

Wabern, 21st July 1874

My very dear sister Rosine,

Your kind letter, awaited with feverish impatience, and the photographs of my dear nieces, have delighted me beyond words, I thank you over and over again, and beg you yourself to hurry and give me a similar joy. What a surprise to see Bertha and Pauline, how changed they are and to their ~~xxxxxxx~~ advantage, when one compares them with the photographs I received of them 5 years ago one can find no resemblance at all; certainly they are lovely young ladies, who, if, as I believe, they are as good as they are pretty, must gladden the hearts of their parents, and particularly their good and tender mother. I thank God that you only have good news to give me of you all, may it always be ~~xxxxx~~ so. It seems, dear sister, that the climat of Australia suits you marvellously, since you are putting on weight so much; it must be very trying, particularly in the hot weather you have. I cannot understand how you have been able to get used to that burning climat. 120 degrees, it is unbelievable! When we have 24 (sic) we think that the temperature is very high, however the thermometer must be up further just now, as the weather is very hot, and for a fairly long time we have had no rain. We need some, for the gardens and the countryside.

My dear sister, have you a school at Stieglitz, is it a long way from your house? Have you also a Pastor, a church? From the dresses of your daughters, I assume that you are not a long way from Melbourne, the fashions are just the same as ours, I think. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Are your children only learning the English language? Perhaps in the schools, but no doubt you speak German and French a lot at home. Your way of life is very different from ours, you have all become very English, but after so many years it is not surprising that you have adopted their habits and customs. I cannot exactly remember in what year you left our dear, beautiful Switzerland, however I believe it was 19 or 20 years ago. What a long, and yet short, time! How many events have happened since, how many things have occurred, how many trials have beset our large family, but also how many blessings have been bestowed upon us! The Lord has led me along very different paths, often stony and arid, he has made me suffer heartbreaks, but if I examine his ways, I realise they have all been good for me. Yes, Lord, far better than we, you know what we need, what suits our nature, our person in a word. It is with my eyes on the Lord, and leaning on his arm, that I keep on my way through the desert of this world until I shall have reached the gates of eternity.

My dear, kind sister, your letter was read and re-read by all our dear ones, and all were pleased to know that beyond the vast seas a tenderly loved sister thinks of them, lives in spirit with them. If your brothers and sisters do not write you, do not think it is for want of affection, no, you know that the less one writes the more one is afraid to write. I find it difficult to forgive them for this laziness, if they made a great effort perhaps they would write you and would have the pleasure of rejoicing your heart, which ~~xxxxxxx~~ is already a great reward.

For a fortnight I have been back with my large Wabern family, after having 3 weeks' holiday, which I spent partly at Porrentruy with our dear brother and partly in our dear native village. There is ~~xxx~~ no need for me to tell you how much I enjoyed myself in the company of my brothers, sisters and friends. I greatly needed rest, I cannot ~~xxxxx~~ tell you what a sweet, peaceful existence I led, how pleasant it was for me not to have ~~xxxxxxx~~ to think of a thousand and one things. Having been in contact with each of the members of my family, I am pleased to tell you something about them.

Our dear, old father is steadily becoming feebler; he has trouble accepting the infinities which necessarily accompany ~~xxxxx~~ old age, being still of an exceedingly lively nature he thinks that he should still have the same strength as he had twenty years ago, and as he should take ~~xxxxx~~ care of himself, it sometimes makes him sad and bad-tempered; however, he is still our ~~dear, xxxxxx~~ dear, kind father. Imagine my joy, he came and surprised me on my birthday with his hands full of presents, among others a pair of slippers he embroidered me this winter. As he no longer has anything to do, our dear Aurelie taught him this art and he does it marvellously. Let us ask the Lord that he prepare him for his departure, so that when the hour strikes he may be able to fly into the arms of his God. Let us ask for this same favour for us all, for we do not know either the day or the hour when the Master of the harvest will come! Daddy is still at St. Imier, I hope he will soon return to Porrentruy, that is where his home is. Our poor Fritz has been almost 4 months at Morat (Murten), staying with our youngest sister, and accordingly I did not have the privilege of meeting him. The Doctor no longer gives us any hope, the illness is too advanced, he may linger on for a long time or his end may be very near. Poor brother, may he turn entirely to the Lord and give himself undividedly to Him.

Marie is still the same, except that like us all she is subject to the law of time : she is growing old. She is as thin, I think, as our dear mother. She has a great deal of worry, because ~~xxxx~~ her husband has none. Their eldest is a long, lean girl, the youngest, Ernest, does not yet go to school. In short they are well and are very pleased to be on their own in our little house.

house. Our poor Hermann has still not got in touch with us, I propose to write him soon, will he answer my letter, I do not know?

him soon, will he answer my letter, I do not know.  
Our dear brother Charles is well, I shall not talk to you about him as he will soon gladden you with a long letter, he is ashamed at leaving you go so long without news from him, but he is very busy and sometimes forgets what he had to do outside the duties of his ministry.  
Our dear brother lost a little girl this winter, the Lord was good

Our youngest brother lost a little girl this winter, the Lord was good to take her away from them, ~~xxxxxx~~ the poor darling had a twisted spine, ~~xxxx~~ she was in pain and would have been crippled. The children are well and are growing up, his little wife takes a lot of trouble, she is very active, she looks after the house well and is a good mother to her troop of children. For almost a year I have not seen my dearest Albertine, this spring she

she looks after the house well and is a good mother to her children. For almost a year I have not seen my dearest Albertine, this spring she received a little girl who bears the name of Alice. During her confinement I had her dear little Helen, my god-daughter, she spent a month at Wabern. she is obedient and has a

I had her dear little Helen, my god-daughter, she spent a month at Wabern. She is a very advanced child for her 4 years, she is obedient and has a happy disposition, I miss her very much. I like to think that our sister will soon write you: her letter always do me a lot of good. This autumn,

[illegible]

I hope to spend a fortnight in her home; ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~  
~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ appear if only we had a magic wand with  
 which to make our eldest sister arrive! Yesterday I read a German proverb ~~which~~  
 which makes me feel happy. People who love one another in Christ never see  
 each other's faults, and it is true: let us love one another so.

which makes me feel happy. People who love one another in Christ never see one another for the last time, and it is true; let us love one another so, dearest sister, and we shall see one another again, if not in this world, in Heaven: may our meeting be up in Heaven.

You will have no trouble in recognising Dad, but you will find he has grown very old; I seem to see you when you receive this photograph, what

You will have no trouble in recognising Dad, but you will find him  
grown very old; I seem to see you when you receive this photograph, what  
joy it will give you.

My 4 pages are already covered in ink, and very badly, excuse the bad  
writing. I hope to see you soon. My kisses and greetings to my dear

My 4 pages are already covered in ink, and very badly, excuse the bad writing, the heat affects the nerves. My kisses and greetings to my dear nephews and nieces, with my thanks for the cards.

A thousand and one kisses, Rosine, from your sister Anna who loves you

A thousand and one kisses, Rosine, from your sister Anna who loves you for life.