

Wilmington, Sept. 25th 1863.

My dear Brewster,



I was delighted to receive your letter, brought by my nephew Wm. Irving, for a long long time had elapsed without any hearing from you. I am here on a short visit to my sister, whom I had not seen for some time. I am happy to find her in excellent health and spirits. I shall return to Paris in a few days and shall probably pass the winter there. I am sorry to say my health is not so good as I used to be. My constitution seems to have got out of order and it is difficult to restore it to former state. Within a few days past I have been troubled with a return of the malady that troubled me so much during my last residence in England, and which seems to be brought on, and aggravated by fit of literary occupation. I shall commence on course of diet & baths as soon as I get settled again at Paris.

With respect to your inclination to visit Europe, I cannot see how the idea of 4 years should deter you. I do not know at what rate you live in New York but I certainly think you could live at a 4th of the cost in any of the great capitals of Europe; excepting

perhaps London. You need not entertain - you need
not keep horses & equipage, excepting to job them occa-
sionally by the day, with a month or so circumstances
might require. You would be at much less expense for
servants, and the rent of your house in Broadway
would doubly pay all your cost for ~~apartment~~ apartments -
hotel expenses &c in travelling. If this is your only
objection to a visit to Europe, it is a very unground-
ed one. In Europe you may live as you please - in
London you must live in a great measure as your neighbors
please. As to your children, I should think a residence
of a few years in Europe would be extremely agreeable.
A year in travelling is crowded with incident -
character, in fact with all the materials for the mind to
work upon. I perceive from the general tenor of your
letters that you are rather stagnant in New York. A tour
abroad would give a ~~new~~ ^{fresh} impulse to both mind and
spirits. It would lift you out of the same common-
place routine of every day scenes and every day faces.
As to your children, ~~you would not~~ should you feel
inclined to travel about occasionally. You could leave
them or have them to remain behind, in good hands. Servants
in Europe and children are better taken
care of than in America. If you wish to be econ-
omical, or rather, moderate in your expenses, you should
come at direct to France - land at Dover for instance.

make your headquarters on this side of the channel -
perhaps at Paris - and only pay England a casual visit.
You should sell your furniture in America - or you
could supply yourself with more cheaply & perhaps at
a cheaper rate when you were about to return -
I have barely replied to the ideas you suggested on
the subject. Whatever other objections may present to
the undertaking you will know best - but if none
other exist I should advise you by all means to
make the tour - I need not say what a happi-
ness it would be for me to meet with you. I think
we should have some rare times together; and you would
find the world again whirling round briskly as it
usually.
I am scribbling this letter in Peter's room. He wishes
me to remember him most particularly to you - he says he
advises you decidedly to come out - that you will be able
to live at least as cheaply in Europe as in New York - and with
much more enjoyment. That a visit across the Atlantic
would give a new spring to your existence - animate your
spirits & enlarge your ideas &c &c.
When next I write I trust I shall be more in the
vibe - at present I am in one of those moods when it
is as hard to drive the pen as it would be me to
draw a plow share. Remember me kindest to
Mrs Brewster and to such of our friends as you may

and believe me my dear friends for most

affectionately yours



Mary Prescott Jones

New York