

Madrid ~~Thursday~~ November 23^d 1843.

My dearest A.

The good *Hibernia* has brought me this morning the latest dates with her usual speed: I have a letter from Bow in Boston to the 1st; one from G.L. at New York, and the third from the pleasant Bryan in the heart of Orange County: The news news however is somewhat scanty - George's letter, the nearest to the spot, being filled with interesting notices of Steamboat operations - he tells me however to my great satisfaction, that you are improving, and as the rest of the family are reported well, I have the most important information from that quarter.

From Mr. Irving I have not heard for several days - in his last letter he mentioned that he began to think of returning - this was on the 10th Nov^r - and I supposed he would set out by this time in order to pass the mountains before the roads are blocked with snow: as he would naturally write me about his movements I began to fear he has had a relapse - Mr. Bresson is expected between the 3rd & 8th December and Bulwer is to arrive on the 15th; so that in the course of next month there will be quite a shower of Ministers.

On Tuesday we had the long announced dinner with her Majesty: the official note was only issued the day before, and as it is quite magnificent with its gilt border, and the stamp of a "kingly crown" for a seal. I have preserved it for your collection of

Curiosities - at half past five, the hour named by the Mayor como Mayor - I called for Albuquerque and M. Caldera in the Diplomatic omnibus, as Mr. Jomiji's carriage is denominated, and we drove to the Palace - several bands were playing before the principal entrance, which magnificent at all times, was dazzling from the number of chandeliers and torches which illuminated it - The alarbarderos were drawn up in the antechambers, and we passed through several saloons and the hall of Ambassadors to the receiving room, where the Ministers of State, and some of the foreign gentlemen were already assembled - Castaños, Calafox, Narvaiz, Orosaga and many other notabilities were among the guests glittering with stars and orders, and covered with ribbons - The Queen, who does not yet practice the royal virtue - punctuality - kept us waiting about half an hour, which I employed in scrutinizing the queer faces & figures around me, and in admiring the splendid vista of 2 or 3 hundred feet towards the dining room, where the distances could be ~~perceived~~ judged of from the long range of chandeliers, which small by degrees and beautifully less, seemed to dwindle away into brilliant stars: As the Queen entered, the band of the alarbarderos struck up a beautiful march, and the gentlemen forming a lane, Her Majesty with Orosaga on one side and the dozen of the diplomats on the other passed through bowing away actively to the right and left: the little Infanta followed, and then some ladies of the Court, and then the menkin generally closed the procession: in this way we proceeded through about twenty magnificent apartments, forming a mile hardly equalled in the world, at least so I was told by those who had been at most of the Courts of Europe - until we arrived at the most brilliant of all where the table was laid - it was very large of course, - here being 50 guests, and the chandeliers were so large and numerous that the lower circles touched and a perfect blaze of light was thrown on everything around. I was seated between Jerminham, the English Charge, and Calafox, who, tho' somewhat broken by age, did credit to his reputation at Saragossa and kept up a stout fight with fork as well as knife, through the whole of the dinner: - the dinner itself - for a royal dinner - was well enough, - the dishes were not very cold, considering they had to travel about a quarter

of a mile and through about fifty hands from the kitchen - and had some flavor, and the wines were respectable. The exquisite part of the entertainment was furnished by the band I have mentioned, - the only one allowed to enter the ~~place~~ palace, - which pian adjoining room gave us in beautiful style, Strauss and Lanner's waltzes until we rose from table - we marched ~~about~~ back in the same order to the porcelain drawing room, where the ceiling alone, an alto relieve of china, cost 3 millions of francs, and where we took coffee and liqueurs. - here the Queen followed by her sister made the tour of the circle, saying a few words to each and receiving the usual compliments. - ~~They~~ ^{they} acquitted themselves with much dignity: I was amused with the little Infanta, a child of eleven years, who, upon my telling her in Spanish that I reported that as a stranger, I could not pay her in her own language the pretty compliments which are so graceful - ducked her little head right royally as she answered, ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~she~~ ^{she} ~~spoke~~ ^{spoke} it remarkably well. The ceremony ended with another procession through the long suite until we approached the apartments which the Queens occupies, at which many bows Her Majesty took leave and vanished with her attendants in a side door: This dinner ended the shows for a time, which had kept us quite

busy for a week previous: nearly every day in uniform. I suppose they will begin again in December when the fetes are to take place on the 1st, 2^d. & 3^d. - The old grandees are very much scandalized at the violation of etiquette, of which Orosaga is guilty in giving his arm to the Queen, an unheard-of familiarity at the Spanish Court: The dinner itself is another sign of the evil days of democracy which are coming on, since up to the death of Ferdinand such an event had never been known.

My attaché, W. Lasher Livingston is with me a great deal. He has an extraordinary knowledge of the language, which he acquired from books and professors, and which is the only thing connected with Spain he admires - Yesterday. I had a pleasant triangular dinner with him and Albuquerque, at which we could talk over the United States and compare notes at different periods - Mrs Solermerborn, whom I met last summer at Canterbury, is on his way here from Cadix - (I live in hope he may be stopped and turned back on the road), and another American, W. Morris, nephew

and attaché to your friend W. Sumner at Vienna.

In the letters by a former steamer, I had notice of the race between the Pomaton and the Western - nothing however has been mentioned about the result in the last - as no ~~report~~^{account} appeared in the English papers, I thought it likely the Yankee ship had the best of it, which was confirmed recently by an extract in *Galignani* from an American paper with a short account of the race. The propeller is now, I suppose in great favor - The Bridgport business seems from

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Miss Anglica Hamilton.

New

Westchester County
New York



1843
June 23

George's letter to be very successful - I confess I have no great faith in close coope-
rations with us: the cry of "the monopoly" is as formidable as that of "bad dog";
with this important difference that instead of from; every body runs against it.

From all quarters I hear of cold weather - Bow writes of red roses
from Boston; it snows in Paris, and at Pau Carroll Livingston says it is bitterly
cold: - here we have enjoyed delightful weather and the brightest sun; and until
within a very few nights the leaves were green on the trees; today and yesterday they
were naked branches, and the Guaderamas are white with snow; signs that the
winter is at last travelling this way too. - I hope we shall shew this the next
in company - Adieu - Your affectionate A.H.

[H900]