

Oct 20. 1842

Ms. A. 9. 2. 10⁴ 1842

My dear Charlotte,

Your letter of July 28th reached me three or four days since and brought me a world of intelligence. First of all your just observation at the Fanny Town and Dr. Fanny Torries, held that evening at Mrs. Shalvans. ~~was~~ at which, I trust you produced a proper sensation. Then the invasion of Juniper by sea by a roving, piragua, fitted out at the port of Gorkett, and manned by Edgar and a desperate crew of ladies and gentlemen. Then the invasion by land by Mrs. Minton and Mrs. Minton's mother, and Mrs. Minton's sister and Mr. Minton's mother - no, Mr. Minton's aunt, and a Miss Post who was staying with Mrs. Minton. And then the influx of all the Bradwells and of all the Dr. Laws. And then a second invasion by sea of all the Hamiltons in the Ocean, and the carrying off of half the garrison of Juniper to Rockland Lake and the Mountains; and then the great party at Mr. Jones's, given to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Jones, to which Mrs. Minton did not think herself invited, but to which she afterwards found she was invited, and which turned out a most delightful party - Invite us and keep us! what an exquisite period of history we live in! - why may our character of matters go on at this rate I shall find Sleepy Hollow ^{awake} ~~asleep~~ by the time I come back.

and now my dear friend, and my dear little woman, I
will try to give you in return for your very agreeable letter,
some little inkling of my Spanish home and its affairs. I have
just changed my residence and have taken the principal
apartment in a great Spanish house, belonging to a Bachelor
nobleman, named the Marquis de Mos, who has a bachelor's
nest in one wing of it. I have such a range of saloons that it
gives me quite an appetite to walk from my study to the
dining room. Then the windows all face the south and look into
a dilapidated garden, in the centre of which is an old half ~~ruined~~
ruined marble fountain, with goldfish swimming about in it, and
and a superannuated trellis in the middle bearing a couch
shell, out of which, in his younger days, there we doubtless rose a
jet of water. My own private apartment is in one end of the building.
My bed room formerly served as an oratory or chapel to the Marquis.
It is a small octagon room, rising to a little cupola or dome, with
little windows in the top; about fifteen feet from the floor; by which
the chamber is lighted. These windows catch the first rays of the
rising sun, and as the oratory is prettily painted, of a delicate pink,
yellow and pale green; and as the centre of the dome is gilded,
~~you can see the whole becomes~~ the whole becomes beautifully lighted up
you can see what a splendid waking up I have sometimes
in the morning. I don't think "Glorious Apollo" with his bed chamber
of sun gilt clouds has much the advantage of me. Now on I ~~awake~~
very early and generally catch the first break of day, it is a vast
comfort to have a bed room that lights up with the first ray like a
lantern. From without ~~the~~ little oratory has something of the
look of a small tower. My study is immediately adjacent to the oratory.
One window overlooks the garden of an old convent, ~~from which~~ with

a narrow intervening street and ~~has a view of the~~
and has a fine view of the Regent's palace, and the distant
groves of the Retiro. My study opens into a ^{glazed} loggia, some-
thing like a conservatory; into which likewise open the windows
^(the floor of room) of the last saloon. Through this verandah I pass into the main
~~range of the~~ body of the apartment. Now my dear Charles, if you
could only have been with me these two or three last evenings, ~~and~~
(the first which I have passed in this new habitation) and seen that
range of apartments lighted up by brilliant Spanish moon light,
shining through the long casements which descend to the floor;
~~and~~ and, bestowed to the cool delightful night
night breeze, rustling among the trees, and hear the sparkle of
the moon beaver in the fountain: or walked with me in the
verandah all in bright moon light; or looked out of my study
window, over the mingled scene of convent, and garden, and
palace and distant groves all tricked out in the cheating
anticheity of moonshine; you would have thought that here, at
last, I had found a residence in which I might cease to feel so sadly
my absence from the tranquil delights of dear little sunny Scotland.

In fact I have felt experienced a kind of home feeling of enjoyment
since I have got into this town, that I have not felt before since
my arrival in Madrid. My other residence was exceedingly noisy,
and abounded with inconveniences, so that I could never feel at home
in it: indeed the very idea that I should ~~change~~ remain as long as I
could find a home more to my mind, kept me unsettled and
uncomfortable. Now I trust I am fixed for the whole of my sojourn in
Madrid, and I consider myself singularly fortunate in finding,
in this uncomfortable antitrope, so pleasant an abode. The
house has been newly plastered, and painted inside and out, so that
it is perfectly bright and clean as if just built. ~~Before it had~~

a most inspiring observation; and the arms of the United States
are placed on the great portal, as is the case always in diplo-
matic residences, and I think the American eagle looks down with
a prouder eye than usual from his perch.

All these picturesque and vain glorious details my dear Charlie
are meant for ~~you~~ yourself; but as I know your aunt,
with her worldly prudence, will think I am ruining myself in
palaces and gardens, I will give you a hint of the cost, that
you may put her mind at ease. For my apartments in the
Hotel of the Duke of Landorango, which were covered furnished,
~~but which had to be filled up by the purchase of the rest~~
I paid nearly one hundred dollars a year. For my present
apartments, which are simpler and more commodious, ~~they~~
but unfurnished. I pay six hundred dollars. The furniture which
I bought of Mr. Vail is sufficient for the main rooms; and an
additional purchase of other furniture of about three hundred
dollars makes my establishment complete. The difference in the
first years rent therefore, nearly pays for the additional furniture,
~~which will do that next year~~ which will next year be clear gain.
But had I paid double the rent it would have been made up in
my superior comfort - and the comfort of a man in his home
is the foundation of his daily enjoyments and has an influence
even upon the ~~his~~ his intellectual operations.

That you may not be deceived, my very dear little woman
by the highly & glossy description I have given you of my apart-
ment, I accompany it, on the next page, by a diagram, made by
Carson Bowdoin, Engineer & Topographical Surveyor to the Legation,
which comes tolerably near to the truth. You will recollect that my
apartments are in, what we should call in the United States, the
second story, that being the most dignified part of the house
in this country. Consequently I am at a considerable elevation,
above the streets and the garden. A great portal with many folding
doors studded with iron opens into the lower hall; from whence a noble
stone staircase leads up to the second story branching off to the two wings