

V19 [12]
Sunnyside July 19th 1859

My dear Davis

You are one of the most faithful and enduring of friends. Other wise you would not continue to favor me with your most entertaining and acceptable of letters notwithstanding my delinquency. But you are aware that my abstinence from the pen is on account of my deranged state of health, and you not merely excuse it, but task yourself to cheer and animate me. Believe me my dear Davis I feel your kindness to my hearts core.

The parcel which you sent to me a month since, and the receipt of

which I fear I never acknowledged
came safe to hand. The contents
have proved excellent as far as Mr
Gerry's establishment was concerned
but I confess I have not made use
of the bottle of cough mixture as I was
following a different prescription which I
find beneficial.

In consequence of your caution I have
nearly given up the use of stramonium
and prefer the Nitre-paper. I have
long been convinced of the soundness of your
opinion that the organ most to be attended
to in my case is the Stomach. Mine
has been in a sad debilitated state, but
is now recovering its tone slowly. Roasted
potatoes are a standing dish on my table;
Carpene is properly appreciated - as to

brandy I have long since learned what
an invaluable tonic it is when the
stomach and nerves are at fault.

At present I am taking the "Peruvian
Symp., or Protected Solution of Peroxide
of Iron combined," and think it's
doing me a great deal of good. It has
been of vast service to my neighbor
Col. James Hemmilton, and to ~~others~~
others of my acquaintance.

~~So~~ You ask me (in your recent
letter) whether the widow Custis had
more than two children when she married
General Washington - I never heard or read
of her having more than two - the son and
daughter of whom I have made mention
in my work.

Your tale of the Skeleton Apothecary

abridged in the Home Journal of
July 2^d and I make no doubt has done
more good throughout the country than
any of the Apothecaries' Drugs. It is
well told and highly graphic.

Your letter of the 7th inst. gives a
most gratifying account of Col Preston
our present minister at Madrid. I am rejoiced
that we are so well represented there. I
have just received a letter from a lady at
Madrid (wife of Mr Othello the Banker)
who says "The new American minister
and his lady seem very charming people
He is quite a man of the world and
both are agreeable."

I can make no promise at pres.
-but about going to London or any
where else - all must depend upon

the state of my health, which has been
 very capricious - frequently put back
 by the tricky weather to which we
 have been subject, throughout the
 present year. However, I think I
 am gradually improving and I feel
 now to get free from the nervous
 attacks which at times have annoyed
 me.

With kindest remembrance to
 Mrs Davis I remain very dear
 Yours most gratefully and
 affectionately

Washington Irving

Ch. Aug. Davis Esq
 Jps Jps Miles

Elizabeth Bird Williams
 On her grand Mother Bird's side

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