

important: copy in full

BC151 C12.19

Charlton House, Snowbray
near Cape Town, South Africa.

23^d September, 1875.

24p.



Dear Ernst,

Your letter addressed to my dear Husband, dated 10 August, came into my hands on the 12th instant. Long before these lines reach you, you will have learnt that an answer to it from his own pen can never more come. But I well know what deep interest it would have had for him, & how he would have tried, if his health had permitted it, to fulfill your request which it contains.

Glad it been possible, I should have written earlier to tell you myself of what befall here on the 16th & 17th August, instead of leaving you to hear it merely by means of the public prints;—but I am sure you will easily understand, dear Ernst, how with the heavy pressure of business & other letter-writing which at once fell upon me, I had to leave undone very much

↓ Seite 2

BC151 C12.19

that my heart was wishing to accomplish during those first days & weeks of my sad new life alone.

My Sister Lucy, who has for many years past so greatly helped dear Wilhelm in his labors wherever possible for her to do so, has been ^{also} my greatest helper lately in writing, as in all else, but we have each of us had as much letter-writing, or copying-work, to get through, for every out-going mail lately, as we could in any way manage;—so that neither could she write to you for me, tho' you have been often in ^{both} our thoughts.

I was truly sorry to see from your letter that neither your wife or children had been well. Should you be writing to your dear Mother shortly after receiving this, please give her my loving remembrances. The thought of all her love & kindness to dear Wilhelm & myself and our little girl during our stay at Berlin six years ago, is always a green spot in my memory.

And your dear Father's too. Oh how many

many loved ones are gone since the July of that year.

I do not try to write you any particulars of the last days & weeks of my darling's earthly life, it not being right for me to undertake any avoidable painful strain just now, as I am expecting another little one early in December. You can understand how anxious I am to do every thing in my power, while its poor little life can still be affected through mine, to try for such mental & physical occupations as by their healthful influence may increase the chances for good which may still remain to it; - for it is not without anxiety that I think of how possible it is that the awful suddenness with which its dear Father was taken from me may have had bad effects on the dear little struggling new life within.

But our Heavenly Father is merciful and I will ^{try to} trust this result, with all other, in His loving hands.

~~We either have or will~~ send such newspapers

to you, dear Ernst, of that week in August, as we think will interest you through the notices which they contain. Those in the 'Standard & Mail' are substantially correct.

In a codicil which Wilhelm wrote four years ago (to a joint will which we had made together in 1866) at a time when he was unusually weak & poorly (I being also ill, - it was a few days after the birth of our twin daughters,) he says the following words, which I think it will interest you to read just now, as explaining to you somewhat the position of affairs here now, in the home which has lost him, & also justifying the steps which Lucy & I are about to take, which otherwise might possibly seem to savour somewhat of presumption or, at best, ill-judged zeal on our part, especially to those who know us but slightly or not at all.

After altering various dispositions which we had made in the joint will referred to, but regarding which we have seen reason to think differently in later years, especially with so many more delicate little children to think of - he continues as follows:

"As regards"

2

"As regards the case of my wife surviving"
 "me (as I trust will be the case) I hereby"
 "appoint her sole guardian of our children"
 "and leave to her the full disposition of"
 "all our affairs. I wish her if possible"
 "to publish gradually some of my"
 "posthumous papers, and I trust that"
 "partly for this purpose, and partly as"
 "an acknowledgement of what little"
 "I have done, the pension graciously"
 "granted to me by Her Majesty the Queen"
 "will also be continued to my wife".

"I trust that my wife's sister Lucy Catherine"
 "Lloyd will kindly assist her in the work"
 "of publishing my posthumous papers,"
 "See; and I hereby gratefully acknowledge"
 "the great help she has been to me in my"
 "literary labors. But particularly I"
 "request her to continue and work well"
 "out our joint Bushman studies, in which"
 "her quicker ear, and great industry has"
 "been of so important service to science."

"J"

"I appeal to all friends of science"
 "to assist her in such ways as they"
 "can in her work of collecting, working"
 "out, and publishing the records of this"
 "dying out race, — the accurate knowledge"
 "of whose language and ways seems"
 "destined to solve some exceedingly"
 "important ethnological questions".

