Bonn June 28th (Monday) 1886

Dear Tib & Doods!

Please excuse my writing on such an untidy scrap. We have suddenly come to the end of our foreign paper, & I want to use the quiet morning hours to write to you dear fellows. Last Wednesday I was busy helping to entertain Margie's guests & so could not write. The "little friends" were all very jolly together. After a refection of Chocolate & birthday cake they played many games in house & garden and finished up with dancing in our "sitting-room" till they were tired; then at 7 o'clock they had jelly & biscuits and took leave. On Thursday I had the great treat of going to listen to the practice for the Festival of Sacred Music (Kirchen-musik fest) which is to take place after we shall have gone to Rothenfelde, so that we shall not hear it, but only these rehearsals. The singing was beautiful. I wished you could have heard it too. On Friday we were very busy finishing off our preparations for Tante Gustchen's birthday on Saturday. Bella & Mariechen were making pretty lampshade & Hermann drawing a shadow picture on the back of a white clothes-brush & I was making her a holland pocket. In

Then the children took their places with their ~~notes~~ music & their instruments. Tante Minchen Tante Doris & Hermann arrived from upstairs, Fräulein Ida Thiel & Fraulein Rexroth from Diesterwegs & Frau Gottschalk & her daughter who had all been waiting downstairs came in. & then we sent Babba to summon Tante Gustchen, who unsuspecting nothing was very much surprized to find so many assembled. As soon as she was fairly in the room Fräulein Gustchen gave the signal and the music began. It was the "Toy Symphony" by Haydn I think, & went very well. Babba was the cuckoo, Doris the quail, and Margie's trumpet had turned hoarse so she had a tin flute instead, May played the triangle

Gustchen Kammerath the drum, Anna Heitz the rattle & Sophie-chen Büren was the nightingale. Mariechen Kammerath played the piano and Fräulein Gustchen Thiel conducted the whole. Mother sat by Babba & B. by Margie to help them keep their places in the score. It went off very well, especially considering they had had so few rehearsals. Afterwards Fräulein Diesterweg, the two Thiels Fräulein Rexroth, Fraulein Gottschalk and Mariechen Kammerath sang a ridiculous teazing song in honour of Tante Gustchen which she enjoyed very much & then we drank her health and chatted a little & presently the guests went & we went to bed. Mother stayed up late putting up candles. Next morning we were all up very early, Mother dressed the three cakes, I arranged the presents & Bella put up green round the pictures. The "birthday" was to be at seven, breakfast at halfpast in the garden & three of the children were due at school at eight, so we had to hurry our proceedings. There were so many presents that we put two tables together ⌐ with a little one in the middle. There were three cakes and 55 candles. It looked very pretty Fräulein Diesterweg & the two Thiels were there & Tante Minchen & Sophie-chen. Hermann was gone to the University & Tante Doris was not well. After the birthday we all had breakfast in the garden, and after break-

Last Tante Gustchen read some of her many letters & then it was one stream of visitors all day long, we were 17 to 20 people at every meal. On Sunday it rained so we stayed quietly at home most of the day & were "gemüthlich". On Saturday afternoon, the dancing lesson assumed larger proportions than usual, Hermann & his two friends & another student and a Schoolboy & a Henneke girl taking part in it. Tante Gustchen also danced a walse to show us how. Wednesday 30th Yesterday we had a very nice expedition to the Ahr. We went in the train to Remagen, an then walked & drove by turns to

the evening there was to be the musical surprize for Tante Gustchen. It went off beautifully. Fräulein Gustchen Thiel took Tante Gustchen into the garden on some pretence or other, while we hastily cleared away supper and put the diningroom a little to rights.

Then

I hope you
will be able
to read my
letter. These
are busy
weeks, up early
& to bed late
sometimes.
Goodbye I
must dress
for dancing