

next time
will you please
enclose that croquet
edging pattern I gave
you last as I have
forgotten it. I will
send it back.
Goodbye take Niesbaden
I care for you Germany
self I hope
you keep
X well.
Müllerstrasse 3
23/2/90

My darling Flo

Thank you so much for
your letter. I need not tell you how I
hailed it with joy. I am beginning
this now as we are not going in the
drawing room tonight & shall finish
it by degrees each day.
I cannot believe I have only been here
five weeks it seems months. Sometimes
it is awfully nice but at other times
I feel most miserable the Germans are
so changeable. You won't mind me
telling you I know but I expect I
shall soon get quite used to it as do
not think I am not comfortable because
I am quite but I do miss having a
particular friend. Well no more of
that it is not very cheerful & so for
some news although there is not
much, but I will begin with the latest.
Last Friday evening I went to a
most lovely concert given at the
"Curaeus" (a large grand hall about
20 minutes walk from here.) Fraulein
had two tickets half price (2/-) & she
told me how nice it would be & so I
went with a German girl. It commenced

at 4.30 & was over at 10 p.m. It was
all playing no singing at all & I had
a most splendid place reserved seat
in the front. I should say there were
about 40 in the orchestra & really I
have never heard such lovely music.
The only pianist for the evening was
a "Frau" Carenno from Venezuela &
words will not describe how beautifully
she played. She was very pretty, dark
& such a sweet smile & she was "enored"
such a lot of times each time she
seemed to play better than the last
& altogether I was enchanted. A gentle-
man whom I concluded was her hus-
band was standing behind the screen
smiling so sweetly upon her. I should
dearly love to go next week again but
of course I cannot be so extravagant.
Since I last wrote I have also been to
the "Theater" (German spelling) to see
Othello (Franklin offered me a ticket
as she had seen it) & had a seat in
front corresponding to the English
stalls. The piece was played very
well & the music was very good but
rather too loud as it is a small
place but the dresses & scenery do
not half come up to the English ones.
Just at the end a woman was in
bed & a man came to murder her &
oh, she gave such an unearthly yell
so real & quite scared us all. Franklin has

just come in & so an revoir as we have to go in the drawing room. Goodnight! *Adieu! Bis wohl und trübsinnig von mir* (I sleep well & dream of me)

24th The other day was the election here & in the evening I found Fraulein most unsettled, jumping about & everything else crazy presently she said to me come to town with me I cannot sleep unless I know who has won & so off we trotted at 9 p.m. for a good walk but she was quite satisfied as the Liberals had won the day & she is for ever for the Liberals. She is so jolly, I do like her; the other day I thought I was coming in for a grumble because I went into the garden with nothing on (outdoor apparel of course I mean) but she only told me not to do it again.

The theatricals I told you the girls were going to play all came off well. They were acted three nights last week the first night the little ones came then the others except the first class & the last night & best the first class & their friends came. The performance commenced at 6 & opened with "tableaux vivants". I was in four out of the six of those old woman then a father in peasant's clothes & lastly head of a troop of gipsies. I was then dressed in a black velvet suit (Knickerbockers) with a lot of gilt coins dangling about a loose red front & a red cap, my hair was down & I had a moustache like the Germans very very pointed. I was informed I made a splendid man. We had a stage put up quite nicely in one of the large rooms & everything was very nice & over by 9 p.m. The last two nights we then came upstairs & had refreshment coffee & tea & plenty of it, after which we went downstairs & had dancing until 12, then supper, chocolate blanc mange & cream, after which we retired. The German dances are very funny, fearfully happy it is like dancing a jig, but we liked it as it was a bit of excitement for us. Next morning we were all dreadfully tired, we had to get up the usual time & eat our breakfasts with our eyes half shut, but I think I have got over it now.

I had another music lesson today my master Herr Weber is very nice & a ^{good} teacher & so I hope to get on. He is such a conceited little man, gets up half a dozen times to look in the glass & gives as an excuse that his children have been playing with him & ruffled his hair. I must stop for tonight & write to Aunt Carrie we do so every fortnight & it is my evening. Goodnight, sweet repose!

26th I am going to enclose a letter in here
for Mary Wright. I have not any English
stamps & so do you mind putting one on
& posting it. I don't think you will.

