Berlin Oct 24 1845

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 2nd of September came safely to hand this morning after a journey of more than a month and a half and had the honour of crossing the Atlantic in the American Steamer Packet [illegible] and [illegible] looking at my note book I find that on that very day I arrived in [illegible] I was very glad to hear from you and of your new home, though some newspaper [illegible] I was very glad to hear from you and of your new home, though there seem to be some redeeming given me some information about Chicago in the form of letters from the West. Though there seem to be some redeeming points about it I am afraid it must be rather a dead place [illegible] as dull as Berlin in fact. But I suppose you find as I do that when one has plenty to do one may live anywhere. I do [illegible] Berlin because I am hard at work all day in the Laboratory and you too must be pretty much occupied in managing your household affairs and keeping [illegible] in order. I hope to make you a visit very [illegible] I cannot now say when that will be, while I am here I may as well make thorough work of it. I wrote a letter to [illegible] from Dresden [illegible] account of my visit to Leipsic and the Fasches. This you will have seen before this one reaches you so that I will not [illegible] further about it [illegible] but affecting [illegible] I have [illegible] own opinion as to which of the two sisters is the cleverest. From Leipsic then I went by railroad to Dresden where I spent in all nearly a fortnight making it my head quarters whence I made little excursions and forages into the neighbourhood. In Dresden I met a young American whose acquaintance I had already made in Berlin and we visited every thing together. One pleasant excursion we made to Freyberg where we spent 2 days visiting the mines and mining school. We went down one mine to the depth of about 450 feet, the descent being simply by ladders and not dangerous, [illegible] the horizontal lines representing platforms on which the ladders rest, the vertical the sides of the shaft and the slanting lines the ladders themselves. Each ladder was about 20 feet in length and rather narrow so that we had to shut down with hands and feet. We were both equipped in miners dresses and carried a little [illegible] hung by a strap round the waist. The novelty and strangeness of this downward journey made it quite exciting, nothing was more curious to us than the immense hydraulic engines working hundreds of feet beneath the surface and groaning and creaking and hearing and sighing like a whole legion of tormented spirits. We visited many long galleries cut in the solid rock, spent about an hour below & then commenced climbing up again — no trifling labour too it was to go up 400 feet of ladder. I was heartily glad when we got to the surface again that we had gone no deeper, the mine was 700 feet deep. We found on coming out that we had gone nearly a quarter of a mile horizontally beneath the surface. Coming out at a different place from that at which we descended. Pretty looking fellows we were, what with the miners dresses and the mud. We returned from Dresden very well pleased with our visit and a few days after made our excursion to the Saxon Switzerland. We ascended the Elbe 30 or 40 miles in the steamboat and then landed and took a guide. We spent two days in walking about and visited all the interesting places. I am no hand at describing scenery and must leave much to your imagination. I can only tell

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