearful & wonder-
ful style). W^d it not
be better to have it made
at home (Mrs Aldons has
my measurements) &
altered ~~the~~ here? The
German ideas are so odd
& I know the whole thing
W^d just be spoilt - Fancy
Mr Napier & the General
the insubordinate cadet!
That was very unwise of her

but such stories as the for-
bidden door & the "go back
go back" I can't help enjoying
- for Mrs Napier is an original
& very clever - Such little
eccentricities are so characteristic
of the whole woman. I was
at a party at the others Broch-
hauses last night - They
live in the same house
as my B's - but upstairs -
Her house is more artistic than
my B's house even - & they
themselves too charming -
I can never be grateful enough
to Frau Schwabe for intro-
ducing me - I call Mrs
Ed. B. my German Mother -
She is awfully particular
exclusive & will know
everything I've been after

(2

& scolds & advises freely.
Much to the amusement of
her sister in law upstairs
(where I was last night)
who complains bitterly that
Mrs Ed. B. considers her
such a child (she is at
least 35) & keeps her in
such horrible order. Never

the less I love Mr Ed-B.
& finish it too dear of her to
bothers abt me - & say "she
"feels responsible for me"..!
I wish I c.d go there sometimes
but there's always such
a lot to do & much visiting
is out of the question - I
have ~~a~~ takes a passion
for a concert of Frau Ed B's.

Frau von Plagen - a very satirical
yet-miserably loveable woman
of 28 or 20 - who makes me
laugh my head off al-
most. Her wit is rather in
the style of Mrs Napiers only
more subtle & with a
more northern coloring of
fun. You know what I mean -
bless Mother darling! I
must shut up - Dearest

love & all more especially
your dearest self
from your most loving child
Sidney Otter

Violet does seem happy!
How abt the Governess -
Such a dear long letter from
Lt Higginson

Dec 77 Place de Regno

My darling Mother

About the balls (I am as a matter of fact writing at Frau Brockhaeuser) She just tells me that shortly are one or two Duellos coming - so I mentally note to you abt. costumes. For now Mother darling now unexpected this all is still going too on - & whether you approve of the extra expense it entails (tho as yet that extra expense is about 15/- at most) I don't know - So about these balls - the says Tam Dgo "recht nett" - Oh - means ausgeschnitten - or low body

My black dress will come in later very well - Tho' not quite fresh enough for the coming ball in a fortnight's time - Shall I have my green silk fresh done up & cut low - or shall I have a new body made low for at swell Soirées - Dancing - for balance - it will come in well. rd - w^d be rather a pity to spoil the body for such entertainments) - or shall I order a new white fluffy dress - very simple in Leipzig - It w^d not probably cost as much as a dito at M. Schelgrowes' - W^l you please Mother darling write by return to tell me what

bedo – for the ball takes place in a fortnight – and nearly a week goes in transmission of letters! Oh! for a telephone

Your dear letter arrived today but of course ~~I~~ this is no answer bit. Do tell me if you or Papa mind the balls going. For the present – good bye my own darling Mother

Your ever loving child

Ethelwyn

Sunday 16th Dec. Place de Repos Dreyfuss Cm III
Leipzig

My darling Mother - I've got such a lot to tell you I hardly know where to begin. (I mentally make a large blot down below by way of prologue!) I think I shall keep the best part - the musical - for the end & mentally launch into the dissipations I have been undergoing in - I think I have told you that my dear Frau Dr Brockhaus holds all Conservatists in greatest abhorrence & I believe she'd like me never to speak with any of them! However there I strike & say one must be friendly with the girls in one's class - well her great idea is that by planting me firmly in her society (& anyone pro-tected by her is always kindly treated) I shall escape the shoals & quicksands of Bohemianism in the Cons.re So then I have now been introduced to all the swells in Leipzig - yesterday I wound up with the Limburgers (German Consul) & Baroness Tauchnitz a dear very handsome old lady about as tall as Mrs Oswald Smith - In Consequence of this I got an invitation to "the Professorium" - an institution

I've written a long letter to Mary about the ball & stuff

tainment given by the Professors of the University. It consists in the following. You dress yourself as for a small dance in England (I had to put on my black & Indian scarf as the floor was said to be dirty & I didn't want to soil my green silk) - the proper thing is for all young girls to go in white, ~~with~~ & (bones red elbows, & all) "ausgeschnitten" - Fr. Dr. wanted me to do so - but I rebelled & said I couldn't turn German all at once - & that people wd say on seeing my black gown (quite unheard of for girls here!) "Eine Engländerin" & "pass on". Well - first of all you enter the ball room & find it filled with rows of chairs arranged in circles - & at the one end a little dais & thereon a table - when all have arrived one of the professors mounts the ~~stage~~ dais & delivers an address - sometimes long & stupid - sometimes (then for instance) short & sweet - After this is over a scene of the wildest confusion ensues - for suddenly - apparently from the bowels of the earth like the demons in the last act of Don Giovanni

the room is filled with waiters bearing long tables with which they "clear the course" - & then follows supper - It consists chiefly in "waiting for the next course" but is pleasant on the whole - When this is over the rooms are cleared & dancing begins - Everything is managed by an omnipotent "M.C." & the dance opens with a Polonaise - i.e. a long procession is formed two & two - & then off we go round & round the room describing all manner of "curious evolutions like a big sea - serpent. The Polonaise lasts till the band has had enough of it - & then comes a Walse! Oh Mother I could weep over this walsing - Any one of my partners w^d have been turned out of an English ball room as dangerous - for know how I like to dance - very very slowly & quietly in perfect time beginning at the beginning of the dance & going on to the end without turning a hair!! Well imagine the seized upon & whirled round the room often on the floor often in mid

air – never at a less rate than 16
miles an hour. Your partner hops
nearly up to the ceiling & unless
you want all your teeth knocked
out you must hop too – No sooner
have you painfully implored to
stop a minute – Man up comes
another gentleman & begs for an
"extra hop" – Off you fly again once
round the room – & are delivered
over by your original tormentor who
whirls you off again without further
delay – If another couple cross the
course – you promptly send them
spinning out of the way – (how
that used to annoy me at home
when any dancing partner did
such a thing – Here no one minds
aching shin bones bruised arms,
& loosened teeth (I declare mine
felt quite loose at the end of the
ball) – everyone bangs – pushes –
hops kicks & jumps with all
the good humor in the world. &
the rather elderly professors are
quite as "game" as the students –
well – after the waltz – come Qua-
drilles – (something like ours) Fy –

polieines (sort of Mazurka – where to hop up & the clouds is the thing) galops (where to shoot along the room straight forward as if you were straying is the thing) & polkas (where to behave as much like a dangerous lunatic as possible is the thing) – also 2 or 3 "Sing-geschobene" or extra waltzes are danced – I'm may ask did I, or did I not collapse completely before the ball was over! particularly when I tell you – that there is no refreshment table – & that it is only with great difficulty that you can procure a glass of raspberry vinegar (Wh I abhor!) – I sh^d certainly have collapsed did not my nationality come to my aid – It is quite unusual their rest between the dances – Directly the dance is over y. partner conducts you back to your chaperone – at that instant up comes your next partner & claims you – I'm then walk about for perhaps 10

minutes – no idea of sitting – "The Theory is that sitting makes you so tired!!" I pleaded honours that in England it was the custom & that I sh^d have to be borne home on a stretcher if I didn't sit!!! Next day I was utterly helpless!! So was Mr Forster. Have I spoken to you abt the Forsters? a young couple who are here for 2 years – She is a daughter of the celebrated Mr Burton – there a nie of Rt Browning (I pointed both out to you that night in Piccadilly St when Browning got in such a rage with the man who pushed) – Mrs Forster I often saw – she was there too & has a face one doesn't forget – Her husband is studying at the University here – & she amuses herself at the Conservatorium – She had a letter of introduction to Mrs Brockhaus also So I'm very jolly – we go about to these places a good deal together & are very fond of each other. Mrs Brockhaus declares that some balls are coming to which I must go ausgeschnitten – & ought to go in white – as I have

so white dress here I can't go in white but might have my two dresses - the black & green cut down low very tasty - qu'est-ce que tu dis?

I now have two Composition lessons during the week - Yesterday for the first time I took some things to Jadassohn (whose new Symphony has just been given in the Gewandhaus with much applause) I think I have told you there are but three ladies in the Cons. besides myself who compose - Well - Jadassohn just said that Henschel & the others said - It has come round to me that de gueis ont that I am the only really talented composer he has met in his whole life - All this makes it harder than ever to neglect my composition - but I mean to stick to it!!

Oh Mother darling I'll explain that "Technik" means simply simply "Execution" - ; that Coloratur is to singing - "Technik" is to playing "Vortrag" is the whole thing with more special reference to the interpretation you give of a piece -

-playing with expression - & judicious use of the pedal etc etc. Also my piano master is so pleased with me - I brought him a sonata of Beethoven yesterday & he said "it did me the greatest credit" - whereas "Quite good - Frl. Smyth" is much for him!" He further said - when I was deploring my weak fingers - that he cared not - they would never become strong - that he was well satisfied with the attention I had given to the position of my hand & the rudiments of technique - that he had great hopes of me. !!! I was so pleased! - I am in great excitement for my "bal" at home - I quite forget what sweeping dresses I had at home - If there are any in good repair - very good - for Frau B. has eyes like a lynx - discerned at a glance, Mother darling; - I think all my ball dresses were danced out!!! - Will you give Violet my best love. I'm afraid I can't write today - but I will in the week. I am much amused to see that - she - like everyone - old & young - has fallen into the toils of that fascinating Edith. I cannot tell Mr Spencer about the ball - Your devoted child Ethel Mary

before Xmas 47 9 Saturday W I

My own darling Mother - I have written in all 12 Xmas letters! (8 to home people.) & now as a bonne bouche write my letter to you - Mother darling I wish you knew how much I am thinking of you all - I don't think you've been out of my thoughts one hour ever since the Xmas season came in - & as Xmas day draws near I feel more & more the many miles there are between us - A very very happy Xmas to you Mother darling and a bright New Year - Your dear note announcing the ~~arrival~~ dispatch of the box just arrived - I will tell Frau B that you wd rather I did not go décolletée and I'm sure there'll be no difficulty about it - The beautiful white dress will do for Baroness Lauchnitz grand party on the 14th. It sounds much too good for a ball & certainly shall not be worn at one - And now I must forthwith plunge into what I think will please Papa immensely - Some time ago I found out that a good many Conservatorists who have excellent food & a room five times the size of mine - also not up 3 pair of stairs are paying 28

Thalers a month - i.e. £4.2. a month - £50.4.0. per annum - whereas I pay as you know 40 Thalers - i.e. £6 a month (rather more as a fact) & £75 a year!! - I didn't write about it at once as I thought the quarter having been paid in advance I'd better make all enquiries first - at all events secure ~~two~~ 3 points - that Mr. Burnand leaves in Feb 7 - that I get the Frau Prof's drawing room a very decent room - yet clear at the price - & that she promises I have no more gentlemen on pension - as here it is not convenable. Well - Mr. Burnand is also guardian - who like us - knew nothing of German ratio - pays also £75 a year & grumbles not thereat - If I departed in Feb 7 Mr. B w^d stay on half a year for certain - so all things considered the Frau Prof - who tho a dear old thing is but human & naturally wishes to get as much from people as she can (& small blame to her) Frau Prof considered it a better bargain to keep him - so with

real regret on both sides we decided it w^d be better that I leave on the 1st. I happened to mention to my piano master that I was leaving (all happened yesterday) & he instantly recommended another that he knows very well – I said "is it very uncommon" "The usual thing" he said "20 thalers" "a month !!!" – He said my paying £40 for my room here was a fearful swindle !! I instantly went to the pension – It is in the nicest part of Leipzig – just off the big Augustus Platz – 2 houses from a niece of Frau Brockhaus – & 2 streets from Frau B herself !! I liked the Frau & her wife tremendously & also the room I sh^d have – They have no gentlemen pensionats & no musical pensionats – Frau Brockhaus will come with me to look at it all next week & if she thinks it desirable I'd better close – You see here I pay £6.5 a month. There £4.14 so that will be a difference of £1.11 a month – & for the 6 months I shall be there before coming home (as a matter of fact it will be less of course)

Eg. 11. This as far as I can make out will possibly make my expenses less than £120 fixed upon (for otherwise I fear as I told Papa they might have been a little more) & the next year I'll course - very considerably less - What a pity one didn't know all this before! but one always is clever when first one comes to Germany. I naturally shan't get the extra good food I get here - such as continual marrow-bones - partridges - etc. but my work makes me hungry and I always eat well here. I'm very busy now over a four part chorale - any amount of contrapuntal theory - Reinecke himself got quite interested in one last Thursday - test me my work himself & I told you what I advised him (with whom I now also have ~~cont~~ composition lessons) said of me! - Fancy I am the only woman in the whole Conserv. who has ever been promoted to Comp. lessons from Reinecke.!! I only dately found that out - & feel 2 inches taller ever since.!!

You know Mother darling I am going to send my presents at Easter by the Birnings - but I can't resist dispatching a box of the wonderful German confectionery only to be got at Xmas - I will send a card day when it is sent off - if I send it by rail etc - But I think an English friend of Mrs Forsler's is going here at once & will take it for me - I shan't tell you what they are! (Except that they are mostly marzipan - or whatever you call that stuff that tastes like the almond on wedding cake) but tho' they look too awful - fear not! They are from the renowned Wilhelm Felsche - Hof Conditorei - in Berlin (to the German Emperor) Vienna (to the Austrian) Dresden & Leipzig (to the Sayon King) & so on - more renowned than Fortnum & Mason! But as soon as you've tasted them you'll know if they are good or not! Anything more exquisitely made I never saw. Well Mother darling at all events I shan't have a dismal Xmas - for tomorrow (It's holidays now!)

I spend most of the day at the Ed. B's. helping to decorate the tree & prepare the colossal festivities for Monday! As far as I can see German Xmas more than comes up to our idea of it – particularly in a family like the B's. There are abt 50 non-children – grandchildren & nièces & nephews. On Xmas day I sat a quiet English dinner with the Dorsters – (I have described it in one of my letters to the children) & on the "Zweite Feier-Tag" (Wed-y) I go to the R. Brockhaus's to see their "Be-scheerung" as the whole affair is called there will be a great "set-out" as Mrs Burrell w'd say – tho' none but relatives are in-vited – as the B's, being an old Leipzig family – are con-nected with other principal fa-milies here – so there'll be a goodly lot of people there. I've been studying the Rondo in my first-

Sonata (yours) at last have managed to master it after a fashion — as I suppose I shall have to play something — that's a "taking" sort of thing. You will be pleased to hear that despite my musically unorthodox tendencies — the first violin in the Gewandhaus orchestra, old Röntgen, said "that Rondo Mozart is so pure & fresh, & It's almost unlike it was Mozart!!!"

I have set my pet poem of Shelley

"My soul is an enchanted boat —
"which, like a sleeping swan doth float
"Upon the silver waves of thy sweet singing.
"And thine doth like an angel sit
"Beside the helm conducting it
"Whilst all the winds with melody
are ringing" etc

But am not satisfied with it (as is Jadasohn!). It's hard to write up such words! Tomorrow we shall be skating. Last night there were 20 degrees of frost & all day there have been 10° but the German police are really too cautious — However everyone says this frost

will last as it came so gradually - I am getting accustomed to the weather but a few days ago suffered much from the cold outside - My nose seldom has any feeling in it out of doors!! but as I take no wine & only one glass of beer a day & cups upon cups of good coffee it's never red.!!
Baroness Dauchnitz informed Mr Ed. that I had such a sweet speaking voice!!!!!!!! Quite something new!! I am much surprised about the second prize in the Essay Club.!! I hardly ever wrote for it!! - Last year cer-tainly not more than 3 essays (instead of 6.!!) However it's a very delightful surprise!! Well my own darling Mother I must be closing this or it won't get to you on Xmas day - those dear children! I will write & thank them for their dear contributions to my boîte when it comes - My darling Mother I wish I wish &c. I could write you for Xmas - but it's no good wishing what can't be! and all the telephones in the world couldn't bring me nearer to you than I shall be in thought all next week -

Your ever devoted child

Ethel

after Xmas 94 r Place de Trepos W II

Dieppe G III

Friday Night.

My own darling Mother - words won't express my delight when I opened my box and found all the dear presents from you all - I don't think I ever saw anything more lovely than the dress Miss Aldous made - and the excitement it caused at the Douane (where of course the box was disembowelled) was great - "Herr Je!" "Sei-Bruigen wir - S'nicht!!" was the exclamation of the man! I was so amused! I am going to wear it tomorrow - & a better opportunity could not be found - It is a sort of "Thee" at Frau Dr B's - very swell, & after that a little dancing - of course in Frau's "Saal" which is as clean as scrubbing & polishing can make it - It will be very much seen & not get dirty - I think I shall wear some dark green silk shoes I have with me with it - as I haven't any yellow. They will "repeat" the embroidery & are English & of a pretty shape! Round my neck a single string of pearls & some twined in my hair. I am awfully proud of myself in it. I tried it on today at the dressmakers

who will make the skirt of my other dress & make up the Ascot dress when it's dyed - It fits very well - a little narrow across the chest (that can be let out tho') & ~~off~~ about a foot too long in front!!! However that doesn't matter! The gloves are so comfortable & he frames me every thing I wanted. I am writing to that dear girl Alice & thank her. The mince pies taste splendid - & are much appreciated by Frau Prof. & her cousins who were wild to ~~have~~ taste "Englische Mienspie" - (all one word) - The dear children's sweets are also much appreciated - Somehow or other I don't buy many sweets in Leipzig - Most of my cash goes to music & the theatre (wh. latter is not an essential - I always pay for myself!!) Our holidays last till Wed. next - However I began composing a new Sonata yesterday - & mean to finish writing out the Jesu-Sonata tonight - as naturally Miss Hopekirk can't play it till I've done so - but it's a fearful business - the last movement - I'll never write

anything in C♯ minor again! The slightest modulation – even into the rest. Key (G♯ minor) involves no end of double sharps – & the writing out is simply fearful!.. The second movement is undoubtedly the best thing I've done yet – tho' Reinecke will persist in saying the third is "better work"!! But really with skating & Xmas week together I'm perpetually on the go – I've been skating hard – & you will be happy to hear, am the best lady skater in Leipzig – I never saw anything like the women here – very few can do the outside edge – & as for cutting figures!!..... The German gentlemen are much struck of course – and think the English women a more wonderful race even than they did before! I think somehow or other I have improved very much in my skating – though I've not skated for the last 2 months, seeing that we had no ice at home! I go practise when the pond is empty – at 9. a.m. & can do lots of queer things now – today tho' I had an

awful fall - Going backwards - my skate got firmly fixed in a crack - & the bang I came on the back of my head is easier imagined than described - I somehow I shan't skate at all - because of the dance - & the frost will certainly last some time longer - At present three very nice English men from Cambridge are here learning German - I meet them at the Broekhausers on the ice - One is a Mr. Bull - son of one of the head masters at Harrow - the other a Mr. Weldon - & the third a little Mr. Bruce - brother of Lord Elgin. The Dorsten are very kind to them - & as far as I can, I try to be too, as the wretched creatures must be fearfully out of it here - I too don't talk German at all !! - The "Bescheerung" at the dear B's. was delightful - a very long table in the "Saal" with 10 Xmas trees on it and all the presents (I got one too! a dear little Lapis lazuli box) arranged underneath. The amount of things each child or grown up got was marvellous to behold. But of course the presents

were not very magnificent – not (?
all at least – The next day I had great
fun at the Rudolf B's (up above the
Ed. B's.) They had a sort of dinner
at 1.30 only relatives invited &
see their Beschreerung – except the
fascinating M. Lombard. Who lives
at present with the Ed. B.'s, & a young
Swiss who is staying there I was the
only stranger & foreigner – After din-
ner – we all went into the smoking
room (generally in German
Houses, the last of a suite of 4 or
5 so that one can wander in & out
at will) & according to student fashion
each one sang a song followed by
chorus! – I had to ~~direct~~ conduct – & was
given the feather broom (with which
the Italians curiosities I told you at-
are devoted) as Bâton! Afterwards I
went down quietly to the Ed B's. & we
did music – Both the elder sons who are now
home on leave are very musical
– respectively sing bass & tenor
& play Violin & Cello – we did
Haydn's trios and sang Quartettes
of Mendessohn & Schumann by at-
sight – & I sang with obligato accomp.

& altogether it was very nice — That's what is so nice abt Germany — Almost everyone you meet — can take ~~sing~~ a part in a vocal quartette.

