

[See: C 12.40]

No. 19.

23rd Dec 1870

Dear Ernst,

As Mother is not well enough to reply to all letters received, and so I am writing to you in her name. Firstly we would like to thank you for the essays you have sent us.

I am very busy with the newspaper and Mother is, as you might have heard from Berlin, a patient; it is mainly her head that is the suffering part. Therefore she has not been able to read much, but if God wishes, she will be well again. I am looking forward to the long winter nights on which I can relax. I have read the "Arbeitsteilung" (division of work) with greatest interest, although I could not be convinced of the consequences you have drawn from your research. You might smile at this, and that I can make such statement with my lack of knowledge, but I cannot help it. To me it seems that our life becomes poorer and emptier with such views, and as especially research should and must instead enrich and deepen life, I can only believe that the unification of these two opposing views of life..... might only occur in future..... or the basic prerequisites (principles).

But I can see that I am not able to express accurately what is so clear in my mind. It is my weakness, and often therefore I have to keep things that occupy my mind and move me to myself. But look what ~~con~~essions are written down here.

f
translator's
comment

We are sending you a little parcel of "Apfelkraut" [cabbage prepared in a special way] etc. And now the inquisitive question if it is true that you have received a calling to Berlin. Will you really decide to turn your back on the new-born Reich?

Regards and best wishes for the new year. Hope to see you and your wife some year, so that we may meet her.

In old friendship and faithful attachment,

Your cousin,

Hedwig Bleek

