

Washington Feb. 5th 1853.

My dear Sarah



I have this morning (Sunday)
received a letter from Kate, which among other
things tells me that Angeline has taken a
heavy cold and has been ill for a week.
I beg you to have her taken care of in the
best manner. Let the physician attend upon
her frequently. She must not expose herself
to the weather, by going to and from her mother's,
in this uncertain season of the year. Do not
let her sleep in the attic of the tower, while
she is indisposed, but have her near you where
you can have an eye upon her. Though she
appears to have been gaining strength within the
last year or two her constitution is too fragile to
stand any severe shock.

I wrote to you all the day before yesterday and
have nothing new to relate. Yesterday we had

a large Diplomatic dinner at home, at which
some of the foreign ministers and their ladies
were present and some members of the Senate.
Mr James Hamilton was likewise a guest, having
arrived at Washington the evening before. I find
from him that B. M. Tichenor had had some difficulty
with the ~~the~~ architects of the new church from
deficiency of funds; but that the matter had at
length been arranged, probably with the assistance
of Trinity church. I think that is doomed to be
a "church militant" fighting against all kinds of
difficulties.

I see by the papers that Mr Dakin has died
suddenly. This of course puts an end to the huge
scheme which he had commenced to build. I
hope it will not prove disastrous to the architect
and workmen employed. I never had any
confidence in the stability of his fortune. He seemed
to be a speculative builder of air castles.

I am sorry to hear from Mr Hamilton that
Angela has been unwell with a severe cold.

I had hoped to have seen her by this time in
Washington. This soft thawing weather is
very treacherous. I am myself suffering from
a cold which keeps me coughing half the night,
but I have a tough constitution that will stand
any thing of the kind.

You must not get out of patience with my
prolonged absence. I find so much here to consult
on the Archæology, and so little leisure to devote
to it, that, were I to cut short my sojourn,
I should have to make another visit to Washing-
ton, and that at a time when I could not have
the peculiar advantages which I enjoy at pre-
sent.

Give my love to all the family

SHR

Your affectionate friend
Washington Irving

P.S. I wish Thomas or Robert, or both,
to paint the two horses - also the horse
waggon