I wish you & Frau Brockhaus knew each other — she is such a dear woman — & now as I get more & more into German ways & ideas, & she has less to tell me & correct in me — I get fonder & fonder of her. She is very musical in an executive way — but doesn't go in for being much of a musical critic & connoisseur. I'm rather sorry ~~she~~ Frau B. & the Forsters don't hit it off so very well — Mrs F is a great dear, but a little heavy & wanting in a most essential point — social — latent — I mean she doesn't help to make a party go off well — & tho' she enjoys herself thoro'ly — doesn't manage to produce that impression." I see Frau B. is a little impatient of that particular failing as she herself is so very much the other way. Mr Forster is gearfully English & finds very little here to his taste — & tho' I ~~much~~ he tries

hard to be very cosmopolitan, he can't help showing some of the "Oh! bother! let's go home"! sort of feeling that he feels him so continually! I'm very glad I am of a plastic nature – as plastic natures seem to get so much more fun out of life than stolid ones. The other night I went to see a splendid rendering of Hamlet – The Foreigners who have seen Irving & Salvini therein were too surprised for words at the wonderfully good rendering of the play to be got in a place like this – whereas in London they said there was simply no comparison between Irving & our Hamlet here – a not particularly renowned player – in fact not at all renowned – I suppose in every town where there's a good theatre I could get ~~one~~ a nearly as good a Hamlet – Then all the ~~one~~ other parts were so faithfully – so painstakingly done – & the play so beautifully translated (Schlegel I know) The King & Queen were admirable particular the latter (Leistinger did not play tho') & the Gravediggers inimitable – tho' I know that scene

suffers in the translation! Why
oh why can't we get such actors in
England? Tomorrow I shall see Faust
("Hamlet" does Faust himself -
& the wonderful young actor who
played Richard III vs Mephistopheles.
- As for "Grelchen" - they say she is
absolutely ideal! I'm wild to see
Faust - & they say it is better
done here than anywhere in North
Germany. My own darling Mother -
Your dear dear letter made me so
happy & also the other things -
I think & think always of you all at home
& what you are doing & want so fearfully
to be with you. For that reason I shall
be glad when the Xmas time & holidays
are over & I can shall settle down
with renewed ardour to my work -
Dear love to all at home specially
yourself darling Mother & to dear Bob
for whose card many thanks

Your ever devoted child

Ethel

5

Place de Repos Dreppe Gm
Leipzig 13th Jan 7

My own darling Mother.

The great event has happened and I can tell you about it - You know my passion for Brahms (who wrote the Liebeslieder Wälzer & the Hungarian Dances) - & you whose string quartette I played that night at the Concerts in town - & with whose name I many things. "The 3rd great B" (Bach, Beethoven & Brahms!!) - well when Joachim came here - what did the dear man do but give me a letter to B, his greatest friend & say I was to quietly here with a couple of songs or so & introduce myself with his letter. I went accordingly - for Brahms has been 10 days in Leipzig - but at the door my heart failed me, naturally enough - as it did when first I went to the Fleischinger! - I left the note & music - & fled - without leaving my card! A fool - wasn't I! but the one occasion upon wh my stout heart fails is when I am about to be face to face with some great one of art!! - Well - In a three

days after Herschel came ~~Hebler~~ again & asked if I'd been there – I confessed my illness – was chided by Herschel who said he sh^d probably see B. once more that day before he left Leipzig & he'd see what could yet be done – next day I got a frankie & note say that he had been there (& where Brahms ~~had~~ was playing – the Von Herzogenbergs – he is a great musician and director of the Bach Verein here – she – a daughter of Baron Stockhausen and awfully musical & lovely! He said also, old Wenzel – (Frau Schumann's lover 50 years ago – & a director of the Consers.) was there – that they had all been talking about me – that Frau Von H. had said she had heard so much of a certain English Girl who had composed 2 sonatas & lots of songs – was I that girl? & that anyhow I was to go & Wenzel after the Gewandhaus rehearsal & he introduced !! Imagine my feelings! Anything

dearer than B was you can't imagine
- he said he was so much interested
in a lady who wrote Sonatas before
she had mastered counterpoint
and why had I not left my card
that he could have searched me
out? I said I thought he'd be busy
- "not at all!" said he "und wir
"hatten so schön zusammen musi-
"ciren können!" Finally he said
he sh^d soon be in Leipzig again
and I was just to come to him with
all my comps! But he said no
word about the songs - & I thought
he'd probably had no time or in-
clination to look at them - two -
feel uncomfortable if I asked after
them - so I said nothing - Well -
the other day I met Frau Röntgen
(I think I have spoken of them -
he is 1st Violin in the Orchestra
& the son a composer) - said she
"I congratulate you" - I asked why -
"Well" sd "after the ~~Brahms~~ Rehearsal
I saw Brahms & he told me
abt you & asked if I knew you -
I said "oh yes" & what had

he thought of the songs. "Oh" said he - "I could see after a glance thro' them that they're not by her - but Heu-schel!!" - Frau R. assured him they were by me and that I written others just as good - He was much astonished & said he must look at them again - After the concert next-day she met him again & he at once said "Well - I can hardly believe the young lady wrote those!" "Songs - Oh - absolutely astonishing etc.!! Imagine darling Mother my feelings!! & there he comes here again!!!..... I am sublimely happy!! I am writing a strong Gearstecke hon - very difficult? I took the first movement & I adassohn - the 2 very much pleased. I am much done up - having work at nights at my canons & composing! - & so there's ice I swagger thereon for 2 hours every morning! The Swanenhaus ball was grand fun - very swell / the wife of the Castellan of the Conser-vatorium had charge of the

ladies room, & the respect I am now treated with by the menials & officials in the Convent is most pitiing - The day after when I "resumed my studies" - all those I met inquired with great em-pressement if I had found it "agreeable"! The worst of it is that "noblesse oblige" & I have to be much more particular in all things - dress etc & than when first I came - In fact I try to be as "convenable" as I can - & it's no joke here for the people are awfully particular & never would excuse a faux pas on the score of the sinners nationality as I think we ~~[illegible]~~ do in England - I think Frau D. must feel the latter a responsibility - as firstly I am English, & secondly - I suppose, on the mere fact of the passion that brings me here, not quite like all girls - But I take a real pleasure in pleasing her

& now she calls me "Du" and
is very dear altogether -
The Forsters have gone Dresden
till the University term begins
but there are some very nice Scotch
people here - Raeburn by name
- I fancy economising in Leip-
zig - I suppose they are all right
as they are friends of the irreproachable
& Honorable Mr. Bruce who is just
now in Leipzig learning German -
I'm going to Schengrün with them
tomorrow - after spending the af-
ternoon probably in weeping bit-
terly - for I am going see Marie
Geisinger as Princess Eboli in
Don Carlos - & that's awfully
touching I fancy - The sweet
creature, has been ill again
& plays for the first time tomorrow -
Fancy setting in a boy in
Germany - right in the stage
for 1/- !!! However it's only
sometimes (in the afternoon)

that one can do that – Now that I am accustomed to them I say unhesitatingly that German beds are the most comfortable in the world in the winter – if you're a quiet sleeper – Sponge underneath & feathers (not too many) on the top of you & glory – The whole River is frozen over & we are going to make a party and skate down to Connewitz a village it is 5 miles from here – don't it be fun? Frau B. & other Elders drive down – meet us there – & we all take tea together at a hotel – but I doubt whether this place will come off – Such of the great lasts. Skating parties never do come off some how – Well Mother darling as I must be writing to Papa & the girls I'll shut up. If now you'll be rejoiced over this letter! I want awfully

I know when the Woods go if they go. I'm in despair abt it. If its fixed I shall write off at once Mrs W. dearest love dearly my mothers to all, specially your self from

Your most loving child

Ethel Mibray

t 24 Jan 1878

Jan 28 1878.

Place de Repos
Troppe G III
(last but one)

telegram for Sunday without fail

Mrs Frank Shell

My darling Mother.

I must only write a very short note as I've got to prepare —

This was begun yesterday before I suddenly came to the conclusion that it wd be more satisfactory to write a proper letter today & despatch a post card yesterday - Mo-ther darling — I've got any amount of time for I'm not to work at all for a week - & only in moderation after that - It was the rushing about after pension that chiefly did me up - also the amount of night work I got through - But now I am happy to say, I have a fixed home next to Frau Dr B. Is-nt that nice! - She will watch over me with a dragon's eye & keep me in excellent order - she says! - However I'm very tame just now so she don't have much trouble with me!

I've nothing much to do & read all day nearly when I'm not out – Also visit the Feistingers occasionally at her own house – for alack I am forbidden theatre by the Doctor! – & I really think I may in time make her rather fond of me in a sort of way – tho' I don't think she cares much for anything except her art as far as I can make out. Your letter of today telling me about the Fancy Ball was <u>most</u> thrilling! What wo'd I have given to have been there! However this X mas I have had to go in so strongly for <u>applied</u> philosophy that I'm quite a proficient thereat now! The barrister bore my boy of sweet stuff to London last Monday – tho' as he was a busy man & lives at the Corner of Grt Cumberland Place I thought I'd better select Lorie's

as a place for him to leave it at & be picked up by the first member of the family that goes to town. I also wrote a note to Louise explaining what it was etc. I wonder if you'll like it! One can't say much at a time tho'!! I am so much dis-tressed that I can't go on working away at my string quartette. My master was so pleased with the 1st movement. He's been telling lots of people about it & there it lies & I haven't the faintest inspiration how to go on with it!! Mahler to his Feelings! Forever inspiration is a thing that comes & goes like the wind & one hasn't the remotest idea when & where it will spring up. The whole "Direction" has been thrown into the greatest consternation. Tomorrow at the Gewandhaus Concert Frau Schumann was to have played — celebrating her 50th "Jubilaeum" as they call it — in these concerts. (She is 64 & played first when 14!) Yes-terday came a telegram to say she was so ill & nervous that Brahms &

Joachim had persuaded her she
was not fit to play & that she had de-
cided to play no more this season!
She is not going to England either –
Goodness everyone knows what it will be –
She will never play again in public
– How glad I am you heard her last
Year! as I'm afraid you will never
have another chance – The consider-
ation of the Gewandhaus Direction
may be imagined – for she was to have
played Schumanns Concerto – and
lots of little things – However luckily
the Lieder Singer par excellence in
Germany – Frau Marian, sang here
last concert & is still in Leipzig –
so they've persuaded her to fill up
the gap – well Mother darling – This
is a very stupid letter – but I'm
feeling more stupid than words can
say – very cross with Dr Laughein
& the world in general – I hope Papa
got my last letter & will soon act
upon it! for in tomorrow week I
leave this dear place; after next
Sunday I'll give my new address.
Goodbye my own darling Mother – Dearest
love to all – & a long letter to Violet – in

Place de Repos of last letter there
end Jan. 78

My darling Mother.

I got your note two mornings – & yesterday postcard – for which many thanks – I went see the Dr – Yesterday he says I am a little better but puts me under a fearfully strict regime which I am following to the letter. It seems that I may go in for almost anything bodily – for instance (skating is no more – for the present) I am to walk for an hour in the morning – ditto in the aftn (to make me thoroughly tired & bring sleep) – I may skate (if skating comes) & if I am invited by eleven dance!! but as no dances w.d be worth going to I fore comes away at 10.30 of – course I don't go then I have a chance – wh. is but seldom –

But I may only work 2 hours a day at present!!! including piano playing & writing work! He wanted me not to work at all but I said 2 hours can hurt no one. I am not to go into the theatre for 2 months - either to plays or operas - to read no exciting books - to go to no concerts (here I struck again as I am "abonirt" to - i.e. have season tickets for the Gewandhaus & Euterpe Concerts) - to do no thing I don't feel disposed to - to go only where I want when I want - above all not to touch coffee - perhaps for 3 months - to drink tea à la Bob at breakfast on milk - of course you see what is wrong with me - nerves. He says I have been trying my nerves fearfully in addition to the natural strain I put upon them by just existing in a musical ~~town~~ like Leipzig - & had I put off coming to him a month later might have been laid up for months - as it is - if I rigidly follow all

his instructions he says he will probably soon be able to mitigate my sentence - the drugs wh. knocked me up were night-composing - & extensive coffee-drinking days. I keep myself awake - as you know I go into the new pension on Friday next - & never meant dear-ly on my evil ways longer than the 1st Feb-y, where complete emancipation from other music in the house will enable me to work in the day - I fancied I could hold out till the 1st as it appears I concedu't. It is fearful not being able to get on with my work - but that won't last more than 2 or 3 weeks - my masters have given such reports of my progress etc to the Director that I feel no anxiety on the score of what they say - of course piano as the least important of all my studies will be the one to suffer from my sickness - as that one does by oneself whereas in

Counterpoint - I am member of a class & its such a bore if one gets behind hand - After a week rest I am already feeling another being & sleeping so much better - Of course just now a whole course of Schiller & Lessing Plays are on - with Geislinger playing - & of course Schott the great tenor from Hanover is giving all Wagner's heroes one after the other - That's just the way of the world - Among other worries is the following - I told you that several very nice Englishmen are in Leipzig - & that as they form a sort of colony - and are commanded by Mr & Mrs Forster - & Mr & Mrs Raeburn I have lots of opportunities of meeting them at afternoon tea & where there was skating - on the ice - one of them - Who as I thought had as purely a platonic affection(?) for me as man can

have for woman — founded on a curious similarity of ideas on many subjects & dissimilarity on others — (mostly philosophical) leading to many & many a pleasant argument & fight together — This man — the nicest of the whole bunch ~~to~~ demanded an interview with me & proposed to me the other day — Such madness I never heard of — "What" — I asked him — "did he think of my frequent assertions that until I found I have failed in art I won't marry — if then!" I suppose he thought it was but talk! I can't tell you how the whole affair has vexed me — I have seldom met a man I respect & like more — & never seen

anyone so cut up as he is -
(or was two days ago for I don't
mean to see him again.) I do
not as a rule believe that
it lies in a man's nature "not
to get over" any thing of that
sort - but knowing this one well
as I do - I know he is in a bad
way over it - And then he
has behaved throughout in
such a gentlemanly considerate
& flattering brave way - that
I could beat myself for
bringing it all on him -
I ought like for once to make a
flirtation man in earnest
& then show him the door -
but with a man who is just
the opposite of it so different
& I don't know when I've
been so sorry worried at

anything – However he goes
away in the middle of Feb.y
so we all right so far –
I receive daily fresh tributes
from all the musicians I
meet to my talent & feel
extra bitterly just now when
I am lors de combat – the
years of study that are re-
quired to mature it – &
wonder often if it will
stand the strain – I
hope & ~~think~~ so –
Well Mother darling – I
have yet to write to Wolter
& Mary so will bring this
to a close – I've just received
a present anonymously
of 3 beautiful flowers in
pots – & am sure they

are not from 'im' Great
Statesmen! Who are they from
then - Goodbye my darling
Mother -
Dearest love to all spe-
cially yourself from
Your ever loving child
Mendy Ss.

P.S.
I do hope my letter to Papa
reached what funds are
en route - It will be too
unpleasant to go penniless
into a new pension -
My address henceforth is
Salomon St. 19.
That is easy remember! Solomon
spelt with an "a"!

1st franked

a (after j)

Salomon St 19. ~~Place de Repos~~ ~~Dappel C.~~ III.

Feb 2nd 78

My darling Mother. I'm writing Sunday. day instead of Sunday or at all events an account concerning the Sunday letter because I want to ask you about my two Spring dresses which have just come back from the cleaners - The stuff part of both looks very well - The good old grey really very nice and the green, tho. was not so far, some nicer. But the silk "facings" of both are in a very bad way. The grey is naturally smudgy looking and worn & frayed not only at the edges but in the middle - The green silk has turned a sort of dark blue & looks as if it were wet - very shiny - Both have as you know but little trimming on - So had I not better give them the freshly done up - The green might do as it is - but the grey is hardly wearable - yet the rest of it looks so well that I think it's quite worth new facings —

Will you please Mother darling send me a post card to say if you agree – I could have it done at home so it would not cost more that. The silk's price and 2/- for the work – If you dont like that I need not wear the grey at all – wear my green every day and taking the lace and frillings off my beautiful Raisin de Corinthe turn it into an afternoon dress: But it w^d really be a pity – as it will come in so well at home for dinner parties etc etc –

Such glorious weather – warm as in May & no rain – How slowly July 1st approaches!

Yes Mrs shall be but an avant coureur – to write for next letter to me in French – I can't speak one word of French now! German words will come

& come so naturally that I dont perceive it – the other day I said to the astonished Frau Dr. "Il est déjà forte" (Er ist schon fort!) & absolutely didnt know how to correct myself when I perceived I had made a mistake!

Adieu darling Mother dear love to all –

Yours ever in particular from your devoted Child

Ethel McDermott

Early Feb 78

Salomon Str. 19 / 6

My own darling Mother - Thank you very much for your jolly letter and for the card received this morning - I don't think really I need have the green dress made up, as there are no occasions on which I c^d wear it after Easter - and if I can hold out till then it w^d be only a needless waste of 10/- or 20 - nicht wahr? - I will have the dyed made up then - have in a good dressmaker at 2/- a day - & I'm sure she c^d make it in two days - so that w^d not cost 4/- other meals extra (as I pay lower pension here) but they wont be ruinous - Later on I must send my grey spring dress to be cleaned again, and also the green check - The doctors bill will not be great. They charge a Thaler 3/- for coming to see you - & of course less (I'm not sure what - probably 2/-) if you go & see them (wh I've done). I've now seen him 3 times. He told me the day before yesterday to go & see him again in a week or 10 days but I am so much better (owing I'm sure more to the exercise of good Feat than the tonics I drink) that I shant go again for 3 weeks or so & then pay him a farewell visit - say Goodbye I hope to the tonic (wh is beastly) & request to have the bill sent in. The last tonic of wh I had 3 bottles was

only 6½ d a bottle - The new one - wh. is stronger is more expensive & in smaller bottles costs in fact 1/- a bottle - & that I disapprove highly - He makes me walk twice a day; never mind if I'm very tired when I come in - then I am to lie down - The principle is to produce appetite & sleep - & I must say the result is - both in large measure - But as soon as I am quite myself again I can't carry on that joke longer - as when I come home I am seldom up to head work - What he seems to think was very injurious to me was the practising 4 & 5 hours a day. He says that the cerebral excitement incurred by composition & working theory - must tell upon you physically - & that I ought improve myself seriously by practising so hard. I replied that nearly all composers are virtuosi also - His reply is that they being men that's quite a different thing. So now I may but practise 1½ or 2 hours per diem - I thought as I was there I might as well be sounded - He says just the same as Mr. Fry ~~says~~ said a year

ago - that the left lung (where I had the old pain) is tender & that I must take care - but there is nothing to be anxious about - I have made the acquaintance of a family after whom I have looked & longed ever since I have been in Leipzig - the Klengels - such a family I never met - the eldest & second sons play respectively 1st violin & cello in the orchestra and are quite the 1st virtuosi on their instruments in Leipzig - bar the 1st par excellence - who lead the orchestra (Röntgen & Schröder) - the 3rd son - at present serving his three years in the army (but luckily in a regiment at Leipzig) plays a very fair 2nd violin - & the father viola - one daughter plays magnificently & the other sings very well tho' the voice is not admirable - Yesterday I went - quietly to tea there at 8 - & had glorious music - quite the ideal thing one reads of in books - Beethoven Trios & Quartettes - Brahms - Klengel (for the father must have been a wonderfully talented man - composed lovely things - but was tied down by his parents to study - for he was very gifted & is now one of the heads of the university - so his talent never matured.) I think if ever I run a

risk of being spoiled it is when I get among real musicians – Do you know Mother darling you'd hardly believe how it's – I never have met a real musician here, that he has not said to me & (what is more) of me – that such a talent never was before in woman's shape – Everyone seems to have heard of me – so many get me introduced to them & go on at the same thing – I have singing my songs everywhere (my voice is in very good form at present for it!) But do you know I never felt more utterly hopelessly distrustful of myself – & ashamed of myself than I do now – I can hardly help saying straight out in peoples faces what I do say in so many words "Oh yes that's all very fine – but the question is will my talent stand cultivation." Years only can prove that question – for till one is through one's studies & has all one's material there one cannot tell if one has profited by those studies & can one shape that material.

But I fear Frith, I wish Mother could see me here – not at home in England – where every musical composing goose is a swan – but here – where the air we breathe is music and every friend a critic en civile! I think you w^d be pleased! – Well – I leave that old subject – I'm delighted with my little room – It is very cosy & comfortable & oh so quiet – just 10 minutes from the Conservatorium. The Brockhauses had an evening party and dance last Friday – but I was wise and left after supper – resisting steadily to dance, because of my cold & also because I don't care abt being up late. Tell I'm quite well – I had a very hard cutting letter from Hugo – more unjust than he has any idea of – But I know the feeling that prompted him to write (tho' not the scoffing tone he drifted into) was worthy – so owned my answer sh^d

be very moderate. I showed it before I dispatched it to a very impartial judge — wh. was wise — nicht wahr? bei Mamas darling — for the present goodbye. Two things — Name for yr. the sweets I sent — bonnies — & do you like them? — I heard of their safe arrival there from the man who took them — Do send me Yours soon. Dearest love fr. yrs devotd

Ethel

Monday Feb 18 Salomon Street 19.

