I am naturally desirous to learn as much as possible of the state of affairs at home. The next steamer
less than 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 ~~polit~~ in their struggles for political freedom. It is only necessary
to give a German patriot an office to silence him forever nay to convert him into a most strenuous defender of
the Government and of despotic institutions. The university students vapour much about freedom & a constitu-
tion, but they speedily lose this tone on quitting the 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 excessively incredulous
ludicrously ignorant of the manners and customs of other countries and incredibly obstinate in defending
long standing abuses. [illegible]
they are more sensual in their tastes & appetites 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 German who thinks at all. There seem to due to be no degrees of intellectu-
ality among them. 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 more
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 if he publicly 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 than Christianity is not a true system
— is 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 ineligeable 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 and 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 mostly if not wholly of high family and by no means liberal minded. The nation
is sluggish and no one will risk property or ~~fr~~ personal freedom for the sake of the whole. There have not been
many prussian political 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 the political freedom of his nation? I must close
my letter here as it is 12 o'clock and tomorrow is the last day of grace the post allows. Give my best love to Your mother
Aunt S. Mary. Fred & the Incipiency and all others deserving of the same & believe me
Yours sincerely Wolcott

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