

Bonn on the Rhine  
Germany  
Friday Aug 21<sup>st</sup> 1869

My dearest Fan & Loui

Your welcome letters of the end of June reached us a few days since. We recd 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 \_\_ any one to make it worth while to write to him for their return here. Dear \_\_\_\_ 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 et cet. I can't say how grieved I feel for 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 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 warm 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 Tannies [?] to enjoy it all. I think the spring is so delicious when all the oaks are coming out.

I know dear brothers how glad you will be to hear that \_\_it (Masie Bleek's clever Der) has given full permission for my returning to the Cape before this confinement, indeed rather advised it than not. He seemed to think Wilhelm's 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 the long voyage before my confinement, 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 my self; & this - I mean the nursing - he seemed to consider very unavoidable. I spoke with him a good deal about the latter point, telling him about Ernst et cet but the only result was his saying to me rather emphatically (in German)

(I am not quite sure what exactly Jemmie alludes to, I know the result, but may have forgotten many speeches) \_\_\_\_ said to Mutter, if he were her son, he would take his wife out with him before her confinement. Jemmie being to day in bed with a sore throat cannot finish her letter but sends you both her very best love, and also to Kate her kindest regards.