

THE HISTORY OF THE LIFE OF HENRY STERN

Marktbreit

Conforming to the wish of my children, I will attempt to entrust to paper a description of my life as far as I remember it. It will be very agreeable to me to let my experiences pass before my eyes, and if my children profit thereby, it will be all the better. Many things in my life, as I see them now, in my mature years, I would have changed; many a thing I would have left undone, but viewing my life as a whole, I now see that people are human beings and not angels. I look back with satisfaction and pride upon the results of my life. Honesty, industry, economy and ambition I owe to the example of my parents, and especially to my father who procured for me, in accordance with his means, not only the opportunity to attend schools; a certain nervousness too has descended from him upon me and constituted a very important factor in my life.

I was born on the 8th of July, 1825, in Marktbreit, a small city in the district Unterfranken, Aschaffenburg, in Bavaria. Although the little city numbered only two thousand inhabitants, it belonged, nevertheless, to the more important commercial places of Bavaria, for here were united products of hardware, groceries, wines, grains and textiles with the agencies of the largest sugar factories, and from here the renowned stone print plates of Solenhæfer were sent to all points of the world. The people at the

head of these undertakings were all well educated; many of them had studied at the University, and many of them had seen the world -- even America! Liberal in their views, without prejudices along religious lines, or ^{any} other ~~lines~~, these men constituted a circle of friends ^{such} as is seldom seen, and I can not blame my father, who ^{was} in daily intercourse with these men ^{over} ~~at~~ a glass of beer, for not being able to make up his mind to move to Würzburg or Hamburg - which would have been especially advantageous for his wholesale business in yarns. Marktbreit is situated on the left bank of the Main and a small brook with little water, named Breit, which empties into the Main. The valley adjoins hills which are six hundred to eight hundred feet high, and which are overgrown with vineyards. At the top of one of these hills is a well preserved ruin of a chapel, which was destroyed by the Swedes in the Thirty Years War. The people call it the Kappella ^{chew} (Little Chapel). From this point one has a splendid view of the fertile Main valley and foothills of the Rhonegebirge (range of hills.) Twenty-five villages can be seen from here.

How often I walked with my parents, ~~and~~ sisters and brothers up to that place in order to enjoy the view! These walks caused me such joy that they are still alive in my memory. Another walk was to the so-called Grenbergway between Marktbreit and Obernbreit, which lead between beautiful gardens and boulevards, and of which, I am sorry to say, there remains no trace. The railroad has confiscated the entire land, and where formerly comfortable rest could be found, where the odor

of flowers and the song of birds charmed us, ^{rules} reigns now the puffing locomotive; ideals have to give way to the spirit of the times. I must not forget to mention the villages of Marktstift, Ochsenfurt and Segnitz. The latter was the birth-place of my ^[grandparents] grandfathers on my mother's side, to which frequent excursions were made, especially at the occasions of the anniversaries of the dedication of the church, sausage feasts, and dedication ^{celebrations} feasts.

My father's house was situated at the front side of the Schusterⁿ Gasse (Shoemaker's Alley). The walls of the rear side stood close to the brook. This brook which had in summer so little water, grew with the melting of the snow in spring. ^{to such a size} so large that it often reached a height of eighteen to twenty feet, and did great damage by overflowing. The Shoemaker's Alley, our street, was the worst of all because it was located only about eight feet above the level of the bed of the stream, and therefore, almost annually did the water enter the house, often ^{nearly} almost to the second story. Everything that was contained in the lower stories had to be taken away, and usually very quickly, for most always the water reached its highest point in less than twelve hours, and it took two to three days until it had fallen sufficiently so that it disappeared from the inner part of the house, leaving behind a great deal of mud and dirt. On account of these periodical conditions, our house remained damp and unhealthy, but the force of habit is so ^{strong} ~~great~~ that my father could not make up

his mind to change his dwelling to a point lying higher in the city. It is not improbable that this unhealthy home was partially the cause of the early death of my dear mother, and the cause of the long-lasting sufferings of my father. For us children the time of the flood was a great celebration. The street was crossed by rowing in little boats, even in small wine kegs. All necessary articles of food we had to obtain in such a manner, and we considered ourselves to be important personages on account of our help in taking out the things, and later on placing them back in the rooms. The house was originally a double house, with a common entrance; one-half was inhabited by our parents and their family, and the other by the family Maier, with their children. No friendly relationship existed between the families and our mother especially had a good deal of anger and annoyance through this family, so that father in the year 1834 decided to buy the other half of the house from Maier's. The house was appropriately re-built, as it still stands today. This family Maier were the parents of Lena Heim and two sons, who since then - in spite of the wealth of their parents - died in poverty.

Great Grandparents,
Sisters and Brothers.

My grandparents on my mother's side were called Segnitz, and their home was in the village of Segnitz, but a long time before my birth they lived in Gelnhausen, where they had a small dry goods store. They were renowned for their honesty and were greatly respected. My dear mother visited them in the year 1830, after a separation of nine years, and at that time took me and my brother Herman with her. My great grandmother was still alive at that time, but was blind and confined to her bed. She recognized us though by feeling with her hands, and always had little peppermint candies ready for us. Although I visited my grandparents later on at two different times, as I will mention in the course of events, I will have very little to record of them and what impression I received at that time.

Of my grandparents on my father's side, I know only what my father has told me occasionally. They moved at the end of the last century from Achen to Marktbreit in the neighborhood of which the near relatives of my grandfather lived. It was probably on account of religious persecution that my grandfather moved. The cares for daily bread and many accidents over-shadowed almost their entire life. All their children were stricken at the same time with small pox and only our father recuperated, but showed the pox marks of the sickness. All his sisters and brothers died of this

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disease, which must have been for my grandparents ^a the most terrible grief. They lived in the same house with my parents and were also troubled by the annual flood. ~~Although~~ ^{the} river rose twice to an unusual ^{height} degree, the last time, in the year 1811, the water rose to the second story of the house, in consequence of which my grandparents had to remain with the children for two days and two nights on the roof. The results of this flood were terrible. Grandmother, who had caught a severe cold became ill from this time on and died, as far as I know, in the year 1817. This flood caused many losses ~~to~~ ^{the} ~~the fortunes of~~ my grandfather, for the water caused a great deal of damage in his stores of yarns, and who knows whether he could have made good these losses if the Protestant minister of the city had not aided him by the loan of _____ fl. ^(Quidem) The grateful recognition of this great service was never forgotten and descended also upon our father, who was devoted with special love to the Protestant minister. My grandfather, with his only son, our father, continued to work alone and had as a housekeeper only one servant for the house and kitchen. One can realize that a servant can not fill the position of housewife. It was necessary, therefore, that as soon as possible a wife should ^{take up} ~~assume~~ the reins of the household, and these conditions were the reason why my grandfather insisted that my father, who was only twenty years old, should look for a wife. Fate was kind to him. In the year 1820 a young, beautiful ^{girl}, sixteen-year old Miss Clara Segnitz came to Segnitz to visit her relatives. There my father became acquainted with her and

learned to love her and was happy to gain her affection. The marriage was performed with the consent of the parents on both sides and the wedding was celebrated ^{not} ^{until} the following year, 1821.

owing to the tender age of the couple, and surely this marriage was ^{made} ~~determined~~ on in heaven. The young wife, our mother, although she was only seventeen years old (she was born in 1804) fulfilled her duties gladly and untiringly - though they were not easy for so young a woman. She was to our father a faithful wife and counsellor in good and bad times, and as the ^{limited} ~~narrow~~ conditions in which she lived demanded ^{it} she was exceedingly economical. She sought and found her happiness in her home. She tried as far as means and time allowed, to educate herself intellectually; ~~as~~ ^{wrote} she, for instance, later on ~~wrote~~ the prayers for her children, which were simple and unassuming, came from the heart, and touched the heart. Our mother was pious at heart, without display. This was true piety. All sects were equally respected by her. She was not as liberal in her views as ~~was~~ father, but the piety that she felt and which she exercised as a principle in her life was highly respected. That such a good woman and wife became a most excellent mother was only natural. Sacrificing in the extreme and above her strength, she devoted herself to the education of her children, who followed close one after the other, with a love ^{of which} only a mother is capable of. ~~Dis~~charging all the duties of the household and in part also those of the business, She knew how to plant in our hearts by her example and by her loving words, that

desire to work, ^{to be honest} economy, honesty and to do good. Many a time she arose in the morning at three o'clock when she had washday or when cake was baked for days of celebration, and did not yield to the urgent protests of my father, since she considered it to be her duty. When she used to say to us after we had committed childish pranks: "that is wrong and it hurts me," this exerted a greater influence than the harsh punishments of our father, which did not fail to come. We children looked up to her as to a higher being - our love and respect was without bounds - and all our acquaintances in the village paid her the same respect, and what a satisfaction it is to be able to write down these words in memory to her, as a tribute of my respect and never-ending love!

My father was born on the sixth day of March, 1799. He was the youngest of the family, as I have already said - the only one who survived that awful sickness, small pox. I do not know what education he had, only he often told me that he was forced to walk ² every day to Obe/breit in order to study the Talmud, for my grandfather was orthodox in religion. It is therefore ~~se~~ surprising that father, when he reached manhood, rejected the religious ideas ingrafted in his youthful mind, and devoted himself to liberal views and taught these to his children, without seeking to influence their judgment after they were grown up and capable of judging for themselves. Our father was a gifted man, who unfortunately did not have the opportunity to cultivate his natural gifts. In his youth he is said to have been a very good violinist.

I have never seen him play, ^{but} ~~on the other hand~~ he was to the end of his life a great lover and appreciator of music. He wielded a skillful pen and was well trained in commercial ^{branches} sciences, ambitious in all forms of knowledge, and it is a fact that I have learned much from him. He grew up with the sons of the most respected citizens and the ^{intimate} relationship with these until the end of his life exerted a valuable influence in every direction. To the children he was a very worthy model, which we respected with love and reverence, and also the citizens of the place respected him and trusted him, which they showed by conferring upon him different municipal offices of honor. He was for many years city deputy, controlled the Municipal Savings Bank for Servants and Workmen; he was director of the hospital and experienced several times ~~the~~ ⁱⁿ joy that the Royal Government spoke of his semiannual reports as model reports. He was twenty-two years old when he married and assumed the duty ^{of beautifying} ~~to beautify~~ my dear mother's life, and how hard it must have been for him in many respects, since the worry ^{for} daily bread was so great. On the day of his ^(my father's) marriage grandfather signed over his business and retired. Cheerfully, with great perseverance and economy the young people entered upon the battle of life and had the satisfaction to see that their work was blessed and afforded them the means to support their large family and to educate them decently. Grandfather lived until 1827 and was seventy years old. I was but two years old at that time and can no longer remember him. My sisters

and brothers, in the order of the year of their birth,
were as follows:

Solomon	born 1822	died 1887
Morris	died as a child	
and I	born in 1825	
Herman	born in 1826	
Benjamin	born in 1828	died when he was 3 years old.
Bernhardt	born in 1832	
Malchin	born 1840	
Lena	born 1841	
Louise	born in 1844	

In the course of my narrative I will mention them
repeatedly.

My Childhood Years in Marktbreit.

