

FAMILY CHRONICLE

Motto: Who is perfect?
Even the sun is not without spots.

When I was in Hamburg in the Spring of 1872 on a business trip, my father's old friend, Mr Heinrich Fixen gave me a copy of the "Neue Preussische (Kreuz) Zeitung" and said: "Dear Krohn, here is a newspaper which I have saved for you and I believe it will interest you to read what is so humorously described in it; further I am convinced that 'Uncle Abraham' can be none other than your late grandfather."

I took the paper (it was a Supplement to No 175 of the N.Pr.Zgt dated Berlin, Sunday July 30th 1871) and read the following:

Extract from a family chronicle recounted in Plattdeutch.

Chapter 3 - My uncle Abraham sets out for St Petersburg as a bakers boy. Becomes baker to the Imperial Court. Has to eat bread before the Empress Catherine II whilst others look on, gaping at him. How the Empress talks to him. Abraham I and Abraham II have a dispute. The Empress laughs. Uncle Abraham becomes a master brewer. The beer flows out and the money flows in. The Master-brewer becomes a Mayor.....

What my Grandfather knew he imparted to his children. Of these children I am now going to tell you a little; about uncle Abraham, who went through some wonderful experiences and who came to high honour in a foreign land. I saw him when he was here (in Rügen) in 1818 and brought us a couple of thousand rubles which his brother Hans had left him. He did not want them he did not need them, for he had grown very rich. This had happened in the following way.

His father had taught him to read, in the Catechism, the hymn book and in the Gospels. In those days there were no other books in the country schools. The Bible was not used in schools, only the book containing the Gospels, the Epistles and shockingly bad woodcuts. For instance a man had a beam in his eye which beam was bigger than himself, and all of them had noses almost as big as their heads! Enough!

Uncle Abraham had also learnt writing and arithmetic and had worked out all the calculations in Adam Riese's "balentin Heinz" and, in the end, he was even better at arithmetic and writing than his father.

When he had been confirmed and had attended communion, and had learnt the baker's craft and had been a journey man baker for some time, his father had a serious talk with him and said to him. "My son, I have now done what I could for you: now see what you can do for yourself in the wide world. Here is a Kronthaler,

more I cannot give you; now make your way to St Petersburg. There I have an uncle, on my father's side, who is attached to the Imperial Chapel. He will probably help you to get into the Court bakery - and now go with God's blessing and hold fast to God and to His word and to the Lord's table, so that you may never stray into evil paths."

And now Uncle Abraham was fitted out a bit with two shirts and two pairs of stockings and his mother secretly added a couple of Guilden, and wept when it came to the parting, and so did his sisters Sophie (who was my dear mother) and Lotte and Beatte; and his little brother, Hans, may also have been sad - but the old man kept a stiff upper lip and only said, "May God be with you." And then he folded his hands and let him go.

And so Uncle Abraham went forth and at last arrived safely at St Petersburg. His great-uncle (*here in my opinion read uncle and not great uncle. On the previous page too it should read "and there I have a brother attached to the Imperial Chapel", and not "there I have a father's brother". Later on I have set out my reasons for this opinion. N.K.*) soon got him work in the Court bakery, and since his master was a regular drunkard, and did not keep his accounts properly, Uncle Abraham had to do it for him. He put down regularly how much flour was received and how much bread was sent out and when, soon after this, the old toper died, Uncle Abraham became Court baker. He was now a man of some consequence. But wait a bit - things were going to turn out much better even than this. His father's blessing was to build him houses.

As the new Court baker he had, after a couple of months, to go, every day that God creates, with a basket of bread to the Empress Catherine in the big palace. Her Majesty would then pick out a loaf of bread which took her fancy, and then he had to eat it up in her presence - she was afraid of poison - and then he could go. Well, he had come and gone for many a day and nothing extraordinary had happened. One day, however, the Empress was in high spirits. Her face beamed with joy and she was dressed very grandly, and it was easy to see that something important was in hand, or had happened.

Two Generals were with her, dressed in full regalia, and she had shown them a favour; and she said to them, "The first one who enters shall also ask a favour!"

Well, and who came along but Uncle Abraham, of whom I am sure she had never thought! In he comes and there he stands with his basket full of bread. The Empress does not let him stand for long, but beckons to him to approach, picks out a piece, and he starts to eat it.

It must have been a funny sight to see a poor baker, chewing away all on his own before his Empress, with the others only gaping at him. Well, he did not feel shy, and it did not take him long to get through with his eating, and it must have tasted good, for I am sure he dared not make use of the worst ingredients for the Empress!

Today, however, when he had just taken his second bit and was in the midst of chewing it, the Empress said to him, quite kindly, "Abraham, you may ask a favour of me!"

By jove, in what a hurry Uncle Abraham swallowed his piece of bread, straightened himself, bowed down low, raised himself again stiffly and said; "Your Imperial Majesty's great graciousness has taken me so aback that I am unable to think for the moment. I beg your Imperial Majesty to grant me eight days for thought."

"All right Abraham", said the Empress, and gave a little wave of her left hand, which meant, "Now you may go."

When Uncle Abraham got out of the palace he slapped his forehead and said, "What an ass you are! Suppose the Empress forgets what she has said to you and does not ask you again in eight days time? You dare not speak to her unless she speaks to you first." "Nonsense", says another voice inside him, "Don't let yourself be scolded! You were not an ass at all; it was really quite sensible of you. You can now think matters over, and the Empress will not forget. She placed herself in your hands before witnesses. She will fulfil her promise."

Thereupon Uncle Abraham No 1 continues, "Suppose I said, your Imperial Majesty, give me 100,000 silver rubles. That would be something!"

"Yes", says Uncle Abraham No 2, "that would be something, and a jolly silly business it would be to! She would get angry, and could say, "Yes, Abraham, you shall have them. In my Siberian mines there are more than 100,000 silver rubles; go there and get them yourself!" No Abraham, you know better than that."

Abraham No 1, "Well what am I to do?"

Abraham No 2, "I will tell you. You must not ask her for money. You must produce something new and good in Russia. These people drink like a hole, and all of them sup up that damned Fusel, which turns them into swine! Now if you were to brew something decent, a good glass of beer, for instance, that would be something like! What would you not give if, when working at your kneading-trough, you, also, could now and then have a good glass of Stralsund or Barth beer out of your homeland! And just think of William Fock's English Beer! Why, that tastes better than wine. When a man drinks that sort of stuff he keeps his head and does not get sick. Yes, yes, Abraham, that is my advice. Get the Empress to give you permission to start an English Brewery: that would please her."

"But," say Abraham No 1, "how can you start a brewery? Where is your land? What can you build with?"

"Don't worry," says Abraham No 2. "Haven't I saved about, 1,000 rubles and even more? And, once I have the privilegium, someone is sure to lend me the money; and who knows what the Empress may do if the idea pleases her!"

In this way Abraham No 1 and Abraham No 2 debated with each other well into the night, and then sleep got both of them down; but when, somewhere about four o'clock, they met again at the baking trough, the fight began again, until finally Abraham No 2 got the upper hand. The war was at an end and Uncle Abraham had to appear before the Empress again.

Well, the choosing and the chewing began again, but the Empress said nothing. Three, four days passed by and my uncle began to be afraid that the Empress had forgotten all about the matter; - but she had not. On the fifth day she said:-

"Abraham, you look so sensible; have you thought things over?" Then uncle Abraham, having bowed very, very low, and having straightened himself again, replied:-

"Your Imperial Majesty, as far as I know there is no one here in Petersburg who understands how to brew a decent glass of beer. Such beer as one drinks here mostly comes from England. Now, I imagine that we can brew English beer here in Russia which will be just as good if not better than that brewed in England. Our Neva water is the best in the world and the Russians grow wheat and barley as fine as is to be found anywhere. If your Imperial Majesty will give me permission to build an English brewery in Petersburg, and that I and my heirs shall have the sole right to brew English beer in Russia, then I should become a man of standing and Your Majesty will have granted me a great privilege."

"That is not a bad idea, Abraham," said the Empress. "You know that my people are a thirsty folk and you want to provide them with a decent drink; that is sound and sensible. But do you know how to brew beer? You are a baker and your bread is good; are you able to brew as nice a beer?"

"Your most gracious Majesty, I do not understand brewing, but I have a good friend who has been head brewer in an English brewery for fifteen years and wants to get away. He would come at once and help me to get things right."

"All right, Abraham, but have you got the money?"

"Most gracious Majesty, I have already saved 1,000 rubles, and when"

"One thousand rubles?" said the Empress, and burst out laughing "and with that sum you propose to build an English Brewery? Ha, ha, ha! Why that is impossible! However, go on."

"Your gracious Majesty, one has to start in a small way, and if I had a letter from your Majesty I should no doubt be able to borrow the money."

"Do you think so, Abraham? Well, I will tell you what I shall do. You shall have

your letter, and also a piece of land in the Alexander Nevsky quarter beside the Neva. And I shall give you 30,000 rubles, because you have put forward such a sensible request; and you are to borrow from no one else but your Empress, should you require more!"

Uncle Abraham fell on his knees and said, "Dear Lord, mayest Thou in all graciousness requite my Empress for this! Thank you, Your Majesty!"

He could say no more for his voice was choked with tears. He thought of his father's blessing; and the Empress too was moved and was pleased that her Court baker was a different kind of man from king Pharaohs whom he had to hang! And the Empress said, "Stand up, Abraham. Go at once to my chancellery and tell my secretary that he is to send Councillor Martens to me. He will get everything ready, and next week you shall receive your letter." She stretched out her right hand to her baker for him to kiss, and then she waved her left, and he went, and she stepped to the window.

The following week everything was in order and now the brewing business started. In a year and a half the big brewery was working, and the beautiful beer flowed out and the money flowed in. The business had to be conducted on business lines and so Uncle Abraham became a merchant, and after a number of years the Master brewer, (Braumeister) became a Mayor (Burmeister) of Petersburg.

There can be little doubt that "Uncle Abraham" could be none other than my grandfather. How much of the Plattdeutsch (Low German) Chronicle is truth and how much is imagination I shall discuss later on. I shall do this to the best of my ability. At any rate the Chronicler's words created in me the desire to write my family's chronicle. In this I shall - as far as possible - give short biographies of my upright grandfather's descendants and on the basis of my recollection they may write supplementary reports. In such cases one is often apt to put off writing such essays - it happened so with me. I put off their execution from day to day. Days grew into weeks, weeks into months and finally years passed by.

But in 1885 I looked through my old papers and I came across the old newspaper which referred to our family, and then I decided definitely to start writing our family's history. In the first place I wished to ascertain whether "Uncle Abraham" was my grandfather and whether it was possible to procure more particulars about him and his family in Rügen, such particulars would have been of so much interest to us all! I therefore wrote to the editor of the Neue Preussische Zeitung as follows:

London 19 May 1885

To the Editor of the Neue Preussische (Kreuz) Zeitung in Berlin.

Today I take the liberty of addressing myself to you and I hope you will find it possible to comply with my request. A few years ago an old number of your newspaper came into my hands. I refer to Supplement No 175 of July 30th 1871. Under "Part of a Family Chronicle written in Plattdeutsch." I read your article, which interested me greatly. There can be no doubt that the "Uncle Abraham" referred to therein is my late Grandfather, Abraham Krohn. At the time of the Russian Empress Catherina II, he left Rügen for St Petersburg where he later succeeded in funding a large brewery, which my late Father inherited. Some of your particulars do not seem quite correct but in general everything is right. The purpose of these lines is to request you - if possible - to let me know how you received this article, of which your paper gives Chapter III only. Can you say how I can procure this article in full? It would be of great interest to the descendants of my late grandfather and I should feel much obliged to you if you were to find it possible to let me know how I could procure this book. If you have to give me a negative answer, then the relevant supplementary numbers of your newspaper (in which you have probably printed the other parts of this information). Is it possible to let me have the respective numbers of your paper? I apologise for the trouble which my letter may give you and I remain,

Yours faithfully
Sgd N Krohn

On the 22nd May 1885 I received from the Editor of the newspaper the following enquiry:

In our Sunday Supplement (No 175) of July 30th 1871 we published an "extract from a family chronicle, written in Low German". In same we related the noteworthy fate of an "Uncle Abraham". In all probability his family name was Krohn. He left his home in Germany as a bakery boy for St Petersburg. There he became "Braumeister" and ultimately "Burmeister" (Mayor). Recently we received an enquiry from a gentleman, who seems to be a relative of the referred to "Uncle", as to where this chronicle was printed or where it may be procured, we are unable to give the desired answer as the writer of the said article can no longer be traced by us. We request our readers to favour us with the respective particulars if same should be known to them.

The Editorship

On June 1st 1885 I received from the Editors of the Neue Preuss (Kreuz) Zeitung a letter reading:

Gingst on the Island of Rügen
May 26th 1885

With reference to No 117 of the Kreuzzeitung I beg to inform the Editorship of said Newspaper that the author of the extract of a family chronicle, relating, in Low German, information about "Uncle Abraham", is probably my step-brother, who acted as clergyman at Rambin on the island of Rügen. The referred to "Uncle Abraham" was my Mother's brother. I know my brother wrote his reminiscences (about his youth) in Low German. The manuscript should still be in the hands of his widow. She lives in Stralsund, but she is not likely to return to her home before July. I, myself, expect to depart the day after tomorrow upon a leave and I do not expect to be back before the end of July. After that date I shall endeavour to revert to this enquiry.

Yours faithfully
Sgd Dalmer
Konsistorialrath a.D and Superintendent

As a consequence I wrote at once to the Editor of the Kreuzzeitung as follows:

London 2nd June 1885

I refer to my letter of the 19th ult and I duly received your newspaper No 117 of the 22nd May 1885 in which you refer to my request. Yesterday I received the letter from Konsistorialrath Dalmer - Rügen. I shall send him the expression of my thanks. Please accept my most sincere thanks for your great kindness and for all your trouble. If you had expenses I request you to name same so that I may settle them promptly.

I remain, with fullest esteem

Sgd N Krohn

On the 22nd July 1885 I communicated with Mr Dalmer and we exchanged the following letters.

1. My letter to Dalmer

London. 13 Belsize Sq N.W.
22nd July 1885

To the Reverend Konsistorialrath and Superintendent Dalmer in Gingst, Rügen.

Highly esteemed Konsistorialrath,

The Editors of the Neue Preuss Zeitung have transmitted to me your letter of 26th May, which contains your answer in connection with my enquiry about the family chronicle contained in the Supplement to their No 175 of 30th July 1871. You write that - after your return at the beginning of July - you will be willing to give supplementary information, and, as grandson of "Unkel Abraham", I now beg to enquire whether you

find it possible to give supplementary information or where I am likely to find same.

I presume the "Unkel Abraham" referred to was my late Grandfather, Abraham Krohn, born in Poseritz on July 15th 1766. In the days of the Russian Empress Catherine II he came to St Petersburg as a bakery boy, and he later became the founder of a large brewery, in which my late father, my uncle Leopold, my elder brother Friedrich and I were active.

Some particulars in "Chapter III" are not quite correct, but in general they are true, and if my brothers, sisters, cousins and their children could procure more facts about our Grandfather's life in Rügen - before he emigrated - it would interest us.

My grandfather's descendants now live in numerous parts of Europe. Of his sons there are only two alive. Dr August Krohn (now over 80 years old), blind, in Bonn, and Mr Leopold Krohn, 76 or 78 years old, in Vyborg, Finland. The grandchildren and great-grandchildren have left St Petersburg (with the exception of one of my cousins and one married (female) cousin) and now live in Finland (Helsingfors), (now Helsinki) D.M.B Germany (Dresden, Leipzig and Silesia) in England (London), France (Paris) and in Switzerland (Geneva).

I contemplate writing a Family History and it would greatly interest me to receive supplementary particulars about my late grandfather's youth. If you should be able to assist me in this direction you would greatly oblige me. Allow me to repeat:

My grandfather lived in St Petersburg and - according to Russian Custom - his fathers name was added to his Christian name. He was thus called Abraham Davidiivich which means son of David. Do you know if the referred to "Unkel Abraham's father's name was David?

I look forward to receiving your good news and I remain

Highly esteemed Konsistarialrath
Yours, deeply devoted,
Sgd N. Krohn

2. Dalmer's letter to me

Gingst upon Rügen
18th August 1885

Dear Sir,

I apologise for not having answered your letter more promptly. The respective data, of which the Kreuz Zeitung reprinted Chapter III, give chiefly the reminiscences of my late brother's life. I can now say that there can be no doubt that "Unkel Abraham" was your grandfather, Abraham Krohn. He was the son of the sacristan and school teacher, David

Erdmann Krohn, in Poseritz (a village in the Southern part of Rügen with approximately 700 inhabitants). His successor and son-in-law was my father (1806). My brother died in 1876 in Rambin (a village in the southern part of Rügen with appr 600 inhabitants)* as pastor. I am my father's son by his second marriage. I am sorry that, besides the particulars referred to in Chapter III there is no reference to your grandfather. However it may be news to you that a sister of your grandfather was married to a baker, Hasper, in Bergen, Rügen. Two of her daughters Caroline and Betty, are still alive and they are resident in Bergen. Another daughter, Luise, was first married to a tradesman Breitsprecher and later to a merchant and town councillor Zander, in Bergen. She passed away a few years ago.

* *Ritters Geog Stat ..Lexicon.*

Another sister of your grandfather was married to the sacristan and teacher, Heyden, in Pütte in Pommerania and died childless in Dobrylugk. The Heyden and Hasper families were correspondingly your relations.

My father's children (by his first marriage, with your great aunt) were Franziska, Caroline, Auguste, Carl, and Sophie. Franziska and Sophie died early. The others reached an age of over 60 yrs.

I find it impossible to procure further data. If I should receive supplementary data of the Haspers, I shall take the liberty of transmitting same to you.

Highly esteeming you
Yours sincerely
Sgd Dalmer

Before I continue with my Chronicle I now attach a table giving the Christian names of the respective members of the family. In Table I various particulars have been added to these Christian names. They refer chiefly to other "tables".

These "tables" are not in the translation as they were written in German "Shrift" I could not read them if I were to check the original. I have therefore made "tables" as best I can from the information given. D.B.

MY GRANDFATHER KROHN

The Family Chronicle, written in Low German, shows that my grandfather, Abraham Krohn, grew up in modest surroundings and - compared with conditions nowadays - his education was somewhat imperfect. His father, David Erdmann Krohn, was a schoolmaster and he taught him whatever he could. As a substitute for what he could not teach his son, he gave him a high idea of the value of a really good education. Otherwise it would be impossible to explain the fact that my grandfather, who came to St Petersburg as a common artisan, was able to give his children such an excellent and so wide an education.

The fact that they were able to speak among themselves in three, even four languages cannot be overestimated, even if one allows for the conditions which prevailed in Russia at that time; in an even higher degree than today. The fact that they acquired such knowledge and that they learned to converse freely with every educated person is not purely a natural gift or talent. No doubt my grandfather has to be thanked for it. At least, my grandmother - notwithstanding all her excellent qualities - had not the talent for developing the childrens minds and hearts to such an extent as the grandfather.

In those days the mistress of the house, of course, did the best in her power to act as loving and tender mother, but, without saying anything unjust - I am inclined to believe that grandfather must get the greater part of the credit for the family's success and for their progress.

It can hardly be without foundation that our Family Chronicle reports the fact that my grandfather accumulated - during the five or six years after his arrival in St Petersburg - an amount large enough to acquire a piece of land for the erection of a brewery (1790). This speaks for itself; no doubt he enjoyed considerable help. This probably came from his well-wisher, the Empress Catherine II (the Great).

According to the particulars at my disposal there can be no doubt that my grandfather, who came to St Petersburg in 1785, found it possible to establish a brewery near to the Alexander Nevsky Monastery in St Petersburg.

It seems that in 1793, when he married Alisabeth Balsler, his brewery was already working.

The name of the "gode fründ" (good friend) to whom the Chronicle refers, stating that he had worked for about fifteen years as Head-brewer in England, was Danielsen. Together with Danielsen, my grandfather also started a brewery in Moscow later on (about 1838).* The latter was ultimately taken over by Messrs Watson and Dreyer. I do not know to whom Watson and Dreyer sold this Moscow brewery.

* Obviously this date is incorrect as Abraham Krohn died in 1827. D.B.

It cannot have been easy for my grandfather to become the rich man referred to in our Chronicle. A year after the death of Catherine II (1797) the whole brewery burnt down! At that time there existed in St Petersburg no Insurance Institutions, as nowadays. This fire must have been a hard blow to my grandfather. Ultimately he sold half of his "immovable property" (land). On the remaining piece of land he built a new brewery. No doubt his enterprise prospered again, for when he visited Rügen (1818) he was described as "seer ryk" (very rich) and he was in a position to refund to the relatives of his brother Hans (who died in St Petersburg in 1817) the "paar dusend Rubles" (several thousand Rubels) for he required that amount no longer (he brukt se nich!).

It may be assumed that my grandfather's social position in St Petersburg had by that time

greatly improved. As customary in Russia the Municipal Authorities appointed him - as a Merchant and Manufacturer - as a Town Councillor. The Chronicle states that "Unkel Abraham" also became a member of the Union of Merchants. The Chronicle states further that in this way, within a few years, the "Brumeister" became "Burmeister" (Mayor) of St Petersburg. I, however, consider it to be an exaggeration of the chronicler.

"Unkel Abraham's" nephew, who wrote this should be excused. Perhaps he believed it. It may be assumed he believed what he wrote for his horizon did not go further than from Poseritz to Ramin.

(I can see no reason why this nephew (Carl Dalmer Pastor of Ramin) should have been wrong. Surely a Town Councillor might easily become Mayor in due course? But it seems odd, in that case, that Uncle Nicholas should never have heard of it). D.B.

About family life in my grandfather's house I know very little, for my father never went into details when speaking to his children on this subject. At any rate I may assume that the family life may be described as good and happy. After his daily hard work, grandfather was probably content to be among his family and - in conjunction with grandmother - their main object was to give the children the best possible education obtainable in St Petersburg. As early as possible the six boys were sent to the St Petri School (Evangelical - language of instruction - German). My brothers and I were sent to the same school, the standing of which today is higher than ever.

Our interest in music was duly developed for which we have to thank my father as well as my Uncle Leopold. But this interest in music probably originates from my grandparents.

The Chronicle shows that my grandfather's education was very limited. As soon as it became possible he endeavoured to learn more than his father had been able to offer him. Uncle Leopold told me that his orthography left much to be desired, almost as much as that of Frederic the Great! But grandfather did his best to learn to write orthographically and thanks to his perseverance he ultimately accomplished this also. This characterises my grandfather.

He and grandmother remained in good spirits. Generally speaking they all enjoyed good health, they were all of cheerful temperament and they had their constant daily work. On the other hand they were free of family trouble. Their children got on excellently and became well-mannered youths and useful people.

However their son Alexander died as an infant. In 1827 when my grandfather died suddenly (apoplexy) five of his sons were still alive. Four of them also outlived my grandmother. I did not know my excellent grandfather, who died four years before my birth. However, I have some recollection of my grandmother, though I was six years old when she passed away.

I still remember how the dear old lady gave us our Christmas presents. Once I received

from her a figure of Napoleon, made of chocolate. She had no presentiment that in later years I was to hate both - the Great as the Little Napoleon. It may have been due to my resentment that I bit off the head of Napoleon made of chocolate!

My grandmother died in 1837, 67 years old, after a short illness.

THE RELATIVES OF MY GRANDPARENTS KROHN

I can hardly add anything to what the family chronicle reports about my grandfather's relatives. I can only refer to what Superintendent Dalmer wrote in his letter of the 18th August 1885.

My grandfather's uncle Johann Emmanuel Krohn was a member of the Imperial Orchestra in St Petersburg. There he acted as their conductor (band-master). It seems it was he who procured for his nephew the situation in the bakery in St Petersburg, and that he probably assisted his nephew with help and advice when the latter came to St Petersburg.

I assume that after my grandfather's marriage the old uncle was a regular guest in the young couple's house, and he, as a musician, probably roused in the children interest in music. He died in 1825.

When my great-grandfather, David Erdmann Krohn sent his son Abraham into the wide world, he said to him, "now work your way to St Petersburg. There I have my father's brother who is employed in the Imperial Orchestra"...The orchestra's conductor has just been referred to as brother to David E Krohn. It must be assumed that he was rather an aged man when he died in St Petersburg in 1825. His age must have been between 90 and 100 years. In other words he must have been born between 1725 and 1735.

However it is a fact that my grandfather, Abraham Krohn was born in 1766. If the conductor of the St Petersburg Imperial Orchestra Krohn was actually - as stated - my grandfather's great uncle, it would mean that David Erdmann Krohn was born, at the latest in 1744 and that he married at the age of 21. In that case his father must have been born in 1722 and must also have got married when 21 years old. Otherwise I do not understand this "calculation" I am however inclined to doubt that David E Krohn, as well as his father, married when 21 years old. I have never heard of their early marriages. He would have reached the age of about 100 years. I am therefore inclined to believe that the conductor of the Imperial Orchestra was my grandfather's uncle and not his great-uncle. At any rate he did not come from Rügen but from Ruden - a small island between Rügen and Usedom. I do not know the year of his birth.

(Great-uncle Nicholas admits, later in this chronicle, that he is "a poor calculator"! So am I! But I cannot see why Johann Emmanuel Krohn should not have been David Erdmann Krohn's uncle, rather than his brother. Provided that David's father was the eldest son and Johann was the youngest son, there is no reason why, in those days of long families (as in Nicholai's own family) there should not have been as much as twenty

years between the brothers, and thus Johann very little older than his nephew. So if Johann was born about 1735 his brother, David's father, may have been born about 1715, which would allow plenty of time for him, and for David, to marry at what Nicholas considers a normal age! Though among people of the social position that they occupied it may well have been customary to marry earlier, and if it was customary it would not have been mentioned to Nicholai as remarkable!) D.B.

Thanks to the success with which my grandfather met in St Petersburg, he arranged that his younger brother Johann Christian (Hans) also left Rügen for St Petersburg. He also was a baker and he died in St Petersburg in 1817.

I have nothing further to report about him or about my grandfather's sisters. I know, however, that my father and his brothers never forgot their aunts in Rügen and they supported them liberally. It seems "Aunt Heyden" outlived them all.