You see, dear Ernst, how very much he
 has entrusted to us both. How earnestly
 we hope to be strengthened in our hearty
 endeavours for its fulfilment, I cannot
 well put into words; — or how glad & grateful
 we are that there should be something
 still at which we can daily work, as for
 him. I mean things belonging to his own
 special scientific works which always
 lay so near his heart.

But words also fail me to say how
 weak & ignorant we feel — how very difficult
 it is to see our way clearly & surely in the
 questions which arise nearly every day
 for

for our decision. But the knowledge that he has judged us not quite unworthy of such trust, strengthens and cheers us on.

And the kindly sympathy ^{offers of} ~~which~~ ^{we} ~~meet~~ ^{already} from all his friends in South Africa, whose words or letters have as yet had time to reach us, is most touching.

As far as what he has entrusted to me personally is concerned, viz: the publication of some of his posthumous papers, I must necessarily, under present circumstances, defer attempting any active steps in this direction until after my approaching illness. By the time that I may hope, if all go well, to be about again, I shall also probably know what are my prospects of success with regard to the petition to the Queen & her Ministers, which (in accordance with directions given me by dear Wilhelm about a year ago) I forwarded.

to Ernst Bausen's kind care some weeks since, for a continuation to one of his Civil List Pension of £150 - to which he refers in the extract I have copied from the Codicil on a previous page.

Should this petition be successful, I may then hope both for means and leisure to carry out this work of publishing; - Should it not,

I shall then have, of course, to take both time & strength for the work of earning money ~~for the~~ to supplement my own small means for the support of our little ones, - four girls of 12, ^(nearly 6) 15, 4, and ^(and a half) 2 ¹/₂ years of age, and as I hope by & by a fifth child also.

My certain income does not amount to more than about £125. sterling. but added to this I have this nice healthy dwelling house and garden, already two thirds paid for. Of course the fact of my two dear elder sisters (Fanny and Lucy) living with me, & contributing, as they have always done, their share towards the housekeeping expenses

3 BC 151 C12.19

expenses, makes it possible for me to make even this small income go further than it could otherwise do. Still, with ones utmost care & economy, £125 - could not pay the remaining interest on mortgage, taxes, insurance, & repairs, and yet leave sufficient for wholesome food & inevitable clothing for five, ~~or~~ as I hope, six persons. As there are, however, two, if not three, possible ways (even as far as I can already see) in which, if health & strength be given to me, I may reasonably ^{hope} to earn somewhat, I do not fear for our dear children - & though I am also very anxious to do all that should be done regarding the publication of what he has left without any unreasonable delay, I feel that that can wait awhile, whereas the ~~things~~ ^{things} essential to the welfare of growing children cannot.

The only thing I mean to attempt to do before I am laid up, as regards dear Wilhelm's

manifold M.S., ~~of~~ is firstly, to look carefully through all the Comparative Grammar M.S. He was busily working at the continuation of ^{the} second part, on the Concord, (which he was so anxious to bring out with as little further delay as possible) on the very morning (25th June) when the first symptoms of hemorrhage showed themselves; after this, he was never again able really to work at it again, save in so far as going thro' tables of the concord in ^{one or} two languages with missionaries who had a special knowledge of these languages, & whose experience he therefore called to his help to verify or fill in certain portions.

There is a large pile of this Grammar manuscript, but I fancy a large proportion of the sheets are these formal tables of concord, tho' there must be very many sheets also of the writing; - to me of course always the far more interesting part. I remember his giving me, more than a year ago, the

opening argument of this part of the grammar to read, (knowing how much I always enjoyed being thus able to partake in the results he had been working or thinking out). It had then reached only the 27th page (folio M.S.) if I remember rightly; but Louis ^{she thinks that} tells me there is much more of this — ~~book~~ — talking-part, as I would call it — now.

I then want, ^{secondly}, to get a very intelligent old German Missionary, whose companionship Wilhelm much enjoyed, & whose intelligent appreciation of this Comp. Grammar work he ^{also} evidently valued, to come & look it all carefully through with us, and tell us what he thinks. This Mr J. Rath is not a scientific man, of course, still less a trained philologist; but I believe his opinion in the matter is ^{the} best which is available.

