

New York Nov 23<sup>d</sup> 1855

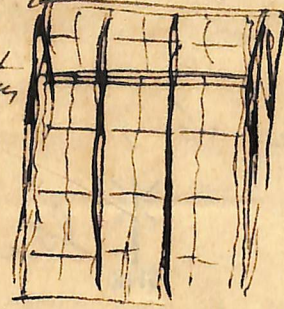
My Dear Sir,



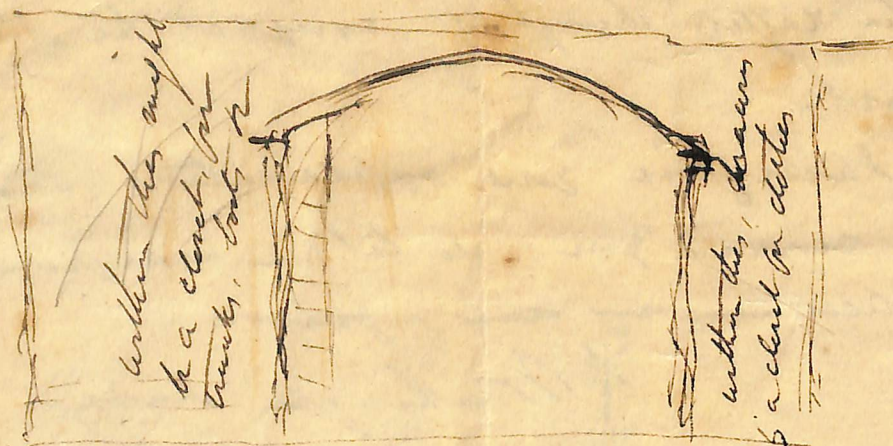
I have just returned from Greenburgh where I have been urging the tardy masons to finish the outside work of the cottage, but all in vain. Winter has come upon us, and two of the gables remain unfinished. That of the kitchen is not carried up higher than the eaves. There is but <sup>three of</sup> one mason now at work, the others having deserted and one been maimed by an accident. I have determined to finish the kitchen gable different from the others - carrying the eaves beyond it, to correspond with the dormant window. This will save mason work, and will, I trust, ~~be~~ have a picturesque effect. I drew in some designs of old buildings a mixture of gables with "crow steps" and projecting eaves, so that I presume there will not be any glaring incongruity in it.

I wish to know how the windows are to be glazed.  
that is to say, what is to be the size of the panes.

Are <sup>there</sup> ~~they~~ to be two in a sash ~~they~~ The  
sash makers require minute directions.  
Give me your ideas, both for the double  
window at the west end, and the other windows  
which have but two casements.



I am thinking of having the ~~west~~ ~~at~~ west  
room in the west end up stairs finished in  
a different way from the others. That is to say  
not arched, but a recess made at the ~~at~~ end  
adjoining the small centre bed room; and  
the other end of the room left with the natural  
pitch of the roof. The recess at the ~~other~~ end  
would be so made as to hide the slope of the roof at  
the angle made by the front and rear gables  
and to gain to the room the full height, up to the  
beams.



At the opposite end, where there is the peak of the roof a light arch <sup>or a</sup> might be ~~the~~ made along the ceiling, just at the break of the roof - and beneath at the slope of the roof might be papered with striped paper, was to resemble the curtain of a tent - I do not know whether I make myself understood. I have seen an irregular attic room managed in that way in France with a very pretty effect. The very irregularity became a source of ornament.

The following is the plot of the room as you laid it out. At the corner the joists make a sharp groin which will be cut by the closet.



By the plan here suggested the room will gain the full height of the rafters throughout - except at the slope of the south part -

I think I have given you explanations enough to perplex and confound you - so let me hear from you forthwith & when we may truly yours



Washington Irving

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