

Washington Sunday Feb. 5th 1853.

My dear Pease



I am making a longer sojourn in Washington than I had intended, but it takes time to make the necessary researches in the archives of State, especially as I am continually interrupted by the claims of society, which in Washington are overwhelming. I cannot say that I find much that is new among the lists of Washington, Sparks having published the most interesting; but it is important to get facts from the fountain head, not at second hand, through his publications. I have made one visit to Manual Warren since I have been here, and shall probably make another; having been invited by the proprietors. We Augustine Washington to make one of a day or two. I mean also to visit do the Custis at Arlington who has many personal recollections of

Washington which he is fond of relating.

If I had nothing to do but amuse myself I should find Washington a most agreeable place, abounding as it does with interesting persons, and intellectual resorts, but at present I am anxious to achieve the purpose of my visit, and return home, and am continually struggling against the current of dissipation; but struggling in vain.

The evening parties I contrive as a great measure to keep clear of - but there is no escaping the huge dinner parties; and I stand engaged for a succession of these for more than a week ahead.

I have met with two friends of Helen, Mrs Eames and her sister Miss Campbell, who are most enthusiastic in their praises of her; and have so won my heart thereby that I have promised to attend Mrs Eames

to see this evening - and shall keep my promise, if the weather, which is now raining Cats and dogs, will permit me; or if I am not prevented by a cold which I have taken in this soft, damp, & thawing season and which has kept me coughing and sneezing for the last day or two.

Herion Paulding arrived here a few days since to take command of the Navy Yard at this place. It is an excellent command, and will prove a more advantageous one to him than that at New York, of which he was desirous.

I am to dine in company with him on Friday next at Mr Parker Stockton, with whom he is a guest. He appears to be much pleased with his appointment, and I hear that Mr Kennedy is disposed to do every thing in his power to render the station agreeable to him. The worthy Captain has just set up his carriage

and pressed me to make use of it, intimating that
it was rather a stylish one; but as I had the
use of my friend Kennedy's carriage beside any
quantity of omnibuses, I declined his offer. I
was glad, however, to see the good fellow sitting
up his money so cheerily.

I hope Helen will go over to the cottage.
It is a continual draw back on my enjoyment
here to be so long absent from home, in this dull
season of the year; but it will not do for me to
hurry away and leave unfinished the task I
have undertaken. I depend upon Helen and
Eugene to brighten the little household at sunny side
by occasional sojourns of a few days at a time
and on my return home I will kill a fatted
pig and have a grand barbecue.

With love to Helen



SHR

Your affectionate uncle
Washington Irving