

Mr. Roman. ~~Mr. Roman~~

Mr. William Irving

Canton, China.

My dear Willie

New York Sept 15. 1833.

I was not in town when the Washington sailed, or I should have written by her. I did not expect she would have sailed until about this date - but your brother and sister I understand sent letters by her - Sanders letter will have caused you some little surprise - having nothing in view for him when I left the City ^{on Sunday evening} the 1st instant. I little thought that a tragical circumstance had that day occurred, that would occasion his embarking the next (Monday) on a voyage to Sumatra. It seems that a fine Boston Ship, lying in our port, the Arnold Weller, Capt. Gillies, was to have sailed that day, (Sunday) but the supercargo, a son of one of the owners by the name I believe of "Hall" committed suicide that day at Hobbs Congress Hall - the cause, as mentioned, is supposed to be "an affair of the heart" - the ship being ready on advertisement appeared on Monday morning for a young man as Captain's clerk in the daily Advertiser - Sanders saw it at breakfast, showed it to your uncle Washington and both started instantly for our friend Goodhue's office where the application was to be made - an arrangement was promptly effected and Sanders required to be ready by two o'clock the same day. He was ready in time but the ship did not sail until the next day at the same hour. He left a letter for me, written in excellent spirit, his only regret seemed to be that he had not the chance of taking me by the hand before his departure - You may well imagine my surprise, when your uncle Washington, met me early on Friday morning at our door, with the news of the affair.

Sanders goes without pay - he has taken two hundred dollars with him however, in specie to "improve" as a Bostonian would say a privilege of two tons allowance him in the vessel - He is a fine ship, larger than the Clematis, and has more spacious and comfortable accommodation - I received a letter from Sanders dated Wednesday morning off the Hook - the wind being light

and ahead they had anchored in the lower bay the evening previous, but were then at daylight passing the hook with a pleasant breeze at Boston. The little that Sanders had seen of his Captain gave him favorable impressions, and one friend Jonathan Goodhue speaks in handsome terms of him. The ship is bound on a trading voyage on the coast of Sumatra, which is expected to occupy them there two months or more, thence they go to Genoa touching at Gibraltar. Sanders in his letter from the hook says that this voyage will take more time than he first thought - which was about 12 months - it is more likely to extend to sixteen months. He all hope and think, that this will prove a capital opening for him - if he only acquits him of duty, and faithfully it will lead to something handsome - However this may be, you will not fail to let us know if any fair opportunity offers for him at Canton. From all we hear from your Uncle Washington friends the Thorndikes, we are flattering ourselves that your prospects are excellent. I pray heaven most fervently that they may be realized. - Edgar left us yesterday morning for Baltimore - he is expecting to receive a Lieutenant's Commission in the Marine Corps for him - nothing in the mercantile way appearing to turn up for him - you recollect that the applications which had been made before for him - Edgar gave up all when the idea of a commission here was started - Edgar gave up all thoughts of the Navy - and the application for a person's berth was made for Theodore - Your Uncle Washington having discovered in Theo. a talent for writing, determined that he should improve it and give up the application - he is now under your Uncle's charge who feels confident of his success - he has been attending to his pen all summer at the "Square House" during your absence - he did not withdraw the application and your Uncle's particular friend Mr Van Nuys (the F.P.) having intervened personally in the matter, the Secy of the Navy told him that there was no vacancy for a person but there was one for a Lieut of Marines - we immediately determined on getting it for Edgar who was very willing to take it & Mr V.N. wrote accordingly - The Secy replied that he would lay the matter before the President on his return from the Pick Paper - the Pres & Secy have both returned to Washington and we are daily expecting to hear of the appointment - I opposed Edgar's going to Cuba until he should have his commission in his pocket - I feared that the family there might suspect the idea of his returning to the Navy was only a ruse, and that the real object was to induce them to project something for the young couple this I would not wish - and therefore wished him to delay his going until his commission should be received - The situation is a good one and respectable, and fitting for a gentleman - it is worth about \$800. per ann

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with some chance of its being increased by promotion, or means of staff & staff at head quarters at Washington through the influence of friends - at any rate it is a handsome thing for him while single, and can at any time be relinquished should any thing more advantageous offer - Now the lady's parents with like the matter, is I think somewhat uncertain - judging from myself, I should doubt their being pleased - still if the young lady is not by & by the 20,000 talked of - they may think it well do - the young lady herself, as I understand from Edgar makes no objection to the commission - the pointings, like our young ladies do in love, would perhaps object to nothing that would likely bring matters to a desired conclusion.

Since I wrote you last (for Jeanette July 10) your cousin Irving has had his wife Susan and her sister Julia had arrived - Irving & Susan having judged that it would be well for one of them to come out with the view of purchasing their business - it was determined that Irving should embark - to be & his wife sister has been for a two years rent a move - perhaps to stay - Irving since his arrival has been very busy and having brought out the best prices, has been quite successful in getting orders - he turns to his business with and assiduously - for beyond my expectation - Julia & Susan are no doubt very glad to get back - for though they were pleasantly situated at "Brown cross" I thought their letters showed a homesickness for home - and its bright sunshine - they are boarding at present at Perry's - there is a new Greek family near the old Pauling hermitages in on the hill.

Your sister Anne has returned home - Catharine & Sarah spent a month with your Aunt & cousin Sarah Davis at Ferry town - Julia & Mary - visiting with Aunt Sarah's family at "Munroe" back of Newburgh - and little Charlie and his Mammae, passed a month among the relations of the latter at Belleville - I believe I mentioned in a late letter that your cousin Miss Romeyn had married her husband at Wilkesboro, N.C., the latter part of May - The and her sister Helen arrived here about a month since - they will probably go to Johnstown shortly - Your brother Pierre's family are still at that point - I expect and on having men in the introduction of your Uncle Wash's life of Columbus into schools - and we shall reap the benefit of his excursion - We are taking measures for introducing it throughout the Union - and our prospects of a very extensive demand are good - Your Cousin Clara Kirk was married to young Van Vorst some - I think the young man has a handsome & good wife - Your Uncle Washington talks of getting from Italian music & the first rate music for your sister Catharine - he heard her sing lately at Vegas by accident - he was in his room - and she below at the piano - he says delighted with her voice - your own appearance - 21st

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Thudora is at Perry town. "Square house," and does not know of this offering.
I heard of it accidentally just now. 6. o'clock P.M.

Mr. William Irving
care of Miss^{rs} Russell Hall

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Chen Shing
for Boston
Sept 15
1833