

New York 16th June

Dear Sir

My sister Mrs Swett who has just passed thro' this city, informed me that you complained of my not writing to you. The cause & of my friends at Washington not hearing from me was I assure you not forgetfulness, but I presumed that your great public business & numerous political correspondents would scarcely allow you any leisure to receive & answer letters of so little importance as mine. I can assure you that my respect for you & all my other friends at B. & M. is altogether unimpaired & that I cordially sympathised with ^{you} ~~them~~ in the sorrow ^{with} which ~~you~~ ^{you} have lately been afflicted. Please to remember me to all who yet remain the ladies who I hope are all well & left it some time ago as Mr Stow informed me. My journey thro' Virginia & North Carolina was very much unpleasant & rendered so by the very agreeable society which I enjoyed. Besides Judge Johnson we had the Chief Justice with us as far as Port Fredericksburg & were afterwards entertained very hospitably by him at Richmond. That city was as you may suppose still under the influence of the gloom occasioned by the emigration of the Theatre.

The Virginia roads were so bad that we were obliged to walk a long time at several places. We were frequently delayed by the loss of our baggage of which we had a large quantity. The stages were in general rickety the drivers tipsy & the innkeepers knavish. For no North Carolina we were obliged to travel day & night & the taverns were so poor that we were half starved. I myself escaped as well as any of the party with a little inconvenience which produced no bad consequences but Pyate whose constitution was more slender was quite unwell after driving this party & did not recover perfectly till after our arrival at Georgetown D.C.

Then I spent four days & then proceeded to Charleston. The people there had been greatly alarmed by earthquakes but we experienced only a slight shock during my residence in that city. I stayed there thro April & then came to New York in the Minerva Packet after an unpleasant passage of 8 days. I intend returning home in a gig thro Connecticut after 3 weeks from this time. Write me as soon as you can & direct to the care of J Goodhue Esq of this place & give me a full account of your health your situation & the prospects of the country. I am Dear Sir John C. Gray.
Hon. S V Cortlandt.

P.S. The people here are earnestly praying that there may be no war I.C.G.

FREE

Hon. Pierre Van Cortlandt
Member of Congress
Washington.

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