

Saturday Evening April 8. 1873.
7 o'clock.

The weeks fly round pretty rapidly, my dear M,
when one's time is occupied; and here we are scribbling away ^{again} for the French Courier who is off at eight; and is for us almost
the last chance for the Annual Steamer of the 19th.



We looked to day certainly for the letters by the
Great Western, but rec'd. nothing from home but an old paper of
February 25th. - I have an expectation that with these letters by the
Western you will again be quietly installed at home, tho' I hope not
if the season be as disagreeable as our March weather generally.

Mr. Irving is improving quite a grand galop within
a few days; this morning the air was so soft and agreeable
that we were tempted to drive out along what is called the
French road, up the valley of the Maranaro, toward the
mountains - about two miles from the City gate, he stopped
the carriage opposite a pretty little clump of trees; and then
walked about in the shade ^{with the other} enjoying himself exceedingly: he
was so much bleached that we brought the cushions from
the carriage; made a couch for him on the grass at the
foot of a tree, and near the river bank: It was a very
pretty bit of rurality, and after the confinement of a sick
room appeared to him a little paradise in which he
reclined a la turque, listening in a dreamy state to the

singing of birds and the murmur of the water: already we talk of pic-nics, and "little baskets"; Mad. Albuquerque, and her small family - He is much troubled with the last news from home, and master Phil's conduct, which I suppose has been duly discussed by Mr. Sheldon and the neighbors generally.

We are to lose our young friend Brevoort next Wednesday when he sets off for Barcelona en route for Italy, and Sicily - he has been my daily companion for more than ten months, and has so many amiable & delightful qualities that I shall feel very much the loss of his society: I am hurrying him off notwithstanding, and give myself credit for a Roman virtue in so doing, as I am afraid he will lose, unless he has a fair start the visit to Sicily and Malta. - Señor Ames is not a very interesting companion so that there will be no third man in the family for the Minister or Mrs. Weston: we must be each other's daily bread for some time to come: fortunately we appear to be improving in each other's acquaintance as we advance.

W. S. is now so much better that he will begin to see his friends, and I have therefore engaged a carriage today to visit Toledo on Wednesday next. - My party (for I have got it up) consist of four: Albuquerque, Count Maria (Belgium) Ames, and your brother: - we have a shay and four horses, and will be absent four days, spending Thursday and Friday (the great days of the holy week) at Toledo and returning on Saturday - I have a great curiosity to see this picturesque old town and its glorious Cathedrals: I suppose you saw in Borrow's book that the

few of Toledo were spared by the Spaniards on the ground that they had emigrated from Jerusalem before the birth of our Saviour and of course had no part in that terrible act of their Countrymen - A prophet of Borrow's: they tell so many queer stories of him here that one doubts a very considerable part of his amazing adventures: we have made the discovery that his spouse of the body, "Antonio Buchini," is our Cook! - his own announcement of himself "Je suis grec; Je suis fier. et j'ai des principes" is so far from the fact; unless he means: either he alludes to, are those of robbing whenever he can get a chance, that like Master like Man makes no doubt some of the ~~strange~~ ^{adventurous} adventures, - To return to Toledo - all the work and his wife are going from Madrid to see the shows, and the Gentlemen of the Road, unless alarmed at the number who have been picking in the rich chromed hood of the old gothic town: it would be a great loss of their net if they should capture a Minstrel: a charge, & setting to to forth at one hand: -

I have a correspondence with Mr. Ledger *inter alia* about lace scarfs which it seems are very magnifique at Paris, ^{here}: I shall look out for you girls if I find any thing pretty in that way. -

The ^{other} ^{of the} *Constituents* are sitting and I attend the debates and lessons a little Spanish, language and Politics. - The Queen's Uncle "Francisco de Paula", has been elected Deputy, and takes his seat in the midst of the Radical Republican party, - The Spaniards who are very ready with soubriquets, call him "Paco" (the abbreviation of Francisco) Egalite' - he's a very great simpleton as seems to be a necessary consequence of his birth, but his wife is a restless political intrigante, and is busy trying to marry her son to the young Isabella; this worthy couple had an interview with their niece

the other day, who according to the paper shed tears of joy in the arms of her affectionate relative -

I have been introduced to the famous Quintana, the first of the living Spanish poets and Lord Howard's friend of 36. years standing to whom he dedicates his "Cope de Vega" - he is very interesting old man of more than 70: has been in dungeons for years, and only escaped hanging by a miracle, for the cause of freedom and is now

Arrived February 3
19. April

James Hamilton Esq.
(for Miss M. H.)

SPUR



Westerker Compty
N.Y. York



Marina
Madrid
19th April
1812

in a green old age: he also a director of the theater of the little Queen: It is mentioned of a proof of his independence that Godoy at the height of his power could not induce Quintana by any temptation to write a single line in his favor: -

I have but a few minutes & must begin seal and delivery.
What pleasure we look forward to, in the receipt of news tomorrow. *

We have June lums and the lilacs under our windows in flower:

much love to Mama and all your affectionate brother A. H.
Miss M. Hamilton.