Berlin, 18 October, 1837

Mon cher Jere,

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

Give yourself no trouble about newspapers; I now receive (with some regularity) the Intelligence, the Globe, and the N.Y. American. But the most material contents of these papers are ever anticipated by the London Times, Morning Chronicle, which besides contain long letters from the Consuls and Ministers of the Powers from Washington and Phila. American Affairs have attracted so much attention in Europe before.

I had an audience of the King of Prussia a few days since, to preserve my new credentials. K. M. asked me several questions which convinced me that even he reads about the commercial crisis. It is anxious to understand its causes, which are very justly referred to so much Vizegne. A lay party spirit that it is difficult to arrive at the truth.
I think he rather congratulated himself on having arrested at an early stage the mania for stocks and railroad speculations which had begun to invade this quiet country. We are honored to have a railroad from here to Feldam – a German mile – which will very much amuse the Cockneys of Berlin. It will in fact make the two towns one for almost every purpose. (He received me "very graciously" in the phrase is) I 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 America at the U.S. never could have any collision in their relations were merely commercial which he wished to see extended. I was introduced to the audience by the Baron de Wester, 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
U. S. whether the P. will be able to carry his measures
at least the principal one for divorcing the Treasury from
the Banker. That operation appears to be nearly
complete in practice—& must continue unless the
Banker 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 Travel in Egypt & Palestine by Mr.
Stephenson—his 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 instruction in the different Countries of
Germany to examine their fabrics, productions, & the
commercial resources with a view to future negotiation.
He sets off soon leaving Sept. 1. 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. What is remarkable is 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 are called the lower orders, the poorly lodged, clothed, & fed, so that 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 grapes, 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 masters are kept always miserably poor. Of course, there is a superabundance & no market for it abroad. I trust they will never find me again with my 'Seattle 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 relaxes the influence of saving for those who depend on professional or other labour.

Ever truly yours,

[Signature]