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## My dear darling Misha !

I am terribly ashamed of not having written until now to you, but here it is really impossible. Your nice letter made me very happy and thank you for it with all my heart. I was deeply touched by your writing that you miss me. I miss you terribly my dear Mishkin, but my thoughts are always with you and I am glad that you are so busy.

We are living here so cosily and so agreeably all together. Dear Arara, thank Heaven, is feeling well and his birthday was a real feast for all of us and I am so grateful and happy that I could again have the luck to spend that day here with him.

At 10 o'clock in the morning, we had coffee together, then immediately after uncle Freddy and his family arrived with presents and Arara was deeply touched by <u>your</u> sending him also a marvellous elephant as a present. The weather was splendid, so that the crowd filled the parade ground all day long from the morning. At 12. there was a great reception with congratulations which lasted until lunch. My poor feet were rather tired so that we had a drive with aunt Alix, but Arara, of course, had a walk and we met him on Langeline.

At 7. we had a big supper at Fredy's and at 9.30 Arara offered a big party with concert in Christian VII Palace. It was very beautiful and everybody was delighted to meet Arara. Nicolaï arrived the day before and of course also attended. He stayed at Christian's as we ran out of space. George and Mary had accomodation at Christian VII Palace with the Cumberlands. Nicolai is quite high-spirited and Arara is extremely kind to him. He leaves to-morrow morning for Petersburg and will tell everything. We just came back from a walk with Arara, but we had such a violent storm that it was very hard to strive against the wind. Yesterday, we had a look at him at the riding-school while mounting and I must say that it is just a joy to the eye, astonishing, quite like a young man. I hope and I am sure that the "famous parade" will run smoothly and High Command will remain satisfied. If so, I can imagine how deligh ted you will be to go gack and reign in Gatchina. I think to be back on Wednesday the 10th of April and hope to see you in Gatchina at the station and travel further together to Petersburg. Don't worry, we will not stay a long time in town after Eastern and I only hope that the weather will be fine. As to Makovsky, he may paint your portrait "à condition que s'il réussira, je l'aurai".

But now, it is time to finish this letter. Nicolaï is about to leave and I must send it to him. Good bye my dear Misha. I kiss you most tenderly. Arara, aunt Alix, Waldemar and Hans kiss you too. Arara, sends his thanks to Semenov for the present and greetings from me.

God bless you ! Kisses to Nicky and Alix.

With my warmest love.

Your Mummy.