

New York January 15th 1835.

My Dear Will,

It both seems and is an endless ~~while~~ time since a vessel has arrived from Canton or since we have had an opportunity of writing to you; and these long intervals makes more palpable the vast distance you are separated from us. I have just learnt that a ship will sail for Canton from Charleston soon and Ben Durand of the firm of Goodhue & Co has ~~just~~ sent me word that a gentleman who goes out in the vessel will leave here to join her tomorrow and will take charge of any thing - so I set me down - scarce knowing where to commence - but will scuttle away with any thing that comes uppermost - I suppose you will like to hear first of your old flame Ruth - well then you must know I sent her the fan and the very next evening met her at a party, where she sparkled it - we examined and admired it and talked you and old times and I had a most pleasing evening.

She is now vegetating at Schuylersville - I was at a small party at Goodhues last evening - Fanny told me that she had received a letter from Ruth wishing to know when a vessel would sail for Canton, so I advised her to tell the maiden to write immediately and send the letter here to wait for the first chance - ~~now~~ you may expect to receive an epistle from her sweet-self - I had a long talk with Mr G and did intend broaching the subject of his dealings with Canton, but we were constantly interrupted - I have promised

to be very sociable and shall take occasion to say something touching our hope
of establishing a concern there. Whether such a thing is practicable - whether a
not - you would start a house, you are the best judge. I know not what engage-
ments they would have with any house there, but if we could prove
to them in any way that you could do their business as well and reasonable as
others, I feel almost confident that Mr G. is so well disposed that he would
do something to assist us - But I am talking about what I really

know nothing - it is ~~my~~ my anxiety that ~~you~~ you should be launched and
be garnering gold that makes me speak - In praying that you may grow
in riches I admit that it is greatly for the sake of others - for I am daily
more and more convinced that you are our last stay - this same year of
1835 has set in with dense dark clouds and all things ~~begin~~ beloken a
storm - I received a letter from Paine yesterday and I have been visited
by the blue devils ever since - unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances have
completely annihilated the brilliant prospects in which they were indulging - their
brewer has deceived them - is generally drunk and knows nothing about his
business when sober - in consequence their beer has turned out very bad - most
of it returned upon their hands, their reputation destroyed and - the amount of it
is they have stopped brewing and are going to wind up their affair and thus ~~end~~
under the form of Livingston & Irving - whether they will commence anew ~~again~~
again is doubtful - I believe Paine is opposed to it - so that probably they will
be both thrown on their beam ends again - This is one thing that makes me sad -

There is another cause - I know it will grieve you to hear it - it is determined on the -
(See advertisement) - to sell our home - old No 3 Bridge Street, where we have had so
many hours of mingled pleasure and troubles is to pass out of our hand - it will be a
 sorrowful parting, like leaving some old friend forever - it may be devilish fool-
ish to now to leave it, but I am sure you will partake of the feeling with me -

The reason for selling it is, that property is very high just now down our
way and father expects to get between twenty and twenty five thousand dollars
for it, more than will probably be obtained some years hence and moreover
he will be able to rent a house much cheaper in the upper part of the
city - His calculation is that he will save some seven or eight hundred
dollars a year, which is not to be despised in as much as he lives beyond
his income now - 'Heigh-ho!' this poverty - say what one will - is a dirty
uncomfortable, pitiable thing - and truly still - there are moments when I
am almost prompted, not to sell my soul, as half this community do
for money - but to sell myself - and without vain boasting I know of
one that would buy me - you know her too - she is not bad looking - has
common sense and her money bags will gloat gloriously - and then her ~~Pa~~
hath argosies ploughing the seas in every direction - 'Egad!' why do you
not wine her then - cry you - Oh doll that I am - because - because I
loves her not! I have been prodigiously intimate - but invariably as
things were approaching a crisis, by some luckless mischance I have fallen in
with one of my little pets - either little Caroline Callender or the little
darling Emily C - and then like a fool I grow sentimental - despoiling myself and

dreaming of love and such like ~~higher~~ shadows which bestoweth not upon a man the
world's substance - You may say what you please will - but of the two - give
me Canton and all its horrors to heartless matrimony - Not that I scorn the
state which St Paul pronounces to be honourable for I hope one day to make myself
comfortable thereby - But if the worst come to the worst - in sober sadness I say
it - I may take guided matrimony in preference to dirty poverty -

