

Longwood Oct 6/42. 6 P.M.
Said:

Wash^g D.C. to Julie D.C. Madrid Aug. 28/42
Said: New 18/42

Madrid Aug 28th - M 2

My dear Julie

I have just received your affectionate letter of the 22 July, and sit down at once to answer it. It is very kind on your part to write to me so often, as I know you are not accustomed to letter writing and that it is an onerous task to you: if you only ~~are~~ aware, however, of the great pleasure your letters give me, I am sure the task would cease to be onerous. Your accounts of the domestic concerns of dear little Susan's side, of your several walks and drives, and country visitations; of the state of the garden and the strawberries, and the brooks and the fountains, all have the sweet flavor of home to me, and give me some of the enjoyment which the poor hungry fellow experienced who was permitted to peep through a window at a city feast; and, though he could not sit down at the table, regaled himself exceedingly with a distant smell of the meats.

I am very much gratified with the good accounts all your letters give me of your new neighbors the Minsters. I felt persuaded they would prove just the kind of neighbors suited to the cottage; I hope they will continue to make themselves their summer resort. I am now looking forward to an account of the family visit to the Journal establishment on the Saavedra: it will be quite an expedition. Had I been home I should have delighted in such an excursion. I know the ~~old~~ country that they inhabit, and the country round about it; it was one

of the resorts of my younger sons, before I had left off dancing; and I remember a delightful country ball in the old mansion, when I figured in quadrilles with some very pretty girls, who are now respectable old ladies. Don't mention this, however, to your sister Mary, as it might seem to imply that I am grown rather old myself; a fact which she will not allow me even to insinuate.

I have given in recent letters the many particulars about my domestic establishment and mode of life that I have little or that had to communicate, excepting that my head servant Benjamin, the colored man, has had a severe attack of pleurisy: a complaint very frequent and dangerous at Madrid. I called in good medical aid, however, and by bleeding and leeching, checked the malady when in a state of high progress: and I have the satisfaction to see him once more able to crawl about home. He proves a very quiet, orderly faithful servant, and regulates my household in a very satisfactory manner. Every thing goes on smoothly. Carson Brown keeps the accounts of the establishment and regulates the expenses, and is almost as competent in that department as is your sister Sarah at Sunnyside. I think it probable I shall soon change my residence, having hopes of getting very eligible quarters in the outer end of the town, near to the public walks; and the places of amusement, and the residences of the Diplomatic Corps. My only regret at leaving my present abode will be leaving the immediate vicinity of my fair and amiable countrywoman Madame Offenbergue; who has proved a most agreeable neighbor.

My young gentlemen form a most agreeable household for me. Alexander Hamilton is as bright as a sun beam both in mind, in looks and in manner; he is the life of the house, and so quick and pleasant in his intercourse with the family that he never goes abroad without bringing home a fund of amusing conversation. Carson Brown is full of interesting variously accomplished, but he wants confidence and enterprise to put himself forth and show what he is worth. He resembles his father in that respect, but, like his father, is an invaluable companion to those who know him well. He and Hector are great friends and always together, and I think Hector will profit greatly by the companionship. They both have delightful tempers: indeed in their respect I have been most fortunate in the members of my diplomatic household.

Tell your father I have been thinking lately of the propriety of having the cottage & ~~the~~ barn insured; a measure of security which has been too much neglected by us, considering how all important that little family nest is to our well being. Alex Hamilton tells me there is an excellent Insurance company instituted lately in New York, on the Mutual Insurance plan, of which one of the Dells is becoming & growing by other members. He had better inquire in that.

Sept. 1st Since I commenced this letter I have received a long one from Helen and Pierre McJoring dated Aug 4th of 5. giving me accounts of their visits to Sunnyside, Julia Smully and Craigville. It is full of interesting matter and shall be answered by the next courier.

I have succeeded in getting a delightful habitation, in a part of an immense house, just renovated and put on complete order, belonging to the Marques de Mos. It is close to the public walks and all the pleasant places of resort; and my windows look into a garden and some of them command a ~~perfect~~ ^{fine} view of the whole prospect. The rent will

be less than the house I now inhabit and the accommodations far
superior. I expect to be able to move into it in the course of eight or
ten days. I shall then have a pleasant home & pleasant walks at hand,
and shall be able to take more exercise than I have since my
arrival in Madrid.

W. D. D.
Miss Julia Irving

Care of E. Irving Esq
Harrison
New York.

I shall be looking, by the next arrival, for the letter which
you give me reason to expect from my dear Charlie. I am glad to
hear that she is improving in the knowledge of household affairs
and that she and Mary have distinguished themselves lately
in the art of cake making. I have no doubt Charlie will
turn out a first rate house wife, which, in this "sublunary
sphere," is a jewel of inestimable value.

Give my love to "all bodies"
your affectionate uncle
Washington Irving

Miss Julia Irving

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