

My dear Willie

Sunnyside, Sunday May 15. 1853

I wrote to you last Sunday and this is my fourth since I received your letter. The discharge of so many duties in your office has no doubt added to your labours, which can hardly be lightened by the recent order said to have been issued by the "Sec. of the Postoffice" that those clerks in his department should begin work half an hour earlier and continue an hour longer than heretofore; there is therefore little chance now of hearing from you at all, for under the old regime you could scarcely find time for half a line. Still, hoping for the best I will drop a few lines more.

When I was in the city a few days before I wrote my last, I learnt from Edgar that he had heard from his brother in law Mr. Gittings of Baltimore to whom he had written, being a little apprehensive that the change in the N.Y. Collectorship might bring forth aspirants for the place he holds. Gittings answered that if there should appear to be any probability of his being removed, both he and Mr. Nelson (another brother in law and formerly U.S. Agent under Pres. Tyler) would go to Wash. and see the Sec. of the Treasury. I was in the city again last Thursday (13th) and while in Edgar's office, he received a letter from Gittings written the day before (12th) in which he says that he had been to Washington, and had seen the Secretary. The latter said that he was unwilling to interfere with the Collector's arrangements, and under the circumstances which Mr. Gittings stated he thought that Edgar had nothing to apprehend. Mr. Gittings states that while with the Secretary, the

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President came in to speak to the Secretary about you, supposing that you were in the treasury department but he was just right as to that - this is all the letter states as to yourself - it would appear from Mr. G's letter that the President agreed with the Secretary as to interfering with the Collector and the little probability of a removal. Gittings tells Edgar, if any attempt of the kind should appear, to let him know of it, and he and Mr. Nelson will attend to it.

Your uncle Washington wrote to Judge Benson about the time he entered upon his duties as Collector, in Edgar's favor, so upon the whole I conclude that he is in no danger. Mr. Gittings says that your uncle's letter to the President (I presume the one he wrote when in Washington) had great weight with him.

I mentioned the above to Theodore as we were returning in the cars to Sunnyside and he spoke of it to your uncle; this brought an inquiry from the latter, and I then learnt from him that the letter to the President spoken of in my last, instead of being about Col. Aspinwall's, or P.M. S's affairs as I conjectured, was a friendly letter to him, with a view to your benefit - ~~he~~ expressing his gratification with the general course the President had pursued, and acknowledging the pleasure he felt on learning that you had been retained through his kindness, assuring him at the same time that he would not have written in your behalf, were he not

satisfied that you had acquitted yourself with credit in the Census office, and were he not well acquainted with your abilities. I think it more than probable that it was this last letter that brought the President to the Treasury office, and it may be the one to which Mr. Gittings alludes. I think that your chances for a more profitable situation are improving. I was of course exceedingly gratified on finding you were so much interested in your welfare.

Catharine and Sarah went to the City on Friday and returning in the afternoon brought with them your brother Pierre's daughter Harriet to pass a few days.

Some of Mr. Routh's family are about sailing on a visit to England and are desirous of a glimpse of Sunnyside before they go; we shall therefore have a sight of the new connections that are to be. Anna and her beau young Routh, with three of his sisters are to be up tomorrow for the day. They will be pleased with Sunnyside, for the lawn is green, leaves and blossoms are pushing out, the beautified young leaves of the ivy are making their appearance and even the tardy trumpet creeper is showing signs of life, while the front of the porch is wound with the drooping flowers of the Wistaria, looking like a young beauty with her face half concealed by a

profusion of beautified ringlets.

Amanda and her young ones left for Baltimore on ~~Friday~~ Thursday, a niece, a grown daughter of Mr. Gittings in company - the party was escorted by Edgar's son Washie, who, by the way, bids fair to make a large man, if not a great one - he has grown rapidly, and is now some inches taller than his father, and is otherwise much improved.

I received a kind letter a few days since from your sister Charlie and conveying a pressing invitation to make her a visit next month, when she says I will find Ingleside abounding in roses in all their beauty; that I can make the trip now by the rail roads in a few hours - it is possible I may take advantage of Theodore's return to Geneva about the middle of the month, when his vacation commences; he would see me safe to Cayuga bridge; I will think of it.

I said in my letter transmitting the applications for the land warrants that I hoped they would be found "O. K." as a certain celebrated general is said to have expressed himself, and presume such to be the case as they have not been returned for amendment.

My best, true love to Sarah and the flock - say to little Kate, I hope she has not forgotten me
thine very dear Willie affectionately.

Thos. Irving