Who does not remember with delight the precious years of his childhood, in which the days pass by in merry child's play, when no cares disturb our life in which the sun's rays of a mother's love shine in the home, and the seriousness of the father prepare us for the problems of future life? This happiness was my part and is to me a most wonderful memory.

Although I had a weakened constitution, in consequence of scrofula, and inflamed eyes as well as rash on my head, I was healthy and lively as any other boy. In winter I coasted down the hill on a little sled, at the end of which hill was a ditch eighteen feet deep. One sled followed close upon the other. The boys all lay with their stomachs on the sled steering with their feet. Like lightning the ride went on and it did not happen infrequently that the boys all fell into the ditch below. This did not happen to me, but one time a sled went over me and gashed my leg. The scars can be seen today. Bathing in the Main also gave us great pleasure in the summer months, but was strictly forbidden unless father accompanied us. Shooting with bow and arrow was one of our favorite games. Herman and I once shot all of the window panes from our neighbor's home ^{our house} opposite. A great fuss was made and father naturally had to pay for all of the panes and we were severely punished. Another time we shot ^{upward} in order to see who could shoot highest. My arrow fell

on the roof and broke a piece of tile. On account of my sore eyes I could not look up and therefore did not notice the danger. The tile fell on my head and had to be cut out. I was indeed a child of ~~terror~~^{worry} for our dear mother. Every few days something else was wrong, which caused my dear mother a great deal of worry. When I was five and Herman four years old we were still supposed to sleep in the afternoon, but we could not do it and played all sorts of tricks as soon as mother had gone away. One day we had obtained from a tinmith of our neighborhood a piece of tin, which we took along to ~~our~~ bed, and which we tried to make very shinyⁿ by rubbing with spit. I was unlucky again and swallowed a little three cornered piece, which almost choked me. Luckily our dear mother noticed through a little window that I was becoming quite blue, sent for the doctor, but before he came the piece of tin had already passed out, in consequence of a violent beating on the back and vomiting. Two more incidents I wish to relate, which caused both such fright-- that father mentions them in his diary. I was perhaps four years old and slept with Herman in the room of our parents, when in the night at two o'clock I suddenly awakened with loud cries and insisted that there was a terrible drumming in my ear. Since I continued to complain a doctor was sent for, who with a little tweezers extracted a living fly out of my ear, and remarked that it had been high time for in this way a dangerous concussion of the brain could have originated. ~~Since~~^{after} that ~~time~~ I did not go to bed for many years without putting cotton in my ears.

One beautiful afternoon my dear mother was taking a walk with Herman and me. How merry we were and how much we enjoyed it -- then suddenly a stone thrown by an unknown hand struck me on the knee cap, so that I fell, had to be carried home and was kept there for many weeks. I might write of many other incidents, of Schwarz's Concert, small excursions to the Felsenkeller⁷ (rocky cellars) etc, but it would lead me too far afield.

I received my first instruction in reading and writing from my dear mother, and she was exceedingly proud that I was well grounded when I entered the public school at the age of six years. This school was very good, under protestant supervision, and all children made great progress in elementary branches; my first teacher was Cantor Mueller. After one and one-half years I entered the Latin school, the teacher of which was Pastor Bischoff, a strict but very capable teacher, whom I liked very much. According to Bavarian law, I was obliged to receive religious instruction according to the Jewish religion. This came twice a week for one year. The teacher's name was Weiner. He was a very capable man, but I profited very little from this instruction, which was not interesting to me.

Something happened which was of far reaching influence in my education. My brother Solomon, three years older than I, who also attended the Latin school, suddenly developed a swelling on his right temple, which

increased day by day and which the most skillful doctors were unable to explain. Being questioned whether he had received a blow or had fallen, he always answered "no." The doctors confronted a problem which seemed to them very remarkable, and even the doctors from Würzburg were consulted. After a year's time, after Solomon had been cut eighteen times, the swelling disappeared and Solomon became well again, but soon it appeared that a weakness of body and mind had resulted, and in order to heal this the doctors advised a change of air and place. ^{So as} ~~In order~~ to prevent possible homesickness it was decided that I was to accompany Solomon and was to visit the Latin school at Schweinfurt. This was the reason that I, when so young - not yet nine years old, - left my home and from this time on spent so little time in the company of my dear mother and my dear father, a lack which pains me even today when I think of it.

Before I continue I must remark that our parents offered opportunity to the children to educate themselves along musical lines. Solomon and Herman chose the piano, I chose the flute. I had already conquered the first difficulties of playing this instrument and had made great progress, when upon the very strict command of our ^{family} ~~house~~ Doctor, Doctor Weinreich, I was forced to discontinue these exercises, and since I a little later left home the study of music was discontinued.

Schweinfurt

In March, 1834, father, Solomon and I travelled by wagon to Schweinfurt - a distance of about six hours. There our father presented us to the rector of the Gymnasium, Öhlenschlaeger. We were examined and both placed in the second Latin class. The rector thought it wise that children should receive religious instruction. In Schweinfurt this could be done only in Protestant and Catholic religions. With the consent of my father and the rector, we were placed together with the Protestant children in regard to religious instruction, attendance at church, and Sunday school, just as our comrades were. With the recommendation of the rector, we were accepted in the family of Professor Weinand, where we had board and room and were kindly received and treated, so that we found a partial substitute for the home of our parents. The Professor, especially, was very kind. He not only entered *upon* our childish ideas, but supervised our work and treated us as if we were his own children. He was very fond of taking long walks, early in the morning in order to see the sun rise. Although we liked to go with him, we disliked the early rising between three and four o'clock. He and his wife (a daughter of the postmaster Coetz of Schweinfurt) were strict Catholics and every morning we were sprinkled with holy water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. No loaf of bread was ever cut without first making

the sign of the cross above it. They were very tolerant to others of a different faith and in our case it was the strange coincidence that we were born Jews, were enrolled as Protestant children, placed in charge of very strict Catholics. In spite of the kind reception, Solomon was very homesick and he returned after a few months to Marktbreit. I, however, remained in Schweinfurt and was promoted in the year 1835 to the third class. The professor of this class was called Pfirsch. There was a very friendly relation between him and his pupils, so that many of them passed their leisure time in his home, where at times they made a great deal of noise and the wife of the Professor had to chase them home. There were fourteen or fifteen pupils in this class and there was laudable ambition. My main rivals for the annual honors were Schmidt and Baumgarter^w, the former later on became a Catholic priest and the latter a Protestant minister. Our main studies were Latin, and Greek, while other courses such as German language, mathematics, history and geography were secondary in importance; also swimming and gymnastics were obligatory. At the end of the semester I was very proud to receive the second general prize in progress and was promoted to the next higher class. Distribution of prizes took place in a large hall in the presence of all professors, pupils, parents and friends. Whoever received a prize was called to come forward, bowed to the picture of the King, to the public and professors, and while the orchestra played, the rector handed over to him the prize --- which consisted of a book. Later on I

was honored repeatedly in this manner, but always trembled with excitement so much that I was glad to be allowed to return to my place. The next year passed without special occurrences except that I was allowed to spend the vacation time at home, and great was my joy to see again ^[for a few weeks] my dear mother, my dear father and sisters and brothers.

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In the year 1838 I entered the Gymnasium in Wurzburg; the separation from my beloved Professor Weinand and his wife was very hard for me. I am sorry to say that they did not get along very well later on. The professor died during his best years, leaving his widow and two children, who received only a very small pension which scarcely provided^{ed} their wants. In Wurzburg I lived with a family named Kohn. They were the parents of our brother-in-law Julius. I was there scarcely a year when one day father visited me and informed me that he and my dear mother had considered very carefully whether it was advisable for me to continue my studies. He represented to me how little prospect there was for a Jew, even after completed studies, to receive an office or to become independent; that the conditions of his property seemed to show that it was not fair to the other children that so much money be spent for years on the education of one son. It was decided that I was to enter the Merchants' Class and my father went with me to Professor Keller to inform him of my leaving at the end of the semester. He thought a good deal of me and begged father urgently not to do it, but there was nothing to be said against the arguments of my father.

I entered the Commercial school of Mr. Klatz, remained there for nine months in order to learn bookkeeping,

commercial arithmetic and French, but profited little. I do not know whether it was my fault, or whether it was the fault of the method of instruction. It was about the end of the year 1839 when I returned to my parents. In the following months I learned a great deal more through the instruction of my father than I did in the School of Commerce. It was at that time that I noticed, with a heavy heart, how much my parents grieved over the sad condition of Solomon. He was healthy to be sure, but his mind remained cloudy. He was apprenticed with a dyer, remained there for three years, but all in vain. My dear mother worried about it day and night and wept when she looked at him. In the years of his youth and childhood he could hardly be controlled. In later years he spent his time in useless dreams, until his end. My dear mother at last had the joy that her long cherished wish to have a daughter was fulfilled. Malchen was born and in the following year Lena, but alas, she could not enjoy this comfort for long.

In the course of the winter father corresponded with S. Hermann's Sons in Karlsruhe with reference to my entering as an apprentice in their business. These gentlemen made the condition that I was to remain for three years apprenticeship for six hundred florins ^{which my father was to pay this (Sulden)} ^{This sum entitled} ~~for which I~~ ^{me} ^{free} was to have board and room. It was agreed upon that I was to meet in April, 1840, one of my principals - Theodor - in Frankfurt, and was to accompany him to Karlsruhe, &

few weeks before the engagement of Dr. Segnitz, a brother of my mother with Fräulein Machel in Esselbach was to ^{celebrated} take place. where grandfather and many relatives were to meet. My parents decided to go there too, and since this village is located between Würzburg and Frankfurt they could accompany me to that place. It was a large family gathering and my mother especially was very happy in meeting all, and especially her father, but when it was time to take leave mother could not part with me, and voiced her presentiment that she would never again see me (which was the case later on.) I travelled with grandfather and an uncle to Gelnhausen, and remained there until we received notice from Mr. ^{Herrmann} ~~Hammond~~ to come to Frankfurt. Tired and weary I arrived in Karlsruhe and was received by the father of my principal with these words, "What emaciated little fellow are you bringing me, ^{he} who will be blown over by any strong wind?" This was my entrance in the house in which I spent the most beautiful years of my life.

