Saratoga Springs July 17th 1852

My dear Kate,

We had glorious hurry scurry drive along the rail road: left steam boat behind us if they had been at anchor a flight of wild pigeons tried to keep up with us, but gave up in despair. We arrived here between eleven and twelve. The weather was pleasant, and there was but little dust. We all enjoyed the journey excepting Julia Grinnell, who having fatigued herself the day before by packing - and the night before by not sleeping - had to keep her room on arriving with a severe headache - She is better to day again however this morning.

I have found some old friends here. Mr & Mrs Kennedy of Baltimore - Mr Stevens pres[t] of the Bank of Commerce, and his family - our neighbor Mr Bartlett; but

without his pleasant little wife - who remains at home Castle building - by the bye they do not expect to get into their Castle before October - if then.

We were all at a little Hop, as they call it, last evening, in one of the saloons of the Hotel - It was not very Brilliant, but gratified the small folks; who however could not summon up resolution to dance. At least little Julie could not - and Fan could not dance unless she did, of course.

The Springs appear to be quiet and sociable without any attempt at dashing and flashing - and therefore suit me better than they would at a gayer season. I should like very well to pass nine days here and take the waters; but are leave marching orders for 11 O'clock for Lake George. I find it so easy to get here, and in such brief time that I shall be apt to pay the Springs another visit. I have no idea of remaining mewed up at home until I grow to be an old fogy. Tell many there are a number of most beautiful young ladies here - one of whom has paid me some small attentions; but I have not given her much encouragement. One must not let oneself be too easily won. Farewell my dear Kate Give my love to all the household - and dont let any one see this letter.

Your affectionate Uncle

SHR Washington Irving

P.S. I forgot to tell you that Mr Kennedy F. asked after you all particularly about the little lady who carries the keys. which I presume is Sarah

Mrs Kennedy is almost as handsome as ever — which is a great blessing.

1852

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