Berlin — June 23d 1845. 1845

P.S. If abroad you should send a box me Waterproof I should like to have a Macintosh Cloake to travel with. They are not to be had here and are very necessary particularly in walking. I have been obliged to soften my letter once after reading it —

Dear Mother

I wrote to you by the Steamer of the 4th of June giving you an account of my safe arrival here together with the particulars of my journey from Havre. I suppose [illegible] I have received your letter of the 15th of May which gave me much pleasure as I did not expect one so soon. I also wrote to you from Havre by the Steamer of the 4th of May. You will have received both I suppose before this goes. I have been here now a few days more than a month and am quite settled both in my lodgings and in the Laboratory. So I cannot give you a better idea of my way of living here than by telling you how a day passes with me. I get up then, at an indefinite period between 6 & 8 the Stubenfurger or Boots takes my coat & shoes to brush and the servant girl brings me in a little pitcher of coffee a smaller ditto of milk and a roll of bread my sugar and butter then emerge from a little cupboard in one side of the huge porcellaine Stove which stands in one corner of my room, and this coffee bread butter and sugar process is [illegible] breakfast being over, I either take a short walk for sit down at once to my studies [illegible] remain till 6 o'clock. After this I usually take a walk in the park just outside the principal gate of the City and not far from my lodgings. This is thronged with people in the evening and is surrounded by like beergardens where crowds are seen almost every night during the summer, and where a great deal of bad beer is drunk at all hours & seasons. In the evening I make my visits if I have any to make or else return home and read till bedtime. I eat three but two meals in the day. Thus sometimes my early dinner makes me rather hungry in the evening and I take something at a confectioners & read the papers at the same time. There confectioners, shops are the great places of resort here both at noon & in the afternoon & evenings. They are the only reading rooms in the city and you find in all the German and one or two English & French papers. You pay nothing for the reading but are expected to call for coffee, tea or Cake. All sorts of [illegible] are to be procured. Stehely's confectioners in Conditorei any shop in the afternoons taking coffee and chocolate. Notwithstanding the profusion of German news papers at these places, Berlin is the most difficult place to find out what is going on in the rest of the world, which can be inquired. In the first place the German newspapers are made up entirely of little scraps about the different states in Germany which are insipid beyond conception and are copied from one newspaper into another ad infinitum. Then again the scientific periodicals and the French and English reviews are nowhere to be seen and I do not know here half as much of what is going on in the scientific world as I do when in New York. I have improved much in the Language since I have been here, but do not of course speak it very fluently. I can usually make myself understood. I have yet taken a teacher as I wrote that I intended to do, either for French or for German. I became German first enough without and for French I must wait till I have more time to give to it or till I go to France which I hope to do before I return. I am well satisfied with my progress in the Laboratory but I do not think that I should wish to remain in this city more than a year or at most 18 months. The city is not absolutely unhealthy perhaps, though this is a disputed point, but it is by no means salubrious as it is perfectly flat and the waste water is allowed to stagnate in the gutters as it cannot run off. The smell of the streets is consequently horrible. The water for drinking is bad and the weather nearly as hot as in New York at this time, we have had the thermometer at 84° in the shade. I have been twice invited to evening parties since I arrived, once at Prof Rose's and the next time to Von Raumer's. I went of course for curiosity's sake and was on the whole pleased. Everything went off very much as with us except that there was no music and no dancing. At Rose's almost all the Chemists in the City were present as well as several foreigners and I made many acquaintances. Supper was handed round on waiters and consisted of meats cooked in various ways to us altogether unknown. After supper the company broke up. This is a very pleasant way to spend parties, but the truth is that there is nothing more to be said about it. There were not many Ladies present at either party and those who were all betook themselves in one part of the room during the greater part of the evening, leaving the gentlemen to amuse themselves as best they could. I have called twice upon Mr and Mrs Raumer and found him very polite & cordial. His book on America will have been published in New York before you receive this and is to be published here at the same time. I have made several pleasant [illegible] acquaintances and shall doubtless have other dances of them when I begin to attend Lectures, which [illegible] in my last. will not be till October. The Lectures cease here on the [illegible] of August when the Laboratories [illegible] I cannot remain in the city all the [illegible]

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