

I don't allow Mr. Irving's friends to hear any reports of his illness which may alarm them; as in fact there is nothing worse for apprehension in regard to either.

A.H.

United States Legation

Madrid March 10th 1833.

Friday Morning.

My Dear Papa



SHR

For your silence since your visit to Washington, I imagine that you have been busily occupied; contrary to your expectation expressed in your letter before leaving New York, in which you told me that you would fill up your intervals of leisure, by giving me an account of political movements. As I hope you are employed for your benefit, as well as that of the public, I submit with good patience to this deprivation.

I have thought of you with much satisfaction, as aiding to the utmost of your power both Johnson's efforts for the assumption of State debts, and I am looking with much interest for the report of the Committee. The Memorial of the Holders of Stock in England to Mr. Everett, has been published. It appears to me moderate and fair enough; How it will be received at home is another question —

Mr. Irving's health, begins to be affected very considerably by this serpetic disorder which has extended itself over the greater part of his body. He insisted at first upon treating it himself, and went through a course of Sulphur Baths; a violent remedy under which he

did not appear to improve: I then called in without consulting him the Physician of the English Embassy who has been here several years and was highly recommended by Mr. Astor; as he seemed very much inclined towards the Baths the Dr. again tried for several days, and the disorder seemed to be checked. Two days since however, he complained of Chills, and had a slight fever subsequently, whereupon the Baths were discontinued - The fever has continued in a slight degree since then; his bowels are disordered and his whole system evidently deranged: Upon Consulting with the Dr. yesterday & this morning, we have determined to take the advice of a Spanish Physician of reputation who will visit him this Evening: - He has been somewhat fretful for a few days, and worries himself, which I try to prevent as much as possible, by reading Scott's novels, several hours during the day -

Altho I do not permit myself to be alarmed at his situation - for the disease itself is not of so much importance, as the condition to which, by being protracted, it may reduce him - I feel of course the responsibility under which I am acting.

Mr. Irving's situation has prevented him from making any exertion for the last three weeks, and I have consequently been obliged to make in his stead visits of ceremony to the Regents. To day, however, I am to represent him in a matter of more importance - We have despatches from home on a subject of

delicacy and importance, which does not admit of delay; and an interview has been asked of the Secretary of State, in my behalf; ^{upon} ~~the~~ he has appointed two o'clock today at the Department for our conference. It concerns the Island of Cuba, and ~~is~~ ^{is} to be treated, under instructions, with great care and delicacy - I have carefully examined the papers, but feel nevertheless as you may suppose considerably "exercised" at making my first step in diplomacy, a matter of so much consequence: - It is of course at Mr. Sumner's request that this step is taken, and he was kind enough to say by way of encouragement that I understood the subject as well as he did - In fact no other course was left; since poor Uncle Geoffrey will probably ^{be} confined to his bed for some time yet; while this question admitted of no delay, and on the other hand could not be trusted to a written communication: - ✱ SHIR

You must be careful not to let this be known in any way; for the Govt are acting with promptness and secrecy and do not probably wish that even the fact of trouble in that quarter should reach prematurely the ear of the public.

Friday Evg 20. P.M. I have just finished a long despatch giving an account of the conference today which seemed to ^{be} satisfactory to my old party friend the Secretary of State - We parted on the best terms; and the two Govts shook hands, and said all manner of pleasant things about their determination to stand by each other - Mr. Irving is rather better: there was a consultation in the afternoon at which it was determined to bleed him and between 9 to 10 ounces were taken from his arm about an hour ago; since then he feels relieved: - the learned men say he has taken cold while under the influence

of the latter, from which the fever and irritation has arisen. He is certainly reduced, and signed the Despatch with difficulty - Good night; I'm quite tired with my day's work, and late hours last night at a party at the British Embassy: your affec son: A.H.

Thursday Evl March 15th - Uncle Geoffrey is improving; the disorder which began to strike in was relieved by the bleeding: He is much reduced however and weak, and his patience so far exhausted that his spirits are quite low: I read to him a great deal, and do my utmost to cheer him, not always with success: - Brewster is quite unwell too, & confined to his bed for two days, and some of the servants are in the same predicament: so that on the whole, we are a disabled legation. I have on my hands all the correspondence, official and semi-official, all the applications for officers, which in consequence of Mr. Irving's success in a previous case promise to be numerous, and visits to the State Department, where I am on the best possible terms with the old gouty Count: - Within a few days another iron on the fire; in an informal arrangement ^{with the object} to remove some of the restrictions on the Trade of the U.S. with the Peninsula, which is falling off fast at present: I have furnished a statistical statement, which has produced a demand for further information, and an intimation of a desire that we should share with John Bull ^{in providing} an important article of consumption: -

We have this morning taken to the H^{ouse} Feb. by the Duchess D'Orleans; no letters - I am grieved at the Oregon Bill, and that such a measure should originate with that branch of the Legislature, which was concerned with the Executive in making the convention, thus plainly violated - Sir Robert Peel, said a few days since in the House that Lord's Motion & Benton's speech should not be taken as the evidence of the feeling of the Senate. It appears he was