28th Goodmorning it is snowing now fast
it seems so strange at the end of February.
Yesterday was Miss Downey's birthday & for
a treat we had cake & chocolate for supper.
I made the most of it & had three cups.

Tomorrow I am going to join a "club" for
English ladies coming to Wiesbaden. the
rules are very easy. the Countess Bismark
is the head of it & tomorrow how I
shall quake to be introduced. We have
meetings on the 1st of every month from
5 to 7 (tea first) tomorrow it is to be
a lecture on Victor Cheffel. Fraulein is
coming with me it will be rather
nice getting to know more people.

Fraulein & I have been planning some
nice excursions together in the summer.
I am quite longing. This is a most
lovely place, come over for your summer
holidays? rather improbable but
still I give you the invitation.

When Aunt Carrie last wrote she told
me Lilly & Will H. had taken a house
in Northfield Rd Stamford Hill, it
seems so ridiculous.

How nice for you to have gone with
Maude & Dick to the Palace, am glad
you enjoyed it so.

I wrote to Alice not long since, she

has written to me once. How lovely
for her going to Wales again with the
children after Easter.
The other day I had such a sell I had
taken three brooches to have the pins
put on & when I went to fetch them the
man informed me they were 1 mk 50
equal to 1/6 I was thunderstruck &
a bottle of boot polish & is 1 mk 40, but
fancy things are very cheap.
Please remember me to Mr & Mrs Pye L.
& tell them I am getting on nicely.
Every now & again I keep thinking of
the "glitch of bacon" I wonder if
Lilly will get it.
I really have no more news this time
dear old girl & so accept my very
very best love &

I remain ever,

Your loving sister,

Minnie

You ought to get this Saturday
evening but I expect you will have
gone out.

How is Willie Kitching? be sure and
let me know. I really cannot
read this through & so please
excuse all blunders.

to not
pass this
letter all round
starting with you.
It is for you.
I hope you are
quite soon
Germany
Müllerstrasse 3
Wiesbaden
Germany
Feb. 2nd 1890

My own dear Flo

Now it is your turn for a letter & I expect it will be a pretty long one as I must tell you all about the school etc. Many thanks for your letter you may be sure it was most acceptable to a poor little lonely girl in a foreign country. Well to begin at the beginning. I had a most comfortable journey across company, a German master & two new boys for his school as far as Cologne. Uncle Tom & Aunt Fanny came to see me off at Holborn & the former was awfully good & arranged everything for me. The ticket Fraulein sent me enabled me to go first class on the boat & without paying extra. The sea was pretty rough some parts of the night nearly tossed me out of my berth but I did feel happy not to be bad as you may imagine. At Cologne we went into the Cathedral it is a most magnificent place all stained windows. I had some dinner & then my escorts came to see me off for here where Fraulein met me. I came in had some supper was introduced to the girls & trotted off to bed very glad to be there. Saturday as you

know I was in bed. Aunt Fanny told me she had sent you on my letter to read but you must not mind the same news again. We get up at 7 o'clock breakfast at 1/2 past (coffee & two rolls of bread no butter) & school commences at 8 & lasts till 12 (lunch at 10 1/4 hours rest) when we all go for a walk until one dinner time. Lessons commence again at 2 till 4 & then we have coffee & bread & butter & the rest of the day until 9.30 bed time to ourselves, supper at 9.30. The little ones have to do lessons until 9.30 but the bigger girls do not. There are 14 boarders & over 80 day pupils the latter are very nice I like them much better than the former. There are 12 girls in my class & it is called the "selekta" one degree higher than the 1st class. We do not have any lessons in the afternoons except Friday when it is drawing or painting, but we have our lessons to prepare (& practice) for the next day. There are only three resident governesses besides Fraülein, two German & one French, but masters come during the day. I was introduced to my music master the other day (Herr Weber) & I am to have my first lesson tomorrow do hope he will be nice. He is considered an excellent teacher & is the director of music at the Wiesbaden theatre. I am sure I shall quake & tremble playing before such a grandee. Wednesday & Saturdays are half holidays the former we go for a walk all the time if fine & on Saturdays we stay in & have baths, bathday.