But - against the devil - it is hardly fair when one has such fear and
fear between letters, to load them with gloomy repenings - Time and the hour will
bring all things right yet.

We have had an uncommon gay winter - parties after parties - Mrs
Wash Carter gave a grand "fancy ball" I went as an Indian - it was
a brilliant scene but gloriously dull, as such things usually are - the Scher-
merhorns talking of giving a 'masked Ball' - but have not decided as they hear
there will be an outcry against it - By the way Kate and Sarah - Paris are quite
sorryful that they are going to Europe in the Spring - for they have become very
intimate with the Misses S. - They are excellent girls - the eldest very pretty, round rosy
brown figure - the second not pretty but a nice girl - I am very thick with them - dine
with them almost every Sunday - shall lose some good dinner and some sumptuous
supper when they depart - the rest of our set are The Ogden - Callender -
and a Miss Bailey - cousin to the Schermerhorns - I devote myself entirely to this
set - ~~seldom~~ and we have frequently small parties at the different houses -
I cannot bear to think that it will be all broken up in the Spring -

I was interrupted at the bottom of the last page by ~~the~~ Kate & Sarah who
insisted upon my making some calls with them — it is now late in the afternoon
and high time whatever we have to send was at Goodhue's office — I showed the
gentleman who takes this not leave before tomorrow morning I will write more
this evening, for I have much to say — I will rattle on till it is so dark that
I can no longer write — one of our calls this morning was at Ogden's — saw our
little Smiley — you do not know him pretty she has grown or rather continued to be
for you know she always was a sweet-featured little darling — and I ~~thought~~ fancy
I like her the more because you once admired her and she is connected with
by some days — ~~don't~~ it will — don't you often dream of those times, both waking
and sleeping and of George and myself — I know you do — if you don't you
must what I thought — you — I dined with George yesterday — after the repast
Mr. Rudolph Bunner & myself adjourned to the basement room where we wine-d
smoked and disrupted you — George as ~~us~~ usual groaning and swearing
he went — stand this any longer, but will positively do something immediately — The
fact is he has been idle so long that it will be no easy matter for him to
get-underway again — I am not often at the Queen — the truth is they are
so frosty and sour when I do come because I have not been before that it is
really disagreeable to go — moreover I like the down town set a thousand
times better, they are not so erudite and sensible, but unaffected and sociable

and so when I may they always appear glad to see me - I believe I mentioned before that little Caroline C. and Ned Ogden are engaged - not to be married, however, for some time, as there is not enough of the wherewithal between them - He is in business with his father -

The Thomases gave a blow out evening before last - I did not go wasn't in the mood and none of our set there - tired of the gals of the family too much giggle and nonsense -

I have been busy as a beaver of late - writing for Mack Washington against time - he is hurrying his new work to press - it is to come out in unconnected volumes - the first will contain his tour in the West - the second not yet determined - Treat J. is about publishing his tour among the Indians - My Book is in the press - so I have my hands full -

Sitting late and dark - give me your kind New Year's greetings - believe me a happy and prosperous New Year to you - and believe that you are frequently and affectionately remembered by your brother

Thos. 2

I am daily looking for the vessel by which you said you would send me the paintings of your boat -

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Sitting late and dark - give me your hand while my boy -

Mr William Irving
Care of Russell Ho
Canton
China.

The above is a copy of
the original letter from
Mr. Irving to Mr. Russell

W3259c

Mr. William Henry
and Captain
of the

to the
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