

My dear parents,
many thanks for your communications dated ~~May~~ ¹⁴ 16th, May 21st & 27th, which came here ~~also~~ with an interval of two days.

First of all, I'm so relieved that mother's hand is better. I cannot tell you how glad I am. I do hope it stays like that, or keeps improving; but even if not, it is a good sign.

No watch please don't have fur-coat made now. When I'm in America, we'll think it over again. In case there should come an opportunity to sell it well, do. If not, I'll probably be glad to have it then, but don't have it done now. - As to America: in May & June there are no immigration-visa given, ~~no year~~ never. It starts again in July, & it's ~~now~~ asking now, they don't know any more of the consulate now than I do. They get everything from America and don't know which time anybody can go until shortly before he can. I daresay my turn can come in August at the earliest, but it's hard to foresee it in war-times.

My dear parents, I do hope the "Luftschutz" measures precautions against air-raids in Palestine don't weigh on your nerves too heavily. I do hope they will prove to be only precautions. If I could pray, I'd pray that war should be kept off from you. Anyhow, it would be glad to learn that one of your neighbours has a satisfactory cellar? I hope and believe it won't come to that, but should be glad to know. How far is the new high-way from your house? Well, that doesn't matter much, probably. Well, I do hope you are safe, but I'd have liked to ask you for a long time ~~before~~ about that cellar. - You say, I'd like to know about you in any case, so you write to Geneva. Dear parents, you had better not live in the illusion that in such a case any mail should come through - for quite a time. A German emigrant whose parents were in Bruxelles, wrote to the Red Cross, and they answered her that in the most favourable case it would take months before they could know ~~anything~~ ^{any} thing, never mind what may be the case. Everybody is very optimistic here at present, there is no reason at all to think of an invasion now, and they very

cautious Swiss army - "Habs" even ^{sent home} ~~demobilized~~ some of the men who are wanted in the production etc, I mean they gave them vacations; you'll probably have read about it, and the peace-time-table is to be come in force again next Sunday, etc. But I think I ought to write you about that, because if, contrary to expectation, something of the sort should happen, it would be too late. And it's a hateful thought you should take it for granted I'm dead, while I'm working comfortably in some hospital, and unable to let you know. Anyhow, in case you (or I) shouldn't know the other address of the other, or be prevented from writing there directly for some other reason, I propose we both should write to Miss Gutz. ~~to know your own address~~

~~Christmas in Munich~~

Dear bear, I thought of your birth-day the other day, when it was too late. I don't know any more what to say to apologise for my incapability to think of dates - it's getting even worse every year, if this is still possible! But you know I think of you just as much, nevertheless. I wish you with all my heart for the future, that you shall live to see peace in a better world - and I feel sure you will. And for the present: that you should take things less hard and enjoy the little pleasures life still yields - and last not least, always to bear in mind how lucky we are still, compared with others. Let's hope it will last.

It's all right, Krotek, I'll do my best to write twice a week, if that helps you.

Dear parents, I have been off with the byke for the week-end. I went along the Urner See (funny to see it again) to the Klausen-Pass, that's one of the most famous ones for the alpine scenery, and back on the other side. I'm afraid I can't describe it well, I'm in a very unenglish moment and can't express myself at all in this letter, excuse me please. It was a fine trip. It was nice to go through ^{partly} high meadows for hours, first, many of them were already mown and the air was full of the sweet peaceful scent

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of hay. When I came to the Urner See, the weather, which had been doubtful, ~~but the sun~~ had been shining, ~~took~~ + traditionally took a turn for the worse. Just when I reached Brunnen, a steam-boat bound for Flüelen ~~came~~ turned up, and I was frivolous enough to take it - for fear to get to the high mountains when everything was veiled with clouds. The trip with the boat was very nice. When I got out at Flüelen, I was immediately punished by catching a nail. Never in my life had I mended a tyre - to my astonishment I got it off easily, found the hole, mended it and got the tyre on again without difficulty. To my greater astonishment it still stubbornly refused to hold the air. I asked a passer-by for a mechanic (Saturday evening!), and he told he knew a worker who could mend it for me. He called the man down, and he showed me the nail had pierced the * rubber twice, there was a second tiny hole. He mended it, and readapted some screws, etc, and spent half an hour, and got very dirty - and wouldn't, by any means, take anything in return. I had lost an hour, but this nail was a nice adventure though. - I ~~was~~ went up through the Schächental, the native valley of Tell. Folk-lore reports he was drowned in the Schächenbach as an old man, ~~when~~ ⁱⁿ trying to rescue a child. The Schächenbach is a roaring torrent, all foam - not nice to jump in there. I slept in Spiringen, and in the morning awoke to find a blue sky, and shining white peaks peering into the valley. The upper part of the Schächental is very picturesque, ~~by~~ ^{by} precipices, beautifully shaped mountains with eternal snow and glaciers ~~getting~~ ^{becoming} more and more visible as you climb. Especially Unterochächen is beautiful: lying at the very bottom of the valley, at the foot of a deep black precipice, with a small side-valley opening just beside it, ~~where~~ ^{where} ~~you~~ ^{having} a typical glacier-valley with high precipices ~~at~~ both sides and streams and waterfalls coming down over them - in its back-ground a majestic white mountain, the Grosse Ruchen. - It was nice to pass the different stages of vegetation once again - high meadows, ~~then~~ with "Pustebumen", later on shorter ones with ~~the~~ all yellow with dandelions - later ~~a~~ higher up grass,

that will never be very high, sprinkled with crow-foot and dotted with violet orchis. And, at last the full alpine flora: lots of *Primula auricula* (Oetergstamm), *Prim. Elusiana*, *Gentiana acaulis* and *verna* - lots and lots of these! etc. Still higher up, where the snow was just melting, *Soldanella* and *Viola*. (They are the same lilac soldanellas as in Austria). At last there came a region of snow - the road has been dug out, there were walls of two and a half meters at both sides. - It was beautiful indeed to go down at the other side - just ~~of~~ ~~an~~ beach-wood with new, just unfolded leaves, precipices and the beautiful high mountains besid behind them at both sides, a ~~A~~ broad, beautiful green valley below, all woods and meadow. There are three big water-falls of the Fätschbach, one of them is extraordinary fine. And at the third I met my special friend, the black mountain-salamander. - The Linthal, ~~is~~ leading down to the valley of the Zürich-See, is very wonderful - beautiful woods, beautiful mountains, the valley itself all rich meadow, meadow and woods one shining green wonder. ~~It~~ ^{It} won't look like that if there is no sun. When I came out, ^{there} it was so late I had to take the train for part of my way back. Then I went with the byke along the Zürichsee, it was so beautiful with the thousands of lights spreading at the opposite embankment. I wish you could see that once, we haven't anything like it in Austria. The 30 km of the lake are one settlement, on both sides. - I was lucky enough to meet a hedgehog, but he wasn't pleased to see me and curled up when I tried to stroke his pointed little nose. - I got a lot of things from the Jewish community again, - a black silk-dress, I never had anything like that, it's ~~like~~ as good as new; lots of other things, and, first of all, wonderful breeches. I'm busy sewing skirts, they come out well so far. The course is very good, I'm ever so glad I went in for that. I hope I'll get ~~together~~ what I want most urgently.

Dear parents, I'll write about working next week, I'm in a hurry now. I hope to have good news then.

It's wonderful what you write about the ^{Love} garden! yours Hannah