

Mr William Irving  
Canton, China.



New York Jan<sup>y</sup>. 16. 1835.

My dear Willie

My last was of Nov 22<sup>d</sup> by a Mr. Tilden who sailed about the 25<sup>th</sup> of that month from Boston - I believe in the Surat. No opportunity has come to our knowledge since until the evening before last when Mr. Goodhue informed Theodore that a gentleman was about sailing for Canton via Charleston S.C. and was so good as to offer to hand him any thing that might be sent to his sitting room for you to day. If it will not incommode the gentleman I shall send you a goodly parcel of newspapers say a file of the American. a number of the Journal of Commerce with a late country paper & two of some of the others - and the numbers of the Mirror to complete your file to Saturday last say ~~the~~ <sup>eight</sup> numbers.

I forward also letters from Pierre and Edgar which have been waiting an opportunity for some time - and copies of two letters from Sanders dated at Genoa Oct. 13. and 20. There are one last advice from him and I have been looking every day for his next promised letter, with some little anxiety. Should he have kept his purpose of returning in the Brig Rufee from Palermo, and sailed as he calculated about 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. we may look for him in the course of next month.

It is barely possible that he may have concluded to go out again to Sumatra in the Arnold Miller. that is, if his employers have made him an offer worth his acceptance - but I do not think this is likely to have been the case - another possibility is that he may visit Paris to see your Uncle Peter, who has expressed great interest in both you and his adventures.

This may be if he had received my last letter - as I told him that if he did not return in the ship, and could get to Paris at moderate expense, I should quite as leave he should do so. The next step if course would be a visit to our relatives at Birmingham, and another to London would naturally follow. As

he is in Europe, I should like very well that he should see our good relations there - but I think it most likely that he is on his way home. We shall look round to see what we can do for him next - he need not be idle however, for Hunter Graham, who is in the Commission business, in a moderate way I presume, has spoken to me, wishing Sanders, on his return, to take the temporary charge of his business as he must go for a little while to the Southward. By the way Hunter thinks that you have rather suspected him not having answered his letter - I was enquiring whether he could not put me in the way of getting a little Commission business for you - he said he had written to you for some information respecting the Canton Market or perhaps to see whether something might not offer to tempt him to make an essay. I would have you write to him occasionally with a price current - it might lead to something - It would not be amiss to send me price current occasionally too, may help me in applications for business for you. Your Cousin Gabriel has spoken to several of the Jobbers, and he thinks we may succeed in making a beginning with some of them.

We have had some very cold weather lately; much colder than any last winter - it has obliged us to keep up pretty good fires all over the house, and I felt it so seriously that I determined the next winter to be better prepared by setting up one of Doctor Noth's stoves in the Hall.

Your Uncle Washington however who had witnessed their good efforts in his visits among his friends, had no idea of postponing the comfort, so without saying any thing to any of us he ordered one and it is fixed, and it adds greatly to our comfort, the weather however has moderated so that we have not yet proved its good qualities in such weather as we have lately gone through.

In my last I said that I should pay your little sisters a visit at Troy before the river closed - I went up the beginning of December, and had the pleasure of finding them well and met with a very favorable reception from Mrs. Willard - it was really gratifying to find that your little sisters are great favorites with all at the Seminary - Their late letters inform us that they had passed two or three days at Christmas, with a fellow boarder a Miss Douglass at her father's at Waterford - they had likewise paid visits to pretty Phoebe Warren and Miss Puttison and appear to have been much gratified. Master Washburn too, is getting on pleasantly at Mr. Prime's at Long-Ling -

Your Uncle Washington took a fancy that it would be better to have your cousin Helen Dodge this winter at W. J. so I brought her down with me on my return from Troy - on our way down we stopped a couple of days at Pierres at Langerties. The brewing establishment has not done as well this season as the last - the concern was not able to keep the brewer they had he having been under previous engagements - then of course had to get another, and have not been fortunate - the present brewer being much inferior in many respects - this has discouraged Pierre, and they have concluded it advisable to suspend their operations for the present - they have some expectation of getting their former brewer again in the spring when they will determine whether to go on or not.

Edgar and his little wife are in Baltimore - I mentioned in my last that both of them had been attacked by the Cholera there, Edgar slightly, but Amanda very seriously so much so as to render her unable to leave Baltimore until it was too late to attempt a settlement at Langerties. She has since improved however and is I believe quite hearty again - Edgar's furlough has expired, as he was required to report himself at the Navy yard for duty.

