

Helen, and I believe to help the world. I shall have
to call a meeting of my creditors, or to declare myself
bankrupt. with affectionate remembrances to "all
bodies"

SHR

Your affectionate uncle
Washington Irving

Madison April 2^d 1845

My dear Eliza

SHR

It is some time since I received a letter
from you in which you asked me to sit down and write
you an answer on the spot. It was pretty much like
demanding a mans money on the highway when he
has not a farthing in his pocket. I could not have
mustered up ideas for a letter at the time had it been
to save my life, and even since my good intentions
in the matter have been allowed aside by a thousand
other claims on my pen. I am overtaken at
present in literary occupation, striving hard to
make up for lost time, and ~~and~~ in regard to my
literary undertakings, and having to cope with
my official duties; my familiar correspondence
is generally made at the expense of the time I should
devote to repose and recreation; and thus a sad
weariness of flesh and spirit is occasionally pro-
duced; while, after all, a mass of correspondence
accumulates on my hands which I look at with
despair. This I am sure will be a sufficient excuse
to you for ^{my} not having written ~~as~~ previously to you and

Legation of the United States Madrid

Mrs Aaron Irving

from her

Miss Eliza Roney

Washington Irving

Care, Pierre de Irving St

Bank of Commerce

New York

you might wish.

I now take up my pen in consequence of information just received from Pierre de Soring which has quite taken me by surprise. I allude to your intended change of condition. I hope and trust it will be for the better. You and Oscar know each other well, and from relationship and long intimacy have a thousand sympathies in common. You will only be strengthening old bonds of kindness and esteem by a still dearer tie; and I trust you will both be happier for your union. May God bless you both.

Every budget of domestic news makes me long more and more to be restored to the family circle which is now a little world within itself, and to me with all the world beside. This is the constant wish of my heart, and the object of all my exertions. I long to be once more back at dear little Swaney side, where I have yet strength and good spirits to enjoy the simple pleasures of the country and to rally a happy family group once more about me. I grudge every year of absence that rolls by. To-morrow is my birth day. I shall then be sixty two years old. The

evening of life is fast drawing over me; still I hope to get back among my friends which there is yet a little business left.

My letters to your Aunt Paris has kept you all informed of the gay life I am leading, in spite of myself, at Madrid; obliged, willy nilly, to revel in palaces and bask in the sunshine of a court. Still there is more romance about court life in Spain than in any other European country, especially in the present era of conspiracies and revolutions. The ~~marriage~~ question of the success marriage is again beginning to excite attention; it is the great question on which every thing hinges. The Court will soon depart for Aranjuez, and thence after a leave to Barcelona. Whether I shall follow it in its migration I do not know. I have written to Government for instructions on the subject. If left to my own will I would remain in Madrid, to pursue my literary occupations, or perhaps make a brief visit to Barcelona, to pay my respects to the sovereign.

I am assured I shall not be able to write to your Aunt Paris by this steamer; if not, I beg you to give my love to her and tell her she shall hear from me by the next. I am in debt also in letters to Pierre, to