We shall then be in a better position to make a short statement of how far this part in manuscript really goes, & to take such further steps as may be necessary ^{towards}

towards having it printed as soon as the promise of continued subscription for a certain number of copies of this new humorous part (as of its predecessors,) shall have been obtained from the Cape & Natal governments & H. M. Foreign Office at home, ~~and thus~~ ^{and thus} giving one a reasonable certainty of being honestly able to defray the costs of the same.

For, I feel that this C. G. M.S. stands on a totally different footing to any thing else in manuscript which he may have left; being as it were owed to the subscribers.

I prepare my self but clumsily regarding this, but I think you, dear Ernst, will understand what I mean. I know his own feeling about this matter was strong.

So far, then, as to what he has left in my hands. Next, as to the work of Bushman Research, which he has specially recommended to dear Louis, and which I can thankfully tell you she intends to carry out to the utmost of her power and opportunities.

opportunities. The first thing was to try & procure from the Colonial Ministry ^{their support with regard to} here, an assurance of the continuance of the Parliamentary Grants in aid of Bushman Research; i.e., to defray the actual daily expenses of the same. This, we have taken steps towards achieving, as we hope, thro' the kindly intervention of our Governor, Sir Henry Barkly.

But, the actual result, i.e., whether Parliament will continue this grant under present altered circumstances, even if the Ministers promise (and also keep their promise, which cannot always be predicted with certainty of Ministers here,) to put it, as usual, on the estimates (which are prepared in January or Feb) next, in readiness for the meeting of Parliament some time in March, - can hardly be known before next June (1876) -

The second, very important step, is to appeal to the friends of science at home, i.e. Europe, to aid in raising a fund

to enable the Bushman materials already collected to be printed. the first necessity ^{towards this desirable end,} being sufficient money to procure a suitable font of type from Europe for this purpose.

This appeal, dear Wilhelm had intended to make himself, for many months past, but only waited until he had his own copies of his lately-published Second Report on Bushman Researches (entitled "A Brief Account of Bushman Folklore and other Texts") ready to send home with the appeal; as shewing what was the kind of work that had been done, & was still doing here, - for the printing connected with which, this aid was wanted.

His ~~only~~ own copies were however, thro' long delay in the Government printers' hands, only finally sent home to him in August, (^{the report was} ready for the printer as early as last Feb) and before he was able in his then weak ^{of health} state, to finally reconsider & draw ^{out} this appeal ready for the printer, the end suddenly came, as

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BC 151 C12.19

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BC 151 C12.19

you will see. Another object, which lay very near his heart, was to obtain means to effect a general Collection of ^{South African} Native Folklore. ~~which was a very desirable end~~, while this is still possible of achievement.

Already in April 1874, he tried to interest the Cape Secretary for Native Affairs in this matter, hoping, through him, to get the consent ^{of the} Colonial Secretary (Cape Premier) to carrying ^{some} comprehensive scheme for this purpose thro' our Parliament, then on the point of meeting. Dear Wilhelm's frequent attacks of heavy cold during that summer, followed in March by threatening signs of hemorrhage, had prevented his taking these steps some months earlier, as he had wished, when ^(it seemed) there ^{might have been a} better chance of success, thro' our Ministry being less busy. He could not even get his Bushman Report published at all that year owing, they said, to the pressure of parliamentary ^{printing} work. ^{he waited, and} So this year he tried again, feeling it necessary to be sure that he could get no such help for

Folklore Collection here, before he should have the right to appeal home. But the success, ^{this year,} was also nil. Indeed his getting even the usual Bushman grant ^{this year,} was mainly owing to the personal interest Sir Henry Barkly kindly took in the matter, and it was at his ^(Sir Henry's) instance that instead of £100 — ~~the~~ the usual grant of late years — ^{hence} £150. ~~It~~ was placed on the estimates, and ^{finally} ^{Our large Bushman family last year having rendered} carried. The Cape Parliament is not usually ^{the daily costs of the work unusually heavy.} a niggardly one, & if a thing is put clearly & judiciously before them, they willingly vote the sum required. But, of course, ~~they~~ are the members are generally very illiterate men, & — unfortunately — our new responsible Ministers are comparatively still more ignorant. Our Premier being merely a successful farmer & country shop-keeper (he began life, they say, as a 'commis voyageur') our Treasurer-General an honest old country doctor. ^{the} Sec^y for Native Affairs, a son of an old missionary in Kappraria, brought up & educated among the Kafirs; and so on — So you see, dear Ernst, what ^{little} hope there is of success here, in getting the help which is so urgently needed for Bushman printing, &