My own darling Mother – a thousand thanks for your very jolly welcome long letter – which interested me all the more that I waited four days for it – Also the specs I am very thankful for – the difference it makes writing with specs is quite remarkable – of course my music pens are very thin and make holes in the paper & jib just as one is coming to the catastrophe! – Alice wrote me a nice letter about Henschel – I am so glad she liked him, because that means they do liked her! I believe some people don't like him – and I can just see in his manner to Mekla Friedländer (they hate each other like cat & dog) that if he disliked a person he might very possibly be disagreeable! Indeed Mother darling you must make his acquaintance when I come home – He means to be bold me, stay this year in England (London of course) so nothing will be easier. I shall enjoy seeing you hear him for the first time (for he is at his best when sitting at the piano in a drawingroom & singing away song after song – from Lotti & Pergolesi down to "Henschel" & Brahms!! – He is also a very genial man & b. enjoy putting off the mantle

of his artistic greatness & doing the Sheils in a country house – playing lawn tennis – & above all he is most anxious I have riding lessons in London !!! The programme for me for my mother darling when I come to England is first that I shall like – Nothing will be more beneficial than a musical pause! The only thing that I regret so much is that all the castles in the air I build about becoming a piano virtuosa are dashed to the ground – for I must naturally give most of my time to study & some to composition – & if that is the case I can't manage much practising – I now do an hour a day only (of practising) and at present the doctor holds out little hope of allowing me more time – I have just been made very happy by casually hearing the following. I told Jim that Reinecke is a very neutral sort of man – too much taken up with his 11 children, his orchestra & his composing to be very keen about his pupils – that I thought he was better pleased if one brought him 6 pages of work than 12! Well – I found out yesterday that he has been telling two or three people

instinct impudence (whereupon of-course Reim came straight to me repeated it) that I am a "Genius" & the most talented lady musician he had seen met! I don't believe in talking of a ~~lady~~ Genius of 19. She may have a great talent - but as to the Genius - that remains to be proved! Still I have been more pleased than I can say - for I had quite made up my mind that Reinecke didn't interest himself much in me - & was rather piqued thereat for he was the first musician I had met who failed to do so!! - People spoil me a good deal - Everyone after doing it says "I'm afraid you'll get terribly spoiled - everyone talks of you & wants to know you!!" However I never felt less like spoiling as I very seldom meet anyone who, to my idea, appreciates one for ones best musical capacities - but rather because I sing my most taking songs in what they call a taking way - I've lately taken a dislike to my voice & mean not to sing for some time. I went yesterday to a quiet meal at the old Baron Tauchnitz - what they distinctly call "Ein einfaches Mittagessen um sechs ~~Uhr~~ Uhr!!" - The simple meal generally consists of about 10 courses and any number of guests between

15th 40. Holiday however it really was quiet – no one being invited but the married couple & 3 officers from the Castle. But the family party is huge numerically & physically – The old Baron (only about 50) is a very dear handsome man of 6 ft 1. His wife must have been very handsome – much in the style of Mrs Hunter but with a beautiful figure – She is 5 ft 10. The son – the young Baron, with a lovely wife just like a pretty English woman is 6 ft 2. Fräulein v Tauchnitz – Who for unknown causes has remained single and must now be close on 40 – is 6 ft & a half and rich and one of the most fascinating women I know – always dressed in black velvet high to the throat & splendid lace – & white face and golden red hair tumbling about all over the place – Then comes a granddaughter of 5 ft 10. also red haired – & very pretty aged 17 – The young Baronin has a lovely or loveliest smile, a young widow of 25 – Frau Lampe – I am in love, madly madly & collectively with the whole Tauchnitz family & rejoice to think that I am young

& the young Baroness' on Friday next –
Sarasate is here again playing quite divinely
I was asked yesterday by Frau Consul
Limburger to go to dinner at 1.30 there
to meet him en petit comité – but I had
promised Frau Dr Brockhaus to go &
sing alto in the Liebeslieder Walzer
at her house (generally go & musicise
mildly there on Sundays) – But I was
sorry not to have met Sarasate – I
wonder if you ever heard him? I think
his technique is surer than either
Joachim or Wieniawski – & his tone too
perfect for words – The other day I went
to have a look at an opera bouffe they
have here wh. has been very successful
in Paris (& is quite the stupidest thing
I ever saw – nothing pretty in it) called
"Madame Drannette et Drannelon" – Just
imagine – on the steps I met Herr Ro-
mann, Marie Leistinger's husband,
waiting for his wife who wanted to see
the thing (did I ever tell you that
she – perhaps the greatest tragedian
on the German stage – was, according
to Offenbachs verdict, the greatest
soubrette singer & player that ever
lived – some 10 years ago! She cer-
tainly is a marvellous woman – As
the German dramatist Gotschall
says – such a curious turn in art
has surely never taken before –

that the celebrated personifier of "La belle Hélène" - the most frivolous of heroines, sh.° now be playing "Iphigenia auf Tauris" - "the noblest of all heroines!) well - she asked me to come into their box - & I did so & had a "good time" there - tho' the piece was stupid - & I think all the 3 sonbrettes who gave respectively Jeanne Jeannette & Jeanneton, spying the Ex-Queen of the German Opera Bouffe in the stage box, lost their nerve and didn't do themselves justice! -
My adorer is leaving Leipzig on Wednesday & is in depths of woe & begs for a few minutes after the Euterpe Concert tomorrow to say farewell in. I hate farewell scenes of the kind and think them so stupid & useless. However when I come home you must make my adorer's acquaintance - I think you'll like him - everyone does - and he's been so nice every since the unlucky day last month when I had to say him nay - just jolly & friendly - for I see him often at the Klengles (where he lives) and Haebrums - never broaches the subject - or at least only

once or twice lately with reference to his departure — My room is at present so gay — The Baron gave me such a many Camélias (from his castle 5 miles from Leipzig) both — they kindly hope I will come in the summer — but of course I shan't) — I get numerous invites to Dresden & Vienna — the Gräfin Stainskie whom I told you of wanted me to come at Easter to see Vienna. What do people think one is here for! I say all the holiday I have shall be spent at home — & nowhere else! I can't exactly make out when the holidays begin — but it is at the middle of July 4½ months hence!!!!

If I hear definitely that Mrs Heiges & Mrs Wood are off (Oh. please Mother darling inform me of) I shall write to them both — as they were always so awfully kind to me — weren't they? — I am sorry about the ferns — I can so well imagine how you went into the porch with your long Schleppe sweeping into the small pools of water that always were there in the morning — & discovered that the ferns were dead! But I do hope they will revive.

Are Miss Violet seen going to write to poor me again! I want particularly to know how Dagon is and if our present Fräulein dislikes him as heartily as Miss Kraus did! Has Papa told Curtis to sit up straight on the box & to drive less like the ratcatcher!!!! I do hope his gout is better.

Well Mother darling for the present addio - Dear love to all at home more specially yourself from

Your devoted child
Ethelred

How is Lilia Fitzpatrick!! The second bagatelle here, Frau Veiger is the <u>image</u> of her!! My special love please to Mrs Fitzpatrick. By the By you and papa <u>must</u> go to see "Diplomacy" by Dumas at the Prince of Wales - It has a <u>tremendous</u> run here under the name of "Dora" & is quite <u>delightful</u> - as the man in the Times said "no implied breaches of the seventh commandment upon wh. the interest of so many French plays hangs - Marie Wilton must be <u>delightful</u> as Dora. We have quite a perfect "Dora" here too - <u>not</u> the Fleistinger though.

Late in Feb 28 (first) d

Monday Morning
Salomon Str 19

My darling Mother - It's a most peculiar thing that I can't get any good ink in Leipzig - either it is water - or else its like black thick - milk - Also I anxiously await the arrival of Pens - for there's nothing the least like a Pen to be got here - as one may judge from the German hand writing! + I waited till today to write to you for I wanted to tell you about last night -- I was invited to a dinner party at one of the 4 standard Leipzig houses (Brockhaus, Limburger, Fauchnitz & Lampe) &c. the latter - on purpose to meet Mendelssohn's daughter, Frau Prof Wach, who, it was prophesied w^d take a great deal of interest in me - She is one of the sweetest most charming little women I ever saw, very pretty & gentle and ~~the~~ has just that charm of manner that made her father so beloved - She is very like him in face - & also exactly like someone we know very well, but I can't think whom! I sang about 12 songs of my own! one after the other and got more petting even than usual!!! for the whole company was musical +, as usual in such cases - too glad to welcome a new "collegin". Frau Wach was too

him and begged me to come & see her as soon as ever I could – also some people I've been dying to know for ages but haven't met as unfortunately a little feud some years ago with the Boer-Hauses left a coldness wh. still lasts – & of course I mix mostly with the B's friends – Brahms stayed with them when he was here. Their name is Von Herzogenberg – She is quite lovely – a great musician – very learned – a daughter of the ~~celebrated English~~ Hanoverian Minister Consul in Berlin the Baron Stockhausen. The Taucht-nitz were also there (the young Baroness is sister ~~to~~ in-law of Frau Lampe) & the Leinburgers with whom I have lately become very intimate – & where probably my string quartette will be played if it is finished before Easter (when they go for the Summer to Berlin) But I don't much expect it will be done before Easter – as I am now working so hard at Counterpoint that I compose but little – As a matter of fact I should not compose at all – but when one feels disposed to compose it's rather hard not to do so! I am still en-

branced at making the acquaintance of the Kleugel Family - I go there at least once a week and hear string quartettes, Violin Sonatas, pianoforte trios - everything I want to hear - When I go, they say "What wd" you like for next time" & I mention any thing you like - Brahms, Beethoven, Schumann - & there I hear it next time I go." Isn't that ideal happiness.!! Last Swansdhaus concert - the greatest - Ernore robusto & finest actor on the German stage, Vogl, sang (during a "Gast-spiel" at our theatre) "Adelaide".! Oh! so gloriously.! & never heard anything so splendid "in my life" (do you remember our numerous discussions about juvenile use of that expression !! Alas next April I shall have better right to talk of my "life" - as 20 years is a goodish spell thereof !- All the ice has disappeared & we are having regular spring weather - & now I shall begin to enjoy the advantage of having a garden here - The children of this house are very ill brought up - & the second day of my arrival the second, aged four, whose perseverance and straight eye cannot be too highly commended, threw a

reel of cotton, half a roll, & the handle of a earthenware teapot - one after the other at my head, despite vehement remonstrance on my part between each volley - Eventually I rushed at the offender & commenced carrying her off to her mama, but she squalled so fearfully that, muttering strange "oaths" I set her down very firmly on a chair & retired - Since then the infant has held me in great awe but I heard her whispering to herself the other day "Das Fräulein soll Kinder gar nicht gern haben und junge Damen kann ich nicht leiden"!!! I nearly burst out laughing - the child is really clever - for tho' I was distinctly meant to hear what it said, it looked perfectly unconcerned as if it were soliloquising in solitude!!! I had such a nice letter from Col Brackenbury - wh I mean to answer very soon - & did I tell you the whole dear Napier family sent me cards & letters at Xmas - at least not the whole family - but various members - Mary's pencil is immensely admired - the Germans have a great passion for everything "practisch"! & seem to admire us so much for

our practical habits & customs.
I wish you could see me dancing now! hopping up & the ceiling - arriving on the tips of my toes (for know the slow waltzes danced on a flat foot) twirling well over the right shoulder, blowing into the face of my partner, receiving in exchange many a blast from him - & above all my left hand not laid on his arm but curled elegantly round, fingers inward as if a photographer had arranged them!! Onward I fly backwards, for, wards, round the wrong way - and am considered a wonderful dancer!! Yes I long for a Mr Young with a long shooting easy step (like Paddy's trot 10 years ago) that one can keep up from the beginning of the dance to the end.

I am so distressed to hear of Papa's attack. Uncle Charles in a long dear letter, told me he

was threatened with it – I do hope tho' it will be better by the time this reaches you. I shall be writing to him abt Wednesday I haven't heard from Violet for ages. I am too busy forward to the long letter for personnae – but you must have so much writing to do – darling Mother

Dearest love from

your devoted child

Phil McDougall

In answer to my answer I have had a very kind nice letter from Hugo.

P.S. belongs to d

How very odd about the sweets! Mr. Greene wrote specially to tell me they had arrived safely at all events! Mendelssohn's daughter has just called & ask me to come & have a 5 o'clock tea with her on Wednesday & "show off"!!! She is such a darling woman. It's an odd thing this last fortnight I have seen more people I've taken a decided fancy to than ever all the time I've been in Germany.

Notes Mendel. 1/98 f

(perambulator

Salomon Str.

believe: after all July 1st will be the day!!!

Best love Fall

Dearest Mother from your devoted Felix

My own darling Mother - the boots arrived yesterday but alack - though too beauteous to behold were so narrow across the foot that I could only just get my foot in! He must have mistaken my measure - However I just sent them back to him and enclosed the right measurements and begged him to look sharp as the only pair I can wear have got bad in one sole!! Tomorrow I send them to be resoled and shall have to stay in or not go beyond the grounds all day!! Fortunately though I have managed to tear the sole of my goloshes right away from the side!!! and the weather is wet!! Such a chapter of accidents! My dress has come - beautifully made with silk sleeves and trimming of the same color and the lace at the neck and arms - I look very long and narrow & a beauteous figure therein!! and the color suits me - they say - I only hope someone'll give a party and ask me soon!! that I may exhibit myself therein - In England I can easily have it made

into a day dress in half an hour - I can't resist sending you a photo of my dear beautiful young Baroness von Tauchnitz - It doesn't half do her justice - She is a good deal taller than I am and has a perfect figure and dresses to perfection - has half her things from Paris She is a ~~perfect~~ darling and now that her husband is in London I often go and spend an hour or two with her in the evening - I find that when Ld Napier came here for the manoeuvres he stayed at the old Tauchnitz's - & my one tells me that the whole evening he kept on saying she couldn't be a German - it was such an English type of face! & yellow brown hair & blue eyes - Will you please Mother darling send it me back in your next letter -

I had such fun the other day - I dont know when I have laughed so much - There was a little soirée at the Brockhauses - as they live next

does I couldn't well get a cab (Salomon St consists of large detached houses with gardens) but it was pouring weather and our garden was a perfect swamp. So what do you think I did! The children here have a very large perambulator on four wheels - This was brought down from the loft - How I got in I dont know - but it was such a tight fit that my knees were up to my nose and I never got down as far as the seat but was wedged between the arms, tight! ~~as~~ The whole - head and all was then covered with a waterproof & looking more like clothes coming from the wash than a human being I was trundled along - I cant tell you how nearly I was upset - as naturally I was too heavy to allow of the Mädchen handling the perambulator as they do generally (pressing the back & elevating the front wheels!) and with the four wheels to contend against turning corners

was perilous work – Just as I entered the portico two guests arrived on foot whom I knew very well – and who could not make out who or what I was! One a pompous old Hof-Capellmeister, nearly collapsed when I emerged gorgeous in black & silver out of my vehicle – Since then I am fearfully chaffed and everyone wants to hire the "Droshky von Del Smyth"!! By the bye did I tell you what capital luck I've had about umbrellas. I (of course) lost my nice new silk one ("with the bit of metal round it"!!) about four months after I came here – and to punish myself bought another for four shillings which I condemned myself to carry about everywhere and which of course I did not lose! Well one day I found in my room a very nice, nearly new umbrella mounted on a polished ash-plant – silk of course!! Really I have made most conscientious enquiries about this umbrella and it belongs to no one!! and I of course have appropriated it!! Isn't that splendid. I think perhaps its Herschels! It was about the time of his visit that it appeared!!. Well Mother darling for the present I must shut up and practise – I'm very well again and enjoying the spring immensely. I

Salomon Sat 19. March 18th 1870.

My own darling Mother. My stationery is of the queerest I know - but we be noticed by me all my bona fide writing paper has dwindled to nothing - so I am obliged to tear blank sheets out of the beginnings of "Schumann's Piano Work Vol I." etc etc.!! I had quite reconciled myself to the thought of not getting a letter from you this week - for Clipsie said you had a headache - so you may imagine what a delight it has been getting your dear long letter this morning - what a shocking story about poor Mabel Bayley.. no wonder - as you say that Alice is prostrate - but what a comfort for Mrs Bayley to know she is with you in our beautiful pure air - where she will have every chance of getting well again - I'm so glad you are seeing much of Mrs Blakeley - I always thought you would be charmed with her the more you know her - with all her eccentricities (which however are of the best sort - i.e. affecting herself only) She is such a good straightforward woman - and so clever & unlike other people. Clipsie gives me blooming accounts of my lovely mother - says you looked splendid at the R.M.C. ball in grey silk & white lace & "so absurdly young".

When I come back it will be very delightful reproducing the old times – sailing into a ball room with you – tho' alas I shan't know enough people to be detained one instant in the ante-room! – I am so delighted at the prospect before me concerning my dwelling – I was, as I think I told you, much annoyed to find that my landlord & his whole family wished emigrate to Dresden in the Autumn ~~to the whole family~~ & let his house. I was so content here – above all so pleased at being next to Frau B. & in the nicest part of Leipzig – & much disliked the idea of another possible move after the holidays – well – as it happens she has let the house to ~~a friend~~ a friend of a cousin of Frau B's – very superior people – who wish to keep on 2 lady pensionaires! The other girl wishes much to stay – thus we shall get rid of all the gentlemen pensionaires (who tho' nice are men and its better they are away) – the other girl & I will be so placed that we don't interfere with each other – or rather she with my composing – as regards practising – & no move will

lake palace! Wn't that charming! I get such a nice room with the Schlaf-Kammer attached to it – and the whole régime will be much pleasanter – I see, from the general air of the people that they are more refined than my very kind landlady – The only thing I object to here is the disorder – the whole thing is what the Germans call a liederliche Wirthschaft – meals unpunctual – often too much salt in the bouillon – which is remarked upon every day but nothing comes of it – Then if a curtain gets torn it strikes no one to mend it – don't you know the sort of thing – One good point about our new landlord is that he will have fresh roast meat every day – so no more of those wonderful stews & messes – that, being in Germany, I always eat, & now don't object to – but never shall like – But now to a great question – The coming home question. The Concerts breaks up about the 18th July, owing to the awful heat – But for that same reason a good many pupils leave early in July – for little or no work can be got through in such weather as is here then – I find I can get altogether about two

months holidays - and thought of coming about the 12th of July - But it is now settled that our present landlord & Co turn out on the 1st July - but the new people dont turn in - for they want to put the whole "alte Bude" (it is one of the oldest houses in Leipzig) into the repair it so very much wants - so on the 1st the place will be given up to workmen. In the mean time the owners will live in a house about 400 yards off - in the next street - where I fancy we sh^d have to go for our meals in the meantime! We sh^d have to stay here to sleep for they have no room where they will then be - or else we shall have to go into some other pension for the 2 or 3 weeks before I leave Leipzig - Now what do you advise - that, if I find it compatible with my work I come home then & there on July 1st - or that I stay till quite the end in Leipzig - I need quite easily get a room somewhere near for a fortnight. The people may alter their plans of course. but I hardly think they will

PRIVATE

2

I've been seedy the last week - very seedy. I must tell you that there have been such hurricanes in Leipzig as are seldom known here - the wind such that no one ventured to go out & the cabmen had to chuck on to their boxes & prevent themselves been blown away - Well in such weather I got a cold that instead of "going to the head" resulted in "pains all over" (a la old village woman) & rather bad diarrhoea - the doctor gave me a powder & told me to take a fearful thing call "Römisch - Fischer Bad" - which I think must be something like a ~~[illegible]~~ Turkish Bath - anyhow being pommelled into a jelly is part of the performance - ever since I've felt like one ~~[illegible]~~ newly born! Bring much troubled with the tooth ache lately I at length made up my mind to go to the dentist - for the first time since last I saw you - Pratt! He is an American much renowned here - I always

heard that they were very good in America
– but this man is wonderful. He looked
at my tooth – said the stopping was loose
& decay at work – but, he said, I see
the nerve is still alive – He took the
stopping out – & put in some stuff
to kill the nerve – instead of burning
it out & pulling it out, or scraping
it out as Pratt did & as we do in
England – I went there next day –
he scraped & filled the tooth of course
without hurting as the nerve was
dead – He says the ways of exterminating nerves in England – were
~~used~~ discarded in America 20 years
ago! – He told me of two dentists in
London (American's) whose dentistry
is as painless as his – so I shall
never fear dentists again! ✗ I think
Mother darling I shall be able
to pay dressmakers & doctors bills
out of my songs – at least I shall
try – if the money doesn't quite
cover the sum it will nearly.
So tell Papa that really the 38/-

is Economy in the end - The other pair I had in December 1876 at - 30/- are only just done for & that through the skating chiefly - for those Acme skates ruin boots fearfully - I think next year I'd better have a cheap pair of boots made here specially for skating at 12/-!!! The buttoned boots, single soled I had before I left home are still like new & look lovely!

