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Maria Feodorovna to his son Michael

My dear darling Misha,

Your most charming letter made me extremely happy and deeply touched me and thank you for it, my dear, with all my heart. It is my great and only comfort in our separation, thus there is no need saying what a pleasure it is for me to often receive letters from you. I miss you terribly and especially the first days I was very sad. It never has happened until now that none of you is here with me. It is so strange and empty everywhere. Even George is living now in town and from time to time appears with Waldemar to have lunch and a walk with us. All what you write interests me very much, about love, etc... My thoughts are always with you, my dear Mishkin, and I visualize and follow your way of life in Spala. This is our favourite place, but only poor N. never goes there. I did not know that they are to stay there such a long time, but of course it must be so pleasant for Alix to have her sisters with her. I can imagine how you must enjoy this kind of life and of course you immediately arranged "picnics" which are greater fun just there, in those places in the woods, so marvellous that they seem to have been created especially for that. I hope that you have fine weather. Here, it is very agreeable, the sun rose again and my rooms become most cosy and gay. Poor Arara is becoming deafer and he has got again a slight pain in his back. This is very annoving and unpleasant but in spite of all, he goes quite often to Copenhagen : for various reasons. Yesterday, he had supper at 6 o'clock "pour assister à une fête littéraire historique en mémoire du fameux Gycko Brake, 300 ans après sa mort. J'ai certainement profité pour diner avec les quelques personnes restées ici. Mes voisins de table étaient Chervachidze et le monsieur grec qui était très causant. Aujourd'hui, la pauvre Louise est partie avec ses gentils enfants. Elle est venue après le déjeûner nous dire adieu et pleurait terriblement, ce qui dérangeait beaucoup la petite Mimi, qui demandait tout le temps : Was is geschehen, warum weint die Mama ? Maud venait souvent nous voir, ils sont partis hier matin et je dois dire à mon grand regret, car avec elle j'ai toujours le sentiment qu'elle m'est la plus proche" of the kinsfolk. I am very sorry that she left, the more so as it seems that we shall soon move to Copenhagen, where I could have seen more of her.

Olga writes <u>rather</u> frequently and it is obvious that she is delighted to be in Gatchina. I managed, at last, to learn from her that the house (Youri) has been bought, which delights me a lot, and would please tell this to Nicky.

I receive letters quite frequently from Xenia. Thank Heaven, they are all in good health now. Xenia caught quite a cold. The weather is far from being favourable and I hear that poor Katia Ozer: also caught a cold there. I don't know until now when I shall return to Gmunden. Only Aunt Thyra waits to see me with pleasure. Uncle Willy is spending there a few days. Aunt Alix also writes frequently. They will all go to meet George and Mary on the new yacht and are very happy about their return.

But now, it is time to finish this letter. Good bye my dear darling Mishkin. I kiss you most tenderly. Greetings from Arara and Uncle Hans. May God be with you !

Your "personal" Mummy.

Kisses to Nicky, Alix and the charming children.

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