Giessen Nov 22d 1846

Dear Will

After all said and done I am in Giessen in Giessen and working in Liebig's laboratory. I have scarcely yet recovered from my surprise at finding myself here. You know that I changed my plans several times last spring and at last concluded to go to Liebig and work with Erdmann. Nevertheless as Rosé and Magnus strongly advised me to pass a semester here and as we heard that [illegible] we that is [illegible] concluded that we could learn organic Analysis as well in Giessen as any where else and so here we are. I arrived about a month since and have been now 3 weeks in the laboratory. We have already finished our course of analytical exercises having analysed sugar, Ether and oil of Turpentine and Uric Acid of each several Analyses or combustions. We have made besides 4 or 5 determinations of Nitrogen according to the 3 different methods in use, and it only remains for us to determine the Spec grav of a vapour according to Dumas' method, to be ready to undertake some investigation. You see from this that the mere learning how to make a combustion does not take much time. It is not yet decided upon what we are to work but it will doubtless be on some subject connected with Animal Chemistry as Liebig is now entirely absorbed by this department. He has just rediscovered the Kreatin of Chevreul and we may get this to work on. There are now 29 in the laboratory, all hard at work on Casein, Fibrin, Albumen &c &c. Liebig comes round several times in the course of the day and pays each a visit. He is toward us tolerably friendly and civil but does not, at least at first, make an agreeable impression. They say it will be otherwise hereafter so I will ~~[illegible]~~ reserve any judgment. He is personally not unprepossessing, has fine eyes and an intelligent bright look. His portraits do not do him justice. He wears in the laboratory a smoking cap, goes about with his hands in his breeches pocket and pokes his nose into everything. Sometimes he stands and looks you steadily in the face for 10 minutes together and then walks off without uttering a syllable. If you are doing anything no matter how simple he always takes it out of your hands to shew you what he considers a better way, and in short appears to wish to show himself master in everything. All this makes an unpleasant impression on beginners. However I will give him fair play. You know I suppose that he has quarrelled bitterly with Berzelius and with almost