Now that the spring is here how I look forward to being at home!! Coming back will be quite unlike anything else I ever experienced - & the most heavenly thing I have done in my life as yet - except perhaps when I began to know I hadn't come here in vain. May you never have anything so fearfully puzzling & confusing to do as writing your first - string quartette Mother darling! My hair is growing grey over it! It will be finished before I come home - tin the

meantime do look up 4 performers &
we'll have a grand chamber music
performance in the drawing room !!
well for the present I must shut
up - as I've lost my Counterpoint
book & without it am as Samp-
son shorn of his strength
with more love than I can
express. Your darling Mother

Your devoted child
E M

Violets & lilies Mother
darling

Leipzig April 19/86

Miss Adams
Hl Seite

Dear Mrs Adams

My darling Mother. The letter has never appeared! but I generally get my weekly letter so regularly that I should not complain. Just imagine what a bore I am. I went to Breitkopf & Härtel - the music publishers par excellence in the world - the nephew - who conducts the business Mr. Hase I know very well - & he is quite one of the most charming men I ever met. But you know how unpleasant it is to do business with a personal friend! Well - he began by telling me that songs had as a rule a bad sale - but that no composeress had ever succeeded. ~~&~~ barring Frau Schumann & Fräulein Mendelssohn whose songs had been ~~respectively~~ published together with those of their husband & brother respectively. He told me that a certain Frau Lang had written some really very good songs - but they had no sale -- I played him mine - many of which he had already

heard me perform in various Leipzig
houses - expressed himself very
willing to take the risk & print them -
But. would you believe it - having
selected 8 all he said about wo-
men composers - & considering how
difficult it is to bargain with
an acquaintance - I asked no
fee!!! Did you ever hear of such a
donkey! I sh.d have asked £2.10
which would have dissolved one
of the dressmakers bills! so if,
Mother darling after all I have
to come down on you for that bill
(wh. I still hope not to do!) please
consider it the price of my modesty.
I have such a delightful little
prospect before me - In a fortnight
Frau Doctor is migrating with
her whole family to a little
"Gut" of theirs 3 miles from Dresden -
just large enough to hold the
whole family - the stays 3 weeks
but during one week Herr
Doctor will be in Berlin - and

she proposes that I sh^d go to them for a week and see Dresden! A week's leave won't interfere with my work and the expense of the tickets I can defray with my pocket money for April, May, & June – or if that didnt suffice I w^d ask Papa for July & August in advance for while I am at home I shall need none! I dont expect though that I shall want half that all. for beyond the journey I shall have hardly any expenses as of course I sh^d walk into Dresden with Albert Brockhaus – perhaps go to the Gallery and the glorious new theatre which they say is simply magnificent – quite as beautiful as & much more harmonious than the Grand Opéra at Paris – I'm very curious to see Dresden and I shoul^d make a point of visiting Mr^s Linn of course! Could you tell me her address? If not I'll write to Louie at Beauport and get it – But writing to Louie is rather hopeless work! I mean to ten

bone you get no answer! – I hope you admire my dear Frau Tauenitz. Alack the baron returned yesterday! – But he's very nice!! At the last Gewandhaus Concert another friend & nice Frau von Betzold (all Frau's you see!) presented me with a "Stall" in the heart of the concert room (such tickets one gets only by presentation – you can't buy them). So I put on my new raisin de Corinthe (which really is lovely) & made myself a fearful swell! Frau D. was seedy and didn't go. But she says she has heard from a variety of people that Miss Smyth had such a pretty dress on! Eh! This is not such a compliment as it would be in England! But still I'm pleased & glad I rigged myself up! Also Mother darling I am delighted at what you tell me respecting public opinion on my money-managing qualities! Next Fri I shan't have to do the great amount of Strewing I do now – as with managing well from the first – I

Salomonstr 19. K

Sunday 7th Apr /78

My own darling Mother

So many thanks for your welcome if "shabby" letter (You called it so! not I!) somehow or other the nearer the time gets for my return (12 weeks tomorrow!) the more I look forward to & count upon home letters. I am so glad about Dresden - but the aspect of affairs has changed - advantageously in a monetary sense - and if any regret be here by (how German! "dabei"!!) it is only at the postponement of a pleasure. For "Der Berg" is farther from Dresden than I thought and I see that when Frau St. goes there it is not to fall in at the capital but to be in the country with absolutely no duties (such as that of cicerone) to perform. Of course she would go in with me and lionize me - but I feel that rest - complete rest is what she wants at "Der Berg" - & because she takes me with her I don't want to break up her plan. So I shan't see Dresden this time - x

shall spend absolutely no money but on the journey – As to the bill Mother darling I am very happy about that – but I won't write about that yet – for till the last days in Leipzig I cannot possibly tell how much I can contribute towards it – of course I sh^d like that to be as much as possible – I think I told you that the Doctors bill is already paid! The Brockhaus family starts en masse on Friday – to stay 16 days – so I suppose I shall go about the 19th and come back with them on the 29th – I can't tell you what train I'll be – Of course I spend some part of my leisure there daily – Generally go about 5 p.m. and stay till 7. or else at 7. to stay to "Thé" and return at 10 o'c. Anyhow during the week they are away I shall feel quite lost – I think Mother darling, from Dr^n Ike w^d be very pleased if you wrote her a letter thanking her for her goodness to me and mentioning her letting me come for a few days to her in the country. Of course you would have written anyhow – but probably

not till I came to England – If you wrote at once (very clearly!! but in English of course!) she'd get it just before starting. The address is

Frau Doktor Brockhaus
Salomon Str 18

She always takes such an interest in my home – you specially – I can't talk to her too much about you all & my home-life. With most people one feels rather shy of "letting out" (as Frau Pain w.d say) on the subject – one always is afraid of boring them – but I never feel that with her – as I know that the more I tell her the better she is pleased –

My newest friends Baron v Herzogenberg & his fabulously beautiful wife (with a bad figure! The Tauchnitz & Marie Fleischinger are the only people in Leipzig with figures!) are very delightful – they hold very much aloof from Leipzig society – partly because in both is a rooted dislike almost amounting to horror of dilletantism (musical d – I mean) – She is absurdly musical & though she doesn't compose much (only songs) is the first feminine musical genius (bar Frau Schumann) that

I have met - I suppose the fact that Joachim, Brahms & Frau Schumann are their most intimate friends makes them so severe upon us thoroughliners. In their presence I feel like a worm! I mean because I write sonatas & string quartettes & goodness knows what all - when I can't do a proper canon or fugue - (or indeed strict counterpoint very well) - When I get home we must have many talks about this - & I must alter my Studien Plan next year. I have made gigantic progress - but not thoro' progress - I have in fact made the tour of the world and don't know my own country thoro'ly. (so to speak) Mother darling please please take in the following and hasten to disabuse Mr ~~Atwell~~ Stilwell & any others who may be laboring under false impressions - My sonata was not played in the Gewandhaus but in the Evening weekly Concerts in the Conservatorium! Perhaps in 20 years time I may - by special luck get

(2

something played in the Gewandhaus. It is only made composers such as Brahms, Raff, etc who set a foot in that building - & that the aim of every musician almost - the reward of years of hard work & "being nobody" shd be supposed to be attained by me in a year is most painful to me - though those who don't understand the meaning of a word like the Gewandhaus Concerts wouldn't attach much importance to them - & those who do, like Mr Webb, wd perceive at once that there "must be some mistake" - Still of course I don't like people thinking I am "greening" my English friends with accounts of impossible successes in Leipzig - for anyone who does know Leipzig & doesn't know me might reasonably arrive at such a conclusion - If the performances of the pupils of the Conservatorium, you

will never read anything in any German paper - much less in an English one. We are considered - quite justly as embryo musicians and our performances are (mercifully) left unhandled of the Critics. I believe at the "Grosse Prüfung" in the Gewandhaus - at Easter where all sorts of original compositions are performed there is a long (awfully severe) account in the papers - but I have not been here a year - so nothing of mine can come to a hearing. Well Mr Pitts darling. I will now say good bye & for I'm going to write to Macmurell - J. de Burgh in his answer to my letter of congrat tells me that Macmurell is to be his best man!! I am so astonished! If anything more two did not hit it off!

Dear love to all at home

& I am ever darling Mother

Your devoted Child

Sterndale

8th April adjoutt??

i°

Salomon Str 19.

My darling Mother - I shall only have time today for a short and sweet epistle as I am still, besides other work, working away at those songs to take to the printer tomorrow. They are pretty sure to take them as now they are so well known here - whether they give me much, there is not is another question - or indeed any - thing! But I hope so. I went to a musical entertainment yesterday evening at the Mother of Brahms' other great friend - and in spite of a little cough did a great deal of singing, till I was forcibly removed from the piano by Frau Brockhaus who would not allow me to do anything more - I got latish to bed & am dead tired today - the weather is so horrid - it snows all day & yet is so warm that only about two inches remain on the ground and the whole place is a perfect mash! Yesterday, knowing how I raved about Brahms - the daughter - Frau von Betzhold sought out a visiting

card of his and hid it under the card with my name on! When I found it, they twisted up a piece of narrow pink tape to match my ribbons & tied it round my ~~head~~ neck! I had <u>such</u> a nice letter from Emily de Robeck telling me of her engagement – I don't quite see that L. de Burgh must have wanted matrimony badly because he is engaged! – for she is a <u>dear</u> girl and <u>so</u> pretty and bright – and just the right height for him! B.B. wrote & told me some time ago that he had suddenly disappeared from the scene – also that E. de R. was looking very thin! I suppose the course of their true love didn't run smooth or something!

I'm going to the Klengels tomorrow to hear the first movement of my string quartette played – You can imagine how curious I am to hear it played! not ha-

only the remotest idea how it will sound – at least probably it will sound differently to what I expect. I am going to look out some nice words to set to music. I'm getting so deadly sick of all my songs and people will ask to hear them of course. I heard from Mrs Schwabe yesterday – she tells me they couldn't get anything to suit them at Aldershot so have taken a house in Hale Crescent "which is at any rate cheap & "nasty – whereas the others are "dear and nasty." That's very true – but I can't imagine how Mrs Schwabe (whose house was always very comfortable) making much of a dwelling in Hale Crescent. I hear from two quarters that "Bogie" is looking so well – and Mrs Schwabe says is so well behaved & "rational" which no one could say he was before! Mrs Thomas was staying at Bishopthorpe with the

Aucklands & Mr. James came over from York, bringing Bogie with ~~them~~ him. What a sensible young man that is, to ~~g~~ spend his holidays in the East as he always does. Well Mother darling I must be shutting up as I'm horribly busy as aforesaid & pressed for time – My dear love I'll all the children, I can't write to them this week.

Dearest love to myself & pa – Ever & always from

Your devoted child

Emily

Passion Week 1878 2

Tuesday Mar 5 Salomonstr 19

My darling Mother. I do hope you dont have been anxious at not getting my usual weekly letter on the usual date (I think the first time I have missed it without giving notice since I have been here) I always wanted to write a respectably long letter and hoped from day to day to be able to do so - but in vain. I will explain to you how it is I am so "von allen Musen den gehetzt" as they say - Besides my usual work in the Conserv. being assured of the fact that I am on the road to theoretical rack ruin I am treating myself to a few private lessons in Counterpoint from Herr von Herzogenberg - who as a matter of fact gives his lessons - but makes an exception in me - It is there that Brahms stays & Frau Schumann when they come here - Well - This

of course takes up an awful lot of time – Besides this I belong to the "Bach Verein" – & we have just now a fearful amount of rehearsals for the concert. Due given on ~~Thur~~ the 28 – we are getting up Händel's "Acis und Galatea" – & numberless Chorales of Bach. Then besides this I sing in the "Irwandhaus Chor" which on Friday next gives the very Passion Music (St Matthew) you have heard tonight – in the Thomas Kirche. We have had rehearsals <u>every day</u> this week!! Don't you call that awful! Besides which I took a fancy singing 2nd Soprano instead of Alto – and the second Soprano – in Bach goes up & A b every minute – which if I had known – I sh^d have stuck to the Altos. Thus you can imagine that when on Saturday next I go for a little to "Brockhaus Berg" it will be a great relief – I shall stay till Wed – or Thursday – and my address will be –

Dresden. Bautzner Chaussée
Brockhaus - Berg -

As write to me there no more darling -
I shall, I fear, bring home a good
deal that I must study while
in England - but a little work
won't harm me - joined of course to
one or two hours practising! I am
vainly endeavouring to study some
of my compositions I play by rote!
They are all hard and I play
them too vilely for words! -
The day before yesterday I made
the acquaintance of a composer
out of Schumann's time - and of
whom Schumann prophesied almost
as much as he did of Brahms -
You see in the one case the
prophecy came truer than in
the other for Kirchner never com-
posed anything great -
But his little things are beau-
tiful. I used to play some of
them. Del Sitte will probably
know his Album Blätter
Arlequinarellen - He is exactly
like W. Sorig!! As his life

is a certain sylleit a failure he is a very bitter intensely sarcastic man almost demoniacal - He spoke much of the indecency of the English in the Concert. - How nearly all the Ladies Composed!! You can imagine how pleasant this was for me! & that I wasn't much disposed to obey his command (for command it was) to play to him. When I had done he simply growled out "Immer weiter! Sie dürfen Componiren. - People say Mr is fearfully much for Richter! After that he was most friendly and offered to see me home & Goodness knows what!

I wonder how you will enjoy the music Mother darling. I have now heard it once and sang it through a good many times - & I don't pretess to understand $\frac{1}{2}$ of it - That beautiful Chorale that comes & comes over one understands of course & a good deal of the orchestra business specially that sublime "Einleitung

By the bye I mustnt forget to tell you of a place which was proposed to me by one of my special friends Frau von Betzold to facilitate my crossing - of course the thing is to have an escort from Rotterdam to - I forget wh port I came from - otherwise the journey is simple - I get in at one end & out at the other - Well. on July 1st she will be staying with her brother in Utrecht which is a drive from Rotterdam - & supposes that I shd come there (a days journey). & sleep the night with them and be shipped off next day by them from Rotterdam - They seem say that they wd be able to find me an escort - living so near Rotterdam where of course everyone is perpetually coming & going from England! - Dont you think this is a good plan? It wd avoid all hotels - I dont suppose I c[an] quite manage to do as I did when Harry was there - come the whole ~~day~~ way on a stretch - So tell me what you think of it. Isn't it kind of Frau von B?

I do thank Vi for her dear letter which I shall answer from the Berg – I am so sorry Papa does not shake off the gout and so inexpressibly shocked at Mrs Andrews death. She used to take so much interest in my educating the filly – it was so nice & good. Well Mother darling Good bye for the present – If I for I knew how hard worked I am !!!

Your ever devoted child

Sue

do write me at the Berg in French

over

April (end of) 1878 Salomonstr 19. n

all this from X

My own darling Mother

A thousand thanks for your dear birthday letter of last Tuesday. I got it at the Berg's – also letters from dear old Alice & Mary wh. I must answer later – Herr v. Herzogenberg goes away on the 8th & returns no more to Leipzig till the middle of Sept. – so after that date my double work will be at an end!

X I had such a glorious time at dear Frau Doctor's – & should have stayed there till the middle of this week (Tuesday perhaps – when she returns) – were it not for a concert given by the Bach Verein – to which as you know I belong – and as the alti are weak & I can make a pretty good row in the chest notes notes now back I came – upon the summons of the beautiful Frau von H – Just imagine what fun! I searched out the name "Firm" in the address book – found it – in a not very nice street in Dresden –

and obtaining leave of absence from my Mistress sallied forth in search of a new cousin - I was shown into a drawingroom the decorations of which evidently aimed at English style (German drawingrooms are got up as English parlours at the sea side) but were of a somewhat gaudy cheap description. Thought I to myself "Louie's ~~cousin~~ sister has not Louie's taste" I awaited with anxiety the arrival of Cousin Julia - My dear Mother I imagine my feelings when a small dingy - shrivelled "respectable" person entered & asked me what I wanted !! Having previously asked the Servant of Mr. Fihn was English & having received an affirmative answer ~~I to~~ - I away also ascertained that there was but one Fihn in the address book I could not but doubt this was my cousin - Tho' she bore no resemblance to Louie - I advanced timidly & said "I think you must be

my cousin Julia" – "Oh" answers the person I think yes must be mak-ing a mistake – Yes mean my sister in law. Miss Durrant as was – 'ose no longer in town – lives in Blasewitz." (a village about 3 miles from Dresden) I was rather shocked at this apparition who begged me to wait till her 'usband came in – Presently an equally dingy but well meaning individual in black came in & informed me that "Aunt Julia – we all call 'er Aunt Julia" – had removed from Dresden 2 years ago & that if I'd like to see her he'd be happy to accompany me out by tram-way. The good soul – (who lectures – in fer-man – in Dresden & of whom I hope people hold as much as he does of himself) accom

passed me & the village - & led me to a small cottage out pop which comes a stout - not so very ugly lady - greets him with a pris - & Louie's voice to ~~to~~ of a tone & looks politely at me for in - formation - I said simply "I am Stuart Smyth" - Whereat - she embraced me very warmly said "you dear child! I'm so glad to make your acquaintance" just as Louie w^d have said w^d - The brother - in - law, - said "well I'm not wanted ere so "I'll say good - day" & we parted on the best of terms - & I think he is a capital old fellow tho' shabby as to h's. She car - ried me off in doors - made me stay lunch of course & in - troduced me to her husband - & dear little man - also shabby at to h's - but much "finer" as the Germans say than his brother - I think I had never

pictured anyone more correctly to myself than I pictured her. She is very stout – has lost her eyebrows in the fever – & has corked herself rather crooked ones – otherwise no beautification – & a nice fresh complexion – huge like a door mat! also owes no rats – so

– the effect is most ... festive! in the top a brilliant Paris bonnet & somewhat violent yellowish grey cape with ostrich feathers. (This when she accompanied me home – in the house an infuriated looking mob – cap crowns the edifice of her brown hair –) She has one awful daughter who is as black as a coal & very Jewish looking – with an unwholesome looking complexion – & one jolly little son of 9. Both talk English with a strong German accent & rather stiffly – & are glad to speak at home in German –

I can't tell you how heartily & jolly she was & how glad she seemed to see me - I also was so glad to meet with a relative like the people I know in England - not like the awful lisp-ing English - Her voice & manner is so like Louie's that I had a queer home-ish feeling when talking to her that I have not had since I left England - I don't think for the whole 3 hours I was there we spoke of Germany or the present - but entirely of the past - & all about you - She could not tire of telling me about you & the old times & I can't tell you with what a feeling I listened - She is the first person I ever met with whom I had time to talk & opportunity of talking about you & when you were young - & she enjoyed her task of narrator as much as did mine of listener - It was all about you - at Rackheath & Scottow - how

beautiful you were - How you sang as
no one else except perhaps Mr Lind -
- How you were in all respects just
her ideal (& everyone else's)
what a young lady sh^d be - Of how
you had such marks of adoration &
how your behaviour to them was just
what it ought to have been in
She said you used thank singing
days in which you sang up &
down stairs & all over the house
- & that she had (if all this is
true you will know better than
I - for romancing runs in Stra-
cey blood doesn't it?) a great
passion for you used to come up
to your room when you were dressing
for dinner & fasten on your bracelets
- Until one day when she
discovered you & Papa billing
& cooing in a certain room
which she showed me the
windows in a photo she has of
Scotton - That dame might-
she says - When she was helping

all these sheets

Jon & adorn - she said - deeply wounded & jealous "Really Cousin Mia I can't think how you can kiss that man with red hair" - whereat Jon boxed her ears - & said "how dare she speak so of Jons future husband"!!!!!! She said Jon had such perfect manners & were so horrified (as indeed is she expected) at some youth who after asking Jon to take wine with ~~him~~ him - shovelled up peas on his ~~fork~~ knife - She also related the tale of Jons saying "My nose is like a torch" - & said when Jon stuck a rose in the front of Jons dress Jon used to call it "putting a rose in to the holes" !!!! - She spoke much of the duo sung by Jon - her Mother (of whose flute-like voice she raves - I never knew Aunt Julia sang)

& rather Lady Robinson or Mrs Burney-Petre. Says she never heard anything so lovely. Much as she raves about Louise – her beauty etc etc she is very sensible abt. her singing – says it is placeocky & overdone & stagey – and that her fioriture is almost vulgar. Mrs – she says – was so unutterably ladylike & well-bred & just as mechanically perfect – ~~[illegible]~~ as Louise (or more so) + Again I say – the pleasure it was to me hearing all this is absolutely inexpressible! – so much so that I don't care a bitt for or about Dresden & the glorious (gaudy) new theatre & the splendid performance of Schiller's "Wilhelm Tell". (The Picture Gallery was shut for cleaning up!!! Such a sell!!!) – If I go again at Whitsuntide

I'm ofcourse I took her up. She told me I tell you she was delighted I see me that I was exactly like my father only your eyes be a ! !! Whereat I demur — first of all my eyes are not half so good as my mothers & secondly they are quite a different sort of eye !!! Yours are oval — mine somewhat round! — They all accompanied me in the ferry across the Elbe (Blankenese opposite Teschwitz — the village "Berg" is in) then walked with me till we got to the Berg — I was awfully pleased with her very curious I hear that for say of her as she was in days gone by. She seemed rather hurt at never having heard of you till last year

but said she supposed that comes of living at Dresden.

Well Mother darling I must shut up now. I'm know the 2 first nights of Wagner's "Nibelungen Trilogy" are being given here - & the first "Rheingold" I was in tonight - It lasted 4 hours - (curtain only down once all the time!!) and has left me less of a Wagnerite than I used to be! Tomorrow I go again to the "Walküre" - & perhaps again Tuesday & Wedy - friends having offered me tickets - I lost my purse today - (1st time since I've been in Germany) with 10/- in it - as my card is in it I may get it back - as a precaution 15/- is

the most I ever carry in my purse - & but seldom that -. I was love dall at home -

Please ask Papa send money - Herzogenberg goes on the 8th & I must pay him of course - I hope Dr Zeally will send it (if he hasn't done so already as I hale borrowing of my landlady even for a week - or being in debt for my rent wh. I always pay one month in advance of course -

Ever darling Mother

Your devoted child

Ethel.

Salomonski May 19th 78.

My darling mother,

Dont be alarmed at seeing a strange handwriting — I'm in bed but not sick "unto death", my nerves have been rather knocked up for some time and now my unhappy heart has to bear the brunt of it. I have been sent to bed in order to reduce the palpitation and here may have to stay for a day or two longer, in all about a week. Don't think mother darling that I have been left entirely on my own hook. I have been nursed during this week as well

as I ever was in my life both night and day, but as the instrument of my recovery happens to be writing this for me I will tell you ~~more~~ all about it, when I can write to you myself. (the poor amanuensis is suffering severely from writing the accompanying!) And now please mother listen attentively to what's coming.

