

. . .riewasser, 23. February 1850

Addressed to Jakob Sternberger, Joachimsthal

Dear Jakob!

Since the time for the start of our journey to North America is moving ever closer, it is necessary that all of us have a clear idea of what each of us looks for in the search for a new home. Towards that end I am asking you to give me the following information: (1) Are you firmly resolved to leave Europe? (2) What sort of career do you envisage for yourself in America? (3) Which state in America do you intend to chose as the basis of your activity?

As far as I am concerned, I am leaving Europe because my outlook on life is too different from the here prevailing attitudes, to allow me, without forcing myself into a pretended acceptance of the commonplace, to live a true and happy life. Here a man is judged not by his moral worth, but by slick superficialities. The labyrinth of self-interest, disloyalty, calumny allows one to turn human weaknesses to one's advantage and to put undue emphasis on one's own qualities in the right places.

*(A somewhat awkward translation, but close)*

Having said this, it must be clear that it is not the profit motive which drives my decision, but the desire for a place where I can, untouched by the passions of the outer world, find for myself and those who wish to share my fate, a possibly toilsome but happy life.

The state most suitable for settlement, based on its constitution, its climate, and especially the number of Germans already established there, appears to be Pennsylvania. As soon as I hear your opinion, I plan to direct my steps there. - It is understood that I will be pleased to share my small assets which I hope to have cleared up by the time of our departure.

Anticipating your early reply, your faithful cousin Paul