1846

Giessen Oct 27/46

Dear George

I arrived here yesterday after a pleasant tour of 6 weeks and sit down to scratch you a few hasty lines hoping to be in time for the steamer of the 4th. I found here 2 letters from you and one from Wm which were very welcome as I had not heard from you in a long time. The letters had been forwarded from Berlin and were waiting me poste restante. In regard to my uncleship I can only say that I on receiving either in my mustache or whiskers after which I stretched my limbs in various directions to make sure that the stiffness of old age was not coming upon me and being satisfied on these points I shook hands with myself and congratulated myself as usual in such cases. I am very glad to hear of Eliza's health as well as of that of the incipient Cuckeman and hope to hear of them again soon. I find Giessen a wretched hole but the laboratory is luckily outside of the town and I have [illegible] it. My rooms are very good and [illegible] family I am with appears respectable and friendly. I dine also much better than in Berlin and for the same sum. I have seen Liebig but once and that only for a few moments. He was not uncivil but also not cordial and I do not know how I shall like him on further acquaintance. At any rate I shall now have an opportunity of judging for myself about him. I told you in my last letter why I had given up going to Leipzig for the winter. I do not expect to remain here more than one semester or 4 months but shall be governed by circumstances. Horsford returns in November but Whitney will be here so that I shall not be alone. I hear that there are 2 other Americans here but have not seen them yet. My labours begin on the 1st of November and I am anxious to get to work again. My travelling plans were entirely destroyed by the weather which had been very delightful up to the 15th of September when I arrived at Linz on my way to Ischl and Salzburg. Here it began to rain and continued raining steadily or nearly so for about a fortnight. I saw what I could in the glimpses of sunshine at Ischl and Salzburg but finally gave up in despair went to Innspruck and thence to Munich and where I spent a week very pleasantly. From Munich I went to Augsburg thence by way of Ulm Stuttgart Carlsruhe and Kehl to Strasburg where I spent 2 days

000195