

Barcelona July 11 1844

My dear Kate,

I have been a long time your debtor for a most affectionate and acceptable letter; but I know you will not take my long delay unkindly; knowing how many I have to write to. But I consider ^{my} the long letters to your Aunt as a most interesting to the cottage to keep you all informed of my movements.

Sarah Storm has just forwarded to me a letter which she had received from her mother written about the 11th of June, shortly after her arrival at the cottage. It is written with her usual freshness of feeling and gives a delightful picture of dear little Susan's life. It is most gratifying to see how your Aunt retains her capability to enjoy every thing that is beautiful and agreeable in nature, and what pleasure she derives from the rural objects which surround the cottage. She speaks too with much feeling of the affectionate reception she experienced on arriving at the cottage, and of the kind attention she receives from you all. But I was sure it would be so. I know your affectionate natures; and that you will do every thing in your power to make her residence among you comfortable and cheerful; that you will be, in fact, daughters to

her now that her own daughter is far away. One great
object that I had in building this house, was, that it should
afford her a pleasant summer retreat, instead of being
obliged to ask me about the country: and it is a great
source of gratification to me to find she continues to delight
in it. I could be my representative among you, and
as much, independent of her own desires, I recommend
her to that loving kindness which I hope, at some future
day, to receive ^{on my own person} at your hands.

I cannot conceive any more pleasant addition to the
advantages of the City than that of having Julia Grinnell
and her family at her brother's house. It gives you the variety
of social visiting, with the ease and privacy of the domestic
circle. When the Grinnell family moves up your little
neighborhood will be complete. I can fancy now how these
paths which I said are not well worn by constant
intercourse, and will be padded by the little feet of
the magnanimous Bulbo and his sisters. - Well - well -
I hope one of these days to be once more among you all
in my sweet, quiet little home with two or three genera-
tions of nieces and nephews swarming around me.

In a long letter written a few days since to your aunt, I
gave an account of my arrival at Nassau; and of the
first few days of my residence in this beautiful city. I continue
to be greatly pleased with it. The city is for the most part

old and grand and picturesque; but there is a large
part of it new and spacious and elegant, built in the
Italian style. Indeed the place often reminds me of Italy.
It has the same pure atmosphere, bright sunshine and
delightful climate. The harbor is like an Italian harbor
with a long mole with a light house at the end; incli-
ning and sheltering the picturesque ^{latterly regis-} shipping of the
Mediterranean. And then beyond is the broad, blue
sea, with white sails just gleaming on the horizon.

July 13. Since writing the foregoing I have received letters from
your aunt and from Helen Peire, giving me more news from
blessed little Sunnyside; and of the stirring time which you
all had in preparing Julia Grinnell's house for her reception.

I have also received a despatch from Government by which
said the President has granted me a leave of absence from my
post for two months. I shall profit by it to postpone my
return to Madrid until after the summer heats are over,
and shall make an incursion into France and visit Sarah
at Versailles. I count upon this tour for my complete
re-establishment in my usual state of health; and think
by next autumn I shall be in first rate condition.

I have to conclude this letter of a sudden,
not "because the carriage is at the door" as you once
plead in excuse; but because I have to hurry it into
a parcel with others, to go off by the French Automobile
courier. So fare you my dear Kate, Give

my love to all at home, and to the friends
near as the farthest

Your affectionate uncle

Wadsworth Irving

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Westchester County

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for Miss C. Irving