Carlsruhe

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There were three principals and fourteen to fifteen employees. Among them, besides myself, were two apprentices by the name of Westheimer and Weil. The employees all had room and board with the different employers. I was sent to Mr. Louis Hermann, who was at that time a widower, but married again a year later. The business ^{dealt with} ~~consisted of~~ manufactured goods and dry goods, wholesale and retail. As youngest apprentice, I was sent into the retail business and my work consisted of opening the store, sweeping and dusting ~~of~~ the goods. In time I was permitted to copy a letter but that was only given as a special favor. The board was good, but insufficient, and still we dared only secretly to buy for a few pennies rye bread to appease our hunger. We called these loaves of bread "sighs." The work given to me did not satisfy my ambition. One of my principals saw that they could use me much better in another capacity. I was transferred to the wholesale business and took all possible care in order that I could soon serve customers. I was given more work in the office and gradually correspondences ^{was} ~~were~~ entrusted to me, with which I became acquainted very quickly. Whosoever would not be aggressive in this business would not be promoted. Such was the case of my fellow apprentices, whom I had soon surpassed. In March, 1842, I was surprised by the visit of my father. Great was my joy to see him again and to hear of my dear mother and sisters and brothers. He brought me a loving letter from

my dear mother, the last lines that I received from her, which I still possess. She was at that time quite well, but not entirely free from the pains in her chest, which she had had for years. The children - Malchen and Lena were a great joy to her, and no one had any ^{presumption} (suspicion) how soon her end was to come. After a short stay my father travelled to Kaiserslautern, and home. April passed and May without my receiving any news from home. From day to day I became more restless until finally I announced to my principals that I would go home at once. Now they could no longer postpone the obligation they had assumed to impart to me as carefully as possible the great catastrophe. Theodor Hermann imparted to me that my dear mother was dangerously ill and at the very moment I knew that the worst had come. I was stunned and quite beside myself with fright - so much so that Theodor could not tell me in detail. Not until the next day did he hand over to me the letter of my dear father, (which I still possess,) who in great despair described the details of the sad condition, and even now I remember with a shudder those days which I spent crying. The dear mother had been taken ^{ill} by a slight sickness. The family doctor happened to be present when she suddenly called out "how strange I feel," and at the same moment that precious life had come to an end. The 15th of April, 1842, was the lamentable day on which our beloved mother was snatched from us. Father lost a great deal more and his despair is easily understood. He not only lost a faithful companion, the love of his youth, and his

comfort and ^{main stay} held in the struggle of life. There rested upon him alone the care of a large household and the education of his children. Malchen and Lena, and Bernhardt eleven years old, I myself was away from home; Solomon feeble minded, and only Hermann could render any assistance to father. In this disagreeable position father had to make up his mind to find a housekeeper, but herein also he had sad experiences, for it was not a great while before the greater part of the large store of linen had disappeared. The children were neglected. Our grandparents and friends of my father therefore urged him, after a year's time, to meet this lamentable ^{calamity} position by marrying again - especially as there seemed to be a good opportunity in the person of Fraulein Louise Eppstein, who was at that time thirty-three years old. This young woman had a very agreeable appearance and kindness of heart, and other feminine virtues, and was worthy of becoming the successor to our dear mother. What father expected of her she fulfilled in the short time of her activity in the completest manner. I, myself, did not become acquainted with her, but her letters (which I still have) prove that she had a noble character and a high conception of her difficult duties. The children loved her and father found a sympathetic heart and support, but alas for but a short time. She died after one year, 1844, a few weeks after the birth of our dear sister Louise. These were again terrible sad days in our home. Father was almost in despair and could not recuperate for a long time from this blow, but necessity forced him to control himself, and although he was pursued by misfortune,

fortune favored him in the choice of his third wife in the year 1846; in the choice of Friederike Sulbeck he received a faithful companion, and a real mother for the children, and all clung to her with love and with respect recognized her as their mother. But I will return to Karlsruhe where I was occupied a rather responsible position far from the scene of these sad occurrences. The time of my apprenticeship was over. I was engaged for two years at 200 and 300 florins respectively, with free board and room. In the year 1845 and 46 I received 600 fl. per year, and in the year 1847 up to the time I left I received a thousand fl^{vr} which was, at that time, a rather unusually high salary. In the year 1843 the first bookkeeper and correspondent left our firm and this position of trust was offered to me. I accepted it without giving up entirely my position as salesman. The consequence was that during the day time I was usually busy in the storerooms, toward evening I took up the books and extensive correspondence. There were often twenty and more letters to be answered, and punctually at 8:00 o'clock I had to bring these letters to Theodor Hermann to be signed. In the year 1844 we had thirty looms in the jail at Bruchsal, twenty in that of Pforzheim, and twenty to thirty private looms. The supervision of this work, the direction, the patterns which had to be made, the choice of the different kinds of yarns for each style --- all of this was my work. In 1844 my principals bought the so-called Alleehaus (Boulevard House) on the street leading to Durlach. To change it into cloth

mills: I ~~therefore~~^{//} went to the weaving districts of Württemberg, hired Siedelfingen a master workman, and bought the necessary looms. Under these circumstances I worked under a strain in the months of September, October, and November. I worked every night until twelve and one o'clock, and even Sunday afternoon I could not rest. ~~The~~ only pleasure which I allowed myself was to go to the theatre on Sunday night. My principals showed me how much they valued my activity, but in most of the instances I had to decide according to my own judgment. One Sunday evening I went with an acquaintance to the theatre, and went as usual to the third gallery for eighteen pennies. The "Artesian Well" was to be given. We had been waiting for a quarter of an hour when we noticed that the public hastened to the exit, without knowing the reason why they did so. Suddenly the cry of "fire" came, and at the same moment a pillar of flame reached to the ceiling; as it was lined with hay it caught flame at once. Everyone rushed to the single entrance. Many of them were trampled down on the stairway - others reached the second lowest staircase, but that was burning badly and they could get neither forward nor backward. The official list mentions sixty names as casualties, but it is believed that the number was a very much larger one. I remained quietly on my seat in this confusion, amidst the cries - especially as my seat was farthest away from the door. Then a gentleman who sat near me remarked that at some

celebration or ~~another~~, ^{he} ^{seen} and had a second exit: by pounding against the wall this was found, because it was only covered with the wall paper. We opened it and walked safely down the many steps and out of the theatre. Here I found my principal^s, who received me with great rejoicing, because they had already considered me lost. Our rescuer was named Reutlinger and was rewarded with a gold watch by my principals, and by the grand duke with a badge of merit. The fire had started in this way; a servant had taken off the burner of a gas jet which ^{refused} ~~did not~~ want to burn and had lighted the gas and several other gas lights. As the door was open the draught turned the flame to ^{with} the wooden wall, which was covered with easily kindled material. This caught fire at once and within five minutes the flame had set the whole theatre ablaze. The fire originated in one of the ante rooms of the box of the grand duke. Great and general was the gloom in Karlsruhe - so much more so as many families mourned for their members. During the following years nothing special happened in Karlsruhe. Politics occupied the minds; the people and Parliament inclined to liberal views and even the Court of the Duke agreed and proceeded in their new laws as far as a state of the German confederacy could go. Nevertheless, in the fall of 1847 there was unrest everywhere. The breath of the French Revolution affected the German neighbors, who dreamed of a Republic, but what could a small state like Baden accomplish? In January and February

1848 there were strained political conditions, so that all business was at a stand still and the possessing class believed their property to be threatened. My principals hid in the cellar a rather large sum of money; all men capable of bearing arms formed military companies which were also joined by our employers, and joined later ~~as~~ the voluntary troops. The young people failed to recognize the seriousness of the condition and looked upon it as a joke. Even in my early youth I had been told that the goal of my ambition was to be America, and that I was to found there not only my own future, but that of my sisters and brothers. In the uncertain public conditions I conceived the desire to carry out this plan sooner than I had in mind. I had accepted this position for several years - nevertheless I requested my release and gave as a reason that for the large salary which I drew I could not give sufficient services, and that no one could foretell how long this condition would last. With great reluctance my principals consented. I was to leave on the first of May, so that I might find time to take stock and close up the books completely. This was done on the first of May, 1848, and I travelled at once with the most cordial wishes of my employers and fellow-workmen, and with many presents from all sides, to Marktbreit, --- which I had left eight years before and had not seen ~~at~~ again.

From Marktbreit to New York

I did not have the same feelings of joy when I now entered my home again. I knew that many changes had taken place and that I would no longer find my dear mother. The reality exceeded by far my anxious presentiments - and I could not become accustomed to it in the first days. I felt exceedingly unhappy and strange to find instead of my dear mother a woman who, up to that time, had been a stranger to me -- of whom, to be sure, I had heard many good things, but to whom I had to force myself to use the title of mother. No one who has not had that same experience can realize how unhappy such a feeling is. Nevertheless, I was sensible enough to realize that this woman with her untiring zeal in discharging the duties she had undertaken, was a blessing for my father and for the children. I had to respect her, and in the course of time learned to love her. A few weeks passed quickly and my three little sisters added a great deal in making my life cheerful. In the meantime I made a contract with a boat as a steerage passenger to sail from Mayence by way of Rotterdam and Harve~~e~~ to New York, for 100 *florins*. In Harve~~e~~ I received the usual rations consisting of a sack of flour, 100 pounds of hardtack, ham, a bag of salt, and a bag of potatoes. After a touching goodbye I left Marktbreit

at the beginning of June and arrived safely in Harve^{re}, after I had suffered greatly for eighteen hours from seasickness, ~~and~~ so much so that I payed a sailor five francs for the rent of his cabin. In Harve^{re} I became acquainted with Goll, my later partner, and with Hertlein and Gerlach, who became my berth companions. We went together to the market place and bought provisions - among which were sixty eggs which were packed in a pot of salt, six brick cheeses, a small keg of herring, a few dozen bottles of wine, which was sufficient with the provisions that I had brought along from home, so that during the first three weeks we lived rather high. My three sleeping companions and I kept a common household. The name of our ship was "Elizabeth Hamilton" and had about three hundred steerage passengers who were all placed in one room; with three in one berth covered with straw; two berths together - one over the other. We all had our own bedding with us, and suffered only from the terrible odor; especially since we had beneath us a peasant family consisting of husband, wife, and three children who were unclean to the extreme. Therefore, Hertling sprayed our bed every evening with cologne - of which he had sufficient. All of this did not destroy our good humor. We were young and modest and even the unusual work in the kitchen added a great deal to our cheerfulness. We had left Harve^{re} on the 20th of June and reached New York on the sixteenth of August -- after we had

had nothing for the last two weeks except hardtack and rotten water - for even our potatoes had fermented and had to be thrown over board. In New York our party separated; only Goll and I stayed together and we received for nine dollars a week board and room with an American family. Later on we rented only one room at a tailor's house and carried on a bachelor's household. I had several letters of recommendation, among others one to the Importing business of Ballin & Sander - who procured for me at once a position with a merchant in Boston by the name of Ehrlich. I was to receive \$400.00 per year with free board and room and was to take care of the books and help in the store, but I found such a dirty business - especially in regard to food and beds, that it sickened me and I left the place after two days -- even after Ehrlich had offered me \$500.00. Returning to New York, Ballin and Sander reproached me bitterly and would not accept my reasons, but I paid no attention to them, but told them that I had made up my mind to become independent as soon as possible. For this purpose I intended to make a start by peddling dry goods; by doing so I would become acquainted most quickly with the land, the people, the language and the business. Ballin was rather surprised and answered, "if you persevere I will predict success in the course of time." Through my friends, Rosenheim Brothers, I bought ten dollars worth of dry goods and carried on my trade at farm houses in

New York and New Jersey. I earned so much that I could live comfortably, but of course this was not the sort of business I cared about. When after a few months I again returned to New York, I learned that there was a vacant position with Bendit Brothers - importers of mirrors and German & French dry goods. I asked for the position and obtained it. My salary was only three hundred dollars per year, scarcely enough to pay expenses, and a great deal less than I might have had in Boston, but nevertheless this position suited me better because it was to prepare me to establish an importing business with my father, later on. That nothing came of it later on was due to the extreme carefulness of my father. Bendits were uneducated and ignorant, and although they had considerable business, they were not able to write a letter correctly. For that reason I took charge of the correspondence and the counting of the weekly remission. I was supposed to perform the work of a janitor besides and draw up by pulley thirty to forty heavy boxes weekly to the third story - muscular duties which I often feared were too much for me. My employers had the reputation of being hard to get along with, but we not only got along with one another very well, but they helped me very much later on when I was establishing my own business. The end of June, 1849, I suddenly took sick at my business place and fainted. Bendit sent for some soup from a restaurant, but since I did not feel any better, he had me taken home. I had a friend who was a doctor, Doctor Hirsh, with whom I often played chess, and he was called.

