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Handschriftenbeschreibung:

Soweit aus der Fotokopie zu ersehen ist, besteht der Brief aus einem Bogen weißem Papier. Wasserzeichen: „WN / SUPERFINE“. Longuet hat alle vier Seiten vollständig beschrieben. Schreibmaterial: schwarze Tinte. Der letzte Absatz bis zur Unterschrift („a good cook ... Jenny“) sowie das Postskriptum („Charles sends ...“) sind vertikal am linken Rand der vierten bzw. ersten Seite notiert.

Von unbekannter Hand: Vermerk oben links auf der ersten Seite: „E.34“ (schwarze Tinte?).

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Absender: Jenny Longuet
Schreibort: Oxford
Schreibdatum: 1872-10-27

Empfänger: Friedrich Engels
Empfangsort: London

| Stanhope House,
Walton street.
Oct. 27. 72.

My dear General,

Thank you very much for sending me the Emancipacion[a]. I am glad to see the excellent little paper continues to hit hard upon maître Proudhon[b] & does not spare his worthiest disciples the Belgian wise-acres of the Liberté[c]. As for Proudhon’s unworthy disciple & mutual friend of ours, he read the article & laughed at it—on the wrong side of his mouth. So, the mine you had so cunningly placed under our feet did not burst— we | managed to step lightly across it & here we are on the other side uninjured—all safe. Ah! scélérat de général—je te reconnais là! You thought it was high time to mix a little vinegar with the honeymoon. All honour to you. You have proved yourself to be as good a cook as a general.

How are you all getting on? How is M[rs] Engels[d] & Pumps[e]? Give my best love to them & tell them I hope soon to shake hands with | them. I must come over to London for a day or two.
As for Oxford the town itself is very interesting with its splendid colleges—but the inhabitants of these colleges are the most uninteresting specimens of humanity imaginable, a miserable

compound of snobbishness, orthodoxy and dullness. It is pitiful to see all this apparatus of libraries & tutors & magnificent colleges wasted upon some dozen parsons & boatracers.— The many thousand inhabitants of Oxford who live upon the twelve hundred | students seem to possess all the characteristics that distinguish lodging-house keepers & shopkeepers at watering places. They are accomplished thieves. Our landlady after having contrived to nibble & cribble all our provisions, at length took to stealing our gas for which we pay by the week. By some cunning device she brought it down to the brilliance of a rush light so that we could scarcely see to read at night. She supplies us with coal that burns for ever. We imagine she has got hold of bricks which she ~~*dies*~~ dyes black for our use. In other respects she is however a model landlady, / a good cook, clean & very punctual. Her punctuality is often distressing. Here she has been knocking half a dozen times to ask me to settle various things with her—to order dinner etc.

So I must say good-bye to you my dear General. With love to all I remain your affectionate

Jenny /

/ Charles[f] sends you & M[rs] Engels[g] his kindest regards. How are the purs the impurs & the half castes getting on? /

Erläuterungen

a) La Emancipación

b) Proudhon, Pierre-Joseph (1809-1865)

c) La Liberté (Bruxelles)

d) Burns, Lydia (1827-1878)

e) Burns, Mary Ellen (1859-)

f) Longuet, Charles Félix César (1839-1903)

g) Burns, Lydia (1827-1878)

Kritischer Apparat