

Sunny Side, Wash't Co. N.Y. Dec. 11th 1854

My dear Sarah

Your letter of 17th ulto. came duly to hand and I was glad to find by it that you had found the papers relating to William's claim for pay for extra service. If you have not yet sent them to Col. Morgan, it would be well to forward them at once, and write, as you propose doing, to Doct. Blake, requesting him to see the Col. and to take an interest in prosecuting the claim; from what I have heard of the Doctor I believe he will cheerfully lend all the aid in his power.

When Edgar returned from Washington, I told him that it was my wish that Willie's remains should rest near those of his mother and his little sisters' in the family plot that we had secured in the Tarrytown Cemetery, and he wrote to Doct. Blake to have them sent on; the Doctor replied that it would be best to defer sending them until the latter part of the Autumn. Early in last month Edgar reminded him of our wishes and that they should be sent on as soon as he should judge it prudent to do so. On Monday evening of last week Edgar received a telegraphic dispatch from Doct. B. informing that the remains had that day been forwarded by "Adams Express"; he immediately dropped me a note by mail which I got by 9 o'clock the next (Tuesday) morning informing that they were on the way and that he thought it would be best to send them on as soon as received, by the Hudson River rail road to Tarrytown. I lost no time in making the necessary arrangements at that place and at the cemetery.

I went to the City the next morning (Wednesday) and found that the remains had just reached the City and Edger got the Express to deliver them at the Chambers Street Station for the train that would leave at 1. P.M.

I could not conveniently leave until 3. P.M. and then found that they had not been sent on, the baggage Master being under the impression that a permit for the removal from our City Inspector was requisite. I said that if the death had occurred in the City, or it was a disinterment from any of its burial grounds, a permit would be necessary, but not for a mere passage through. appeal was made to Mr Lee the Superintendent of the road, but he could not be found: after considerable discussion among the officials, I observed that I had no objections to apply for a permit tho' I felt sure that I would be told at the office that no permit was necessary, besides, that the weather was stormy, I had no umbrella, and it was so near 3 P.M. that the cars would start before I could get to the Inspector's office. at length one of the elder hands who knew me, settled the matter by saying that he would take upon himself to send the remains on. The case had my name on it directed to "Tarrytown". I told the man who had charge of the baggage car that it was to be left there, and that I had arranged with the person in charge of that station to take charge of it. on leaving the cars at Irvington, I was not a little surprised and amazed on observing that they had delivered the case there. the mistake no doubt arose from an frequent receipt of articles by the cars. Upon mentioning it to our obliging little Capt. Horner who

has charge of the station, he told me that it should be sent on by the next train, which would pass about an hour later.

As all the funeral rites had been observed at the interment in Washington, I thought it best to proceed as quietly in the reinterment as when we removed the remains from the family vault near the Beckman St. Irish church; so the next morning (Thursday) after breakfast, I drove to Tarrytown in a light wagon, took in the case, proceeded to the cemetery and placed ~~them~~ ^{it} in the receiving vault: ^{as} the grave should be ready, which I directed to be prepared next to the little sister's. There is a fine young oak growing on the upper end of the spot which I did not wish removed, but that they should excavate under it without doing any injury. All was to be ready by the next day, ~~Friday~~ (Nov 30) when I repaired to the cemetery and saw the remains removed from the vault and quietly lowered into the grave - this was filled and dressed, and the young oak will flourish just above his head.

I have given you the preceding sketch in detail, perhaps unnecessarily so, but you say that you "wish to know all about it."

I presume that the cold weather and the snow storms will make you hesitate to send little Willie on a journey to New York. and your unwillingness to interrupt his school affairs will probably increase the hesitation. It is hardly worth while for him to take the trip unless he is anxious to do so and you wish to gratify him.

Little Kate continues in fine spirits and excellent health and cheerfully pursues her avocations of studio, and her aunts tell me that she gets on well in them, they have appropriated the little room over the porch to her use - she goes to bed regularly between 8 & 9. and the aunts in returning to their rooms, first pay a visit to Kate's to see that she is comfortably stowed away.

Your kind invitation to revisit Boston is backed by my own desire to see that City once more, and witness its changes and great improvement; and as I can rely upon your attention to show it up the temptation to take the trip is great; should life and health be continued for another season, it is barely possible that I may venture upon the journey, but old and deaf, it is not probable. I have for some time past been in the habit, when speaking of the future of adding the significant letters D.V. to all such projects.

I beg my remembrance to your good mother and my blessing to Willie and Frank Wallace

Thine very dear Sarah affectionately

Eliza Irving

Mrs William Irving
at 55. Hancock Street
Boston. Mass.

P.S. Letter from Sanders' little wife informs us that the epidemic had ceased and she and Sanders had returned safely to Montgomery, Ala. Julia embraced an opportunity that offered eight or ten days time to rejoin her sister Charlotte at "Inghide" for the winter.

I omitted to say in the preceding that your uncle Wash^m was absent from Longhild in the latter part of Nov^r.