& for Folklore Collection: And, how anxious I, therefore, we shall look for the success of this appeal home. You can understand how difficult a thing this is for dear Loui to undertake; but she has done her best, & had fortunately some M.S. of dear Wilhelm's on the subject to which she could refer. ^(a form with an extract copy of the letter) For the satisfaction of those at home, to whom dear Wilhelm's name & position ^(even tho' personally unknown to them) would have been sufficient guarantee for the right employment of the sums in question, but to whom, of course, our names could say little or nothing, — we have thought it best to ask the consent of the Chief Justice of this Colony, of the Cape of Good Hope, (whom Wilhelm had also named in his codicil, as one to whom the guardian of his children should apply for advice, &c.) who is a singularly honest man, as well as ^{an} able lawyer, & who takes a wide interest in things, tho' in ^{no} way personally a scientific man; — ^{also that} of Mr. Roland Drimen, Curator

BC 151 C 12.19

of ^{the} S.A. Public Museum at Cape Town, & a personal friend of Wilhelm's (author ^{also} of some entomological work, which you may have seen) — and of Mr Wilhelm Riser, an old friend of Wilhelm's (a German), clerk in the Cape Commercial Bank, a practical honest man, with steady business head, & ^{education sufficient} to understand & feel interest in matters of a far different kind — to undertake to receive ^{take charge of} ~~the~~ ^{here} whatever funds may be subscribed in Europe for either ^{of the} purposes mentioned in the appeal. To these three gentlemen, (whose consent we hope to be in a position to mention in the report as already given) we wish to add a ^{fourth} name, as well known at home, — that of Mr Stone, our present Astronomer Royal. But he is either still in Europe (where he went some months since on temporary leave of absence), or, what is more likely, already on his voyage back to the Cape. But, of his ultimate consent to

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BC 151 C 12.19

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trying to help ~~an~~ (as we hope will be the case) in the same cause there.

Should you, however, not see yourself able rightly to give this good help to the efforts we are ^{thus} making to carry ^{on} (with ~~the~~ ^{our} work & wishes, we feel ~~some~~ hopeful that his friend Professor Martin Haug of Munich would kindly undertake it in your stead. You doubtless know him, too, & would perhaps (should you feel obliged to ^{to give} refuse this personal help to the work in ^{your} question) kindly, in that case, ask of him, for us, this great favour.

Whether any German translation of this our intended appeal, for circulation in Germany, will be advisable, or perhaps even necessary, you, dear Ernst, will be best able to judge.

I know that, in that case, you (or Professor Haug) would kindly take the necessary steps to effect the same for us.

Mr Drimen has seen & approved of the draught of intended appeal, & heartily consented to being named in the same for the purpose already mentioned. It is now away to our country districts, where

6

where the Chief Justice is just now on Circuit) for his approval, & as we hope, similar consent. To Mr W. Kiser, we hope ^{ms.} to show it today or tomorrow, (having two copies of draught appeal) so that directly the answer of Mr de Villiers (our Chief Justice) shall reach us, we may get the appeal printed, in time, as we hope, to despatch to Europe (with its accompanying copies of ^{the} Bushman Report, &c.) by the outgoing mail steamers of the 5th & 10th of October; or, at all events, as many of the same as dear Loui's strength, which has been much tried by all the painful or anxious calls upon it of late, shall render possible.

Though we leave it in your hands, dear Ernst, kindly to make the formal application to Professor Haug for us, should your own pre-occupations render this necessary, we shall, also, in writing to him again, as we must do by one of our next outgoing mails, mention how we have asked

BC 151 C12.19

you, as dear Wilhelm's Cousin, to ~~fill~~
 fill this position, (if you can,) in the
 promotion of our endeavours for the
 furtherance of two of his cherished
 aims, but, that, should you see your-
 self unable rightly to give us and
 his work this great help, we have
 requested you kindly to apply ^{Professor Haug} to him,
 on our behalf, in the same matter.

