

Leunonsdorf (?)

12. Feb 1846

My dearest Hanni:

The simultaneous receipt of the 2 letters, namely yours of 31. December and that of my good friend Kimpel (?) was a most pleasant surprise. But I don't know why I always have to shed tears on reading your dear letters; it can only mean intense joy. Well, little Hanni, I could tell you so much, and you could give me much counsel, but we are too far apart, so that is impossible. The written word can never be as vivid as a joyous conversation with you.

You want to know more about my situation. I can only say, that it will be at least two years before we can be married; the exact time is not up to me to determine. Indeed, I have no idea where I am going to go, and when I asked him (*the 'him' is not identified*), he only told me that it would depend on circumstances at the time.

My good Hanni, I can be open with you, tell you everything. I must confess that it bothers me, to think of having to leave my good, dear father, who is the most precious thing in the world to me, whom I love above all else. If I could write a letter with enough eloquence for you to realize how much he loves me, I can then visualize a beautiful future, and I only wish that my good Hanni who surely deserves better, will have as good a man.

We had a splendid officers ball in Kommotau (?). The pulchritude from all around was there. The elegant invitation cards were most attractive. We also got one from . . . ? but it came too late, and I will probably have to forego this Carnival celebration, as you will no doubt, too, dear Hanni. That won't bother me; a little letter from you will be ample compensation.

*(The following seems to be a joke):* You wanted to know if I am already sewing my trousseau. So far I have done very little, plan to let it go until next summer. Anyway, I am quite busy now since I let my Hanni go who is engaged herself. My aunt from . . . (?) got me a maid who does her work, but is very slow. Perhaps you know her fiancé; he is the valet of the mother of our local Count.

Has your cousin Mr. Paten paid you a visit yet? When he left, he promised me to do this as soon as possible and to tell you all about our pretty little garden and the windows. My wishes have been fulfilled at last; everything is being much admired because it is so nice and attractive.

My beloved father asks every day, if I am writing to you. He wants to add a few lines, because he has already dreamt of you twice. How is your dear madam mother? my old friend . . . (?) Are they all well? I am, thank God, in good health again. Godfather Joseph who will be with us tonight, also wants to enclose a few lines. He is always a welcome guest at our house.

Good bye, my dearest Hanni, and favor me real soon with another missive.

Yours ever faithful, . . .