

New York, April 17th 1848

Dear Sir,



I enclose a letter which I

hope may serve your purpose, and
which you are at liberty to publish.

I made a request some time since
to the company to have the space
between the river bank and the
rail road on the north part of my
premises filled up, so as to exclude
the influx of the tide. This our
ferret gave me reason to hope would
be done, and indeed the construction
of the road was commenced
to that effect. Recently, however,

and upon the conclusion of my arrange-
ment with the company, I learn that
a contrary course has been prescribed,
and a wet ditch is to be left open
along my whole premises. As you
know the position of my house and
the nature of my grounds, you can
easily imagine how destruction to
comfort and pleasure, if not to health,
such a heinous deformity must be.
The trouble and expense of the move-
ment I ask would not be much to
the company, having the means,
materials and facilities at hand;

I earnestly entreat therefore the
considerate attention of the company
to this matter; which is of vital
importance to my family.

I am very dear Sir,

Very truly yours
SHR
Washington Irving

I remain Sir

[Faint, mirrored handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is illegible due to fading and mirroring.]