One thing more, before I finish this
 sadly-long English letter with which I have
 been obliged both to try your patience,
 and take up your precious time, - &
 that is, will you kindly, dear Ernst, write
 any future communications ^{with which you may be able to favour} to me, or to
 my sister Lucy, on these subjects, in the
Latin character The German Language
 I can now understand quite easily when
 spoken; & with comparative ease ^{also} when
 written, provided it is not in German
character also. Loui, I think, can read
 it even better than she can follow -

BC 151 C12.19

spoken conversation; Your recently-
 received letter to my dear Husband, I could
 make out wherever it related to ordinary
 subjects, (in spite of the German character) but
 as soon as it began to deal with less fa-
 miliar nouns & verbs, I was comparatively
 at sea, & in the scientific terminology of
 course completely so, & not being sure of
 what letters each word was constituted,
 could not help my self by recourse to
 our German-English Dictionaries - This
 is why I beg for Latin Character -

A ^{German} friend of Wilhelm's, has translated
 the letter for me (with more or less accuracy)
 but he has no German scientific friend
 within easy reach here.

The matter of my petition to the English
 Government, I do not mention either here,
 in England, or in Germany, save to a few,
 whose discretion & secrecy can be trusted,
 as Wilhelm particularly impressed upon
 me the necessity of great caution in this regard
 until the matter should be settled one way
 or another -

There is, among dear Wilhelm's MSS., a
new paper on "Origin of Language
 Origin of Religion"
 which he has had in hand for several
 years, & at which he ^{has been} ~~was~~ working
 from time to time until within
 the last two or three months of
 his life, - going over the sheets
 again, saying "that ^{the subject} ~~it~~ required
 much thought".

When able, we will make &
 send to you a copy of this MS., for
 you to see; asking you then to advise
 us as to whether it would be well
 to have it printed at once. Louis
 tells me Wilhelm said lately that he
 thought the present would be a
 good time to bring it out, if he
 only could ~~get~~ get it ready for publi-
 cation. Though we have not yet had
 time to re-read this MS., we believe
 it to be still unfinished - But I
 must hastily end. With greeting to your wife if she
 will kindly receive the same from an unknown far off cousin
 & kindest regards to yourself, Ever dear Ernst, sincerely
 Hermann C. Bleek.

BC 151 C12.19

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men, & - unfortunately - our new responsible
Ministry are comparatively still more ignorant.
Our Premier being merely a successful farmer
& country shop-keeper (he began life, they say, as
a 'commis voyageur') our Treasurer-General an
honest old country doctor. ^{the} Sec^y for Native Affairs,
a son of an old missionary in Kapraria,
brought up & educated among the Kapis, - and
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& for Folklore Collection: And, how anxious
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BC 151 - C 12.19

of ^{the} S.A. Public Museum at Cape Town, & a personal friend of Wilhelm's (author ^{also} of some entomological work, which you may have seen) — and of Mr Wilhelm Krieger, an old friend of Wilhelm's (a German), clerk in the Cape Commercial Bank, a practical honest man, with steady business head, & education sufficient to understand & feel interest in matters of a far different kind — to undertake to receive ^{take charge of} ~~the collection~~ ^{here} of whatever funds may be subscribed in Europe for either ^{of the} purposes mentioned in the appeal. To these three gentlemen (whose consent we hope to be in a position to mention in the report as already given) we wish to add a ^{fourth} ~~fourth~~ name, as well known at home, — that of Mr Stone, our present Astronomer Royal. But he is either still in Europe (where he went some months since on temporary leave of absence) or, what is more likely, already on his voyage back to the Cape. But, of his ultimate consent to

BC 151 C12-19

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I believe there is no reason to doubt.

~~As regards matters in Europe,~~

Besides, the Committee of Men of science,

begin in England, we are advised that it will

be well, under present altered circum-

stances, ^{for us} to name also some of those Gen-

tlemen in Germany who have most

understanding of, or interest in, this kind

of work, ^{requesting them kindly} to act as a separate Committee

for the same end. To you, dear

Ernst, as my husband's cousin & near

friend, as well as in your position of

one of the foremost workers in this

noble army of scientific men, he would

apply, ^{begging you out of love for him} to undertake the organization &

practical management in Germany

of this work, if you see yourself in

the position to do so, in spite of the

numerous heavy claims upon your

time & strength which already exist.

