

Lausko Feb. 9, 1887.

My dear Uncle & Aunt,

I have expected to answer uncle's very welcome Christmas letter long before this, & indeed supposed that I should follow up my postal card replies to the batch of those articles you sent me, immediately. But I find it is getting harder & harder, for several reasons, to write. One is the increasing demands of our Bulgarian lessons on our time, & ~~the~~ another is the also increasing lassitude which is attacking us all, & which we are at a loss to determine the source of, whether our poisoned lips at Bebek, or the common effect of the climate here.

Our Christmas was a very merry one indeed. It seems true as if I must have written you about it - ya, I did, on the 4th January. Since then we have had ~~three~~ events - a trip to Philippopolis, the ^{second} anniversary of our wedding day, & the arrival

Jan. 17th just arrived (Feb. 12th) I have no time to add any thing.

four second box from America. Carrie
Scranton & I were the travelers to Philippo-
polis, in hopes of a change, as both of us
are sick; but the journey was the hardest
of our Turkish traveling experiences, &
leaves us, as the one to Sofia did the
babies, rather worse than better. I have
hardly got far enough in conversation to
profit much by going about, tho' I am
getting more & more familiar with the
Bulgarian in its written form. How
bitterly I deplore, & continually, the un-
practical fashion in which langua-
ges are taught in America, which has
almost wholly educated out of me the
power to learn any tongue to speak. I
was surprised to find, while I was down
country, that the "Oriental Railway" - from
Constantinople to Samsun & soon to be
extended to Sofia - has recently become
the property of the Austrian Government.
I learned also some few interesting facts
about taxation among the Bulgarians.
In Eastern Roumelia, there are two

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distinct taxes: the first, of three per cent., on every body according to his net income; the second, of a tithe, only on agriculturists, & from their products. The Chamber is, however, planning a more equal arrangement of these taxes for both agriculturists & citizens. The government is rather a queer concern. The foreman (Aleko Pasha) is entirely hinded in power by the control of the Assembly; & even when they are not in session, there is a "Permanent Committee" of ten members who, ^{sitting daily} continue the same check on his Excellency, & practically make the sessions of the Assembly continuous. Do you wonder that poor Aleko Pasha is ~~for~~ perpetually threatening to resign? ~~ing~~ — The Prince of Bulgaria, Alexander I, has professed sufficient far in his study of the language, to have made recently an address in it, dissolving the Session.

— Ellen & I celebrated the second anniversary of our wedding-day by a recep-

tion in the ⁴ evening, with ice-cream from our making, & figs from Constantinople & Oranges from Philippopolis. Life is so immensely monotonous here that every body is glad of the smallest excuse for a party. We had some mutual presents & a great deal of happiness. Carrie & Tony returned the evening before, from the longest (a week's) absence that I have ever known from Ellie.

The long-expected box from Oxford, started in November, afforded the last excitement, last evening. The box was worth *125., & called out the enthusiasm of the entire Station from seven until eleven, & of ourselves much later.

— On my arrival from P— I found the news in the Tribune, since repeated by a note from uncle Henry, of cousin Maria's death. How many, many of our friends at home are passing away! A cousin equally near to Ellie, Mrs. Antonette Bell

of Philadelphia, ⁵⁻ has also just died. It will be a very great loss to cousin Ebenezer, ~~the~~ whose his one lifelong tie broken now at last.

— We continue to discuss the question of our coming home this summer. My relations with Mr. Byington do not promise very favorably, tho' thus far there has been no positive disagreement between us. I am very restless under this enormous waste of time.

Byington has met with a misfortune such as we did write he was protecting Carrie & the babies during Ellen's absence & mine up here last April: his house has been entered by burglars. The loss, over a hundred dollars, most of it in clothing, was much greater than ours. Constantinople is apparently becoming more & more unsafe all the time, tho' I doubt not it seems much more so to us than to those actually living there. — Do not

know whether 6 I have ever written
you (what we have only heard
in the briefest way) that the mis-
erable shanty in which we spent
nearly a year, in Bobek, has fallen
in. I believe the well-water there
poisoned us all. Carrie certainly
has the dumb-ague, besides a severe
cough, & I am not far behind
her in both. — The babies keep getting
colds all the time, but are doing quite
fairly, notwithstanding that. Their
teeth don't come any more, & wean-
ing is still a thing of the future. El-
lie's strength & health are a surprise
— for goodness — to all of us, but her
work is far harder than it ought to be.
With love to all, I am as ever

Your affectionate Nephew
Millie.

The Rev. Dr. Ullie,
Pleasant-Grove, N. J.,
Etats Unis.



Mrs. Curtis C. Mezie,
Pleasant Grove, Morris-co., New-Jersey,
Etats Unis d' Amerique.

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