

per

Mr. William Irving
Banton.

New York July 23. 1834

My dear Willie

I have had no opportunity of writing to you since my last of May 21. per the Morrison.

We have since had several letters from you. one to me per Sumatra of Feb. 6. one to Edgar of Feb. per New London and another to Theodore of March 2 per the then letters have gratified us all very much as they speak of continued good health and are written in much better spirits than those which preceded them.

I notice your observation that "you had great hopes lately of some day being able to start a house at Banton after having become acquainted with the trade of the place." I would be very cautious how I made arrangements with a new concern - unless it were well backed by friends, the new firm would have "uphill" work. A good share in a well established concern I should think would be preferable.

And such a partner as I know you would make if you gave yourself to the business, could command a good standing in almost any concern. Active, first rate young men are very necessary in such establishments as those in Banton, and they are not always easily obtained - from all that I can learn changes are not infrequent - those who have amassed wealth retire and leave the concern to younger hands. The late Mr. Low who was in the house of Russell & Co. was at first a clerk, and an efficient one - they wished to keep him and offered him a large salary but he would stay only on being taken in as a partner. I would have you look well round you and do not accept any offer of commencing on your own account too readily. remember

the old adage - "Look before you leap" - You may make yourself so necessary to your house that they will gladly offer you as good terms as they have to others. I am glad to see that you are determined to make yourself well acquainted with Canton & its trade - you cannot but do well if he on whom we all depend continues to bless you with health.

I find that the ship Cabot goes to Canton again by the way of Macao - Our friend the Captain (Lowe) & owner will gladly give you any information in his power.

I shall have to refer you to him and the advice your house may receive for information as to our market. At present I believe it is dull, but as the shipments for Canton are not numerous I am still inclined to think that goods generally will pay a profit well spring. The two boxes of green tea which you sent I have divided between Pierre and myself and have taken some of the black tea for both from the largest box. I am trying to sell the balance for your account and hope to better it with my friend Valentine for some Manilla Coffee and some ^{batavia} sugar. I fear he will not allow as much as you invoiced it at.

I have tried in vain to sell the Sugar Candy for you - that which is manufactured here is preferred and costs less. Should you have any such presents made you again of Sugar Candy and think of sending them home I would advise you to get it powdered, or ground - the duty then will be only four cents per pound, instead of twelve especially if you do not call it Sugar Candy in the invoice.

I have at last received a letter from Sanders - it was commenced at Sea but 27. Lat. 29.46 South. Long. 31.30 West. on describing a sail which he hoped was bound to the N. State, but the word to be a Whaler or a cruise. The letter was finished at Muchie coast of Sumatra Jan. 10. - they made the northern part of the

Island 20th Dec. and came to anchor 14 miles N.W. of Pulo Kich the most northern of the pepper ports. After 106 days passage - here they made a contract for all the pepper they had - nearly enough to load the ship - they had touched at two or three places between Pulo Kich and Muchie and had sold all their cargo except the powder which was a cling then they were to weigh anchor that night having been here three days, for the night again - expected to touch at Achien and so round to the Straits of Malacca.

Capt Gillies expected to take St. Helena on his route to Gibraltar and Sanders looked to a visit to the tomb of Napoleon with great interest - he calculated on having that pleasure in August - and thought that they might reach Gibraltar in September - he mentions having fallen in with the Margue Jacobin from Rotterdam for Batavia by which he wrote you a few hasty lines. I do not recollect of your giving any account of having sumptuously on purpose on your voyage out - Sanders mentions having lived on it for a week - it had much the taste of west beef and he became fond of it - they caught likewise nine large Atlatops and made them into a Sea Pie - but they proved too much for his Masticators - he writes very favorably of his Captain and the Mate - they appear to be knave intelligent men - one all from Salem and have been a long while in the Sumatra trade - of course understood it - Sanders in the first part of his letter says that they had given him a pretty good idea of it - the second mate was in the ship Friendship when she was cut off by the natives at Sualla - Batavia - for which the frigate Potomac subsequently chastised them.

