

for some time past, on my shoulders all the business, great and small of the Legation - as you
pass through Barcelona etc - leaves his seat for Mr. Harvey with my best respects to the family:

I am, dear G. your affectionate son, &c

+ 911



Madrid April 3^d. 1843.
Monday Morning:

My dear G. I am all impatience to hear about your
projects, and how they appear at the first blush: -
but for the very great confidence I have in your
skill and enterprise in such matters, I would
almost as lief that you and other friends and relatives
had put your money in lotteries, which steamboats
begin to be in these days: Don't fail to write to
me by the steamer you have hitherto done: How
ever a day or so, and you are now my main stay,
the way of Madrid.

In a few hours we shall be putting
on our long tail blue, in honor of the meeting of the
Cortes: the representation from the Legation will
be entrusted to the secretary: for now that his Excellency
has his back, the attachés are somewhat obstreperous
and insist upon seeing the Gold Coach, with its trappings
costing an ounce each, and the cream coloured horses,
with the blue feathers, ~~not~~ in preference to the show
of embroidered coats inside the Palace of the Deputies -
there will be all the ceremony which the Spaniards

loves, and the little pale girl covered with diamonds, will be carried about with the same dumb show and state, with which they parade the images in a saint's day: The French Courier starts at 2. with the message as soon as it is delivered; but as it will not be cared for on either side the water, I don't send you a copy:

In the mean time Madrid is a Spanish
paradise of intrigues and plots of all kinds: placards
and notices in a style somewhat different from ours, ^{cover the walls} asked
of "Whips to the venue?" and the like, we had yesterday in
large letters: "Muera Espartero!" and by way of hint to
the Englishmen his friends & allies, one of these was posted on
the door of their Embassy — He's a gallant honest little
fellow, and the only man who keeps the Country in a state
approaching to quiet: if he were to die tomorrow the
different factions would be cutting each other throats the
next day — The present Ministers who came in last
April will probably go out this — One of them, Calatrava,
the Minister of finance, will be a great loss to the Country as
he unites the qualities very rare here in public men,
of great firmness and energy, with the greatest disinterestedness.
The contract for the Guichsilver Mines of Almaden, made
a few days since; which has ~~generally~~ ^{previously} been quietly arranged
with the Rothschilds, who in return presented the Minister of
Finance with 30 or 40, thousand pounds for the same, has
this year been thrown open to public bids; whereby the

State has gained about half a million of Dollars per an;
and Calatrava, a poor man with a large family and involved
salary, has refused £80.000 sterling, cash in hand, for depart-
ing from the practice of his predecessors. — In another case
which came under our own knowledge — the Collector of the
Customs at Malaga behaved two or three weeks ago most
impudently towards an American vessel in that port, under
a suspicion of her being engaged in smuggling: — The note,
from the Legation complaining of the outrage, had hardly been
presented to the Govt., when Calatrava removed ^{him} from office —
This man was one of their most active and efficient officers;
had risen gradually to one of the first posts; aided the Govt.
with money when they were pinched; and above all influenced
to a 15 votes in the Cortes — All this was urged upon the Minister,
together with the danger to a weak Cabinet of making so
formidable an enemy at this crisis; but in vain, and the
individual, was reformed only with a promptness unknown
during the last 30 years: — Such a man is so far above his
Countrymen, that they think him a simpleton; and are convinced
by the very acts of his unfitness for his post: —

By the very act, of his engagement for his post.
Your conjectures about friend Paulding
have been verified by the receipt. Uncle Geoffrey read to me
the letter about his conduct and the extracts from Master
Jacky's correspondence, and he comes out at the end of a
noon so small, that it would be difficult for a gentleman of
manly character to squeeze through: the best apology for him
is that he is troubled with the family failing, "monomarcia",
which needs excuse all things mean or little now a days.
Since Sir Robert Peel's handsome speech on the

Washington treaty and the explanation of the strong red line,
I have been as intimate at the British Embassy as if ^{we} were all
there together. - I dine there twice a week, and meet the
lady, pretty little frouling Mrs Scott, by request at the opera;
the alternate evenings: - Mr Astor, the Minister, is a very
amiable, ~~clever~~ clever man, in both senses, and as nobody
else entertaining, one cannot refuse his friendly invitation on the
ground of prior engagements: he enjoys the very comfortable
salary of \$33,000 a year, besides as much or more in addition
from his private fortune, and is disposed to spend them both
like a gentleman: for many suppers, his are very comfortable
quarters.

Brevort is off, or intend to be, on the 13th or 14th of
this month. I discovered by accident, an opportunity to make
the tour of Sicily, & visit to Malta in May, in a steamer from
Naples; but tho' I do what I can to poke him up, I'm afraid
I'll miss the chance by delay: - If he had the go-ahead principle
with his acquirements, and ability, he would make his way rapidly.
Owing to these qualities, ^{a better the world is than} and his diff. since, people in Society only
discover by accident, how superior he is to the talkative gentlemen
who make the greatest display. - As Uncle Geoffrey would say;
there is nothing exhibited in the front window; all the valuable
articles being stowed away in the back shop: ✨

CHR
We have almost the Spring: and among other signs
Asparagus in the market, and green peas in the "poule hot" future in
tense: pleasant things in their way, but paid for with a Sun
which scorches a little already and drives you into the shade
in the beginning of April. ~~---~~ I hope you can read this without a
magnifier; between your Capital and my small print, a proper
average could be struck - Encourage all the family to write
without waiting for answers punctually - I can only in the first
place repeat the same story, and in the next, have been.