

every variety of fish is here exhibited crawling and swimming round in a very natural way. We spent nearly 2 hours in this extraordinary place and left it very much pleased with what we had seen. Next walked to the great museum. Here we found the finest building for the purpose we have seen in Europe. It is certainly magnificent and is one of the lions of Berlin, and the people may justly feel proud of it. The collection of statuary, antique & modern casts of all notable statues in Europe must be very interesting to those who are not already satiated with such things. We spent an hour in the very extensive picture gallery until we were nearly tired out, then sought a landau carriage and drove by the principal buildings in the city. Concluded to purchase some photographs to morrow and leave on Friday morning for Cassel. We are running a little ahead of our programme time, and it is possible that we leave Liverpool on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of next month. Went to the opera this evening. Performance commenced at half past six and closed at half past nine. This is the only time we have visited a theatre or opera house since we left home. I wished to see the interior of the building, and the ladies wanted to hear the music. The machinery of the stage was very effective. Some of the scenery excelled any thing I have ever seen on the stage. The house contains 4 tiers of galleries and is a well finished building but is not equal to the Crosby Opera House destroyed by our great fire. The orchestra performed well, but I did not appreciate the squalling of the actors to any great extent. The royal boxes are beautifully fitted up, but they remained empty, which was a disappointment to us. We saw the Emperor, however, in the afternoon as we passed his palace. He was standing at a window, so that we have seen about all they have to show us here. Our guide procured our tickets for the opera and waited upon us until he saw us comfortably seated in a private box he had secured for us. We then took our final leave of him as I had paid him off before we left the hotel. He is a very intelligent gentleman and speaks English very perfectly and is very fond of being employed by American tourists.

April 1<sup>st</sup>. Made an extensive tour about the city to day on foot. Purchased photographs of principal buildings & things that we have seen at Potsdam and Berlin. Prepared to leave.

April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Left Berlin at 8:45 this morning. Passing through Magdeburg, arrived at Cassel [renamed Kassel in 1926] at 4 o'clock. The country between Berlin and Cassel seems well adapted and fully improved for farming purposes. There is one peculiarity about the farms in this country; that is, there are no farm houses scattered over the country (as with us). They are gathered together in little villages several miles apart. There are no fences or hedges to separate the lots or farms. This gives the country a wild and desolate appearance. But I believe it is an improvement on our system of farm life. Living in little communities brings the farmer next door to the doctor, close to the church, and not far from the Beer Hall, which is an important consideration in a Germans notion of comfort, as drinking beer and smoking poor tobacco is the chief end of German life. Deprive them of these and their happiness would be "clean gone forever."

April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Employed commissionaire to show us the sights of Cassel. Obtained a first class landau carriage, driver in livery with a broad silver band on his hat and a cockade. Had not time to order him into a plain rig. Am not certain that I should have changed matters if we had time, so we let the style proceed. Drove first to the electors palace and went through it. The building covers a large area of ground. Built plain of red sand stone, the interior divided into the usual state apartments and family rooms. The floors are very beautiful of hard wood inlaid in a very costly manner. Doors and finishes of mahogany, walls hung with tapestries of silk damask. There are many good portraits and other pictures. Furniture in the usual style of kingly extravagance. Next visited a picture gallery arranged in a very commodious and well lighted building. We found many tolerable and some first class paintings. Next