

Caltowie

August 12 1900 [the 'year' is on the envelope]

Christian Greetings!

Beloved Siblings,

You'll be wondering that I haven't written you an answer yet, but you will have learnt that I noticed something in your letter about which I am very sorry, but I didn't say it loosely on purpose, but that I had wanted to do something with Anna and her children.

It was at the time that we had gone over to help slaughter the first pig and at that time I gave them your greetings and said Edel should just write to you and then Edel asked what the children were up to, and I went over to the dining room to make myself busy so that Edel would forget it (stop asking), but then Edel asked again how the children were going, and I said "It wouldn't surprise me if Anna would bring them over again because Gustav has a big problem and is always wetting the bed, and that Anna should have told you how you're asking about him, but I said to Edel and mother that they should be quiet and never talk about it again.

Some time later just as Richard and Sahral? were up Gustav Saegenschnitter was here helping us to butcher a pig, and just when I went over with some lunch Alfred said to me, "Sara has come up as well" but I said that's no wonder that she wets the bed and I hadn't said another word about it to anyone else than these three, and also asked each of them if they had told them in the way that Lydia had told me that Anna had written a nasty letter to you again.

I went to Anna and asked her who had told her about it. It wasn't me who had said it. I thought it had been Edel – she had told Anna Joppich about it and she told her mother, and there you have it! Because Gustav said she had spoken to her before Church.

Anna said however that she had not spoken to her ... (she'd spoken to the children and she didn't get it at Church. She had only written in that way so it would get to the big bell and I said then that you

[The remainder of the letter is missing – K Z]

[Translated by Chris Greenthaner]