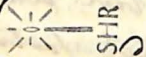


My dear Willie

Longside Oct. 4. 1853.



I have rec^d your of 30th ulto.
Your uncle Wm. left us on Monday on another
trip ~~to~~ the South with his friend John P. Benedict.
He had rec^d a few days before a charming, press
letter from Mr. R. to join him in another jaunt—
among the Mountains of Virginia—~~saying that~~
it was his intention to bond on the carriage
and a couple of saddle horses and flatter
himself that they would have a fine tour
during the delightful October weather. ~~The~~
^{your uncle has} said nothing as to the duration of "little
Kate's" visit at Longside, and as he will
probably be absent three or four weeks,
she will be an inmate with us for some
time at least: it will be as well to send
on the clothes and the school books without
delay. direct the parcel to Edgar. "Sample
Office, Custom house. 10 Broad Street New York".
The Express will then know that it must
be deliv^d? during office hours. drop Edgar a
line at the same time that he may be on
the look out for it. tell him to pay the trans-
portation ~~unless~~ the express require pay in
advance and I will repay him.

The little girl is in fine health and spirits, and
beds completely at home and is the pet of all
in the house. I sent you a letter from her a day
or two since.

You are probably aware
that your uncle W.'s health had not been very
good since his last trip to Saratoga, and his
illings seem to have a depressing effect upon

his spirits, but a change came over him within the last fortnight and he is now quite recovered and in good trim to enjoy his jaunt with Kennedy. Sarah received a pleasant letter from him written at "Living House" N.Y. giving an acc't of his first night.

On applying for a room, he was asked if he had ladies with him, he replied that he was alone, and apprehending that he might be put in some out of the way room, when the register was handed to him for his name, he followed Sarah's advice and wrote it in full "Washington Irving from Ferry side" the consequence was that he was ushered into a first rate room ~~with~~ on the principal floor, with bed room and bathing room adjoining - all the "nigger" waiters were anxious to wait on him, and the chamber maid bustled about to put his rooms in first rate order. He passed the evening at the Opera; on his way to it he strolled into the new and splendid establishment of the St. Nicholas - here he fell in with ~~two~~ our nephew Henry Baldwin of Syracuse, who chaperoned him through the building even into the magnificent "Bridal chamber" which, by the way, he learnt has as yet been occupied but once and then "by a California prince and his bride" - Mr Baldwin accompanied him to the Opera. After enjoying this he repaired rather late to his quarters at the "Irving", and found the proprietor waiting up to send him - He had a good night's rest, and a fine

breakfast the next morning - he wrote open his letter to Sarah which he had written before going to bed, to add a P.S. saying that he had just called at the office of the hotel to pay his bill when the proprietor declined receiving any pay, begging that he might consider him as his guest. Your Uncle demurred to this and insisted on paying but finally gave way telling the landlord that this must be the only instance or he would be very shy of the establishment.

Your Uncle had always been aware of receiving marked attention at inns, and therefore usually wrote his name only "W. Irving" but when travelling last summer with Kennedy the latter always wrote their names in full, which insured them good fare - This Kennedy called "travelling on one's capital."

I have thus given you a good part of his amusing letter.

I had intended passing a week or so with Edgar and taking a good look into the "Crystal Palace" and afterwards, a week or so at Pierre's: but your Uncle's absence will cause me to defer those visits -

Theodore changed his quarters to day, leaving Ferry side for "New Brighton" - he wishes to be nearer to the City - another consideration may be that the fare to and from ~~the latter~~ Pierre's by the way of the quarantine is but 12 pcts while to & from Ferry side is 70 cts?

Theo. is still like Mr Macarthur hoping that "something will turn up" but I believe he has no idea as to what as yet.

Edgar I learn has not been well since his return from the Southey. he has however made out to get to his office daily.

There is much uncertainty as to the result of our State election which takes place early in November

were the whip unittell I think they would
carry the State. There is no likelihood of
a union between the "Hard" and "Soft" among
the Democrats. The latter to be sure have pro-
posed to have swallowed the compromiser
"Niggers" and all: but the Hards have no faith
in them and rather think that the dose sits
so uneasily upon the stomach that they
will spue the whole up again.

With my true love to Sarah

I am thine very dear Willie

Wm. D. Smith



SHR

William Living Sage
Customs Office

Washington, D.C.