

New York Nov 22nd 1834.

My Dear Will,

I am just informed that a vessel is to sail for the Celestial Empire from Boston on the 25th and moreover that a gentleman well known to father, is leaving for the latter place to day - whereupon I do set me down to trace with a fragment of a pen, thoughts that are uppermost, and many thanks for your letters per Commerce and Splendia - They were especially refreshing after the long thought of Helena you had observed and could you only have stepped into the back parlour, about the dinner hour of the day & they were received, and seen the happy smiles upon the face of the old gentleman as he looked and dwelt on thee and thine, never again would you miss an opportunity of writing him. Uncle Nath. cracked his joke about your talking in town with some small footed daughter of the Celestial Empire and carrying her about in a palanquin - Uncle Paris gave a guttural grunt and said he should like to dine on some of Will's curries - I said - but it matters not what I said - we all drank your health in a bumper -

What you mean by complaining, of my being so concise in my epistles, I don't comprehend - for I have a faint recollection of writing some eight pages -

occasionally my letters have been short - but only when I have been prepped
in time - or - been intolerably lazy - though it can hardly be called laziness
when one is wearied in body, mind, and spirit from overworking -

— Doubtless the idea of my unkin; hand may call up a smile upon thy
countenance; to the contrary notwithstanding, I have been constantly and
closely occupied - Book making is a new trade for me and one which
I have found is attended with much labour and exhaustion of spirits -
Because I have talked much and frequently of my work, you need not ex-
pect any thing wonderful - for you know one is prone to heap upon what oc-
cupies all ones time and upon what may make a man ones fortune - How
~~can~~ ~~it~~ ~~be~~ it will influence my fortunes — thereby hangs a tale —

I thank God, the work is finished and I am now making a bargain with the
bookseller and I will probably send you a copy by the next vessel - let it be
clearly understood that you are not bound to read it - Charles Hoffmann
Book is not - yet - out - I shall send you that, though I have my doubts whether
though you may set out with him in his travels, you will accompany him
till he returns - I have read several of his letters, but somehow or another it
must have been at a very sleepy time, for I invariably snoozed over
them.

I yesterday received your letter per Splendid enclosing one for the
fair Ruth - as the shades of night gathered round, I put on a clean shirt -
scented my handkerchief - put your letter in my pocket - wrapped my cloak
about me and started for Woodhuor to make a visit to the black eyed one -
I rang the bell, and scarce had its tinkling cadence died away when the door

was opened by a huge whiskered coloured gentleman - "Sleep Ruth! at home" -
"no Sir all gone out!" was the lamentable answer, so I wrapped my cloak
about me and strolled up Broadway - a musical feeling came over me -
said I to myself "suppose I go to the Opera," and echo answered suppose I
do - forthwith I looked myself then and the first thing I beheld was Ruth
smiling face - I seated myself behind her - after our usual warm greeting
I told her I had a letter for her - she smiled incredulously - I added, it is from a
youth at Canton - she smiled more doubtfully still - I put my hand in my
pocket to ~~show~~ ^{give} it to her - and clock-a-ding recollected I had ~~left~~ ^{put} it in my
other coat - there is the disadvantage of wearing more than one coat - let it
be a warning to you - Well I assured her that I really had a letter for her,
but I saw that I left her doubting - she said I was quizzing her and that
it was too good news to be true - however I promised to be at Woodhuor
this evening and then with delicate the despatch and fan and if I have time
will write you all she says tomorrow - if not - look for a long and detailed
account by the next opportunity -

Most indubitably your epistle to Ruth, is written in a most impassioned and
loverlike strain - for I know from experience that climate doth influence feeling -
and a heart of ice will then dissolve and melt beneath the warm sun and soft
breezes of the tropics - and absence from the dear womankind and much dwelling upon
a youthful flame doth enkindle the imagination and we deem ourselves in love -
But frequently it is an hallucination of the brain, which will be found to dissolve
like the morning mist, by commingling or cohabiting or more elegantly to speak,
pouring you over flowing and superabundant passion into the lap of a female
woman - whether she be maiden pure or ~~concupiscent~~ concubine - Ahom!

