

Voronezh, March 23!

Sweet Fenichka!

From this letter everything will be clear to you, the thing is, I had to go away for the holiday – Purim – But there was some confusion about the Shiers card. I got a Shierscard, a regular one. I still had to cross the border by stealth/surreptitiously, but with that Shierscard I couldn't go. Then I appealed to the agents, and they told me that since my card was through Libava then they weren't about to [let me] cross the border since it's impossible there

2

and that I should change the Shierscard to the other border. So I'm sending you the agent's card. Then I sent off the Shierscard and now they're sending me another [one] for the other border. I'll receive that second Shierscard before Passover; that's why I wrote you earlier that I had received it, but now write that I will receive it. And so that period of time I wanted to spend in Kiev, that's why I wrote to my former boss. I wrote him that I'm free now and can go to him. Fenichka, I'm doing this against my will, for I left him once [already]. I don't wish to enter into it again, but the desire to see you overpowered my pride,

3

and I decided to work for him for one month. So I'm enclosing his answer, from which you can see that he wants me to come to him, but fears that I will leave him again, but in spite of all that I wanted to go to Kiev, when my sister's wedding took place, and believe me, dear, that I was very busy, couldn't tear myself away even for a minute. The wedding was Sunday, we passed it very enjoyably, so until now I couldn't leave, and now only a week is left until Easter, so soon the second Shiers card will arrive. Then I'll have to be in Kiev. I'll stop in to say good-bye.

So you see, my dear, your resentment was completely in vain, and I ask you to be trusting towards me, not to doubt me. I hope to bring what I began to a close. Probably in Kiev there are those of your friends who pick over my every word, and find reasons to dissuade you, but never mind that. Let them jabber for now. I'll prove I'm right later when they all find out from you. I won't take my mind off the idea I've conceived for a minute, and will strive with all my soul toward its attainment. I beg you, dear, don't think anything bad, trust me and help me with what I've begun, you...to me

P. 5

A poem

Don't make your soul sad.  
Don't look back with doubts  
Because a heart can't go back

We met each other not being slaves (*as free people*)  
...not being in fear  
We were engaged by the light of our love and the law is in our hearts.  
We are two rivers of love and we run into the ocean of love.

Fenichka, I liked the poem. You brought it to my apartment and now I like it even more. I could talk to you about many things and I cannot part with this letter...

P. 6.

How do you spend time? Who do you meet with? How is Anyuta, Volodya, Rosa. Where does Anyuta live, in her old apartment, or maybe she lives in a new one. Do you see them often? The weather is probably fine in Kiev now. The weather here is warm, the sun's shining, everything is OK. My sister came from the Caucasus (Kavkaz). She came to tell me goodbye. She will stay here till we leave in the summer. She is fun, she sings well and every evening we gather together and she sings. We have a good time with her. Please write me about the things I ask you.

Yours,  
Leon Battall.

P. 7

...To live in this world when so many people are jobless. They try everything until the season comes. It is not the same way here; some people have everything, some, nothing. Anyway, we wish only one thing: to get to America without problems and to survive. There is a good Jewish proverb, "someday it will be" (*in due time we'll cross the bridge when we get there*). We'll cross the bridge when we get there. I ask you dear, don't be sad, let nothing disturb you, take care of your health. It is really what we need, to be healthy.

I would like you to live at the present time with my thoughts, nothing is important for me, I take no interest in anything. I have only one wish, to get there as soon as I can. Then I'll have something different.

(Reverse)

P. 8

...This is not the time to think about it. You have to wait.

I am very glad that Roma is in Kiev. Fenichka, if you see him, give him my address, do something to help him to know the way, then probably I can help him, but I still don't know where. I don't know if I go to Kiev, maybe I'll come soon but I don't know when yet.

Yours, Lev

Lev To Fenya, Possibly Voronezh March 23

I learned a little bit of English. Fenya will be Feia in English; “Pretty Feia” in Russian “would be “Milaya Fenya.” Don’t be sad, our life is ahead of us (*in the future*). We must do our best (*we must be sure*) everything will be OK.

Lev To Fenya, Possibly Voronezh March 23

[illegible][illegible]



[illegible][illegible]



[illegible]

Maria Chapman & her Mother

Ma<sup>r</sup> Denis Battall.

my spirit wa' abt'nt, n'p'm'm do b'p'm  
 d'p'm's'm's'm, m' e'p'm's'm's'm n'w'  
 b'et'n n'w'm'm's'm d'm n'p'm's'm -  
 m's't e'p'm, a m' m'm m'm p'te  
 e'p'm's'm b'e, a d'p'm's'm m'm'm?  
 e'p'm's'm p'm "5" m'm's'm p't'm's'm  
 d'e'm'm'm's'm, a p'te p't'm's'm e'p'm's'm.  
 m'm m'm's'm e'p'm's'm d'e'm'm's'm  
 n'w'm's'm e'p'm's'm  
 m'm d'p'm's'm  
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Others are situated in a new quarry —  
 located in upper ground, open. —  
 Several for the Diana &  
 Field. Belmont can see the  
 ground just east near apple tree  
 has many of these trees in front  
 of it & the very many negroes  
 there, & not far from Field &  
 are numerous from negroes &  
 they are in the very same —  
 the Diana &  
 the Diana

I want to say  
 a few minutes of  
 no particular  
 (pretty) (very) (good)  
 (studies) (hours) (the) (miserable)  
 as he never, forgets  
 and he never forgets  
 the very best of  
 the very best of  
 the very best of

He want choro dyugъ Vozmъtshenъ ;  
 He chuchyru malkъ mpekъcheto nashay ;  
 A he choy na pashyryu bъ chuchyryenъ,  
 Bъtshъ, gъdъ cherya ne vshchennъ bolshay ;

Hae e mōdōi cheia te neberōi,  
 He eaturāi *leōgūt* u te eāpiat ...  
 Aipūma tae eātināi *leōvōi*,  
 e gōkon eāi, t hōiur *leōgūt* ...  
 eka gōvōi *leōvōi* e mōdōi te taurōi  
 e te eātināi gōvōi. *leōvōi* eātināi ...

Hanc refrenda legemur temerari,  
 Unus edocuius quis populi studium  
 Da cui feruor non dubitaret pium  
 Et ipse dignetur patriam credere artem.

[illegible]