The way, too, in which your name is

known & thought of in the English scien-

tific world, will also be an indirect

strengthening of the hands of those who
are

trying to help ~~us~~ (as we hope will be the case) in the same cause there.

Should you, however, not see yourself able rightly to give this good help to the efforts we are ^{thus} making to carry ^{out} on Wilhelm's work & wishes, we feel ~~some~~ hopeful that his friend Professor Martin Haug of Munich would kindly undertake it in your stead. You doubtless know him, too, & would perhaps (should you feel obliged to refuse ^{to give} this personal help to the work in ^{yourself} question) kindly, in that case, ask of him, for us, this great favour -

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Mr Drinen has seen & approved of the draught of ^{the} intended appeal, & heartily consented to being named in the same for the purpose already mentioned. It is now ^{gone} away to our country districts, where

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(where the Chief Justice is just now on Circuit) for his approval, & as we hope, similar consent. To Mr W. Miller, we hope to show it today or tomorrow, (having two ^{ms.} copies of draught appeal) so that directly the answer of Mr de Villiers (our Chief Justice) shall reach us, we may get the appeal printed, in time, as we hope, to despatch to Europe (with its accompanying copies of ^{the} Bushman Report, &c.) by the outgoing mail steamers of the 5th & 10th of October; or, at all events, as many of the same as dear Loui's strength, which has been much tried by all the painful & anxious calls upon it of late, shall render possible.

Though we leave it in your hands, dear Ernst, kindly to make the formal application to Professor Haug for us, should your own pre-engage-ments render this necessary, we shall, also, in writing to him again, as we must do by one of our next outgoing mails, mention how we have asked

BC 151 C12.19

you, as dear Wilhelm's cousin, to ~~fill~~
fill this position, (if you can,) in the
promotion of our endeavours for the
furtherance of two of his cherished
aims, but, that, should you see your-
self unable rightly to give us and
his work this great help, we have
requested you kindly to apply ^{Professor Haug,} to him,
on our behalf, in the same matter.

One thing more, before I finish this
sadly-long English letter with which I have
been obliged both to try your patience,
and take up your precious time, - &
that is, will you kindly, dear Ernst, write
any future communications ^{with which you may be able to favour} to me, or
my sister Lucy, on these subjects, in the
Latin character The German language
I can now understand quite easily when
spoken; & with comparative ease ^{also} when
written, provided it is not in German
character also. Loui, I think, can read
it even better than she can follow

BC 151 C12.19

spoken conversation; Your recently-received letter to my dear Husband, I could make out wherever it related to ordinary subjects, (in spite of the German character) but as soon as it began to deal with less familiar nouns & verbs, I was comparatively at sea, & in the scientific terminology of course completely so, & not being sure of what letters each word was constituted, could not help my self by recourse to our German-English Dictionaries - This is why I beg for Latin Character -

A ^{German} friend of Wilhelm's, has translated the letter for me (with more or less accuracy) but he has no German Scientific friend within easy reach here.

The matter of my petition to the English Government, I do not mention either here, in England, or in Germany, save to a few, whose discretion & secrecy can be trusted, as Wilhelm particularly impressed upon me the necessity of great caution in this regard until the matter should be settled one way or another -

There is, among dear Wilhelm's MSS., a
new paper on "Origin of Language
 Origin of Religion"
 which he has had in hand for several
 years, & at which he ^{has been} ~~was~~ working
 from time to time until within
 the last two or three months of
 his life, - going over the sheets
 again, saying "that ^{the subject} ~~it~~ required
 much thought".

When able, we will make &
 send to you a copy of this MS., for
 you to see; asking you then to advise
 us as to whether it would be well
 to have it printed at once. Loui
 tells me Wilhelm said lately that he
 thought the present would be a
 good time to bring it out, if he
 only could ~~get~~ get it ready for publi-
 cation. Though we have not yet had
 time to re-read this MS., we believe
 it to be still unfinished - But I
 must hastily end. With greeting to your wife if she
 will kindly receive the same from an unknown far off cousin.
 & kindest regards to yourself, Ever dear Ernst, sincerely
 Semina C. Bleek