

Dead end June 13. 1864

My dear Charlie,

I have just received your letter of April 28/62. It has been rather long on the way but it gives me the earliest particulars about your cousin Julia's ball, about which I have been dying to have intelligence. How and with what Charles! what an effort you and Julia and many must have produced with your new dresses! I have been trying, with might and main, to decipher the name of the white dress which you wore, and which your friend Helen Jones sent you from Paris. At length I make it out to be a white taclatan, which sounds like something quite out of the common run. Something I suppose of the Santalum order - and then the small blue dots in it! - Oh Charlie! you must have "looked ~~down~~ sweet!" As to my dear Julia, with her white dress trimmed with white ribbon, and with white flowers in her hair she must have been a perfect "lily of the valley," which went beside her, with pink flowers up the front of her dress, and pink flowers in her hair, was the "Rose of Sharon" outright. - You may well

rich I had been there - Jupiter! how I should have
strutted into the ball room, with my three misses hanging
on my arm, booming from the bosom of every side!

Give my love to my dear Julie and Mary and tell
them I thank them a thousand times for representing
both sunny side as well on this momentous occasion -
but don't tell them, what I mean for your private ear ~~that~~
that, however fine they may have appeared, I rather think the
taclatou must have carried the day.

What a gay summer you will have at the Cottage
with the Emmells on one side and Mr Monteverde's family
on the other. And then the return of my young friend
Alexander Hamilton will enliven his household and add
to the gaiety of the neighborhood - what pic nics you will
have! I feel quite homesick at the thoughts of it.

I am quite indignant at what you tell me of
Mr Capcut, the laird of the Tompkins willie shutting
up his garden and his daughters with a high board
fence. I hope there will be found peacocks sufficiently

adventurous to scale the fence and carry off both
demonsons and demsels.

I have nothing new to tell you about Madrid;
the Queen & the Queen's mother and the Queen's sister ~~and~~
have gone to Barcelona; the palace is deserted and
almost all the Diplomatic Corps have followed the Court.
I shall set off in a few days, for the same place, in
company with Mr Alluguerre the Brazilian Minister
& Mr Dillberg the Danish Charge d'affaires. Two other gentle-
men of the Diplomatic Corps will precede us about three or
four days, and will endeavor to procure a house in which
we can all be accommodated and keep bachelor hall ~~and~~
during the time we may have to remain there. When
around them I may be able to furnish some further
diplomatic intelligence for the Cottage; especially about
the movements of the Turkish Ambassador, who has recently
arrived there, and who is the wonder and talk of all
the fashionable world especially of the ladies. I have
no great opinion of him, however, as I understand he wears
no turban, but dresses in the European style, talks French
and looks like any other diplomatic gentleman. ^a
tink without his robes is like a monkey without his ^{patches;} ~~tailcoat~~
with the disadvantage of not being worth roasting.

Farewell my dear Charlie - let me hear about all your
summer gaieties; whether you have any pic-nics or fairs,
any musical parties - any dances, or other pleasures - may you
have many times, and frequent occasions to figure in the
tactician.

Your affectionate uncle
Washington Irving

Miss Charlotte Irving

Sunny Side Cottage

Near Ferrytown

Westchester County

N York



Perbury Packet

to W. York.

Yours truly
John May Jr.