After examining my head he declared that I had small pox and that I must have been exposed. I had seen no sick people and had visited no one, but I remembered that a few days before I had taken my coat to a tailor to have it mended. The Doctor investigated and learned that the wife of the tailor was sick with small pox. The doctor advised me, on account of the danger of contagion, to let no one in and hired an Irish woman for me, who was to bring milk and fresh water daily, and also to tend to my bed. Besides her, and the doctor, I did not see anyone for two weeks. I had a raging fever and the pox appeared not only on my face, but also upon my body. After five or six days a scab formed and I was frightened by my reflection in the mirror. I lay in a very cold room next to an open window, it being so cold that water froze in my glass, but my fever raged so that I did not feel the cold. After two weeks I could get up, but how terrible did I look! I was covered from head to foot with red spots which turned blue in the cold. I did not dare to risk being seen by people - least of all could I expect my employers to permit me to return to work; they, however, sent word to me that they would keep the position open for me until the end of June. After three weeks I was able to take a short walk and soon the lack of work made me restless. I used my involuntary vacation in peddling cigars, and although my dotted face hindered me in this business, I earned as much as I needed. My father learned of my sickness; I do not know through whom, and was terribly frightened. In order to

console him I had my picture taken as a proof that I had again recuperated. In June I entered business again and gained the confidence of my employers to such a degree that they proposed to send me to California and establish a business there at their expense; they to furnish capital and goods according to my direction. I was to run no risk but was to accept responsibility only to divide for ten years all net earnings which I was able to make. This offer was so favorable that I accepted after careful consideration. Tickets were gotten and all preparations made for me to leave within two and one-half or three months. Naturally, I reported all this at once to Marktbreit, but received an immediate answer that I was not to accept. This happened to be the beginning of the period when hundreds of thousands were seized with the gold fever and hastened to California. The adventurous, as well as dregs of humanity made up a large contingency of these emigrants. My father asked whether I had sunk so low that I had to accept anything, even at the risk of health and life. It is generally known that chaotic and lawless conditions existed at that time in California, and he would not have a single moment's peace until he heard that I had given up my California trip.
which
This letter/arrived shortly before my intended trip caused me the greatest embarrassment. I did not care to act contrary to the expressed wishes and counsel of my father, and on the other hand, I had to deal justly with Bendits. In this predicament I handed the letter of my father to my employers

and by a happy circumstance it happened that a young man, Wertheimer, whom they knew very well, could be proposed as my substitute. This man left on the trip and is said to have made a great deal of money in California, but as far as I know, Bendits never received a cent from him.

Bendits had a branch office in New Orleans under the direction of Mr. Karewski. The first of January, 1850, he wrote that he intended to go to California and begged them to release him at once from his business. Bendits were very much excited about this since none of them cared to go to New Orleans because of the fear of yellow fever. They therefore proposed to me that I was to go there as their representative, and either take over the business at my own risk, or dissolve it; in the former case they would lend me the necessary capital for a definite time. I enjoyed the prospects of this trip for it gave me an opportunity to become acquainted with a part of the south without cost. I left the middle of February by steamer "Ohio" to Havannah, where I remained for three days. I had samples of some new rubber toys from Nürnberg, for which Havannah was supposed to be a splendid market. When I arrived my samples were melted by the heat and the box contained only a sticky mass with which I could do nothing but throw overboard. After three days I boarded the steamer "Falcon" to New Orleans, where I arrived about the first of February, after a stormy trip. Before I left New York I had agreed with Goll to meet somewhere in the fall of the year and establish a business according to

our means. I, therefore, went to the south; he to the west, and we agreed to ^{communicate} impart to each other our impressions. The business in New Orleans did not conform, in many respects, to my wishes. It was entirely too risky for me. Many large mirrors were sold to people on credit to be smuggled into Mexico. If they were caught ⁱⁿ ~~executing~~ the deed, then the money was lost. I collected the money outstanding, sold the goods with the exception of very little, which I stored and started on my return trip to New York the fourth of July. I travelled up the Mississippi through the locks to Cincinnati. From there I took the railroad to Toledo, and went by boat to Buffalo. I stopped for a day in Niagara Falls - the grandeur of which I admired for the first time. In New York I met Coll, who spoke of the west with greatest enthusiasm - especially of Chicago and Milwaukee - both cities of 17,000 to 18,000 inhabitants. I settled my account with Bendits, which was agreeable in every respect, and told them of my intention to become independent. After careful consideration Coll and I decided to choose Milwaukee, especially because the German immigration was directed there at that time. Each of us had eight hundred dollars in cash - I a little more. I had saved about 2,500 fl. in Karlsruhe (equal to \$1000.00) of which I ^{had} used two hundred dollars in New York during my unemployment. My money had not decreased since that time, but with my small salary, I had been able to add but little. With this capital mentioned above (\$1600.00) my father placed at my disposal 3,000 fl. (or

\$1200.00) at 12 per cent interest, which was the custom at that time. We used this loan later on. We made our purchases in dry goods, mirrors, clocks, etc. to the amount of fivethousand dollars - upon which we paid twelve hundred, for some money had to be allowed for freight, furnishings, and travelling expenses. Besides these articles, we obtained from a Mr. Kerler who had just migrated into this country, three thousand dollars worth of gold and silver watches to be sold on commission. Stocked in this manner we moved to Milwaukee.

Milwaukee

Equipped in this manner we migrated to Milwaukee. We arrived on the 6th of August, 1850, and landed at the South Pier, for no railroad existed at that time. We rented the first story of the building at 379 East Water Street, consisting of a room twenty four by eighteen feet, and a smaller side room without windows, which we used as a bed room. Beneath us and above us was Edward D. Baker's store room for whiskey and liquors. We boarded at the house of Mrs. Ransom on Huron Street and paid \$1.75 per week. Our main work consisted in finding customers, and naturally we sought these at first in the city, but soon found that the field offered here was not ^{broad} ~~great~~ enough. We therefore decided to purchase a wagon and two horses, in order to sell to different merchants in the country, and thus gain their patronage. The wagon was arranged in such a way that we could take about \$500.00 worth of wares with us, and changing off, each travelled about two or three weeks at a time in the surrounding country. My route went by way of Waukesha, Oconomowoc, Watertown, Jefferson, Watertown, Beaver Dam, Fond du Lac, Oshkosh - as far as Neenah. Goll's route went directly to the west. Although I was rather successful in my business, these trips, on account of my inexperience in taking care of horses and the primitive byways, were always ^{attended} ~~connected~~ with a great deal of danger. There was scarcely a day when I was not in danger of life, but fate kindly protected me from serious misfortune. Anyone who knows what it means to travel for miles on corduroy roads over new ways leading through the primeval forests, will understand why I declared to my partner in the month of December that I would make no further ^{trips} ~~trips~~ of this nature. We again sold our horses and wagon.

I was surprised to find that Goll had ordered three to four thousand dollars worth of stock during my absence, of which we still had sufficient on hand. Goll gave me his reasons for it; that we could not obtain any new stock before the end of April and that if we could not sell all that we had in stock at the present time, as well as the new purchases, we could not count on existing at all. The result of this was that we ~~had~~ suffered losses in April 1850 in our ^{financial standing} property in having too much stock left and in not being able to meet our obligations. We reported this to our creditors and ordered only that which was absolutely necessary, and while we circulated the report that I would go to New York to buy new stock, I went with a large quantity of goods into the country in order to dispose of it and collect enough to pay our debts. I was very successful so that by the middle of June we were able to pay everything that was due and besides had \$500.00 for the purchase of new stock at our disposal. Then I travelled to New York and at that time bought for the first time staple dry goods; these we sold to Nathaniel Pereles immediately after my return.

Two circumstances were very favorable to us in the last six months. Two brothers, Hantsch, came here from Saxony with whom we became acquainted. They had brought along a very large quantity of shelf hardware which they gave to us to sell on a commission basis. This proved to be a good business deal. In February, 1851, fire was set to an adjacent building where a grocery business was carried on by Americans. The two buildings had a common stairway and the smoke came into our store. Some of

the firemen entered our store and from there directed their hose to the place of fire. We were forced to move out the next morning and the clothes dealer, Adler, accommodated us temporarily in the first story of his building, until the damage was settled by the Insurance Company. The assessor, Mr. Caleb Wall and Jac. Mohler fixed the damage at about \$1200.00, which sum was paid to us at once. This caused us a great deal of trouble and work, but I believe that our real damage did not amount to much over \$300.00. We rented a store at the Market place of Doctor Jung, and moved into it that very same week. We had a great deal to do because the report that we would sell our damaged stock below cost price procured many customers for us. Goll and I had ^{promised} given each other at the beginning of our business negotiations not to marry until we have gained the assurance that the business would permit decent living for two families. Until August, 1850, neither of us took \$20.00 (at the most \$25.00) per month out of the business. One evening Goll did not return home and I could not understand where he had stayed over night. The next morning he appeared and informed me to my great astonishment that he had married on the previous evening. His bride was Mrs. Stevens, a widow with whom we had been acquainted. He added that in view of our agreement he had not dared to inform me of his decision; that he, however, did not intend to use more money than I. The young couple lived a very quiet and economical life, still Goll spent little more than before. I often took my supper with them and we never had anything else than tea and bread and butter, still the couple was a very happy one. I, myself, felt more lonely than ever and longed for family life which I had been without since my youth. I sometimes visited the families of

Dyke and Mohler but did not find that which I missed, even though the hours there were very pleasant. Even the company of young people did not satisfy me for their chief pleasure was ~~sought in~~ drinking, for which I had neither desire or money. All this persuaded me to seek a companion for my life, especially since I saw that our income increased and I knew that, in the course of time, I would be able to satisfy moderate expectations of a wife. At first this was not the case unless one lived as the Goll's did. In the fall of that year I often heard a great deal of praiseworthy remarks about Miss Popper, with whom I became acquainted, and my good angel whispered to me that such a modest, simple, unpretentious girl, who was so much devoted to her mother, would be the wife after my own heart. I used the occasion of Thanksgiving Day in November for the purpose of calling on her without expecting to propose to her; her manner was so congenial that I felt at once she or no other would be my wife, to share with me care and joy, and create heaven upon earth. I told her of my home, my family, my prospects, of my loneliness and as usual added the question whether she could make up her mind to share my fate. Great was my joy that she gave me her immediate promise. I informed her at once what I could offer her for the future, as an honest man should, and indeed it was not much. I told her that in the beginning we would not be able to take more than \$400.00, at most not more than \$500.00, out of the business and if she thought that that would not be sufficient, then we would wait a little longer until circumstances were more favorable --- even though this was not in accordance with my wish. She,

however, said cheerfully she would make that sum do and so proved that she was all right. "With much one can keep house but with little one can get along" was our proverb.

