

Saugerties. N.Y. March 17. 1834

My Dear Willie,

I was made most truly happy yesterday, by the receipt of your letters from Canton of the 13th by the Thos. Dickson, which were forwarded to me from New York by Father, with yours to him also from Angier. I could have wished some fuller account of your voyage - of your impressions upon your arrival - and some particulars of your manner of living &c - Still I know you are too impatient to be much of a letter writer, and with a mere request that you will hereafter give us more voluminous accounts of yourself, I pass on - I can hardly find words my dear lad to express to you my delight at the strain of your letter. You appear to view matters in the right light. From the representations of all the friends of Rufus who here, we are led to believe that you have been most fortunate in procuring the situation of your fortune - yes a fortune - only depends upon your own activity & steadiness. If I were to write volumes then, I could only reiterate the same thing - Stick manfully to your place - Submit to labor - & privations - and a few years will reward you - Your first aim must be to secure the confidence of your employer - Never neglect your duties - and let nothing lead you to shirk from the conscientious discharge of them. It has given me some little uneasiness to learn that a young man from New York noted for his instability of character, to say the least of him - G. B. - is in your house - I merely advert to it, to put you on your guard. Recollect how much depends upon your adherence to your determination of living steadily for the remainder of your life.

Should you get ahead, it is not impossible but that through you & Sanders some opening may yet be made - & that our family fortunes, now hanging by the eyelids, may be once more recovered. We have heard nothing from Sanders since his departure in

to me - on Father's account - His life has been clouded with much
gloom - and it rejoices me to find that his closing days will
have a little of the Sunshine of a cheerful home thrown upon
them -

I am sorry that George Owen has not yet obtained any sit-
uation - He has been idle now for a year - The rest of the family
are in statu quo - no marrying - no prospect of it - I heard
from Henry Morris lately under date of Nov 3rd 1833 from
Callao - The glorious fellow was hearty & happy

Anna is well - & my children thriving - and as I have
said before amid much care I have many comforts -

I hope you won't think me importunate, if in closing this letter
I again remind you of my promise to me that the Bible & Prayer
book I gave you should not be neglected - You are surrounded
by temptations - by those who in all probability treat the truths
- the awful truths of our holy Religion with ridicule & contempt
- In reply to all the impious railing of Sceptics, I appeal to you
as a dear brother that you will receive my solemn assurances -
of my belief, my firm belief in the truth of the Christian Religion -
You know that I am not easily brassed - and not willing to be the
subject of enthusiasm or cant - I have given time & study
to this examination, and no words could ever express to you my
sense of the importance of a belief in this faith - For my sake
then, read your Bible - yield a ready assent to what you can
not understand, and not as I formerly did, make man's puny
reason the test by which to try divine truths - W3274 a

You will in it find the only thing that can satisfy the
longings of our better nature. When you have once become
convinced of the natural depravity of man's heart / & who in his
sober senses can doubt it / you become sensible of your unworthi-
ness to stand before a God infinitely holy, ~~higher~~, purer. You feel
your inability to amend of yourself, the Bible points to you the
way of life. Jesus Christ, the Almighty Son of God - the Redeemer
By Prayer to God, through his all prevailing intercession, we receive
the help of the Holy Spirit - without which we can do nothing
- by which we can do all things - Do this - & you will
find a peace of mind which passeth understanding - Slight
it - and as true as you now live, you will remember
these words when you come to die & turned your curses
if you had despised by them -

Milie - My dear lad - May God in his infinite
mercy Open your eyes -

Your most affectionate
Papa

P.S. I have opened the seal myself to make
a slight alteration. 1792

603746

New Sp. Irving. Sangre de Cristo
March 17. 1834.
in Italy. recd Oct 14. 34

Mr William Irving

Reverend Rufell King
Canton