The only relative of my father (referred to in the aforementioned Table I) known to me personally was my (*grandfather's*) *D.B.* nephew Carl Hasper. After his death (1843) letters were exchanged between my father and his brothers about the resultant legacy. From these papers I see that my grandfather advised Carl Hasper to come to St Petersburg. He acted as my father's and as the firm's book keeper.

Ultimately he left a rather nice capital of 15,000 thalers. This sum was almost entirely sent to his relatives in Bergen.

Carl Hasper was of a reserved and quiet disposition and I know no more about him than stated in the foregoing paragraph. The letters I referred to are interesting as they give a fairly clear insight into the conditions under which my father's relatives lived in Rügen about 1845-1850. I do not consider myself entitled to divulge parts of this correspondence. The letters are private.

To the best of my knowledge only two sons of my grandfather, Uncle Andreas and Uncle Carl, visited their relatives in Rügen and both, it seems left the best of recollections with the Haspers and the other relatives.

I later mention several of my grandmother Krohn's relatives. They lived in St Petersburg. I refer especially to my grandmother's brother, Michael Balser, an old bachelor, who, as far as I know, never specialised in any branch. But thanks to his friendly disposition, we children were especially fond of him. My father accommodated him in the buildings belonging to the brewery. There he led a rather secluded life; the breeding of birds was one of his hobbies. About 1840 he went to Finland, to Uncle Leopold, and there he died in 1844 or 46, on uncle Leopold's estate - the name of the estate was Kiskil,, near Vyborg.

I also knew the children of Carl Balser, one of my grandmother's brothers in St Petersburg. Their names were Marie and Alexander.

Marie Balsler got her education in St Petersburg at the Smolney Convent, a so called monastery. In reality it was an institution for young ladies belonging to the nobility. Later on she became a governess and she was employed in our house for a number of years. She was a brave and good girl but somewhat insignificant.

Her brother Alexander Balsler was a mining engineer, but he never achieved anything special. His abilities were somewhat limited. Often jokes were made at him and now and again I felt rather sorry for him. He and his sister both died around the age of 50.

The daughter of my grandmother's third brother, Johann Balsler, was called Amalie. She married a manufacturer, whose name was Hellmann. She somewhat differed from the cousins! She had one daughter only, whose name was Marie. Marie Hellmann was very good looking, but - to her misfortune - she had a rather rude husband, an Englishman whose name was Alexander Parland. She died at an early age leaving two sons and a daughter. The daughter's name was Olga and, in Naples, she married a German business man, Mohl. They already had five children when her husband, owing to commercial misfortune, committed suicide by shooting himself. This created a terrible misfortune for the poor woman and her five children. The grandmother and great-grandmother, Amalie Hellmann, left St Petersburg for Naples and her comfortable little fortune was spent in saving her granddaughter and the children.

They all came back to St Petersburg, with the exception of one daughter who stayed for some years with friends in Stuttgart. Olga, by giving lessons in English and music, kept her family's head above water. The grandmother looked after the household. Ten to fifteen years passed in this way. Gradually the daughters got older and assisted their mother, and the great-grandmother was at last able to enjoy some rest. Her great-grandchildren were now in a position to shoulder the household problems.

I greatly admired this active and energetic lady, when I visited St Petersburg during the winter. The third great-granddaughter married a manufacturer of the name Spiess and in 1888, in the spring, they had two children. (*twins?*) *D.B.* Mrs Hellmann thus became - last February - a great-great-grandmother! (I write this in June 1888.) I drove with her - in 15 degrees Reaumur of frost - in a sledge, as she insisted on seeing her eldest great-grandchild on her birthday. She wanted to take a birthday present to the girl! Soon afterwards, on April 26th, she passed away after a short illness - on her 88th birthday. Her granddaughter writes me the old lady was quite bright and clear in her mind and that she still enjoyed life up to her death.

My two uncles, August and Leopold, as well as my father, placed at her disposal an annual amount and after my father's death my brother Wilhelm and I took over the payment of this benevolent amount. A letter from Mrs Mohl (dated April 21st - May 3rd - old and new styles) 1888 announces the death of her grandmother and this letter also contains the following words. "Dear Mr Krohn, now I must heartfelt thanks to you and to your brother for the support which you have rendered all these years to our grandmother. I must tell you that in this way you relieved her so much of a great deal of anxiety - you know she had nothing of her own. Thank God, we gave her as much as we were able to

give - but it was a great satisfaction that, thanks to your help, she was not dependant only upon us. You have given her many modest but happy hours." I must add that Olga Mohl's brothers have always rendered support to their grandmother and Olga's family.

MY GRANDPARENTS BILLER

Before writing more about the Krohn family, I wish to say what I know of my mother's descent.

Her father originated from Braunschweig - Wolfenbüttel. He came to St Petersburg where he established himself as a merchant. He became an honorary citizen of St Petersburg.

Her mother's name was Charlotte, n,e Lessig, from Reval (*Revel in Estonia. Now called Tallin*).*D.B.* b.3.6.1775 d.28.5.43.

My grandparents, on my mother's side, had four children: Catharina (my late mother) b.1801, Wilhelm b.1802, Sophie b.1803 and Charlotte b.1812.

My grandfather, Johann Biller, died in 1812. About five years after his death his widow, (my grandmother) married Johann Krüger, of Beuthen in Silesia. (This information comes from Reinhold Krüger. According to information from another source, he originated from Berlin). He had lived - for some years - in England and ultimately he got a situation in Johann Biller's office in St Petersburg. He was a widower. By his first wife he had a son, Friedrich, born in London in 1799. out of this marriage came my step-uncle, John Krüger b.25.5.1818.

My grandmother's second marriage was not happy. Her husband dealt in cloth. He failed. He went to the so-called Baltic Provinces (part of Russia). There he acted as a private teacher. At 93 years old he died in Revel. In Revel Andreas Koch had become his friend and he supported him until his death. After his departure from St Petersburg he did not trouble himself about his wife and children, who became destitute. Old Carl Lessig (my grandmother's brother) came to the family's assistance; otherwise their fate would have become rather precarious. John Krüger was educated thanks to Carl Lessig and thanks to the help of my father.

In a further part I shall report about my mother's brothers and sisters. I shall now report about my father's brothers and their families.

MY FIVE UNCLES (BROTHERS OF MY FATHER)

Andreas Johann b.1794 d.1834

Carl Ferdinand b.1801 d.1825
August David b.1803
Leopold Wilhelm b.1806
Constantin Heinrich b.1808

(Friedrich Abraham, father of Nicholai was born 5.5.1798 - I suggest that Alexander, who is mentioned earlier as having died in infancy was probably born in 1796. I wonder if they wanted a daughter!) D.B.

Andreas Johann Krohn 1794-1832

He joined the army and at hardly 18 yrs old he went to war, under Koutouzoff's command. On October 12th 1812 the command of a battery was entrusted to him at Malo-Yaroslavits. All the senior officers were killed or wounded during this battle. When he gave the command "Fire" an enemy bullet hit his right arm and wounded him seriously. After recovery he proceeded - under Benningson - to Germany and during the Great Battle of Leipzig (1812 against the French) he took an active part in large and small engagements.

I have no information about his life after this war; but I have heard that in 1832 he died in Vienna and that he was buried there at the W.,lrunger cemetery.

Carl Ferdinand Krohn 1801-1825

Studied medicine with August at Göttingen and he died a victim of his profession. He died, barely 24 years old, at the Obuchow Hospital in St Petersburg during an epidemic of typhoid fever.

August David Krohn 1803 (still alive in 1888)

During my childhood I saw very little of him. He left St Petersburg in the early part of his youth and he revisited it rather seldom. Together with his brother Carl he studied medicine at Göttingen. There he passed his medical examination, but he gave up that profession and devoted himself to zoology. At the age of 24-25 he left St Petersburg. He became a citizen of the city of Hamburg and lived chiefly in Germany, most of the time in Bonn. He made the "Lower Sea Animals" the speciality of his studies and for several years he went to the Southern Seas. He went chiefly to Naples and Messina during the winter months. Many kinds of fish, especially molluses, came under his microscope. Twice he also visited Madeira, but he preferred Messina.

He acquired a name as a specialist in this line. But at the end of his seventieth year he lost his eyesight. One of his eyes had to be cut out, which caused him great pain. Since then he has lived retired in Bonn. He bought a house there in the Kaiserstrasse.

Since 1851 my brother Alexander has been his most faithful adviser. He stands nearest to him. Alexander looks after his financial affairs and visits him regularly, twice yearly. He

looks after him almost like a son.

During September 1855, when uncle August was a little over 50 and still felt himself quite sprightly, he accompanied Alexander to Madeira. Alexander was suffering from the consequences of an inflammation of the lungs. In November I joined them for about two months at Teneriffe. The uncle rather liked that place.

In 1858 uncle came once more to Madeira. That year we shared our household together. Since then I have not seen my uncle frequently but such meetings as there have been have left a rather sad impression.

For a man of his scientific occupation eyesight is practically all in all for his microscopic studies, and the loss of his sight must have been a terrible blow to him. He could hardly get accustomed to this awful state of affairs. Gradually he calmed down but he could not reconcile himself to his fate, though he showed admirable patience.

I believe the following copy of an extract from "Darwin's Life" characterises uncle August best.

"The Life and Letters of Charles Darwin - edited by his son Francis Darwin. London. John Murray." Charles Darwin writes, in this book, a letter to C. Lyell

"Friday evening Sept 28th 1860"

"..... I am very glad to hear about the German's reading my book. None will be converted who has not independently begun to doubt about species. Is not Krohn a good fellow? I have long meant to write to him. He has been working at Cirripedes and has detected two or three gigantic blunders about which, I thank heaven, I spoke rather doubtfully. Such difficult dissections that even Huxley failed. It is chiefly the interpretation which I put on parts that is so wrong, and not the parts which I describe - But they were gigantic blunders, and why I say all this is because Krohn, instead of crowing at all, pointed out my errors with the utmost gentleness and pleasantness - I have always meant to write to him - I suppose Dr Krohn, Bonn, would reach him."

At the end of this letter Francis Darwin adds: "There are two papers by August Krohn, one on the Cement Glands and the other on the development of Cirripedes. "Wiegmanns Archive" XXV and XXVI - My father remarked that he "blundered dreadfully about the cement glands." Autobiography P.81.

Leopold Wilhelm 1806

I remember uncle Leopold from my earliest childhood. He was always a merry joyful man and fond of children; as a consequence we children liked him very much. Together with my father he was active in the brewery, close to the Alexander Nevsky Monastery. He managed the Malting Department there. In 1832 he married a very young Finnish subject. Her name was Julie Dannenberg from Vyborg. Their marriage took place on her

16th birthday. From that time onwards my uncle and his family went to Finland every summer. There my uncle's father-in-law possessed a nice estate, situated about 15 versts from Vyborg. The name of this estate was "Kiskil,,". It was situated inside the Finnish "skargård" (a chain of small rocky islands covered, to a great extent, by old fir trees) HC. thus one did not realise oneself to be so close to the open sea. The surroundings were extremely picturesque, especially in summertime.

Here in the Finnish countryside, uncle's children and we, as guests, enjoyed full freedom during these summer visits, which extended over several weeks.

In the early days it took 18 to 24 hours to cover the distance between St Petersburg and Vyborg. The horses had to be changed several times. During the nights we stayed in Finnish stations (*inns? hostels?*) *DB*. Later on, small steamers established a regular service between St Petersburg - Kronshtadt and Vyborg. In 1870 a railway began to run between St Petersburg and Vyborg. By rail we covered the distance in about 4 hours and the journeys formed a pleasure trip.

In 1844, when my cousins Julius and Leopold were nine and seven years old, my uncle settled down in Finland for good.

Julius and Leopold were sent to the Vyborg Gymnasium - school. There they received Finnish school education whilst Emilie, Otilie and Adele received German Education.

Aunt Julie was a clever and well-educated lady. She possessed a firm character, fine tact, and a very developed sense of duty. In every respect she understood how to get the best out of daily life. A kindly fate saved her from heavy blows (see post scriptum). Thus she was able to cherish the ideals of her youth, even when she reached a mature age.

Thanks to uncle's kind heart, his loyalty and his good temper, and thanks to aunt's manifold gifts, the education of their children can be considered to have been a complete success. Their house was a place where everyone enjoyed the dear and homely life and surroundings. There everyone refreshed his mind and heart.

I personally feel extremely indebted to the dear old couple. For 18 yrs, when returning to St Petersburg from my stays in Madeira (or, from 1875, from London) I never omitted to visit them in Vyborg for several days.

In 1882 they celebrated their golden wedding day, at Kiskil,,. On this occasion I visited the old people, with Ronald. Uncle and aunt appreciated it very much, that we had come to visit them on that day. I shall never forget the kind words which they said when we parted. They expressed their thanks so warmly!

All the children and grandchildren had come to Kiskil,,. Only one granddaughter and her husband were absent. They could not come having to stay at home to look after their 4 month old first baby. Julius' wife and Rullman (the husband of the late Adele) had also to be absent. All the rest of the family was present. Many, many relatives and old friends

had also come.

Uncle - notwithstanding his 79 years - was remarkably lively and aunt was an example. In every way it was a glorious festivity.

My cousin Julius Krohn studied in Helsingfors (Helsinki) and there he became a "Privat-docent" and later on an Honorary Professor. He married twice. By his first marriage, with Emma Nyberg he had three children; Carl, Ilmari and Helmi. His wife died in 1875. Three years later he married Minna Lindres and they had two daughters: Aino and Anne. At present they all live in Helsingfors.

The names Ilmari, Helmi and Anne are typically Finnish and they show how Julius cherished the Finnish element. He is one of the most prominent "Finnomanen". He has acquired a fine reputation in connection with his work concerning the Finnish language, literature and Ethnography. His son Carl seems to follow his father's example in every respect, whilst Ilmari has studied music.

My cousin Leopold, in his boyhood, had made up his mind to become a sailor. However when uncle secured a place for him on board a Finnish sailing vessel on a voyage to Cadiz, as ship's boy, his dream evaporated. He returned to Helsingfors, studied medicine and stuck to this profession. At present he is serving as a doctor in the Finnish Army. He married Mathilde Ekblom from Vasa. They had two sons Leo and Eric. Leopold once told me that he would very much like to settle down in Sweden. In contrast to his brother - who, as I have just said, is a "Finnomanen", Leopold was a keen "Svedoman". He did not like the Finnish element gaining ground to the detriment of the Swedish element in Finland. However these conflicts seem to have decreased. I mean conflicts concerning these national questions.

In 1859 my cousin Emilie married Woldemar Hackmann (of Vyborg). Woldemar was the eldest son of the highly respected, influential Vyborg merchant Friedrich Hackmann. He and uncle Leopold were intimate friends. A few years before his death - in recognition of his great achievements for Finland's trade and industry - he became a member of Finland's nobility. Woldemar and Emilie had five children: (Lily, Ellen, Alfred, Victor and Oscar). He died in 1871, of consumption.

Two years after his death Emilie got engaged to Gustav Schreck, of Leipzig. Schreck was a music teacher and eight years younger than Emilie. Her parents - especially my good uncle - disliked the idea of her getting married again so soon after her first husband's death. But Schreck succeeded gradually and the first unfavourable impression changed - in every way - into a good relationship.

Emilie had artistic inclinations and she disliked the prosaicness of everyday life. Literature, music, painting and sculpture made her forget everything else. But in Schreck she had found a capable, practical and highly educated man and Schreck's qualities formed a necessary and welcome support for her.

Thanks to him, Emilie's three sons received an excellent education and the three boys rather liked their step-father. The daughters, especially Lilly - who had reached the age of 13 when her mother became engaged to Schreck - did not fully harmonize with their step-father, and no doubt this state of affairs affected Emilie now and again.

Lilly married Dr Ernst von Düring (1883). (1881?. First child born 1882. See account of Golden Wedding of Leopold & Julie) D.B. At first the young couple lived in Erlangen and now they have settled down in Hamburg, where Düring has rather a good practice. Up to now the Dürings have three children.

Elli has not married and she lives alone with her parents.

The three sons, Alfred, Victor and Oscar were educated in Leipzig and there they began their studies. Afterwards they went back to Finland and continued to study there. As born Fins and for financial reasons they were tied to Finland. They intend to settle down there for good and it seems that they will very soon get accustomed to conditions in Finland.

My cousin Otilie married, in 1870, an artillery captain, Pelisky, a Pole by birth. One of their twin daughters died immediately after birth. The other daughter received the name Helena and her nickname is now Lensi. Later on they had two more girls, Eugenie and Mary.

During the summer of 1855 when Otilie and her sister Adele were little girls, I visited Kiskil,, and I paid special attention to the two little girls but they remained rather reserved towards me. But in order to make up for this unfriendliness in her early youth Otilie - 18 years later - got to like me! I now see her and her husband quite frequently during the winter, as they have settled down in St Petersburg.

Pelisky is an upright, orderly gentleman and an able officer. For many years he was stationed in Vyborg in the Trångsund fortifications. He was then promoted to the rank of Colonel and stationed at the "Artillery-Polygon" which deals with inventions connected with artillery and fortifications.

The Polygon lies 10-12 versts from St Petersburg, in the neighbourhood of Ochta, near to the Powder Mill. There Otilie had lodgings for several years and without assistance attended to the education of the children. She rather felt these rough surroundings, and when the education of Jenny and Mary had to be settled, Peliski decided to move to St Petersburg. There the Peliski Family now lives in the Liteini district of the city and Peliski visits them for the weekend. This life is, of course, not ideal but Otilie accepts the conditions with a good grace. Otilie does not possess as many talents as Emilie, but like her sister, she is clever and gifted. As regards practical experience and psychological views (I cannot think that this is an expression that uncle Nicholai would use in 1888! I take it to mean understanding of others) D.B. she stands even higher than her sister and her whole family.

Peliski is a Pole and serves in the Russian Army. He differs somewhat from the views of the Krohn family but relations are friendly. Perhaps the heartiness (*warm heartedness?*) D.B. which is so characteristic of the family life of Germans, does not exist between Peliski and the family in Vyborg.

Otilie is satisfied with her life and does her best to smooth over differences of opinion when these arise. No doubt now and again there exists a certain conflict between Otilie and her husband but her love enables her to smooth matters over, and the children play their part. Otilie's sense of duty and her tact, inherited from her mother, are a great help to her. I consider my discussions with Otilie, during my annual stays in St Petersburg, as most instructive and pleasant.

My cousin Adele I knew in her childhood but after 1855 I did not see her again. The poor soul had a short, happy life. In 1869 she married a gentleman with University education (his name was Rullmann, from Hanau, but in 1875 she died of consumption in Viesbaden. Fortunately she had not children. I have heard very little of Rullmann in the Krohn family. He is said to live somewhere in Austria.

Constantin Heinrich Krohn 1808-1863

Uncle Constantin was in his youth somewhat unsteady and - whenever possible - he travelled. We children saw him seldom in St Petersburg. He spent his time chiefly in Western Europe; he also visited the Orient. Now and again he suddenly turned up in St Petersburg and then we looked upon him as a welcome guest. He never had a proper occupation and lived on his money. At the end of the 1840's or the beginning of the 50's he married a Spanish lady, Josefa Morales, from Cadiz. The Spanish law does not recognise marriages between Protestants and Catholics as valid; they, therefore, went to Gibraltar where the marriage ceremony was arranged at the English Church.

According to Spanish custom this new Aunt had rather a long name. This was Josefa Luisa Ramona de la Santa Trinidad de Roa y Morales, but we called her "Pepa" or Tia Pepa.

As a young girl and a young wife she was very pretty but - as one sees rather often in Spain - her education was rather superficial. I wonder whether my uncle Constantin has not now and again, remembered the poet's words:

"Drum srüfe was sich ewig bindet,
Das sich das Herz zum Herzen findet
Der Wahn is kurz, die Reue Lang"

This means, in prose,

"Consider your hearts desires in time. The
dream is short, repentance is long."

I do not say that the marriage was an unhappy one, but, to put it mildly, this marriage left something to be desired.

After his marriage, uncle settled down in Paris. He died in 1863 in Versailles. They had two children, Constance and Alfred.

Constance grew up as a good looking, healthy young woman. In 1872 she married Charles Charpentier, Agent at the Exchange, or, as he himself once jokingly put it "Tripoteur d'Argent". His education was limited, his manners left much to be desired and his way of thought very crude. This marriage - as is often the case in France - was based on personal interests and it ended unhappily. In 1887 they were divorced. They had one daughter whose name was Charlotte.

My cousin Alfred Krohn studied medicine and he is now a doctor in Paris. He is a splendid and good man. It seems his studies were successful. It is very interesting to converse with him and I consider him as sympathetic.

As I visit Paris now and again, I see "Tia Pepa" and the cousins occasionally and our relationship is excellent.

THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF MY MOTHER

I can report the following about them:

Wilhelm Biller (1802-1837) was one year younger than my mother. He was a businessman, somewhat fanciful (*unworldly?*) *D.B.* He had leanings towards devoutness and piety. This may explain his marriage to Sarah Kilham, a Quaker. She was 10 or 12 years older than he. I remember him rather remotely, but his wife has remained in my memory for she died, in England, about 1850. She had a nice face, she was always friendly, well-wishing and affectionate. She was the Head of a benevolent institution (under the patronage of the Russian Grand Duchess Marie Nicolaevna) for orphans and girls who had got into trouble. For many years she conducted this institution energetically.

She came from a family which had devoted itself to Christian Love. (Her mother was a missionary and she died during one of her African journeys. She was buried at sea.) We children looked upon aunt Sarah almost as a saint and we looked up to her with sentiments of loving and high esteem.

My mother's younger sister, Sophie Biller was, as far as my memory goes, always in my father's house. She was my mother's indispensable "right hand" in the household and a useful help in our education.

We all, from Katinka to Ida, received our first school education from aunt Sophie. This even included music. No doubt we have to thank her, though we saw in her - at that time

- more the stern governess than the beloved aunt! She had her own ways; often she was a very perceptive governess and not so much our dear aunt. But she managed to prepare us for entering the public school and so we dare not be too severe with our aunt. She was always active and busy. Her sense of orderliness came near to pedantry and her sense of economy was especially developed. This sense came near to miserliness. Yet she knew how to spend her savings well and - if I may say so - nobly. For instance she educated a Finnish boy and her great nephew Paul Götze out of her savings. She also supported her brother John and her sister Lottchen. The latter was rather hard up.

At any rate she had very moderate amounts at her disposal and when she reached a mature age my father supported her annually and ultimately fixed a legacy (annuity) *D.B.* for her. Her sense of economy has done harm to nobody, on the contrary she deserves respect. We, as children, did not understand this and now and then we called aunt Sophie, Aunt Economy!

In 1849 my mother died and aunt Sophie then became quite indispensable to my father. She stayed with him till 1855, when he entered his second marriage. When she realised my father's intention she went to Finland where she lived for several years. Ultimately she returned to St Petersburg and during her last years she lived with her sister Lottchen Götze in extremely shabby surroundings on the "St Petersburg Side", one of St Petersburg's poorest parts.

In 1883, when already old, she got cancer in her chest (breast?) *D.B.* With admirable courage she underwent a painful operation. This was successful but aunt's nerves got worse and worse. In 1884 a fire broke out in the flat in which she lived. This gave her such a shock that she died soon afterwards, as her old illness, cancer, returned. After great sufferings she died in 1866, 83 years old.

Charlotte Götze, n.e Biller, is my late mother's youngest sister. She married (1833) Carl Götze from Berlin. He was a weaver and as such he established himself in St Petersburg. He was never very successful, he fought bravely against his fate but owing to his rough character he must have lived under rather hard conditions. This made my aunt's life rather difficult, no doubt. On the other hand, Götze was an upright, honest man. He loved Aunt Lottchen and their two children, Theodor and Charlotte, though he was somewhat hard on Theodor. In 1866 he died - 62 years old - aunt Lottchen had always been his loving wife and she did everything possible for her children. Her fine character has greatly assisted her in getting over many difficulties in her life. The hardest blow for her was probably when her daughter, Charlotte, at the age of 32 became insane. This sad state of affairs lasted about 10 years until she died in 1882 in Kötschenbroda. Aunt Lottchen, who had lived for many years in Germany, chiefly in Dresden, now hurried to St Petersburg to assist her son Theodor and his family.

As a boy, Theodor Götze was a lively and bright boy. He had inherited many of his father's qualities. He was not an easy boy to handle and his parents had trouble with him, until he had to join the military service in Prussia. He did not pass the school examination which would have entitled him to one years military service. He had

therefore to serve three years in Berlin, when he was enlisted with the "Garde-füsiliere". They made a useful man of him. He returned to St Petersburg and, after having tried his luck in several offices, he became accountant of correspondent with Heissler, St Petersburg. There he served honestly for 23 years, but ultimately Heissler failed and then Theodor's troubles commenced. For a considerable time he was without a situation. He then started on his own account but he lost his moderate savings. He and his wife and children were now facing starvation. His son Paul (first marriage) who had been brought up by aunt Sophie did not behave well towards his aunt or towards his father. This son preferred to go his own way.

Theodor's second wife was a Russian of inferior standing. This marriage was looked upon as a "mesalliance". She had no education and her character left much to be desired. She was no support for Theodor in his difficulties. Besides that her health was not strong. Aunt Lottchen came to their assistance and she shared her meagre means with them. They all lived in great need and I am really sorry for the old aunt, who is now 75. There are people who constantly have bad luck. To this category belonged poor aunt Lottchen and Theodor.

John Krüger 25.5.1818-22.1.1882 was my mother's step-brother and he was thus my step-uncle. (*Actually, half-brother and so "half-uncle"!*) *D.B.* In some respects he was an original! As stated earlier, his old father, Johann Krüger, had left his family to themselves, and John received his education thanks to uncle Carl Lessig and thanks to my father. He was very industrious and - to the extreme - orderly. He was rather phlegmatic, but he was full of life, and his youth was, perhaps, a little wild. When his comrades played pranks he was always with them, and he endeavoured to influence me in that respect when I was at the same age. His theory was: every young fellow must see everything and take an active part in everything, no matter whether good or bad. Otherwise - he argued - one never gets a proper idea about life and its value. I do not share this opinion in every respect. He never lost his self control. When he considered it advisable he left his comrades - on some occasions - to themselves.

