

March 19, 1869
Baltimore

Dear Sister, Brother-in-law and Children:

We received your letter from the six on February 12 in the morning and we are very happy that you are well. We congratulate you on your young daughter and wish that God will keep her well and she is a blessing to you in your old days. Dear Sister and Brother-in-law, you are probably wondering why you had to wait so long for an answer. The reason was this. I already was not feeling well when we received your letter. The following week I was practically tied to my bed. With the help of the best doctors, I am finally rid of the nerve fever, but not the nervousness. It is my biggest goal before everything else to learn to walk again, which I completely forgot through my illness. Through good food and drink, I am getting my strength back. Three times daily, or as often as I like, butter bread, ground beef and coffee or a strong soup. While I was ill with nerve fever, I got daily a broth made from three to four pounds of ground beef. The beef was lean, cut into small pieces, put into a bottle, the bottle put into a pot of cold water, put on the fire and boiled a long time. This way you get clarified broth. From three to four pounds of beef, about one pint. Plus later I got four times daily three tablespoons of good sherry wine, which I still get. But good cold water seems to do the most for me. I don't want to tell you any more about this illness. The best way to tell you about this is never to know nerve fever.

Dear Sister and Brother-in-law, now it's about time to tell you about our trip to Baltimore. As soon as we arrived in Detroit, we exchanged our tickets for our suitcases at the Michigan Depot. We went by _____, but our suitcases had to go by baggage car. When we arrived at the Depot (minus baggage, which arrived later), we had time to jump on the steam boat. After a lot of asking, I found out two possibilities on the Great Western to Baltimore. One in the afternoon by way of Pittsburgh, but not direct, but by 9 o'clock the next morning continuing from Cleveland. The other one, 5:30 p.m., which instead through Cleveland non-stop, through Lima. I chose this one for our departure from Detroit. After that I got the suitcases and bags to safety and Adelheit and I took the day to get acquainted with Detroit, her beauty, so we went up and down the streets criss-cross, saw everything there was to see, bought a half-pint of good rum for 50¢ and looked Karl Schultze up, who went with us for our departure to drink. We drank beer and Adelheit drank wine. After awhile, Karl Schultze went back

to work and we slowly went into the vicinity of the Michigan Southern Depot and waited quietly and calmly. So we left Detroit 5:30 p.m., arrived in Lima at midnight. There, we waited til 6 a.m., then on to Pittsburgh, where we arrived Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Here we had hardly time for a cup of coffee. Then we continued to Harrisburg and from there to Baltimore, where we arrived 7:30 a.m. Wednesday morning. As soon as I retrieved my suitcase from the baggage car, I took a _____ and stood 8 o'clock at home where everybody was happy.

Adelheit said that she traveled enough for awhile. I introduced Adelheit to my wife. Everybody hugged and kissed. Also, then we had to tell everything we knew and more, and even now, I have to take time and take Otto on my lap. I have to tell about the squirrels and cows and his cousins and Little Willie. So, then my wife brought Adelheit a new outfit of clothes with a beautiful new shawl, a fancy dress, a modern hat, a pair of stockings, a pair of shoes, apron gloves, etc. Now there was a big joy and we saw why she had no longing for Michigan. Even now she does not know what homesick is. On the trip, I tried to amuse her. Here, she has enough of that and says she wishes never to be back in Michigan. She likes it here much better. She was very happy about her sister's letter, as well as Christianes firm will, however, she would like to see some facts or hear about them. She is convinced that John is doing his best and she expects the same from Otto. She is hoping that you are all well. She sends her heartfelt greetings. Dear Sister and Brother-in-law, I really miscalculated the travel provision from there. Between us two, we only ate five rolls (I forgot how many we had.). First, we hardly had an appetite, and second I forgot how much those things bind you. We had rest for two to three days in that connection. Sausage, chicken and everything else tasted very good. Also, the gravy for which my wife thanks you very much. We drink to your well-being and a long life. Also, the picture made us happy. It would have disappeared without a trace, had I not saved the separate pages as souvenirs. I want to let you know, there could be light damage with my convalescence.

The weather was mild in January and February, but in the month of March, we had much snow and ice. Right now, pork is about 25¢ a pound. Beef and veal 15-20¢ and also 25¢ for the best chops, lamb to 20¢, potatoes \$1.20 per bushel, flour like you knew in Wayne. I buy for \$1.12 per hundred weight. You will excuse my bad writing, since I am still shaking with weakness and you can be happy with us, that through my illness I did not forget to draw my breath. I got wishing that you are all well.

Greetings!

J.W. Hellwig and Frau