

Place and date

scribbled at bottom of letter: Joachimsthal 12/5/1851

(not clear if 12. May or 5. December)

Formal "Sie" address used throughout.

Dear friend Squatter:

You are living in a damned (?) solitude, as I understand from the last of your letters which was as all of them, of enormous interest to us, although only two actually reached us. But be sure to stick with it and remember that you are on your way to achieve the greatest goal on earth, to own property. For myself, anyway, a little piece of ground that is my own, is worth more than many thousand guilders in securities with a 2-inch gold-star embossed edging. If you didn't make it there, and I have no doubt that you will, I would be inconsolably disappointed. Your old fatherland is now in a situation with which no intelligent and honest man can be pleased. As the cleric in the pulpit prattles *ad majorem dei gloriam*, so talks the all-powerful Reaction in the political arena and promotes the general welfare of the State in the jesuitic manner to so as to preserve the highest privileges. Proper, reliable newspapers are almost non-existent; only those which echo the latest platitudes and which represent the voice of tyranny, shamelessly promoting themselves as the masters of the world, and everything else is just a mob and exists for their benefit (*translated with considerable license. . .*).

Instead of popular delegates, it seems that, also in material affairs, so-called trustee members are being appointed, whose noisy applause drowns out the uncommitted ministers. For Frankfurt and the fatherland in general it does not look a lot better. Surely the refinement process will be dragged out long enough until the German Parliament consists only of yes-men. Our only consolation is that it can't go on like that forever. Be glad you are over there; you could not stand it here.

Otherwise I am doing well. I am back from my trip to Freiburg, Dresden, Leipzig, etc. I skipped . . . in Weimar because I was not satisfied with my machine<sup>1</sup>, but it is now in good shape; in a few days it will be fully functional for general use and hardly be in need of further improvement.

At any rate, I am expecting several thousand guilders. What I will do then, I don't know yet myself. I am not inclined to follow your path, much as I enjoy agriculture, and even though I am sure I would devote myself to it with passion. I am not afraid of work, but of having to do everything myself. Hired help, as you commented yourself, has its drawbacks. As for sawing, milling, and use of

<sup>1</sup> *This machine seems to be a metal or ore-processing device from which he expects to derive considerable revenue. He writes of the machine's performance in some technical detail; also of currency calculations and copper prices in England. He refers to "taking up privileges" which is not explained; may signify contracts, patents, advances, or franchises. He concludes this passage with a note about Northamerica, where the high labor cost is bound to make his machine even more cost effective than in Germany.*

machinery in general, would be in my line; that I would enjoy, and just as soon do alone.

But where you are, or even farther North, would not be to my liking. I prefer a warmer climate. Write to me about these points, if you have not forgotten me and think it worthwhile to share your opinion with me. . . .

*(The next portion is garbled. As usual, there are crucial words which escape legibility)* Letter to your brother Karl . . . one must not be too public with such . . . Anyway, I can put together a nice nest egg as my . . . tells me which has never let me down,; if I had enough money to spend a few thousand, for outside of accounting for the privilege taxes, I would like to travel and show off. Anyway, I am going to visit the British and North American envoy; with the latter I will . . . myself about the circumstances. Perhaps it is also possible in exceptional cases to take care of the privileges through third parties, as for new residents (?) only 1/10th . . .

I want to add that whatever I undertake, I would insist on a neat, attractive home as an absolute requirement; otherwise I would not be happy. That's one reason why I may not be the right person to emigrate to Northamerica, for building there would cost an enormous amount of money. I am giving the matter a lot of thought and am telling it to you as it is. At any rate, let me know your opinion. One has a need to have acquaintances around, and that, as well as good health, I wish you sincerely. Greetings to Schwarzenfeld etc.