1°. There's no disease of the heart, but if I didn't take care of myself during the next few months it might become so. The doctor says seeing

that the heat is already very severe in Leipzig and will of course become more so, I should have but a poor chance of putting together again if I stay on here long. Added to this I should of course be unable to visit the Conservatorium. This is no misfortune because as you know I have already begun my course of instruction with Herr von Herzogenberg and he has mapped out for me the contrapuntal road which I am to follow during the holidays

until you resume the thread of our discourse in the autumn. As the rays in the Conservatorium are not like unto his rays it's just as well, nay even better that I should let my up the two, in my unfortunate cerebrum. When I am at home I am afraid I shale have, at first at all events, to live rather differently from to what I expected! for it is not the work I shale do that will knock me up but the return to the old life I used to lead in the palmy days of cakes and ale! This you will understand when I tell you

that the things I am at present forbidden are flopping about in bed, talking loud (from which she is very difficult to be kept back) gesticulating and following the natural impulses of my depraved nature. Of course I am at present also forbidden to do any sort of work or anything that excites me, for it takes about little to make my heart beat like a bell clapper. ~~Charcoale~~ As regards details I have had little or no pain; in fact the whole thing is not dangerous but my health for some

time depends upon whether
I take proper care of myself
after this crisis. After a
fortnight my work will
hardly be in no way
affected by it.
I leave it to you to say
if as the Doctor advises
I shall come home
as soon as I am able
enough to travel. When
you have had enough
of me at home!!
I could come back to Germany
and establish myself
with Friedländers at Friedrich
roda or some such place
but I don't think the
gaieties at home will
tempt me from my

work.

Well, That's about all. It only remains to tell you not to be anxious about me. You'll find me looking as well as ever and alas as inclined to "gather the rosebuds while I may" as of yore. Write soon and give me your "opinion" on all this. Best love to all and many thanks to Violet for her letter which I of course cannot answer now, or I would.

I am fairly on the road off to recovery and will get up

to morrow.

Ever your devoted child
Ethel.

(Amanuensis cannot help saying that she enjoyed meeting your dear dear child so very much; also she must assure you that you have not ~~[illegible]~~ not the least occasion more to be discomforted about Ethel.)

[illegible]

Mr Potter

(5)

Mother darling – the person who has written my letter to you nursed me all through this illness more like a mother than anyone else is Frau von Herzogenberg – The night the illness came on she was there – It was at the Kleugels & I had to go from table – She came with me (she has heart disease herself NB) took me home in a cab – put me to bed – & since then has nursed me – She wants to be with me at nights but that the doctor would it allow her – so I had a nurse for the nights thank her still – She Frau v H comes at 8 o'clock – cooks my cocoa – spreads my bread butter & only leaves me at 8 pm – Herzogenberg were leaving Leipzig

Yesterday – have however postponed
Their departure my account
~~been~~ (she has a ~~man~~ husband worthy
of her) as she was so sympathetic to
me as sickness – She bought me
linen sheets (here are only cotton ones)
– & supplies me with all my pet
eatables – What she has been to me
I can't tell you – & I have known her
hardly 3 months. Its queer that
Frau D.r isn't nursing me – but she
is so cross about it – I daren't
write more – Its forbidden me –
I can't now tell you all she
done for me!!!

May 21. 78. S.

darling

My dear Mother,

Just a line to say that I'm getting on all right. I have been having pie on my heart day and night all the week but to day have been left off and dont miss it. and have a slower pulse than I have had for many a long day. Perhaps I will get up tomorrow and, but for the intervention of an event which shall be nameless, I should have been up to day.

I hope by now you are

quite easy about me.
I want my amanuensis
to do something for me
so can't let her write any
more.
Goodbye — dear love to all.

Your most loving
child Ethel

My amanuensis is working
herself to a Thread paper
in my service —
I'm trying to tell you all
she's done for me —
I am much better — but

Stile have I have a nurse
with me at night –

2ˢ – dito

after Illness
(Sat. June 1st) Salomonski 19.
Sat. Evening

My own darling Mother - at last I am able to write to you with my own hand, but just fancy with pauses about every 3 minutes - as writing brings on the attacks more than anything almost - I'm up now - very feeble of course after a fortnight in bed - & such trifles as crossing the room or doing my hair are fearfully laborious & attended with palpitation - the doctor thinks it doubtful if I am fit to travel before a fortnight hence - so after all it will only be a week or two sooner than I intended. I have at last seen the absolute necessity of acquiescing in the matter & my modus vivandi during the holidays & have signed a paper of rules & the doctor prescribes for me - he & another doctor pronounce it to be the only way of avoiding permanent heart disease, which for the next few months I shall be very liable - & wh. may be produced by either mental or musculas imprudences. Just imagine - no lawn tennis, no

riding - no dancing - nothing -
that some - who have all this year
been looking forward & planning
with renewed vigour into the old life
for a little bit - & have been glorying
in the feeling that I could face the
holly hedge on the green, or an ad-
versary at dawn dismiss without
fear - that after I had been a
week in home air the old Adam
would be fully re-established in me.
- The dreadful thing is I can hardly
realise that it is absolutely ne-
cessary - & the way the Doctor &
Frau von Herzogenberg - fully appre-
ciating the hardships of building oneself
where one does not feel it necessary
- endeavoured - & have now nearly
managed to convince me that it is
so - was quite touching - She
ought to know - for when she was
my age she was perfectly health
in the heart - & it was by re-
flecting just such a nervous
affection as I have that she
brought about a chronic disease -

It is so painful now to see her going up stairs - pausing every 3 steps - & the least exertion brings on such palpitation that you can almost hear the heart beating - Of course she is for ever debarred from going out of a slow walk & dancing is out of the question - I always maintain a German cannot appreciate what a terrible sacrifice it is to an English girl brought up as I have been - & to whom all these things are special nature - Particularly as it will be as good as bidding all that farewell for another year - as of course I have no chance in Germany & must wait till I again come to England - Still it is true - that is nothing against a life time - & I know it must be so. ~~Before~~ Thank goodness the nature of the malady does not forbid any amount of work - & the only conditions put upon that are - that I'm not to practise for more than 2 consecutive hours - & not to work or compose at

night – So that is all right –
I cry for about 2 hours every day
about it. I think it is one of the
hardest things I ever heard of –
but it might have been worse
of course. What Frau v. S. has
been & one no one knows but I –
Here at 8 o'clock in the morning
she cooked my breakfast – for me
– washed me – did yet more
delicate offices for me (in as
far as one human being can
do them for another!) – bought
me the tenderest beef steaks
she could find – & cooked them
herself for me – read to me – &
(as soon as I was allowed) played
to me – put me to bed & every-
thing – one of her servants always
came for the 2 hours (2 – 4) she
was not there – she gave me
my medicine – (wh. I showed
otherwise certainly have forgotten)
& did everything. She is not strong
at all & always had to
drive – wh. made four cabs

(2

per diem - I tremble to think of all I cost her - & they are not particularly rich people. I said something of the sort to her one day - & the utter astonishment with wh. she met my proposals was amusing. The Doctor says I don't know how much I owe to her - He told her "she might go today" as I can now get along without her, so I am every minute expecting my farewell visit - I wish you could see her - she is so lovely & good I'm sure you'd be so fond of her - & you write to her Mother darling & thank her? She'd be so pleased - If you send it straight home I'd forward it - You could begin with her straight away "Dear Frau von Herzogenberg" - as she's so dear and the only person I am on "Du" terms with in Germany as of course Frau T. is too old. - I will find out as soon as possible Mother darling all about the journey and let you know how much money I want - As I report that is quite splendid - A certain clergyman's

daughter, Miss Crawford by
name - who is (bar Mr Forster)
about the only respectable English
person I have met here - also
a chum of Mrs Forsters, so tra-
velling to England just about
there I will be so glad for us
to go together. It is absolutely
the same to her where she goes
(between this & July it must
be of course) & how she goes.
I hope the Doctor will allow
me to travel straight through
- as I came - as I sleep well
in a train on a long journey.
it is ~~absolutely~~ not more tiring
for me I think - Miss Crawford
& we are quite at one, on this
point - She says "I'd like to
"spend as little money on the
"journey as possible"!! - She
has always come by Dover &
Calais - but I was very indignant
at the base idea & said - it must

be Rotterdam or Hamburg. The latter is a little longer on the sea - but as we neither of us mind that & it is much prettier & fancy a little cheaper perhaps that w^d be best. However there's time for that & it's a very secondary question - I am <u>much</u> disgusted that I shall have to hurry over an important matter - i.e. choosing the souvenirs of Leipzig for the folks at home - I meant to have spent a whole month in looking about & now probably the matter must be got over in a day or two - such is life - Alas I meant to have spent the fortnight previous to my departure in practising up various of my perfecting unplayable compositions to (I hope!) delight the maternal ears - Instead of which I am not allowed to touch

a piano – and as I can't help it – when it stands there – the doctor says better send it away !! So Mother darling You must put up with them as they are – in rough – & when you hear them – listen to the composition, not the performance of the same! I can't realise that I shall see you all again so soon. – It is almost too good to be true – that is to say if it comes off! Fancy if Mary is still there – Oh. I hope she will be –

Dear love to all my darling Mother from

Your devoted child

Ethel Smyth

Abt June 7/78 (last sheet missing

Salomonstr 19.

June 7/78 Friday night

My own darling Mother - I had finished my abend brod & was feeling disinclined to do anything in particular except look at the sunset - When your dear letter arrives - after reading which I have a special wish to write to you at once! I will send on your note to Frau v. H. who is so far away in Bohemia & will be so glad to have it. She was always saying - specially while cooking something for me - "what fun it wd be if your Mother were to walk in suddenly" - except that I fear I sh. not be "here in her place then!" which she certainly would not have been. I now go to her & Frau Doctor generally about 7 p.m. - and eat zu Mittag there (she says I get generally better food there than here wh. is true - but that here is quite good enough & I have a good appetite -) I then stay there all afternoon till about 6 or 7 - quite alone in her boudoir or on the verandah - or else with only Frau Doctor - for I am not yet allowed to see people - tho as the Doctor says if one receives one or two - or must receive all - & one can't say to one

"You may come in - you don't excite me at all" and to another "You mayn't come in you do excite me!" Therefore one must say "no" to all - except one or two choice spirits who are smuggled in for ½ an hour with the greatest secrecy, and upon whom absolute silence is imposed! For instance my dear S. Allengel who with his sister came & bid me goodbye - as he is off (all the time I am away luckily) to a niece of the Emperors, whose children he is giving music lessons - He is a violin virtuoso - also composes & since I have been ill has composed 3 lovely little pieces dedicated to me & suited as he rather wickedly says - to my technique. (i.e. not difficult) He is writing them out for me - also Frau v. Herzogenberg's Piano setting of the new Brahms Symphony - but I haven't got them yet - I can't tell you Mother darling how impatient I am to be off & that very impatience hinders my departure - as it increases the heart action! My pulse is all day over 100 & not always steady - So as you may imagine I have to take care. People are so

kind to me - even the Leipzig swell old ladies who have been kind to me & asked me to their houses (to whom next year I must ruthlessly forsake!) climb up my 2 pair of stairs to enquire & leave roses & ices & bisquits & notes - My room is overflowing with flowers! & the fns swellest of the bürgerliche swells here - Nürburgers & Dametzsch who have already returned to their general seats a few miles out of Leipzig - send in servants with flowers & notes of enquiry. Isn't it touching of them! And the melancholy thing is that I shan't be able to go & thank them - as I have to save myself for the journey & take things very easily. I take about ½ an hour to get up the stairs & arrive more dead than alive at the top.!! Quite like Frau v. Herz-S. but unlike her - am quite good on level ground. Oh! Mother I hope the rules may be a little relaxed! But the worse of it is I have promised my dear German

Doctor on my word of honor - signed a paper to that effect wh. I must show you when I get home - & unless he absolves me I fear I can't. But we will see & I will hope on - otherwise I often suddenly burst out into vehement howling at the bare idea of it, as I know my year's devotion to the Muses has not affected my love for field sports which I know I have just as much natural bent as to music!! I'll jump over the lawn tennis nets for Capt. Smith's benefit once more before I leave home again!

You w.d be so amused if you saw me cooking!! Fran o. Herz taught me (or rather I taught myself by watching her) and now very often - if I feel disposed thereto send for cold meat, & on a little spirit-lamp apparatus that she has lent me dish up all sorts of messes - fry potatoes & goodness knows what all - twice or thrice I have sent for ½ a pound of beefsteak or undercut - (8½ d the ½ lb)

and have cooked that as a sort of treat — being an moaled. The unpleasant part is preparing the raw meat for the cooking — & Nancy Crawford, who was also not brought up to that sort of thing, is much astonished at my being able to stomach it! But one soon gets over the feeling — & then I am in all much more of a nationalised German than Nancy — who actually wont eat sausages because the pigs weren't brought up in her own pig sty! And one never hears of any thing so absurd in Germany! It is wonderful how good the food tastes when one has removed the traces of the kitchen & deposited them on my small boy outside the door — dropped one's cooking apron (a towel tied round the ~~[illegible]~~ waist!) donned one's cuffs — & buckles to! I flatter myself I cook such cacao as never was — (but whether I can cook it in any other pot but Frau v. H's which I must secret here back soon — & in which I know the

proportions of sugar milk & cocoa
& a hair – remains to be proved at
Dimhurst when I first cook the
brew at breakfast at the table
in the window among the old books
– & well behind the hot things.!!
O joyous thought!! – I don't know how
to wait till the time comes! Could
n't you get the School Piano, Mother
darling – for me to practise on?
I think the ~~drawing~~ dining room w^d be
the best place – as I w^d like to
get my practising over in the
morning – & there I sh^d disturb
others – you in particular less
than in the green room – where
poor papa w^d have a fine time
of it between two fires above & below.!!!
I am in error about the souvenirs
– the doctor laughed at my idea
of posting about in the town – &
said I should think of it – & I
hardly like to trust the matter to
~~me~~ anyone else – that for Nina &
Violet I have (at least the
big one between them both)
If I ~~[illegible]~~ am not able to get them

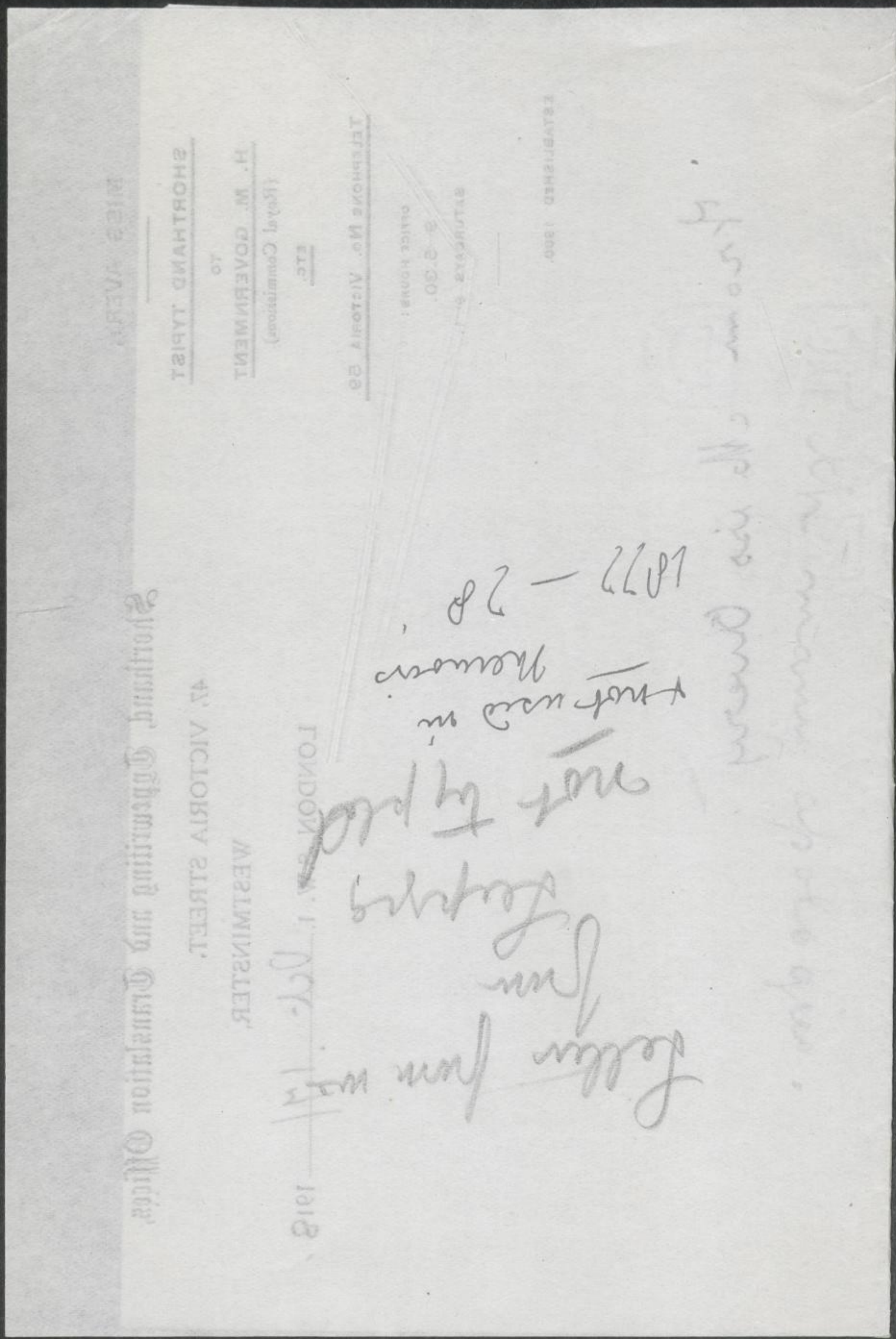
before I go I shall be in despair –
If w.d be such fun – & not ½ so nice
sending them in the Autumn wh.
of course I sh.d remorse do. (I
have just, in drinking lemonade
swallowed a lemon pip – & do hope
I shan't be a practical illustration
of "Rumpt du dus Lond mym
Tin Litronnu bliffen?" for the
edification of Miss Litte by the
time I get home! Do tell Miss Litte
that when I am in England I
shall be so glad to have her to
remind me of dear dear Germany
– & I hope she will let me talk
German with her sometimes – that I
may not quite forget it when there!
though I know what a trial it is
to have foreigners butchering one's own
language with one – when one is
perfect mistress of the language
of the country one is in. I'm not
perfect mistress of German by
any means I can of course talk
it as fast as I like & nothing amuses
me so intensely as when people
insist upon talking bad English with
me ~~[illegible]~~ in Germany –
Still perhaps Fräl Litte will

talk German with me

out of Goethe nature! It is too absurd
how I have forgotten English – per-
haps you notice in my letters how
jagged & unflowing my style has
become – & I, who, as translator,
used to have a tolerably good com-
mand of English, as one must have
if one translates, often sit searching
for a word such as "impress upon"
or "analogy" for ½ an hour & then
have to search in out in a German
Dictionary!! This will show you
that I now actually think in Ger-
man very often – & tho' I have
not given up my ~~[illegible]~~ habit of
talking aloud to myself when
alone it is now always in German
(which must be most edifying
to possible robbers concealed
under the bed or elsewhere!)
But one absurd thing is that
all the time Frau v Herzogen-
berg (with whom I always talk
English – at least generally – as
her accent is almost imperceep-
tible) was here – I could hardly
speak German at all with other
people – & Frau D. Brockhaus

to whom I went the day after Draw (3
r & left was much amused at
finding I couldn't speak grammatically
– and as I told yr I have forgotten
French fearfully (we really must
speak its together – only I can't
say "Shut the door" in French
nor hardly !!) I shall speak
German on the journey with Miss
Crawford, & therefore I shall have
quite forgotten it by the time I
get home !! I am so dying to see
Pretty – she must be very cosie in-
deed !! it is too jolly that Mary &
Co will be there! Thank the dear girl
for her letter most heartily – I
always thought if Mina managed
her breath better the organ is
very good & so true – By the by
what the money Mother darling –
The bills for – ball dress – making
of Raisin de Corinthe with silk &
tra – green stuff dress new silk –
putting in order of it & grey – &
altering my lovely yellow dress
a little come to about £8 – or
£8. 10. but I have enough to
cover that £8 – or £3 . 10 . 80 £5 . wire

be all I shall want for it.
Just imagine – I need not have
~~[illegible]~~ !! had
any bills but for this things – ~~[illegible]~~ I always paid a
month before hand & in such cases
one generally gives notice a month
before – well as I at the beginning
of the month had the full intention
of staying till July 1st of course I
gave no notice – till after I
was ill & the doctor said I
had better go – But if you believe
it the woman has the face to ask
& ask £5 for ~~the month~~ June! I asked
Mr Brockhaus if that was right
(Clorose said nothing to her about
it) and he says that though
it is <u>shameful</u> to ask for it
(Frau Heimbach didn't) it is
legal so I suppose I shall have
to pay! That is Papa! <u>Shel</u>
however I pay with the £5 I
had for the dresses. Thus remains
but to be paid this <u>£5</u> ~~[illegible]~~ –
a little over for parting tips
etc – say £1. and then alas



Letters from me
from
Leipzig
<u>not</u> typed

+ <u>not</u> used in
Memoirs

1877 – 78

I'm so glad about Jenny's marriage I hope Papa will close with him

March 1. 78

Salomon St 19

My own darling Mother – Because of Mia's birthday I am writing one day earlier than usual but nothing particular happens tonight except one of the Chamber Music concerts which we get free so I don't lose any fees – No as a matter of fact I have done – I went yesterday to a rout at the young Baroness Tauchnitz and met all the beauty and fashion of Leipzig there. I think you would be quite astonished at the lamentable want of taste displayed at this rout – I knew that this was one of the parties where everyone w^d put on their best bibs, tucks, manners, & smiles & went full of expectation – But it's no good – a German

Caut dress. The colours are so odd
- dirty violetty browns, and
blue greens, and magenta
purples - in fact of every colour
the German seems malicuously
to choose out the ugliest shade
- & contrive that with the
most unsuitable style of trimming
& fal-lals that you can conceive.
And then the head gear! The com-
bination of feathers & flowers &
combs & lace arranged in a
fashion that says plainly to all
beholders "How isn't this stylish" -
and invites you to notice its
hideousness!! - I see but one family
in Leipzig properly dressed -
the Dauchnitz themselves - and
as they are perpetually in Paris
& London I suppose they pick up
things there - My green dress has
been very prettily done up - and
I flatter myself was much ad-
mired - several people made
me compliments about it; and

I felt that they admired it! — Frau B was ready and couldn't come but I met lots of people I knew and was introduced to a lot more — But I felt ready myself and went home (to the next street) at ½ past 10 — German dancing doesn't tempt me a bit — Tomorrow I am going to see the play I have been ~~long~~ longing to see ever since I've been in Germany. It is naturally considered the ideal of a classical drama — and when an artist can give a good representation of the woman in it (the received type of a noble character & a heroine in Germany) she is considered to have scaled the heights of the classical drama — The play is Goethe's "Iphi "genie auf Tauris"; ~~[illegible]~~ it depends entirely upon the beauty of the dialogue & monologue, & has no plot — to speak of and is therefore not popular & seldom given — Fr. Geistinger plays Iphigenie and I've made Frau B promise to come with me as she declares all the

Iphigenies she has ever seen are
poor - & I am curious to know if she'll
approve of Mr. G in the part - Soon
(at Easter) all concerts & everything
come to an end & shopping becomes
dead - I fear its too clear what
has become of the sweets! The box
has simply latched to (I had no
idea Louie cared abt playing
Arcadian Shepherdess at London
Beaupost during the winter) &
the servants naturally opened it
to see what was inside - & threw!
No one can expect to hear anything
more of the contents!! I'm too vexed
about it - being so sure for Mother
darling wd enjoy them - and
now I can't get any more till next
Winter - Unless I hear fr. you I
won't write to Mr. Mens after all as
he might feel uncomfortable abt
it - lest his servant shd have
devoured them! - Anxiously awaiting
a ~~[illegible]~~ Post Card abt the books (shall
I send the 2 spring dresses to be
cleaned?) & with dear love - your
darling Mother
Your devoted Child
Ethel.

