



69. (Amalie Lieber)

1058

Ecklopfreieit no 1, 3 Creppen
Berlin; Monday April 15.

My dear Teichmüller


As you are probably agreed with me that I ought to have written sooner, I shall not enlarge on that point.

Your friendship has left on my mind a very pleasing impression — an enlivening, refreshing, soothing impression. The benevolent sympathy of that gentle and tender lady, your dear and loving wife, trust me, I do not undervalue. On the contrary, fresh and pure air become to me more and more precious the further

I go from the clear atmosphere of my
spring. I was once familiar - very
familiar - with joy and hope and beauty,
and I love to be reminded of them.

On arriving in Berlin I put up
at Mad^l. Negebant's (I think she calls
herself). Then I took lodgings here,
at the corner. I look down the
the bridge and across at the Museum,
and lay great value on the cheerful
situation. I have light and air
and noise and liberty and water and trees
and sculpture and painting (on the Museum)
and what is more than all the great
blue heaven unobstructed.

I spoke to Curtius to-day in the



Museum. Zachariae I suppose I shall see one of these days; but as yet I have no Göttingen news. I called for Dr.

Crocker and found him frank enough, but he has not yet returned my visit -

The other introductions I had from Göttingen which were to lead to political schemes I have delivered, and found nice enough people but they have led to nothing more as yet.

People say they will call for me soon, but they don't do it. On the other hand from old friends of former years I have met with the kindest reception - almost more than suits me now; I have

already been at a ball and out driving

4. 4. How other introductions I keep in abeyance for the present; but I shall very likely make use of them soon.

I cannot tell you whether I remain
here or not. I feel unwell, but that
is only temporary I suppose. Still it
makes me feel unfit just at present to
grapple fairly with Berlin and overcome
it, this great huge city. The only
thing that has as yet laid hold of me here
is Art, but that in all its branches;
I am thoroughly disposed regularly to go in
for it now and in a solid fashion - other-
wise than of old. But this was not
in my plans when I came here.

What you can write to me from Göttingen
will all of it interest me. I think
of what has taken place with more
clearness of vision than I could command
yonder. I see now what I did not



see till now how wrongly I acted
in going at all to the lady of the
Observatory. I had not patience enough
or self-command enough to allow things
to take their course. On the other hand
I feel that wrong and unjust reproaches
have been made me, and that I deserved
a little more confidence and trust and esteem
than Miss S. placed in me. (But my
thoughts of her have undergone no change -
whatever other people may think of me, I feel
the power in myself to have become for her,
had she met me with any truthfulness, a
faithful husband. I could lift her into
a freer and larger life, into a freer
atmosphere, than she seems to have been accustomed
to in Göttingen. On the other hand, I demand

for the reestablishment of my own life, —
in order to bring unity and purpose into it
I demand — you know what — and there is no
contradiction in that.

As I said, whether I stay or not is
not yet fixed — People who are informed in
such matters tell me what I myself knew
beforehand, that a long preliminary sojourn
here is necessary before entering on such a course
of action as I contemplated — a great knowledge
of persons is necessary.

At all events I remain a few weeks —
Write me a few lines of good fellowship.
Give Mrs. Teichmüller my faithful respects
and kindest regards — I wish you both all
happiness. Remember me to everybody, particularly
to poor Antagone, if you think proper; my cordiance
smiles me for having made so much fun of her.
Yours affly
And Hamilton.

61.

1059

Berlin; Sunday June 23^d.

My dear Reichmüller

I took your letter very kind, and would have written long before now to congratulate you on the expansion of your family, which event sincerely caused me great pleasure, but I have been for four weeks unable to take any share in the prosperity or adversity of friends or states. I have been in great danger, and although now going on so favorably that I hope to leave Berlin in a few days, I cannot rejoice without trembling whilst the peril is so recent and the recovery so unexpected. I made my mind up before returning to England

to undergo an operation which has for several years been becoming more and more necessary, and had at last become so urgent that I could not hope for an hour's comfort till it was done. I have suffered perpetually for about five years and particularly within the last two, greatly to the perplexity of you and other acquaintances who did not know what was the matter with me. I have been living in the house of a sick nurse, under the control of Dr. Wilms of Bethanien, who performed the operation. It went all right at first till the fifth day when I had a relapse. I lay all that day in the jaws of death. I knew that my life hung by a thread but I did not know how nearly the thread

had broken till afterwards - Two surgeons
and the nurse were about me all day,
Dr. Wilson himself came five times, and
one surgeon sat up with me six nights.
I was of course in a critical state
four days afterwards, and had to bear
with a good deal, though less than might
have been expected; I lost an immensity
of blood and will be long weak, but
that loss is in other respects a gain.
Now every thing is favorable, but one
dare not build castles after so recent a
peril. I should not have enlarged so
much on this matter unless I had wished
to tell you that I venture to hope
it will be the beginning of a new life
to me. I could make no use of my

faculties formerly owing to the perpetual
suffering and the oppression of blood on the
brain and elsewhere; all that is now
gone. I came to the conclusion that
it was better to make a bold stroke
for health before thinking further of occupation
or settling in life or anything else - And
I believe I was right, however great the
loss of time may prove on the expense.

