

My dear Kate,

I had expected to return home before this, but am so entangled in engagements that I shall not be able to return before Christmas eve (Friday next). I expect Pierre and Helen will accompany me, and I intend to invite Miss Albroffer & of course Irving Pears to pass Christmas with us. Louisa and Helen and Agnes will of course take their Christmas with us. I trust you will have the room decorated with greens as usual.

I shall have to return to town again for my New Years dinner and to pass a few days with Mr. Ester, after which I hope to settle down again to quiet life at home.

I have been very busy and very dissipated ^{during} ~~last~~ my sojourn in town; at work all the mornings in the library, and prolixity in the evenings. I have

attended any opera. The house is beautiful
the troupe very fair and the audience
very fashionable. Such beautiful young
ladies! but the town is full of them - almost
as beautiful as the young lady I saw in
my dream at the cottage.

Julia is slowly getting her house
in order; but the upper part and the
basement are arranged and in an
most comfortably accommodated. The
house is the perfection of comfort and
convenience - almost equal to the
cottage.

I would write more fully but the
carrage is at the door "so I postpone
all news and gossip until I come
home -

Give my love to all bodies

Your affectionate uncle

Washington Irving

New York, Dec 20- 1847