There is one other English girl here a Mabel Downey & one American who speaks English very well but the others can only understand a very few words ('I mean the boarders') but we are supposed to speak German, English & French two days each week & on Sundays what we like. I go every Sunday to the English church about 20 minutes from here. The first time the American came with me (M. Downey is a Roman Catholic) but now I go alone. It is a very pretty though rather small church & always well filled. The clergymen are both old & preach very well. After service there is a colomnade every one turns into, quite as bad as the Brighton Parade. I feel so bashful 'passing them all on my way back here'. Fraulein says they can all tell I am English because I wear a straw hat quite an abomination of theirs in the winter, but I stick to it as a good mark of my nation. I have pretty hard work sometimes to stand up for the English. I do not think the Germans are very partial to us. Last Monday we all had a holiday on account of the Emperor's birthday. Fraulein had his photo all decked out with laurels & all of us assembled in the downstairs room & a lot of the girls said some poetry (I concluded it was about him although I could not understand a word) & then sang something to the tune of "God save the Queen".

& that ended our commemoration of him. Next month the girls are going to act theatricals English, German & French but I do not take part in them. Fraulein does not let us have our own language & I am excessively happy to get off free. A lot of their friends come & we finish up with dancing so fancy it will be rather a nice evening. Last week Fraulein received an invitation from the English clergyman's daughter (who is staying with a friend Frau von Arnim) to come to a small party. Jaw: so they bring all the English girls that were here with her which of course included me & M. Downey besides. As she said a small party we only went in our best dresses & took no slippers but when we got there it was a regular take in for it was quite a dance programme & all. There were ninety if not more people there & all in evening dress & such swells too, we did not know what to do & worse than all I never took any gloves. He of course kept right in the back ground (I must not forget that there were three others besides us not in evening dress & so kept us company) out of all the dances (only a good many stood out of these as there were far more ladies than gentlemen) & left early we felt so uncomfortable. Before we went we had a

most delightful supper & ice cream
to crown it & altogether it would have
been a (linbluf) lovely affair if we had
gone prepared. My first dance &
quite an adventure. I was introduced
to the English clergyman he is very
nice ditto his daughter & so I know a
few persons now in Wiesbaden.
Last Saturday evening Mr. Downey & I
went round the town (Fraulein lets us
go out if we ask her, but not by
ourselves until we can speak German)
& had a most jolly time. We first
went & drank the celebrated waters of
Wiesbaden. It is not bad but warm
you cannot take too much or else you
would quickly have to run home but
I managed $\frac{3}{4}$ of a glassful; we then
went round the town the shops are
so nice, some things very cheap but
others dreadfully expensive. We were
enjoying ourselves so much we forgot
all about the time & came rushing
back here $\frac{1}{2}$ hr late & as luck would
have it flew right into Fraulein's
arms, but the dear thing only told us
to be punctual another time! She
has promised to take me out one
evening she is so nice to me I like
her very much she is tall fair, not
extra goodlooking, very active & lively.
As there is a description I have to teach
I suppose you know that I have to teach
2 hrs a day, but I do not take a class
because Mr. Downey teaches as well &
she has them as she came first but
I give Fraulein's nephew (aged 15) two

English lessons a week & I also give
six music lessons & to make up the
rest of the time each week I do four
hours needlework for Fraulein & so
that makes my 12 hours, two each day.
When Mr. Downey leaves I shall have
the classes, but she does not go until
October. I am getting on pretty well
with my German have two lessons to
myself a week but a German master
comes four times. I attend his classes
to get used to the sound, it is History
he gives all in German, so I cannot
understand. He seems such a nice
man & is so good looking & very good-
tempered. I can write all my letters
in German & know a good many words
but as I do not know the verbs I cannot
make sentences and simply long to
be able to understand what everyone is
talking about, it seems such utter
rubbish at present. French we have
five times a week I cannot speak that
either but I know the grammar &
that is a good thing. Mademoiselle is
such a funny little thing quite
Frenchified she has been five years
in Germany now. Painting I am to
begin after Easter lovely.
I have the same room & bed as G. Cook
had (excuse me jumping so from one
thing to another) one of the German
governesses who is rather nice & two
girls sleep in the room as well & in
my idea it is the best bedroom & as
hope I don't have to change.
The meals we have are awfully nice

