quite pleasantly and then came down the Rhein to Mannheim from Mannheim ~~where~~
I went by railroad to Heidelberg where I spent several days. I found there one or two Americans
and several Englishmen and had a pleasant visit. The old castle is magnificent.
From Heidelberg I went to Frankfurt and thence to Mayence. Then down the
Rhine to Coblenz and from Coblenz here. After all if you take away the old castles the
Rhine is not as fine as the Hudson. I have not seen a view either on the Rhine or
Danube as fine as that from the Piazza at West Point. The vintage is just over and the
wine is of extraordinary quality and the yield immense. It is considered one of the greatest
wine seasons on record. I got a stomach ache [illegible]
grapes have been beautiful and very cheap. When labour is a little cheaper we shall
have vineyards and wine in America. I hope by the way that you lay hold of all
the reports of the patent office. They are really very valuable and I should be glad when
I got home to have access to a complete set. I mean to give you a longer account
of my journey in a future letter, just now I have only time to say that I am well
and badly off for pantaloons. I settled up with my banker before leaving Berlin. As I
had nothing to pay this was an easy matter. He has transferred my account to a banker
in Frankfurt. I have 260 prussian thalers left with which I expect to come out straight.
If my expences here are not greater than they were in Berlin as they ought not to be
this will last till April. However, I will let you know in time. When you send
send me circular notes. I saw Miss Zauch in Leipsig. She was well and said
she had written to Laura. I forget when. I came across some queer fishes on my
journey. One of these a Dr Schiefferdecker from Phila told me he had been to Grafenberg
to see the water cure. He found there 28 American families! He is to set up an
establishment near Phila. He will make money and may do good. I am glad to hear
that your little book is selling well. I have read but little of it yet. The portrait is bad and
I am sorry that you did not have the bust engraved. The great talk here now is the explosive
cotton of Schönbein of which you will have read in the papers. It appears likely to revolutionize
the art of warfare at least to upset the use of gunpowder. Its explosive force is greater than
that of gunpowder and it leaves no solid matter whatever behind so that the gun remains perfectly

clean. This will
gun cotton. A
a percussion cap
But the chief
it when I kno
me in future
very well but
You can write
but I do not
[illegible]
as my books
I think Ch
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and, it mu
appears to
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incline to t
Germans. I
is one of the
Peter Porter
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and shall
and Sarah.
be too late