He was a very good son and he supported his mother. He was an excellent brother to his brothers and sisters. To us he was an excellent uncle, though the difference in age between us was insignificant. We looked upon him almost as a brother rather than an uncle.

His exceptional sense of order, his diligence, his conscientiousness and his honesty helped him, later on to become a useful clerk. He occupied good posts and he saved some money. But when he started to work on his own account he was not lucky. There exist people who cannot be properly useful if they have to manage their own affairs. Uncle John serves as an example of this remark of mine. After having saved some money in St Petersburg and Moscow, he made up his mind to start on his own account but before doing so he wanted to visit Western Europe. He travelled for about 18 months and I believe he enjoyed this time. In accordance with his character he had prepared himself for the journey long beforehand and so felt quite at home when visiting Germany, France, England, Italy and Austria. He came back with a lot of experience and

impressions which he did not forget, up to the end of his life. When he returned to St Petersburg his means had become less. He then tried to work in Astrahan and St Petersburg, but this was a fiasco and his finances were at a low ebb. Ultimately he procured a confidential post with a St Petersburg wine merchant, C. O Schült and there he continued to work until his death.

In 1862 he married Agnes Koch from Reval. Koch's firm was established in Reval by Berend Heinrich Koch (1722-80) in 1747. His son Joachim Christian Koch (1765-1816) gave the firm his own name. The firm still trades under the name of J.C. Koch & Son. Joachim Koch's son Andreas (born 1803) and his two sons, Robert and Nicolai are the firms owners to this day. The firm enjoys a very high reputation. *It will be remembered that Andreas Koch had befriended old Johann Krüger, John's father, in Reval, and looked after him until he died. D.B.*

Uncle John loved Agnes deeply and sincerely. To use the expression customary in St Petersburg, it was a "brilliant Partie". Old Mr Andreas Koch supported his son-in-law most liberally, when uncle John required it. Uncle John was a true and faithful husband.

Aunt Agnes had her peculiarities but she possessed a fine character. After Uncle's death I got to know her better and to esteem and value her. She gave her children an excellent education and when I visited them in St Petersburg it was a pleasure to see how the children developed from year to year. The birth years of the Krüger children were as follows:- Reinhold 1863, Oswald 1867, Agnes 1868, Marie Elizabeth 1871 and Ewald 1876. Oswald died in 1872.

Reinhold has become an architect. He became his mother's support and the protector of his brothers and sisters. Ewald looks up with special respect to his thirteen years older brother. He tries to follow his example and is anxious to become an architect like his elder brother. I usually visited St Petersburg each winter. John Krüger died there suddenly, due to heart trouble.

Friedrich Krüger 1799-1822 son of old Johann Krüger by his first marriage, is not related to us by blood. He was my grandmother's step son and my step uncle. He was born in London in 1799 and thus he became a British subject. As a boy he came to St Petersburg and he never lived in London, or England, again. He spoke excellent English and was rather proud of the fact that he was a British subject. Otherwise, he hated England, and the English! He was a loyal Russian. Czar Nicolai was his ideal. Later on he was enthusiastic about Louis Napoleon in fact he liked everything connected with despotism. According to his opinion despotism was the best kind of government! In general he was also rather despotic himself. He was a tyrant in his house. I consider it possible that his two wives suffered considerably from his characteristic qualities and ideas. I believe he neglected his son's education sinfully. This was due to his principles. He was of the opinion that the education of children should be left to nature and to the children themselves. When poor Karl grew up he had learned next to nothing. Thus he became a common mechanic (if that description is not saying too much). He worked in an iron works. They did not get on in life, in fact they lived in distress.

The Children by Friedrich's second wife were educated rather better by him. He must have seen that the education of the children of his first marriage left much to be desired.

His second son, Friedrich, thus got much better school education. He was a nice fellow but due to misfortune he drowned in the Finnish Gulf, while yachting. His sister Ernestine, remained in her father's house and was his good companion and even his nurse in the end. During the Russe-Turkish war she became a benevolent sister (*cempa Murocepgur. (sestra Miloëyerdia) Sister of Mercy, the Russian for "nurse". In 1940 I was told by a Russian that that was still the name for a nurse in Russia. No doubt there is another by now!*). *D.B.* attached to the St Petersburg Evangelical Mission, and she adhered to this occupation after her father's death.

Friedrich Krüger became a businessman and at the age of about 50 he became a partner in the St Petersburg branch of the Liverpool firm, Hornby & Co. In this firm I acquired my first commercial experience. At the end of 1850, Hornby & Co gave up their office in St Petersburg. Then Friedrich Krüger's life was less prosperous. All the time he had lived above his means and had no reserves for hard times or old age. He had no friends; this was probably due to his rude and egotistic character. By this time he had become too old to start anything new. It is true the St Petersburg Exchange appointed him as their expert for classifying tallow (*Here part of a sentence seems to be missing*) *D.B.* had decreased to a minimum and this work, as expert for tallow, was therefore almost nil. He thus lived on support which my late father gave him. After my father's death the Naeboe and Koch families, his half-brother John and my brother and sister (Wilhelm and Ida) as well as myself supported him.

As already mentioned, Friedrich Krüger was in reality no relative of ours, yet I have mentioned him in this family chronicle of ours. He was so well known in our family circle; besides that, he was in some ways rather an original and I took a liking to him. I was in his office for three years and his family has extended friendship to me, and from 1870 up to his death in 1882 we met frequently during the winter months. Notwithstanding the rudeness, which he must have inherited from his father, he had a good side, also. If one took him in the right way one could get on with him excellently.

Lina Prehn. She was a rather distant relative of our family. Yet I must refer to her, for she was on excellent terms with us. I mean Caroline Prehn. Lina or "aunt Lina" was the name by which she was known in our family.

Lina's mother, Emilie Lessig (B.1818) was my mother's cousin. She was the daughter of Carl Lessig to whom I referred earlier. She married Carl Voss (b.1803) of Schwerin.

The names of the Voss children were:- Caroline, Julie, Woldemar, Gustav and Olga. They were born in St Petersburg, where their father acted as book-keeper with Stieglitz, who were bankers. These children grew up with my younger brothers and sisters.

Thanks to the high qualities of their parents, their school education and home upbringing

were excellent. The relations between them and us were pleasant and warm hearted in every way. No friction arose between us.

When I left St Petersburg, Lina was a fine looking girl of 17. A year later she married Thomas Prehn, a London merchant of high reputation, and in 1857 I met her again in London, soon after her marriage.

In 1861, during my honeymoon trip with Mina I introduced my wife to Lina Prehn and the two young wives became rather fond of each other. Their warm-hearted relationship continued. In 1867 we met again in London. Lina's children, Thomas, Polly and Amy were - at that time - 5, 4 and one year old. Prehn had just completed a rather tiresome business trip, but it seemed that he was well off again. Their young household seemed to be under a fortunate star, when suddenly they met with a great misfortune. An acute attack of rheumatism in the lungs befell poor Thomas Prehn (congestion or polio myelitis) *D.B.* and at a hospital, after a short illness he passed away - only 47 years old.

A year later, Lina, together with her children, went back to St Petersburg where her parents still lived. Her brother Gustav died in 1868. Her two sisters married in Germany. Julie married Hans Rehfeld, a land owner in Tucheband, near Küstrin. Olga married Franz Sachse, a Solicitor in Schwerin and her brother Woldemar worked in Leipsig in a banker's office.

Thus Lina remained alone in St Petersburg. There she gave her children a good education and especially a good knowledge of languages. Her father's health left much to be desired and in 1872 Dr Pagenstecher, in Wiesbaden, had to operate on him. Soon afterwards he died. Lina's brother - Woldemar Voss - after prolonged stays in Germany and England - established himself in Moscow about 1875. In 1880 he died. His widow went to Schwerin to her sister. Thus Lina and her children remained alone in Russia. During the years 1871-1885 I visited them every winter during my business trips. Her house was a kind of home for me and I have the most pleasant recollections of hers, Lillie Peliski's, the Heyse's and Naeboes' houses - all in St Petersburg.

In 1888 Polly Prehn married a Prussian officer in the hussars. His name was Carl Oehme (Lt in the 2nd Hussar Regiment "Kaiserin"). At first they lived in Lissa, afterwards in Posen and ultimately in Berlin, where Oehme was attached to the General Staff. Tom left for Antwerp and London and there he remained until 1887. The lonely Lina then went with Amy to Berlin. She wanted to be near her children. At present Tom is also in Berlin. He has found a situation in a bank there and thus Lina has the pleasure of having all her children around her.

We meet in Berlin several times every year. In 1887 she succeeded in visiting London, a wish which she had cherished for years. In May 1887 she and Amy stayed for two months in London. The relations with her were close and intimate and we met frequently and neither Lina nor we will forget this "Jubilee Summer".

MY PARENTS

In the foregoing pages I have described my parents relatives and in the following part I shall refer to my father's house.

After having finished at the Petri-School my father entered an office in St Petersburg in order to acquire commercial knowledge. For some time he participated in the Liqueur distillery belonging to Streiter. For this purpose my Grandfather advanced him some money. This resulted in a financial fiasco, for Streiter failed and my father lost his money. That was about 1819. Then he entered the Brewery and he remained there for about 40 years, until his departure from St Petersburg.

My father had not yet reached his 23rd year and my mother's age was about 20 when they married on the 20th February/4th March 1821. *(I imagine this alternative dating is due to the alteration of the calendar at that time.) D.B.*

As far as I know, their marriage never underwent any disharmony. (They were married for about 28 years.)

We children enjoyed the privilege of possessing a father who was not too exacting. He was a just and sincere father. Mother was a gentle soul and, up to her death, she devoted herself to us children. She did this, full of love. We shall always keep them in best memory. *(This is a German expression but I have not changed it because I think it is one that Great-Uncle Nicholai would probably have chosen to use, even in English.) D.B.*

If I were to try to describe my parents, my words would never express the full praise which they deserve. I therefore omit any detailed description and I feel certain that my brothers and sisters will justify me. My words could never express our feelings clearly, warmly or sincerely enough! When my mother passed away (in 1849) no grand-children had been born, but up to 1872 - the year of Father's death - his daughters and daughters-in-law had presented the family with twenty grand-children. Ten of them I knew personally. I register some of their names. Eduard Breitenstein, Frieda and Franklin Krohn and my two eldest children Fritz and Emmie, and I presume that Kitty Krohn will have preserved a clear memory of Grandfather.

These recollections of this fine, friendly and extremely kind old man will no doubt remain in the memories of the respective members of our family. Their younger sisters and brothers - who will have a remote recollection of him or who have never seen him, will have to rely on older relatives to receive correct impressions of our late father and mother.

When young Friedrich got married, he and his wife settled down in the premises of the Brewery. As I said before, this Brewery was situated in the neighbourhood of the Alexander Nevsky Monastery, on the left bank of the Neva, opposite Malaja Okhta. We were all born there and our earliest recollections - happy and sad - are interwoven with this place.

Up till 1845 - that is to say for 24 years - my parents life was not over-shadowed by any special misfortune. Usual troubles, connected with children's illnesses and similar family trouble, and even the deaths of two children - who died in infancy - cannot be looked upon as unusual blows for so large a family.

My mother's thirteen babies and her (generally speaking) delicate health had not robbed her of her resilience; *(Unia translated this as "elasticity"!!) D.B.* She was always in good spirits anxious to attend to her duties in connection with her children, and she looked after them conscientiously and full of love.

My sisters Catharina, Elizabeth Marie and Ida got their education at home, whilst Emilie was sent to the Petri-School. We boys were also sent to said school. (Eduard and I first attended a smaller private school. Alexander was sent to the "Second Gymnasium" and Wilhelm to the School of Metallurgy/Bergcorps). But, as stated before, our first school education was given to us by Aunt Sophie.

Our father wished us also to have music lessons, and we all had to attend some. My sister Katinka and my brothers Friedrich and August undoubtedly possessed some talent and they made progress. For instance Katinka played the piano rather nicely and she sang charmingly. She had rather a nice soprano. The other children had no natural gift for singing and they never achieved anything worth mentioning. But Alexander played the violoncello and Ida the piano nicely, and friends derived pleasure from their playing. No doubt Wilhelm had some talent but he neglected his playing of the piano until his 16th year. At that time his step-mother developed his ear for music and later on - thanks to his friend Saltler in Madeira - he reached a certain level of proficiency and his playing of the violoncello gave him some satisfaction. Thus he was in a position to look after the music lessons of his children. In all probability my step-sister, Mathilde, was the most talented of us all. She played the piano masterfully. *(Her playing was masterly!) D.B.*

My father had many friends. Among these were many gentlemen who, like my father, were not only fond of music, but could be looked upon as good musicians. They visited us often. Some of them came accompanied by their wives, and after dinner we had music. Besides chamber music, we had quartets, with or without accompaniment on the piano, and my father's old friend, Heinrich Behling, acted as conductor. Behling came from Dresden and he was a professional musician and quite a well known composer of songs. In 1850 he moved from the Nevsky to the Kalinkin Brewery. These fine Russian musical evenings took place in our house and they will be remembered by my father's numerous friends.

The best artists in St Petersburg attended these concerts every second Sunday. The programmes usually were:- 2 Russian Quartet then a pause for smoking, refreshment (tea etc) after that again 2 Russian Quartet and ultimately supper. Who was not ready to join such entertainments?

Thus the long winter months passed. For the summer months most people went to the

Country. About 1820 my parents lived in summer for several years near to the Peterhof road, from 1830 till the beginning of 1840 in Bolshaya Okhta (Great Okhta) on the estates belonging to the Besborodko family. About 1845 that part of the country came more and more under the influence of St Petersburg's city life and we then removed to a village of "German Colonists", three versts from Orianienbaum, on the Finnish Gulf opposite Kronshtadt.

I have now described the period up to 1844-45. At that time our house was full and I remember the times when we boys and our sister Emilie came for the weekend to the country. There were 14 members of the family to sit down at the dinner table!

Since 1842 my mother had had no more children and her health became stronger and she fully enjoyed her life. But in 1845 consumption entered our household for the first time and during the next 15 years the happiness of my father's house was affected with double thoroughness.

This horrible illness effected our family to such an extent that we called it the evil spirit of the Krohn Family.

The victims of this "Family Ghost" were numerous and they followed each other incredibly quickly!

In 1846 my sister Betty, a delightful "blooming" girl of 19 had thus to part from us. She was engaged to be married.

About 6 weeks after Betty's death we celebrated my parents Silver Wedding day. I remember the numerous friends who surrounded my parents. At that time my parents were full of courage and confidence. Who could have imagined that this first death would be followed by so many! The guests just referred to left the house full of hope and in the best of spirits.

Two years later another blow followed, we had hardly got over having Betty no longer amongst us when my dearest brother, Eduard began to show signs of weakness. He suffered from consumption of the throat and stomach and in the summer of 1848 he was no longer with us.

My mother had unceasingly nursed these two sick children and this had affected her so much that - after Eduard's death - she too began to show signs of weakness. At the end of 1848 her condition grew worse and my father began to realise that the time for parting from his most beloved was drawing near.

Dear Mother's sufferings were terrible, for, after her experience with her two children, she realised what was in store for her.

By the end of 1848 my father understood that he would have to part from his beloved wife very soon. She suffered dreadfully. That Autumn, soon after Eduard's death, my

brother Friedrich showed dangerous symptoms. He was sent to Madeira.

The other children were well but my mother was terrified by the idea that she might have brought this disease into the family. With the patience of an angel she endured her sufferings and on the 11th of April 1849 death relieved her. With the exception of Catharine and Friedrich (Alexander also had come from Dorpat) all the children surrounded our dear Mother's death-bed.

Another year passed. Father made arrangements for the household; Aunt Sophie ran it. Matters settled down - in a way. The news about Friedrich changed. It was a somewhat restless time - as if a storm was approaching. And the storm came! During September Friedrich returned in extremely weak condition and on October 18th (1850) he also left us.

In the space of about two years two more sisters and a brother followed Friedrich!

In April 1852 Emilie died - as a young wife - after the birth of her first child. She also became a victim of consumption. In the Autumn of 1854 we had to bury my sister Marie, who had not yet reached her fifteenth birthday. The same year, in the late summer, August hurried to Venice, hoping that the climate there might cure him, but he died there on May 11th 1855. His grave is on one of Venice's islands. He rests at the Christophero Cemetery.

Alexander had left for abroad in 1851 to strengthen his weak lungs. He spent one winter at Pau and it looked as if he had recovered but it was not considered advisable for him to return to Russia.

In September 1854 Ida left for Venice with her governess, Mme Patt,. She went under the impression that her brother August felt rather lonely in Venice but in reality it was considered judicious to get her away from St Petersburg's horrible climate.

Thus, by the end of 1854 my brother Wilhelm and I were the only members of the family keeping my father company.

All this misfortune was enough to break the strongest man's heart. My father was terribly affected by his misfortune and fled from his house in despair - as if the ghosts of his dear family chased him. Often he visited Mrs Behling, whose husband had passed away a few years before. Mrs Behlings daughter, Marie, a talented, clever and in every respect noble-minded girl (a friend of my two eldest sisters) appeared to my father as suited to give the lie to the depressing conditions under which he lived at that time. He proposed to her and at the beginning of April 1855 their wedding took place.

Marie Behling's mother belonged to the Greek Orthodox Church, although her husband had been a Lutheran. Their children had therefore to be christened according to the rules of the Greek Orthodox church. This explains the fact that Marie Behling and her brother Gustav belonged to this church. In order to avoid any children whom father and Marie

might have also having to become members of the Greek Orthodox church, they had their wedding ceremony performed in Finland. My father was a Finnish subject and his wedding, and also the subsequent christening of my step-sister, Mathilde, could thus be performed in Finland without creating undesired attention.

My father's new happiness did not last long and I saw very little of it. There came disturbing news from Venice about August and my father decided that I should proceed there without delay, so that Ida and Mme Patté should have me at their side, should anything happen to August.

There was considerable difference between my father's age and Marie's. Marie had therefore to prove her sincere devotion, her cleverness and great tact to establish the right relationship with father's grown-up children (Catharine and Alexander were older than Marie!) and with "society".

However she accomplished all this excellently. Guests came again to my father's house. The old friends appeared, the former musical evenings were resumed and in Marie father found the consolation which he so needed. It looked as if he had "steered safely into the port of happiness".

Eleven months after this marriage Mathilde was born. The joy was great and nothing was spared in order to make everything as nice and as comfortable as possible for both the young mother and her baby.

In October 1856 Ida and Mme Patt, returned from abroad and they and Wilhelm were now the only witnesses of the happiness in father's house. However Wilhelm's health commenced to deteriorate in the Spring of 1857 and his appearance gave reason for fears. My father therefore decided to send him to the South at once.

The next Winter Marie began to show signs of illness and it dawned on my father that fresh misfortune was approaching.

With the exception of Ida all his children by his first marriage had either died or, for fear of death, had to leave him alone in St Petersburg. And now it looked as if this horrible "family ghost" might also creep into the new household. Every day of hesitation seemed to involve danger, and so my father decided to discontinue his business in St Petersburg and to leave Russia for good. His firm's contract with the Cazalets expired at the end of 1858 and so his intention met with no obstacle in that respect.

In June 1858 my father left Russia for good. The main object was to cure his poor wife. For about two years Marie travelled from one place to another and for the Winter Meran was selected. In the second winter on March 27th 1860, she succumbed to her illness. She was buried in Dresden and the Trinity Cemetery became her resting place.

My father now settled down in Dresden. He bought a nice house, No 11 at the corner of Ferdinand and Bahk Streets. Before settling down in this house he stayed at the Hotel

Bellevue and later "an der Burgerwiesse".

After Marie's death, my father arranged with Mme Patt, to come to him from Paris, and Ida went with her to Nice for the winter 1860-61. Alexander, for whose health the South still seemed to be the right place, accompanied them to Nice.

In the spring of 1861 they all came back to Dresden and now the family settled there.

My father decided to entrust Mathilde's education to an English lady. Her name was Louisa Purchase and she came from London. After a short period he arranged that Miss Purchase's niece also came from London to Dresden and the two children grew up under Miss Purchase. They made good progress, to my father's satisfaction.

During the 14 years in which my father lived in Dresden (1860-1874) fate kept him free of further blows and misfortunes. These years were years of rest and peace for him, after the terrible time from 1846-1860. In his own house in Dresden he arranged his household comfortably and in 1865 Alexander joined him, living in his own flat. They went to Pillritz for the summer. At the beginning of 1870 my father bought a site in Hesterwitz and there he built a second house.

In the course of time we three brothers and Ida got married. I was the first, in 1861. Alexander followed my example in 1863. Ida did the same in 1865 and ultimately Wilhelm in 1866. Thus Dresden became the centre of our family and every year somebody visited our good father.

He became rather stout and from 1865 onwards he went every year to Kissingen for 4 to 6 weeks. These trips did him good, though he did not like leaving Dresden. He wanted to have rest.

In 1867 he agreed to visit the Paris Exhibition. I joined him in Berlin and we spent some pleasant weeks in Paris.. That was father's last journey.

It was now father's greatest, greatest joy to live quietly in Dresden and in Hesterwitz and to watch how Mathilde and her companion Eliza developed in their education and music. He had some friends around him, but his life could not be compared with former times in St Petersburg. In the summer of 1874 he did not go to Kissingen, he preferred to rest. But his refusal to go had serious consequences for him. On the 26th August he had an apoplectic attack and after a few hours he passed away in an unconscious condition.

At that time I was in Madeira, but Wilhelm had gone to Germany for the summer. All the children attended the funeral. Only I and I believe my sister Katinka, were absent. The children carried Father to the Trinity Cemetery where he was put to eternal rest beside his second wife.

MY FATHER'S BUSINESS

So far I have given a description of Father's family life. Now I shall try to give a picture of his commercial activity; but before doing this I must refer to his nationality.

In connection with my father's second marriage, the question of his nationality had to be cleared up, or rather the question of to which country he belonged. In this respect matters had become a little "foggy" in my grand-father's time.

At the time of my grand-father's departure from the Island of Rügen, Rügen belonged to Sweden, and my grandfather - though in his feelings he was German - was registered in Russia according to his passport, as a Swedish subject, and this also applied to his children.

In 1815 the Congress of Vienna decided that the Island of Rügen belonged to Prussia. Now my grandfather and his sons had to decide which nationality they desired. Without hesitation they became naturalised in Finland, where - although Finland formed a part of Russia - one enjoyed some privileges in accordance with Finland's Constitution. My uncle August later became a citizen of Hamburg and my uncle Constantin became a French subject.

In 1872 - that is to say 12 years after having settled down in Dresden - my father and his sons gave up Russian nationality and were naturalised in Saxony. Wilhelm and I settled down in England, and as our children were being educated in England it was natural that we adopted British citizenship.

My grand-father's descendants are thus at present: German, English, French and Finnish (Russian) Krohn's. At present (1888) there lives in St Petersburg a family Krohn which belongs to St Petersburg's best commercial circles. They are no relatives of ours.

I now refer to my father's commercial activity and I can report the following: As stated before, my father had met with some misfortune before he joined the Brewery. From that day onward all went well. With my father's assistance the Brewery developed nicely and later on, when the management was in father's hands, thing improved even more and he acquired the rather nice capital which he ultimately left.

I give further a sketch with explanations. This gives an idea of how my grandfather's enterprise developed after the fire in 1797 and shows also the buildings which were erected up to 1848. *(This sketch is not with the translation. I will try to acquire a copy.)*
D.B.

I possess no plan of the Kalinkin Brewery, managed by my father from 1848-1858. This belonged to the Breweries owned by Cazalet. This Brewery made so-called English Beer. About 1844 my father started also brewing so-called Bavarian Beer, and for this he engaged, as Head Brewer, Gabriel Jenny, from Odessa. He remained with us for 3-4 years as our expert for this kind of beer. Uncle Leopold and Mr Carl Brandt of Hamburg attended to the malting process.

All casks and vats we made ourselves and we also cut our own corks; we also attended to the repair of all the vehicles required for transporting our beer. Thus we had quite a lot of workshops on our premises.

Key to *(missing)* plan

eeee Land which originally belonged to my Grandfather.

//// Land sold after the fire in 1797.

1. Brewery for English and Bavarian Beer.
2. Dwellings for about 40 workmen - Artell. [An Artell is a Union of workmen who co-jointly bear responsibility for each other. That is a typically Russian Institution for workmen.] H.C.
3. Malting dept, drying dept (Darre) and grain warehouses.
4. Grain-warehouses and cellars.
5. Brewery for "Black" and "Moscow" Beer.
6. My parents dwelling house. Underneath, cellars for "maturing" beer.
7. Dwelling house for Uncle Leopold, Uncle Balsler and myself and my three brothers' Office. Under this living accommodation there were cellars.
8. Accommodation for carts. Living quarters for our coachman, laundry and stables.
9. Living accommodation for clerks, an Artell for 120 men, workshops and cellars.
- 10-11. Stables for our horses.
- 12-14. Wooden sheds.
15. Well.

----- Canalization from the River Neva.

The stock of coals and fire-wood were kept separately. (See sketch B).

During the winter, the number of our workmen increased up to 150 or even 200 hands. They were accommodated on our Brewery's premises. Beside these men, we employed 50-70 and later even more men in our beer shops and pubs.

During the summer months we stopped brewing and then we discharged up to 50% of our

workmen. In our Alexander Nevsky Brewery we had about 20 horses for daily work, and in the Kalinkin Brewery 30 and sometimes more. These horses were required for delivering our beer to our places of sale etc.

Obviously, so large a factory needed prudent management. My father had been given a good training and thanks to his good health he was able to give the management the fullest attention. He looked after the office, all purchases of barley, hops, staves, cork wood, bottles, coal, wood for heating, horses, hay, oats and many other things which the establishment required. As far as I can remember, he also attended to the technical part of the daily work. He was also an experienced brewer and this activity required a tremendous amount of work on his part.

At three o'clock in the morning the various mixtures and preparations began, and mixtures were run from the refrigerating departments to the fermentation department up till 10 and 11 o'clock at night. We brewed from the middle of September till the middle of May and usually three times a week. Each represented a quantity of 80-100 hogsheads; that equalled 7,000 to 8,000 hogsheads annually.

