

Sunny Side, Livingston, Westchester County, N.Y.
Wednesday April 22. 1857.

My dear Kate

Your letter of 23rd March last, like the one that preceded it, has ~~like~~ ^{waited} that been an acknowledgment and I make it now under the influence of the old adage "better late than never." I had laid the letter aside with the intention of soon replying; I did not forget it, but time slipped away almost unconsciously; besides, for a part of the time I have not been well as you seem to have feared - I took a severe cold which completely prostrated me, and I lost all my strength, but by the kind care and attention of your Aunts, I gradually recovered and am again as well as before the attack though I have not yet regained the same degree of strength, but I shall grow stronger, when the weather becomes settled and pleasant.

You say that you and your mother had both written to me, but had received no answer, your letter is probably the one I have just mentioned but that from your mother has not come to hand: I believe it is nearly, if not quite, ^{at least it seems as long,} six months, since I read her last, and in all that time I have heard nothing of her affairs.

I have just received a letter from your uncle Pierre in which he mentions that they are all

well at New Brighton; that his daughter, your cousin
Anna South, had returned to housekeeping - she was
very snugly settled there shortly after her marriage, but
the illness of one of the partners in her husband's firm who
had charge of the concerns of the house in London, made
it necessary for him to take his place, at least for a
while, they therefore rented their house with the furniture -
and now since their return to this side of the Atlantic,
they have managed to repossess themselves of their esta-
-blishments and send me a kind invitation to make them
a visit. I have not heard very recently from

your uncle Theodore. Your aunts Catherine and Sarah went
down to "Bay Ridge" some two or three weeks since to see
him and his family before they removed to Richmond -
they found them making preparation for the removal, which
was to take place the following week, while there, they called
upon Miss Kitching, the lady your uncle Theo. is to be
married to sometime in June. - The visit to "Bay Ridge" was
a hasty one for they returned to Long Island before evening.

I presume that your uncle and his family are by
this time settled in Richmond, he had made out to procure
a house just out of the village, about a mile and half from

his parish church, to which, as I have said they were to remove
~~the~~ week before last. I shall probably try to get down to see
them there though it is a little doubtful whether I shall be able
to effect it, for I have not been to "Bay Ridge" which can be
reached more readily than Richmond - the rail road ^{east} from Brooklyn
passes immediately by the Rectory at "Bay Ridge" very little while -
to get to Richmond one has to take the steamboat to Vanderbilt's landing
and thence a stage, or carriage, six miles, to Richmond. I shall
probably make an attempt to see him and his family should
an event offer, for it is hardly prudent for a deaf old man,
whose powers are fading to venture without.

The whole family have been surprised and delighted
by letters from your uncle Washington E. Irving, your late
father's brother, from whom we had not heard for
more than seven years and concluded long since that
he was no longer living. He left New York some years
ago last December. I had letters from him written at
Rio Janeiro where the vessel stopped on the voyage, and
again on his reaching Panama, but none from San Francisco
- so where the voyage ended. Just after he landed at the latter
place, tempting offers were made to him to take charge
of a small craft loaded with provisions &c for the miners
in the "gold mines or diggings" which he accepted.

After introduced to the gold region, he concluded
to try his fortune ~~there~~ and became engaged in
several adventures, some of which paid handsomely, while
others swept away all his gains; he finally settled
down at Jamestown, Twolwinne county, and set to
work to reestablish himself: he says that had he done
so at first, and been careful of what he made, he would
be now independent. but he says "it is now too late to
begin, that he was again upon his feet and was going
a head with good prospects." His letters were to your uncle
Edgar. he was as ignorant of the affairs of the family as they
were of his: he had determined not to write unless fortune
should smile upon him. Edgar has received two letters
from him, the last one very recently, both the letters are
exceedingly well written and have delighted all of us, you
may well imagine what a load they have lifted from
my heart. My love to your mother and best
wishes to little Frank Mine my dear Kate affectionately

Edw. Irving

Miss Katrina Irving
care of Mr. Wm. Irving
28. 4th Street
Washington
D.C.

This letter will assure for your mother