I now spoke with mother, Mrs. Popper, told her in simple words about my prospects and intention and was welcomed by her as a son. Who was happier than I to ^{have} own a girl whom I became more and more devoted to day after day, even though she was very sparing in her demonstrations of love, and a family with whom I felt at home and happy? Thus the bond was formed which brought to my life such lasting happiness, an epoch and change in my existence, with which blessing came to me and a happiness I always appreciated and recognized with great gratitude, and which ^{culminated} reached its highest point when our mutual love was founded in our family as the years went by.

My fiancée was born in Prague, November 1 - 1832, was therefore just nineteen years old. Her family consisted of her mother and three sisters; Marie, married to F. Morawetz; Alice who had been ill since her twelfth year; and Jenny, who was at that time ten years old. Mrs. Popper had had a great deal of misfortune in the year 1847. She lost within a year her husband and her only son, then twenty six years of age. She was forced, on this account, to sell her business and came from Neustadt to Milwaukee (upon the advice of her brother), because the Revolution of 1848 made any existence in Prague very trying. Mrs. Popper, although she had been taught in the school of experience, had a cheerful ^{contented} satisfied manner, modest and honest in her actions, and I think with great satisfaction that I was able to make her last years of life carefree and cheerful. She experienced the pleasure of knowing her grandchildren: Carl. Frank and Matilda. The former

was her constant companion on her walks. She went regularly to the theater whatever the weather might be, and could laugh heartily when in the evening merry and witty stories were read, as for instance, "Heinle's Bäder von ^{Nucca}" or similar things. But let me return to my fiancée, who soon noticed how much I was taken up by the business and that I had time only to call on her in the evening; and in order to get to her home it was necessary that I cross the ice on the river. This caused my dear Julia great worry. I told her that there was but one way to avoid it and that was to marry soon. A long engagement would not have been good for me because it would have ^{hindered} disturbed me in the carrying out of my plans, and since we were united in ~~our~~ mutual love and trust, our engagement was shortened and the wedding was set the 11th of January, 1852. My fiancée came to me with an urgent request, which was the wish that I would allow her mother and her sisters to live with us. I ^{anticipated her} ~~met her~~ in the desire and made my wife very happy on this account. We found a house suitable for us on Biddle Street near Broadway, called Maine Street at that time. It consisted of a basement which we used as dining and living room, as well as kitchen; on the first floor was the common parlor and our bedroom; the second story belonged to mother and sister. We paid \$11.00 a month rent, which was divided among us, as were all the expenses of the household. For a long time my dear Julia received \$10.00 a week for the expenses of the household; five dollars from me and five dollars from her mother. We could not be very pretentious with this sum but we were ex-

ceedingly happy and contented. Our furniture, of which we had nothing but the most necessary articles, was soon purchased. It consisted of a carpet in the parlor, table, six chairs, a sofa with black horsehair covering, six common chairs, two bedsteads; the bedding we had already acquired, the whole costing \$150.00. We were prepared for the important date the 11th of January, 1852. Justice of the Peace, Bode, was asked to perform the ceremony and only the closest relatives were invited. The ceremony took place in the afternoon in our parlor. Present were the families of Bremers, Morawitz, and Neustadts, about twelve in all. The ceremony was simple but very dignified. Mr. Bode directed a few paternal words to us and we, the main persons, were fully aware of the seriousness of the hour. ~~I missed very painfully~~ ^{It was painful} that not a single member of my family could be present to take part in this important occasion. My thoughts wandered frequently across the ocean to my father's house where, as I knew, this day would also be celebrated. After the ceremony the whole company went down into the basement, where Mr. Wettstein had prepared a fine dinner and wines for the guests. All were merry and the hours passed quickly until ten o'clock, when our guests left us. This was very agreeable to us for although the memory of such celebrations is in later years all the more enjoyable the merrier a company is, the fact is that the young couple would prefer (almost in every case) to be left to themselves. We now were married. We did not have the means for a wedding trip, but we were happy and content. During the day I attended to my duties with double zeal because in the evening the family and a comfortable home awaited me. A loving heart knew how to make that home so dear to me that I always

hastened there with longing. Letters of my father expressed the greatest interest in my happiness, although he had hoped I would come to Germany to visit them and at the same time choose a wife among several girls whom he had already considered for me. But I was very content in my own choice and had cause to call myself happy that fate had given me such a happy lot. On the 21st of November, 1852, we were made happy by the birth of a girl, who was given the name of my mother, Klara. Alas! This blessing did not remain with us for a long time for on the 12th of December the little girl died, after suffering for a few days from acidity of the stomach. Our home now appeared very barren and lonely. That was the first hard fate which we passed through together and our pain did not pass until, after a year, another ^{child} arrived to take her place.

Great changes had occurred in our business. My father had on different occasions expressed the desire that Bernhard should join us and enter our business, but our business was too small for a third man. Mr. Frank, who had recently come from Germany and was engaged to be married to a daughter of Mr. Kerler, was very anxious to be associated with us and would place a larger capital at our disposal, but we had refused it. Then again in June, 1852, a letter came from my father in which he expressed his wish more urgently than before. This time not Bernhard, but Hermann was to join me, ^{and he said} ~~and~~ that he could leave at once. This was Father's desire in order that Hermann would not have to pass through the same hard exp^eriences to which I had been subjected. When Frank again expressed his former wish to

join us in our business, I told him that our business was too small to support three families, but that I would sell to him my share if Goll was satisfied. ^{Relative to} On this question I told him that my share, based upon the inventory of the first of July, was worth \$2,671.00, which he would have to pay to me in cash. He at once accepted my proposal and so everything was settled in less than a quarter of an hour. Great was the ^{fear} fright of my dear Julia when I hastened home and reported what had happened. I at once wrote my father that I had taken this step only to be able to go into business with Hermann and that it was necessary that he leave at once. Instead of doing this the message was sent to me reporting that Hermann, for different reasons, could not leave until the following spring. In consequence I was in a very deplorable condition, but I had to bear it. I rent^{ed} at \$200.00 a year the southern twenty feet of the Kirby house, arranged it as a store, and went to New York about August 1st to buy stock. My stock arrived. I worked hard and my work was crowned with success. Again I went to New York in the fall, and during my absence, my dear Julia took my place, with the assistance of a skilful young clerk by the name of Hullahd. This man died the following winter of a ^{in consequence} cold contracted while boat riding. My business flourished and when Herman arrived in June, 1853, I took an inventory on the first of July, my capital had ^{increased} risen to \$4009.00. This included the \$1200.00 which I had borrowed from my father in June, 1850, which sum he had given me as a wedding present. On the 7th of Oct, 1853, we had the great joy to see our son Karl enter into life. Great was our happiness and all our love was united in the babe, who was anxiously guarded and cared for. My dear Julia who

nursed him, as well as all the other children, was always healthy and enjoyed the happiness of being a mother. Our first son was followed on June 16th, 1855, by Frank, and our happiness was doubled. Our worry was increased a little later on account of repeated attacks of cramps during the period of Frank's teething. Both boys grew up, to our great joy, and early in life ^{proved to be} showed ^{showed a} wide awake and lively interest in everything. Karl learned to walk and talk very early and Frank was ahead of most of the children when but a year old.

The longing to see my father again grew from day to day, especially since I knew through Hermann, who had gone to Germany to ^{get} married, that my father suffered keenly from emphysema. For that reason we decided to take a trip to Germany, and take the children along in order to gladden ^{my father by} the sight of his first grandsons. In February, 1857, we started on our voyage by way of Boston and Liverpool and arrived in Marktbreit without any trouble. Karl was at that time but three and one half years old, and Frank a little ^{more} better than one and a half years old. The joy which our visit brought to my father can not be described. Karl and Frank brought life to the house; they felt at home immediately and were spoiled by everyone. We were enjoying dinner one day when Sommers unexpectedly stepped into the room. (He became my brother-in-law later on.) Sommers had come from Hamburg expressly for the purpose of taking me with him on a hiking trip to Switzerland and I was therefore all the more sorry not to be able to accompany him because I was suffering from a climatic eye trouble. Another reason was because my father did not want me to leave him when we were home for but a short time. We enjoyed the days with our loved ones to the fullest degree. but we had to decide

to leave Marktbreit soon after the 20th of June since the new expectation of the happiness of coming parentage made it desirable and necessary to get home as soon as possible. I had explained to my father that our three sisters were growing up; that the time could not be far when the taking care of them would cause great worries, and therefore offered to take Amalie back to American with us. She was then sixteen years old. My dear father ^{answered} ~~fessed to~~ me that he had not even thought of it and that he would consider it. The very next day he gave his consent and Amalie also immediately said "yes" and so she came with us. At a very youthful age she became the happy wife of George Sommers. We had a very pleasant trip and even if the leave taking was very hard for us, we were satisfied that we had experienced and given so much joy. I had a presentiment that I would not see my father again and one year later he was so ill that he could not enjoy the visit of Hermann and his family, and died in J. 1863 of pneumonia.

(on July 4th, 1857)

We arrived in Milwaukee/after a trip of fourteen days. Not until the 26th of August did our little Matilda arrive. She was greeted with a joyous heart, but while our family life was so happy, we were not spared many blows of fate. Alice had died in June 1856, which however, was a release rather than a misfortune. On the other hand, we hoped that our dear mother, who was so strong and cheerful, would remain with us for a long time, but in November 1858 she suddenly became very ill and died of rottenness of the lungs. This left a great gap in our family circle. Little Jenny grew up and in later years married my brother Bernhard.

my visit in Germany

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Our business gave us reasons to be well satisfied, as the following record during a number of years will show very clearly:

August 1, 1852 Capital \$2611.26 June 30, 1853, \$4009.00
Hermann entered as my partner, each one contributing - \$1406.21
I having credit besides ^{for} of \$2603.47

June 30, 1854	- \$6663.46	My personal credit being	\$2640.81
June 30, 1855	- 12287.46	My personal credit being	\$2603.47
June 30, 1856	- 16487.46	My personal credit being	\$1080.45
June 30, 1857	- 20587.46	My personal credit being	400.00
X Dec. 31, 1857	- 17187.46	My personal credit being	400.00
Dec. 31, 1858	- 19768.91	My personal credit being	400.00
Dec. 31, 1859	- 24768.91	My personal credit being	933.97
Dec. 31, 1860	- 31168.91	My personal credit being	937.23
Dec. 31, 1861	- 46000.00	My personal credit being	1037.40
Dec. 31, 1862	- 70000.00	My personal credit being	884.00

X The set back of \$3000.00 in 1857 was caused not by the panic of that year, but by the dishonesty of the consignee. To whom Stern sent goods from Germany on the occasion of his visit home in the same year. His account of that misfortune is omitted. Editor.

mut. From these figures it can be seen that we had a set back of almost \$3,000.00 in the year 1857. There is a story connected with this of which this was the beginning, but it later caused many weary hours to the family of Segnitz. During my visit in Germany in the year 1857 I bought a large quantity of such stock as I considered suitable for our business. My uncle Segnitz helped me to a large extent, but was surprised that I planned to send the stock to my friends Rosenheim Brothers in New York to lessen the duty charges. He thought this action strange since his son-in-law Mendel was much closer to us and would be a more suitable person for this purpose. Since Uncle considered this a mark of distrust, and since I had no reason to doubt the honesty of Mendel, I made the change and the stock

was sent to our address in care of Stein & Mendel in New York.

