

J.N. 44337

Vöcklabruck 25/X 1888

My dearest dear,



Lest you should have a mind to put me on a level with a certain „Rudy” who was rather tardy to sit down and give vent to ~~my~~ his innermost feelings of gratitude for his friend's kindness, I beg you will accept of my thanks for the amusement which you have so generously afforded us by that loan of books wherewith you relieve our home of its dulness and sameness, and transport us into livelier, gayer and more diversified scenes. I make my wife read to me after supper, and ^{we} avail ourselves of your literary treasures so as people will do of borrowed money,

that is, we make use of it to the best of
our — brains, but then we make a discreet
difference: money-borrowers will often
forget to return a loan, of which sin we
shall not be guilty, yet after all we beg
you will allow us to keep back the intel-
lectual interests we have derived from
the lecture of your books, meaning only
to make the same use of them, that bees
do of flowers, steal sweets from them,
but not injure them. I know that you,
both as a man and as an artist, feel
it a pleasure to promote the pleasure
of others, nevertheless I too should be
happy, if I could, in my poor way, do some-
thing to thank you with deeds, instead of
mere words.

About a sennight after your having withdrawn the genial sunshine of your friendly face from within our homely roof, in order to convey it to where it is due, viz. your own lovely family, my daughter-in-law brought us some shadow with her peevish, captious nervousness, and my grandsons turned our quiet household topsy-turvy and nearly cracked my tympanum. They made me feel that I am too old for partaking in the sports of children, and that the duties of an indulgent grandfather must also be learned. When they were gone Mina [who had taken the waters at Bastein] came to see us with a friend of hers and rendered us very happy, for she is a sterling old girl.

Aristotle says Friendship is composed of a single soul inhabiting two bodies, now my half of that soul yearns for whatever concerns you and has concerned you of late. As you have kindly promised to write in English to me, please to inform me of the prospects of your good Lady and your hopeful children, of your own hopes, although "hopes are but the dreams of those that wake and the nurse of young desire." Let me know something of the changes under which you labour in your new temple of Art, in short, mind that I long to sympathise with all your weal and eventual woe. Remember me kindly to the ladies who brighten your household, and believe me to be for ever



Your faithful friend
W. Loegel