Ellicotts Mills June 19th 1883

My dear Kate.

Hitherto my excursion has been everything that heart could wish. I am sitting in delightfully at the hospitable mansion of my worthy old friend Mr Gray, on the banks of the beautiful Patapsco, in the midst of a happy circle; for the house is always full for the old gentleman has the knack of surrounding himself with agreeable people and putting them all at their ease. We have had some hot days, but I have weathered them very pleasantly, by keeping within doors until evening, reading or gossiping with the ladies or listening to the music of our little pet prima donna Miss Andrews, who plays morning and

evening for us and is an excellent musician. I have had some delightful rides and drives about the neighborhood, along the banks of the Patapsco and through the woods and romantic ravines. This is a capital country for horseback exercise and I have been with Miss Kennedy's favorite horse Bruce Davie, who well deserves his name, a finer pleasanter horse I never rode. I wish I could transfer him to the banks of the Hudson.

Tell the Journal that I have paid a visit to the Country seat of Mr Norman, which he talks about in a letter. He has only seen it in the winter time. He should see it at this season when the rose may present perfect which it commands in all its beauty. Mr Norman is a superb looking woman - worthy to preside over such an establishment.

Tomorrow morning I set off at nine o'clock with Mr John Kennedy on the train for his brother Andrews, near Harpers Ferry - nearly a hundred miles from this. Thence I shall visit Mr Washington Irving; and afterwards make excursions among the mountains visiting some of the old virginia families. I anticipate a very interesting and delightful excursion having such a capital travelling companion.

I am scrawling this in great haste just to keep you acquainted with my whereabouts. Direct to me care of Edward Gray Esq Elliotts Mills Maryland.

give my love to your Mother and all the household at Wolfe House.

SHR

Your affectionate Uncle

Washington Irving

Miss Catharine A. Irving