

New York March 30th 1835-

My Dear Will,



Father has just received a letter from Mr Goddard of Boston to say that, a vessel will shortly sail from thence to Canton - so I hasten to write you by this days mail to make ~~sure~~ sure of something - I will send another letter before the departure of the ship - Thank you Will, for your letter per Emily Taylor - It really did my heart good, for it was written in better spirits than any previous and when I get one of your responding letters my heart goes down below zero for a week afterwards - You find Janet with me for showing your letters - I tell you candidly that none have been seen save some of the first and those I only submitted to Uncle as he was so very anxious to hear from you and I felt assured there was nothing in them ~~you need~~ that would act to your advantage - But as in your subsequent letters you enjoined upon me not to show them I did not - I now in sober seriousness promise that no eye shall peruse your letters to me but my own - so don't write to me as if the whole family were looking over your shoulder - the moment we inspect that our letters are to be public property it destroys the whole pleasure of correspondence so I repeat when you talk to me don't think the whole concern at home are listening

at the key hole - 9-11; so long since I have had an opportunity of visiting that
I have been able to begin - I once seriously determined to keep a visit - of
journal for you, but I was so busied with my prodigious book - leaving
you in the land from morning till night - that when I had any leisure you
can easily imagine I did not care about employing it with the pen -
you - Should you in time be able to capture the reading of the

"Conquest of Florida" you will be able to conceive that it was something of a
task - especially as it was entirely written over the second time - But that
read it will imagine the labor of it - reading through all Spanish times
knowing nice bits so as to make them striking, collecting different
authorities - then the reasoning of deeply speculation - then! when I
look back I do lift up my hands in astonishment; how such a wayward
mortal as myself could have stuck to it as I did - thank the Lord
it is complete. I have taken a farewell embrace of this first-handling of
my needle, turned her loose upon the world! but like ^{my} ~~the~~ parents that
~~know~~ took their children and of her, I feel considerably obliged
for her welfare and am bustling with much anxiety lest she fall in with
those bad wiles the Cuckoo, who are the bane of unpledged authors -
In plain English "My Book" is in press and will be brought forth
in about a fortnight - you must have with me while, in talking to me
about myself - for it is the turning of the die with me and my whole future

Florida - as it is Friday I am forced to come out in my own name and am
thereby deprived of even the shadow of a shelter - But enough of this -

 I must now look back and remember me of the occurrences of months that are
gone - well - you must turn that Mrs. Bygones was bid to wait to me Mrs. Bygones
upon which occasion she gave a party and all so I turned out - to go to it -
and a right merry time we had. She changed collection perhaps you ever
saw - a very sweet many pretty faces - probably more than you see among the
Fashionables, but then they all were that forgetful with the guest
and something which you generally find in good society - there was a mis-
deal of putting and laughing and loud laughing and all that - but nevertheless -
I never derived more merrily in my life - indeed made her friends -
- because since her return and had a measure with one Mrs. Lamb and
the Revell of her name is dear - the eldest sister is married - the second
whom you used to admire was not there, but I smiled her once pointed
her out to me in the street and I thought her pretty - there was a Mrs.
Rhodes then, the one I understood that young Bygones wanted to marry
you to - she was a beautiful creature - her eyes - her mouth - all her
features were so perfectly changed as it is impossible to conceive - and her beauty,
youth, soft, and sweet, like a shadow to me 'I gazed and gazed'
and then - I took a step of lunch with Jane Moore and then - I returned
and gazed again - I looked upon her hand - but thereby hangs a tale
I mean tale - but suppose I meant to be indecent - the tale was this -

"do you see that little man" said a youth ~~born~~ by the name of Winters, who
claimed to be an old school fellow of mine though I do not recollect him.
"which one" said I - "There that one dancing with miss Rhodes - there now
he is cropping me and dancing like a house a fire - not that one that is jumping
up and apparently trying to touch the ceiling with his head, that is Mr
James Scumager Scott - Mr Hypslop head clerk - But that little red faced fellow
with sandy locks and fuzzy whiskers with about as much ~~exp~~ expression as
a Spanish Porcupine -" "yes I see him" said I - "what of him" - well he is en-
gaged to that bean type creature" "Bah - the devil he!" exclaimed I, with
a sort of feeling of disgust - "heigh ho! there is no accounting for the capricious
taste of womankind - Nothing surprises me any more in that line, after the
engagement of Maria Paulding and Fred P. - Maria was engaged to
a young fellow by the name of Merritt, young, good looking, then to be sure a
clerk but since gone into business for himself - Fred hearing that she was
engaged confessed to his mother that he had long been attached to her - The mother
in hopes of reforming him represented his attachment to Maria - The latter gave
young Merritt his walking ticket, and agreed to take Fred after some years
probation - You probably may recollect Fred's attractions - He is an
overgrown, red faced bloated looking fellow - of low tastes who has kept
low company and drank and whored from youth upward - whereby there is the
maiden tempted to sell herself - he has money - Gold - Silver - ah it

is truly a spell of potent power when it can cause a maiden to break her
vows, to discard a youth of worth and principle, for an abandoned unpur-
sued profligate - perchance marriage may reform - if it do not she will pay
a pretty ~~price~~ ^{high} interest - in his money -  I meet frequently
in Broadway with your old flame Miss Austin - she has grown pretty & large
but has a sweet swelling voluptuous form such as would quicken the pulse
of an Anchoret.

