

New York. April 11/73
140 Fifth Avenue.

Henry B. Lawton
Dear Sir

Your letter

of the 1st was delayed in reaching me from having been directed to Livingston on the Hudson which has long ceased to be my address.

I discover no new matter in the article, Why Washington Irving was not married, copied into your Magazine of November 1870 from the Albany Argus, and to which you refer me for some sanction of its accuracy, or otherwise. after an ineffectual search of a few days I found this number of the Historical Magazine in the Astor Library, and upon reading the article I perceived that it was made up mainly from the Biography, and that I could not therefore well dissent

from its accuracy. See Chap. XIV. Vol. I. of the Life & Letters in four volumes, or Chap. XII. Vol. I. of the ~~later~~ later edition, "Revised and Condensed," in three vols. The supposed letter of Mr Irving, quoted by the writer of the article, was not in reality a letter, as I had originally surmised, but extracts from some eight leaves of manuscript, written on both sides, and extending from page 3 to 18 - part of a sketch of his early history which he had drawn up and left for perusal merely and not to be retained, with Mrs Amelia Porter during their long and intimate sojourn at Dresden in 1823. It was submitted to the perusal of this lady to satisfy some curiosity expressed by her as to the incidents of his early life, (he was then 40) with a strict in-

junction that it should not be shown, and should be given back to him, which was done. The first leaf was missing, and the closing page or pages, when I found it among his private papers, where it had no doubt remained since restored, but that part of the narrative which touched upon his relations with Miss Hoffman was complete. I repeat therefore that I find in the article to which you ask my attention nothing irreconcilable with the Biography.

I return by this mail the January number of 1873, as I am too unsettled in residence to subscribe to any periodical, and I enclose a dollar for which I will be obliged to you to send me, 140 Fifth Avenue, the November number for 1870.

which I would like to possess.

Yours very truly

Henry M. Irving.

P.S. I write this merely for your
own satisfaction & not for publication.