

Saugerties - Westerlo N. Y. Feby 25. 1834

My Dear Willie,

A letter from Father advises me that a vessel is about sailing for Canton from New York, and I take advantage of my partner's going to down. to send a hasty line to be forwarded with the usual domestic parcel. - As I live in such entire seclusion, I must leave it to Edgar & Theodore, to detail to you the gossip of the day. - They will no doubt give you all the information you can desire about your old acquaintances. - Since I last wrote you, my life has been as monotonous as you can well imagine. a daily walk to the office - an afternoon passed in a similar manner - and a regular letter to my better half in the evening from the history of every day. - I have no amusements but those of a strictly domestic nature - we merge very little - & that ceremoniously with our neighbors - I have no taste for sporting or bristled amusements, sleigh-riding for instance & therefore my home is my only attraction. Luckily I have a tolerable collection of books & I have been able to indulge my tastes of a literary nature. - My business goes on tolerably; its success is not yet entirely certain, owing to our very limited capital - nevertheless, I go on cheerfully and contentedly - firmly persuaded that every thing is truly for the best. - I have at last found out the true secret of human happiness - which is to look upon this world as a state of trial, and to keep my eyes fixed steadfastly on the life to come. I have entertained hopes of borrowing a small sum to enable me to put up a cottage on the bank of the Hudson; but have not succeeded. I live about a mile from the Mewey - back from the river - in a situation very far from answering my ideas of rural beauty - The house too is a lowly affair - However, I must wait until better times come. You have the only chance in the family, & I therefore look to you for a loan in the course of three or four years - Every one here acquainted with your situation, says that you have great opportunities & I trust you will not suffer impatience or weariness to deprive you

of them. A few years will enable you to return - while let pomp
- with enough to make you independent for life - then you can
buy a little country seat near me, and we will get Edgar &
Theodore near us & form a little clan of our own -

My wife & children have been generally well. Little Owen is
becoming a fine fellow - Anna sends her love to you - & hopes that
you will soon make money enough to come home & help us all -
I hear now and then from Edgar & Theodore. The former is still
in the Maine Corps, and as usual depending - He detests the service
and will I believe resign this Spring & again throw himself penniless
upon the world - The old Baltimore Colonel won't allow him to
marry - nor will he do anything for him - I am truly sorry for
him & I wished it were in my power to help him - However, I
have hard work to take care of myself, and Father has his hands
more than full - Uncle Mark, too, has a dozen depending upon him
and can do no more than he has done - In truth, I feel great so-
licitude for him - He is wilful enough you know & when he once
gets a notion in his head, all creation can't get it out - So
behold he must - & then he will be idle for another year - But
I hope for the best, and perhaps I may be able to hear of some-
thing in my neighborhood that will answer for him - He comes
live like a gentleman here upon the income of his lady's prospects
- even allowing it to be put \$20,000 -

Theodore is still, I believe, writing - & is also studying law in
Mr Owen's office - This latter is only of service - as affording him a nom-
inal profession without which no man in our country can be res-
pected - He is much more domestic than he used to be, and is one of
whom we all have great hopes -

Of Sanders we have heard nothing since he sailed in September -
I long to hear from the poor lad - If ever a fellow deserved to get along
he does - for a worthier, better hearted, and more well meaning lad
never lived - May God bless him -

We have heard of your vessel's having passed Angier in Sept - &
looked most anxiously for letters from you - I trust you will never
let an opportunity pass without writing - for we all, and Father
especially, wait with great solicitude for tidings from you - Always
remember our dear Father - his age - & his troubles - Few men
deserved to be helped in his family more - & few have had such
care - Do then, my dear Willie, unite with us in doing all we
can to smooth the declining years of our only parents - A very
short time is yet left to him - let us alleviate the cares that press
upon him -

The Owens & Robinsons are I believe, much as usual - Wm is in
Albany - but I hear not succeeding very well - George is in N.Y. doing nothing -
Mr Robinson engaged to a penniless girl! & Ber. dancing attendance
upon Miss Jones - None of the girls of my family married, nor likely
to be - I am glad to learn from Theodore, that Uncle Mark has
been doing wonders with our girls in Bridge St - They have been much
attended to - are taking lessons in various matters - & promise to be
charming girls - They are already ^a ~~great~~ source of very great
happiness to Father -

I shall send a letter down to N.Y. every few weeks - as
Canton vessels are I think, frequent at this season - I have
only to beg of you in conclusion, that if ^{from} ~~no~~ other reason, you will
for my sake - the sake of a father always peculiarly attached to you,
read the little & proper book I gave you at parting - So now, a small gift
it may have appeared - but if you see them, they will prove a more

mistake present, than mines of gold - You have especial cause for
watchfulness - living in a pagan country - and surrounded by those who
regard nothing but wealth - Remember, always, what I say to you -

"It is not all of death - to die -
An all of life - to live" -

Art a day paper that

I do not earnestly pray for the blessing of God upon you -

Ever yours P. P. J.

William Irving Esq

My Dear Sir

Canton



Wm O Irving
N.Y. 25 1834
N. York, N.Y. Oct 14. 34

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