I am naturally desirous to learn as much as possible of the state of affairs at home. The next steamer left town a month from now will I suppose bring intelligence which will decide the question of peace or war. I shall hope to hear from you by it. Our letters now must cross one another as we have but one steamer in a month.

I am fast losing all sympathy for the Germans people in their struggles for political freedom. It is only necessary to give a German patriot an office to pilfer him forever may to convert him into a most strenuous defender of the government and of despotic institutions. The university students whom much about freedom & a constitution but they speedily lose their love on quitting that University. I am also thoroughly disgusted with the servility of the Germans toward their superiors in rank, their absurd ceremoniousness and their roughness & unmannerliness toward equals and inferiors. Certainly no nation has less polish of manner. They are exceedingly inconsiderate ignorant of the manners and customs of other countries and incredibly obstinate in defending

[illegible] (German notation)

they are more general in their tastes & affinities than any other civilized nation. I find a most wonderful similarity in the German mind. Every mind seems to have been cast in the same mould. Every German thinks in exactly the same way - that is every Germans who thinks at all. There seem to be no degrees of intellection adjacency there. There are but 2 kinds of Germans, the very very stupid and the very intellectual, the former class is decidedly in the majority but both classes are alike sensual. Notwithstanding all this they have many great points in their character and I like them now much better than at first. Certainly there is much in real religious freedom here than with us. A man's religious opinions are respected here in general be they what they may. He will if rationalist obtain no office in the state - that is the publick profess rationalism. But he will be everywhere freely admitted into society and his rationalism will never be brought up against him as a man. But let any man with us deliberately state his honest conviction that Christianity is not a true system wholly of human invention and he will be hooted out of society everywhere, and will be the mark of every newspaper editor in the land and will be from that time forth ineligible to any office whatsoever.

So you see the Germans have some advantages over us after all. Perhaps their great fault is their slowness their want of enterprise of energy or self reliance. Much of this arises no doubt from their habits of dependence on government for everything but I believe that much is in their own nature. It will I think be long before they obtain a Constitution here in Prussia. The immense body of officials is of course vehemently opposed to change the officers in the army are wealthy if not wholly of high family and by no means liberal minded. The nation is sluggish and no one will risk prospects or personal freedom for the sake of the whole. There have not been many persons [illegible] martyrs. Martyrdom would spoil a German's digestion, put out his pipe & cut off his beer and sauerkraut. What German would undergo all this for the sake of political freedom of his nation? I must close my letter here as it is 12 o'clock and tomorrow is the last day of peace the final allows. Give my best love to Jane mother Aunt S. Mary. Fred & the Swifpeniers and all others deserving of the same. I believe me

Yours sincerely [illegible]

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