

Copy of a letter from Washington Irving to
Henry Brevoort Esq. dated at the Alhambra, Granada.
23rd May. 1829.

My dear Brevoort. I have this morning received your most
welcome letter of the 30th March, which you forwarded to my
brother Peter. You see I am still lingering in Spain, and
I declare to you. I feel so much interested by this noble coun-
try and noble people, that though I have from time to time
made resolutions and preparations to leave them, I have as often
postponed my departure. By the date of my letter, you will
perceive I am royally quartered. I came to Granada
about three weeks since, to pass a little time here during
the finest season of the year, in company with a young Rus-
sian Prince, the Secretary of the Russian Legation, and the
Governor of the Alhambra finding us poorly lodged in the
town, gave us permission to take up our residence in a
corner of the old Moorish palace which had been assigned
to him for his quarters, but which he had not taken

possession of. Here then I am, nestled in one of the most
remarkable, romantic and delicious spots in the world.

I have the complete range and I may say control of
the whole palace, for the only residents beside myself are
a worthy old woman, her niece & nephew, who have
charge of the building, and who make my bed, cook my
meals, and are all kindness and devotion to me. I
breakfast in the saloon of the ambassadors, or among the flowers

and fountain in the court garden, and when I am not occupied with my pen, I lounge with my book about the oriental apartments or stroll about the courts and gardens and areales by day or night, with no one to interrupt me. ~~At~~ ^{At} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~statute~~ ^{statute}, I heard to me like a beard: or as if I saw the sound in some fairy palace.

The very evening of my removal to the Alhambra, my nephew Edgar driving, a midnightman of the Navy, made his sudden appearance here to my great gratification. He will probably read New York much about the same time with this letter and will be able to give you some account of me. He remained with me about four days, and then I started him off to make a little tour through the mountains and to Cordova, whence he is to embark for home at Gibraltar. I cannot tell you how far trying it was for me to meet with one of my own flesh & blood after so long a separation. What I feel in a garret place I should have been tempted to detain him longer: but I could not expect him to have the same fondness for a mere fortitude that I have. He once took his departure the day preceding that of my nephew, and since they have both gone

I have remained completely shut up within the walls of the ~~old~~ ^{old} ~~place~~ ^{place}. I shall be tempted to remain here for three or four weeks longer at least. I wish to enjoy the delights of this place during the hot weather, and to have a complete idea how those knowing Romans enjoyed them before in their marble halls, cooled by fountain and burning steamed.

I thank you for the information you give me concerning

the publication of my work. I am not very that the publication of the second edition of Columbus is retarded, as I have to make a few alterations and corrections. In consequence of having just received Mr. Harvett's third volume of documents, containing some relation to Columbus. For the same reason I am withholding the abridgement which we had back. If there is any particular reason, however for hastening the publication of the latter, let it take place, as the corrected volumes are very materials.

During my abode in the Alhambra I shall have been and quiet to look over my manuscripts, and to get them in order so as to present some other work to the public before long. I shall also note down the corrections to be made in the History of Columbus. I mention these things to you because I consider it the same as mentioning them to my brother C. J. and I don't whether I shall have time to write to him by this post.

Am particularly concerned concerning one ancient crown which is peculiarly gratifying to me, indeed. My dear fellow, you cannot imagine how I sit on the remembrance of old friends

and old times. I have looked heartily at you account of that husband with worthy Jack Nicklar. Give my hearty remembrance to him, and tell him I set as much store by him as ever notwithstanding he does not write me any more letters. I am rejoiced to hear that your present is at length come up to parade in the political wheel. What a whirling world we live in! — and then to have Harry Spenser for his faithful guide! I think if a hitful Jack Nicklar had not lived in these juggling times. He would have had the rotting of the cockle-shell —

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your account of yourself is particularly encouraging - "that you
might hope yourself off for a fresh bachelor of 35." God bless you! who
knows but I may be the same. though I must confess I think
I am beginning to wear out, as doth a servant, and am like
Jack Nickleby, gradually increasing in the debt. However I
begin to grow bolder & thank myself in the matter, and have for
some time past given up all gallantry, as a declared ~~wholly~~
an absolute old bachelor.

HE 3066A
You seem to be all making mad in New York. I am afraid our
good city is in a bad way as to both morals and amusements. What the
cited of the old world take moderately and cautiously, the good part
ing ~~Shakespeare~~. I must say, all this rioting and dancing at the
theatres, with public madmen and very night in the week has a
tennally, low lived, depraved, vulgar look. We are too apt to take
our ideas of English high life. from such vulgar sources as you may
and we appear to be down & getting up to perfection in New York.
Give my kindest remembrance to your good father and to
all the Remond family. It gives me sincere delight to hear
that Mrs R. enjoys such good health & good spirits. My dear Mr.
West, the happiest day of my life will be when I once more find
myself among you all. We will then talk over old times, and
vacant as much of our old fears and old prejudices as ever did Martha

Marion and Pat-Jack. I have got so entangled, however, in li-
tary undertakings here in Europe that I cannot break away
without interrupting all my schemes, and occupying thoughts with
a little time, patience and perseverance will enable me to realize
and which I shall well deserve me a moderate independence for
the remainder of my existence. This alone keeps me from im-
mediately returning. My dearest affection are entirely centered
in my country.

Yours affectionate friend

(Signed) Washington Irving

^{Copy}
Letter from Washington Irving to Henry
Prevost Junr. Esq. Dated Alhambra
Granada. May 1829.

Ex coll. E. d. P. I