In 1848 my father went into partnership with Peter Cazalet, under the name of Cazalet, Krohn & Co. They brewed four or five times a week and their quantity went up to 12,000 or even 14,000 hogsheads. (1 hogshead = 240 Litres).

About 1843 my elder brother (Friedrich) entered the business, and, like my father, he learned the business "from the pike", (an expression often used in St Petersburg). He died in 1850.

My father had intended to take my brother Alexander into the firm, but, owing to his health, he had to leave Russia and I entered the business, and I remained there until, in the Spring of 1855, I considered it wise to be careful and to leave St Petersburg for abroad. Thus my father had comparatively little help from his sons.

After 1848 my father was able to arrange that he was relieved of a considerable part of looking after the actual brewing. This change took place under these conditions. In the summer of 1848, cholera decimated the population of St Petersburg, and so the consumption of beer decreased greatly. Nobody wanted to drink beer! The enormous stock of beer which my father had, turned sour! Not even the manufacturers of vinegar were willing to touch it. They had bought enough from other sources. The greater part of our stock - several thousand casks - had to be emptied by letting it run into the canalisation. My father's chief competitor, Cazalet, had to do the same. In order to help each other they went into partnership.

"L'union fait la force" and the results showed that my father and Cazalet were right in uniting according to this French proverb.

From then on, they worked in the Kalinkin Brewery (by the Kalinkin bridge) and my father's brewery near the Alexander Nevsky Monastery was let for other purposes. They

however used the cellars and now and again the grain warehouses.

As soon as the cholera disappeared the business was in full swing again and until my father left St Petersburg there was no interruption in it.

In the conditions now prevailing Cazalet's brewery was more suitable. They had steam power and their malting department was better than that at father's brewery.

We now gave up the brewing of the Black and Moscow grades of beer. Arrangements were entered into with some Russian breweries who attended to the sale of these cheap qualities of beer while we brewed the superior qualities.

I write "we" because during these years I personally worked at the brewery. Cazalet's Brewery had two experienced English brewers. Jearon senior and his son. They taught me brewing but I had not time to learn the malting process.

The new firm worked with wonderful success. Partly I saw that, whilst I was there in St Petersburg, and later on I read the correspondence from the Cazalets to my father.

It was a wonderful business. In spite of the large turnover no credit had to be granted. All transactions were on a cash basis. On the other hand all purchases of grain, hops etc were subject to cash discounts and the profits thus accumulated.

If we children had been able to withstand the horrible climate of St Petersburg - as my father did - we would have enjoyed the advantages which this fine business gave. But this was not to be!

Soon after father's departure from St Petersburg, Edward Cazalet visited him in Dresden. Edward Cazalet was the second son of father's former partner Peter Cazalet, who had died in 1857. Edward Cazalet made father a favourable offer for the share he still had in the Brewery and in the property near the Alexander Nevsky Monastery. They soon came to terms and father sold him his share of the business subject to payment in cash. In the Autumn of 1859 father came to London from Dresden. I happened to be there at the same time. There and then he settled his financial affairs with Clement Cazalet, his last partner, as the senior brother of Edward Cazalet. By the end of the year the whole of father's property was in the hands of Edward Cazalet and his partner, William Miller. These gentlemen ultimately also bought Clement Cazalet's share of the business. Later on they sold father's piece of ground and also pulled down the old Kalinkin Brewery. They built a new brewery and soon became millionaires, brewing 120,000 to 150,000 hogsheads of beer.

Other large breweries have now been erected alongside this new Kalinkin Brewery. The population grew to like beer and the consumption became enormous. What a pity that my brothers and my health was not stronger and that we did not participate in these fine results.

(Before you are tempted, dear relative, to join Nicholai in his regret, reflect what would have happened,(in fact must have happened) to all that wealth during the Russian Revolution! Also, if their poor health had not sent Nicholai and Wilhelm to Madeira, where they met and married the two Grant sisters, none of us would be here!). D.B.

My father was an experienced merchant and enjoyed a highly honoured reputation in St Petersburg. He was elected a member of the Board of many municipal and benevolent institutions and he carried out these duties to everyone's full satisfaction.

In 1845 as a Hereditary Honorary Citizen of St Petersburg. The relevant diploma is in my hands. *(Now (1974) in the hands of Frederick Seyd, Nicholai's grandson, son of his daughter Melita). D.B.* For many years he was also one of the managing members of the Evangelical Petri Parish, and many are bound to have missed him when he finally left St Petersburg.

THE CEMETERY OF VOLKOVO

The only little piece of land which our family still owns in Russia is a small square in the Protestant Cemetery at Volkovo, outside St Petersburg. There rest my Grand-parents Krohn (the Grandparents on my mother's side were buried at the Smolerisk Cemetery, which is also a large burial ground for Protestants), the bandmaster Krohn, my great-great uncle Johann Krohn, called in our Family Chronicle "lüt Bruder Hans) and also my brothers and sisters, who parted from us so early; Elizabeth, Friedrich, Julie, Emilie, Eduard, Marie and Eugen. Beside them there rests our beloved Mother and also father's old friend and Mathilde's grandfather, Heinrich Behling.

During the summer months this is a dear, quiet place surrounded by fine old birch trees. I visited it in 1884, after having been absent from St Petersburg for 29 years. During winter months it is difficult to come out to this place of ours. House-high snow covers the graves, unless special orders are given to keep the place snow-free.

Until his death, my father gave instructions to keep the place in order, and my brother-in-law, Carl Salomé, considered it his sacred duty to look after it. My father died in 1874, followed in 1882 by Salomé. Thus we had no relatives whom we could entrust with looking after the graves and consequently they were no longer kept in the old, good order. Then my brother Alexander and I approached my grandfather's descendants to make arrangements for keeping the burial place in good order for ever and to subscribe a capital, the interest on which would suffice for the purpose. In 1887 this capital was collected and transferred to the Church Council of the St Petersburg Petri Community. They have undertaken to attend to what is necessary. I hold the deeds.

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS

A man of 25 or so can find a good companion in a young woman of 18 to 20 years. At the age of about 20 one is usually mature enough for good judgement and able to follow the intentions of people who are 5 to 10 years older. The young man of 18-20 looks up to

a senior friend and understands him, but a young fellow of 8 to 10 is unlikely to be mature. The same is bound to apply between girls. Consequently we often find that in families with many children they form themselves into groups, and in these groups they go their own ways until they are grown-up.

In my father's house the ages of some of his children differed by as much as 20 years and we saw that the children formed about five groups, each consisting of two or three. I believe I can say these groups were as follows:- 1. Katinka and Friedrich. 2. Betty and Alexander. 3. Emilie, Eduard and I. 4. August and Marie. 5. Wilhelm and Ida.

I was ten years old when Katinka had reached 20 and Friedrich 16. Thus I cannot very well report about the ideas etc which my elder brothers and sisters held in their childhood. Nor can I report fully about my younger brothers and sisters.

Catherine, Alexander, Wilhelm and Ida must not expect too much from me. At any rate they were all healthy and vigorous. As a consequence they themselves will be in a much better position to report about themselves than I am able to do. I hope they will feel inclined to follow my suggestion for the sake of their children.

Catherine (Katinka) She was born on 6.12.1821. She was a fresh, lively girl, full of life and perhaps a little eccentric. She had a talent for music, she played the piano well and her singing voice was lovely. She had a talent for drawing and painting, but for want of perseverance she did not develop these gifts fully. She painted a head well, but she hardly ever finished the picture in full. She also enjoyed writing, pieces of poetry were especially to her liking. In 1843 she became engaged to be married to Heinrich Krohn of Mecklenburg. A nice, amiable and clever young business man. But he was not worthy of her. He became engaged to my sister before settling an old love-affair of his. Complaints reached my father and the young fellow was shown the door.

This disappointed my poor sister greatly and it took a long time before she got over it. I must add that the Krohn Family of Mecklenburg was in no way related to us. Hans Krohn, who died recently, was Heinrich Krohn's brother. He was a highly respected man who enjoyed a good reputation at the St Petersburg Exchange; he often chatted with me about the good old times. He used to enquire with great interest about our family and especially used to ask how Katinka fared. Two years ago, Hans said to me, "Heinrich's insincerity brought a bitter revenge. He suffered all his life." This remark seemed to refer to his insincere engagement to Katinka.

In 1848 Catherine married Samuel Breitenstein, of Geneva. (He was tutor to uncle Leopold's children) and later he became a teacher at the "Gymnasium" in Pskow. (Pskow is also known as Pleskau). About 1850 he and Katinka settled down in Switzerland where he was employed by the Municipal Authorities or by the Swiss Government.

Katinka had two sons - Eduard and August.

Eduard became a painter and from 1867 till 1871 he was often in Dresden, where he

stayed with my father. He stayed there to develop his talent. Later on he returned to Switzerland, to his parents. His constitution left much to be desired. This interfered with his work. At present he is again rather ill.

August became a musician. He married rather early and now lives with his family in Geneva. His wife's maiden name was Humbert and she came from Chaux de Fonds (Canton Neuchâtel). I saw her only once, in Berlin for a few days. She left a very pleasant impression and as far as I know she is a faithful wife, devoted to her husband and her three sons; Marcel, Robert and Eduard.

A few years after going to Switzerland the Breitensteins bought a house with a little garden in Geneva and there they settled down for good. I hear that Breitenstein is no longer able to work. He is said to have become old and weak.

It was in 1871 that I last saw my sister in Leipzig, in which city she stayed for a time. Our correspondence is somewhat irregular, but enough for keeping in touch with each other.

Friedrich (17.3.1825-18.10.1850) finished the Petri school as a good scholar. When about 19 years old he entered father's business and he worked diligently in the office, as well as in the Brewery. He was rather a jolly fellow and I am sorry to say he did not withstand some temptations which the large city offered. His physical strength was not enough for this life. He began to show signs of chest weakness. In the Autumn of 1848 he went to Madeira and there he recovered fairly well, but in 1850, when he returned to Europe, his lungs weakness came to him again. He apparently felt that his end was approaching and he then decided to come back to St Petersburg. He apparently wished to die at home. Just before his illness had reached its final stage he - accompanied by his friend, Carl Bartels - travelled from Lübeck, by steamer, to St Petersburg and a month later he passed away.

Elizabeth (Betty) (25.3.1826-16.1.1846) She was charming to look at and her gentle, friendly ways reminded me of my mother. I remember her youth and her childhood, and her childlike joy when she had reached the age of a young lady. A certain amount of piety she got over quickly. However she was not to enjoy her life for long. When she reached the age of 19 the first symptoms of consumption showed themselves and her strength began to fade.

She was fond of Carl Salomé, a young merchant in St Petersburg. Salomé reciprocated her feelings and he proposed to her. At the time she was already ill. We all had no hope for her, but she herself hoped to be able to recover. She wanted to marry the man she loved: but this was not in store for her.

I shall never forget the day when death entered our house for the first time, taking this beautiful 19 year old girl before she got married.

Half sitting up, her beautiful head leaning on the pillows, her brown eyes wide open,

looking upwards. So our poor sister parted from us!

My elder sister - truly valuing her sister's young, innocent, pure soul - selected the following verse which has been engraved on the white marble pyramid.

The Gardener's hand
Broke this beautiful flower so early
But in reality the Gardener did not break the flower
He transplanted it into better surroundings.. In Heaven

Alexander (4.8.1827) At the age of 8 or 9 he was put into the Petri-School and later into the St Petersburg Second Gymnasium. He left that school in 1847, after having passed the final examination. Afterwards he entered the St Petersburg University, but six months later he went to Dorpat (Estonia) where he studied chemistry.

Friedrich died in October 1850. My father wished Alexander to come into the Office. But in the Spring of 1851, when Alexander came back from Dorpat to our house in St Petersburg, it was noticed that his lungs were not in good condition. He left St Petersburg and he never returned. At first it was contemplated that he should continue his studies in Bonn, but this plan had to be dropped ultimately. It was decided that he must have rest and collect his strength. In 1851 he stayed in Pau; in the winter of 1852-53 he lived in Rome. Then he returned and he was considered to be strong enough for work.

He decided to go for agriculture and until the Spring of 1855 he did practical agricultural work. At first he worked at Frankenfelde, near Wriezen on the Oder (Potsdam district) and afterwards in Garden, near Greifen hagen (Stettin district). Things seemed to be progressing satisfactorily, but suddenly he developed inflammation of the lungs. He began to spit blood. He had to go to Lippspringe. In September of that year he went to Madeira and uncle August accompanied him. Soon I followed them and there I met him again after 5 years

In Madeira he recovered quite quickly and the next summer he went to Germany. But in the Autumn he returned to Madeira and there he remained till April 1859, when fully cured, he went back to Germany and stayed there, in Meran, with father and his family.

By this time he had reached his 32nd year and he began to consider starting an occupation. This was no easy problem. Owing to illness he had lost many years and, besides that, it seemed to be risky for him to settle down in the Northern part of Europe. Father now began to feel rather lonely, after losing his second wife. He therefore did not urge Alexander to start something on his own; on the contrary he seemed anxious to have him near him. During the winter of 1860-61 Alexander went to Würzburg where he studied botany; but in August 1863 he came back to father in Dresden and there he remained.

On the 26th of August 1863 he married Eugenie Seeböhm of Würfel (near Hanover). With her parents she went to Hamburg and later to Lübeck, where she attended school.

In 1858 the Seebohm family settled in Dresden and there Alexander and Eugenie got to know each other.

Alexander and Eugenie have four children: Frieda, Franklin, Eugenie and Alexander, aged, respectively 24, 22, 28 and 14 years (1888).

Franklin joined the German Army. After passing his school examination he joined the Saxonian Army in 1886 and at present he is serving as a Lieutenant in Leipzig.

Frieda and **Eugenie** (Enny), like **Alexander** (Aleck) live with their parents.

Alexander, when 20 year old, was a tall, good looking young man and people who met him in those days got on with him very well. Society liked him, and one may say society spoiled him, but not in the actual sense of the word. One could not find a better son than he was to our father, and never a better brother to us or a better husband and father to his wife and children.

To our father he became quite indispensable. This also applies to his present relations with uncle August; and since 1877, when father died, we brothers and sisters have looked upon Alexander - with full justification - as the Head of the Family.

Alexander's career has been affected by his prolonged illness and yet his life can in no way be considered as having gone astray although he had no profession of his own. It must have given him great satisfaction to feel that for 14 of his best years, which were not free from personal cares, he devoted himself to our father until the latter died.

We, brothers and sisters, have reason to be grateful for having found, in Alexander, such a faithful executor of our father's Last Will and such a good and loyal trustee for our sister Mathilde.

Within a few weeks Alexander will celebrate his Silver Wedding. Speaking generally, the 25 years of his married life have been extremely happy. It is true that the numerous illnesses of Eugenie and the children have often caused considerable anxiety; but speaking generally their life has been crowned by their happy marriage and by sincere love, which included their children, sisters and brothers. Our sincerest wish is that this may continue for a long time!

When dear Eugenie became ill - 15 months ago - Alexander was going through hard days. Rather serious trouble with her lungs made it necessary for Eugenie and her daughter (Enny) to spend a winter in Meran, and Alexander, Frieda and Aleck had a rather lonely time in Dresden.

Every year now, I see Alexander and his family when I pass through Dresden, when I go to Russia. In 1886, and also last Christmas, I took Emmy with me to Dresden for the winter. Dear Frieda was rather lonely that year and she much appreciated our company. During April their two girls came to London and Frieda stayed with us for almost three

months.

In previous years Father's house was an "headquarters". Now - thanks to Alexander's kindness - we go to him and his wife and we do enjoy the loving welcome we receive.

Alexander is quite well known in Dresden and he holds several honorary posts in the city's municipal affairs. This is a good, though not always pleasant, occupation for him.

Julie (14.3.1828-2.4.1829)

Emilie (28.5.1829-27.4.1852) She did not possess her sisters' talents and had not her sisters' good looks. If I may say so, she never came to the front. (*Put herself forward?*) *D.B.* Owing to the death of Julie she had lost her natural playmate and she felt somewhat lonely at home, where she was educated. There was too big a difference in the ages. Betty was three years older, whilst we four boys went to school. Betty was also sent to the Petri-school and made good progress there. Emilie attached herself to me and Eduard, and, when he died, she had in me the brother whom she liked best.

This poor sister did her best in endeavouring to make progress in music, drawing and painting, but her successes were somewhat meagre. Often she said that she felt it very much that she was not very talented.

She lost her mother so early (20) and therefore she never had the full advantage of having her mother at her side. Father and her brothers and sister did not fully understand her when she was a young girl, and so she did not find full support in the questions of importance in her life. Also, after Betty's death, Carl Salomé remained a true friend to us all, and when Emilie reached the appropriate age, Salomé began to pay attentions to her. This alarmed her. She rather liked another man, who reciprocated her feelings, though - for social and other reasons - obstacles stood in his way. He had reason to fear that his wooing might not meet with the family's general approval.

My father had a good opinion of Salomé and he rather favoured him in his aforementioned intentions. When Salomé and Emilie had an open discussion on this subject, she told him bluntly that her feelings towards him could never be more than those which generally exist between brothers and sisters. After this statement Salomé should have withdrawn, especially as he knew to whom Emilie's heart belonged. But he did not follow this course! On the contrary, he told her that her feelings towards him as a friend sufficed him, and that he hoped that love would follow later on. He took advantage of the fact that father had a good opinion of him and therefore he foresaw that she would eventually say, "yes".

This showed want of pride and want of honourable and noble feelings. This state of affairs raised a kind of barrier between Salomé and Emilie's brothers and sisters.

I should not have written these words, but I am convinced that they are absolutely justified. Emilie spoke quite openly with me about this serious trouble of hers, and she

had to hide her tears when she approached the altar. She was in utter despair.

Es ist eine alte Geschichte	It is an old, old story
Doch bleibte sie immer neu!	Yet still t'is ever new!
Und wer sie juet passieret,	And he who passes thru it
Der bricht das Herz entzwei	His heart it breaks in two

In about a years time they had a little girl. that was in January 1852. The little girl was given the name Elizabeth.

Before the birth of her little daughter Emilie began to cough, and other symptoms appeared. After the birth this developed into consumption and my poor sister died on April 27th 1852.

In a way, it may be considered a blessing that her life ended so quickly. For what was in store for her, after tying herself to a man she did not love? Her death has also saved her future pain, as their poor girl, when 16 or 17 years old became insane.

I wonder whether my father understood how he had influenced poor Emilie's life, by insisting that she should marry Salomé. I rather doubt it. But I know that when, some time later, Salomé began to show attention to my sister Marie, father said clearly, "No"!

That ends this sad chapter. Ultimately Salomé married a friend of Emilie's (1855) a Miss Sophie Ziemssen. Her good qualities and excellent character I cannot speak too highly of. We brothers and sisters must feel indebted to her for she became a good and devoted step-mother to our niece, Betty. When Betty became insane, Sophie brought her to Dr Lehn's Asylum in Zehlendorf - Berlin. She recovered there to such an extent that twice she was given permission to return to St Petersburg, but finally she became completely insane. She is still in Zehlendorf and incurable.

Sophie Salomé had four daughters and one son. Marie, Ida, Fanny, Wilhelm and Sophie. Their respective ages are; 32, 31, 26, 23 and 20. Marie married Gustav Monkevitz. He died in 1886. The other daughters have not married. The son has just finished at the University.

I visit the family in St Petersburg every year when I am there. I have tried to establish a warm relationship with Carl Salomé but in vain. It is too much for me to forget his egotistic behaviour towards my poor sister. But all the more do I like Sophie and her children - especially Sophie - I consider her to be a faithful wife and a sincere mother.

Eduard (21.1.1833-14.6.1848) I called him my "Herzensbruder" (the brother closest to my heart). This tribute he deserved in every way. Between him and myself there was a difference in age of only sixteen months. We grew up together; we both went to Aunt Sophie's school. We entered school on the same day and, up until 1846 we were in the same school classes. We understood each other perfectly and we were great friends. Like Betty, Alexander, Marie and Ida, my brother Eduard had dark hair and brown eyes,

whilst the other brothers and sisters were more of the Krohn type. We were blond and the colour of our eyes was light.

Eduard was a good looking boy, full of character and he had a quite good constitution. When we children played "Circus" he had to act as the "strong man". When Eduard reached his seventh and I my eighth year we were sent to a school for small children, where we were weekly boarders. Eduard, acting as the "strong man" used to carry me on his shoulders. The name of our excellent teacher was Nicolai Ivanovitch Nossoff. We attended this school for two years before we were to be put into the "Gymnasium", which was also Alexander's school. However, there were no vacancies at the Gymnasium, so we were sent to the Petri-school. Later, August and Wilhelm were sent to the same school as we two. Thus four brothers of our family went to the Petri school. Often we played our pranks there. By which expression I mean that we were rather boisterous boys and we enjoyed our fun. The teachers had their troubles with us!

But nevertheless we attended to our duties at school; but I must add that we were not "tip-top" scholars, except August, who was often held up as a good example. Eduard was a fairly good scholar up to "Quarta". "Prima" was the class for beginners; then followed "Klien Prima", "Gross Prima", "Secunda" and "Klien Tertia" (6 months per class). Now, the school has arranged the classes differently. The Director, the Inspector and his staff accepted school-children as weekly or day-boarders. We stayed with the Inspector as weekly-boarders.

As I said, Eduard got through well, up to Quarta. In the Autumn of 1847 he was in his 15th year when - suddenly - he showed signs of physical weakness. But he refused to give in. He liked his school and he wanted to get through. However, he soon had to stay at home. The doctors diagnosed his illness as stomach consumption (Magen-Zehrung). Soon his voice became hoarse. About Easter he lost his voice and the doctors said that he had consumption of the throat. He grew thinner and thinner and very soon his strength had decreased to such an extent that he could hardly go as far as his couch, or to his bed. His cheerful character changed into deep melancholy. He now had a presentiment of what awaited him. He never complained. He shouldered his sufferings calmly and patiently. During May we left St Petersburg for Orianenbaum. We had fine spring weather and Eduard began to hope for a better future. But very soon his illness developed and on the 14th of June 1848 my poor brother closed his eyes for ever. As in Betty's case, his death was gentle and peaceful.

August (28.7.1834-11.5.1855) As a child, he was very weak and delicate. I should not like to say that mother rather spoiled him, but she was inclined to let him have his own way. Soon he grew more robust, and went through the classes of the Petri-school without difficulty. In a way he had an advantage. He learned from his elder brothers. He was good at mathematics, his handwriting was good, and he expressed the wish to enter a commercial career. At the age of 17 he left school and he got a situation with Hornsby and Co, where he was to take my place on my going to the Brewery, in 1851.

Hornsby & Co were satisfied with him. He had a good deal of free time at his disposal

there and during these hours he studied music and languages. He was orderly by nature. Good entertainments - music etc - gave him great pleasure. He had a special liking for the theatre and he showed talent as an amateur actor. He and some of his friends (among them Alexander Brückner, who is now a professor in Dorpat, and Wilhelm Bolin of Helsingfors) formed an amateur theatrical circle. They christened it the Angely Theatre, and their performances - for friends - were enjoyed by old and young.

August had a gift for observation. He had a good sense of humour and mimicry and he was the right person for their Angely Theatre.

At the beginning of 1852 there appeared some signs and symptoms indicating approaching illness. This alarmed poor August and after mother's and his sister's and brother's sad experience he began to surmise what these symptoms were likely to mean for him.

At the end of August he went to Venice. He had to travel by coach via Tauroggen (*Taurage?*) *D.B.* Königsberg (*now Kaliningrad in Lithuania*).*D.M.B.* At that time such trips took five days and five nights. A journey of that kind, of course, affected his health considerably. Yet he decided to proceed from Königsberg to Venice without interruption. As he wrote to father, "The fine train stood ready for me in Königsberg". At Königsberg or Berlin his brother Alexander joined him and August hurried on. In Berlin he began to "spit blood". This, of course, increased his anxiety; he and his brother therefore decided to proceed to Venice without intervals. In Venice he settled in one of the hotels in St Mark's Square. In October Ida and Mme Patt, joined him in Venice and the winter passed satisfactorily. So August became hopeful again; but in April there came a turn for the worse. His condition worsened rapidly and before the end of the month the poor boy died. His grave lies on the lagoon island of San Christofore, near Venice.

Marie 26.11.1836-10.1854 I am unable to give details about her. She was more August's playmate. We became friends when she was practically grown up. She was good looking and she was rather like her mother. She had inherited mother's gentle outward appearance and the gentle expression which mother had in her eyes.

Father engaged a French Governess for Marie and Ida. Mme Euphrasie Patt,, of Parris. Mme Patt, was a nice, amiable elderly lady who faithfully remained with us. She was very helpful not only to my sisters but also to August and me.

Marie, like us all, was rather merry and full of life. She was a good scholar and, like August, Wilhelm and Ida (all nearly the same age) she had a happy youth. But in 1854 Marie's sufferings commenced. She was to be confirmed, at church. Her confirmation was to take place during the Easter holidays but it had to be postponed indefinitely. In May we went to our country house (between Peterhof and Orianienbaum). Our summer place was close to the so-called German Colony. The summer passed fairly well for Marie. It was fortunate that she did not quite realise her condition - though now and again she must have had forbodings. When we returned to the city and when the Autumn weather set in the crisis began for her. In October we carried the body of the dear

seventeen year old girl to Volkovo (*Volkhov?*) *D.M.B.* Her young heart had not yet got into touch with the outside world.

I believe Ida, who was Marie's only and best comrade and playmate, was affected the most of all by her death, and dear Mme Patt, no doubt expressed our feelings best when she quoted Malherbe's fine words:-

Et, rose, elle a v,cre ce que vivent les roses, L'espace d'un matin".

Wilhelm 20.2.1838 I remember the day well, when we elder children were told to have a look at him whilst he was in his cradle. We were astonished to see the baby.

He grew up nicely as a lively active fellow and in August, Marie and Ida he found his playmates. Ronny must be rather like Wilhelm. At least, in 1884 when he visited Finland, where they remember Wilhelm quite well, everybody said of Ronny, "He looks just like Wilhelm at that age." Also in St Petersburg the Naeboes and other friends remarked on this great resemblance.