March 14. /78

Salomon St 19.
Thursday.

My own darling Mother.

I'm just sending a line & ask you the following. I took the Ascot dress (dyed a <u>lovely</u> dark dark red color for 4/6) & a dressmaker here - She called to my notice for the first time that the <u>arms</u> are wanting. and says it will be impossible to make it otherwise than Princesse with silk sleeves and garnitures - the stuff is so beautiful it seems a pity not to use it - and by letting her do this I should have an <u>exquisite</u> company dress for the spring and summer - for with the lace amulets and things that belong to it, it would be lovely really. She <u>promises</u> that the <u>outside</u> ~~for~~ price for making <u>and</u> silk shall be 70/- Towards this I can produce 20/- at all events which I calculated as making-up costs. So if you approve of this I can get a lovely dress for £2.10. Then millinery bills you shall have

done; for the other one I find I can manage myself of all goes well with the songs - which I am busy preparing for inspection -
Thank you very much for yr note of this morning. This is of course not a proper letter. By the bye its all right about the horse. The new people don't come in till August 1st so the day of my departure will probably be today 4 months hence! 14th July!!
Will you please Mother darling send a card by return to say if the dress plan pleases you. I think its a good one - as some new dress of that sort I must have had sitter when I came to England or when the hot-weather comes & I suppose it would probably have cost £3 or £4 wouldn't it? The stuff is lying at the dress-makers awaiting your orders.
Yours my darling Mother
Your devoted child,
Ethel McMurphy

8

Easter Sunday — Dresden
Bautzner-Chaussee
Brockhaus-Berg — 19 April/78

My darling Mother — Here I am you see sublimely happy at this dear little place about 2 miles from Dresden yet quite in the country — The weather — air — views all that the soul of man can desire — but with the most fearful cold — cough — sore throat — that you can picture to yourself! I expect soon to be cured in this beautiful place — We are up on a sort of cliff — the Elbe flowing at our feet — and winding a good deal before it reaches the town — There is a beautiful bridge over the river & the whole thing reminds me strongly of the valley of the Tyne — as seen from Sandhoe — Corbridge playing the part of Dresden! — There are such beautiful domes & steeples that have gained Dresden the name of ~~Dresden~~ German Florence, in fact I can't imagine a town more beautifully situated — I arrived yesterday

Mrs Thomas Clarkson
Mrs Julian Marshall
Mrs Marshall
Sandhoe
Corbridge
Northumberland
Child Hall
Oxford
Love to all
Your devoted
Child
Millicent

and was met by the soldiers now
and quite one of the nicest young
men I ever met – a Swiss yclept
Wyss – who is one of my Leipzig
favorites (a student of course) – The house
is miniature – no polished furniture
– all white & blue paint – too delicious
– On Monday I am going into the
town to see the Gallery etc. Don't
you envy me! – but now I come
to think of it you surely have been
in Dresden some time or other?
and know all about it – The journey
was very cheap 7/6! and I don't
think I shall have any expenses
except my fare "back again" –
We sit a good deal under the
trees singing Mendelssohn & his
& others at sight – but having sung
alto so much at the Herzogenberg's
with Mrs as soprano – a cousin with
a heavenly tenor & him as bass
I have become very critical &
don't enjoy singing with dear
Frau D. (who has a voice like
a peacock vonly sings true when
she knows the thing by heart)

& the 2 sons who are baritones but respectively manufacture themselves tenor & bass to meet the exigencies of the situation! - I mean to work a good deal here - all is so quiet that the only fear is one may turn lazy and not work at all!! Properly speaking it is holidays but as a fact I had my holidays in Jan & when I was ill, & don't mean to take any now. The heat is already rather unpleasant tho' of course less so here than in Leipzig - My grey dress has been done up & looks tolerably respectable really! The green is not done up yet - both them - my dark blue print and my tussaw silk which I shall take off the light blue bows & turn it into an afternoon dress I shall do - then one of my numerous blue sashes and the blue bows of the tussaw silk have been turned and are now dirty shall be dyed dark blue and I shall have

them fastened on to the white dress
- That'll look very well - The Passion
went off very well - I think I made
I overdid myself a good deal - It
takes an awful lot out of me -
singing away, standing most of the
time from 6 - 6.9.30 - not to
speak of daily rehearsals all
through the week which last
4 or 5 hours (all of which I did
not attend - as the one thing I
can do is sing pretty nearly
anything at sight) Next year
I shall take singing lessons - a
very good singing mistress here
says she never met anyone with
such an "ausgesprochene talent
zum singen" - of course there are
talents singing as there are
for violin - & piano playing - She
said I hardly did anything wrong
as to the delivery - What they
call "Vortrag" - which includes
emission of the voice - enunciation
- conception of what I am singing
etc - What I want & will have
is coloratur - that I can sing

April 1778 (begun with Hes.)

Salomonstr 19. Wednesday -

My darling Mother - as I sh^d anyhow be sending a line to acknowledge the receipt of the money I may as well, in answering Papa's question about my holidays dilate fully upon a ~~sub~~ question that has been revolving in my brain for a long time - which I remove I sh^d have let alone till next Sunday - Ever since I really began to get forward in my studies & consequently to demand more attention & help from my masters I have also begun to be conscious of the fact that in the Conservatorium I can't get that help & attention - in fact that a Conserv. is a splendid institution (tho' this one is not a good specimen as I told you last Autumn) for the education of the masses but for the one or two who really want to drive the matter very far (which few do in the Conservatorium) for everyone can get in & have their instruction cheaper there than at home) it is no go - imagine to yourself a class of 8 or 12 together with one master for an hour. There is of course no time to do the things pro-

perly - The ~~too~~ exercises you have worked
are just glanced through & there is
hardly time to explain <u>Why</u> this
or that is wrong - still less to go
through the various ways of correcting
it & then choose the best - Why -
& in my private lessons under
Herzogenberg I am sometimes ½ an
hour over one example - & work
with him <u>looking</u> <u>or</u> & pulling me
up with "That's wrong" & find some-
thing else "whenever occasion
requires - All this one cannot -
expect in a Conserv. With the
piano it is better - and tho'
I think my masles makes me
<u>thump</u> & would eventually
spoil my touch - of course one
can practise by oneself and
the 10 minutes one gets with
him allows of his pointing out
to you where you've played wrong
or held your hand wrong -
With Reinecke I really am
in a rage - he lets me compose
sonatas & string quartettes &
goodness knows what all when
I can't write a simple madri -

gal. I should hear what Brahms says about it - So at last I come to see it is better if I leave the Conserv. and take private lessons - which I find are no more expensive than the Conserv. and knock one up so much less - (Mongh matter aren't so bad as Frau Dr. Miller of course the Conserv. involves what they call "Einzel hetzen u jagen") Even Jadassohn himself said to me the Con. was no place for me, if I want to develop my talent - I must have it watched from the beginning to the end as no one can watch it when I am one of 350. Everyone - Reinecke, Heuschel, Brahms, recommend the steps - for at the same time I can enjoy all the advantages of the Con. i.e. go into the Abend-Unterhaltungs - Gewandhaus Rehearsals & all that - & (chiefest of all) be in this glorious musical atmosphere - I sh^d have lessons by Herr v. Hergenberg of course - combining (as sh^d be done) composition & counterpoint in

the same course – I sh^d begin of course after my return from home which of course w^d then depend on H,s. who leave Leipzig this month and come back in the middle of Sept^r – I shall I think take the first month at home easily – & then I must set to work again – but as (probably) sh^d be able to work harder in Leipzig than at home if you think it right you must pack me off sooner than that – However for that there is time! Anyhow on the 1st July I leave Leipzig! Tell me what you think of all this mother darling – I have been pondering it for months and wanted to hear what all authorities say about it – & they are as unanimous as I expected – Since I have had private lessons and seen how I have come forward in them I am more than ever for the plan – I plucked up courage & spoke to the Director the other day about it – & to my astonishment he didn't "fly out" at me – I think because he thought – I sh^d of course take lessons

with Reinecke who I sure w^d be an excellent composition master out of the Conservatorium. But he has made his name (that is as much name as he ever will make) and asks fancy prices for his lessons (as Hallé & Paines & such fellows do in London) & that w^d not suit me at all at all –

Frau Doctor has come back thank goodness. Yesterday Fel & Dauchnitz & Mrs Mirce came & offered me a place in their box for the Walküre performance – a very handsome present!! I was so pleased.

Please Mrs Mrs darling don't be anxious about me – I assure you I'm very well – I haven't half such a bad cough as I had in the ~~spring~~ autumn – in fact it's now all but gone – Everyone has colds & coughs now as summer is coming – The

last few days have been fear-
fully hot - but now thank
goodness its cool - I must
do comfort to goodly & dear-
ling Mother - dear love to
all at home & many thanks
for your & for his pretty letter.

Your ever loving child
Philippa

MB (Mendelssohn Lib about May 1.

Salomonstr 19.
Sunday Eve
May 1st

My own darling Mother

Grilled à la St Laurence by this awful heat I sit down to write to you - I have just got something that has delighted me more than any present I have received for ages. At the Berg was also staying a Swiss - boy by name - a too fascinating charmer studying in Leipzig and a great friend of the Brockhaus family men - I have often told Frau Doctor it was dangerous to let me meet him so often - so delightful so he - in fact - he goes (privately) between Fran D. & me by the name of "The only man I ever loved"!! Well he - as are the Brockhaus boys - is one of my most appreciative hearers when I sing - & shares the passion for "Rothraut" - He also had a fascinating little black velvet - fez wh. I was always borrowing (N.B. because as you

Now, fezzes are always becoming!
I gave back the fez on our return
from Dresden, of course. Well. yes.
Friday – when I was in at the
Brockhauses, in walk Albert &
Mr Herr Wyss and after having
each made a beautiful little
speech – about the "Geist" being
the chief thing in human beings,
the head being the seat of the
Geist, and its being so duty
of all admiring friends to keep
the seat of the Geist in good order,
I was presented with a lovely
little black velvet fez – round
which is worked most beautifully
in red silk as many bars of
Rothraut as c.d be got in !!!

Inside is embroidered
on the red silk lining
A. H. E. i/l E. M. S. which being
interpreted is "Albert, Heinrich
(the Soldier brothers) & Ernst,

and she played with them his trio for piano V. & cello - such a beautiful work that Joachim also plays - & then they played a whole heap of Brahms things - & good many from M.S.S. of Brahms wh. they have - & which B. has not yet published. And then she played us her own Piano arrangement of Brahms new Symphony which was played here this year & wh. is not yet published even in score in Germany. She is a wonderful woman - doesn't compose but is the most - talented dilettante (says Joachim) he sees met - She is virtuoso on the piano besides her reading from score. her wonderful memory (not that I call that much because I have as good a one myself!!) & above all her very clear arrangement of the Symphony. Ask Mr. Lee you to

Know her & him too –

I enclose a photo of dear Frau Doctor – really very much like her – also of him. He is not beautiful as you see!

By the bye Julia Fenn amused me so much by asking if you still made those wonderful spells with little pinches at the top – and if you still had a penchant for black edged papers in spell-making ....! I was so pleased to be able to say Yes to all these questions!!

Well Mother darling I must be present goodbye –

Dear love to all – I'm very busy – rather overdone too!)

Your devoted child

Mendy

To send the photos next time you write Mother darling. I only got them yesterday. May I write to Mendelssohn (of Newcastle) for photos of me – Of course the people who have been kind to me here want them:

57. 9. 6
9. 9.
48. 0 6

2. 0
2 3. 6.
10. 0. 0
12. 5. 6
8. 8.
3. 17. 6
15

~~10. 2~~

8. 8. 0

3. 2. 6.
15
3. 17 6

57. 9. 6
5
~~57. 4. 6.~~
9. 9
~~48. 15. 6~~

8. 8
1. 1
9 9

Ihrer lieben Ethel McSmyth.!!"
(When students give one another caps
– a frequent proceeding – they always
have embroidered inside
M. or N. if L. A. or B. (i.e. semen
lieben A. or B) and my B benefactors thought – that as there
is safety in numbers they might
venture to put in something in the
same strain.!!!) wasn't it a
delightful idea? I don't know
when I have been so pleased at
anything.

Yesterday Mendelssohn's daughter
Frau Prof. Wach who has now returned
to Leipzig paid me a long visit
and invited me to go there on
Tuesday (only the Herzogenberg
besides myself) to do music-
first imagine the son of Mrs Shipley is here and much at the
Wachs. She has also been in Leipzig here
and asked about me from Frau
Wach – said she had heard I had
gone to Leipzig was so interested

to hear how it went with me etc etc. I
wish I had seen her - as I always ad-
mired her clever strong face so much
at the dancing lessons & balls in
Aldershot. She (Frau Prof Wach) tho'
the daughter of the founder was much
pleased to hear that I thought of
leaving the Conserv. if you approved.
She said it made her quite sad
to hear mine now - ~~that~~ so she never
went - so changed was it since
the time when Mendelssohn
presided and it was the first
school of music in the world -
He built it for 25 pupils !!
how more than 300 are there!
in rooms working under masters
~~for~~ destined for 1/12 of that
number - No wonder says she
~~was~~ one gets "Nichts für's Feld"
there -

Last Saty just I, ~~[illegible]~~ the
Violin - Klengel, & the Cello -
Klengel went to the Herzogenberg

Salomonstr 19 - Leipzig -
Oct 78

1

Farnborough Station,
Hants.

My own darling Mother - Arrived in Leipzig two days ago - your dear letters made me so happy - also the sweet little present of the happies girls - I want you specially by-and-by with this note in reply and thank them also - The letter was from Novello - I expect at least - a declaration of love such a budget could be nothing but his affections in black & white - however they only were some rather mediocre poems (original and nothing like as good as his translations) and a nice letter, wh. he evidently expects an answer (but I fear wont get one as I really have not - time ~~worth~~ for every genius that my acquaintance soul picks up in a 2nd class carriage on the Jet Northern Railway) Violets two letters were so welcome

as hers always are – I was so sorry to leave Utrecht and the splendid music I heard there but oh so glad the ‚in beloved hippy‚ again – I have a new landlady as you know – and am enchanted with the whole family – my "Zimmerchen" and everything – Imbead of the room at the right end of that exquisite drawing of mine I have one on the other side with a little bedroom attached bit – (corresponding to the three windows on the left in the picture) and dear Herrenburger has made it all so comfortable for me – such a delightful bed – all the furniture new etc – In fact these people are quite another stamp than the Brounds & even my dear dear Prof. Heimbach – He is a publisher like Mr. Brockhaus (only on a smaller scale) & they are in Germany a very well educated class – He is a dear old man and a very gt reader – Has

the volume here is really like at the Brockhauses – quite beautiful and everything so "appetit lich" & so plentiful – in fact I have fallen in clover – even the particular Frau Herzogenberg is content! I brought her your Shakespeare today and she was quite <u>beside herself</u> with delight – & he not less so. The only Shakespeare they have is a scrubby little Tauchnitz edition and for such rapt lovers of "the immortal Willi-am" (as it said in that ridiculous play in Aunt Judy) such an edition is a great boon of course – She will of course write to you herself – but I can testify to the intense delight the book are then – the sweet soul is looking so well – tho' when I appeared in Leipzig suddenly one morning when they were at breakfast she poor soul turned perfectly <u>green</u> with her weltered heart – ✓

night shame caused regret to be announced but I forgot she could stand surprises - My darling Mother everyone is wild about the Varia tions - even Herzogenberg thinks it is almost <u>impossible</u> to please became quite ecstatic over them - I dont think I myself knew what "good work" they were - Yesterday evening I had a delightful time at the Flugels as usual - they played trio in the old days - not quite as I had it in Utrecht of course but still it was very delightful - Please thank Papa for the £10 - I found my disgust that there was but one express to leip zig and no 3rd class on it - and also that if I sent my clothes by goods train I couldn't hope to get them under 10 days or a fortnight !! So I had to take the things with me and did

2) not manage the stag in U. (not that that cost many shillings!) and the journey here including all things under £5 – Started here houseless with £15 clear – I am the only pensionaire here – there are children (in the story below) but such jolly little things who don't trouble me at all – indeed one of them I have already got quite fond of!! – You cant think how prettily my room looks with the pictures + boots etc – I have made a trophy with the brushes – my skates – racquet – crop + boot hooks etc. Strikes awe + wonderment in the heart of the Jewess! – By the by talking of brushes – I find recluiz is more expensive than I thought – 4/- per rede in fact – Now as it happens – there are no less than 4 cavaliers and 2

Ladies who are anxious bride with
me - and I sh^d allow myself at the
most 2 rides in this case before the
winter came -. Therefore mother dear
being I wondered if instead of
giving me any Xmas present (bar
the mince pies!) you would present
me with 6 rides? before the win-
ter comes? I sh^d like that better
than any Xmas present you can
think of! and if you did it in this
way sh^d not grudge myself the 24/-
(as I don't mean to have any pocket
money) whereas I otherwise should
not like to ride away 24/- when
I am by way of strictly economising
- do write to me and say if you
will do this - but if so you must
swear to give me nothing else at
Xmas! Unless you do this I shall
be bride! As I am writing to Vio-
let I will shut up for the present
Goodbye my own darling mother -
I will as of old write every Sunday
Your devoted child
Ethel M.S.

My best love to all
Salomonsts 19.
My dear Papa. I write a
Spring
Thus
Marschin 188
Leipzig
Sept
I go at once to business
Will you send me a cheque for £20 –
my fourth remittance that will be –
If you can send it before the 1st when
my monthly bill is due I shall be
glad as I hate paying up a day
too late! On Saturday I make an
excursion to Weimar, about 2½
hours distance f. here & stay till
Monday, (longer I cannot manage –)
with Cecilia Wodehouse that was
who married if you remember a
Baron Lilienkron – a cousin of Frau
von Herzogenberg – I met her at
Minley two years ago when she was
engaged, & liked her so immensely –
Last summer, passing thro' Leipzig
she found out my address & came

here, to see me – I was however then in
Lisgood & have heard nothing of her
since – last week I got a kind little
note from her – & expect to enjoy my
meeting with her much – I do so enjoy contact-
ing & again with well bred English
people – & intentionally avoid such specimens
of any country men & women as are
to be seen here! They have formed
a lawn tennis club here, at the
Spa Hotel – & if after mores-
pondence I find it nice I shall
join. By the bye – you know
last summer I took over the
remnants of poor Johnny's fiddle
& have repaired & examined – It was
cracked in various places, thick
with dirt, & had no neck & various
other things wanting. I re-
colled distinctly treat-ing it & the
bow together & the bow he
found £5 – I showed it to the
man in authority here who seems

he liked the look of it very much - tho' it that condition it was risky & promise much - but - he vowed advise me to invest something in repairs - to put it in order. would cost between £3.10. + £4. - As it was necessary for me to have a good fiddle (the thing I have had till now is too fearful) I determined to take the risk. - It turns out to be a genuine old Tyrol Instrument - & to be much better than the man expected - the tone is most beautiful and shape & colour a sight - for the Gods! He values it now at about £20 tho' of course I new I have played a few months on it, & kept it warm & clean, it will be much more worth - It has been hanging on the wall in my old room for 5 years & spent

I engaged the room

the couple

so little money

night - I was

a night on the lawn once! I shall pay for repairs £3.17.6. But as you may imagine am glad to get off so cheaply as I confident have got a respectable fiddle for less than £12 or £13 pounds, & that price represents an instrument far inferior to that I now have. Besides Dick I am so happy that it is his fiddle — & has a courtesy of its own apart from other considerations — I can understand Major Stevens passion for his fiddle (Wh. of course is 5 times as valuable as mine) — I have bought a huge black silk handkerchief in which my fiddle reposes in its box — & I polish away like mad if a speck of dust falls on it! I was so glad Thaas & Alice in what brilliant health you & Mama are & hope to find you so when I return to England Wh. will be in the end of June I expect.

