

Washington Feb. 10th 1853

My dear Sarah,



I began a letter to you

three days since, in reply to yours of the 10th, but was interrupted and had to throw it aside; and have been too much hurried and worried by ~~some~~ society to resume it until now. I was glad to find by your letter that Angelina was better, but sorry to learn that she was not at the cottage; where she would be much more comfortable than at her mother's. Get her there as soon as possible and take care of her until the Spring is advanced and the weather settled and pleasant; but I knew I need not counsel you in any matter of kindness your own nature inclining you to everything that is kind and considerate.

I have nearly got rid of the cold which ^{has} hung about me for eight or ten days and

which at one time was rather troublesome. I have avoided evening parties as much as possible, though occasionally I have to dip into them, the dinner parties, however, are of almost daily occurrence and are sometimes very tedious being so large that there is no general conversation. I however have generally been fortunately placed between agreeable neighbors. Some of the dinners have been very elegant, especially two at Mr Concoran and Mr Riggs - wealthy bankers. I have three dinners to eat through, this week - the last at the Presidency - after which I mean to decline further invitations. I wish, before I set my face homeward, to make another visit to General Sherman, having an invitation from Mr Acquartine Washington to ~~come~~ pass a day or two there. I set

off for the purpose last week, accompanied by Miss Mary Kennedy, who is an intimate friend of Mrs Washington; but by a mistake on the hour, we were too late for the Steamer boat.

Tell Kate I have become acquainted with the duck-eyed belle whom I saw in the railroad car, as I came on to Washington. She turns out to be the daughter of Colonel Gamble formerly of ~~Florida~~ Virginia now of Florida; whom I knew in Paris in my youthful days, when we were both about twenty two years of age. Her name is Miss Betty Gamble, and she is one of the most elegant girls I have seen at Washington and appears to be extremely amiable. I am happy to add that she has no longer the cough which when I first saw her made me think her in a critical state of health. She appears to stand the dissipation of Washington admirably, and to be on the full career of conquest.

Tell your father that I have seen
William and his little family repeatedly.
I am happy to find that he has acquitted
himself with great ability in the Census de-
partment and has a staunch friend in
Mr Kennedy who has charge of that de-
partment. (who is not related to the Mr
Kennedy with whom I am staying) It will
be some ~~the~~ months before the business of the
department can be wound up; during
which time Williams' services cannot be
dispensed with. Mr Kennedy promises to
use all his influence to promote his inte-
rests either in that or some other de-
partment. The more I see of Williams
wife the more I am pleased with her. She
appears to have good sense and kind feelings
and an excellent disposition and wins
general favor wherever she is known. William
has nice children. His little daughter Kate
is quite a beauty, with remarkably fine eyes,

and Sam Eld is a very intelligent child
 apt and quick at learning. The children
 are quite enjoying in their manners.

You are all very good in not getting
 out of patience at my prolonged absence. I
 sometimes get out of patience with it myself
 and now and then return after dear little
 Sonny - but I must accomplish the
 object of my visit before I set out for home -
 and when I do set out I shall have to
 stop a day or two at Baltimore where
 I find Mrs Jeffery (Sally Mc Lane) insists
 on my paying her a visit.

I presume this letter will find Helen Pierce
 with you. Tell her she must make a good
 long visit - My son Joseph Inman who
 has just arrived in Washington I am sorry to
 learn that Mr Inman's health is not
 fully restored but that he is still troubled
 with remissions of the fever. He tells me that

the excursion to the south is fully determined
on. The sooner he sets off on it the better.

None of your letters of late have
spoken of Mary's health; from which
I infer that she is doing well. I
hope the doctor pays frequent visits

With love to all bodies



Your affectionate uncle

Washington Irving