Berlin January 19th /46

1846

Dear Mother

I dispatched 2 letters to you by the Steamer of the 4th of this month, the first of which however was posted to go on the 19th of last month as I did not then know that we were to have but one steamer monthly hereafter. Since I last wrote several letters have reached me. One from Bob & Elmer by way of Hamburg and 2 others from Wm & Geo by Steamer. George's last contains some interesting information. I am glad that Eliza is to return and that Lucius goes into partnership with Joseph. George he had sent a microscope for me and that another package had just arrived per steamer. I went there day [illegible] and they reached me a couple of days ago safe. I had to go to the post office for them myself [illegible] on them in the presence of the officials who charged me the enormous duty of one cent for the whole. They things were all safe. The cake was eaten by myself & German acquaintance with great dignity & composure. The special roommate rolling his eyes about in ecstacy at every mouthful. Better not trust to dreams after eating it but failed totally. I hope for a letter from Geo will congratulate Louis for me and wish him many happy returns of the occasion. Of late we that Bob Leroy is reported engaged to Miss Rhinelander. This amuses me very much. You say nothing of Mrs Leroy's health in your last. My friends are getting married off at a fearful rate. Robert. Cassons. Smith engaged (to whom) to pay nothing of personal of any old classmate who leave better bigger & better half's to themselves. Quite time for George to begin. Since my arrival some weeks since, and is working in the laboratory with me. He appears to have some good points about him though somewhat strange in his ways. He says he was only one day in Boston and had no time to write or to call upon any of the family there. I suppose he must be held excused though I was disappointed enough when he arrived to receive no letters from home. The was but 20 days from Boston to Berlin & of those were spent in London. I have no doubt it will yet be done in 14. Ran 20. to this evening on coming home from the laboratory I found a thick letter for me lying upon my table. I pounced upon it like a vulture and found it made up of 3, one from you, one from George and another from Wm Silliman, dated 1st Nov and today is the 20th. After all you are not very far off from me. The letter was most welcome and I have read it 2 or 3 times, and believe I understand it all. You speak of sending a ring with Washington's hair. It would not be of service to me here and might be lost or stolen from me which would give me much pain. No German would believe that it really was what it pretended to be as they are exceedingly unscrupulous and will believe no means word without legal documents. Moreover notwithstanding the boasted honesty of the Germans Berlin is as full of thieves, pickpockets and burglars as any other city of the same size in the world. You will laugh at my fearing to wear a ring on this account but I would much rather lose anything I possess than such a thing as that. You ask about my coat of paint to paint. It cost nothing but the time as gentlemen go in plain clothes but I have the strongest dislike & repugnance to anything of the kind. The royal family is to be seen at all times either at Church or driving through the streets. I have seen them so often that I scarcely look at them now as they pass and have not the smallest curiosity respecting any one of them. It is by no means necessary to [illegible] in writing to you about politics & such things. Letters to foreign countries when political are opened to perhaps & persons are never opened and my friends here all tell me I may write what I please without any danger of police. I have given me a little basket of maple ware to Mrs Lee's little girl, the beard and Lilliputian moccasins for another little girl and the other [illegible] I still have in reserve. My fur hat & gloves I have not worn as yet and could

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