After his first years at the Petri-School, he was sent to the School of Metallurgy. This school follows military principles and is run by the Government. The pupils are called "cadets". They wear uniform and they are under stern military discipline. Wilhelm remained in this school of Metallurgy for four years. Afterwards he was put into the Academy of Arts in order to get special training as a future Architect, but he never took that degree. When he reached the age of 19 he also showed signs of the ominous illness. It was decided to send him immediately to the South.

In the summer of 1857 I happened to be in Switzerland, when my father wrote to me that I should go, at the end of August, to Lübeck, in order to meet Wilhelm, who was to go to Lübeck from St Petersburg. Wilhelm proceeded with me, after having spent a few weeks in Hamburg and on the Rhine, via London to Madeira. There we were received by Alexander and we three brothers stayed in Madeira until 1859. Under the described circumstances Wilhelm's education had not been very uniform. He, himself, began to feel this lack and with great energy and perseverance he decided to fill the gap. He decided to devote himself to commerce, but owing to our manifold obligations and connections in Madeira he did not find time to pursue his object. He therefore went to Tenerife and there he led a life which had his aforementioned object in view. He learned English systematically and in 1860 he entered Messrs Thomas Prehn & Co's office in London as a volunteer. However, in the autumn he became ill again and he hurried back to Madeira. In 1861 he went back to London and afterwards to Malaga, where Messrs Adolfo Pries and Co took him into their office. Wilhelm remained in Malaga until the spring of 1863. There he got the foundation of his commercial knowledge, which became so useful to him later on.

In March of 1863 he and I met again in Lisbon and we went to Dresden. Wilhelm was rather ill and my father was very disturbed about his health. By that time my commercial affairs in Madeira had got into a satisfactory state and Wilhelm and I decided to join

hands in business. In September I returned to Madeira and six weeks later Wilhelm followed me.

My firm N. Krohn acquired the style of Krohn Bros and later Krohn Brothers & Co.

In a fairly short time Wilhelm became fully acquainted with our business. In 1864 he went to London for our firm and there fixed satisfactory agreements. Soon he knew the business as well as I did, and before long he surpassed me in many respects. He had a much better gift for forming an opinion about people and commercial possibilities in general. Though somewhat nervous he is more persevering than I. It has been said of me; "Nicholai is a fidget," and I admit there is some truth in it. If I had not had Wilhelm at my side, the firm would not have prospered so well.

In 1861, when Mina and I went on our honeymoon trip we stayed in London for some time. There I got to know my sister-in-law Lizzie Grant as a jolly girl of about 16. Wilhelm saw her there for the first time. A few years later they met again in Madeira. By that time she had finished school and it became clear to us that Wilhelm and Lizzie would marry.

In 1866 they became engaged and in the July their wedding took place. A few weeks later our joint father-in-law died and this resulted in rather a sad end to their honeymoon trip.

Since 1857 Wilhelm's and my lives have been closely connected with each other and I believe I shall - when reporting my own life later on - revert to this time. In the meantime I wish to say Wilhelm's marriage can be described as a good example for everyone. He and Lizzie are a happy couple and they have five children, Kitty, Edmund, Ethel, Hugo and Mathilda. (*Wilhelmina Mathilda, always known as Tee. My mother*) D.B. At present their respective ages are 21, 19, 16, 13 and 11. Their healths are good and satisfactory. When the time was ripe for these children's education, Wilhelm - like myself - decided to settle down in London.

May 1880 Wilhelm and his family arrived in London. They were accompanied by our dear old mother-in-law, Mrs Grant, who would not for a moment consider remaining alone in Madeira. Wilhelm and Lizzie furnished two rooms in their house nicely for her and their relations towards the old mother-in-law are above highest praise.

Since Wilhelm settled down in London he has had very little rest. Our friend and partner in Madeira, Mr Saltler, is in every respect able to look after the business there. Nevertheless it corresponds with the firm's interests that Wilhelm goes to Madeira for the closing of the firm's annual balance sheets. He usually decides to prolong these Madeira visits till the spring shipments and respective purchases have been effected. Thus he assists Saltler very well.

Usually Wilhelm travels to Madeira at the beginning of January and returns to London during April/May. To combine all this with his London household is often a difficult

problem, but he carries out these voyages to Madeira with praiseworthy zeal. Last year he was able to travel with his wife and his three daughters. They went together to Madeira on account of Lizzie's bronchial catarrh. Ems? did not help her. The stay in Madeira did her good and on her return to London she had fully recovered. Edmund followed his parents to Madeira after completing his final school examinations. So, of their children, only Hugo remained in London, and we looked after him and Mrs Grant, for which purpose we moved into Wilhelm's house.

Edmund has decided to choose a commercial career and just now he is in Hamburg. In October he is to start there as an apprentice in a large office, for three years.

I have already stated that Wilhelm, in his boyhood, showed signs of having a talent for music. I have also said that, for some time he neglected this talent and that - later on - when in Madeira - he was able to superintend the musical education of his children. This work was not in vain. The children had in them "the holy fire" for music. I believe I can say that my brother may assume that his house was the only one which showed the musical tradition cultivated by my grandparents and my parents. The girls play the piano, Edmund - rather passionately - the violoncello and little Hugo the violin. (Later Tee learnt to sing very sweetly). *D.B.* "Frau Musica!" I am so glad that music has again found its place in our family.

Ida Sept 9th 1840 She was the youngest and the family's darling and for this attribute her nice looks and amiable character were the best foundation.

When our mother died Ida had not yet reached the age of nine. A loving guardian and governess was urgently required for her. Soon the aforementioned Mme Patté joined our house. Mme Patté was upright, honest and trustworthy. She possessed the necessary qualities for looking after Marie and Ida. Her knowledge could easily be supplemented in a city like St Petersburg, where we had such excellent teachers etc. This was, of course, attended to in every respect and Ida received an excellent education.

When 14 years old Ida went to Venice with Mme Patté. From there they went to Bellagio on Lake Como (May 1855). Soon afterwards they went to Lausanne, where Ida was put into a boarding establishment. She remained there for less than a year and in October 1856 she returned to St Petersburg where she completed her education under the excellent supervision of her step-mother. Mme Patté returned to Paris. In earlier parts I have related everything about Ida's education up to the time of father's departure to Dresden.

By this time she was 20 years old and owing to her timely departure from St Petersburg's climate and thanks to the excellent care she had received under Mme Patté's supervision, she was in good health, lively and full of youthful high spirits. Besides that she was a well brought up, pretty girl, well educated and full of charming amiability and feminine grace. She was not vain. She understood her position and she knew how to enjoy life.

In this respect she had ample opportunities in Dresden. I believe I can say none of her sisters had as fortunate and as happy a youth. Ida is a lucky girl.

In 1865 she became engaged to be married to Hugo von Eickstedt. He belongs to the Silesian nobility and he owns an estate. I applied to her for information so that I might include it in this chronicle, and she writes to me as follows:-

"The Eikstedts were knights of Thüringen and during the 12th Century - under Albrecht the Bear - they came to the Mark abd (*? typing error*) Pomerania and they belong to the oldest nobility of Pomerania. The property which they held is to a very great extent still in their possession. According to family deeds which still exist, the family is mentioned as having lived in Pomerania in 1187 and last year the family celebrated its 700th jubilee on one of their estates, and all the nephews took part in this festivity. The Eikstedts were "Schloss and Burggesessene zu Kolten Clempenow." The old castle still exists in Pomerania. It is in the hands of Hugo's cousin, Count von Eickstedt.

In 1357 the Eikstedts were Hereditary Exchequers (Erbk.,mmerer) (*Chancellors?*) *D.B.* of Pomerania and they still enjoy this honour (Seniorat-Würde). It has been bestowed upon them by the Kaiser. The late Kaiser Wilhelm I bestowed this honour on my brother-in-law Fritz in Selberkopp (an estate in Upper Silesia) in his capacity as Head of the Family. The heir to the right to this title is my husband."

Ida always had a craving for everything connected with nobility. We looked upon it as a weakness of hers. Considering our humble - cum - bourgeois descent, it looked to us as if her "longing" could not be reconciled with our families past and present. However, Ida had this longing in her head and she perfectly knew what she wanted. In these circumstances she said "Yes" when the Baron asked her to become his wife.

However she has no cause to repent this step. She could not have found a better and a more trustworthy companion for her life than Hugo. He is a man of fine tact, a sense of justice, clear judgement and of firm will; straight forward and of ever-lasting activity. Ida was right in saying "Yes" when he proposed marriage. I respect his noble birth, but especially his excellent personal qualities of character. Ida has devoted herself to her husband and he has "carried her on his hands" and he has made her very happy indeed.

Hugo has a small estate "Ottitz" in the neighbourhood of Ratibor and later on he purchased - with my father's money - a nice estate, "Gieraltwitz" near Kosel.

Their wedding took place on May 6th 1865. At that time I was in Madeira, which prevented my being present at Ida's wedding. The young couple went to Gieraltwitz. Hugo, as a good and experienced specialist in farming, had taken matters into his own hands on the estate. Now it is considered as an example of a first class estate.

We all - and especially the good old father - have been there repeatedly, and we have been glad to see how happy their marriage is. My dear sister lives there happily with her husband. Coming from such a large city and having no idea about life in the country, she soon became accustomed to the quiet life at Gieraltwitz and all her thoughts concentrated upon the happiness of her husband and her five children.

The eldest child, a boy, was given the name of Fritz. He was born on February 12th 1866. He died at the age of 11 months. Then they followed three girls, Ida, Maria and Mathilde, and a boy, who was christened Hugo. Their birth years were 1867, 1868, 1870 and 1873.

After good and thorough home education the girls were sent to the Kaiserin Auguste Convent (Stift) - for final education - in Charlottenburg. Ida and Maria finished at this Convent whilst Mathilde returned to Gieraltwitz on account of her health.

They engaged a teacher for Hugo, but now he is at the Gymnasium at a town in their neighbourhood.

In June 1886 Maria married Kurt von Pritzelwitz a lieutenant in the 1st Guards Regiment (Infantry) and they have settled down in Potsdam.

In January 1887 Ida, the elder sister, married Baron Hans von Riebnitz of the Cuirassiers, (Guards Regiment). Immediately after his wedding von Riebnitz left his regiment and they settled down not far from Gieraltwitz, on their family's estate in Silesia. On the 8th of December their son was born. He received the name Hans. On the 22nd of December Maria von Pritzelwitz had her daughter, Beata.

I wonder how Ida feels as a grandmother.

Eugen was born in March 1842, but five days later - after having been christened - he died.

This closes the list of my blood brothers and sisters and I now revert to my step-sister. *(Half-sister) DMB*

Mathilde (1856-1887) was born on April 6th 1856. She was hardly four years old when she lost her mother. She inherited from her mother not only many good qualities but also delicate health. Grandmother Behling lived at Meran at that time and she very often stayed with my Father in Dresden. She began to look after the child, but soon father found that - in spite of Mrs Behling's good intentions - this arrangement ought to undergo a change. When Miss Purchase began to direct Mathilde's education and training, it was rather difficult to combat the characteristics which had been allowed to develop. *(I imagine he means she was rather spoiled) D.B.* She was rather a clever girl. So she soon became the family's favourite. Some pages back I wrote that father took Miss Purchase and later also Miss Purchase's little niece Eliza into his house and how Mathilde and Eliza were educated together there.

When their education was completed, Eliza left the house and became a governess. But her health proved to be too weak and she had to give up her profession. She returned to Dresden, where she now lives with her Aunt.

Eliza and her aunt have saved some money. Besides that, father fixed a legacy for them. (*annuity?*) *D.B.* Thus they are in the position to lead a moderate if quiet life.

After father's death a flat in Alexander's house was placed at the disposal of Mathilde and Miss Purchase. There they lived for eight years, until Mathilde was married.

At the age of 22 Mathilde visited us in London during the summer and she became rather fond of the life there. Unfortunately her health was not strong and in consequence she was unable to take full advantage of what social life in London can offer to a young lady. But she saw enough of the life here to take with her lasting and pleasant recollections when she left.

In Dresden her health improved and within a few years she felt better than ever before. In 1882 she became engaged to a Saxonian Officer Lt Paul Barkety of Dresden. Barkety's regiment was quartered in Chemnitz (105th Prince Friedrich August's Regiment). At that time he was serving in the Saxonian Military Ministry. Later on he became a Captain and he was attached to the "Inlendantur". This made it possible for him to live in Dresden.

Mathilde was extremely happy to have, not only a dear husband, but also magnificent parents-in-law. She was so glad that they all lived in Dresden. She had a nice sister-in-law living in Dresden as well, who was married to her gay brother-in-law, Lt Ivan Barteky.

Colonel Barteky's wife and Miss Purchase put their heads together and established a nice household for the young couple and arranged a delightful nuptial-eve for them. The Colonel had a vein of poetry and Lt Ivan had talent as an amateur actor. Paul's sister, Mrs Heynig, Alexander and their children and some friends joined together.

"Hell wieherte der Hippogryph
und bäumte sich in pr.,chtiger Parade...."

(Prose translation. The Hippogryph neighed, full of joy and vigour! Prancing high the Hippogryph's magnificent form was displayed. Indeed full of joy and vigour. Now, no harness hampered Hippogryph, he was free! Full of joy he powerfully whirled his wings.

This is to indicate the atmosphere which governed their nuptial eve, which took place on June 13th. A nuptial eve which can hardly be surpassed.

This nuptial eve, as well as the wedding which followed on June 15th were grand festivals and the excellent dinner, as well as the ball which followed it, took place in Alexander's hospitable house. They were excellently arranged and Alexander, as head of the family, did know how to see to everything splendidly.

With the exception of Katinka we all came to Dresden. We, from London, turned up in full force. Wilhelm took Lizzie, whilst I was accompanied by Mina and Emmy. Robert

Grant, our niece Edith Stewart and Mathilde's good friend Auguste Allprews came with us.

As just indicated, the best of spirits prevailed. The young couple left for their honeymoon trip full of fine hopes for a happy married life.

On their return to Dresden the Bartekys lived in their comfortable home in Bismarck Square. Although Mathilde could not be described as having a strong constitution and although she had to be careful of her health, she could not be regarded as prone to illness and when she had her first baby, a girl, on July 22nd 1884 the young parents were full of joy.

During Christmas I visited them and I stayed with them several days. Mathilde was very lively and bright and it gave her pleasure to dance at a ball. This had been arranged by the Bartekys at a hotel. The following year I took Emmy to spend three months in Dresden and she enjoyed the warm-hearted, kind way in which they looked after her and she shared in Mathilde's and Paul's over their charming little Marca who was now 18 months old.

In March 1886 I went to Dresden again to take Emmy back. In April poor little Marca was taken ill and May 19th the poor little girl died. This broke Mathilde's heart!

The nursing of her little Marca had probably affected her delicate constitution and the death of her little daughter resulted in her breaking-down. Paul took her to Switzerland in order to strengthen her and to give her thoughts another direction. But in Engelberg her condition worsened; fever and spitting blood set in.

All this affected Mathilde very much and she longed to get back to her home. She accomplished the journey to Dresden by travelling short distances each day. For a few weeks she went to the outskirts of Dresden. I believe she went to Tharand. In the Autumn she returned and it looked as if she had grown stronger and somewhat calmer.

In the meantime Paul had taken a new flat in Sidenian Street. There Mathilde had not so many staircases to go up. Paul and she began to hope that her illness might improve. This hope proved to be in vain! Mathilde suffered from consumption and when I saw her again at Christmas 1886 I could not but come to the conclusion that her end was not far off. In this I was not mistaken! Neither the doctor's nor Paul's mother's devoted attention could stop the progress of the illness and on March 9th 1887 poor Mathilde's last day had come.

Leaning on her right arm, she passed away quietly without suffering pain.

At that time I happened to be in Berlin, where I had just arrived from St Petersburg and I, at once, hurried to Dresden.

Paul met me with tears in his eyes. All he could say was, "My dear Nicholas! The happy

days have ended so soon!"

A few days later we carried my dear sister to the cemetery where she found her resting place.

A man is expected never to lose his self-command. At any rate Paul bore his two losses manfully. After the death of my sister he became even more attached to our family; we have in him a dear brother-in-law and a good friend. Especially during last winter I learned to appreciate his excellent character.

Herewith I close our Family History which I began with the dates about our Great-grandfather. To the best of my ability I have tried to put these records together to give a description of the lives of the Krohns and of their relatives.

Now I come to my own.

CURRICULUM VITAE

I was born in St Petersburg on November 7th 1831. I have referred to my own childhood in the foregoing reports which dealt with my brother and sisters; especially I have referred to Emilie and Eduard, who were practically of the same age as I.

In the Nossow School in St Petersburg I was a fairly good scholar, in the Petri-School I improved somewhat, especially in the upper classes. Then I began to form my own judgement. I also began to look upon life from a more serious point of view. Mathematics were my weak point and to this day I am a bad "calculator". History and Literature interested me more.

When we got as far as "versification" and when we had to make our own verses, I was astonished to find how easy it is to make verses. I made bundles of verses, and I helped the other school boys, especially those of pure Russian origin. Thus the number of my friends increased and now and again they gave me a biscuit!

I derived pleasure from making verses (writing poetry, I dare not say!) and even today I have an opportunity now and again of occupying myself with verses of my own. For instance I enjoyed writing verses for August's Angely Theatre and on other occasions. If others have enjoyed these I ought to be satisfied. My father, smilingly, called me "Our Universal Poet for Special Occasions". I possessed no other talents. Eleven years ago I gave up playing the piano. But on the other hand I enjoy music, if it is not too "futuristic". I like to listen to singing.

At first I had the wish to study, but when I reached the age of 16, I decided to go in for the commercial line. When 17 years old I entered the St Petersburg Branch Office of Hornsby & Co and I worked there as a volunteer. Hornsby's office was in Liverpool. I spoke of it before. My work at this office was not difficult and not arduous. In those days no Railways existed from St Petersburg to Western Europe. Letters for abroad were dispatched by post coaches twice weekly, every Wednesday and Saturday. This resulted in our being rather busy every Tuesday and Friday. On other days we were free in the evenings, especially when the port was ice-bound. Under these circumstances I had a good deal of free time to spend on music, etc, etc.

I enjoyed reading good books, especially books dealing with Literature and History. I read the Classical Authors with special pleasure. I also enjoyed foreign languages, especially French, but English books were also to my liking.

Mme Patt, and her brother M. Jules Tamy were my excellent teachers. A very able gentleman assisted me in English. He was a gentleman in every sense of the word. He had lost his capital in Australia and then he, somehow, came to St Petersburg. His name was Mr Carlisle Irving Christopherson. Apparently he had taken a fancy to me. He usually kept me over the fixed hours and he dealt with subjects that went beyond my real programme. I have him to thank for having received quite a good knowledge of the English language and of the beautiful English Literature.

Later, when I entered the Brewery, I also went to Professor Carl Schmidt and he taught me the rudiments of Chemistry. The prevailing circumstances made it impossible for me to learn more from him. In a city like St Petersburg there was, of course, no lack of first class Society; but I had little time for making such acquaintances. In those years I had to occupy myself in the Brewery, where I often attended also to the night-shift's work.

I preferred a certain "circle". I mean the families of Pandar and Hueck. I visited them frequently and their numerous friends gave me useful ideas and impressions. At the end of 1850 I got into the circle of the Fixen's and they attracted me to such an extent that Mme Patt, took the liberty of saying, "Ce Nicholas n'a qu'une id,e Fix!"

Our family friendship with the Fixens and Bartels, (Mrs Marie Fixen was n,e Bartels) dates back to the time of my grandparents and this pleasant relationship has continued for generations. To some extent our children still enjoy this privilege.

I found the Fixen's home to be the ideal of family life. The parents, the four sons and the five daughters were all in good health and sincere love was the connecting link between them. I felt deep respect for good-natured old Mr Heinrich Fixen and I had an almost child-like affection for Mrs Marie Fixen. She treated me as if I had been her own son. She replaced in many respects my own mother whom I had lost in my early youth. Their son, Carl Fixen, went to school with me from Tertia up to the highest classes in the Petri-school. We were, and to this day we are, sincere friends.

Carl's eldest brother I did not know at this time. He lived in Hamburg, but his brothers Fritz and Burchardt, as well as their intelligent brother-in-law Alexander Benois were my faithful companions. Carl was my closest friend. Of course his sisters were also my good and true friends. I can say the same of their parents. The harmonious life in the Fixen's home was the attraction for me, and they had an extremely good influence upon me.

In my father's house - after mother's and so many brothers' and sisters' deaths. I felt a gap which could not be filled. In the Fixen's home I found a substitute, which to some extent replaced what I had lost at home. I stuck to their house with my whole soul and with all my feelings. I benefited from their influence which protected me from many dangers.

It is therefore obvious that I was deeply grieved when the Fixens left St Petersburg for Hamburg in the Autumn of 1854. After their departure I felt utterly lonely. But time heals everything, and this applies in this case also!

Since 1854 I have visited the Fixens in Hamburg, but during the 34 years their house has also undergone changes and their life is now quiet and different. Many members of the family have passed away. Only Heinrich, Marie, Benois, Burchardt, Emilie and Katty are now in Hamburg. But my dear Carl in St Petersburg has also survived and he is in good health.

After the death of my brother, Friedrich, father wished - as I have already mentioned - that Alexander should enter the firm. However the latter had to go Southwards on account of his health and I entered the service of the Brewery.

On the foregoing pages I have described our family's life in earlier times. Now I should like to add - with full love and devotion - my part in it from my childhood till my departure for abroad in 1855.

Before I started this long trip I had been abroad twice, in 1853 and 54. In 1853 I visited Finland for a few weeks, and in Uncle Leopold's house I enjoyed their great hospitality. From Vyborg I went to the Eastern part of Finland, including Lake Ladoga and the picturesque Island in which the Russian Monastery of Varlaam is situated.

During the Summer of 1854 I went to Moscow for several weeks and on that occasion I saw far more of the old City of the Czars than in following years. In all I visited Moscow 15 times. I also visited the famous, historic old Trinity Monastery, Troitzko-Sergejevskaya Lavia, which lies about 70 versts from Moscow. At the end of April 1855 I travelled by so called Post Coach, pulled by horses, from St Petersburg to Warsaw. It took five days and six nights of uninterrupted driving!

Journeys of that kind were not very comfortable. At any rate we reached Warsaw - a city which is not to my liking. (During the last 15 years I have visited Warsaw repeatedly, but I cannot say that I like this city). After having interrupted my journey in Warsaw for 12 hours I hurried on via Vienna, Laibach and Trieste to Venice. I hoped to see my brother August in Venice, but before my arrival he had been buried there! I stayed in Venice for one week from there I went with Mme Patt, and Ida to Lake Como. From there I went alone to Switzerland.

The doctors had prescribed a cure for me. The Salzbunnen district was the best for me and I selected Gleichenberg in Steyermark. During July of the same year I went to Meran and from there via Innsbruck and Voralberg to Switzerland.

In Geneva I met the Breitensteins (Katinka and family). Ida and Mme Patt, were also there. I did not feel too well and the doctors advised me to stay in the South. I therefore proceeded to Madeira, where Alexander and Uncle August had already gone.

On account of the Crimean War, Russian subjects were unable to obtain passports to go via France. I therefore travelled via Solothurn Basle and the Rhine to Cologne and from there, via Ostend to London. In the middle of October I reached this gigantic city! I saw London for the first time. I did not realise that, later on, England was to become my third home.

I have just said "my third home" for I look upon Madeira as my second home. Madeira, which beautiful island I have mainly to thank for my recovery. Besides that, it was in Madeira that I found my dear, brave wife. But on this subject I shall report later.

My stay in London did not last long. I took the first boat to Lisbon. I had hoped to get a suitable steamer from Lisbon to Madeira promptly but I had to wait in Lisbon for three weeks before there was a sailing to Madeira.

In Lisbon I saw the picturesque South for the first time and I began to understand why the South is loved by so many. However I must add that during my 12 years stay in the South I had enough of it. I do not envy Wilhelm his frequent voyages to Madeira. I prefer Northern Countries and every winter when I see St Petersburg and Finland again - I am so glad.

In 1855 things were different. I enjoyed Lisbon and its surroundings in the fine October and November days. The fine surroundings stirred my heart. Nature's beauty, the mild climate and the magnificent sun - they are unique!

The first three years of my stay in Madeira must be considered the laziest of my life. I had no proper occupation - from morning till night! All I had to do was to look after my health. No trouble whatsoever! Idleness - in the highest degree!

However I must add that I began to learn the Portuguese language. In the course of a few months I had acquired enough of the said language to enable me to converse freely. Later, at Tenerife, I learned Spanish. The two languages somewhat resemble each other.

During my second winter I read many Portuguese books and after a few months I was able to read Luiz Camoens' language to such an extent that I enjoyed Frannico Aleoforado's report about the Discovery of Madeira. I came across this book in the Municipal Library of Funchal and translated it into German.

I herewith dedicate this translation to Fritz! Uncle August and also Alexander and I lived in an extremely comfortable Boarding Establishment. Besides Alexander and myself there were a few Germans staying there. Very soon we got into the best Portuguese, English and German circles. Our health improved rapidly and we were in a position to live according to our wishes. At the end of February Uncle August and we two went to Tenerife for two months, where our sojourn was as pleasant as in Madeira.

It was too early in the year to go up the 2000 ft high peak of Tenerife (Rice de Teyde) but we reached the rim of the crater called Cañadas del Rice. From this peak we had a splendid view over the valleys and the dark blue ocean.

In Uncle August the fatigue of going up as high as this would have been too much; he therefore stopped at Orotava. We two spent the night at the highest spot of the island. The following morning we returned - in the best of condition - to Orotava. There we saw the gigantic "Dragon tree", which Alexander von Humbolt refers to in his book "Views of Nature". (Ansichten der Nature). I believe the age of this tree has been estimated to have been about 6,000 years! Twelve years later (1867-68) this fine, centuries old tree collapsed during a storm.

At the end of April we were again in Madeira. Four weeks later Alexander and Uncle August went to Germany whilst I remained on the island although the Cholera had broken out. About 10% of the population died, but the cholera did not affect me or my friend, the botanist, Dr Schmidt. In his company I crossed the island in all directions. During November Alexander came back and we spent the whole winter in Madeira.

