Berlin Sunday May 18th 1845

Dear George

I wrote a letter to Mother from Hamburg giving an account of my safe arrival on the 8th inst. and promising to write again as I soon as I should get settled here in Berlin. This letter was mailed at Hamburg & I trust Mother and Jemima received it before this time. I left Hamburg on the Morning of the Saturday following on board the steamer of the 10th of May and hope I suppose reached you by this time. We left Hamburg on the Morning of the Saturday following on board the steamer for Hamburg & which took a fine sail though not very quick passage, arriving at Stade a little town on the Elbe 20 or 30 miles below Hamburg on Monday evening and were in Hamburg by 5 o'clock the next morning, being obliged to lie two days during the night on account of the fogs & Calms which prevailed on the River Elbe. Sunday

we passed both days & night of Sunday during the whole day but in the evening we saw the lights off the mouth of the vessel and on the next morning were off Heligoland a little island near the mouth of the Elbe. It took us nearly the whole day to ascend the Elbe from Cuxhaven to Stade a distance of about 60 miles. The banks of the river are lined with little villages which are protected from inundation by dikes 20 or 30 feet in height covered with sweet grass and extending from the mouth of the river as far up as Stade about 500 miles. With the exception of a single interruption on either side the scenery however is on both sides very tame & uninteresting and the water of the river is of a dirty coffee colour. At Stade a toll is demanded by the King of Hanover from all vessels ascending the Elbe. At 2 the next morning we were on our way again & stopped a pretty little looking village called Blankenese, the houses of which are built on the side of a little cliff the only one, as I was told, I have seen since I left Hamburg. From this place to Altona the Holstein bank is rather elevated and is covered with country seats belonging to Hamburg merchants. Arrived at Hamburg the steamer lay to by the side of a ship as there are no wharves, and crowds of boats came around us to take off the passengers and baggage. In one of these I deposited myself and trunks, leaving Mr Joseph on board to wait for his father who had written to say that he would meet him there at 7 o'clock. I was paddled ashore in the middle of a dirty bay into the dock and was not sorry that there was kept me at home all day. My trunks were not examined at all and I opened the large one for the first time since leaving New York. Next Morning Mr Joseph came to see me and we took a short walk together, I bought myself some gloves and a neckhandkerchief at a fancy shop, and then found Mr Schlesinger's Comptoir in the Exchange and got rid of the letter of introduction. He received me very cordially and invited me to go to Altona with him that evening to a little party at Mrs J. S. Schlesinger's to whom you know I had a letter and box from Mr Schlesinger in New York. Meantime his brother Mr Philip Schlesinger accompanied me in doing the lions of the city, to see the Docks &c. We rowed round the ramparts together. The walls and ramparts of this city were laid out in public walks and gardens after the reconstruction of the city by the French in 1815 and these as well as the suburbs are very beautiful but there are no very fine or very interesting buildings, with the exception of the old town which is rather striking at first sight to a stranger. Many of the houses are several hundred years old and the streets are narrow and crooked as you know. High pointed roofs and antiquated fantastic gable ends please at you on all sides but when you have passed at first a short time you have seen every thing. The new town has risen up on the ruins of the old and contains several fine streets. The houses being all built in a modern style of brick and plastered so as to present a very neat and cheerful appearance. I amused myself for the rest of the day in strolling about. In the evening Mr Schlesinger called at the Hotel for me and we went first to his house which stands in a suburb just outside one of the gates, and then in a carriage to Mrs Schlesinger's at Altona. Mrs Schlesinger and her family were quite delighted to see some one fresh from New York and I spent a very pleasant

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