Ellicotts Mills. Oct 3. 1853

My dear Kate,

SHR

My letter to Sarah gave the history of my adventures until my departure from New York. The journey to Baltimore was rather a lonely one, though I was continually among crowds. I did not see a single person that I knew or felt a disposition to know, and none that whom I could weave an imaginary story. The latter part of the journey was made in the cars and by the time we arrived in Baltimore the evening had set in murky and dismal. As ill luck would have it my trunk and bag were so far inside of the baggage car that by the time they were extricated it was too late to get to the Cumberland cars by which I was to be transported to Ellicotts mills; for was there any packing coach

at hand to take me to a hotel; so I had a tramp through rain and mud and mire of a mile and half to Barnums Hotel; having subsidised two boys to carry my luggage. At Barnums, having written out my name in full, according to Sarahs knowing advice, I was accommodated with an excellent room: passed a comfortable night, and the next morning (Sunday) set off in the cars about 8 o'clock - before 9 I was at Ellicotts mills, and then ten minutes walk took me to Mr Grays, where I was most cordially welcomed by the whole household - They had sent the carriage to the station for me the preceding evening - but as I did not come - they supposed the weather had prevented me - not knowing that when once under way, I allow nothing to stop me or turn me aside

I arrived in time to drive to church with Mrs Kennedy and Miss Gray - and afterwards passed the rest of the day very cheerily with the family.

This morning (Monday) I have taken a beautiful ride on horseback with Mrs Kennedy; through fine forest scenery, and along wild brooks and dells. The weather is perfect and the country looking magnificent, with the first light touch of Autumnal frost. This afternoon Mrs Andrews is coming out to pass a few days at Mr Grays and perhaps Mary Delaney so that we shall have a lively household

Mr Gray and the Kennedys have made the kindest inquiries after you all and have repeatedly expressed their pleasure they had on their visit to Annapolis.

We shall not probably set off for Virginia for several days, as most of the Andrews

1853

Kennedys family & when we shall make
our first halt, are about of a wedding
I am well content to remain a little time
at Elliotts mills, under the hospitable roof of
my worthy friend Mr Gray. He's a happy
establishment and surrounded by a beautiful
country.

I expect frequent letters from the
household. You must take turns. letting me
all about
know all that is going on - and the
new horse.

Give my love to all bodies and forget not
little Kate and Nancy Ann.

Your affectionate uncle
Washington Irving

SHR

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