26th January 1847 — Giessen

Dear George

Your letter of Dec 29 as well as one from William of the same date came safely to hand on the 19th. Either Flandin has at length borrowed a conscience or else the Prussian and Tilesian have postoffices have for once exhibited a little common honesty. I had to pay but 2 cents for both letters. I am somewhat surprised at your communication [illegible]. I am of course give no definite answer until the proposition reaches me but if its tenor be what you mention I shall certainly decline. I do not think that the college offers me advantages enough to compensate me for returning before my education abroad is finished and I do not want to come home half baked. I have given up any idea of going to Italy and wish to spend the next winter in Paris in attending lectures and studying. I shall leave for Paris on the 1st of April and after peeping at Utrecht and one or two Belgian cities hope to be in Paris by the 15th. I think you are quite right in supposing that there is some covert purpose in my being brought forward at this time. I strongly suspect Gilman and some others of wishing to get Torrey out and to put a younger man in his place. But they are mistaken if they suppose that I will assist them in anything of the kind even if it be for my own advantage. I shall look with interest for their proposal however and then decide finally. What I myself wish for is simply any quiet out of the way place where I can work undisturbed and I have sufficient self confidence or self conceit if you will, to believe that I shall be able in a few years to take a place myself altogether beyond the competition of such chemists as De Beck, and to command a better position. Such a place as Hannover & Pittsfield would suit me very well. I understood Watts once that if I were willing to take a place in the medical school at Pittsfield he could probably procure one for me. I believe there is no vacancy at Hannover. The salaries are of course small at such places but living is very cheap and with what little I have I could get along very well till I could get a better place. I hope therefore that you will keep an eye on those country medical schools where a vacancy is likely to occur.

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