In our Boarding Establishment we made the acquaintance of Mrs Scholz and her daughter, K., the and also of Berta Jung. They were from Mainz and I have remained in touch with them. Many recollections of our stay in the magnificent Rhineland bind me to the Jungs: when going to Germany I always stayed for a time at their house. Later on my wife and children accompanied me to the Scholzs, who received us in the most hospitable way.

At the end of March, I went to Europe, and the voyage was extremely pleasant. I went by a steamer called the "Medway" which was on the way from Rio de Janeiro to Lisbon. We had to stop there for five days owing to yellow fever, which was raging in Rio. This quarantine in Lisbon was rather unusual. Lisbon's large quarantine building was overcrowded and there was no room for the passengers of the SS Medway we were therefore all sent to a dismantled man-of-war anchored on the Tejo. There we lived excellently! On the one hand we were rather a jolly company and on the other we were surrounded by lively social life. All this, combined with splendid spring weather resulted in our time passing quickly and pleasantly.

Six or seven of the Medway's young passengers from Spanish South America went to Cadiz, Gibraltar, Sevilla, Malaga, Grenada, Valencia and Barcelona. We spent about a week there; afterwards we went on to Sevilla, where we stayed in a small hotel, quite close to the Alhambra near Granada. It was of especial interest to visit the historic abbey of Montserrat, near Barcelona.

From Barcelona I travelled via Certe, Nimes and Arles to Marseille and Toulon; from there via Avignon to Lyon and ultimately to Switzerland. I stayed in Geneva, which I made my centre for my visit to Switzerland. I stayed in the "Berner Oberland" for six weeks and at the end of July I went via Basle to Germany.

In Heidelberg I spent some very pleasant days with old friends from St Petersburg. The old friends were the Sadlers. We celebrated their silver wedding with Dr Sadler and his family on the terrace of the Castle in Heidelberg.

From Heidelberg I hurried to Lübeck (via Hamburg) in order to meet Wilhelm, due there from St Petersburg. We met in Travemünde and until the end of September we were in Hamburg and on the Rhine. From there we went for a fortnight to London.

On October 9th we left by steamer from Southampton for Madeira. The steamer called at Lisbon where yellow fever was raging. In consequence we had to undergo a fortnights quarantine in Madeira. This quarantine was not so pleasant as that previously mentioned in Lisbon. On November 1st we were allowed to leave the quarantine station.

Alexander, who had remained in Madeira while I made the aforementioned journey to Europe, had secured a nice Quinta (country house with garden) and there we three brothers set up house.

It fell to my lot to run the house. Our acquaintances were mostly English and when they saw my duties in our Quinta they called me "Mistress Krohn". Alexander remained Mr Krohn whilst Wilhelm, in view of his young and beardless face, was known as "Miss Krohn".

Our friends got used to these nicknames and in consequence they always addressed us in this way and for dinner parties, picnics, balls etc we often received invitations worded, "Mrs X requests the pleasure of Mr, Mrs and Miss Krohn's company etc" and to such invitations we replied "Mrs Krohn has much pleasure in accepting Mrs X's invitation, etc".

The following may be an even better example of what I wished to explain in the last paragraph. When I began to pay court to Miss Grant, who is now my wife, she often addressed me - jestingly - at that time as "Mrs Krohn" and this has become her habit. Even now she always calls me Mrs Krohn.

This winter that I speak of was delightful. In our English Colony there were quite a number of young ladies who had reached an interesting age. We all formed a jolly and animated circle. Riding, picnics, dinners and dances were on our daily programmes. We 'unoccupied' three brothers of 30, 26 and 20 respectively were always "at disposal" and we were fully "occupied" in this circle. It is almost astonishing that the health of my two brothers and myself could stand all this. We had gone to Madeira to strengthen our constitutions!

When we had moved into our Quinta, I made Miss Grant's acquaintance. The first time I saw her she was on horseback. She was an excellent rider. Her graceful, neat figure, her deep blond hair, her fresh little face and her eyes, full of life, and her ever-kind expression captivated me right from the beginning. Without any long reflection I requested a gentleman who knew the Grant family to introduce me to this young "Amazon".

Introduction:- Mr Krohn - Miss Grant.

(Short pause)

First Conversation:-

"I am delighted to make your acquaintance, Miss Grant."

Light bow from her side, lightly blushing.....whispered words which were not quite audible.

"A fine afternoon?"
"Rather sultry....isn't it?"
"Shall we take a canter?"
"With pleasure."

Off we went galloping, was I on my head or my heels?....

The same evening we met at a Ball. Miss Grant was an excellent dancer. As a dancer she surpassed her art as "Amazon". She conversed so enjoyably, so naturally and interestingly - no wonder that after every dance I requested her to permit me to dance the next dance with her also, and one more dance - I was in love!!!!

I shall never forget that night, when we three brothers and a friend of ours went home and how we enjoyed our spree up till four o'clock in the morning, though my own thoughts were somewhere else. Our company consisted of Alexander, Wilhelm, Raymond Ellicott and me, but my thoughts were elsewhere!

The somewhat unruly mood of the three "Schmorfinken" did not match my sentiments. My thoughts led me to hum the old Russian ballad:-

"I lay my bold, rash head upon your shoulder,
In your hands I lay my freedom,
That freedom which, till now, was mine alone!"

It is easy to guess of whom I dreamed that night!!

When I awoke on the following morning, one thing was clear to me.....in Miss Grant I had found my life's fortune. Now the great problem was, "How am I to attach her to me?"

I got an introduction to the Grant household and thus I had an opportunity of getting to know Wilhelmina, Mina for short. That was Miss Grant's name.

The winter months passed quickly and after a certain time I could see that my feelings were reciprocated. In May I had the courage to propose to Mina!

How we found each other and how everything happened that cannot form a part of this chronicle. The memory of the wonderful moment when Mina and I found each other, is dear to her heart and mine. Sober words cannot describe what we felt in our hearts.

Mr William Grant was a rather practical man. He had no objections, except that I was an "idle man". He said, first I must have an occupation and a certain income, sufficient to maintain a wife and family. I must first prove that such conditions existed.

His stipulations were not unduly high; he said an annual income of œ400 a year had to be looked upon as the minimum. Until then, he said, he could not approve of my proposal.

That put an end to my idleness! In St Petersburg my Father was seeing to the liquidation of his affairs. In any case I had to find suitable employment elsewhere. Mr Grant proved, in this case also, to be a practical man and he indicated to me how I could earn money in Madeira. I replied, "All right, Mr Grant. Thank you! Off I went to England. From there I hurried to Dresden where Father and the rest of my family arrived two days later. I explained to Father my position in general and I added my request. I was extremely glad to see how favourably he considered my explanations and request. I was equally glad that my step-mother supported me so warmly, when discussing matters with father.

After receiving father's approval I returned to Madeira; but the details could not be settled before October, for Mr Grant was not only a practical but an experienced man. But now I was allowed to visit the Grants whenever I wished.

Under these conditions the winter was a very pleasant one. We three brothers again rented a house, and Uncle August, who had come to Madeira for the second time, lived with us. A young Russian Szepar Chayeff joined us and we all looked after the house and affairs in general. "Mrs Krohn" had a lot to do and that was my good fortune, for I needed useful occupation.

This was the year of the Comets or rather of the "falling stars". Some people said these "falling stars" meant misfortune, whilst I felt sure they would bring me good luck, and I look upon them as a good omen for myself. It is natural that my thoughts about my future gave me a serious outlook. There were difficulties that I had to overcome, and some of these posed serious problems. I had given my word of honour! I felt my personal responsibility. My pledges had to be fulfilled, and that in the quickest possible time. During my serious reflections I found moral support and hope in the following lines of Lenau.

"Though the winter threatens us with snow and ice and
with all its dangers....yet....Spring is coming!"

And our Spring was coming - our Spring drew nearer. My plans for my, for our future, began to take shape favourably for me.

In May 1859 I again visited my father in Germany. With his usual kindness and generosity he advanced me the money I needed to start my business in Madeira. I went to England. There I bought the necessary goods and then I hurried back to Madeira. Three weeks later my goods arrived and so I was in a position to start my business, at the end of September - beginning of October 1859!

Twelve months later I drew up my balance sheet. It showed a profit of œ500!

Now my first step was to visit Mr Grant. The old gentleman was convinced that I was no longer an "idle man". He rather liked me, and when I showed him the financial result of

my work, he was as glad as I! Now nothing stood in the way of my marrying Mina and our wedding was fixed to take place on February 20th 1861.

The usual preparations were made. Time passed quickly. Mrs Grant and Mina purchased the trousseau whilst I was fully occupied with arranging our new home. The house was on the "Achada" in the Funchal neighbourhood. During the Autumn Wilhelm had come back to Madeira and he, of course, acted as our best man. The bridesmaids were:- Miss Jane Sword, Miss Emily Lewis, Miss Fanny Blandy and Miss Clara Penfold, and, for our honeymoon, Mr Grant's property at Santa Cruz, about 12 English miles from Funchal, was at our disposal.

At last. Almost three years we had waited and now our married life began!

The English differ from us in some respects and many of the things they do conflict with our customs. They pronounce the vowel A as E. Our I they pronounce Ai; instead of Cacao, they refer to Cocoa, instead of keeping to the right they take the left side. The bridegroom does not - as on the Continent - wear his "Swallow-tail and a white tie, but, free and easy, he wears a morning coat. On the other hand the bride appears in a beautiful wedding dress.

However I like this English custom!

In my blue morning coat and waistcoat and light grey trousers and coloured tie (I believe I was wearing the straw hat customary in Madeira) I arrived with Wilhelm in the customary Madeira sledge pulled by oxen; at the Registrar's Office, and soon my bride, accompanied by her parents appeared there too.

Madeira, even in Funchal, the capital, is so mountainous that ordinary vehicles cannot be used. People therefore use horses, hammocks or a special kind of sledge, which is pulled by oxen. This custom originates from Holland.

Abroad, Great Britain entrusts the duties of the Registry Office to its Consulates. The name of the British Consul in question was Captain Erskine; who was an acquaintance of mine. When he placed the Register before me, after having asked me the customary questions Captain Erskine passed the following, somewhat misplaced remark, which was supposed to be a joke: "I say, Krohn, that is like signing your own death warrant. " Smilingly I replied, "I know better, Captain." I signed the document, underlining my name with a thick stroke of the pen.

Thus we were "de jure" a married couple, but the English Society, and especially their ladies, considered it absolutely necessary that the usual Church formalities should follow. In the English Church we were met by the bridesmaids, the guests and a large number of spectators. The Church ceremony was solemn and festive and at last I could look upon Mina as my wife.

We two drove together to the Grant's home. An excellent "Wedding Breakfast", the

"Wedding Cake" etc etc were enjoyed by everyone.

It goes without saying that high spirits prevailed. Wilhelm, as Best Man, proposed a toast to the health of the Bridesmaids and he coupled his complimentary words with the wish that the Bridesmaids might "soon be in a position to exchange the flowers which they wore that day for "myrtle and orange blossom". This remark was greeted with a general cheer. The Wedding Breakfast was over.

The Bridesmaids assisted Mina to change her wedding dress for a travelling costume for our journey to Santa Cruz. At about 4 o'clock our open oxen-drawn sledge left her parents house. We pulled down the curtains of the sledge. We were bombarded with old shoes and a real hail of rice in accordance with an old English custom. As soon as we reached the outskirts of the town we left the sledge and took to the horses which awaited us.

It took almost three hours before we had crossed, on horseback over the strep mountains that lie between Funchal and Santa Cruz. At last, at 7pm, we arrived at Santa Cruz where the Grant's house had been placed at our disposal.....

Before I continue my, now our biography I wish to give an account of my wife's family.

My wife's father came originally from Nairn, in the Scottish County of the same name. Nairn is on the Moray Firth. He was born in 1788.

As a young man he left Nairn and entered an office in Edinburgh. One day a lady called at the office and he heard her ask his "principal" whether he could recommend a suitable young man for her husband's Madeira office. The principal promised to consider whether he knew a suitable candidate. The lady was to call again within a few days.

When this lady left the office, she heard somebody call her name. On turning round she saw a young fellow. He said that he would very much like to go to Madeira and he gave his principal's name as reference, adding that his own was William Grant.

The name of this lady was Mrs Hallay. After having made enquiries which satisfied her, they came to terms. Young Grant went to Madeira having been engaged by her for her husband's office. That took place in 1807. He was then 19 yrs old.

(I always understood, from my Mother (Tee), that William Grant (her grandfather) ran away from home after his Father beat him unjustly. Being penniless and alone he found work, not in an office but in a grocer's shop. He was sweeping out the shop when the lady came in and spoke to the proprietor and he laid down his broom and followed her. This tale is the more "romantic" and it seems more likely that as a runaway he would have had to take the humbler job. However an office seems a more likely place for Mrs Hallay to seek a clerk for her husband than a grocer's shop. We shall never know!) D.B.

Mr Hallay was also Scottish and he received his countryman - young Grant - quite

friendly. He had no cause to regret having engaged the young man who became very useful to him and soon the firm could not do without him.

In those days it was said that Madeira wine needed to "travel" before it was at its best. The effect of being rocked about in casks in the hold of a ship for several weeks improved the flavour. This, however, besides being expensive was also risky, as the ships were sometimes lost or the cargo spoiled. William Grant invented a machine to rock the wine, which had the same effect at a very great saving of cost and risk. D.B.

A few years later Mr Grant established his own firm in Madeira. He imported textile goods and exported wines. At first he traded under his own name, William Grant, and later under the style of Rutherford, Grant & Co in Madeira and Rutherford, Drury & Co in London. Messrs Rutherford and Drury were Mr Grant's partners. Later on Mr Gibbs joined the firm. About 1850 my father-in-law resigned from the partnership and then the firm continued in Madeira under the style of Rutherford, Gibbs and Co.

These years were good times for business in Madeira! The goods imported made a handsome profit and the wine trade was in full swing to England, America, Russia and Germany. The demand exceeded the quantities it was possible to offer and profitable prices were obtainable. At the beginning of 1850 Mr Grant started a business to import British Coal to Madeira, which he sold to the steamers which called there. About that time he accepted his son-in-law, William Stewart, as his partner. After Mr Grant's death, Stewart continued the business and ultimately he sold it to Wilhelm and me in 1871.

My father-in-law did not possess a penny when he came to Madeira, however he had a good head on his shoulders, indefatigable energy and great perseverance. Thanks to these qualities he became a well-to-do business man. He owned two houses in Funchal and three small country estates in the Eastern part of the island. After reaching a certain age, these country Estates gave him special delight.

He married at the age of 47. His wife's maiden name was Mary Innes. The Inneses came from Edinburgh but they had settled in Madeira. My mother-in-law was born in Madeira in 1807. When her mother was left a widow she returned to Edinburgh with her children. At that time Mary and her brother Robert, were children.

Mary Innes was brought up in Edinburgh and there, at the age of 27 she married Mr Grant. My parents-in-law lived happily together for 37 years in Madeira, where their seven children were born.

The attached family table shows the whole family and their descendants up to today (1888).

My father-in-law was not tall; and rather slim. His features were rather pronounced. His eyes bore signs of temperament and life. He was rather inclined to look after his profit, but the English proverb, "Honesty is the best policy" was characteristic of him. During the 59 years which he spent in Madeira, old and young, rich and poor liked and respected

him highly.

Whenever his time permitted it, he left the office and went to his "farms" in Santa Cruz and in Camacha. In Santa Cruz he had built two houses. One of them was in the village, the second, called "The Hermitage" was on the way to St Antonio de Serra, about 1,000 ft above sea-level. On the land surrounding the two Quintas my Father-in-law, with his own hands planted several hundred trees. His delight in creating something new, in gardening, and in planting and in breeding domestic animals was remarkable. He stuck to this work of his until the end of his life.

In general he was very economical, or rather, I would say, thrifty - but when it was a question of supporting a school or a good cause he never stinted. He also supported his sisters, who lived in circumstances which made it difficult for them to make both ends meet. This also applies to other relatives of his. Besides that he did a lot of good in Madeira.

He was liberal and tolerant in the support of religious causes and there he followed broad-minded principles. In his ideas and views he was no follower of teetotalism, in contrast to some of his countrymen. No doubt he loved his children deeply, but as a man of a little over fifty he did not quite like it when the numerous children played in their noisy way. There is often a difference between men of over 50 and men between 25 and 30. The latter often like to join the children's circle and to play with them. This was not to my father-in-laws liking. However he did not wish to disturb the children and he therefore avoided them on these occasions. When the children grew up and questions of education arose, it was decided to send them to England and Scotland. The schools in Madeira did, and still do, leave much to be desired. In these circumstances my father-in-law has not seen very much of his children and his joys in this respect have not been too numerous. He himself seldom left Madeira. During the 59 years that he lived there, he went once to America, once or twice to the Azores and, I believe, to England twice.

However, in his old age, he had the satisfaction of having three of his daughters and their children around him in Madeira. In the evenings, when we played whist, he was very good natured and of extremely friendly disposition. It was a real pleasure to be in the company of the old gentleman. During the summer the children and grandchildren went to Santa Cruz or to the "Hermitage" to visit the old people.

My mother-in-law was about 20 years younger than her husband. She was always in good health, active and busy, and her love for the children was no less affectionate than that on her husband's side. When the children grew somewhat noisy he endeavoured to avoid them; my mother-in-law however joined them on such occasions, following the principle:

"She kept peace and good order but, please do not ask how!"

Yes! Mrs Grant had no real comprehension about the education of children. She - unlike

Mina and Lizzie, had not the gift of understanding the minds, dispositions and tempers of the children.

In every respect, she was Scots, of the old-fashioned type. She adhered to old fashioned ideas and principles about Religious faith and this in rather intolerant ways. Everything had to be in accordance with the Scottish Free Church. I must admit that during her long stays in non-Protestant countries these ideas became more liberal, but in the depths of her soul she remained unaltered. The reason for my mother-in-law's ways of thinking was due to the environment in which she grew up in Scotland. These who have had the opportunity of seeing how children were brought up in good old-fashioned Scottish families, where religious customs tended to fatigue the children, will be able to understand that later on there appeared tendencies to relax the stringent old Scottish rules and customs.

My wife and her sisters were brought up in the old fashioned Scottish ideas of those days. No doubt my mother-in-law wished to give her children the best possible and the right education. I am sure that my wife soon realised what life depends upon, and that her mother's - in some respect - hard rules may lead to undesirable results. On the other hand I should like to say that my mother-in-law's practical and general views on life were just as good as those of my own late mother.

The old-fashioned Scottish rules were not to the children's liking. Such tendencies often create fear, but this is eventually outgrown. Once this stage is reached, the grown-up children understand their mother and then warm-hearted and harmonious feelings rule the family.

This happened in the Grant Family!

I hope I have given an accurate picture of the life of the Grants. After Mr Grant's death, the Stewart family, Wilhelm's family and mine remained in Madeira and Mrs Grant's house was a centre for all of us.

In 1872 the Stewarts, and 1875 we left for England, and the life of Mrs Grant's house became quieter, and when Wilhelm followed our example in 1880, he, as stated earlier, took her to London with him. Soon after her arrival she had an apoplectic attack and later on a few more. (She also developed diabetes. D.B.)

Her condition is now serious and she requires constant help. But mentally she is in fairly good condition and in spite of her 81 years she is still astonishingly well and strong. Of course her life is now rather quiet and she is unable to attend our family gatherings regularly. She devotes herself to charity and she supports her brother Mr Robert Innes, and his family.

THE CHILDREN OF THE GRANTS

Mary Jane born 1835 She is my wife's eldest sister. In 1857 she married John Borthwick Greig, an Edinburgh Lawyer. He acts as a Parliamentary Lawyer and Solicitor

in London. The Greig's have two sons, James and William, and three daughters, Mary (Mimmie), Agnes and Lucy. William is associated with his father. He married Adelaide Boyd of London. The daughters are unmarried but a few months ago Mary became engaged to Mr Frederick Hobson of London. He also is a barrister. The Greigs can be considered as a family of Jurists.

My sister-in-law Mary is a splendid and dear lady, but rather pronounced Scottish Ecclesiastical prejudices are characteristic of her. Her children received an excellent education. My brother-in-law is extremely modest and good natured. We get on extremely well with each other.

Sarah Isabella born 24.4.1838 She is my wife's second sister. Her marriage and her sister Mary's took place in the same year. Her husband is William Arnot Stewart, from Perth. The young couple came to Madeira soon after their marriage and they stayed there till 1872. Mr Stewart became Mr Grant's partner in his Coal business, and he carried on this business until he sold it to us in 1871.

After leaving Madeira he lived in Cheltenham, but ultimately he settled in London. He is a well-to-do man but his wealth is of little use to him for his house-hold is in disorder. A few years ago his wife's mind became impaired and she now lives - far from her family - under the control of a competent medical specialist.

She was a pretty girl and her husband's true and faithful wife. For her children she did everything that could be expected of a good mother and the children were devoted to her in deep and sincere love. The children as well as their mother are deeply to be pitied.

Stewart is a talented man, gifted with high intelligence. In recent years we do not meet frequently and some estrangement exists between us. I leave it to our family to judge with whom the fault lies.

Charles, Edith, Edward, Joanna and Eleanor, the Stewarts Children, were born in Madeira. The two sons went to New Zealand a few years ago. It seems they have not been very successful. Charles is now in Australia and Edward in Buenos Aires. I do not know to what extent their father assists them.

The Stewart's eldest daughter, Edith, married William Evans of London. *(They had two sons Fred and Eric). D.B.*

Joanna and Eleanor have not married. they live with their father.

Wilhelmina born 24.3.1840 - my wife - was the third daughter of her parents. During her childhood she lived in Madeira, like her sisters and brothers. When 12 years old, she left Madeira by a Sailing Packet. (Sailing ships which carried passengers, mail and goods between England and Madeira.) The Captain and a friend of the family looked after her during this voyage, which took about three weeks. In London friends received her, but they sent her on immediately - by herself - to her uncle and aunt Innes in Edinburgh. *(Robert Innes, her mother's brother). D.B.* She stayed for a year in

Edinburgh and for four years in London with Mrs Hackney. Mrs Hackney was an exceedingly kind lady and Mina shows a most grateful interest in her up to this day. After finishing school, Mina returned to Madeira. Her further life is united with mine.

William Alexander born 12.4.1842 He died when 9 months old.

Alexander Innes born 1843 died 1884 He is my wife's second brother. He went to school at Merchiston, near Edinburgh and later on he attended a school in Geneva. Early in 1870 he emigrated to New Zealand. In the neighbourhood of Otago he specialised in breeding sheep, and later in growing flax. In 1869 he had married Frances (Fanny) Rutherford, *(?daughter of his father's partner) D.B.* and by 1877 they had five children. Elizabeth, Mary (Molly, later Nelson) D.B., Lilian, William *(who eventually settled in Australia and whose family still live there) D.B.* and Mary Ann. His health began to deteriorate and his finances left much to be desired. He had invested practically all his money in plots of land which were not productive.

In these circumstances he returned to London in order to study medicine! He had reached the age of 34 and illness and financial trouble depressed him. We had our doubts about the wisdom of his intentions and about his decisions with regard to his future. However he started his new career, full of energy. In 1878 his wife and the two youngest children joined him in London.

By 1980 they had two more children, Alister and Constance. *(Constance Grant and her sister Molly Nelson together wrote the Grant Family History) D.M.B.* This, of course, did not decrease his day-to-day troubles. However, he continued his work and he passed some examinations. But in 1882 he suddenly became seriously ill and he found it necessary to discontinue his studies. He decided to go back to New Zealand in order to start something new. The four children were sent, under good superintendance, to New Zealand. *(Tragically someone's "superintendance" was not quite good enough. Little Alister, aged about four, was excitedly watching the hoisting of the "blue Peter", the flag which indicates that the ship is about to sail. As it climbed the mast he stepped back and back to watch it and fell down an open hatchway, receiving serious head injuries. I believe he never fully recovered and suffered a certain degree of mental illness later in life. I know no details and I may be mistaken in this. My mother always remembered him as a particularly dear little boy with very large bright eyes.) D.B.*

Owing to Alexander's serious illness, his wife stayed with him in England. He was too weak for the intended voyage by sea.

The Grants first went to Argel,s in the Pyrenees, from there to Dax and ultimately to St Jean de Luz. However the health of my poor brother-in-law showed no signs of improvement. His illness was rather complicated. In March 1884 his condition grew worse owing to blood-poisoning and his death was expected from day to day. My wife and my sister-in-law Lizzie hurried to St Jean de Luz to help in nursing him. Lizzie returned soon, but Mina stayed there till the end of May, when I had to fetch her back, as our own household needed her. My brother-in-law's condition had become quite hopeless

and he died on June 20th. His body was brought to London and the funeral took place in Hampstead. His wife hurried to her children in New Zealand.

Alexander was an upright and religious man. Unfortunately he had no idea about commercial affairs, which he ventured into, until he started studying medicine. It may be that this was the right profession for him, but when starting to prepare himself for it, he was too old and illness and trouble began to pursue him and they were too severe for his physical strength. Thus he succumbed.

(This account, though compassionate, leaves an impression of failure and wasted life. If the reader will also study the family chronicle of the Grants, written by Constance Grant, Alexander's youngest daughter, he/she will see that both he and his wife Fanny were deeply religious and possessed of a strong social conscience. They devoted themselves to good works in the community in which they lived, particularly among the Maoris. It was possibly his strong desire to serve the community that prompted Alexander to study medicine. Unable to carry out his own purpose, he nevertheless left children who grew up to lead lives of useful and successful service in a variety of ways. They died loved, respected and honoured in New Zealand and so Alexander's life was by no means in vain, even if he was not a success in worldly matters.) D.B.

Elizabeth Husband born 1845 She is my dear "Double" sister-in-law. We call her Lizzie. I refer to her in earlier parts of my brother Wilhelm's biography and I therefore pass on to her youngest brother.

Robert Campbell born 1846 He was the youngest child of my parents-in-law. Like his brother he was educated at Merchiston, near Edinburgh and he made up his mind to be a civil engineer.

His character was extremely likeable and cheerful. He was very good-natured and thanks to these qualities and his fine upbringing he was popular in the family and among his friends and acquaintances.