to what I expected & we have plenty soup every day,
meat & pudding chestnuts or something afterwards.
Fraulein has been to England & so we get much better
food but the other day I tasted "Sauer Kraut" & really
then I nearly fed the fishes it is frightful. never
never never no more will I take it, unless I save a
scrap to send you.
Sunday evenings here after supper we all go in the
drawing room & have music & singing. there is not any
evening service in any church. In the afternoon we go
for a walk. last Sunday we went a most delightful
one to the Rhine it was fearfully windy & we got a
good blow I enjoyed it immensely but it blew the
Germans about rather too much to please them. It seems
so strange to walk in lines in front of the governesses.
Fraulein is quite pleased with me because I like walking
& I am going to take care to keep in her good books.
This is such a pretty place it must be lovely in the
summer; the last few days have been charming but
when I first came they all declared I had brought the
horrid English weather with me it did nothing but
rain. Well now I think I have told you all the
German news & made a pretty long letter. At first I
felt quite wretched here but like it heaps better now
am getting to know the people & their ways.
I intended enclosing a letter in here for Alma but I am
rather too tired to write another long letter & so if you
are writing please tell her I will do so soon. Will you
thank Aunt Fanny for her letter. Edith Smith has also
written & of course Aunt Carrie & my dear old sister.
I have also heard from Naustead two or three times, they
have a nice treat there heaps of them have the
Influenza, am glad you have escaped it. How has your
sore passed off & how are Mrs. Hitching, Emmie & all.
my kind remembrances to them & also to Mr. & Mrs.
Lyle Smith if they ask after me. By the bye darling
could you send me a little packet of camphorated chalk
for my teeth in your next letter if it will not be too
heavy. Now would you write me a nice long letter
won't you lovey next time & tell me all the news &
give my love to all friends & accept any amount
for your self from
Your ever loving sister
Winnie Howard.
Do you admire my German writing or rather signature.

Will you kindly send on the enclosed & tell your dear little sister, who has not grown any taller. We are going to have ice for dinner & a lovely cake of good & possible. I am in the strasse 3. This letter through reading have repeated of course "Sunday" & "please" & "goodbye".

My darling Florrie

Heaps of thanks for your last nice long letter, am afraid mine will not be so long. I expect you are simply longing for the holidays, do you yet know where you are going? Oh! if you could only decide on Wiesbaden I should be nearly mad, at any rate a trifle dotty. Our commence Wednesday week one of Fräulein's former pupils, who has been staying here for the last month, has invited me to spend part of them with her in "Beidenkopf". Of course I am not going to accept, it is rather an expensive journey & I should not care to ask Aunt & I feel she & Aunt Fanny do far too much for me, as it is. That girl left here last Thursday & the evening before she went Fräulein gave us a ticket to go to the "burhaus" together & we very much enjoyed it. The music was very good & of course the place was literally crammed with people. It is the "gardenfest" there again next Tuesday, but I shall

You will send the letter off directly, won't you please?

not go this time. Not long back 42
of us made an excursion to "Schwalbach"
rather a small town two hours from
here. We started at 6 a.m. of course that
meant turning out of bed at five & got
there & it is a lovely journey the railway
runs all through the woods & only one
train can run at a time but at such a
pace, like a snail. We sat in the woods
most of the morning but after dinner
explored the place. It is very nice, pretty
and all that but not nearly so nice as
Wiesbaden. In the evening we listened
to the band in the park & followed the
general example of parading about
drinking the celebrated "waters" which did
for me they are beautifully cool but oh
the taste of ink is heaps worse than
that at Brighton if you remember it.
The place was entirely crammed with
English people one can tell them at a
glance from the Germans but I assure
you it was quite nice to see them again.
We started back for the station as we
thought in plenty of time but horrors
when we got there the porter would not
let us get in of course. Fräulein (who is
a slightly fidgity person generally speaking)
was in a dreadful way but then about we
could not have walked back it was too far
when at last the porter consoled us & said
he would send an extra train in half an
hour, so we arrived home some time & I

