

Sunny Side, Livingston, Westch Co! Nov. 8. 1857.

My dear Kate



I have already acknowledged your last letter of Sept 21 and have been longing for another; I hope that it will come along without much more delay. Your Aunt Catharine returned from your Aunt Charlotte's home after I wrote, and your Aunt Julia took the opportunity of Col. Morgan's return, to rejoin your Aunt Charlotte; the health of the latter continues to improve slowly and her strength is gradually increasing; the changeable weather however, operates against her and her children.

We have lately had a very pleasant visit at Sunny Side from your cousins James Dodge and his wife Susan, of whom you have probably heard very little. James D. is one of the sons of my eldest sister long since passed from time: in early life he started for the South to seek his fortune; after ~~try~~ trying his luck in Virginia, he brought up in North Carolina: then he fell in with, and married a charming girl, Susan Williams, whose connections were, and are highly respectable and wealthy; her late father was for many years a member of Congress from North Carolina. After the wedding they came on their bridal journey, with Susan's sister Rebecca, to New York and were for some days with us at my former home in Bridge Street in that City: both Susan and her sister have often referred with great pleasure to that visit: many years have passed since and their children are all grown up. James' only son, Richard,

each other for better or worse for life: the wedding however may not take
place until some time in the next Spring. Richard's parents are well pleased
with the match and may well be the father in a most charming girl, so
he will get a fine wedding party.
James Dodge and his wife
are at present in the city (N.Y.) when they will pass a few days and
then proceed towards their home on the banks of the "Hudson" in
the upper part of North Carolina, where a large part of the Williams
estate has fallen to them. They will provide themselves by land and
will probably stop a few days in Washington and may make a call
upon your good mother: and if you have the opportunity, you
will of course pay them attention and show them the best house
of Washington. Your mother and yourself will find them both amiable
and agreeable.
A few days after I wrote my last, I
started ~~intending~~ for the city, intending to take advantage of the
mild weather to make a week's visit to your kind Sigsbee's there, then
another to your kind Parris, and then another to your kind Mother's
in Western Springs: but I altered my plan and went first to "New Brighton":

now ~~it~~ difficult to manage them the first attack: in fact I felt so much
"under the weather" that I deemed it prudent to remain ~~without~~ away to
Hampton. Fred's health was very kind and attractive and he was safe
to the city and to the cars at Chambers Street, and then reached
dinner before dinner. I am quite recovered again, but ~~have~~ not yet
organised the same degree of thought that I could boast of upon the
attack. Your Aunt Catherine and Sarah, went down to Medford, and
a fortnight since for one day returning home the next day, James that he
was gradually recovering but had not yet been able to leave his room: he
attributed the attack of fever and ague to the locality, for ~~the~~
his house is on a plain that drops from the foot of the hills for several
miles to the sea beach and is but little above the level of the water of
the bay. Several of the family have been troubled with "chills and fever"
and he has therefore concluded to change his address: they have
descended in removing him to his ~~father~~ father in law's fine estate but
at "Long Ridge" on Long Island opposite the quarantine grounds. They are
in search of a comfortable dwelling, an article not now so readily
to be met with in the vicinity of Richmond village: I think
however, that he will succeed soon in making the change
and all be returned to your kind regards again

graduated a few years since at West Point and has been since in the Army, he is at present stationed in New York City, superintending the recruiting service. While thus engaged, Richard has made another engagement, for he has fallen with and taken a fancy to Mr. Ford's "Pudding's" charming daughter Julia, and they are so well pleased with each other that they have concluded to take each other for better or worse for life; the wedding however may not take place until some time in the next Spring. Richard's parents are well pleased with the match and may well be so for Julia is a sweet charming girl, and she will get a fine worthy fellow.

Janner Dodge and his wife are at present in the City (N.Y.) when they will pass a few days and then proceed towards their home on the banks of the "Hudson" in the upper part of North Carolina, where a large part of the Williams' estate has fallen to Susan. They will proceed homeward by land and will probably stop a few days in Washington and may make a call upon your good mother; and if you have the opportunity, you will of course pay them attention and show them the beauties of Washington. Your mother and yourself will find them both amiable and agreeable.

A few days after I wrote my last, I started I started for the City, intending to take advantage of the mild weather to make a week's visit to your uncle Edgar's there, then another to your uncle Pierre's, and then another to your uncle Theodore's on Staten Island; but I altered my plan and went first to "New Brighton!"

While at N.Y. I went up to the City to attend to some family commissions for your Aunt Sarah; the weather was beautiful, but I omitted to take my overcoat and in consequence took a slight cold from the cool air of the Bay. I recovered from this promptly, but word came to New Brighton that your uncle Theodore I. was lying quite ill at his home near Richmond village - your uncle Pierre and I drove over to him the next morning and found him to be seriously ill with intermitting fever. We returned after dinner to New B. but the lazar had an ill effect on me, for it brought on a relapse, and I found it much more ~~difficult~~ difficult to manage than the first attack: in fact I felt so much "under the weather" that I deemed it prudent to return ~~without~~ delay to Sunnyside. Fredt. Booth was very kind and attentive and saw me safe to the City and to the cars at Chambers' Street, and I then reached Sunnyside before dinner. I am quite recovered again, but ~~have~~ ^{have} not yet regained the same degree of strength that I could boast of before the attack. Your Aunt Catharine and Sarah, went down to Theodore's about a fortnight since for one day attending home the next: they found that he was gradually recovering but had not yet been able to leave his room: he attributed the attack of fever and ague to the locality, for ~~the~~ his house is on a plain that sweeps from the foot of the hills for several miles to the sea beach and is but little above the level of the water of the Bay. Several of the family have been troubled with "chills and fever" and he has therefore concluded to change his residence: they have succeeded in removing him to his ~~father's~~ ^{father's} father in law's fine establishment at "Bay Ridge" on Long Island opposite ^{to} the Quarantine quarters. They are in search of a comfortable dwelling. an article just now not readily to be met with in the vicinity of Richmond village: I trust however, that he will succeed soon in making the change and all be restored to good health again.

We have recently heard again from your uncle Markie.
he continues in good health and busily engaged with
his "golden" prospects. You will recollect my love to your
good Mother and to little Frank.. I am sorry that I did not
hear of Willie when he passed through New York, I would have
themed a point to get a sight of him. remember me kindly
when you write to him and say that I hope yet to see him again.

thine my dear Kate
affectionately

SHR
Wm. Irving

Miss Katrina Irving
25 1/2 Street
Washington D.C.

dear of Maria when he passed through New York. I would have
 thought a heart to get a sight of him - remember our family
 when you write to him and say that I hope yet to see him again
 think my dear Kate
 affectionately
 SHP

Thot. Army

Min. Stearns, Irving
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