In a letter received from him a few days since, he says that he had been to Westminster about settling his accounts, when it was intimated that he might have a month longer leave of absence - I find that he has no intention of doing duty again in the line, and if he cannot get a situation in the Staff of the Corps, he will throw up his commission at the termination of his present furlough. He says that ~~with~~ his wife and all her relations are averse to his continuing, if he is obliged to go to the yard again - Edgar says that the old Colonel has failed much of late - especially since the death of old Mr Robert Oliver of Bathurst - his intimate friend & neighbor - one of the wealthiest merchants of the place - Mr. Oliver died after a weeks illness about Christmas - Col. T. has declined ever since and takes scarcely any nourishment - Edgar says that unless he mends shortly he cannot hold out long.

If you cast your eyes over the papers I send you, you will perhaps notice the vast quantity of real estate which has been bought of late, and is still coming to the "Hammers", and the great prices which houses and lots bring. Your Uncle Hays is building for himself in Eighth Street a little west of Broadway - a wide two story house, that is two windows on one side and one on the other side of the door, and his brother the late Isaac Hays's widow is also building another just similar adjoining - Cornelius Suydam has built and lives in a handsome two story home in the same street, the first door from Broadway and James Suydam is building in Ninth Street immediately in rear of his brother - all these houses are on what is known as the "Sailors King Harbour" - Your Uncle Hays and the Widow determined to sell out in Broad Street and J. P. Bleeker & Sons knocked them down the day before yesterday for \$20,000. and the widow's for \$30,000. We have concluded that the present is a very favorable time to try the value of No. 3, and are of opinion that it will bring a price the interest of which will furnish us with a desirable home elsewhere, and some thing over and above to help support the family. We shall know on the 22<sup>d</sup> instant - that is the day advertised for the sale by J. P. Bleeker & Sons.

I think I mentioned in one of my letters that your cousin Henry Vanhast had located himself in Boston - that

is, he has his office and Pattern room in Doane Street in Boston but he resides in Cambridge having found a ready furnished house there and many of his wife's relatives being residents there. Irving and ~~you~~ ~~his~~ his wife Sue and his sister Julia joined them and they make one family. The arrangement may answer very well in summer but it must be rather inconvenient in winter. Henry and Irving with their wives may tolerate or even be pleased with it, but I doubt whether Julia or Louisa Storrow who is also spending the winter there, can relish it altogether. The distance from the City is about three miles which is rather too great a ride if a cold winters night - they have therefore been obliged to decline the invitations for the little parties for which they received cards of invitation. ✱ - SHR Irving is here at present having come on to meet an additional set of pattern or two - one intended for Boston the other for a travelling set. The latter has arrived but is rather late. Irving had intended to have gone south this winter as far as New Orleans to look up some business - he may possibly go as far as Charleston but it is a little uncertain. Van W. & Hays do not succeed as well in the Sheffield line as I had thought they would. They probably do about as fair a share of the business as they perhaps have a right to expect considering the very great competition that exists in that line. The Birmingham house does well. Their business continues very heavy. Henry told your Uncle Worthington that their comm. account for 1833 (I believe it was) was equal to £10,000. Stk. I am inclined to think that 1834 will have been nearly if not quite as favorable, though the troublesome times of last Spring occasioned the curtailment of orders. The orders that have gone through me for the ~~last~~ last six months have

been numerous, though they may not have been for heavy amount. -  
My advice however from bank and friends are that they have plenty  
to do. Theodore sends you Andrew's last  
work. Pompeii which you will find very interesting. Your Uncle  
Washington has at last prepared something for the press which  
we shall probably get out in the course of six weeks or  
so. It will be a work in a moderate sized volume  
and will be the precursor of others. This one will be relation  
to our own country. The idea that the public are looking for  
some such work has operated against him in that he has de-  
voted him from getting out other matter which he had  
nearly ready. He has found that others are about publishing  
something about towns to the Prairies and the Indians and  
the hunter's life. I am not sorry that it has happened  
for now he will push on and it will prove greatly to  
his benefit.

Jan<sup>y</sup> 17. I see by one friend's long  
bulletin that the Plats is below. We of course hope for  
letters from you by him. I learn that the gentleman  
who does us the favor of taking care of you is a Mr.  
Wm A Sullivan of Boston - the ship is the Ceylon. Theodore  
heard at Mr. Goodhue's coming soon that Mr. Sullivan is  
acquainted with you, having known you in Canton.  
They tried to find him but has not been able.

I have written little or nothing about business in this letter.  
I shall try to close the sales of you with consist<sup>g</sup> of them  
shortly and will then inform you of the result. Do not fail  
to give me some hints, if in your power as to what would  
be to profit in Canton. All well, all said abundantly  
of love with assurances of constant remembrance  
Yours ever affectionately Bea Miller Thos. Irving

the  
for  
in  
months

Mr. William Irving  
care of Russell & Co

Dr. W. A. Sullivan



Camden

Rich. Taylor  
from Charleston

China



Wm. Sullivan  
Rich. Taylor

Chas. Irving  
May 16. 1835  
with copy of C. A. from France