was pretty glad to get to bed although the little ones did not seem inclined that way. Well, dearie, I hope you are not wearied with that account, because there is some more to follow, but I will give you an interval in between of perhaps ten minutes. I was glad to hear you enjoyed the strawberries. Henriette had sent, it seems so strange, have only eaten one this year, "that" came out of the garden, in fact I have not seen many about. Apricots are very plentiful we have had some beauties off our tree and I never liked them before this year. I would enclose you on Aunt Nellie's letter to read but as I want to enclose another one in here it would be overweight. The piece about Lil that struck me most was "I cannot tell you how beautiful dear Lil looked" & then about their lovely home but Aunt wrote & said the latter was really splendid & she was there for the "at home". I wrote a very short letter to Lil congratulating her, it's evidently pleased Aunt Nellie for she told Aunt L. I had written Lil a "very long letter indeed". I must say that I wish people would not exaggerate. Have you seen Aunt L. yet? No, try & go when she is at Mrs. Spier's, Norwood. She is going on the 6th for a fortnight. Don't you think this is funny one of the girls who I was awfully fond of is going back to Wanstead as a governess,

and the girl who slept by me is also going, as two of the Junior governesses are leaving. I do think it strange just as I have left too. Mary De Melby is coming at the end of this month. I am glad, more especially so now as Mr. Downey is leaving on the 14th to take a situation in Frankfurt. I expect I shall miss her, as she has been very nice lately & we have just got to know each other. We went bathing again last Friday, it was such a hot day as you may be sure we enjoyed it immensely, but one thing I did not much relish, was I gave a good dive off the high board but when I came up, my poor hair was all over the place my cap had disappeared. The teachers on simply roared, although I did not feel inclined to do so, thinking what a nice treat I should have with it afterwards. The people who keep these baths must get a good deal of money. I suppose you will go in for it if you go to the seaside. I think of me if only once won't you? My friend Miss Barker has gone to Margate for her. They all go back to school next Saturday. I should be going too. I wrote to Alma not long back, next time I shall write a German letter or rather I should say try my hand at it. Am getting on nicely with my German, but there are

some syllables I cannot pronounce at least it is mostly the words with 'i' in the Germans do laugh sometimes but I certainly have more occasions to laugh at their English. French is progressing pretty well & mine also are learning now "ever of thee" you may have heard it. My master never says I play a piece nicely, however perfectly I think I know it. It makes me so cross and my master has sundry little drawings on for instance a porpoise hammock etc as he wants to explain something & I do not know it in German & he not in English so we come to a conclusion in that way. The other girls are just going to church. I went a fortnight ago with them but cannot say I like the service & 'do not want to go again. Our English church is all being repainted & repaired it looks so nice what is done of it. While I think of it I must not forget to tell you I have begun to knit a pair of stockings. find it rather slow work my leg is so going & as all the Germans declare "dick" they think I am as fat here. I will let you know when they are finished, but do not expect the joyfull news too soon, or you may be disappointed. Now comes I think your ten minutes interval is over & so I will continue my descriptions of excursions. It is too hot now to have school in the afternoon so we have coffee early & then turn out somewhere. Last week we went by train to 'Walluf' a village on the Rhine, had coffee there in a beautiful

arbour all hanging with grapes & then
walked on all along by the Rhine to
'Eltville' another very quaint ancient
little village. Examined that & then re-
turned. The setting of the sun was so
pretty, in fact wonderful over the hills.
Again last Thursday to commemorate
Mademoiselle's birthday (which was July 2nd)
all the boarders & a few of the day pupils
went to a place in the woods called
'Leichtweisshölle' servants following behind
carrying baskets of provisions which I should
not have cared to carry although I certainly
did not mind eating the contents. What
we got there we set to work & soon cleared
the baskets & then we played about until
5 o'clock & returned. There was another
school there keeping an English girls
birthday only poor thing she had tumbled
down & sprained her ankle. I know the
English governess there through the guild
& she has asked me to go out with her
sometimes in the holidays it will be
rather nice to do so. It is just to an-
swer you are about having breakfast, I
am really quite an early rising riser now,
or rather I should say must be.
I was sorry to hear Mr. Rye Smith was not
at all well. Hope by now that he is better.
Kind remembrances to them. Have just run
upstairs to Fraulein, she has a dreadful head
ache & is in bed. My news is ended now
& so consequently I must close my letter, heaps
& heaps of love darling from

Your ever loving sister,

Minnie

Love to Jack, hope all are keeping well.

