

[illegible]

good in anticipating evil - the prospects of our family have never
to my recollection been any thing like bright, and now youth afraid
I might have been most gloriously wretched and low spirited
in the prospect of poverty and care and trouble - but I shut my eyes
to all that; caught pleasure as it flew and when trouble did come
always found them less than I feared, and somehow or another have
had a pretty pleasant life of it - So take my sage advice, and follow
what I believe to be your nature, and be a laughing instead of a
frowning philosopher - As to prospects of making a fortune here -
it depends altogether upon circumstances - if property rises this
summer we make, if it falls we are in a box - though there cannot
eventually be any loss as there must - by its situation and great natural
advantages be a great place, and the property purchased be worth the
price given - The belief that property will rise in a month or two has
not yet one dissenting voice - Had I but come up here last fall
as Aunt begged me to, I should now be worth at least \$15,000 - the
lot he wished me to buy, and for which it was only necessary to pay
\$500 cash has this thing been sold for \$15,000 and is now sold at
\$2000 - an unvarnished fact - but that don't help the present
though it vexes me more than a little to think what a chance I have
missed - I was on the point of going, but there was a woman in the
case - a spruce - I am glad you were pleased with Mary Rheinlander
though she don't go much for handsome she is a sweet little winning
creature - please explain in your next what you mean by saying that
"I seem to have been a favourite there at one time" Does it imply
that I am not now - thereby hangs a tale which I will unfold to you

But first let me remind you that all my communications are between you and I - and
I suppose they ~~are~~ never went farther - confidence would be lost and I should have
to keep my own counsel which I have been forced to do since poor Jenkins
death - This is the case - I quite took to the laughing eyed Mary - she
I was aware took to me, the intimacy ~~was~~ thickened and grew so hot that I
began to reflect and then remembered that I was engaged - about
a sad dog - you know to whom - I was compelled to cool a little - when
I ruptured my engagement - I continued my friendship for Mary, but
she was not as cordial, and with but what played the Devil was, Mary
Hamilton came to town, I got looking into her deep dark raimed
eyes and in the old way, went to see M - made a visit and flirted
with Mary H. - the other side - of course I had ~~no~~ no designs upon
but she was such a bright, fascinating, little devil that I could not
away - If I could only have talked separately in love with Mr. R. - I
should have been there without doubt - and there was one time when
I felt so internally hot, and every thing around was so confoundedly
black, that if I had felt any confidence in her attachment to me
I would have stuck - There are those that think for ourselves
in this world, and we hear so much more abuse than praise, that it
is really pleasant to be told that such persons like us - so well, my
boy - just cast your eyes and ears about - and tell me exactly how
I stand with Mary Rhine - and her family - had I had
you at my elbow before something might have grown out of it - as
it is there is little or no chance - making love where I don't feel it is
not my lot - as you know, and methinks the time is near at
hand when I can say without much risk I will never marry -
I am glad you are going up to Ferrytown - You will send letter

angelical H - there, or as she is generally called Jackey. She is a glorious
little being, bright and beautiful and knows more than any young ^{girl} I have ever
been smitten with - Talk to her ~~about~~ sentimentally or sensibly, about men
or books and you will find her hard to beat. - as to Mrs B. you know that
she is my dear amie - The world will tell you that they are worldly and
rich - I never found them so. There is a prejudice against them on
account of their father, who I am sure you cannot say much good of, but

W.B.

William Irving Esq

Care of Ebenezer Irving Esq

New York.

N. Y.

you will no doubt agree with me, that the sin of the father should not
be visited upon the children - more especially when they be such sweet-
creatures - Tell me when they go to Europe and give Mary a parting squeeze
of the hand for me - Tell her that I regret that she did not ~~so~~ entirely with draw
her powers as we parted as her friendship has been one of the brightest spots
in my existence, and ~~precious~~ I cannot begin to think upon that deep dark
eye which I have looked into so often, and found nothing but kindness
now obscured by the angry cloud. - I regret that I had to leave
W3266