

New York May 8th 1834

My dear Will,

Poor as I am, were I to receive a check of some hundred, it would not give me half the delight, as did your long letter of Decr. I read it and re-read it, till it brought you so forcibly to my mind; that like one looking through a telescope at one in the distance, I felt as if I could shake hands with you - bowed that I could have you by the hand at this moment, to give you one hearty squeeze, a good long ^{look} long, and a God-bless you!

Don't you talk about not knowing how to write - why, your letters are just the thing - don't your fine studied letters say I - off hand - uppermost thoughts and a little heart, is the true receipt for a good letter - at least such a one as I like -

Why the "distinguished Citizen" exclaimed, 'that boy will do well. a manly spirited fellow - wait till he's found out; soon he'll advance!' Yes said the General as his eyes sparkled and he looked happier than he has done for many a day - 'there is no gammon in that letter!' -

No Blarney Will. I know you despise

humbug and I only tell you this because you seem to think you cannot write, while you possess the true secret of letter-writing.

You say I spoke of your longing to return home - If I did play the Mentor and with a long face, give sage advice, it was because I deeply felt the importance of your first step, because I knew how much the fortunes of the family depended upon yourself - I am not prone to sermonize - nor not my first

we may have been too sanguine in dreaming that you were to discover the ~~El Dorado~~
'El Dorado' in Canton and meet with speedy advancement - Still I cannot but
think that when Lockbridge arrives from Bombay that your chances will be
greatly improved - at least you will have great opportunities of speculating -
Since Washington has commissioned Father to advance monies, to allow you to
speculate and Father and myself are going up to Bencoolen to day to try whether we
will allow us to make a small shipment for you - we will endeavor to sound
him and learn what articles will be best - Father saw Capt Evans of the Cleopatra
yesterday and he expressed a willingness to take any thing for you but said that
it depended upon Bencoolen whether a shipment might be made by him. Father
has invited him several times to dine with us, but he has always pleaded business
as an excuse and does not seem very anxious to come - very possible it would
be a bore to him yet we would like to hear him talk about you - The Razors
beards &c will be sent by him - I wish you had sent the list you promised

of articles that would always meet with ready sale and pay good profit - the
Cleopatra goes by the way of Gibraltar and probably takes in part of her cargo there.

I was sorry, Will, you were in such bad spirits, as appeared by some of your
late letters and have been uneasy about your health as you said the cholera was
fast leaving your cheeks - ~~But that~~ From all accounts the work must be
very expensive and must have borne very hard upon you, but I trust that the
holiday which follows will entirely restore both health and spirits - Do you not
go to Moorea during the season when not busy - Mrs. Dyphant told us it was the
custom - It will be quite a treat to see the women again, and of the ~~the~~ Portuguese

girls there have not been degenerated from their mothers in Portugal, they will be
goodly to gaze upon - Do write in your letter any little thing - you cannot imagine
how doubly interesting every thing is, touching that wild and almost unknown
region. Tell me all about Macao and its women - Do you see ever see the Chinese
women - are they all as crippled as represented by travellers or is it only among
the elite, the people of town, that are permitted to enjoy that inestimable advantage
How do the Hong merchants dress - I am always fancy them, with apron hats
and long pig tails dangling behind - have they daughters - the last question I wish
particularly to be answered, for knowing you prone to admire the women - kind and
being sure if there is any of that article in Canton I am sure you will be well
acquainted with it and I shall not be surprised to see you come home with
a Miss Hong on your arm - As for myself I have several times formed the

doughty resolve to abjure womankind and follow the wise plan of our two worthy uncles
but some how a mother whenever I see the creatures I feel - you know exactly how
I feel - especially this spring time of year - no later than yesterday, I was strolling
on the battery in my one of my most anti-~~foreign~~ women-loving moods when I
described in the distance a white petticoat waving in the breeze - already I began to feel
tender - the white petticoat drew near, a pretty foot peeped out from beneath and
above where I should I see but an old or rather young mutual flame
little Emily Ogden - I could not resist her smile as she passed so I joined her
I talked and I looked and looking ~~had~~ had a glimpse of the 'sweet land of promise' -
"I saw its two hills so luxuriantly swell
And the valley of lilies between them." In other words you must know that
she has budded since you saw and begun to show signs of womanhood - she is as pretty