There were 10,000 gulden worth of woolen goods chosen from patterns of advance stock. After receiving a message from my New York friends I went to the city and found to my disgust that Mendel, upon receiving the bills-of-lading, had sold all the stock at a very low price before it had passed through the Revenue Office and had disappeared with the proceeds. I therefore had to pay on my own stock so that it would not be delivered to this party. We were entangled in a lawsuit which lasted several years and ended in a compromise. In the long end it would have been better if we had completely dropped the matter, for the greater part of the goods were moth eaten, and besides the lawsuit charges were heavy. The losses of money were small compared to the misfortunes of poor Johanna, the wife of Mendel and the daughter of Segnitz. She was unhappy as long as she lived. She was divorced from that wicked man after a few years but a sign of his bad character is the fact that he claimed money for his consent to be divorced. The sad details of this case shall be omitted and I shall add that the lamentable Johanna found release in an early death.

Our children grew up to our joy and were the center of our happiness, which was increased on the tenth of April, 1861, by the arrival of a girl, whom we called Emma. She did not remain with us long for a cold contracted in January, 1864, turned into a bad case of bronchial catarrh and she died on the 9th of March, 1864. It was a painful sight for us to see her failing and not be able to do anything for her. We could not be comforted in our loss, although we realized that it was wrong to blame

fate. We still had three children on which to concentrate our love, but reasoning ^{as} ^{cannot in case of} does not satisfy such losses, and only the birth of Ida on the 21st of December of that year healed our grief. I remember how unusually glad we were and how we scarcely could wait for the time for this baby to arrive. The helplessness of this little being made such demands on our love that we gradually remembered our beloved Emma with greater calmness of mind. In the spring of 1863 we received the message of Jobe from Marktbreit, our beloved father ^{had} died from an attack of pneumonia. Though he had prayed for years to be released from his suffering, still we were deeply pained by the unexpected news, and we remembered all the love and sacrifices shown us by him, and even without him his great example would be an ever lasting memory.

I shall return to the year 1860 in which the presidential election was causing great excitement. As is well known, the question was the supremacy of the free states as opposed to that of the slave states. It is not my desire to talk a great deal upon this question, but I can very well say that I accepted whole-heartedly the part of the northern states in electing President Lincoln. The ferment of the South turned into open rebellion when Fort Sumpter near Charlestown was bombarded in the Spring of 1861. Of the horrors of the four year war which followed, I saw nothing, for the battle fields were far away. I shared the excitement and grief of those about me and I ^{still} now remember with pain the regiments which marched away, of whom so many sacrificed their health and lives.

All that I and the other remaining men could do was to try and relieve the sad fate of the women and children by supplying them with money, and there was ^{shown} laudable zeal in this respect. I was called three times to serve in the Army; was freed twice as being unfit for service, but the third time was pronounced fit for hospital service. I procured a substitute whom an agent located for me for the price of \$600.00. I never saw him and do not even know his name. It was strange that the ^(first year of) war had no noteworthy influence on the price of agricultural stocks, or on real estate, but this was destined to change. The end of May, 1862, we received a notice from a Boston business friend saying, "One of you start on receipt of this. Do not ask any questions." We knew at once that a change in the market was coming and I decided to go to New York and Boston on that very same day. Since we needed no stock at that time, nor had money to buy, we raised a mortgage of ten thousand dollars on our stock, besides having the assurance of the President of the State Bank that he would protect us in any negotiation arranged in New York. I arrived in New York and found to my astonishment that prices were lowered, but whenever I wanted to buy was repeatedly told, "We have no stock and will not take any orders." Now I knew what to expect. I went to Boston to call on my friend Philips; one of the main salesmen of James McBebe & Company. These speculators in cotton goods had an immense stock of all kinds of so-called domestic goods, and I bought on speculation a great quantity of these articles, which with the goods I had purchased later on in New York, amounted to over thirty thousand dollars. We made an immense sum of money on this supply for in a very short time they rose more than 100 per cent, as the rising tendency of

of goods had an advantageous advantage on business throughout the world. Still no one could say what he really was worth.

To explain this it is necessary to describe our means of coin circulation, even if it is superficially done. Beginning with the year 1862 every state of the Union had its own banking laws, giving to each one under certain conditions, the right to found a bank and to use paper money which had to be redeemed by the banks in question with gold, and had to be safeguarded by the deposit of state or railroad bonds. These securities consisted to a great extent in bonds of southern states and ^{were} of doubtful value. In this manner there came into existence in every state numerous banks, whose circulating notes were viewed with mistrust. Wisconsin notes lost 2-1/2 per cent in New York; even the notes of the state of New York were discounted 3/4 per cent right in New York. In the year 1857 the bonds of the southern states lost a great deal, and in consequence the western paper money was mistrusted. A number of banks failed and their notes were usually worth about one-half. Our Wisconsin notes were no better and only by the banks and merchants voluntarily giving money contributions as security, did they succeed to regain confidence in Wisconsin notes. For this purpose we gave five hundred dollars. In the course of the war when money was the main necessity for success, the circulation of individual banks was withdrawn and we had a unified means of exchange for all states, by having banks deposit United States bonds and promise to issue notes to within 90 per cent of the deposited bonds. The banking law was a rule of business and war; even though its justice was often disputed it is a fact that this new rule has proven beneficial to the present day.

In the course of the war the U.S. notes were given a forced figure; that is, they had to be accepted as payment for gold had disappeared entirely from circulation. Who ever wanted gold had to pay an extra sum (at first 5 per cent, later on when the value reached its highest point in 1965, \$100.00 worth gold could be obtained for \$200.00 worth of paper money.) If the war had lasted one year longer the value would have risen to \$500.00 since gold was the one measure of standard of the world. No one could tell the real value of his property, as I have already said. At the close of the war trust and confidence quickly returned and it did not happen infrequently that gold was refused by common people because it was an unknown coin.

About Real Estate

In the year 1853 we bought of Miles the middle lot of the quarter block 63, which was sixty feet long, in the first ward, with the building which was still new. We moved there and in this house all our children were born with the exception of Klara and Karl.

In the year 1856 we bought of Wright the south sixty feet adjacent to our lot, with a little frame house in which Hermann lived with his family. In June, 1857, I bought (while Hermann was in Europe) a store in East Water Street, number ____, for very acceptable terms. I gave Hermann an opportunity to share this bargain, which he gladly did. We moved into this store and remained there until it was too small to accommodate us, and in the 70's we sold it again for \$14,000. In the year 1868 we bought from Jas. B. Martin the lot or the land on which our present store is built. We paid \$20,000 for it and the building; the furnishings cost \$40,000. Hermann's house was too small, so we therefore built in the year 1862 a new dwelling house at a cost of about \$6,000. Our house was also small for our growing family, but we preferred to move into the house at the corner of Lake and New Streets, instead of building a new one, until circumstances forced us to again change our dwelling place. In the year 1876 I bought the land upon which our present house is built for \$6500. The building and furnishings cost about \$13,500; together \$20,000. Hermann took half shares in the real estate on Cass and Ogden Street, belonging to me, at a price of \$7,500. This transaction completed my building activities --- a great deal of which I would

not do today, after gaining the experience I have had.

Further Family Happenings

In the year 1867 we were granted the great joy to have our family increased by the arrival of our dear sister Louise. She became a year later the happy bride of my friend Morris Davidson, and I take a great deal of satisfaction in the thought ^{to have} contributed to her happiness. The two, with their five splendid daughters are respected and beloved by the whole family. Our children grew up to our great joy. Karl and Frank were fine students and the question was to be solved by us whether either had a special talent or inclination for any type of business. This was not the case. Still, we decided to send Karl who, in spite of his youth was very mature, to Karlsruhe to gain a higher education. He arrived in Karlsruhe in the year 1868 and was entered in the 7th class of the Realgymnasiums and transferred in the year 1870 into the Polytechnical School. ~~Sk~~ We visited him in 1869 and convinced ourselves that he was in good care in the ^{house} of Professor Meyer and that he was pursuing his studies very zealously. The joy of our visit ^{was} is indescribable (especially since we had little Ida with us) and in order to spare all of us the pain of parting, we did not say goodbye. We travelled to Leipsig and Dresden and Prague, the birthplace of my dear Julia, who took great pleasure in again seeing the well-known streets and houses and I shared her joy to become ac-

"Muncheu, and after a short stay in Wurzburg with our relatives we returned home at the end of August. In the year 1871 Karl spent his vacation with us and I convinced myself that he had no special inclination to continue his studies, most likely on account of the homesickness from which he suffered so much. He was allowed to choose his own course in life, and as a result he entered our business where he is still occupied and has great cause to be satisfied with his lot.

Frank's calling was easy to choose since he decided to devote his life to a commercial career. He was in the A. Meisner Company's establishment for about a year, then changed to our business in the year 1872. In the long run the position in our firm did not please him for some reason. He tried in vain to get another position and I believe that the reason was this; the merchants feared to educate a competitor. Later on he became associated with Ferdinand in the manufacture of mill stones, but he was not successful in this business and lost a great deal of money. One day Frank read in the newspaper that the North Star Iron Works in Minneapolis were for sale. He considered this a good opportunity. We were just on the point of taking a pleasure trip to Montreal. I therefore advised him to go to Minneapolis with Mr. Rice, a skillful mechanic, in order to look over the factory and make a report to me. The comments which I received from him described the circumstances in such glorious colors that I promised him I would investigate for myself after my return from Montreal. Since my brother Hermann was seeking a position for his future son-in-law, Louis Schlesinger, we went to Minneapolis together, and Frank

as well as Rice accompanied us. We were convinced that the business was a successful one; that the owner, Johnson, had made a good deal of money and now had to give up the business on account of his health. When we investigated the books and the earnings for many years we considered the chance a very unusual one for the future success of our children, and bought the factory, together with the land upon which it was built, for \$70,000. We formed a stock company in which the following persons were associated:

Hermann and I, each with	\$15,000	\$30,000
Rice with	12,000	12,000
Frank, Louis and Mr. Baker, each with	10,000	30,000
		<hr/>
		75,000

I would like to remark that Mr. Baker joined us without an invitation, even though I had told him that it was an experiment on our part, the success of which could not be guaranteed. The business went very well for the first two years, but then came years that showed large deficits and almost forced us to give up the business. When our need was greatest the Manitoba Railway bought the real estate for such a high price (\$132,000) that we could not only pay our debts, but could also pay back the capital to bond holders. After a short attempt to carry on the business in a simple way, while Hermann was in Chicago, we sold the firm and Frank went into the ^{Chicago} firm of C. H. Gurney & Company in October, 1888. This business has the sole agency for the West of six or

eight factories manufacturing steel tools. Besides, they carry on a jobbing trade in nuts, bolts, etc. Frank now works with pleasure^{we} with the prospect of getting ahead, and does not have to struggle with such difficulties and cares as he had to in the factory.

The First Love of My Children.