His sense of good order and his commercial qualifications resulted in his part of the inheritance being well invested and well looked after (in contrast to what his poor brother Alex did). The capital now works profitably in the firm of Matheson and Grant, a sound and prosperous firm in London.

In 1866 he finished his apprenticeship in a good engineering firm and he then proceeded to Austria where he stayed for two or three years. First he went to Prague and then to Czernowitz. He made excellent progress and when he returned to England he spoke German fairly well, with an Austrian accent!

In 1872 he went to St Petersburg. There his knowledge of German was of considerable use to him. He remained in Russia for 18 months and went as far as the Siberian frontier. He liked Russia to such an extent that he accompanied me during one of my Northern trips, "just to look up my old friends over there!" as he put it.

During his later trips, which were always combined with business projects, he went southwards. Once he travelled, via Odessa and Poti to Tiflis. On another occasion he spent a year in Spain, from whence he proceeded to Brazil, Spanish South America and the USA. So he saw quite a lot of the world.

My lively brother-in-law went to France, Germany and Switzerland, and especially to Siebenbürgen, where he and some friends of his had leased a hunting-ground for shooting bears and chamois. When touching this subject he likes to tell rather merry and joyful stories. *(I am not quite sure what is implied by "merry and joyful" in this context but it certainly sounds like dear "Uncle Bob", whom I was fortunate enough to know when I was a child and he was over 80) D.B.*

He is now about 42 years old and he must have had opportunities for finding a life-companion, but so far he has remained a bachelor. There are friends who like to tease him on this subject but they do not disturb his equanimity. All he says is:- "I have not yet met the right one."

Until he meets the "right one" Robert Grant enjoys his life as a bachelor, and this to the best of his ability.

He no longer lives in town. He has acquired a charming house with a beautiful small garden between Surrey and Kent, about one hour's railway journey from London. There he has his horses, for hunting and driving, his dogs and other domestic animals and when he has finished his business, he lives there in "dulce jubile"!

He is an excellent horseman and he drives his vehicle in a most perfect manner (I do not mean to say coachman). He is an experienced cricket and tennis player and a good oarsman. During the last few years he has somewhat neglected rowing and his young nephews and nieces do not mind this. His boat at Richmond is now practically always at their disposal and they make use of it for their jolly picnics on the Thames.

"Uncle Robert", now and again called "uncle Bob", is undoubtedly a favourite in our family circle. His old mother has an excellent son in him, his brother and sisters a kind and always obliging brother, and to their children he is the dear, dear uncle for whom they are always willing to do their best. I think I describe him best as the "Goldonkel".

In "Harp bak" (*sic? Hark Back*) *D.B* - that is the name of his house - there are often jolly parties. People from London, and, last but not least, his nephews and nieces, often visit him and spend their time happily driving, riding and playing tennis.

When my brother-in-law visits London, of course he always stays with us and we always have a bed at his disposal. Having so many friends to visit in London, we see him frequently in our house.

On Christmas Eve he always visits our house and there, in accordance with German

custom, we have our Christmas Tree.

On Christmas Day we meet at Wilhelm's house where the good, aged Mother-in-law lives. There we have our Christmas dinner with the customary Plum Pudding, with old Madeira and Champagne!

With Robert Grant (our Goldonkel) I close my report about the Grant Family.

(Any reader who does not know may like to hear that Robert Grant did find the "right one" eventually. Her name was Beatrice Pelly and she became the family's dearly loved "Aunt Bee". She could, at times, be slightly formidable, which was perhaps necessary to form the perfect partnership with gentle, easy-going Uncle Bob. But she was kindness itself underneath her brusque manner. They had three children, Enid, Elspeth and Angus. They were happily married for many years until Uncle Bob, at the age of 84, died, in Madeira.) D.B.

See account of his death in the Grant Family Chronicle.
D.M.B.

I now pass on to:-

MINA'S AND MY OWN LIFE HISTORY

When Mina and I returned from Santa Cruz to Funchal, we lived in our own little home on the Achada. We did not stay there for long, for I had decided to leave for Europe during the summer. We wished to visit my father and my brother and sisters. In the spring of 1861 we left for Lisbon. We stayed there for a week and visited Cintra, where we saw the bull-fights and what else Lisbon has to show. From there we went to London.

Early in May we visited the Rhine. We stayed for a few days with Uncle August in Bonn and for a week we were the guests of the Scholzes in their "Hammer mulle" not far from Weisbaden. They had their own house there. In the middle of May we reached Dresden.

My father had already gone to his summer house in Pillnitz. We stayed with him there for about six weeks. He was delighted to receive Mina. Ida was of about the same age as Mina and right from the start the relationship between them was as between sisters who love each other. The weeks we spent there were glorious. From Pillnitz we went, via Nürenberg, Munich and the Bodensee to Switzerland.

We stayed for some time in Interlaken and Geneva. In Geneva we met the Breitensteins and the meeting with them was most cordial.

In the middle of August we went to Paris and there we spent an enjoyable week with Uncle Constantins family and with my brother-in-law, Robert Grant. The latter was then a young fellow of 15 years old. He had come from London in order to meet us.

At the end of August we, at last, arrived in London. Wilhelm had secured quarters for us in Kensington and we remained there until the beginning of October.

Mina was quite well, and she was delighted to have seen so much, and such beautiful places; and last but not least, she was much impressed with the charming reception which we had met with everywhere. However, she developed somewhat gloomy thoughts when she began to contemplate the approaching voyage to Madeira. She was not a good sailor. She was expecting a baby and dreadul fear and anxiety overwhelmed her at the thought of the voyage to Madeira.

At last the day of departure arrived. It was October 9th when we embarked at Southampton. The storm was so violent that the ship experienced considerable difficulty, when leaving port. The short distance between Southampton and Plymouth took almost 48 hours and we entered plymouth Harbour to wait there for more favourable weather.

Mina was dreadfully exhausted. I proposed that we should return to London and there await the birth of the baby, but Mina declined to do this.

After having waited in Plymouth for three days, Mina showed signs of recovery and the voyage now had to be resumed. The sea was still fairly rough and we had to steam against strong winds and high waves. Under these unfavourable conditions we travelled for eight days by this good boat instead of the four nowadays.

At last, at midnight on the 22nd of October we reached the Roads of Funchal. Mina was so exhausted that we had to lift her out of her berth and she was lowered in a hammock into a boat to be transported ashore. In her hammock she was carried to my parents-in-law's house. That was on the 23rd of October and on the 24th Mina gave birth to an eight months - dead boy. That was a very hard blow!

Mina recovered rather slowly, but nevertheless by the end of November she was able to move to our own little house where, after all this hardship she found rest at last.

I shall not attempt to describe our thirty years of married life in detail. I shall mention the most important parts of it.

In the Spring of 1863 I went to Europe on business. In Lisbon I met Wilhelm who had come from Malaga. We travelled via Bordeaux and Paris to the Rhine and at the beginning of May we arrived in Dresden.

Alexander was engaged to be married and the Wedding was to take place in August. I could not be present at this wedding as I had to see to loading a vessel. After the vessels dispatch I left Rotterdam and stayed in London for a few weeks. After that, I hurried back to Madeira where I arrived at the end of September. We then left our little house on the Achada for Funchal. Soon after we had arranged everything in our new house, our eldest son was born, on November 16th 1863

About a fortnight after his birth he had an attack of brain-inflammation (*meningitis*) *D.B.* and we were, of course, full of anxiety. But skilful medical treatment saved his life. This was a great relief for my poor Mina and she thanked God for our dear boy's life having been saved.

A few days later Wilhelm arrived and he now entered my firm as my partner. All this resulted in everybody feeling completely happy.

As soon as Mina and our dear little son were strong enough, the christening took place. The little boy was given the following Christian names:- Frederick, William, Thomas - after his two Grandfathers and his Godfather, Thomas Prehn.

In the Spring of 1865 I had to make a new business trip. It was my idea to travel to Russia in order to sell Madeira wine, which was coming into fashion. I went to Lisbon, from there by rail via Badajos to Merida and then by post-coach via Trujillo and Talavera to Madrid. I stayed for a week in Madrid, as that city was rather interesting to me. There, for the first time, I saw a real bull-fight, with all its risks and the awful cruelty connected with this barbaric spectacle. The bull-fights in Lisbon are a mild occasion in comparison with what I saw on this occasion in Spain.

I visited the fine picture gallery and the Escorial and I went to the beautifully situated Gothic town of Toledo. On my return to Madrid there were serious riots and when the Guardia Civiles charged the crowd, I nearly lost my right arm! I therefore thought it better for me to leave Madrid. I took the first train to Valladolid, Burgos and from there via the Pyrenees to Paris and then to Dresden.

My father did not like the idea of my going to Russia and he advised me to abstain from this part of my journey. I remained in Dresden, attended Ida's wedding and accompanied my father to Kissingen. There I received the news that my wife had given birth to a healthy girl - this birth was on May 28th.

By the beginning of July I was back in Madeira and I was glad to find my family in good health. The little daughter was christened Emilie, Mary, Alexandra (after my late sister, my mother-in-law and my brother Alexander).

Soon after the death of my father-in-law (1866) my wife did not feel really well. We therefore made up our minds to leave Madeira for good and to settle down in England or Germany.

In April 1867 we took a steamer to England. We stayed in London for about six weeks, then we visited the Scholzes in the Rhineland and we had a most enjoyable time.

When my wife first visited Germany she knew no German, but afterwards she took an interest in the German language and before long she could follow German conversations, though she found it difficult to express herself properly in German. Thus she was now in a much better position to enjoy her stays in Germany.

From the Rhineland we went to Pillnitz where we spent a pleasant summer with my father. He took a great liking to the grandchildren, Freddy and Emmy.

During this summer I visited Berlin for the first time, where I stayed with my friend, Captain Batsch (now Admiral Batsch). He showed me Berlin thoroughly.

By this time my father had gone to Paris in order to see the World Exhibition. I joined him there and we spent an interesting week in Paris and then returned to Pillnitz in the middle of September. We took rooms at Stephanie's Hotel (Lüttich strasse) for the winter and made our stay as comfortable as possible.

This was the first winter for twelve years which I had spent in the North of Europe. The climate did not suit me. I caught a bad cold and I could not get rid of it until the spring began. During these months I began to get fears about our "family ghost". Feeling like this we decided to go back to Madeira for the winter. This decision was not to my wife's liking. She did not like Madeira and she had grown accustomed to the idea of settling down for good in Northern Germany or in England. But our decision about Madeira had to be adhered to.

On March 29th 1868, during our stay in Dresden, our second son was born. His christian names were Ronald Edward Stewart. After my brother Eduard and our brother-in-law and in consideration of my mother-in-law's feelings, who was in favour of a good old Scottish name.

Our wife had nourished our first two children and to begin with she did the same for our third baby, but owing to lack of foresight she became ill, which compelled us to engage a nurse. After about five months we dispensed with the nurse's services and the baby was fed on condensed milk. I do not know whether these circumstances account for Ronald being taller and more robust than our other children.

We remained in Dresden till the end of May. During June and July we stayed at the charming watering-place, Elster in the Voigtland. From there we went to Prague where my brother-in-law Robert Grant gave us a fine welcome. From Prague we travelled to Silesia where we visited my sister and her husband. We stayed at Gieraltwitz for about a month and then we went, via Berlin, to Hamburg where the Fixens and the Bartels welcomed us heartily.

In Hamburg I bought new furniture etc etc for our future Madeira home. I shipped them by sailing vessel together with various goods which I had purchased for my business in Madeira.

During the voyage to Madeira the vessel became a total loss! I had, of course, insured the furniture etc and so could replace it without suffering a loss; but the many souvenirs connected with my wife's youth and my books (dating back to my childhood) could, of course, not be replaced, especially the books which contained the donors written

dedications. We also lost a picture of my wife in her childhood, and many other things dear to us.

In Hamburg I engaged a German nurse and at the beginning of October we all left, via Liverpool for Madeira, where we arrived - in good health, after a weeks voyage.

I rented a large house in the town but before we settled down in it we lived for about two years in furnished Quintas, in the neighbourhood of Funchal.

It is my intention to give a full description of our business in a later part of this chronicle, but I should just like to say here that after my departure from Madeira in 1867 Wilhelm laid the foundations of our Wine Department and that in 1871 we took over the Coal business from our brother-in-law, Stewart.

In the meantime I was able to convince myself that my health had undergone no serious change. I therefore considered it justified to make my first trip to St Petersburg in November 1870. I travelled via Spain, France, Northern Italy, Vienna, Dresden and Berlin. A rather interesting feature of this trip was that I made it during the Franco-Prussian war. In France I saw the fury of the depressed (*?oppressed*) *D.B.* Frenchmen; in Germany I saw the prison-camps, in Dresden, Danzig and other towns, and I participated in the high spirits which existed in the whole of Germany. I also saw how Kaiser Wilhelm and the Kronprinz and their suite returned from Versailles in the company of the powerful Fürst Bismark. All this I shall never forget!

For 16 years I had not seen Russia. The winter was rather severe, but the weather did not affect me unfavourably. I started a new business which we have continued since. The following year I again went to Russia. During the winter of 1870-71 I stayed with the Burchards and Carl Fixen. During the winter of 1871-72 I stayed with my brother-in-law, Robert Grant, who was there on business.

The fine winter climate refreshed and strengthened my health and accordingly, after this experience, I saw no hindrance to my visiting Russia again.

In 1871 I brought a German governess, Fraulein Hermine Brendecke, to Madeira with me, from Hanover. The children began to learn German nicely. My wife, also, with the foundation acquired during our visits to Germany, made good progress with German and she was now able to take part in all kinds of conversation, which gave her enjoyment and considerable pleasure.

From 1865 onwards I was German Consul in Madeira. At first I was Royal Prussian Consul and afterwards Consul for the North-German Union. (Nord. Deutscher Bund) and finally I was Imperial German Consul. The German element on the island concentrated round my Consulate and the Germans naturally, approached me. When the German men-o'-war visited Madeira, they gave me a lot of work. The Commanders and the Officers visited my house frequently. I find it difficult to mention the names of all these amiable gentlemen whom we got to know during my eleven years Consulship.

In connection with our friendly relationship with these German Officers, it was of special value that Mina now knew German so well.

We have maintained touch with some of these Naval Officers even after our departure from Madeira. These friendships in some cases included the officers' families in Germany. One of these German Officers, who became my intimate friend, was Vice-Admiral Ferdinand Batsch. He was the Commander of the Sailing Frigate "Niobe" which called at Madeira in 1865. He was the first commander whom I received officially. Since then our families have met on several occasions and I visit him almost every year. In earlier years I saw in Berlin, Wilhelmshaven or Kiel, and in recent years I have visited him in Weimar, to which town he retired on leaving the service.

As a special friend I should like to mention Captain Otto Zembach, at present German Consul in Havana, also Captain Ivan Oldskop, Captain Wilhelm Schröder, Captain Schering and Admiral von Reibnitz. Oldskop and Schröder became Naval Attaches to the German Embassy in London. Captain Schröder holds this post to this day and we have often visited each other.

I should like to add that in 1875 the German Government bestowed upon me a recognition of my eleven years service; the Order of the Red Eagle, fourth class.

A German friendship of long lasting quality was that with the Saltler family, whom we met in Madeira in 1864.

THE SALTLEF FAMILY

In 1864 Georg Friedrich Saltler, a young doctor of law, came to Madeira with his wife. Mrs Saltler's lungs were not in a good condition and they relied on the mild climate of Madeira to do her good. We got to know each other and we soon became friends. Mr Saltler hoped that two winters would suffice to give Mrs Saltler back her full health. He wished to return to Germany to further his career as a lawyer. Much to their regret their hopes met with disappointment. Her health undoubtedly improved, but not enough to return to Germany after two years.

Saltler prolonged their sojourn from year to year, but her condition did not improve, and so they decided to remain in Madeira.

With his excellent education and his talents, Saltler was bound to find a means of existence in Madeira. He gave lessons in Mathematics and languages and he prepared young men for University entrance. He was musical and a good player on the piano and he gave lessons. He secured the post of organist to the English Church. He earned enough to maintain his family in accordance with their habits of life. In 1875 when Wilhelm and I decided to settle down in London we took Saltler into partnership.

He had, of course, to discontinue his other occupations. On my departure from Madeira

he also secured the German Consularship and his social and financial positions became secure. Thus he was able to lead a life which suited our business and our position in general.

Wilhelm and I, of course, admired Saltlers solid character, his education and his numerous excellent qualities. Besides that, true friendship, respect and love formed a link which connected us closely. Thus our friendship became life-long. *(I can remember my Mother (Tee) speaking with great affection of "Uncle Saltler" as one of the best and kindest men she ever knew.) D.B.*

Camille Saltler, nee Landwerle, was born in Enisheim (Alsace-Lorraine). She was rather a talented and clever lady. Her character was cheerful and she had a warm heart and good temper, and her great tact was characteristic of her. She and Wilhelm's wife and mine became intimate friends. The eleven years which Mina spent and the thirteen which Lizzie spent with Camille form the happiest memories for everyone.

The Saltlers had two daughters, Rosine and Mary and to this day they are in personal contact and linked with us by correspondence. In August 1877 poor Camille's health broke down and she passed away. One of her most intimate friends, Miss Fanny Willis of Madeira, went to live with the Saltler family. Ideal care and great devotion characterised the upbringing which she gave to the two daughters who had lost their beloved mother.

In the summer of 1885 Saltler married Miss Wills and they had a little daughter Dorothea.

I have spoken of the Saltlers in this chronicle because they are so dear to our hearts and the fortunes of their family are so interwoven with Wilhelm's family and ours.

Now I revert to Mina's and my own biographies up to 1872-73.

These years were very trying for us. Wilhelm and Lizzie had left for Germany, whilst I - besides attending to my regular business - saw to the extension of our storage arrangements for our new coal business.

One afternoon I rode to the Butinha, where I wanted to oversee our workmen. Just as I passed there a stone-mason was shaping a basalt stone with his hammer. A splinter of this stone hit my right eye! I felt as if someone had given me a hard blow with a hammer on my head. The pain was terrible. I rubbed my right eye, and when closing my left eye I realised that I had lost the sight of the right one. I mounted my horse and hurried back to town. There they carried me in a hammock into our Quinta. My poor wife was extremely shocked for she realised what had happened to me. Our family doctor, Dr Julius Goldschmidt of Mainz gave all the attention possible to my condition and also, on this occasion, he proved to be a true friend to our family. It is impossible for me to judge whether a specialist would have been able to save my right eye. As I said, Dr Goldschmidt was no oculist, but he did everything possible to help me.

So passed 13 weeks, full of pain and anxiety. Twice I was operated on (under

chloroform). In all probability Dr Goldschmidt realised that "enucleation" (cutting out the eye) was inevitable. At this time - the beginning of November - a German squadron came to Madeira and aboard the armoured frigate "Friedrich Carl" there was a good oculist, Dr Fuhrmann. After consultation it was decided that I should be operated on on the following morning. A week later I was able to move freely once again.

During these sad days and weeks - On August 13th - Mina gave birth to our second daughter. The little girl was christened Ida Mathilde, (After my sister and after Mrs Camille Saltler. The latter's name was Camille Mathilde and we used to call her Mathilde). Our little girl was christened by Naval Chaplain of the "Friedrich Carl" on the same day that my eye had to be operated on. The christening was held at our house.

When little Ida was ten months old, my wife had her photo taken and sent it to me in Germany, where I had gone on business. And then a new misfortune happened. Owing to insufficient attention on the part of our poor baby's nurse the little girl fell out of her perambulator. At first it was believed that this accident had had no serious consequences but a fortnight later the Doctor found that the little girl was suffering from inflammation of the brain and within 24 hours our dear little Ida died.

That happened on July 2nd 1873. This sad news reached me in Vienna, where I had gone to see the World Exhibition. Deeply grieved I returned to Madeira and poor wife. We went at once to little Ida's grave. The aforementioned baby photo shows how well and how charmingly she had developed during her short life! I now close this sad report with the words which my wife selected for Ida's gravestone.

"Not lost, but gone before,
My own, my pretty one!
Angels have flown with thee
To a fairer, happier place!"

My wife's anxiety about my physical state and her deep grief over the loss of our little daughter showed traces in her spirits and her state of health. These sad circumstances may also account for her hair turning grey at this comparatively early age.

One consolation - in connection with the loss of our baby - was the birth of another little girl. She was born on May 20th 1874 and was given the christian names Melita, Ida, Elizabeth. The name Ida was to commemorate the late little daughter, and Elizabeth, in respect for my sister-in-law, Lizzie, whilst her name Melita was to bring a change into the list of names connected with the Krohn family.

A German Man-of-war came to Madeira at that time and Melita was christened by a German Naval Chaplain.

My children grew up quickly and developed well and in the mild climate they soon got over the usual children's illnesses. Their education made quite good progress under Frl

Brendecke's management and the German element in education was duly cultivated, though the tendencies at home were pro-English due to the natural influence of the mother.

At the time of Melita's birth, my children, Fritz, Emmy and Ronny had reached their 10th, 9th and 6th years and, especially for Fritz a good school now became an absolute necessity. We came to the conclusion that Mina should go to Dresden with the children for two years, and that Fritz, Emmy and Ronny should complete their education there. It was intended that Mina should return to Madeira after two years stay in Dresden.

But before the arrival of spring in 1875, when they were to leave for Dresden, Emmy became seriously ill. She suffered a severe attack of diphtheria and for some time her life was in serious danger. But our good Dr Goldschmidt managed to pull her through; however it took several months before she had fully recovered.

But soon afterwards she developed paralysis of her vocal chords and it became very difficult to understand what she wanted to say. After some time she got over this trouble, but when she was allowed to leave her bed it became apparent that her arms and legs were also showing signs of paralysis. Gradually she got over this trouble as well, but there remained a considerable general weakness.

At last May 20th arrived and we left for Liverpool. That was the third voyage which Mina and I undertook from Madeira with our children. The weather was quite favourable but my wife and the children all suffered from sea-sickness which affected them and especially Emmy to such an extent that on arrival at Liverpool she had to be carried ashore and for several days we felt rather anxious about her health.

From Liverpool we went to London and secured rather pleasant rooms near Regent's Park. There our poor child fully recovered. During our stay in London I came to the conclusion that we should settle down in London for good. Wilhelm had come to terms with Saltler about entering our firm and towards the end of August I left for Germany, accompanied by my family.

We spent the first month on the Rhine, in Bielrich, with the Scholtze family and with other friends from Wiesbaden and Mainz. Towards the end of September we went to Dresden. In Racknith Street we hired a fairly large flat and we made arrangements to stay there for two years.

We found a good teacher, who was to prepare Fritz for the Fitzthums Gymnasium. Ronny joined a preparatory school and a year later he went to the same Gymnasium as his brother. Emmy we put into a good school for girls and everything went to our satisfaction.

I now carried out my trips to Russia with full energy and on my way to Russia I, of course, stayed for a Christmas visit or spent summer months with relations and friends. My first visit was to Driburg in Westphalia, the following summer I went to

Düsternbrook and Belle Vue on the Bay of Kiel. Afterwards I returned to my wife and Melita in London. My life thus resembled that of a grass-widower (strohwitwer) until I came back to London.

During this "grass-widowerhood" I went not only to Russia but I also carried out a trip to Madeira. I went to Madeira for several weeks in April 1876, where I wanted to form our partnership with Saltler definitely. I also wished to liquidate my household, sell our furniture etc.

By the beginning of June I was in London again and with the help of a good confidential adviser, Mr Hermann Nettekoven, I started our London firm in Railway Place, Fenchurch St.

In June 1877 I rented a house in Hampstead, 13 Belsize Square. I furnished it, and in September Mina and Melita came from Dresden and started living in this nice, comfortable house. Fritz, Emmy and Ronny remained in Dresden and an elderly lady, Mme Balqu, from Switzerland, looked after them. Mme Balqu, carried out her duties in an excellent manner.

In the summer of 1878 the three children came to London for their summer holidays. We enjoyed being together but unfortunately our meeting was rather short.

When the children left London, Mina and I went to Paris (World Exhibition) for a fortnight. Soon after our return I had to go to Madeira again on business and I returned to London at the beginning of December. After Christmas I had to go to St Petersburg which resulted in my being absent from London for about three months. During my numerous unavoidable trips my wife - especially in the absence of the children felt somewhat lonely and this began to depress her. It was therefore natural that we began to consider having our whole family in London with us.

My future now depended upon England and my children, though their education had been German, felt English. I therefore decided to become a British Subject, thereby simultaneously giving a firm foundation for the future of my two sons.

At the beginning of May 1879 Mina, with Melita, spent several weeks in Dresden and in June I brought the whole family to London. Fritz and Ronny had made excellent progress in Fitzthums Gymnasium in Dresden. They spoke English fluently and as a result they experienced no difficulty in entering a good school in London. A few weeks sufficed for getting acquainted with the English methods of teaching and at the end of September, both boys entered the University College School without difficulty. Emmy entered Hampstead High School, also without trouble.

However, during Ronny's first London school year he met with a sad accident. When coming home from school with his cousin Edmund (Ted) he was crossing the street and fell under a hansom-cab. One of the wheels went over Ronny's (less than 11 year old) stomach. He was strong enough to get up and to reach the pavement but there he

collapsed. The London University Hospital was close by and the same hansom took him there. Edmund hurried home to explain this sad occurrence to Mina. I was in Russia at the time.

Mina, in mortal terror, hurried to the hospital and there she found our son in a deplorable condition. However the doctors pacified her by saying that they felt convinced they would be able to put him right. The medical examination had shown that no bones were broken. The wheel had passed over the soft parts of his stomach and the pressure of the wheel had to some extent been absorbed by a tin box in his pocket, in which he always carried his lunch to school. Nevertheless the boys condition was serious. Mina had permission to stay in his room at the hospital, during the first night, but the hospital rules did not permit her to remain during the following nights.

Ronny was in excellent hands at the hospital and after a week they were able to send him home. Our own Doctor, Dr Neal, supervised his transport from the hospital. After a fortnight the boy was allowed to get up but he could not yet go back to school. Several months passed before he had fully recovered.

