



Feb. 24/97

Dear Sir



The admirers of Washington
Irving in Great Britain
will, I am sure, join heartily
with you in desiring that Sum-
ner's home, should be
purchased and preserved intact
for all time to come in
commemoration of his genius



Here in England we have done
the same thing for Carlyle's
house at Chelsea and for
Wordsworth's at Grasmere. It is
a form of memorial very suitable
to a great literary man, be-
cause it brings before the eyes of
later generations the surroundings
among which he lived; and it
is in some ways better than a

statue, because statues, at least
here in England, are not often
successful works of art.

Washington Irving seems to
have a great claim upon
the continued affection of Amer-
icans. Not much in respect of
his intrinsic merits, which are
great, but because he was one

of the first American writers
who made the force and vitality
of American letters manifest to
Europe; and because no one
better showed how American imag-
ination tends to lay hold of and
adorn Old World legends.
Wishing all success to your
enterprise, I am



Faithfully yours
James Bryce

J. B. Best, Esq.