as ever and much admired in company. We had a talk of you and of those pleasant
Rockaway times we passed together - we had a great deal of fun that had we
not will - to me they have become green spots in memory - how we used to crack
up to the door of - Skewits - the M^r is looking out and the Bakers - Do you re-
member the ride we had to see ~~them down the river~~ the fishermen draw their seine -
If I recollect well, we had a vehicle we were rather ashamed of - who rode with us? - I
think I sat beside Mrs Ten Hosack. and you had Sally Thomas - and do have you
any recollection of our serenade; or rather the serenade of the Adonis Pinkney -

I love to recall those pleasant days as I seem to be with you again - I little dreamt then
that our fall - but avast sentiment, I merely meant to say that I miss you
much. The more so because I have had no intimate since - George D - I see
about once a month. tho of late I have been more with him as he comes down
on the Battery. He is just as you left him, queer at times, but a d-d good fellow
when he chooses to be - still doing nothing and talking of doing every thing - Canton
he has latched up for a long while but he seems now rather to incline towards
going to the West to live among, ~~large~~ Indian-half breeds. and out-throat settlers.

I expect has caught the 2^d idea of going there from George Hoffman who
I believe is actually going down to settle in Michigan - any where seems better than this
agreeable city - Bill Robinson I never see - he is still on a Bank and engaged
to Miss S - but when they are to be married God ~~has~~ knows - if they wait till Bill
makes money enough, they will have many a long day of courtship -

The Battery has become quite fashionable for the down town folk - and some

come from up town. The Majors are always there - little Sarah looks as plump as a
partridge and seems ready for a husband. The Callenders are constantly there - I frequently
join them - they are always full of fun and ~~very~~ ^{very} pretty withal. and Fanny! oh she is a
precious object on a warm spring day - George and myself scarce know which to admire the most
the volupuous ~~du~~ Dada - Fanny or the fascinating graceful little Carry - I am half
inclined to think the latter is engaged to Ned Ogden - they are seen much together. alone.
and arm-in-arm in by-places - circumstances extremely suspicious. You knew Mary
Ogden - a nice girl, but growing ancient - Sally Thomas looks the same but has
grown rather more plump - an improvement - as she was rather long - I hear no more of
her engagement to Old Russell - Kitty continues pretty but - 'beam-less' - I was walking
along Persimmon yesterday when I saw before me ~~something~~ ^{hapely} a blazing pink bonnet - ribbons flying
beathen waving and beneath it ^{hapely} a mass of curling silk, as it approached I was startled by a
sort-of hysterical 'he-he-he! ha-he-he. how d-y-do Theodore' - a ~~black~~ white veil was thrown
aside and revealed the ravishing face of our old friend Eliza B. - hapely the youth who
showed he forced to revert that face with Ropes - you may have some recollection that she
was rather plain - well - she is a little plainer now even - Poor Kearney has to suffer
now you are away - escort her to every party - your humble servant was sent for several
times last winter, but-want to be hurt - always regretted an unfortunate engagement - no ~~easy~~
economy now - they don't keep a carriage - ahem! - You are premature in conversing
about young gentlemen who have not yet made their appearance in this world -
Your friend young Alfred is still in embryo, and is yet Justice, has but one Alfred -
he has been a precious long time in coming, that little Livingston - he may be nearer,
however, his entire into this world than I am aware as I have not seen Justice for

for a month or two - and you know married women alter sadly in that time -
old Alfred is about as stiff and ~~as~~ centered as a pin - our acquaintance amounted
to a stiff bow on meeting - The rest of the B. family I have seen little of - occasionally
I meet Mary who I always find exceedingly amiable, considerably silly and not a little uninter-
-esting - The beautiful Ellen Dyer - is flirting desperately with ~~Samuel~~ Wilson
Considering that the youth is largely plain - dry and bony - he is very rich - I think it
may come to something - Little Miss Hoyt is engaged to Redmond - to be married
soon and going to Europe - Our friends the Schuyler are soon expected in town -
In my next I will probably be able to tell you something of ~~some of the~~ ~~family~~ ~~people~~
your old sweet heart Ruth - I shall see much of her -

