

From: Julie	To: Jakob	date: June 20, 1858
Content: Julie is excited to hear from Jakob and Ferdinand after a long period of silence. She talks about the well-being of family members including her husband and children.		

Oberleitensdorf June 20, 1858

My good brother Jakob,

To the same extent as my letter moved and surprised you, unfortunately*, the receipt of your letter made me happy, and it had the same effect on Kajetan.

You lifted a heavy weight from all our hearts, and I thank you a thousand times for that. Now I believe that Kajetan will arrange the matter himself without unpleasant consequences. Never mind, my good brother, I share your fate; I too thought people were better and more reasonable than they are; the majority of them are disgusting lumps of flesh imbued with a little intelligence, which inhabits them for the sole purpose of luring a more sensitive heart and then tossing it, trodden to bits, into the dirt. I too, the older I become, look about me to see whether I can find even one soul that values something more highly than money, honor and whatever the other phantoms are called that they pursue with tireless haste until, misled by these will'-o-the-wisps, they fall into the pit. But then, like you, I call out, "There is a great, great God!" May he just permit my children, who are growing up robustly, to continue to thrive. Then I will be content to live on, seeking strength and power within myself.

The fact that you are still alive belongs to the chain of thoughts that uplift me; may God hear my plea and grant you perfect health once again. Should I survive Wiedeman, I will not stay here with my children under any circumstances; I will come with them to you, have them learn how to work, and we'll be all right. But with Wiedeman ---no, that would be the same as murdering him—because he is too much of a creature of habit and can't rise above even the most minimal unpleasantness. It would also be hard to leave Mother now, when she needs me and my children more than before. Should I die before the two of them, then, dear Jakob, be assured that only the fact that it became impossible kept me from attaining the desire that I cherished so warmly and profoundly.

Why don't you look for a wife who understands you? That would be the single drop of pure happiness in your life if you were to have children with a person who understood you. That would compensate you, as it has me, for many bitter disappointments in life. We were all very happy to receive Ferdinand's letter, especially his father, who will write to you himself. You will surely be blessed for this labor of love. [The poor fellow was always an impediment in the way; although he was innocent, his existence [would have suffered] if you hadn't become his protector.]**

We hear that Brother Karl is doing well. His Otto is apprenticed as a metalworker in Gallien, but will then go to the mining school in Leoben and if he is conscientious then he'll go to Freiberg [??]. So far he promises to be conscientious and very talented. His other children are good and conscientious too. Ludwig is in Zerw [??] in Dalmatia with his wife. He seems content to be there, but Emilie seems to be homesick. Kajetan is in Kaaden now for his brother-in-law Warti's wedding and he'll then go to Marienbad, since his wound*** seems to be bothering him more, and then he plans to visit us. There is nothing that would make your mother happier than letting her know that you are occupying honorable positions in your new homeland; she kisses you in spirit a thousand times, and Ferdinand too; Wiedemann and my children send you greetings and kisses too. For hours at a time in front of Uncle Jakob's portrait the big girls tell the two little ones

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that he is a good man and he has a large forest full of strawberries; they make the little ones so full of longing for America that I often have to punish little Hanna [?] when she torments me with her wanderlust. So far, praise God, they are all sweet children; only Julie, who is unusually active, needs a stern, strict father; she often worries me. So once again, for the time being, God protect you, but write me again soon. Farewell, my kind brother, farewell, Ferdinand; obey your uncle, who is your greatest benefactor, so that when we see you again you are a conscientious young man.

Your sister and aunt, who will always love you, presses you both to her heart with ardent love,

Julie

Translator's comments:

*The word "unfortunately" does not seem to belong in the sentence, but it is in the German transcription.

**This sentence is extremely difficult to interpret. The meaning of the words "ein gepriesen" are especially unclear.

***This is unlikely to be based on the French word "plaisir"/pleasure as the transcriber suggests; more likely is the French word "blessure"/wound, which is what I chose here.

Translated March and April 2010 by Victoria Hill of Madison WI.