The girls that I most affect - now are Emily Ogden
who I place very nearly at the head of the list - & Elizabeth and Anne Scher-
meisen - I walk in the afternoons in the Battery with them or rather I intend
to, for we have scarce had pleasant weather yet - those unpounded east-
winds hang on like vengeance - but a fortnight hence it will doubtless be lovely -
I shall think of you in my afternoon strolls and of the past days when we used
to wander here together - I suppose this will be the first news you will have

of Sanders return - he arrived at Boston about three weeks since - looking
very much the same as when he left - but a little darker - he is now on a
visit to Troy to see Mary and Iul - Father is making an arrangement

which of course he will tell you all about - a Mr - I never can remember
names - but I believe it is a Mr Embury - Sanders and himself are to commence
the Auction and Commission business under the firm of Irving, Embury & Co - They will
turn their attention chiefly to the sales of Real Estate which of late has become

an immense business - The Bleekers have made a fortune by it - This Mr Smiley
already commands considerable business and is very sanguine of their doing much.
He talks of ten thousand the first year - at any rate it will be an opening
in London, much better than wandering about the world and coming back
as poor as when he started - but my great hope is that it will enable
father to give up the detested agency - Should it succeed father is
fully determined ~~to~~ to throw up the agency and devote all his time to
the other - Sanders in time will be able to take the labouring oar and
father ~~will~~ have ^{leisure} to amuse himself and take his ease in his old
age - My ardent wishes prompt the hope and from hope springs
the dream which perchance may vanish like many others of days
that are gone -

Peri you may have heard before - has retired from the Brewery and
is preparing to wear the robes of a priest - left not up their eyes
and hands in wonderment - such is life - extremes lead to extremes -
Doubtless he will be a popular preacher - he has talent, or scarce
article in the pulpit just now - he will probably remain at ~~home~~
Sanger's during the summer to study and take over next spring -
~~Anna~~ Anna and the children are coming down in a week - as they
will stay at Quers it will be rather awkward for me to go and see them
there - as I go no more to the Quers - the why and the wherefore is

being exceedingly busy - the weather being intolerably cold I did not go up there for
the space of three weeks - when I did go they treated me coldly and Mr Irving
me and I endeavored to get over that - went a week afterwards - as distant if
not more so than ever - I got through dinner without saying much and
then left the house and said to myself catch me here again in a hurry -
and I have not been there now for more than two months - Of
people that I have known so long and so intimately, can for some ~~now~~
~~ment~~ ^{short} require, treat me in this absurd manner, why I should grieve much
for the loss of the acquaintance - When I meet any of the clan they greet by
in the most stately manner and give me one of those haughty & salutations
which from much practice they toward others they can so readily assume -
I rap them with the politest bow imaginable - the breach of course ~~is~~
widens with time and it has gone so far that we can never again be as
intimate as formerly - so much for that friendship - George is the
same as ever we walk together and he frequently asks me to dine but I am
always engaged - I believe I mentioned in my last that he was a
clerk in the N. S. Branch Bank -

Kate and Sarah Paris are on a visit to Baltimore and from letters
that they have written home enjoying themselves much - Kate has improved
in appearance and is a sweet looking creature - she wants animation but
I think she improves in that respect - and Jo late has quite taken to talking

There is one thing which she keeps on, which can never be acquired and that is
her alertness - her perfect freedom from ~~affection~~ affectation - she says what
she thinks and feels - her simplicity is inherent - and I do not fear that the
arts and affectation of society can ever obliterate it - our fair cousin S - is a
striking example to the contrary - her pretty lace has been her bane - as a simple
country girl she was interesting - ~~as a~~ but wisdom and affectation set not work
upon her - ~~a little~~ a little heart would be worth it all - Sarah^h is also
improving - ~~and so~~ I go with her to Troy in about a fortnight to see
the girls - I may stay there a week - there is one little Phoebe Warren a
sweet creature and great friend of Sarah's for whom I fancy I have a
speaking kindness and that may hold me there - The first number
of under new work will I think be out - tomorrow if so I will send you
a copy - it is called a "Tour on the Prairies" the subject is one he did not
care to write upon but was compelled to - he has made all he could of it
it will not lack in my opinion as well as his other things - But the
second number which will follow in about three weeks will be a decided
hit - It will contain anecdotes of - Walter Scott and Abbott Ford - and of -
Lord Byron and Henshead Abbey - I was delighted with it - but
I must now take my leave dear Will - I will lose no opportunity to
write to you - vessels will be sailing from here shortly - I have written
in such a scrawling hasty manner that you will have some difficulty
to read it - Goodbye my dear fellow ever Wm. Thos