Lot 2

3 letters

Oct + Nov 18

Salomonsts 19 - Tuesday. Oct 1878

~~Farnhurst,~~
~~Farnboro Station,~~
Hants.

My darling Mother - I don't think I never was so happy in my born days as I am now! It seems never I care for one moment and that it will be further on in the season when the concerts get more numerous I really can't think! In the meanwhile I never was more <u>comfortable</u> in my born days than I am now - I am perfectly <u>enchanted</u> with the Meiseburgers - She is the dearest woman - Rather life Mrs Dugent except - that she is good looking with fair frizzly hair - yet very much that style of person - the same speaking voice <u>exactly</u> - full of fun and up to any thing aged about 34. My landlord is a dear little wizened man of abt 50 I sh. think who looks very poor - is barrows accepting but - he and his wife <u>adore</u> each other - there are <u>5</u> children of whom 7

see nothing however – They have
all got passions for me – and are
really delightful children – so well
brought up – so obedient & so quiet!!
My rooms are so pretty and cosy –
the pictures look very well – (Frau
M. did not object to the nails for
the trophy – on the contrary was
delighted – & said Lipe a sensible
woman the pretties I made the
room the better – I am really –
& enjoy being, one of the family –
The food is as Frau v Herzogenberg
remarks a great deal better than
what she gets – the whole house is
so nice and clean & the servants
such a nice lot – Altogether I
am more comfortable & contented
than I can tell you – They had
a party last week – really Ger-
man Burghers & not quite the
1st walks do do these things to
family. All the ladies an

time about 3! drink coffee - fruit & talk - nothing else till about 7!
Then the gentlemen come - & one
lib- dam blable - which lasts
till 10. & then come roundelays
- every body has to sing a song
- whether they can or not - and
between each every one sings
a chorus "Es geht ein Freud-
Gesang An unsern Tische h'rum
herum etc!!" One of the party
played the Zither and accom-
panied most of the songs - &
then we sang Mendelssohn
quartettes etc etc without accomp.
of course really very well. Old
Merseburgs - who can't carry
much got most convivial -
beamed on all sides specially
on me - who sat at Mrs side
- & showered compliments on
my head - quite without any
sort of connection with each other
- passing with lightning rapidity

from my personal appearance to my "social qualities", my capacities for jumping over chairs – & my compositions. The next day poor old fellow he begged the Fitters gentleman, who is staying here, to tell him if he had said anything un peu trop fort! – – The Bach's (Mendelssohn's daughters) are back and as dear as ever – on ~~Wednesday~~ Thursday (the next Gewandhaus concert) Such an event takes place – the 50th anniversary of the day Frau Schumann made her debut (as a child 9 y/o) in the Gewandhaus! She is going to play on Friday but his things go first – and it will be very glorious – the whole place is blue decorated – the ~~flor~~ floor one mass of flowers etc! The

Y poor woman is naturally in an awful state of mind about it – wrote such a touching letter to Frau v. H. – saying "You can understand how painful it will be on such an occasion as this to be the object of general attention." After this was a party at Mrs Freges' where she – Joachim & his wife – perhaps Brahms – Madame Schwabe & others will be – I am looking forward to it much – & wonder if Frau Schumann will remember me – though on such a night I shall of course not put myself forward in any way! – For Frau Schumann's sake I shall be heartily glad when it is all over – if she can bear it is very doubtful – & as I think it's cruelty to animals & yet one couldn't do less – Mrs Wach wanted to

Frimhurst,
Farnboro Station,
Hants.

take me to Berlin (expenses paid!) to day with Felix Mendelssohn his brother & hear Mme Viardot under Joachim's baton - but I am not going on to Cologne as the Good Man threatens abt. and Frau M. - (I shall call her Lisl) won't allow it!

I must shut up for the present mother darling - Do thank Emma immensely for her letter which I was delighted to get - such a surprise as it was too!

I am much excited
know how he came with
His Majesty of Abyssinia
bent off.
I'm last love & all
manifest for immensely
for the welcome presents
She rides — always
darling mother
Your devoted child
Ethel.

Freiburg

My Sweet-

I have letter
but forgot to write check
yesterday & now Coffee
is very poor

Good bye
& blessings for
Sweetest
Wife

Oct 5th 1878

All this to mark on page 6.

Then par on page 4

Frimhurst,
Farnboro Station,
Hants.

My darling Mother - This has been a great week on account of the Draw Schumann festival - It went off most gloriously - The woman surely never played as she last Wednesday - at the rehearsal - & above all last Thursday in the concert - By the death of the Concert meister's wife's uncle - I got the Con' wife's ticket to the concert - wh is just under the piano in the Gewandhaus - The Saal was beautiful decorated - with trophys - & all round the room laurel wreaths with 1828. 1878 thereon

really very prettily - One most successful idea was - selling little bouquets on the stairs they sold by all who

Sat anywhere near the orchestra
blue thrown at Frau S. as soon as
she appeared – When she entered,
from every corner of the room show-
ered flowers – She did not in
the least expect it – Which ever way
she looked she was smothered in
them – I never saw anyone look
so delighted in my life – Round
about the piano they lay a foot
thick and she and Reinecke really
had to dig a pathway & a
clear space round the stool –
She played too exquisitely – such
fire & pathos! – & looked so beau-
tiful at the same time in dark
dark red velvet with a long satin
train – The two Miss Schumanns
sat behind me & remembered me
very well – I was so pleased – &
then – great moment – ~~during~~
just as the Symphony was beginning
in came Frau S. from the ~~concert~~
artists room and sat next

me !! I was too shy dismissed her of my own existence just then — but love & truth I sat near her on that great night — After the concert ~~Lisa~~ Lisl came down to meet me in the Saal (she had sat in the gallery) & fairly took my breath away with her loveliness — I had never seen her really extremely got up before — & simply say I never saw anything like her in my life — She was in dark red striped velvet & satin — with (proteu) an ermine tippet round her neck — her hair seemed strahlend — & she wore a slender wreath of some flower — single leaved & white ~~striped do~~ with dark red — in German they care called Vatermörder !! Such a painfully piece of Teutonic realism — I wore my light-green and crocus as you may imagine — at least —

the dress did, a tremendous sensa-
tion at Frau Frege's whether ~~the~~ a
happy few repaired - Frau Schu-
mann is staying there - soon after
we arrived she appeared radiant
- the love she bears for the
happy girl is so touching - what
is it in this woman that - none
can resist - old, young, rich or
poor? The old nurse who nursed
me during my illness seemed
blind "die gnädige Frau" much
in the way Frau Schumann loves
her!! - Late in the evening when
most of the guests had retired I went-
up to dear Frau Schumann and
had a blissful converse with
her. I don't fancy she much re-
membered me at first tho she
was so sweet & kind - but-
when I, knowing Giel had told
me of her, said I was Ethel Smyth
she brightened all over &
said "Ich gratuliere! da sind

2/ Sie in gute Hände gekommen" –
At this minute up came Lisl
& put her arm round me
& said "Dieses ist mein
Pflegekind!" (foster-child)
Frau S. said "Wir waren nach-
barn im Concert – aber da wollten
Sie gar nichts von mir wissen" –
Lisl said "Sagen Sie dass ja
"nicht. Etwas was uns zu ver-
"scheiden Sie dort anzusprechen"
Frau S. was so dear. Said she
hoped she would see me again
& I kissed her hand feeling
rather like the page boy in
Kohtraut – "Ihr tausend Blätter
im Walde wisst – ich habe schöne
Kohtraut's Mund geküsst" –
When Brahms comes in ~~the~~
~~Spring~~ January I hope to see
more of that grand woman –
I do envy Lisl her love – no I
don't! one cant envy Lisl any
thing. she deserves all the

How a mortal can gnie her
She was so pleased with my
behaviour at the Dreges !! The
sweetest woman in Leipzig - called
Leipzig's Queen in fact ! - I
asked her if she expected Sch.
Stand on my head before Mrs
D. or dig her in the ribs or other
wise compost myself unseemly?
But she said "Nein du weisst
was ich meine - du gefällst mir -
du hattest so was ruhiges
feines, ~~[illegible]~~ kurz so Lady
like - auch Heinrich ist von
dir begeistert - he said to me today
"It is curious that difference
between her & all the other
girls in the room - she looked
as if she belonged to another sphere
- this from the imperturbable
Herzogenberg did astonish me -
A compliment - from the most

fastidious puppy in London -
Jack Stracey passing comple could
not give me ½ the pleasure that
it does. in telling his wife what
I hope is a truism - that
one looks & behaves like a lady -
If I looked what Aunt Lowry
(Pitwell) calls T.B. (Thoro'bred)
what must she have done -
She told me in her naive way
"Henry said bone last night
when I stood near him at
the supper table - "Abgesehen
von aller Verwandschaft ich
muss gestehen dass du hübsch
bist !!!" - Well - I must be
closing as supper is ready.
When I first got your letter I
wrote off a furious German
post-card asking you how you
can believe such a thing as
that I sh^d make appointments
with any man - even the

handsomest I ever saw. I said did you wonder at my saying you did not understand me – But Mother darling it is really not worth while being hurt at such preposterous rubbish – I don't even ask <u>who</u> told you – tho' if I hear any more abt. it I must in justice to myself have the lady's name & write to her – if not Ish.d write to Capt. Smith! not hesitate <u>one moment</u>! For such things I have <u>no</u> shyness. Can any being half of whose Blood is Stracey blood conceive such an anomaly as a perfectly passionless woman?– No she <u>cant</u>. Talking of Stracey's Issi has sent me such a good photo of herself reposing lan-guidly on a sofe –

Goodbye darling Mother – tell Papa I send me some money – I think I told him that nearly all my large expenses are <u>paid down</u> 6 months in advance whereby I get a persentage off them – I have, as last year – done so now – but <u>not</u> paid them all – I think it would be more comfortable for both if he wd. send me larger sums but seldom. The bank pays me more "in" them & it

Wednesday - Nov/78 Salomonsstr 14 Leipzig (2)

Middle Appartment

My dear Papa - Many thanks for yours of this morning - I am so distressed about Mother - but not surprised - for of course weather is anything like ours here one must indeed be careful - It is quite comic here - everyone has a cold & I myself can hardly speak - The 30/- has not come yet - but will probably tomorrow - I always meant to explain to you how they do this in Germany. The postman brings me the money of his own accord - & all you have to do is to signify to me that some is coming - It's a great service of bothers and so very safe - The gloves have already come - Frau v Herzogenberg was so fascinated with them that she instantly seized upon 3 pairs and wants to know how much they cost - so do I. But I will get Mother to send me some more - as they are so admirably suited to this smutty town & not to be got here for love or money - I am properly speaking not at Salomonsstr but with the Herz's for a night - as my bedroom window frame got so dreadfully warped (it is a very old house) that the wind came in at will and gave me this

old - so instead of sleeping in my drawing room as I sh.d otherwise do, I have gone over bodily to the other side of the town - It is not everyone from whom one can accept these favors - and for the thousandth time I am grateful for having such friends - My work is really severe too - I do nothing else - but walk daily for at least an hour on principle and of course thereby on the system - I have still two more of my Xmas present rides" before me - at the last I obtained an insight into German notions of sport - I shall never forget - I rode as usual with my two cavaliers (this is proper in Germany!) to the race course which is a great open grassy place - about as big as the parade ground in front of Col Cooke's house - the course being round the same - & not very plentifully bestrewed with fences that even the Kern filly w.d walk over - I noticed a small concourse of horsemen in elaborate get-ups (or get up!) at one side and a lone sylphe cropping the grass in the distance - In

fearful excitement - This object is pointed out to me by the gentleman with "There is a hunt today!" I also was much excited tho' I didn't quite see how it was going to be managed" Where are the hounds I ask - They stare at me in blank astonishment - & proceed to explain that there are none! Eventually I gather that two tame hares are kept on the premises - & let out once a week about - The sport is that one of the riders shall ride after the hare hallooing ~~[illegible]~~ cracking a long driving whips, the hare ~~[illegible]~~ of course moves slowly on and the object is for the other riders to tear about preventing him from getting off the grass plot into the woods at the side !!!!! "If he does get into the woods" say I - "What then"? "O then we go home and towards evening he comes home & of his own accord goes into his hutch where he is shut up again!! Did you

ever hear of anything so absurd - I
laughed till I nearly fell from my
steed & my cavaliers were rather
hurt in their feelings !! However
it is possible - tho' not probable
that if one had never known the other
thing this sort of "sport" might be
entertaining - X
Thursday - I have just got Violets
& was much interested & touched
at what she tells me of poor Mr Bun-
bury's last hours - No one could wish
a happier & more peaceful death - &
one always feared it might be other-
wise with her - The Bof - has
also arrived for which please thank
Mother very much - I will write to
the girls as soon as ever I can - but
long letters to Alice Mary & Lady
Sitwell must be written first!
I do hope Mrs will find Mother
better & that she will soon be
able to write to me herself - but
she's not to do so till quite able -
With best love Ever & all
Your affte Angelos Mus

Registered

Miss Smyth

Coign

Hook Heath

Woking

R LONDON, S.W. 5 No. 686

Letters to Mother
— 80 (+ from Stels
82 — 84)
+ f. Leipzig 86 —

31 May 1880. f 1

My own darling Mother

Very many happy re-
turns of the day – if you yourself don't
forget what the day is! as, the
family having a bad memory for
anniversaries, is possible! I shall
on that day be enjoying a very
good ussering of my Quartett – or
will drink with the Wachs & other
people who are there the health of
the grandmother of the quartett.
I certainly am more expeditious in
the production of my progeny than
Alice of hers – except that on oc-
casion the arrival of the same is
put off from day to day – The
Quartette was finished all but
the Coda of the last movement &
remained in that unfinished state
for 3 weeks! I am now hard at
work on an Adagio of a gloomy
heart-breaking nature – the heroine
of which is "Lady Sedlock" in

"Bleak House" which I read for the first time last week & which simply electrified me. I think it out rank the best book of Dickens I ever read – (I have never read David Copperfield – which is I think universally considered his chef d'oeuvre) & the tragic fate of my Lady Dedlock is enough to inspire & dye black any amount of tragedies. You see I can afford to laugh at things that are very earnest to me – such as the doleful characters of an Adagio. Did is for ever complaining that I am so "Cruel" & I suppose this is a sign of "Cru-ness" –
This morning to my intense horror that awful old man Mr Morse turned up p. Dresden & refused to move from his chair for 1¼ hours – he bothers & bothers me beg & Dresden. & in self defence I hid in his beard (such

a horrid straggling cheese-omelette-colored beard) & said I was going to England on Monday! I will not go stay with his wife & "girls" - ("Who have been taking music lessons for a year & are pushing on tolerably well") on any consideration whatever. I am sure such an old snob as that has terrible women-kind - Alice & I have this in common that we cannot associate with people who are not quite our equals. They do so depress me & take away the grace & charm of life so completely I think. I shall run down to Genoa tomorrow I think - I have had perpetual headaches this week and am in want of rest & country air - & yet this evening I am going to see the Barbiere - the last time having been a failure - as regards my worthy presence -

~~Fran~~ Mary Fiedler wants me to go permantly to Crotenity again but curiously enough the headaches don't prevent my composing, the fiddling & all other work is a ~~lot~~ labour, & I dont want to part p. my beloved quiet little rooms, till the Adagio is over. Not having shut the blinds when I went to dinner the same little room is at present a little oven — / having a western aspect — / & I feel apoplectic in the extreme! Goodbye my darling Mother — In 4 weeks time I shall be with you all again!!! — Mary is a bore with her tardy infant — but — you must — arrange my stay as you like best.

Your p. most loving child

Ethel

Army of Transvaal? 12 March 81 Aristocracy! Transvaal (9)

My own darling Mother — I believe as a matter of fact you owe me a letter! but the chief thing is I have news from home, no matter what-members of the family transmit it, & Alice's letter of this morning gave me such a cheery account of you all that I am in a particularly good temper & can enjoy a quiet evening in my den, which is a luxury I have long not indulged in, with particular glee —

For a fortnight or so I rather "frivolled" — & mixing with the gay & festive world for a time made me old experience that I can wander thro' the crowd like a ghost — keep aloof from its inner interests & excitements, but must give vent to my passion for other peoples affairs." This is perhaps excusable, in a person who is so very devoted to ~~their~~ her own concerns in life as a rule! I rapidly penetrated the mysteries of three separate lunatics couples, conducted a small one, in an amateurish way on my own account, & now the belle back in my den as I said, look upon the same as a detach tower & light-love light of my couples — one pair is engaged (Julius Limburger & Miss Rüstner)

, the lady in the second is inexorable — She third have reached an interesting stage of development — The girl (the only one here I care a pin for) has decidedly a tendre for him & believes he hasn't for her — She is rather rich & very out of the way — He is an infantry officer, with debts! handsome, very clever, not quite a gentleman in my humble opinion, but a great ladykiller — in a word "a fascinating detrimental" — I believed until now that he didn't care 2d abt. her, & impressed that fact on the maiden on every possible occasion — all the more because a very clever gentlemanly refined youth, a decided partie — who is away just now & ignorant of these doings has every intention of marrying her some day (tho' their friendship is as yet platonic) — Yesterday lo & behold! I got a long letter from him asking me straight out — if this girl, who I know well, shares my opinion of him — which unfortunately was not good — (I had told him I thought him a man who

lived by his wits, with no heart & plenty of brains!! Yes! I took back my words soon after!) well! he asks me if she shares my opinion of former times - & entreats me to tell him, & spare him perhaps a "bitteren Erfahrung"!! I wrote the truth - that she did not share that opinion, on the contrary had always defended him against my accusations! & this very evening they are together at a ball, & he takes her in to supper I know!! Imagine my feelings! But if I were a real intriguante (I am half & half) & let us say a little in love with this man myself what a situation for a drama!! I write to him that she does think as I ~~do~~ did, that her manner with him (which is somewhat tattle) is made to order, with a view of befoozling him because he is such a flirt - that I know all this for certain! Second act - the parti reappears & claims her hand! she in despair accepts him - I in the mean time hook the other - she becomes daily thinner -

— I daily fatten (as do all amiers) — double engagement! — Third act — Great dénouement! my treachery is discovered — they fall into each other's arms under my very nose — the parti goes off bullock driving & the Colonies — I retire into a nunnery!! — Curtain! The only thing is Scribe has given us many such a drama and with now & complications than my brain could invent — so I shall refrain from this intrigue, & be satisfied with the other — & hope she will pay his debts & that they will be very happy — Leipzig is full of princes just now! all of whom go to the Herzogenberg, and all of whom are nice — There is the greatest difference in the manners & customs of the nobility & burghers in Germany — & one sees how, quite quite lately the two classes have held aloof from each other — without any such medium as the English "gentry" to bridge over the distance between them — Of course

2) This is partly owing to the fact that the title descends equally to all members of a German noble family - & that thus a compact army of nobles is formed that is noble in every branch! Whereas in England the younger sons eventually become gentry & after a lapse of decades are not to be distinguished from those who instead of descending from the nobility have risen fr. the middle classes —
The thing that constantly strikes one with these burghers patricians is how different they are to us - so stiff & bornée, whereas there's no perceptible difference of tone between good German society & good English ditto -
In a manufacturing town such as Leipzig with its sprinkling of nobility that plays no real part in the life here, the old German "Bürgerthum" is seen to perfection - whereas in Berlin & Dresden & other capitals the snobbism of rank is as rife as the snobbism of wealth - Here for instance the outward & visible sign of the patrician is the "Gewandhaus

Gesellschaft" – a body of some 40 chief families here who intermarry & wholly possess various villages & in the Leipzig district – of which the "Castle" (an ordinary country house) is inhabited by the papa of the race, & various little houses & villas tenanted by his brothers cousins nieces & nephews. This "Gesellschaft" gives three or four great balls in the year & is very exclusive – & one of the rules is that no nobleman may enter! That is they as members – of course ~~noble~~ such ~~noble~~ nobility and is here & desires to associate with the bourgeoisie ~~bourg~~ is invited – but may not become a member!! I don't think such a thing were possible in England! Next week the Herzogin & I are going to make an expedition to the Castle (this time a real castle!) of one of these princes with whose daughters I rather chum. The Christian name of every prince of this line is Heinrich

& as all the family are princes &
all called Henry - they are numbered
- It is a very old family - & they
count up to 60 & then begin
again - About 10 years ago they
took a fresh start & the present
man is Henry V but there are
~~[illegible]~~ barons others extant &
I think the latest addition (a
nephew of his now 2 months
old) is Henry XI! It is a most
cracked arrangement & must be
distracting in the case of this man's
younger brother who lives in Austria
& has four sons! all called Heinrich!
- I don't know if I ever thanked
Papa for his long interesting
letter - I do wish to goodness
the Transvaal affair was at an
end and the republic established
again - Every German is a poli-
tician & they all attack me abt
this business & I am so tired of
arguing particularly as I know they
are right when they say this

annexation was an unwarrantable piece of grabbing — I was so sorry to see my favorite partner Capt MacGregor (P.S. for I suppose it was he) is killed — it is quite a case of Adonis & the boar (boor!) This joke struck me after I had made it! etc rather Good! I am very well & very busy — we are getting up an operetta of Mendelssohns in which I take part — This will be great fun tho' I have a stupidish old woman to do, who is perpetually in tears, & the mother of Lisl!! It will be very comic playing the opposite parts on the stage to what we do in life — I going on at her for giddiness & frivoling! Goodbye my own darling Mother — Let me hear fr. you soon & do write to Julius Limburger Schillerstr 4. He knows he is perpetually talking of you & holding forth to the Leipzig ladies about you — & he is writing daily a letter from Gyn-tray & quite badly when he sees me "Sie hat noch nicht geschrieben"!