My dear Julia and I had had one object --- never to meddle in the love affairs of our children, but allow them to follow their own inclinations as long as the character of the man or woman of their choice was ^{irreproachable} faultless. Following this principal, we watched with pleasure how heart found heart and how each one of our children was given the great privilege of finding the ideal in his or her life. The Musical Club to which Matilda, Karl and Frank belonged offered the first opportunity for Matilda to meet Ferdinand Schlesinger. They delighted in each other's company from the very first and we were therefore not very much astonished when Ferdinand came to my office one morning and requested an interview with me at my convenience to discuss something very important. It was not hard for me to guess what he meant, and I proposed to him that he be my guest at dinner for we would have leisure time then to talk. He took part in our meal of pork roast, Sauerkraut and dumplings. After dinner he asked me for the hand of Matilda, assured me that he loved her and that he had hopes that she loved him, and begged for my consent. I knew him but slightly, knew only in what society he moved, but knew nothing of his family, nor of his personal success. I told him of this and asked him whether he was in position to support decently a wife, and eventually a family. He assured me at once that he could, spoke of his ~~code~~ ^{code} business and the brilliant expectations which this offered, so this point could not be doubted. I told him how I had the greatest confidence in

him to make the future of my daughter happy; that it was self evident I would have to trust in him and his assurances, and since my dear Julia also agreed with me, we gave our consent to this marriage. Matilda was only nineteen years old when she became engaged on the 19th of February 1876, and we would have been pleased if the wedding were postponed for a year or two, but the couple was not satisfied with this. The wedding which took place in the house at the corner of Lake and Juneau Avenue on the first of October, 1876, was a grand and solemn celebration, which I remember with great pleasure. The two were very happy. Their lives became more dear to each other by being blessed with two splendid boys, our Harry born on the 3rd of August, 1879, and our little rogue Armin born on the 21st of September, 1883. The announcement of the birth of the latter we received by telegraph while in Florence and our congratulations were sent from there. Now in January, 1889, the boy already wears his first pants and looks very cunning.

The good example of Matilda was contagious and it wasn't very long before she was imitated. Karl and Alma had had a close friendship for a long time. Alma had been known to us for years as a girl ^{gifted} adorned with all the advantages of feminine virtue; unpretentious, whose parents we knew and respected. Alma was therefore gladly welcomed to our family as a daughter, and if we hesitated for a while to give our consent, the reason was ^{known} ~~ought~~ entirely in the youth of our Karl, who was only twenty three years old, too young to assume great and serious obligations. Our reasons were recognized but they assured us they had no intention to marry at once, but would only prove their love to the extent of becoming engaged. Since we had, for a long time, looked upon Alma as a daughter, we consented to their engagement with glad hearts.

The love which united them in this bond stood the test of time. They are a pair whose mutual respect and love grew firmer year after year. The wedding took place on the 21st of April, 1876, in Bielfeld's garden. It was a beautiful occasion and was the first time that the family of Becker was present at one of our family gatherings. This marriage was blessed by two children, who, just as the rest, are the joy of our old age. They are; Eric Cramer our first grandson, who was born on the 8th of February, 1879; and Julia Alma, born on the 25th of February, 1885.

Now it was Frank's turn. We knew that he very often visited the Becker family, whose two interested daughters attracted him. We also knew that he paid special attention to their Adolphine at all parties and balls. Frank did not have a definite position and therefore could not think of binding himself to a girl for the present. This friendship continued to the time the family Becker decided to go to Europe and take Adolphine along. Then Frank came to me one evening and told me of this and expressed his wish to become engaged to the one he loved before the departure of her parents, but to wait with the wedding until his circumstances allowed him to establish a home. Adolphine was the best friend of Matilda and came to our home a great deal. We knew her well and were therefore very, very happy to welcome her as a daughter, and gave our cordial consent to their marriage under the conditions Frank had named. Frank hastened that very night to the South side where Becker's lived and what happened there I do not know, but he told us that same night with a happy heart that he had received the consent of his beloved one. Their engagement was celebrated on the 17th of May, 1880, and Adolphine decided to give up her European trip even though she was given the promise that her parents would allow

that year Frank entered the machine factory in Minneapolis, as I have already mentioned, and on the 11th of January, 1881, the wedding took place in the festively decorated hall of Mrs. Bode. A short time later the family Becker left Milwaukee and Adolphine moved with her husband to Minneapolis. This marriage was also made in heaven. The two share every joy and sorrow of this world, as it ought to be in every marriage. Their home was blessed with two children; our dear little Heinz, whose name Heinrich Stern continues mine, born on the 28th of October, 1881, and our youngest babe, dear little Alice, born on the 24th of August, 1888.

Now we get to our Sunday child Ida. I call her Sunday child because she was spared cares and worry. She had a happy childhood which brought her only friendly pictures and memories. As a young girl during the years in which the mind is especially open to everything beautiful, she could see with us a large part of the beautiful world and the charm of art and nature. Quietly and joyfully her days passed by and even cupid had to be at her call. In the Musical Club to which she belonged with her sisters and brothers and friends she met a young man - Doctor Carl Zimmermann, a guest at the Club. There seems to have been a mutual attraction at the first meeting of these two. We did not know the Doctor at all, but his dignified tactful manner made a very agreeable impression upon us. One day Mr. Mukler, Senior, told me that his family was a very respectable one and that he had known him since his youth as a good, energetic boy. Without saying anything we watched the mutual inclination grow and allowed their hearts to take their own course. They were engaged, with our consent, on the 27th of February, 1886, but

the engagement was kept secret, since the Doctor thought that his colleagues assisting him in practice might become less interested in him if they heard he had gone so far as to think of marriage. We gave in to his desire, although we were not of the same opinion, but it was hard for Ida to be forced to hide her young happiness, instead of confiding in ^{to} her friends. It is impossible to keep such a thing secret for a long time. On the first of Feb. 1887 they were united for life in our present house, which had been changed into a garden of flowers for the occasion. Judge Mann performed the ceremony in a simple manner (as he had done with all the rest of our children). Immediately after the wedding the young couple took a short trip to Chicago, because Doctor Zimmermann's assistance was necessary to the eye and ear sufferers of Milwaukee and could not be absent long. The young couple accepted our proposition to live with us, which was for both parties the most agreeable and proper arrangement, and if the many kisses which I witnessed is a measure of their happiness, then they are the happiest couple in the world. In the course of time there appeared our most beloved little boy Herbert Frederick, born on the 23rd of November, 1887. This child enlivened our family circle in a most agreeable manner and knew how to win the hearts of his grandparents and the family through his amiability. Every evening after coming home I enjoyed seeing the arms of this little angel stretched out to greet me, and willingly and gladly I devoted many an hour to the little fellow, and noticed with pleasure his physical and mental development.

This ends the chapter of my own family and there remains only the task to make frequent glad additions.

Miscellaneous

My dear Julia and I crossed the ocean four times. I have already written about the first trip in the year 1856 and reported that my intention at that time was to see my dear father and his family. I have also mentioned the second trip in 1869; I then visited Karl who attended the Realgymnasium in Karlsruhe. At that time we also visited Frankfurt, Würzburg, Leipzig, Dresden, Prague, Vienna, München and Wiesbaden. Ida was with us. She was at that time four and one-half years old, and although it was a great pleasure to have the child with us, it is a fact that she was often a great hindrance in the full enjoyment of the trip. Besides Karlina and Lilly travelled in our company but remained with their parents in Frankfurt and did not join us until our return trip. The third trip in the year 1883 was devoted entirely to recuperation and enjoyment. This time Ida was also with us, but in that beautiful age in which the heart is especially open to new impressions. We travelled with the Cunard Steamer by way of Liverpool to London, where we found a friendly reception in the family of Mr. Schlesinger. An account of the strange and beautiful things we saw is found to my Journals. Our trip started at London by way of Calais, Brussels, Aachen, Köln, Frankfurt to Würzburg - where we remained for a few weeks and felt very comfortable in the homes of our sisters and brothers. Then we went by way of Nürnberg to München, Salzkammergut, and back to München, from there to Switzerland and the Italian Lakes to Milano, and through Italy to Naples. Oh the beautiful and strange sights! On our way back we travelled to Venice, Vienna,

Thorn and Berlin, back to Wurzburg. It was a round-a-bout way but was chosen ^{in order to} to become acquainted with the mother of Ferdinand, who is a well preserved and amiable lady. We spent a few days with her which were very happy indeed. While in Wurzburg I invited my sister Lena to travel to Paris with us, which invitation was gladly and immediately accepted and I believe I may say that our stay there will always be a pleasant memory to her, so much more so because she seldom had an opportunity to leave the family circle and had seen very little of the world and its ways. In Paris we met Benno Kohn, whom we took with us to Milwaukee in order to start him on his way to future success.

On our fourth European trip we took Matilda with us, as well as Lilly, and this proved to be the most enjoyable of all. Perhaps I believe this because of the following reason: everything that we saw is still with me in such a fresh and vivid picture. We left Milwaukee in March, 1887, sailed on the Steamer Westerland to Antwerp and reached the city after a very enjoyable trip of twelve days. From there we went to Amsterdam, The Hague, Brussels, the details of which are found in my Journal. It is hardly necessary to mention that we were charmed with all that these cities offered in art and scenery; Matilda, who had seen but little, was especially delighted. In order to carry out our plan to go directly to Italy we stayed but three days in Paris, then went by way of Marseilles to Nice --- this paradise washed by the ocean. It was a hard tour of twenty-one hours for the French railway coaches offer very little comfort compared to the American coaches. After leaving Paris we rented cushions at a franc each, the only comfort we were able to procure for the night. It was, nevertheless, the proper thing to hurry the journey ^{as much as} all possible for the joy was appreciated all the

more when we could devote ourselves to the charm of the beautiful landscapes and the luxuriant tropical vegetation. After a few days of delightful rest we left this beautiful place with regret and travelled by wagon to Mentone, Monte Carlo and Monaco. It was a delightful, beautiful trip and in Monte Carlo the owners of the gambling halls had created a magical garden ^{out} of their grounds. They almost seem to have been transported from the scene of the Arabian Nights. We watched the roulette players for many hours. I urged the ladies to leave, to keep them from temptation, but we ~~took part in~~ ^{attended} the splendid concerts in the gloriously furnished theatre, and walked in the magnificent parks.