At an earlier date, when Ronny was about five years old, he met with another accident which might have cost his life. That happened in Madeira when he fell down at 15-20 ft high slope. His head landed on a big stone. His skull was actually dented a little on the spot and even now one can feel that uneven spot when touching that part of his skull. If the indentation had been "one or two lines" deeper his life would have been in serious danger. But a lucky star has always protected him and we heartily thank God for it.

Fritz has also met with some accidents but of a less dangerous nature. In Dresden he broke his collar bone. In London, he dislocated a bone in his elbow while practising gymnastics. But these accidents were not serious.

In 1879 when we were all reunited in London a new life began for Mina and me! I do not wish to be unjust, but, I must say, in the best sense of the word - Mina was a little strict. I mean that she insisted on regularity and on her system being followed by the children. This applied to their lessons as well as to their general occupations and to adhering to the rules of our household.

Mina always insisted on good discipline and on courtesy, good outward appearance and on proper expressions being used. She herself set a good example and the results, with regard to the children's upbringing, were a complete success.

According to her principles for the upbringing of children she brought them up in the fear of God without fatigueing them with formalities. She did not insist on stringent formalities, ceremonies, rules. She did not refer to the Almighty as an avenging God, she described Him as the God of love, atonement, forgiveness and of justice. She explained to the children that the seed of Christianity and of Christian Morality must take root in their hearts and that they must pray to the Almighty to help them to live in accordance to these ideas and ideals.

I am a Lutheran. My wife belongs to the Free Church of Scotland, yet we all went to the Church of England. In Madeira there was no Lutheran Church and the Free Church of Scotland was often without a Minister. On the other hand divine service went on without interruption in the Church of England there.

I, for my part, have, of course, endeavoured to do my best for my children. I have always loved them with all my heart and I cannot reproach myself with having been hard or unjust towards them. It never occurred to me to try to save money where our children's education or private lessons were to be considered. I believe in conscientiously educating the heart and soul of children. This is of far more importance than to accumulate an abundance of dry scholastic wisdom in their heads. Undoubtedly my wife deserves the greater part of the credit for the education which we practised at home for the development of our children's hearts and souls and their education in general. But in the second place, I am sure, I may mention my endeavours and my work.

Now, since all our children have joined us in London our days pass so happily, so harmoniously. We have to thank our lucky stars - especially when considering how many English parents have to live apart from their children for years. Think of the many thousand families who live in India, the British Colonies etc etc.

I have to leave my family only once per annum when I have to go to Russia and Northern Germany in connection with my regular business. These business trips are unavoidable and - even in 1886 - I had to leave England though I should have liked to stay at home. This refers to February 20th 1886, the day of our Silver Wedding. But I had to be absent on that day!

In London the children had arranged the festivities and - in their own usual way - they were full of joy and happiness. On that day, I, myself was in St Petersburg and I spent it with Ludwig Heyse and his wife, who were joined by Carl Fixen. They received me so kindly; the whole of the Heyse's family and that of Carl Fixen. Some members of the St Petersburg Liedertafel (Choral Society) also came. Some ladies and gentlemen, friends of the Heyses, arranged a special musical evening, interwoven with musical scenes. I shall never forget that evening!

With reference to this I wish to express my warmest thanks to all my St Petersburg friends. They have welcomed me so kindly and warm-heartedly every winter in my native town - and all this for 18 years!

Foremost, I would like to mention my old and true friends Carl Fixen and the Heyse family. For me they form a most important part of life in St Petersburg.

With similar friendly feelings I refer to the circle which surrounds the Naboes. Mrs Pauline Naboe and her daughters, Gotthard Friedrich Naboe and their friendly wives and children. I must also mention the Benois family, (Alexander Benois and his wife) the Ruge, Eeberhardt, Faberg., Sadler, Hueck and Thorner families. To them all, as well as

to my relatives to whom I have referred in an earlier part - I owe sincerest and deepest thanks and I do hope to meet them again.

And now a word about my children!

MY FOUR CHILDREN

Fritz, also called Fred, finished school when he had reached his 18th year. In October 1882 he entered the London College where he studied chemistry. Three years later he left the University having graduated as a Bacalaurius Scientium. He then went to Wiesbaden (January 1886) where he worked for 9 months in Fresenius" Laboratory.

At the end of August he returned to London and endeavoured to procure a situation in England. He worked in a small laboratory which he had furnished himself.

In June 1887 he received an offer of a well paid post in the Rio Tinto works in Spain. Everything appeared to be satisfactory but his doctor - after examining him thoroughly - considered him not to be strong enough to live in that bad climate. That was a great disappointment.

Consequently Fritz went to the North of England and to Scotland but he did not succeed in getting a post. This vexed him very much as he was so anxious to find a suitable situation. Ultimately he was offered a post in a brewery in Newark and he accepted it. He entered this brewery in August 1887 as an apprentice. The brewery was Richardson, Carp and Slater, of Newark-on-Trent. After his first six months as an apprentice he became their "under brewer", which post he holds up to the present.

I should be rather glad if he were to meet with success for - as my chronicle has shown - brewing of beer has been connected with good luck for the Krohn family!

Fritz enjoyed studying Natural Science and he takes a considerable interest in Art, especially in painting and dramatic art. He is not very fond of serious music and he dropped piano playing in his early youth. He is, however, a passionate politician and an enthusiastic member of the Liberal Party.

He is of cheerful, sociable and active disposition and rather fond of all kinds of amateur sport, especially rowing. Fencing and the Canadian game of La-crosse interest him as well. Apart from his Madeira voyages I must mention the trip he made to Holland, Denmark and Sweden with his cousin Stewart.

Emmy. We always call Emily Emmy. When 16 years old she left the High School and for a considerable time she attended lectures at the Ladies' King's College, Kensington.

As is now customary she had lessons in piano playing but she did not reach a high degree of proficiency. The piano did not interest her very much; singing gave her far more pleasure. She has a nice, clear soprano voice. She has had good lessons both here and,

especially, in Dresden (during the winters of 1886-87) and her singing gives us much pleasure. It is really very nice to hear her singing, but too high pretension should be avoided.

Emmy's happy nature brings much light into our daily life. She is gifted with an excellent talent for acting and as an amateur actress in our frequent theatrical entertainments at home she has proved the excellence of her gift. Apart from being an excellent mimic she possesses a good mother-wit and she understands how to maintain good spirits among her friends. Thus parties in our house are always of a happy sociable character.

Besides her cheerful joviality Emmy has a pronounced taste for more serious occupations. The reading of good books gives her special pleasure. She has a cheerful disposition but every evening she is busy with her needlework while mother reads a good book. They prefer books of historical character.

Emmy is very skilled and adroit in her needlework and she is well versed in household affairs. She assists her mother well. She is a good and loveable girl in every respect.

Ronald. We call him Ronny or Ron. He says Ronald does not sound well. As he put it; "Ronald is such a mouthful!"

His accident in December 1879 robbed him of 4 months schooling, yet at the age of 16 he finished at University College School. I took him with me to Finland, where I visited my Uncle Leopold and my Aunt Julie for their Golden Wedding Day.

Splendid weather favoured our voyage from Hull to Kronshtadt and St Petersburg. Our stay in St Petersburg, in beautiful Peterhof, the trip to Finland and to the Imatra Waterfall and last but not least the hearty welcome which uncle extended to us at Kiskil,, where we attended the aforementioned memorable family festivity - all that forms memories which Ronny will remember all his life.

During October he entered London University and commenced studying medicine. In January 1886 he passed his Philosophicum and a month ago (July 1888) he passed his Intermediate Medicine and First M.B. (Medicinae Bacalaurius) which, however, gives him no "degree". He takes a keen interest in his studies and I hope he will make his way successfully.

Ronny is not as sanguine as Fritz. He has a thoughtful reserve, without being phlegmatic. On the contrary he is vivacious. He likes to take part in sports. That is so characteristic of English youth! Whilst Fritz is a skilled gymnast - especially good in running and jumping - Ron is a good swimmer and cyclist. He rows and sails enthusiastically and at La crosse he almost equals his elder brother.

Ron has a taste for music but want of time has resulted in his neglecting his violin playing. He has now given up playing the violin. It remains to be seen whether his

interest will revive but I fear he is getting too old to achieve results which are worth mentioning.

Fritz and Ron are both rather fond of children. In this connection I must say that Ron enjoys organizing Christmas Pantomimes. His sister Melita and his young cousins as well as friends join him in arranging these performances.

In the they begin, as early as October, to paint their stage scenery etc. On one occasion I helped the children to make the stage for their pantomime but now Ron and Emmy are anxious to do everything themselves without help from their parents or other grown up people and, I must add, the result of their work has astonished us.

Ron and Emmy enjoy their work. They make use of every spare hour and their achievements in decoration etc do surprise us.

They select the plays and give directing instructions and hints to the other children. The orchestra originates from Wilhelm's musical family.

The young "actors" meet regularly and have their rehearsals on evenings fixed by them and during "Merry Christmas" time they begin their performances. Songs, Dances etc.

Of course the "theatre" is chock full and a more attentive and more appreciative audience can hardly be imagined.

At last the curtain comes down! Tremendous applause! The actors, the manager, the "artists" who painted the scenery, the orchestra, all have to come out. The entertainment ends with general joy and contentment!

(Members of my own branch of the family may be interested and amused by the following incident. Among the friends enthusiastically joining in these theatricals were the Johnson family, who lived next door to the Krohns at 12 Belsize Square. Mabel probably helped to paint the scenery, as she was a talented painter, and Nan had an excellent singing voice. One year it was decided that little Tee Krohn, the youngest of the cousins, should be Columbine (to Ron's Harlequin) in the Pantomime. The dance was designed and rehearsed and the dress (the traditional ballet dress) made, when somehow the older generation heard what was planned. The influence of Granny Grant and the Free Kirk was too strong. It was decreed that Tee (aged about ten) could not possibly be allowed to show "so much leg" before a mixed audience! It was indecent! On the other hand to omit the dance at that late stage would spoil the show. But a solution was found. Ernest Johnson, the same age as Tee and small for his age, must be made to perform in her stead, and no one could object to a little boy showing his legs! The dress fitted him quite well and it only needed a blond wig and a lot of persuasion and tuition) to turn him into a delightfully graceful Columbine!. Ernest, a very masculine little boy, was disgusted, but eventually he was persuaded to see it as a challenge and his sporting instinct was appealed to to save the show.

I believe he was a great success! He never forgot the experience and, when in his 80's, he had great sympathy and admiration for his grandson, Donald Bishop, who played "Alice in Wonderland" in a school play. But his sister Mabel always treasured (and passed on!) a delightful mental picture of him behind the scenes, with his wig askew and scowling fiercely as one of his other sisters struggled to fasten his dress. In a gruff little voice, quite at variance with his fairy like appearance, he was saying, scornfully, "leave me alone - girl!! Little did anyone guess that on this occasion he was standing in for his future wife!) D.B.

Melita. Our youngest daughter was sent, at only six years old, to a preparatory school and afterwards to Hampstead High School. After two years she was transferred from the High School to a similar school nearer to our house. She is an industrious girl, anxious to make her way. She likes nothing better than her books. In fact we find it necessary to keep her back from her beloved books! However this is somewhat difficult to achieve. She has inherited from her Mother a talent for reading aloud and she is very fond of doing it.

We arranged piano lessons for her. I admit that our choice of a teacher left much to be desired. At any rate Melita showed no inclination to playing the piano and so we decided not to trouble her with these lessons. "Oh, Du edle Musica!" (the translation of this short sentence into English without altering the meaning of this exclamation is rather difficult. H.C. Oh Euterpe, thou Muse of Music! I cannot see your face!

She can hardly be expected to glance favourably at me and my household! But let us hope that Emmy, with her charming songs may entice a ray of light and friendliness from you, Eutherpe. At least let us hope this! We must be thankful for small mercies!

As I have just said, music is not Melita's hobby, but we soon discovered her real talent, recitation! She has an excellent memory and she has a gift of reciting with excellent expression and clarity.

We Krohns, we are not disposed to be tragic. Melita's fort, lies in comic recitations and these have given us much pleasure and entertainment.

In our theatrical entertainments she is usually our number one and Ronny, in his own peculiar and perhaps somewhat exaggerated way, says "Melita, you are the boss of the show!" Time will show what else she will accomplish! But, my dear Melita, in the meantime you must go to school and follow the good example of your mother!

The winters are the time for developing our children's sociable and entertaining qualities. During the winter all our relatives and friends meet in London. For the summer, when the schools and Universities close, we usually go for six weeks to the beautiful country. We like to change the places for our summer holidays. We have stayed in Broxbourne (Hertfordshire) on the Isle of Wight, in Hastings and in Scarborough, as well as in Lynton and Ilfracombe, and once in North Wales (Lake Bala). We spent one summer in Goring, not far from Oxford, on the Thames, and we rowed ourselves for three days as far as

Richmond. From there we finally returned to London.

This summer, and whilst writing this chronicle, we are in the beautiful English Lake District, in peaceful Windermere.

The foregoing remarks will show that our life has been very happy and harmonious. At this juncture I refrain from speaking of my wife's and the children's good qualities of character. If they did not possess them our happiness at home could never have been so perfect.

William Busch begins one of his jesting pieces of poetry with the following words:

"Vater werden ist nich schwer -
Vater sein dagegen selr!

(It is not difficult to become a father, but it is a different matter to be a good father.)

A good deal of truth may lie in these words and I must admit that, as a father I have often scratched my head. But on the other hand my wife has always been my best possible support and thanks to her, and to the children's diligence and good behaviour I have hardly ever felt the duties of a father as a burden. On the contrary I have thanked God from the depths of my heart that I have such a faithful, upright and brave wife and such excellent children!

N. KROHN, KROHN BROTHERS AND KROHN BROTHERS & CO

Before closing my Chronicle I should like to give a brief report about my commercial activity.

In October 1859 I started my Import Business in Funchal, Madeira, under the style of N. Krohn. I started with grocery goods and soon I added imported Manchester Wares. I found it rather difficult to get to know these articles from Manchester. In a comparatively small place like Madeira it is next to impossible to specialise in a few staple commodities. The variety of articles made the business somewhat complicated. It is true that I had, as my confidential expert, old William Hayward, but he did not possess the necessary experience for so many articles.

In 1863 Wilhelm joined me as my partner and in consequence we altered the firm's style to Krohn Brothers. Wilhelm was well qualified to assist me. The business carried on satisfactorily but the profits were moderate.

In 1867 my family and I left Madeira with the intention of settling down in Germany and Wilhelm took over the Madeira business himself.

We bought the stock of wines which our Father-in-law had left from his heirs. We intended to prepare these wines for sale on the spot, in Madeira, but this proved to be no

easy matter.

Wilhelm went into the matter of these wines and within a short time he acquired a good knowledge of wine. This resulted in his wishing to go into the wine business on a larger scale. In 1868 I decided to return to Madeira and we then began to do this. We therefore engaged, besides old Hayward, a Portuguese, Ivaio Fortunate d'Oliviera. Very soon we came to the conclusion that we should deal in wine only. We therefore sold our "general goods" department to Mr Hayward and Mr d'Oliviera and we, ourselves, made wines our speciality. In 1865 I had become Prussian, and later German Consul, whilst Wilhelm, in 1866, became Russian Vice Consul. These Consulships improved our good positions and they made it easier for us to export wines

In 1869 Wilhelm made a summer trip to Russia and there he laid the foundation for our present Russian business.

In 1871 our brother-in-law Stewart transferred his coal business to us and Mrs Grant sold us her house and land property on the Pentinha. This piece of land was suitably situated for the coal business.

Our Correspondents and Partners in this business in London, were: Messrs Rutherford, Drury & Co. Until then the business in coals was in the hands of two local firms. Blandy Brothers & Co and our own firm. Once an agreement on prices could be accomplished our handsome profit was inevitable. A third firm, (John Hutchinson) soon began to deal in Coal, but within a few years he "shut up shop" by selling his business to Blandy Bros & Co. Our business was a good one but Blandy Bros had a larger clientele. They were agents for a number of Steamship Companies and they also represented the British Admiralty when the British Men-o'-war had to bunker in Madeira. Of course the German and Russian Men-o'-war took their bunker coal from us. Often we were very busy.

The coal business was very profitable but the special character of this line of business was a rather difficult one. By day and night we had to be on the watch and in good and bad weather we had to go out to the Roads of Madeira in order to arrange deliveries of coal to steamers which were not bound to us by contract or steamers which did not "come to our address". Our staff of clerks were not "up to the mark" and consequently we had to attend to the main work personally. Mr Hutchinson often found it difficult to settle disputes and consequently I had to shoulder the work connected with engineers and crews on board etc. Last but not least the Portuguese Port Officials had to be dealt with and when several ships were there simultaneously the work was considerable, especially in stormy and rainy weather and at night. The night work was especially difficult.

We pulled down Mrs Grant's house and built large sheds and so were able to accommodate up to 9,000 tons of coal. We put up a special gantry with the help of which we could pull our barges up the steep quayside. It was in connection with these building arrangements that I lost my right eye on August 5th 1872. I have mentioned this accident already.

When all this extra work had been completed our task became somewhat easier. In 1875 I left Madeira and Wilhelm then found that the work was too much for him. He also had to consider our wine department and his health.

Saltler, who had become our partner in 1876 was unable to render much help with our coal business. He was fully occupied with our wines and with the Office and besides that it was not his duty to attend to some of the unpleasant parts of the coal business. That was more Wilhelm's job and mine.

We therefore decided to sell this part of our business. In 1878 I went to Madeira and we offered our coal department and our buildings to Blandy Brothers & Co.

In order to avoid our selling our business to another firm, they coupled their proposals with a handsome price. Now Wilhelm and Saltler in Madeira, and I in London could devote our attention exclusively to our business in wine.

Up until 1876 we had conducted our wine business in London through agents; at first through Messrs Shortridge and Lowton and later through Krüger and Bonett. I, however, came to the conclusion that it would be more profitable to establish our own Branch Office in London, to be managed by me. Wilhelm agreed at once with my proposal. As already indicated, in Saltler we had found the right man for our Madeira business. He joined us as a partner. The style of the firm was changed to Krohn Brothers & Co and I remained in London.

When I settled in London our wine business was in full swing and, in spite of competition, our business has developed nicely, although, especially in Russia, the circle of our buyers has undergone radical changes. However the principal part of the work is, and remains, in Madeira. There we buy "young" wines (mostly) and prepare them - we also buy "finished" wines. In connection with this the great problem is to select the right quality and to be able to test them etc. To attend to this part of the work one must have a good palate. Much to my regret I must add that I, personally, do not possess a good palate for wine, but Wilhelm and Saltler are experts. They have also become expert in the matter of warehousing wines, to let them mature in temperature controlled rooms, (Estufas); in preparing our casks and barrels and in a hundred other matters connected with the wine business. The success which we have achieved with our wines in all markets proves that the business has been run wisely and with due care.

My task in London is considerably easier and less responsibility has to be shouldered there. I have to sell the wines! The better the quality of our wine, the easier it becomes to sell it if one maintains the right connections with the customers.

During these years I have visited France, Holland, Denmark and Sweden, but the "centre of gravity" is our business in Northern Germany. This explains why I have to visit Germany and Russia every year.

I usually leave London after Christmas and go practically direct to St Petersburg. There I stay with intimate friends for six or eight weeks and I visit Finland, often as far as Helsingfors. I also go to Moscow and Reval. By the end of February I have succeeded in booking orders in these various districts.

St Petersburg has been the centre of our business. I also attend to the encashing of old invoices and I often return via Riga; now and again via Charkov and Kiev, and even via Odessa. From there I go to Germany via Warsaw. I usually stay in Germany for about three weeks.

Towards the end of March I am back again in London. By this time our manager in London has to charter a sailing vessel to be loaded in Madeira. Some years we have even had two sailing vessels. During April the shipments from Madeira to Russia are being dealt with and that completes the main part of the annual work. Of course there is plenty of additional work in London and Madeira but Spring is "our season".

Besides our wine business in Madeira we also have some banking business. We are agents for some English and Continental Banks and we furnish the customers of these banks in Madeira with the amounts they require.

We do not look for other business, but if something comes our way we do not, of course, say no. For instance, during 1872-78 we imported considerable quantities of American and Mexican silver coins. We bought them favourably in London. In Madeira these coins had a good market at a stable rate of exchange and these transactions left room for considerable profits. It took some years before our neighbours in Madeira grasped what we were doing, but when they began to compete, the Portuguese Government suddenly stopped this particular business. Portugal introduced her own gold currency.

In London it is, of course, easier to enter into partnership in connection with other transactions but - generally speaking- we never split our resources and we prefer to deal only in wines and rum.

Recently we had the good luck and the honour to become "Purveyors to the Imperial Russian Court". We have supplied the Russian Imperial Court with our Madeira wines for 22 years!

Before closing this commercial part of my report I must mention two gentlemen who have been very useful to us and who have proved to be true and trustworthy friends. One of them is Mr Hermann Nette Koven who helped me to establish our firm in London in 1878. He remained with us faithfully until 1884. He died the following year in the month of October. His successor is Heinrich Bartels, the third son of my old friend Carl Bartels. Before joining me in London he worked for us in Madeira in our firm of Krohn Bros & Co Madeira. He enjoys our full confidence, and under the power of attorney which we have given him, he signs for our firm. We do hope that he will be able to continue this work for us for many years, as our true friend and co-operator.

Windermere 27th August 1888.

POST SCRIPTUM

A few days after finishing this Chronicle (written in Windermere) I received the following telegram from Uncle Leopold.

Vyborg 30th August

"Julius perished on 28th August whilst sailing".

The finished pages of my Chronicle are not yet in the hands of the Lithographer. I therefore have the sad duty of including this message from Uncle Leopold about Julius Krohn's death in the History of our family.

Hitherto my dear Uncle and my beloved Aunt have been spared in their family from such deep sorrow and pain. Julius - dead - how awful! - His poor wife and children! This sudden death is a terrible affliction. What I feel cannot be put into words. Nothing could have affected my cousin Ottilie more deeply! One feels that when reading the following letter. Until receipt of this letter I had no idea how near she stood to this awful catastrophe! Her letter reads:-

Vyborg
15th September 1888

My beloved, dear Nicholas!

You know from the telegram that I have to pass on news of a most sorrowful and sad nature. It fell to my lot to have to give this horrible news to the widow, to the children, to the parents! And now I have to write to you! I am the only one who saw how his life ended. It was terrible, so terrible!

On the 28th August Julius and I went to sea in our nice yacht. On that morning the parents had left for town. We wanted to prolong the stay in the country, enjoying the freedom. Father had presented Julius with a rather large centre-board yacht. This yacht had three sails, she was well built and the risk of capsizing did not seem to exist. Although father had made this present he always felt uneasy until we returned in the evenings.

Now the old people had left for town, Julius felt quite free. He was in the best of spirits

and he said, "Now it does not matter if we are late in returning home."

We left in the yacht at three in the afternoon. I have not the faintest idea about yachting. I cannot distinguish the various ropes etc. We left for the open sea. "There where no steamers, no boat will meet us" - as he put it.

The wind was favourable, not blowing hard, on the contrary the wind decreased. At six in the afternoon he decided to set a second sail. I besought him not to do so. I was afraid something might happen if he left the helm.

He fulfilled my request and went back to the helm ... but soon afterwards he went forward again and he gave the helm to me, instructing me to steer in the same direction. He himself went to the fore-deck. For a moment he stood by the mast and the next moment I saw him fall over-board. I do not know whether he slipped or what happened. I hastened to hold out one of our two oars so that he might catch on to it, but he was too far away from my oar. I threw the oar in his direction and he said to me: "Now I have the oar under me, I can rest on it." Then he shouted, "Down with the sails". I let down the sails. They fell into the water but I managed to pull them into the yacht. I was full of deadly fear.

Next he shouted to me, "Row!" As explained, I had only one oar aboard. The pin into which the oar had to be put was covered with the wet sails but I managed to row, with one oar. Compared with the large yacht my oar was like a straw. Repeatedly he shouted, "Row! Can you not row?" Then suddenly I heard him shout to me, "I am getting too weak", and a few moments later he shouted "Goodbye!" The waves covered his body and the surface of the water became calm!

From the first moment on, when he fell overboard, I cried for help, realizing the danger of death. It was terrible! I was filled with mortal terror! Now, I sat down. I realised something terrible had happened. After a short while I renewed my cries for help. Suddenly I saw a fisherman's rowing boat approaching me. Two men were aboard but it was too late to render help.

They rowed to the spot where he had disappeared but nothing was to be seen of him. Deep water and wide, wide sea!

I do not know how long it took before he succumbed. The fishermen said they had heard my first cries for help and they began to row towards our yacht at once. It may have taken 20 minutes to reach us!

It was dark when I came back to Kiskil,, to break the sad news to his poor wife! Six days later his body was found. In one of his hands he still held his spectacles!

His funeral was held with great solemnity. Of course it took place in Helsingfors. A crowd of 5,000-6,000 people had come together in order to honour him.

The whole nation mourns his death. Even the political opposition party praised his services to the Country! He was the first man to speak up (?Campaign) D.B. for Finnish Nationality. He did this by word of mouth, in writing and by his actions, and all this with admirable energy. He entirely devoted himself to this cause.

The parents bear their terrible loss with Christian affection and devotion! Mother is now suffering from a severe attack of gastric fever. We feared the worst might happen to her at any moment. Now her life has been saved but she is suffering from a severe heart attack.

Dear Nicholas! Will you kindly inform the members of your family! I cannot repeat this terrible report. You will understand, the parents are unable to write themselves. But I shall write to Uncle August. God be with you, my dear, beloved Nicholas! Remember us!

Sincerest

sgd. Otta

END

My heart is full of sorrow and grief over this terrible occurrence and with these sad feelings I close my Family Chronicle.

To me, it was often as if I lived my life a second time whilst writing this Chronicle!

It is my intention to enter into a small daily journal the occurrences which concern our future and if my children should wish to continue this Chronicle they are welcome to use these notes. It would be useless to ponder over our family's future. No doubt good and evil days are before us. Many joyful things may be in store for us but we may not be spared sorrow.

Whatever may be in store for us, we should make it a rule: never haughty when in good luck and never despair when fortune goes against you.

Everything lies in the hands of GOD!

These words end my Family Chronicle.

London 23rd September 1888
13 Belsize Square

Sgd N. Krohn