

Wolfenbüttel, 29 September 1851

(Addressed to Jacob Sternberger in Kaaden, Bohemia

The first 1 1/2 pages of this 3-page letter are given to conjectures about missing letters and replies. The text then continues:

I ask you urgently to let me know clearly your past and present circumstances, your assessments, and your views of prospects for the future. As far as I am concerned, you know from our earlier conversations that our political opinions are essentially the same. However, despite the increasingly flagrant outrages of the Reactionaries, I do not share your despair for better times to come, as you expressed it in previous letters. I hope that, subsequently, you regained your confidence and have abandoned your idea of emigrating to America. Once I am re-assured about that, and know that you are receiving my letters, and that you are interested in continuing our correspondence, I will do my part as best I can in exchanging reports about the various significant political developments, and opinions concerning the entire political constellation. Till then, only a few details about my personal affairs.

In May 1849 I passed my first bar examination and have since then worked here and there as auditor (*I suspect that auditor means something like an 'auditioner' or observer*). On 1. July 1852 I will have completed the prescribed course. I can then, and I will not fail to do that, submit my application for the second bar examination which will qualify me for my desired goal of subsequent employment with [established] attorneys.

My family which you have met, remains together and fairly active. The exception is my youngest sister who is receiving further training in a Pension [finishing school] in French Switzerland and presumably won't return until the summer of next year. My sister Louise, the eldest, has recently become engaged to a Referendar [law intern] Floto, a family event which has stirred up our family life as one might expect. The acquaintances whom you met here, are still living, but many of them at quite a distance from us.

Sincere regards to you and yours, to whom I ask you to convey my respects. Be well, and send me a detailed letter soon, so that I can be relieved of the tormenting uncertainty about you and what is happening to you.

Your faithful C. Leiste, Auditor.

[P.S.]

You will already have heard that our mutual friend . . . Steeger, who together with our associates in Leipzig had taken part in the fighting in *Dresden?* has fallen, struck by an enemy's bullet. I need not dwell on what bitter feelings this news evoked in me at the time.