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Burnet, Percy B.

Post lagernd.  
Leipzig den 9 Feb '86,

My dear Dr. Jordan:-

At this time when you are doubtless burdened with cares for your children as well as with the responsibility of the University management, I hope you will pardon me for this importunity.

I came here last summer expecting to stay two years at least. But I must return this year. Seth Meek has

written me that he thinks my  
chances would be good for a  
fellowship at Cornell, if I  
accompanied an application  
with good backing from persons  
known there. And it is for that  
reason that I have concluded  
to write to you. I wish you ~~would~~  
give me a good word if you can  
conscientiously! I never studied  
very far into your department as  
I took only what the course pre-  
scribed - except one term elective,  
I believe, in senior year. But in  
languages I had some success  
and it is in languages, of course,  
that I am trying to specialize.  
Meek says he is getting great good  
out of the fellowship he holds  
and that he will try for it a-  
gain unless something with money

in it turns up. He is hoping for a certain place in N. Y. city as you are aware.

Am very sorry that it is necessary for me to leave Germany. Advantages for philological study are the very best here.

The central position of Germany makes it a part of the training of German youths to know something of several languages besides their own. Most students know some English and ventilate all they can. We have had to set down on some of them who seemed to think we were over here for the purpose of letting them practice English conversation on us, — ~~and~~ instead of vice versa.

There are said to be 500 Americans in Leipzig. There are many American and English people, children and

grown, who seem to have no ~~re~~-  
son for being here.

There are many pretenders, too. Pretenders to wealth or conditions that they can never vindicate. One family (mother and daughter) pretend to live on Fifth Av. N.Y. at a number which four other New Yorkers say has no existence. Their bankers exposed them after hearing from a branch bank in N.Y. The greatest fraud is a fellow who came here claiming to be sent by Yale for 2 yrs when he was to return & take a sub position as teacher of English and in 2 yrs more to have \$4,000 per annum!! He said the reason he had no diploma to enter with was that he didn't have time to get it after he concluded to come over. Today his bookseller closed in on his books to recover 500 marks due. The bookseller had garnished the books 6 wks ago. This pretender has already bought his ticket for home & sails in April with his future bride (and her mother) unless she finds the truth before.

Mr Woods sends his kindest regards.  
ought to inclose a stamp with this request but have no U.S. one.

Very truly Percy B. Burnet.