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Berlin, 18 October, 1837

Mon cher pere,

I wrote you a few days since, I have now to acknowledge your kind letter of the 15 Sept. enclosing one to Abby -

Give yourself no trouble about newspapers - I now receive (with some regularity) the Intelligence & Globe - with the N. Y. American. - But the most material contents of those papers are ever anticipated by the London Times & Morning Chronicle - which besides contain long letters from the Correspondents of those Papers from Washington & Phil'a. American affairs never attracted so much attention in Europe before -

I had an audience of the King's Prussia a few days since to present my new credentials, &c. He asked me several questions which convinced me that even he reads about the commercial crisis - & is anxious to understand its cause - which as he very justly observed are so much disfigured by party spirit that it is difficult to arrive at the truth.

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I think he rather congratulates himself upon
having arrested at an early stage the mania
for Horse & rail-road Speculations - which
had begun to invade this quiet country.
We are however to have a Rail-road from here
to Potsdam - 4 German miles - which will very
much amuse the Coachmen of Berlin - & will
in fact make the two towns one for almost
every purpose. C. M. received me "very graciously"
(as the phrase is) & said that my promotion made
no difference in his estimate of my personal
worth - at the same time - he felicitated
my Government upon the selection it had made.
Among other things he remarked that there
had always been the best understanding between
the two Countries - that in fact Prussia
& the U. S. never could have any collision - as
their relations were merely commercial -
which he wished to see extended. I was
introduced to the audience by the Baron de
Wetter the new Minister of Foreign Affairs
who left me alone with the King. -

We have now news from Washington to the 18th & it appears to be doubtful from the state of parties in the C. of R. whether the P. will be able to carry his measures - at least the principal one for divorcing the Treasury from the Banks - That operation appears to be nearly complete in practice - & must continue unless the Banks resume specie payments, which they do not seem likely to do very soon.

We were very thankful for the Books you were so kind as to send by Mr Dodge. I read with particular pleasure the Travels in Egypt & Palestine by Mr Stephens - Mr Ware's letters from Palmyra I have not yet seen. Bulwer's Athens has fully come up to my expectation, & they were very high - Bancroft's History of the U. S. I read some time ago with great pleasure.

Mr Dodge has a commission to travel under my instructions in the different Countries of Germany to examine their fabrics, productions, & other commercial resources with a view to future negotiations. He sets off soon leaving N. Y. here.

The Cholera has almost entirely ceased here.

& people have entirely ceased talking about it. This mysterious plague seems to baffle all the efforts of science -
 to what is remarkable - this is the third time it has raged
 in Berlin - & this time it has been more malignant than
 ever - instead of diminishing in intensity. - But it has been
 almost exclusively confined to what we called the lower orders -
 the poorly lodged, clothed, & fed, in whom any excess in living
 is visited by severer consequences than their more prosperous
 fellow creatures. The latter part of the summer has been
 very rainy in Germany - & the warmth not sufficient to
 ripen the grape - so that the wine crop will almost
 entirely fail - In fact it is but once in 3 or 4 years
 that they have a good vintage - so that the wine merchants
 are kept always miserably poor - Of corn, there is a
 superabundance - & no market for it abroad. - I trust
 they will never find one again with us, tho' I see the price
 of flour is still very high in New York - Such is the inevitable
 consequence of overtrading & wild speculation which is
 stimulated by the excessive issue of paper money - it enhances
 the expenses of living for those who depend on professional or
 other labour -

Ever truly yours,

Dr. Wheaton

W. W.