I am glad to find that Sanders writes in good spirits he likes the sea very well and had he been as fortunate as you were in having a couple of young men of about your own age for fellow passengers a voyageur, he would have found it less tedious and lonely. I think that this voyage will prove ultimately of great service to him. Your good Aunt Paris and I stopped at Plymouth on our

return from Troy. We found him and his family located in a snug and neat house on the bank of the river and spent three or four days with them very pleasantly. I should like much to have staid longer, but could not. Pierre writes urgently for another visit - and as an additional inducement, says that he has found that there is a good road nearly all the way to the Round top or highest part of the Catskill mountains which lie directly back of Saugerties. about twelve or fourteen miles off and that he will go with me on a visit there - a cabin or Shanty has lately been put up on it, so that we can find some kind of accommodation - but we would need one for an hour or two only. I shall probably take an opportunity of paying the visit next month. You perhaps are aware that Edgar has been for sometime contemplating joining your brother Pierre and his partner in their brewing establishment at Saugerties - he has no doubt told you of it, or I may have done so myself, but I have not time to look back to my letters. The matter has been finally arranged, and he enters the concern as a partner on the 1st of August - Col Tenant furnishes the necessary advance - about \$7000 - Edgar is to be married on Tuesday the 29th inst and we are preparing to attend the wedding - we expect to start on Friday and the party will consist of your sisters Catharine & Sarah, your cousin Sarah Paris, your uncle Washington, your brother Theodore and myself. Edgar went on a day or two since. Pierre's partner T. Barclay Livingston was married about a month since to Miss Kurney, a sister

of Phillip Kearney - his father resides at Saugerties, and the couple
take quarters at his house. Livingston had built a neat
cottage on the margin of the little lake near the Quarry
in which he and his sister have lived for a year or two - as by
the new arrangement he will not want to occupy it any
longer, at least for a time - Edgar has taken it of him on
rent, and every thing being in readiness, he and Amanda
will take possession soon after the wedding. Edgar has
got a furlough for six months, at the end of which time he
can no doubt get it extended, as the Corps of Marines
by a late law of Congress has been increased; of course an
officer can be spared from duty more readily - I do not
wish him to throw up his commission until he sees how
matters go with him - it can be given up at any time,
but not easily got back again.

Your Aunt and Uncle Paris have taken up their quar-
ters for the summer at Huntington on Long Island, about forty
miles from the City. Your Aunt's health continues fair - Your
Uncle Washington and I made them a hearty visit a few days
since, taking down Julia & Mary, and bringing back - both
Aunt Sarah (who had been there about a week) and Sarah
Paris - They had to be here to prepare for the journey to Baltimore.
Charlotte had gone down with Catharine & Sarah and Eliza
and Julia & Mary with your Aunt Paris for company for her
as well as for their own benefit and gratification. I
expect to put little Washington on board a steam boat tomorrow
morning to find his way to Pierre's - so the house will be
deserted for a week or so except by the servants.

I mentioned in a former letter that "the little Willie" had located himself at Syracuse in this State as a practitioner of Medicine. I doubt much whether he met with any success - independent of his being new to the profession, his unfortunate propensity is greatly in his way - from all that I have learnt I fear that it is encroaching on him. He is now down here on a visit - he stays nearly all his time with his sisters Julia & Susan at Flushing, where they have located themselves for the summer -

I find that there are three vessels for Canton all to sail about 1st Augst - just the very time that we shall be able in Baltimore - I shall send this by Capt. Low in the Cabot, with some of the N.Y. Messenger and five or six numbers of the Mirror which have been published since my last. I will have consultation with my clerk to send you a paper a time and give current & by the others I should they sail before I return -

I would refer again to what I have said on the subject of "Having a home in Canton" - Your Uncle Hutchinson and I have been conversing on the subject and I find that he agrees with me in opinion - The changes in the house of Russell & Co have been frequent and the business is so extensive and heavy that the partners have become wealthy rapidly - we feel persuaded that if you devote yourself to their interest assiduously you will become so necessary to them that they will find that in advancing your interest they promote their own and should they be blind to this, other good houses may be induced to make handsome offers - above all, keep your own counsel, do not throw out hints of attempting to sit up for yourself - I augur favorably from the circumstance of your being sent to Whampoa to attend to the discharging of the Dutch Ship - I should suppose they would send no one on such a charge but one they could rely on - They but wish attend you my dear Willie -

Yours always
Edw. Irving

1.

Mr William Irving
care of Messrs Russell & Co

per favor of
Capt Low.
Ship Cabot.

Canton
China

Recd. Thos. 1834
Thos. 1834

Chas. Irving July 23. 1834

W 32106