This entire district was visited that spring by a destructive earth quake. Only a few traces were found in Nice, but ⁱⁿ Mentone nearly all the buildings were uninhabited and most of the walls showed great fissures. In the evening we went by rail to Genoa, where we stayed at a first class hotel, according to our usual custom. There we met Mrs. Schollkopf and Miss ^uNunemacher by appointment for they wanted to travel through Italy with us. At first I was afraid to travel with five ladies, but they proved to be exceptions to the rule, never caused me any difficulty, but added a great deal to make the trip a most pleasant one. We went to Pisa, Rome, Naples and the surrounding country, and back to Rome, Florence, and its immediate neighborhood, enjoying together the most pleasant days. Then we travelled by way of Bologna and Milano to the Italian Lakes, which ^{are} ~~have~~ in our memory the non plusultra as far as scenery is concerned. In Lugano, Ferdinand Meinecke and wife and Mr. Rausch with two daughters joined us, and remained with us until we left them in Pellanza. They had planned a trip to the northern part of Switzerland, but we had planned to go south to Milano. The leave

taking was very hard for us all because we have become accustomed to one another during the past six weeks. As to the continuation of our trip to Venice, Trieste, Vienna, Salzburg and Munich, and from there to Switzerland, my Journal will tell explicitly. Frau Schollkopf and Fraulein Nunemacher came expressly to Wiesbaden to spend a few days with us. We took a trip together as far as Cologne. There we celebrated our leave taking but were not sad; instead we were so merry that I accused the ladies of being effected by the champagne. The next morning Matilda went to Berlin alone, Mrs. Schollkopf and Miss Nunemacher to Stuttgart, and we to Frankfurt and Würzburg where we spent some pleasant days with our sisters and brothers. After ten days we met Matilda in Berlin, accompanied her to Hamburg, and watched her departure by steamer for America. We felt sad when we left Hamburg, and after a stay of five days in Berlin, returned to Würzburg. Matilda was so homesick that we did not mind allowing her to return to America, but this feeling was so contagious that we did not profit (Conamore) by our three weeks stay in Paris. However, a very pleasant change was furnished by our rendezvous with the family of Becker and Geisberg in Brussels. Still the longing for home was so strong that we were happy to board ship at Harve on the 11th of October and be taken to our Fatherland. Happy because of our adventure, we arrived there and found all of our beloved ones as well as we wished them to be. I still ought to mention that we passed a day of our last trip in Darmstadt, where we were most heartily welcomed by the family of the Doctor. In each member of the family we became acquainted with a very amiable person and so spent agreeable hours with them. I

am especially glad that I had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with the Honorable Doctor Zimmermann, the father of our Doctor, of whom I had heard so many praiseworthy things, although he was in an advanced age and could speak only weakly and indistinctly on account of a stroke. Nevertheless he had a very active mind and followed the conversation closely, especially when it concerned legal matters. Last spring the highly respected gentleman passed away, leaving a great gap in the family. He will live with me, and others, in honorable memory.

These European trips were not the only ones that we took. From time to time we also took trips in this country. Especially noteworthy was our six days stay in Niagara Falls, which was to be a rest cure for me. Furthermore, the trip down the St. Lawrence River and the Thousand Isles to Montreal and Lake George was very wonderful. Descriptions of these interesting tours naturally do not belong here. Later on we made frequent visits to Minneapolis and St. Paul, ^{to which} ~~where~~ ^{attracted} we were drawn by our children, Frank and Adolphine.

Although we are no longer young, we have not given up the plan of seeing more of the beautiful world, and who knows where our love of traveling may take us the next time?

An Episode from My Life

In Danger on a Trip.

In February, 1853, my business called me to New York.

The route I took was from Michigan City to Toledo, in reality only to the Miami River, which was then crossed on a ferry. From Toledo on I went by train to Cleveland, then Buffalo to Albany. From here ^[Cincinnati] to Michigan City there was a steamboat line which stopped at Racine, Kenosha, Waukegan and Chicago. When I arrived at the boat I met Mr. Hull, with a deeply veiled lady whom he introduced as his wife, with the explanation that she was on her way to Cincinnati to attend the funeral of her sister. Mr. Hull begged me to protect his wife as far as Cleveland, when she would take the train to Cincinnati, and I of course consented. Mrs. Hull was very depressed and very quiet, but the trip was uneventful till we arrived at the Miami River. We took the ferry at ten o'clock in the evening, in a shower of snow and rain. It was a terrible bad night and most of the travellers were forced to remain in the close quarters of the salon of the boat, where they were packed like herring. We wait^d an hour and a half for the boat to start; the air was so bad that Mrs. Hull fainted several times, and when we finally landed she took my arm to get out into the open as soon as possible. It was pitch dark, no lanterns were light^{ed}, and we could not see that the boat had not docked as usual, but was placed sidewise and that two boards were placed from the boat over to the landing place, over which the travellers had to walk. We followed close after other passengers. I had my satchel in one hand, in the other that of Mrs.

Hull, while she had taken my arm. Suddenly she took a false step and would have fallen into the water had her shawl not ^{been} caught ^{by} a large nail and several persons snatched her in time to prevent this. I, however, was pulled with her and fell head first with my two satchels into the icy river, which was about twelve feet deep at that spot. The cry arose at once, "Man Overboard," but since no one was able to see, it was necessary to get the lantern from the railway train. In the meantime I was treading water and did not let go of my two satchels. Finally a rope was thrown to me but upon my protest, a man was lowered, took my two satchels, and then I was pulled up. I threatened to publish this carelessness of the transportation company in all the New York papers, but the officials begged me so urgently not to do it that I gave up the idea, especially since they tried their best to make me as comfortable as possible. They improvised a room for me on the train by arranging a part of the mail coach as comfortable as possible, rubbed me with brandy, and begged clothes for me from other passengers. The clothes and underwear were so ill-fitting that I appeared ridiculous, but I was comfortable and dry. My own clothes had been wet through and through. That would not, however, have been serious but I had \$1000.00 in my satchel in bank notes, which were all stuck together. I worked throughout the night picking them apart and drying them. Fortunately, this episode had no further consequences; even the extraordinarily cold bath did not harm me (a proof that I had a very strong constitution). I begged Mrs. Hull not to mention the incident for I knew my wife would be worrying every time I took a trip. She promised and not until three years later did my dear wife hear of this adventure from Mr. Berliner, who had been informed by Mr. Hull.

The Silver Wedding.

Conclusion

Although ^{a consequence of} the chronological order has not been followed, I have purposely chosen our Silver Wedding as the concluding chapter; that celebration ^{gave us an occasion for a retrospection} ~~which~~ ^{invited} a survey of the past years with the hopes for the future, and in this respect is ^{a survey} ~~similar to the memoirs which we call~~ the main episodes of my life.

On January 11, 1877, twenty-five years had passed since my dear Julia and I, as young people, entered the holy bond of matrimony. We had made a firm promise to stand by one another faithfully and to mutually adorn our life, but every marriage is an experiment which has to pass through a period of trial before it can be said that it has been a success. We can honestly say, and we are convinced that we have stood the trial, and therefore wanted to celebrate this day in the circle of our very closest relatives. We had informed no one of this and were for that reason totally surprised when our sister-in-law, Jenny, told my wife that afternoon to make some preparations for she had heard there would be a crowd of our friends in to see us that evening. When I came home in the evening and heard of it, the first thing that I did was to investigate the wine cellar. I found wine enough, but only three bottles of champagne. I at once sent down town, but because it was so near the holiday season, all stores were exhausted. It was a dilemma which could not be avoided and could only be remedied by the fact that my wife, even though the time was short, prepared a most excellent dinner. Karl and Alma's engagement was celebrated at the

time of our Silver Wedding, and so they shared with us the honors and good wishes of the guests. At eight in the evening our door bell rung and in came the following couples: Mr. Palme and wife, Mr. Cramer and wife, Mr. Oscar Mohr and wife, Mr. Moiser and wife, Mr. Shaidt and sister, Mr. Fischbeck, Mr. H. Segnitz and sister, Mr. Hansen and wife, and I cannot remember the rest. Besides them my brother was present with his wife, also Lilli and Albert. Our guests went directly upstairs to our bedroom and took off their wraps, then appeared again and marched around us while we stood in the center of the parlor. Each couple handed to us in passing a present wrapped in silver paper. These gifts consisted of bread, a spinning wheel, a broom, a long sausage, a box of cigars, etc. accompanied with a good wish in doggerel. These little rhymes always suggested the present they accompanied and were very clever and beautiful. We thanked the guests for their kind wishes and for the pleasure of their presence which added so much to the joy of our celebration, and then passing over to the theme of the Silver Wedding, ^I expressed the thoughts in my heart that it marked a period of time which made firmer the union of two hearts, making it a genuine firm bond based on mutual respect and love which now stood firm, offering a safe guarantee for life.

I lauded, truthfully of course, the help of my dear Julia, saying that she had stood by me in joy and in sorrow and had created for me the greatest happiness that man can attain. After we had again shaken hands and received good wishes for the old and

the young bridal pair, we entered the dining room where a splendid table with thirty plates was set for the company. Everyone was in good humor, happy and merry, had good appetites, and everything tasted fine and cheered us up. Shortly before the dessert was served Mr. Palme arose and said that he wished to say a few words; all that had been done and said until this time had been humbug but now something would appear that was to be a lasting commemoration of this beautiful celebration and of the evening which they had spent with us. With these words he handed to me a silver goblet, on which the names of all the assembled guests were engraved. This was filled with champagne and a toast (hooh) was sung three times with the wish that we would all meet and celebrate our golden wedding together. The goblet was passed. After many other toasts and stories had been given, the guests went to their homes about two o'clock. We will remember this occasion as long as we live.

Twelve years have passed since then. All our children are married and happy. We are surrounded by a group of seven grand children, all of whom are angels. Sons and sons-in-law are engaged in successful fields of activity, and even if the course of years black clouds have darkened the sunshine of life, the sunny days prevail and have given us cause to be thankful that fate has dealt so kindly with us. We two, my dear Julia and I, can look calmly into the future and will leave it to fate to grant our wish to see our grandchildren grow up to the joy of our children, and at the proper time celebrate the golden wedding, as happily as we did our silver wedding. However, that may be, we both feel when we gaze upon our children that our life was not a useless one; that

we have occupied our position in human society according to the best of our ability.

There are two more happy events which I will have to add: the birth of little Trudchen on September 3, 1889, and of Lilli on October 4th, 1890. May they always remain to their parents and grandparents a source of joy.

January 14, 1899.

Since I have written this book, which in spite of my cares, still bears the proof of happiness and my contentment, fate has dealt with me in the most cruel manner. My dearly beloved Julia, the best mother, the most devoted and self-sacrificing wife, the love of my youth and the prop of my life, has left me and nothing remains for me but despair. On the first of November we celebrated her ~~sixty-sixth~~ birthday. She was exceedingly happy and contented to see all her children and grandchildren and nothing warned us that worry, care and pain would so soon come to us. On the ninth of November when I got up she told me it would perhaps be advisable for her to remain in bed for a few days. Upon my questioning she confessed she felt very restless and not at all well. I summoned our family Doctor, who at once recognized heart trouble, which he had already noticed three years ago. You who are reading this will understand my fright when two other Doctors called in consultation confirmed his diagnosis. There followed seven long weeks of anxiety; short breath, stomach, kidney and lung

trouble, sleeplessness and restlessness which troubled her continually. To see a beloved wife who is even in her pain an angel of patience, suffering so keenly without being able to help her, is greater than any other sorrow a human heart can bear. She became weaker every day, especially since the spells when she could not breathe came oftener and oftener, until at last on the second of December her weakness caused her to fall asleep at seven o'clock in the morning, from which she did not awaken. At five in the afternoon her heart ceased to beat. Her only wish during her suffering was to fall quietly asleep and never awaken was literally fulfilled. I am anxious for her to rest since she has so longed for it, but if she had only taken me with her! Here I am an old man, unhappy and lonely. My heart is heavy with longing which can be satisfied only with death-- even though my children try to cheer me up. The memory of the forty-seven happy years with her, the memory of the many proofs of her love and fidelity are all that remains with me of my companion in life; she who was dearer to me than anything else in the world. Whether time will soften my grief I do not know. Today I can not believe it can ~~be~~ happen, for my longing and homesickness for my beloved surpasses all reasoning (of my children and my good grandchildren) to try and accept what can not be avoided in our worldly existence.

As far as I can see I will have to close the history of my life with a sad description of my unhappiness and my despair.