

Saugerties - Ulster County. N. Y.

Nov 25th 1833

My Dear Willie,

A very long time has elapsed since I last wrote to you, but I assure you my silence has not been caused by forgetfulness. Until within the past week I have been in a constant state of activity or locomotion — and having at last fairly got myself settled down, I take advantage of a leisure hour to write to you —

First then of myself — When my last to you was despatched, I was at West-Point — involved in a maze of troubles. Soon after you sailed I returned to town, made an assignment of all my property and divested myself of every shilling — You may imagine the many humiliating circumstances which rendered my life anything but happy — These cares however gradually softened down — and being idle — having no prospect of getting into any kind of business again, until my creditors in England should sign my discharge — I volunteered to go out though the State, to endeavor to aid in carrying into effect the resolutions of the late Legislature relative to much N. Y. life of ~~commerce~~ — This employment was one in which from my habits of life I was far from being well fitted — but a sense of

only supported me. I made a long and laborious journey, during which I made every exertion to procure the adoption of the work by the common schools. In some degree, I succeeded - altho my tour was attended with many discouraging circumstances. About the middle of September I reached New Point again, where I found my wife and children hearty - & right glad to have me home again. - After passing a few days with them, I proceeded to New York, to render an account of my mission. - I found that our prospects of success, were but faint. There was less attention paid to the recommendation than I had anticipated, and although in some degree, my journey was of service, still I was satisfied that the use of the book would be but partial.

I was then left without a shilling - & a family to support. Just at this period, I accidentally fell in with an old acquaintance Barclay Livingston - of this place. In the

course of a conversation with him, I intimated that I was on the look out for some means of support - & he then stated to me, that if I could procure \$5000 Capital, he would associate me with him in the Brewery which he has here established -

This offer appeared to me exactly the thing suited for me. It presented an opportunity of indulging my long wishes for object - a country life - It at the same time held out a fair chance of making a living - and ultimately with good fortune, the means of paying all my old debts - for in the hope of one day discharging them all, is to me a greater incentive to exertion than any mere love of money could ever be. - Upon enquiring, I found

that the Brewing business when properly attended to, usually proves profitable - This place is a pleasant situated - has advantages & a very excellent Society - School - & an Episcopal

church - As I saw nothing more eligible - in-
deed I had no other opening of any kind - I
submitted the matter to Mr. Duer - who with
his usual kindness & zeal, entered warmly
into my views - With his assistance I
succeeded in borrowing \$5000 from the Life
& Trust Company - and having previous pro-
cured my creditors consent to my discharge,
I invested the money in the establishments -
in which I am now uniting - I procured

a small cottage here - wide enough indeed
compared to what I have been used to - &
by no means eligibly situated - Still it
suits my present circumstances and I have
I trust brought myself to be contented with
any lot - I moved Anna & the chil-
dren about a fortnight since - and have
just succeeded in making our quarters
tolerably comfortable for the winter -

In the very nick of time too — for this morning brought us a winter snow storm — and when I jumped out of bed, the whole country was white —

Altogether, I have reason to be sincerely grateful — and contented with my lot — I have weathered a most awful storm — I am settled in a pleasant neighborhood — within a hundred miles of town — and I have here leisure that enables me — free from the distractions of a city life — to indulge in those habits of reading & reflection which are now my only sources of enjoyment —

I have long ceased to look upon this life in any other light than as a state of probation — and with a profound sense of the utter insufficiency of this world to confer happiness, and I seek so to live that I may be ready for that change which awaits us all —

Experience has proved to me "the vanity of human wishes" — and with an humble — tho' firm trust in the help of God

my aim is to steal quietly thro' this brief existence -
- to keep my eye steadily fixed upon the loved to come -
- and to rest on this hope - all my expectations of
happiness - This sustains me under all trials
and strengthens me, when I feel inclined to des-
pond - and I believe ^{you} will think there
must be something in the Christian Religion ^{worth} ~~truth~~
seeking for - when I tell you that I find in it
a peace of mind "which" indeed "passes all
understanding" - My constant prayer to

God is, that you too, my dear Dad, may have your
eyes opened to the truth - that you may also be
able to realize the nothingness of this world - and
that you may, in all your actions - thoughts - & con-
versation have reference to the day of your death.

