evening with them. We had some music also from four young musicians, which to the best of my knowledge and
beliefs was very good. The children were much delighted with their father's letters – likewise with the Marmalade.
Next morning at 12 I called again at Mr Schlesinger's and arranged with him about my letters of Credit on Berlin
which he promised to send me within a few days after my arrival. I was very anxious to get to Berlin as soon
as possible so as to get settled without loss of time and without living longer in a hotel than was absolutely necessary.
I concluded therefore to leave Hamburg the same afternoon Thursday – in the steamer for Magdeburg as I should
otherwise have been obliged to wait till Saturday. I engaged my ticket at the office and took leave of the Schlesingers
before dinner, and saw Mr & Mrs Goirsen a moment in their carriage to bid them good bye. After dinner I
squared my accounts with the Landlord and took a drosky for the Steamboat wharf, for this Steamboat
actually had a wharf, no very common occurrence in Hamburg. At 5 we were under weigh. A more miserable little
Steamboat never was seen, and to make matters worse it began to rain about 2 hours after we left Hamburg and continued
to do so till we reached Magdeburg [illegible]
imagined and were it not for the dikes you would get an accurate idea of them by painting a board green & there drawing
a zigzag chalk line down the middle. You may imagine that 240 hours on such a river was something of a bore. At a
little town called Wittenberg the steamboat stopped and our baggage was taken on shore to be examined. I had no
trouble whatever with mine as the only object of the officer was to see that there was no merchandise in the trunks. Our pass-
ports were not called for at all. On reaching Magdeburg, the baggage was taken to the railroad depot and weighed and I was obliged to pay
for about 100 lbs overweight. All the arrangements at the ~~[illegible]~~ depot for weighing and stowing away the baggage ~~[illegible]~~ however and
very very bad. The Germans are evidently novices in everything relating to railroads. At last we got off ~~[illegible]~~ however and
went on at a very tolerable rate, over a perfectly level plain extending on both sides almost as far as one could see. I never saw a more
uninteresting country in respect of scenery in my life – ~~[illegible]~~ the Long Island railroad route is delightful in comparison with it.
There are no fences except by the roadside every few trees and houses – nothing but grass & grain, grass & grain and grass & grain again.
We passed through several villages and small towns among others Wittenberg famous in the History of Luther. As you
approach Berlin the soil becomes more & more sandy and the grain crops thinner & thinner. We reached the city at about 7 o'clock
in the evening & the hotel commissary took charge of the baggage and left us to find our way to our hotels as best we might.
I took a droschky and drove to the Hotel which Whitney had recommended to me – Meinhardt's in the great street called
Unter den Linden – under the Lindens. My baggage came soon after and I ordered some supper as I had eaten nothing
since breakfast. Next morning I got Mr Wheaton's address and called upon him forthwith – he was not at home, so that
I was obliged to spend the day – walking about and examining the public buildings &c &c. On Monday I found where
Mr Fay lived and called upon him with my letters. He received me very cordially and directed me to the house
where I now am. I was anxious to leave the Hotel as soon as possible, so I engaged my lodgings for a month and
had my trunks removed to them at once. In the evening I saw Mr Wheaton – he received me politely enough and
made me the invariable apology which he makes to all Americans that he is sorry not to be able to offer them any hospitality
as his family reside in Paris &c &c &c" I spent most of the next day in arranging everything at my lodgings. I pay 8 thalers
or rather less than 6 dollars a month for 2 rooms in the third story, a small bedroom and a larger sitting room,
both abundantly & comfortably furnished but without carpets which are rarely seen here. This includes servants attendance
except that of the "Boots" and small occasional fees of a shilling or two. I breakfast in my room on coffee & bread & butter
the butter & sugar being after breakfast put away in a drawer till the next day &c. At 2 I go to a restaurant

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