

Bonn on the Rhine
Germany
Friday Aug ^{21st} 1869

My dearest Jan & Loui

Your welcome letters of the end of June reached us a few days since. We rec^d them rather late owing to Richard having been necessarily uncertain as to our whereabouts during the first week after we left Berlin & we were not long enough in any one to make it worth while to write to him for them until our return here. Dear Juez however had very kindly sent on to me the letters wh had reached her from you both, so we had the comfort of knowing generally a little of how you were & c. I can't say how grieved I feel for all your terrible pain my dear Loui. It is such a despairing feeling when nervous pain reaches such a pitch as that, & one seems so utterly powerless in its clutches.

The long time of cold wet weather must indeed have been trying & that in many ways. We can think of you now however with all the spring flowers coming out & the air beginning to be sensibly warmer again.

I hope only that the change to spring weather which you always feel will not take away your little strength & prevent your prowling out with Pannies to enjoy it all. I think

ape spring is so delicious when all the oaks are coming out.

I know dear Brothers how glad you will be to hear that Vait (Marie Bleck's clerk &c) has given full permission for my returning to the Cape before this confinement, indeed rather advised it than not. He seemed to think both of going & my staying here ~~out~~ of the question, at least very ~~unadvisable~~ & was also doubtful as to how far a winter here would be good for me personally. Our proposed plan of staying in Madeira for a month or two & then going on to the Cape as soon as I was fit to travel he thought would do, & that it wd be in all cases a very good last resource should we find before getting to Madeira that the voyage was really doing me harm. But he said that the latter is a thing he does not at all expect, & that it wd be so much better for me if possible to get over ^{before my confinement} the long voyage, rather than later with a young baby whom it wd be so difficult to care for sufficiently on board ship in case I did not nurse it myself; & this - I mean the nursing - he seemed to consider very unadvisable.

I spoke with him a good deal all the latter point telling him about Ernst & c. but the only result was his saying to me rather emphatically (in German) (I am not quite sure what exactly ^{Jemima} alludes to, I know the result, but may have forgotten many speeches ~~that~~ said to Mutter, if he were her son, he would take his wife out with him before her confinement. Jemima being to day in bed with a sore throat I cannot finish her letter but sends you both her very best love, and also to Kate The kindest regards.