Your devoted Ellen.

Piazza S Francesco - 3 82/83 C.
Porta Romana - Firenze -

My darling Mary - I was so glad to get your letter this morning - & much interested in all you tell me - only I think you are wrong about W.O! he can't afford to lose time any of us - as we are too many - & the younger V. marries the sooner she'll settle down - Thank her for her letter - I wish you had gone & spoken to Joachim - he would have been perfectly delighted, & you would have made the acquaintance of one of the most charming men I ever met - I am here and really profiting from my water cure - There is no trouble ~~wrong~~ with my leg beyond an old sprain - I twisted my knee under me jumping off horseback one day about a week before I left England - & then proceeded to play lawn tennis at home - & swim & play lawn tennis & ride on a tricycle at Pustinglaw, & climb mountains in Switzerland, & rush about Venice where every second step leads you up the steps of a bridge to get over the canals - & finally to

spend a week here careering up & down stairs looking at rooms suitable for Amey & me. My this time my leg was bad, tho' I don't feel it on a level - but only at stairs, & getting up out of a low chair, such things that use the joint as a lever - I was just beginning a course of quiet & staying at home (which invariably results in total cessation of all desire to work) when the news of Rhoda's death came - & then I could not but make up my mind to avoid all outside stimulant - for that would have made me more ill than anything - And so the cure got - pushed on to now - and such old sprains in the knee of all places are very hard to get away - because all about the joint a system of accommodation to the injury sets in - & a mass of cells & things form where there ought the bone - Thus it may be ages before I am well - & in the meantime there is nothing

She done but wait in patience - I am determined not to take up life again till quite healed - for this half & half activity of the last months is more disheartening than anything. The H's are very kind to me - I am carried up & down stairs (this I dont now stay in bed -) & keep as quiet as Eyes I can - I don't walk in the least - lame - & when I am well & able to go out shall soon pick up the store of health I have lost. It's too dear & good of you always being so ready to come & nurse me. If there were any actual nursing to do I would indeed gratefully accept the offer - but in this case no one can help me except in the way these good H's do - having me to play with them and thus saving me from the loneliness of ~~Valomar~~ Via Serragli - Amy was very good to me but bores me so fearfully that I always preferred being alone - She is now in solitary possession poor soul - but she has friends in Florence who I hope will "elevate her sufferings" as Rhoda used to say - The Princess

sent me a whole heap of sweets & old copper things (of wh. I am fond) from Rome – they really are dear girls – of Mrs Brewster I see more & like her more every time I see – I look with wonder at the parents that brought forth two such children! Madame de Stockhausen, my enemy tho' she be, may be suspected of complicity in the act – She is a most lovely old woman – the ideal of a French Marquise of Louis XV reign & really witty – But he is a most ordinary old man, & what little of diplomacy he took up, beyond donning nothing, in his various Ambassades it's as difficult – to conceive – Thank you dear for that notice of Rhoda – I think as such notices go it was not bad – but I know her too well to be a fair judge of what impression it would make on a stranger – She lit about one act of unselfishness tonight more than any exhibition of talent diverted me and made me wish she could read it with me – That sort of cant invariably produced one of Rhoda's dry comic remarks – that I so delighted in. Mr. Somerset will appear soon

4. I am a little bored at the prospect as the Englishman disposed to like art is a more hopeless individual as regards getting on with the sort of people I live with) than ever complete fool. Not that real ~~sense~~ comprehension for art is only reserved then educated — anything but that — but Englishmen are satisfied with such a very small amount of knowledge — & so I is proud to think that amount a great gain something to be proud of / that it is not easy to associate with them — My doctor is the German doctor — I have heard of Dr Wilson but* prev. liked the German so had him — But the fact is there is little or nothing to be done for a sprain — We do a good deal of music — Beethoven trios etc — of which I alternately play piano & fiddle — that is most amusing — I please Hildebrand I do up my hair

in a great plaited coronet on my head – I think it looks perfectly hideous – but in Hero respects I have no artistic ambition & prefer "the au" book, every day young woman." Did you see Mrs Wodehouse at Shirley? I hear she's at Cannes but I haven't heard from Hero Constance for ages – the latter I fear is immersed in family troubles – Hero, I think of those Bagots all more or less diseased, I say to myself we are a most healthy family.

Goodbye my darling – Write again & let me know when you meet Nina – & do look after the "Mes Fruit!" Everlasting

Ethel.

Florence 22/1883. a

My darling Nell - I have indeed as regards you a bad conscience for not only did I get your photo but your letter & hope you won't measure my gratitude by the slowness of its expression. The photo for which very many thanks dear I think very good except for the quite unaccountably diminutive "form" you have assumed! How ever you can continue to look stout is a mystery & all as knows you & yet somehow or other the general effect is of a good fellow - Still Millaud made spots on the letter you have in your hand & has turned it into a fine of spades which looks very sporting!

I am in bed - but greatly

as I dreaded the ordeal the past
so I am most comfortable &
happy – I can work ad-
mirably & am doing some of
the best & most complicated
figures I ever attempted, so
at all events staying on
bed doesn't affect my
clearness of head – One good
thing is that it is warm
enough to have the window
all day & I really have
a very charming view –
By-the-bye I am going to move
up to the Ottendeltrauds &
shall like that still better
as from their window is
the most glorious view
I ever saw & a wonderful
soft wind for ever flowing –

(how beauty poetical) – What fun you Bengal men must have been – I dare say you had a better run than you will have with Mr Coombe – Today is Thursday the last day of the Carnival. at Florence there's no fun & lots of noise & the whole day people are throwing & bellowing – luckily my windows are n't on a street but I can hear something of it. I hate Italian noises & altogether except as regards the nature & the art here am perpetually feeling glad I am English – the Southern ~~Italy~~ Human Nature has little fascination for me but I can't speak of it until I've seen something of the upper classes – as it is my opinion is simply founded on the fact that I hate a noise – (unless the person that makes it! – that does n't happen very often!) Lettie Brockhaus

has gone to Rome but
Miss Stansfeld is very
kind and sends messages
etc. I do wish she would n't
say she does tho'. She's one
of those people who can't re-
member & I am one of those
people who "take it personal"
& feel inclined to hit the
noisy one in the eye every time.
Mind & be diligent in your
Italian. I've been no idea
what a difference it makes
having a background of
grammatical knowledge
& an even forgotten sloth of
grammar. I'm getting on well
but have no opportunity for
talking wh. is a bore. I don't
be bothered to know people!
Well darling I'm about to
retire to bed. So good night
Dear love to mother who I
hope got my letter
Your ever loving L.

Via Serraglio 5. Darling Mother. My
1883 (6)
Lyddon is such that I have retired to
bed determined not to move till my
leg is well. & the doctor comes every-
day & dressed it for me. If it lasts very
long I shall go up to the Hildebrands
who most kindly offer to take charge
of me. They come round me every day
– but I find that as regards billeting
myself on them it requires a
great deal of affection to make
one accept obligations of people –
& I think as regards favours its
much more blessed to receive
than to give! – I am pretty
jolly – amusing myself with
giving in the circumstances as a
change f. my usual plan of
making circumstances give
in to me! & reading very
much – at the present moment
I'm deep in Congreve's Plays
(coarse but oh! how witty!)
English – Mme d'Epinays
Memoires, French, a new

Architecture book, German, &
Il Segreto d'Adolfo" an idiotic
Italian novel!— I today
expect that most extraordinary
of women, Lil's sister, to come
here — that's the chief re-
sult of my captivity, & letters
writing wh. I had almost
given up. Indeed you are wrong
Mothers darling about my staying
here on account of Amy S.
I wouldn't leave Italy on
any account — & once mobile
again I shall enjoy life
here more than elsewhere
where just now. I hope the
Napiers will be in Rome
when I am there — if she
comes thro' Florence, & I am
well by then I shall go to see
her. The sort of half ill half
well life I have been leading
is much worse than anything
— I don't mind keeping in
bed so much as "taking care"

of myself – There's a thoroness about the former that pleases me – Of course Nina dances ten times better than I. There's a certain purposeless & versatileness abt. Vs. ~~[illegible]~~ Oh. comes in very well in life & makes half her charm but is hopeless for ridiculing dancing & so on. Nina forms so well what she is about in those things & takes them for choice – not because other people do – & that makes us do them so well. I had a letter f. Agnes Garrett yesterday – the first I have had since Rhoda's death – it touched me so deeply – the great bravery & hopelessness of her attitude is incomprehensible to me. I have from you a nature full of capacities of renewing life – in Oh. lies I hope & think no shifting of past trouble or superficiality, but a simple

recognition of the fact that we live for life – not for death –
This Agnes has not – & how she can live on is a mystery to me. Barbara tells me she dined there last week & arrived before anyone was down – & that sitting there & waiting for the door to open & Rhoda to come in was almost unbearable. All is the same as ever in the house (I wonder what has become of my three photos that were always on Rhoda's table in the office) – Agnes talks of her & quotes her jokes & funny sayings & Oh! you must have recollection as if she were in the next room – & this not by effort but as if she were living on the old life – It is very strange.
Of the happiness I have seen no more – She knows I am in bed.
Goodbye my own darling Mother I am so glad the parents are better – do write again soon.
Your devoted child
Phil

Hauptmannsts 5 III Sunday night 86

My darling Mother – As you will have seen from my card today I have left – the Elsbetts: Yes! the awful discovery was made a day or two after I last wrote and my feelings may be better imagined than described! As a matter of fact – I am still there – spending my last night – in the accursed spot! but tomorrow (Monday) morning, at cockcrow, I depart – As a matter of fact one ought to give a months notice (which w^d mean paying up to ~~Oct~~ Nov: 10th) – again, as a matter of fact – the discovery of fellow lodgers entitles one to depart then & there. I compromised matters as my landlady is a good soul & a widow. – & ~~indeed of~~ whereas the fare up to the 10th Nov: would be £2.15^s ~~[illegible]~~ & up to the date I leave on £1. I am giving her 30/- & a present to the little girls. She seems to consider that fair – for of course, what with the piano transport etc etc she will

put me to an expense of 15/- at least & has no right on her side.
The new rooms are the best I have had yet - the passage large & airy (it is a newish house) - the bedroom about as big as my sitting room in the Schoenwalds: - the sitting room bigger, with three windows, one of wh: will be hermetically sealed by the tail of my piano (a semi-grand) - It is not further from the centre of the town than my last-dwelling - but in order to get there I go straight through the Johanna Park - (do you remember where we drove in the L's carriage?) My street, 20 yards from the house does stops short at the park, so it is a delightful situation - The windows "dominent" upon a large enclosed space with meagre little gardens in it - absolutely quiet of course - v close by are the Webers & also Ella Limburger - but as she will be away all the winter that fact is less interesting.
I think I shall be very comfortable there - all the furniture is new

& clean – a great point –
This afternoon I went to Döliz – they mi-
grate to the town on Tuesday so that will be
their last Sunday aftn at home. It was
very pleasant – The Fiedlers came –
& the Webers & we played my beloved
German Skittles proper – & absurd
card games (one of which is capital – I
shall introduce it at Fairhurst) –
& I drove back here with Mr Webers.
Otherwise in this week I have worked
like a horse & am happy in so doing –
Tomorrow Frau v. Weber's mother, whom
I like so much, is coming through
Leipzig – & stays here some days – &
Lili Wach will come, I expect, in
about a week – I am doing a lot
of piano work & learning quantities
of things by heart, so that I shall
have loads of things to play to you
when next we meet – Do thank
Nell very much for her letter –
Tilde will pay me for the balls &
they will be deducted f. my
next cheque. Goodbye Mother

darling. I don't know how it is that this week's news is so short but so it is — perhaps — happy thought — the paper is larger than usual — the dresses are really charming.

Dear Love — Your devoted Shell

We all slid down stairs on a shutter — the gentlemen were afraid!

Hauptmannes-5. Feb 13/87 after receipt 1/87!

My own darling Mother – Your letter, the first really trustworthy account of the family's movements was a greater delight to me than I can say. I am only so sorry to have missed the mail (which is on Thursday) for Bob. As it is my letter to him, add: Cairo can't go off till the 14th & won't reach him till about the 22nd – whether this will catch him I don't know. I wrote specially to tell him to look out for Mr Limburger's party – Ella & Co – at Cairo – They will be there about the 1st March & would be delighted to be kind to Bob – I have also written to them so if they shd be there (which he can find out at the Post Office & the German Legation) they will be more than ready for him. I shd also like to know where Dinie & Kelly. I stupidly have forgotten whether the Euphrates stops ~~on the~~ at Bombay – & have risked a letter to her there as – if they stop en route for coaling the mail may get on ahead of them. Anyhow it's worth the risk – I wish

I knew what you are doing now that the baggages are started — if Mary's children have come — Mother darling of this time has proved to you as you so freely say that you have good children I think it has proved to us that if ever children had a good unselfish mother we have. I often wonder if you know how <u>one</u> & <u>all</u> of us (with <u>no</u> exceptions tho' our way of showing it may be different) feel that. I often feel that I know it best of all — for what sole unmarried daughter could ask of her mother to feel about the tie of my life as if it was a marriage tie — as you do about mine? I have never entered into explanations about it with you — never held forth on the theme that to do anything thoroughly with all one's soul & with success one must look upon the duties it brings with it as one does upon the duties of married or of any other un-free life — & yet you know it all & feel it all — That is in fact just the reason that I have never spoken about it — & it touches & gladdens me when many people here who just caught a glimpse of you talk about <u>just that</u> — proof of under-

2 that by some means or other (I wonder dimlge by how) I had found out the secret — but she was bound to secrecy by me too — Well: tonight I composed & sent off the following lines:

14 Feb. 87

St Valentine appeared to me
As neath my featherbed I slumbered:
He had no pocket handkerchief
So dried his eyes upon his sleeve,
And sobbing said: "My days are numbered!"

"Ah! when I think of days gone by,
What time & thought on me were spent!
But all those pretty little ways
Belong to past romantic days
When there was time for Sentiment!"

Nor is it from this cause alone
That interest in me declines;
Now everybody's short of cash,
And sticks at spending it on Trash!
(Yes! Thus they talk of Valentines!)

There's one consolatory fact,
— And not a small one, p'raps you'll say; —
That I have managed matters so
That all the nicest girls I know
Sh^d have their birthdays on <u>my</u> day!"

—

At this remark I gave a jump
(Whereat the Saint took hasty flight)
"Hurrah!" I cried — "At last — at last
"Sweet peace is mine! my fears are past!
My doubts dispelled! my darkness
light!"

—

I know a certain girl who tried
To hide a certain date from me!
None of her friends has let it out
And yet there's not the smallest doubt
As to <u>what</u> date that date can be!

—

In vain the promise Mother gave
(Altho' she kept it <u>very</u> tight!)
In vain the prayer of Auntie Maude
(Altho' she never breathed a word!)
Some folks, you see, have second-sight!

—

Ah! Lettice dear, I told you so!
It's very hard to puzzle me!
But when I come at half past two
Give me a kindly "how d'you do"
Altho' I've solved the mystery!

It will be fun to see what Lettice says
When I appear at ½ past two!
The servants stall tragedy grieved me
much, but I'm very glad you are to pail
again with B. Forgivin is always
good I think for a first offence – not
only with servants – but of course it
must have been a horrible dis-
appointment to you. That W. sh^d
be party to that sort of thing is still
more grievous – but I suppose in
servants' life, as in other life, cir-
cumstances let you in for things
that are out of your line, & you
are weak – & don't see your way
to confessing without treachery to
your fellows. Of course it should'nt

be so, & as I say I shouldn't have suspected W. of getting into such a situation. But no doubt your clemency will save her from like temptations in the future.

Goodbye Mother darling: my Cello Sonata is beautifully rehearsed – Violin duetto progressing well. Do thank Papa for cheque – What does he say to the behaviour of the Centre about the Papal Nuncio!! It has damaged the chances of the Opposition in Parliament more than any thing else c^o have done – & f. that point of view is a subject of rejoicing –

Your most loving child

Ethel –

standing-ness & unselfishness in you-
& full as I do, what a rare big thing it is.
If love can make up for it to you, I can
promise a good deal for myself
I have been working wonderfully - &
the balls ~~too~~ & skating have given
me a spurt. It is pleasant, I con-
fess, to hear what is said about my
dancing - & if you know you do a thing
well it is nice to hear it commended.
I'm always discontented with the
praise about my skating because I
feel I don't deserve it - I might do so
much better. However there's time
before me - seeing now I can do certain
things I once thought (& that 2
months ago) that I never should
learn - & I see before me the prospect
of not only edifying others, but myself.
About dancing it's different -
that is dependent on certain phy-
sical & psychical conditions I can
lay claim to - & beyond a certain
point you can't dance well - I mean
there's no difficulty there to be over-
come - & you can't dance better
than you can dance! a Sybilline
utterance which I hope you will fathom!

Tomorrow I expect to have great fun. It is Lettice Verney's birthday – & finding at Xmas that lots of people gave her presents she was delicately anxious that her birthday date sh^d remain a mystery. She made her mother promise not to tell me – & wrote to Mrs Fred Verney ("Aunt Maude") in London & left her not to let it out. I racked my brains & thought to Lili hit on the track. It appears that no one is admitted into the hospital without the date of their birth being taken down – & thus by repairing to the office I discovered that Miss Lettice was born on Valentine's Day. The fun is that she in the meantime, thus imagines that I have forgotten all about it, & have given up the enquiry – The other day we were talking of birthdays & I babbled so sublimely unconscious, & all appearance – & when I was gone, she said to Mrs Verney – triumphantly but somewhat disappointed "I see Miss S. has forgotten all about my birthday" Mrs V. knew I had not – & even

12 May 1887 (?) Kelly was a Pharaoh Pindar.

K 85, 2

My dear Papa I am so sorry to hear you are still seedy & in Batte & going through such a tedious cure - Battling one limb at a time is a horrid bore - Mother doesn't say when you go home, but, under the impression you had left Batte long ago I sent her a message to thank her for the cheque & your most interesting letter - I have asked them for the remainder of my stay here (4 weeks or so) not to send the Times any more but to go on with the Standard - There are of course no reports of the speeches in Parliament in the Weekly paper & I dare be sorry to miss anything. Gladstone may say at this disgraceful period of his career, as by & by it will be of interest - I wonder how long the country will stand the farce now going on in the House of Commons & hesitate to express its opinion in some definite way. Of auld

Prime Minister who sanctions such proceedings. I've just been reading a book which is translated into English (for I saw a notice of it in the Times) & which would interest you if you haven't read it. "Petersburg & London" by Count Vitzthum – Saxon ~~German~~ Attaché in London from 53 to 64. It throws new light on the 2nd Empire with a vengeance – – Tells the Court view of Palmerston's proceedings and is full of admiration for the Prince Consort – There's a good deal of diplomatic shop in it – but I found it very interesting

You ask about my work – I find three things that are being performed publicly this year – & hope for four – but as you can imagine

it's not my line pushing to the front -
I've never yet asked anybody to do a
single thing of mine & I most cer-
tainly never shall. Nor never people
continue to do it is a mystery to me
- & they always get discredited in
the end - in fact the best people never
do push -

I had such a jolly letter from
Hell who seems very happy in
Rome Pinder - Yesterday coming
met old D. Reid again and he
told me lots about the place &
deemed it thinks it as good a place to
live at as you could find - He's very
Scotch with an accent as thick as
a London fog - & moreover rather second
rate but a very kindly old man
& I'd back him to tell more anecdotes
in half an hour than anyone else
of my acquaintance in one. I rather

like anecdotes now - & how I used to hate them! Old D. R. said an old friend of his yours - Genl Mackenzie I think - is at Baltic now. I'm so glad you like old W. Hippisley - I think he's one of the most delightful people I ever met - so clever & kind & courteous. The view I meant at Aunt Elisabeth's was in the new house - not in Raby Place - & the view from that window I mentioned is really charming. I never saw the view from the Cottage for I went up that hill (which I think is called Park Street of which Dilkens says it is very much like the perpendicular streets a man sees in a dream & which he can't get up for the life of him) - & the weather was broiling & everything was in a hot mist including self. With best love Clementina & Margaret (how splendid that the latter has made so much with her pen)

Your devoted Chatts.