

Dear Sir

Frankfort on the Maine April 9. 1788.

I arrived here on the 6th inst. having been overtaken at
~~Alvers~~ by the commencement of a storm of rain hail & snow
which lasted to this place, with intermissions now and
then. the roads however continued good to Bonne, there begin-
ning to be clayey & to be penetrated with the wet they became
worse than imagination can paint for about 100 miles which
brought me to the neighborhood of this place where the chaussee
began. my old friend the Baron de Seismar met me here, on a
letter I had written him from Amsterdam, & has been my Cicerone.
it happens to be the moment of the fair of Frankfort which is
very great. yesterday we made an excursion up the Maine to
Hanau, passing the ground where the battle of Borgen was fought
in the war before last. tomorrow we shall go to the vineyard
of Hochem, & perhaps of Rudesheim & Johannesberg, where the
most celebrated wines are made. then I shall pass on to Mayence
Worms, Manheim, Heidelberg & Spire, & from this last place to Strasburg.
unless I find there any thing from you which may call me to Paris
directly, I shall probably go a little circuitously, perhaps by the
way of Reims in Champagne, so that I am unable to say exactly
when I shall be at Paris. I guess about the 20th. I met at Hanau
with many acquaintances, the Officers who had been stationed in
Albemarle while in captivity. I have seen much good country on
the Rhine, & had whenever I got a little off of it. but what I
have

Mr Short.

have met with the most wonderful in nature is a set of men absolutely incorruptible by money, by fair words or by foul: & that this should, of all others, be the class of postillions. This however is the real character of German postillions whom nothing on earth can induce to go out of a walk. This has retarded me not a little: so that I shall be glad to be delivered over to the great jackboots. The neighborhood of this place is that which has been to us a second mother country. It is from the palatinate on this part of the Rhine that those swarms of Germans have gone, who, next to the descendants of the English, form the greatest body of our people. I have been continually amused by seeing here ~~what~~ the origin of whatever is not English among us. I have fancied myself often in the upper parts of Maryland & Pennsylvania. I have taken some measures too for realizing a project which I have wished to execute for 20 years past without knowing how to go about it. I am not sure but that you will enter into similar views when I can have the pleasure of explaining them to you at Paris. being too long for a letter and having ~~nothing~~ already given you a sufficiency of egoismes, for want of other subjects I shall conclude with assurances of the esteem & attachment with which I am Dear Sir

your affectionate friend & servant

J. Jefferson

14. —
Jefferson June 9. 1788