In plain terms, the maiden Puth was handsome - is pretty - but expand with
flowers - flowers ~~fade~~ fade, so do maidens - She is a gentle girl, and a good girl -
and a lovable girl - but - alas that that wretched word but, should always intrude
and mar every thing - but she is poor - therefore by engaging yourself to her you
may lay an anchor to windward as you say, but it would be like anchoring
~~yourself~~ oneself in a mill pond with a stone round ones neck - Therefore
be as tender as you please but dont entangle yourself - if you feel womanish
as to make a ~~choice~~ choice - W3258a

you will find ~~plenty~~
plenty of maidens, quite as pretty - much younger - and with more solid
dowries than beauty - I agree with you that it may be
more agreeable to make ones fortune by placing oneself - always provided
you ~~choose~~ wive the one you love - were I to marry one I cared not for,
merely for money, I should I feel, be the wretchedest being in existence - to
go to bed every night with one that was not agreeable - pah! If one can so
continue, as to fall in love with one possessing golden charms as well as others
that may be a most delightful thing - I dont know how it is; but
cure me if I can fall in love with a rich girl - the filthy lucre seems to
deadens ones feelings - I shall resume my former intimacy with
the G's and en talk to the old gentleman on business - he is very kind and
always lets us know when a vessel is to sail for Canton - If we were
to establish a house I think he would befriend us - that must be thought
on - I have scarce time to give you any of the doings and sayings of
the world here - it is time this was sent to Father Office - but I will

drive in a short time longer

Kate, Sarah Paris and myself went to a party to Blackwells a few evenings since - we anticipated a most stupid time and only went because we felt it our duty on account of their late troubles - You would have laughed to have seen the collection - not one person that I have met with in society. They have got in a mighty queer set - Do you remember our white gloved friend Dan Phoenix, who used to afford us so much amusement - as he shuffled up Broadway - I assure you he was quite a ~~beau~~ beau - then there was Ford Lydnam who has grown a link and tale and looked marvellous like a pump-handle - and there was his brother Ben - the greatest specimen of a man perhaps you ever beheld - he much resembled a Shaven Roodle dog - Eliza B - was as tremendous as usual - such a blast - her sister Mary is an humble imitation, not quite as loud but equally rapid - then she is sentimental and moans and rolls her eyes - I had a long talk with the flower of the flock your old flame Justice - Marriage and its troubles have destroyed her freshness and beauty and she is now but a shadow of her former self - They have bought a house at Grassy Point - I believe her husband is there, but you never hear any thing more of him - I have not time to say more - the pen I am writing with is such a stammer I can hardly get ahead -

Farewell my dear Will - I am glad to hear that you are going to Macau - shall expect long letters from there

Yours affectionately Theodore

There is a short time left

But I have been and myself went to a party to the house of a friend
here. As anticipated a most interesting time and very much because we felt that
this is a record of this last night - for now, I have decided to leave
for the night. I have been that I have not yet a night. The last
for a night from me. I am remembering me a night from home

The Thomas who used to appear in a most numerous of the number of
Birmingham - before for a long time - I have been - with this way
the history of the house - and the old and new members of a house.
- built - and the way in which the - the perfect business for a new house
for an estate - to which I have been - I have been - I have been -
for an estate - I have been - I have been - I have been - I have been -
minutes, but not as long as I have been - I have been - I have been -
more and with the way - I have been - I have been - I have been -
from all these things - I have been - I have been - I have been -
of my house and the way in which I have been - I have been -
they have brought a house of property - I have been - I have been -
and the way in which I have been - I have been - I have been -
I have not time to say more - I have been - I have been - I have been -
I am very much interested.

There is a short time left - I have been - I have been - I have been -
I am very much interested.

Mr William Irving

Care of Puffell & Co

performed
B.P. Tilden Esq

Canton

China.



Shanghai
March 24

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1847
1848