From the letters sent to you by the rest of
the family you have doubtless been apprised of
all the incidents of a domestic nature -

Edgar is not yet married, & I fear is not likely soon
to be - He lives on as usual enjoying - he dislikes
his Lieutenantcy, as I pretend he does - Still it

appeared to be the only thing for him - It is
an honorable & gentlemanly profession &
the emoluments of his office will suffice
to support him alone genteelly - This
however is not enough for him - He is bent upon
getting married - no matter what he comes of
him afterwards - I really feel most sin-
cere sorrow for his vexations - Had he a little
property, and were ~~married~~ & settled in the
country he would be a happy & most respectable
man - but he is not for business - & the profession
of arms is not to his taste - We cannot
however help him - & he must be content
to abide patiently the issue of events -

He is now stationed at Brooklyn - & I

I have not heard from Theodore since
I left New York - nor do I know how he is
employed - However I know that he is
under Uncle Nathaniel's surveillance

and direction, and I believe he is really bent
upon improving himself - He assures me
that he has entirely outgrown his matrimo-
nial mania - and considering his ama-
zing Inceptibility of disposition, that is
certainly fortunate -

Of Sanders' sudden departure - even
more unexpected than yours - you have
of course heard - He sailed in the "Ar-
rived Wells" early in September - as Cap-
tain's Clerk - for the Coast of China - &
~~he~~ left with an expectation of returning
to the Mediterranean as Supercargo - As
I have great reliance on Sanders' integrity
& industry, I have little doubt that
this will prove a fair opening to fortune -
Mr Goodhue gave his Captain a very high charac-
ter - ~~the vice versa~~ - and we are all quite
easy about him -

There is nothing that I can think of very
new in ^{my} family circle in N York

The Dues all remain very much as you left them. George is still home - out of employ - I regret this sincerely - for I believe he has an earnest desire of getting along for himself - It is besides to be feared that this long period of idleness will unfit him for future exertion - George has been quite in love with Miss Salina Wells - but at the last accounts, matters were a less suspicious aspect -

Uncle Sam Wash arrived here about a month since - He rec^d me very kindly - & he is a great & universal favorite - One cannot help liking him - for a more frank, whole souled, generous hearted fellow I never knew - Both he & Irving have behaved towards me with the greatest liberality & courtesy - and as I have before felt inclined to do them injustice in this respect, I wish to make them an amende as far as I can -

He has been waiting for you or your reply since
you started - How anxious we all are to hear from
you - and to hear that ^{you} are doing well - I
need not say - We have our trials at home -
The pecuniary condition of Father's last family is
far from being any brighter than you left it -
and we all tremble or shudder to you
as a sort of sheet anchor -
I am ^{been} situated
as I have been to us, as one of our anchors which
to enable you to amass a good property - &
you can not journey perhaps - and as the
best of the concern at home seems likely to
be hanging by the eyelids, ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~concern~~
you are to be the great stand by of the
concern -
It is not however in this that we cannot
long be to hear from you - If we learn that
you are abroad - and capable to acquire the

confidence of the house - If we hear, or
we ~~you~~ that you are pursuing a student &
knowable course we shall be most happy -
I am I think we shall have letters from you -
I repeat to day that our proceedings
about our literary friends of F. & M. are
going true - They have failed - & our
plan to see unpublished matter is
frustrated in far more than he is worth -
I am incumbrant is it not all of us
to me an almost insupportable burden
the case that cloud the declining day
of the good old gentleman - but that will
be seen you must acknowledge 1853

Pinus P. Inring

Samples Nov 25

in Plato

[Faint handwritten notes and sketches, possibly representing a botanical specimen or a list of samples.]