

Kaaden, 28. April 1853⁴

Dear Jakob!

We received your letter in good time. Thank you for all the explanations in it. I suppose you have been waiting for a reply. You have to understand that there is a reason for the delay, namely our plan to hold off with an announcement of our departure until the last moment. But certain circumstances have developed which made us change our plan. Eibicht has so far been unable to sell his mills because of the unfavorable currency situation. You may know already that silver is exchanged here in Austria at 35 to 40 percent (*presumably a premium price and not a discount*). However, since I and my friend Krisch are not inclined to wait here any longer, we have decided to start out alone.

I wrote you earlier that we would have significant amounts of money at our disposal. However, since the mill sale fell through, our resources have become rather limited. After allowing for travel expenses. Krisch and I will have \$600 between us when we arrive at your farm. My question is if this will be sufficient to buy 160 acres of Congress land, to establish a farm on it, and get a start on successful cultivation and management. Should that not be the case, write me if it will be possible to put us up at your farm, at least until Eibicht can follow and bring more money. At any rate, give us an idea how much money it will take to buy and equip a 160 acre farm.

Since I intend to travel light, and also do not wish to generate any undue curiosity hereabouts, I have decided against buying any firearms until I get to Bremen. Should one, however, be able in America to obtain a double-barreled rifle of comparable quality, I would buy one in New York or somewhere. In Prague, a good, well-appointed double-barreled rifle sells for 70 to 80 Femze (?). Let me know about this.

We are greatly pleased with your wish to have Ferdinand with you. We have made the necessary preparations to bring him over.

When you write to your sister Julie, do not mention this letter in any way. Your brother-in-law Scheidemann is a good, kind person. But it is exactly his good nature which keeps him from being discreet. I must tell you that we live in constant fear lest our plans will get out. That would be the end of it for good, and we would never see America.

Try to answer us as soon as possible, for since all our affairs are in order, the time of our departure will depend only on the arrival of your reply.

Sincere regards from Krisch, Eibicht and Müller to you and Klenert. The latter should not forget to write to his mother real soon.

Hoping to see you in person in the near future, best greeting from your friend
Alois Roth

(cont'd)

P.S.

Klenert, too, should refrain from making any mention of this when he writes home. It would be a disaster if the police were to come into the house and pick up our passports for Germany. Since Krisch has no resources himself but depends on Eibicht, it would be possible, though unlikely, that Eibicht will be unable to raise the money. In that case I would have no choice but to travel alone. However, my funds are depleted by my education expenses, to the point where my cash is down to 1000 Femze (?). After exchanging it for silver and paying for travel, I will not have sufficient money left to buy my own land. Please write if you will let me apply my small contribution towards the improvement of your farm and join the two of you as a threesome.

(The following is written in a different handwriting, signed Kajetan)

Dearest brother!

I take this opportunity to send you and Klenert Toal my brotherly greetings. I want to let you know, if Roth comes by himself and if it is possible for you to let him join you, that you will have gained a loyal, honorable, dependable person to his and your mutual advantage.

As for Eibicht, I have always shared your opinion of him, and found it confirmed in recent times.

One day he mentioned that he was still in doubt about maybe going to the Southern states and keep slaves. That was too much for me and I used the opportunity to break all relations with him. Anyone with such ideas deserves to be kept as one himself. In one word, he is a totally Epicurean and money-oriented person, with no sense of a better Eden.

Thus, you may depend on Roth and Ferdinand; they are sure to come. I cannot say anything about Krisch, who is, money-wise, totally dependent on Eibicht.

I join Klenert's mother in the plea to write to his relatives as soon as possible. Despite my reassurance, they are all worried about his well-being. Likewise, we ask for an early reply to Roth's note and mine, addressed to me, since we are waiting for it before the journey is to start. The major question is your decision about taking Roth in.

Once more, regards and kisses from all the family and friends. May God keep you well. I remain forever your faithful brother Kajetan.