And now let me ask after
you all? Firstly your gentle lady, now
as I must picture her a graceful mother.
The thought of a baby in the household
is indeed a completion of the picture; and
I do indeed hope that all are well
and thriving. The necessity however of
thinking of you as a papa is quite appalling;

I should be at a loss to describe
with what dejection my representations of your
person raise themselves to your present level,
but very glad I should be to look
in upon your family happiness. But
that is not to be for the present.

I hope you will let me hear from
you, soon too, and send me good
tidings of yourselves and others - How
do you like your abode in Göttingen
after longer continuance? I am going
according to present plans to Braunschweig
in Bohemia, where a letter would find
me I hope - Otherwise 48 Euston Square
London - I hope to return to England
in the beginning of August.

I refrain from speaking of other things,
as talking on my side can lead to nothing.

But I beg you to tell me anything
you know. I think it more likely
the warm salutations you mention were
meant for yourself, particularly in your new
circumstances, than for me. I did not
conduct myself with entire wisdom, but
neither was I treated with perfect respect.
I am clearer now in my head than then,
and I hope more able to act judiciously.

Remember me to all friends.
To Mrs. Teichmüller I send my
sincerest regards and most cordial felicitations
wishing her all the comfort and happiness
that life can yield. Indeed I say
earnestly, God bless you both!
Your very sincere friend

And Hamilton

48 Easton Square, London.

Friday, November 8th.

My dear Teichmüller I take your letter, which I received to-day, very kind, and I lose no time in replying to it, the more as I intended at any rate to write to you this week. I have hitherto put off intentionally, because I wished to be in England before writing, and I arrived here only on Tuesday. Your letter was written the very day I left Paris. The intelligence you send is very striking and unexpected, so much so that I do not yet see in their full light all the bearings of this death; whether or not it will bring any change, and, if so, what. I must have a few days to think. It might seem a favourable time to attempt a renewal of intercourse. A letter of condolence might seem

a natural and unobtrusive action, but to-day at least I do not feel warranted in doing any such thing. I would on the whole rather wait a little. I should think myself selfish for one thing if I took advantage of such an event to further my own ends under the pretence of sympathy, even although the sympathy be genuine. And then it is hard to say how far ~~the~~ this loss is a real sorrow. I hope you will be kind enough to let me know any thing you think of importance. It was very kind and thoughtful of you to communicate this. Let me know where they go when they leave their present house. You told me in your former letter, she had thought correspondence would be painful; have you ever recurred with her to the subject? Not that I by any means should like you to make such an inquiry from me. You see I have returned to England much later than I had intended. I have been detained by the tedious processes of bathing &

to which the doctors advised me. I was nearly six weeks at Crauswabad, afterwards some weeks at Norderney, then a month at Vevey on the Lake of Geneva for the grape cure, finally a fortnight at Paris. This has been, as you may fancy, with long illness and these many journeys, a rather expensive summer. You remember urging me to economy; alas! for the result as it has turned out. All the more necessary that I should soon have some occupation that would prove a source of repairing these shattered finances. My health is very different from what it was, but I suppose I shall never be very robust.

I hope you have enjoyed your autumn in Pavia, and that Mrs. Teichmüller and baby are quite well. I daresay you are over head and ears now in lectures; but if you cannot spare the time to send me some detailed information, would not that dear and beneficent lady who has already shown me so many kindnesses, your wife, lay hold of her graphic pen and add this one favor more. My thoughts are much at Göttingen, whilst my

body is in this great confusion the size and tumult of which go far to overpower me after my long absence and sojourn in quieter spots. The lot of a lecturer in some little German town looks from this point of view very tranquil and idyllic indeed. But I know on the other hand well enough from closer observation how little such a lot is suited to me or I to it. I suppose it is difficult enough, after the period of illusions and "die Ideale" have passed away, to find any lot that can satisfy us. I saw the Bacharias at Nordemay as you may have heard. Remember me to all the friends you mention - the members of the Bildung great from me; some of them I think of with much interest, particularly Langenbeck; salute warmly that excellent philosopher. Your picture I value greatly, but I muse with some dissatisfaction on the "Stückchen Frau auf dem Brockschope"; several ladies gave me their portraits this summer, and I think Mr. Beckmüller ought to do the same, size of visiting-card, and yours with it. I have an album now. With much affection I remain, yours sincerely
And Hamilton.