

New York October 1st 1846

My dear Sister

I thank you for your very kind letter. tho: I do not mean that I can sympathize with either yourself or your good sister Elizabeth in the result of Sarah's premature confinement. In the first place I do not think that a family to a married couple ought to prove burdensome to them in the way you express ~~of~~ it, of causing the wife to be so much kept at home. I should think a wife's chief pleasure would be derived from domestic life & watching over her little responsibilities, rather than in being a "gad about," and gossiping from door to door. I do not mean to murmur that Providence has deemed it best to take away the little boy ere the breath of life had been given to him. Under all the circumstances perhaps it is best as it is. I should be extremely sorry, however, should Sarah ever come to view such accidents with indifference.

Sarah has quite recovered, so much so, as to be out walking & shopping with me both yesterday & the day before. She has not yet sent for your coat. but I promise you that she shall have but little peace

till she does. Mrs McLane has some new
patterns of dresses. Coats, cloaks &c when Sarah,
I believe, intends to take it and get her advice
upon it.

Brooklyn has resumed its gay appearance
and the delightful weather, which we have
had for ten days past, brings the fair ones
out in crowds. Not many fall hats or
shells yet to be seen, tho: I suppose a
day or two will bring them out from
the patterns, which I have seen, they bid
fair to be more glaring than ever. Designs
very large figures, bright colors. Hats are
also to be much more. Among the hats
are some of the most magnificent patterns
that ever came to the country. I have
seen a few of them more even for the
street, tho: they are evidently intended for
the Ball Room. price, only \$100 a dress.

Stewart's palace of a store has been open for ten
days past, and crowded all the time. I fear
his establishment may injure some of his contemporaries
opposite to him. At present most of the other
stores are deserted. Sarah & myself were
there yesterday & made purchases to the extent
of a pair of gloves. I prefer giving, what
little I may have, to those who are doubt
want it more than Mr Stewart. Fashionable
people, however, seldom have hearts and

few I fear will act upon my principle.
Little Kitty continues very well. and
progresses rapidly both in walking and
talking. Sarah has not yet got her flannels.
She intends to, however, some time between
this and next summer.

Remember me affectionately, all
Yours off
William Irving

P.S. You had better direct your letters to
the care of my brother "Rev. Perry P. Irving"
there is another person of my name in the
city and mistakes may occur if simply addressed
to either Mr or Mrs. H. I. In directing as
above we would get them earlier and with
more certainty. W.I.

NEW-YORK
OCT 5 1848
Mrs Jane Hales
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