As the Spring comes on, the family in Bridge Street begin to scatter - Edgar ~~has~~ is now
in Baltimore with his dulcinea Amanda and will remain I suppose as long as he can -
He is endeavouring to make some arrangement with his old father in law that is to be -
Livingston and Pierre offer to take Edgar into partnership on consideration that he puts
in the general stock a certain sum in cash - that certain sum can only be raised
by means of old F - whether he will come down remains to be seen - he is a
largely cautious old fellow but if he sees a fair chance of settling his daughter
as this certainly is, he may open his heart - If the arrangement is made -
Edgar & his wife will live at Sanger's - Pierre has moved into a new
house - a very neat place from all accounts and seems very happy - he has
got a horse and wagon, a ^{new} daughter and several other things - I have not been
up to see him yet and know not when I shall - my poverty not my will prevents me -

Young Paris goes tomorrow to Hartford, where is to enter Washington ~~College~~ College - Aunt
Uncle P & Sarah are to pass the summer at Huntington - Uncle W has many invitations
to county seats - and I shall remain quietly at home - I am busy with a work which I
think will give me a name when published and some small change in pocket - but I
think sometimes - but frequently I despond, am ready to throw it all in the fire and
kick literature to the dogs - I am about as gay as usual in the world - but when
alone I find myself very melancholy, and ~~am~~ dwelling upon my prospects - Even should
~~a certain~~ I be able to turn any little talent, I have for writing to account, it will at best
~~be~~ but a precarious support - and in the mean time amper me for any thing else -
and I will be a d-d poor old Bachelor - But I hate croaking - time and the
how may bring something - in the mean time I will be merry while I may -

I can recollect nothing new in the Bridge St hotel - as the Girls are writing they will
tell you all the doings - The ex-mistress, yeleft mammy - has entirely lost her power
and with it much of her ill-nature - Kate is completely mistress - He is a sweet
lovable sister and improves ~~her~~ daily - I had a battle with the Kitchen Cabinet lately
and must acknowledge I was completely defeated - you remember a beautiful tree
that Frank planted which had grown to a goodly size and this summer would have
shaded the whole garden - for giving that very shade which I so much delighted
in it was doomed by the 'Kitchen Cabinet' to be cut down as a lumberer of the
ground - I expatiated at large upon its beauty & size, its merits in giving delightful
shade, but my very arguments were turned against me - they said that the shade
killed the grass, that without grass & sunshine they could not bleach the linen - ergo
down it must come - Seeing that I should be completely routed I agreed to come to
come to terms - and to meet them half way offered to cut off the principal limbs which

shaded the grape-plot - they agreed to this and yesterday with my own hand I saw it off
and great was the fall thereof - In time, however, it will again be a beautiful
tree, if it should ~~escape~~ escape the ruthless hands of the kitchen myrmidons -

Young Kan - his wife & I are to spend the summer at Flushing - no sign of
any little Kan - the women-kind are becoming sadly unprincipled in this China -

It was very thoughtful & kind in you to send those Chinese visiting cards - any
such little things are great curiosities here and we are going to ~~buy~~ purchase a
card basket to put them in, and stand them on the centre table - The children
are all revelling in dreams of Shugar-candy - when the letters come I fancy they
will live in them - I am looking forward to the delicious green tea - How I shall
drink - the first night we have it, it shall be so strong that we shall all be
kept awake ~~there~~ and think of you all the night-long - You seem to think
Shugar candy will be dear at 12 cents per lb duty - do you remember how often we
have given 4 cents & even 6 cts an ounce - I am waiting for

the vessel to sail this morning at 10 and as it is near that now I do not like
to run the risk of missing her - So give us your heart my dear Will -

Take care of yourself and don't be down hearted - good bye you - good bye

Your affectionate
Mother

T. D.

William Irving Esq
Care of Russell & Co
Canton
China

Also: Messrs. Irving & Co
per letter. Recd Oct 14, 34



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