Müllersstrasse 3

Niesbadern

31/12/90

My darling old Florrie

A Happy & Prosperous
New Year to you & many of them!!!
Many thanks for your jolly long
letter received almost day (the only one
I had) & also for the nice silk hand-
kerchief it is pretty & I put it on to
go to church. I cannot make out why
Aunt Carrie has not written it seems
so strange. Altogether I had 107 cards
& nice letters, a little book snowdrop,
pair of gloves, a little calendar, 5/- &
from Fraulein I had all Schiller's
Works in four books, with which I was
delighted. It really was not at all
bad here Xmas time, but what a
nice time you & Alina must have had
I did think of you as you may imagine.
Xmas Eve is the time here everyone has
their letters & presents then & also the
Xmas tree. You know it is considered
very wrong not to have a tree even old
maids living alone must have one or
they are quite lost. Well ours looked very
pretty as you may imagine when I helped
to deck it but the things are only to
be looked out not touched. At 6 o'clock
we all went into the drawing room, sang
a few Xmas songs, then the bell rang
& we went into our tree, the girls had
such a lot of presents, dresses etc & we

all had such a plateful of goods brought
unto apples etc. which I finished up
yesterday. After supper we had round
games & very nice it was too but I
tell you it was pretty hard work for
us English girls we had to form com-
pound words something like shouting
geography or pay a forfeit. Fraulein's
two nephews played too. Tomorrow
we went to church which was fairly well
decorated the first thing. Twenty of
us sat down to dinner some friends
had been invited & really the table was
quite nicely arranged with flowers fruit
& all quite grand. He certainly had a
splendid dinner. Turkey among the
list of eatables & Tim's pudding which
we did justice too but the Germans
ran down. it was very good a little
too much brandy in. He sat over dinner
till 10 p.m. from 10 o'clock but what
with wine & drinking health the time
went. Am just going out now so
goodbye.

11 p.m. Good evening. Well to continue we then
went to church again as the other three
Engländerinnen sang in the carols which
altogether passed off well. When we came
back we had games beginning with "old
maid" called here "black Peter". The one
who was old maid had to have a round
made with burnt corks I happened to
hit it three times & so got as far as
moustache beard & whiskers & looked a
pretty sight & besides that I had a
cigarette to smoke which I quite enjoyed.
After a time we had supper & then re-
newed our games with more vivacity
& strengthened with glasses of home

made wine as good. We were all extra lively & at 1/2 pt 11 retired
to bed. We have all taken French leave you know these holidays
& instead of getting up at 1/2 pt & we do so an hour later &
steal into the kitchen & get our breakfast & I expect we
shall continue that trick until we get stopped, it quite
agrees with me, but really I am enjoying the holidays
very much & do not want school to begin again next Wednesday.
Boxing Day (2nd Xmas day with the foreigners) Marie & I went
if skating morning & afternoon. I tell you it was delightful
I do as long as I want to skate nicely. There was a band playing
my part of the morning the people were going round & it
at beautifully walking away. I must say the Germans are
quite expert in the art little children of five years old go
along quite well. They rather laugh to see one learning
& now still when I fall down. For a first I measured
my length a good many times but now I can go alone
after a while. We go nearly every morning it is bitterly
cold & so windy. We thank you are in England for
there it is quite warm although fog is not known here.
Well the same evening we were invited out to coffee & had
a nice old English musical evening & quite enjoyed ourselves.
The next evening we were invited out again & had another
nice time, then Sunday we had friends here & on Monday
we had an English friend to tea with us so I do not think
we have done badly, & certainly the time has literally
flown. You must write me a nice long letter & tell me all
the news of Uncle George & his family doings. How did you
find Aunt Fanny? I expect she was fairly tired. Be sure
you make out what I have written on the back of the
envelope, it is very easy. Fanny only 8 more months before
I see you won't it be a happy meeting & how I am look-
ing forward to it, no words can express, although I am
quite happy here, sometimes I get a little homesick -
Violet's father is coming here tomorrow she is excited
it is quite an astonished. I do so wait you to get
this for the New Year & so must close now darling
much love to all & especially yourself

From
Your ever loving Sister
Minnie.

Why do you always end your letters "Florence Evans"
you don't need so, because I fancy I know your
surname. Goodnight, sleep well don't get into
mischievous if you can keep out you know what
Mr. Harris used to say about your speaking eyes!!
The poor old lady I wonder how she is...