

Melrose,  
May 4, 1902

God Greet You!

I received your loving letter and also the pretty birthday card and I was delighted. Many thanks to you for it. But I can't really be so satisfied with the letter because you didn't answer any of the questions which I put to you in my second last letter. Mother has one of the Mueller girls from Willowie. I haven't heard anything yet as to how they are getting on, since I haven't seen any of my folks since I came here. I plan to go down and visit them at Pentecost; down on Saturday with the Mail and back again on Monday. I have heard that they now have a young German schoolteacher in Appila.

You wrote that I have quickly lost my keen interest in dress making. I would gladly have stuck with it, but if one doesn't earn enough to put salt on one's bread, one should really lose interest. So I have sewed very little. When I first came up [North] everyone had sewing for me to do, then I could have liked to have 10 hands. Later I would have liked to lay my hands in my lap and let my debts go hang; I sure had enough of them.

That's why I accepted this position. I still like it very well. She has never once scolded me; it's like home to me. I never go out alone, only accompany her when she goes. Last Wednesday afternoon we went a little way up the 'Mount' [Mount Remarkable]! It's nice to be able to look out over the surrounding's from up there. By now I also know my way around a bit in the shop; I really like it there. You can see that life is not very hard for me by the fact that whereas I only weighed 130 pounds when I left Appila I now weigh 142. That's a good sign. I never have to rise before 7 except on wash days.

You ask whether Richard still has no bride. Not as far as I know. And there's nothing doing with me either; Paul should not rejoice too much just yet. Zilm has written me two letters, the second was even more lovely than the first. So I asked Gothold to write to tell him that at present I don't want anyone. So I don't know whether he has written again or not. (I would have been stupid.)

Last time I heard, mother is quite a bit better now, she drives to Laura almost every week.

It is very dry. On 24 April we had a thunderstorm but no rain. On the 26<sup>th</sup> we had a nice rain, but by bow it is really dry again. This evening it looks a lot like rain, we hope we get some.

I guess you'll be busy seeding now? What are you all doing now; are you all fit and well? And how's your baby doing; is he good? What's his name and who were his sponsors? Have you seen Anne Joppich? What are the Ebenezer folk up to now – are there a lot of weddings? Is Lydia Dallwitz married yet? I don't know no other news so I'll close in the hope that these few lines reach you in as good health as they have left me.

Many heartfelt greetings to you all.

I remain your loving sister

Edel Becker.

Please reply soon and answer my questions.

My address:

Miss E Becker

C/o Mr. E Staker

Melrose.

