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Title: Letter from Christian Humrich to His Family

Date: August 12, 1852

Location: I-Original-undated-15

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Pittsburgh Aug 12th 52

Dear Folks at home.

I wrote to you yesterday (Wednes-
day) a week from Cleveland Ohio
and I am afraid you did not re-
ceive my letter or that something
is not rightly understood. At this point I am
compelled to write my letter with a lead
pencil. The town is full of per seilers in
attendance at the Convention and they take
up everything at this hotel (the Monby gher-
la house) Since various Committees have
possession of the reading room & large par-
lours so that it is impossible to write
a letter after the right style - to say the
least I cannot get pen & ink to write
this letter in my room. In my letter
from Cleveland I ~~wrote~~^{requested} you to send me
\$15. or \$20 dollars to this place (Pittsburgh)
as soon as possible. I inquired at the
Post Office this morning & there is nothing
there for me, I thought I should have
reached this place last Saturday, but
was disappointed in the following man-
ner. When we came to Cleveland, we had
not sufficient funds to carry all three to
Pittsburgh. We concluded to remain there
a day or two & send on O. P. Clarke's draft for
\$50 dollars to Pittsburgh & have it cashed, so that we

Could come on here immediately. By ~~person~~
Underwood had also written on here for some funds.
By pursuing this plan I thought we should have
have been here by Monday at the farthest. In place
however of receiving the money or any intelligence
of it we heard nothing until last Tuesday.
at an hour when it was too late to leave ~~from~~
Lancaster so as to get here the same day. By
The necessary information had been sent by Lib-
ergraph but we did not receive it until up to
that time. By this mishap we were detained
in Lancaster one week, but I do not much
regret it, I think the air there is the purest
& freshest I ever breathed, I felt it so at any
rate. I don't think I ever ate heartier in
my life. The streets are so wide & clean of
filth - the city stands up on a high bank
and except in the business part of it, the
houses stand on separate lots some distance
apart, with gardens & little yards in front.
It is cool & pleasant all the day long. We
left the place yesterday morning & arrived here
about half past 5 o'clock P.M. I have heard
many accounts of Pittsburgh, but had no idea
of the dirt, filth & stench. Our hotel has
probably the best situation in place - right
upon the bank of the Monongahela river and
somewhat removed from the business part of
the town - yet as I am writing this letter in
my room with the window raised it seems

as though I ~~was~~^{was} in a Blacksmith Shop. It
does smell awful. Many of the streets are just
like our alleys, just about as wide & lined
on both sides with three or four story houses.
The houses look as though they were black-
washed. I am not anxious to stay here long.

I wish however to call your attention
to the fact that I did not receive your ^{letter} cannot
account for it. I requested you to write ^{me}
if you did not send the funds, which I expec-
ted you would. And I am disappointed in not
receiving the letter. I am now indebted to
blankets and have no money, so that it is rather
hard to tell how I shall get home. You may
not have received my letter, or may not have
fully understood it, or the letter may not
have arrived here at this date. If you have
sent the letter & funds I wish you would let me
know by telegraph if possible

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1 37 1/2

3 75

Pittsburgh August 12th 52

Dear folks at home,

I wrote to you yesterday (Wednesday) a week from Cleveland Ohio, and I am afraid you did not receive my letter or that something is not rightly understood. At this point I am compelled to write my letter with a lead pencil. The town is full of free soilers in attendance at the convention and they take up everything at this hotel (the Monongahela house) Their various committees have possession of the reading room and large parlour so that it is impossible to write a letter after the night [suite?] – to say the least I cannot get pen and ink to write this letter in my roomS. In my letter from Cleveland I requested you to send \$15 or \$20 dollars to this place (Pittsburgh) as soon as possible. I inquired at the Post office this morning and there is nothing there for me. I thought I should have reached this place last Saturday, but was disappointed in the following manner. When we came to Cleveland, we had not sufficient funds to carry all them to Pittsburgh. We concluded to remain there a day or two and send on A.P. Clark's draft for \$50 dollars to Pittsburgh and have it cashed, so that we

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could come on here immediately. Underwood had also written on here for some funds. By pursuing this plan, I thought we should have had been here by Monday at the farthest. In place however of receiving this money or any intelligence of it we heard nothing until last Tuesday, at an hour when it was too late to leave Cleveland so as to get here the same day. The necessary information had been sent by telegraph but we did not receive it until up to that time. By this mishap we were detained in Cleveland one week, but I do not much regret it. I think the air there is the purest and freshest I ever breathed. I felt it so at any rate. I don't think I ever ate heartier in my life. The streets are so wide and clean of filth – the city stands up on a high bank and except in the business part of it, the houses stand on separate lots some distance apart with gardens and little yards in front. It is cool and pleasant all the day long. We left the place yesterday morning and arrived here about half past 5 o'clock P.M. I have heard many accounts of Pittsburgh, but had no idea of the dirt, filth and stench. Our hotel has probably the best situation in place - right upon the bank of the Monongahela river and somewhat removed from the business part of the town - yet as I am writing this letter in my room with the window raised it seems

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as though I was in a blacksmith shop. It does smell awful. Many of the streets are like our alleys, just about as wide and lined on both sides with three and four strong houses. The houses look as though they were black-washed. I am not anxious to stay here long.

I wish however to call you attention to the fact that I did not receive your letter and cannot account for it. I requested you to write even if you did not send the funds, which I expected you would and I am disappointed in not receiving the letter. I am now indebted to Clark, and have no money, so that it is rather hard to tell how I shall get home. You may not

have received my letter, or may not have fully understood it, or the letter may not have arrived here at this date. If you have sent the letter and funds I wish you would let me know by telegraph if possible.

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