

I was present at the going
I was present at the going
out of one administration
and the coming in of
another; was acquainted
with both presidents &
most of members of both
cabinets & witnessed the
inauguration of General
Pierce. It was admirable
to see the quiet & courtesy
with which this great
transition of power & (rule?)
from one party to another
took place.

I was at the festive meetings
where the members of the
opposite party mingled socially
together & have seen the two

presidents am in am
as if the sway of an immense
empire was not passing
from one to the other

I was much pleased with
what I saw of the new
president. His appearance +
manner were quiet + gentlemanly,
+ I was gratified by the
determination which he
expressed to me in private of
taking care of Hawthorne the
author, who had been his
early friend + fellow student.
Hawthorne has _____
~~received~~ the appointment of
consul at _____ a lucrative
post. I believe you have read

Hawthornes admirable novels
& essays - some of the best
productions in our literature
The letters of your brother &
Nancy of course keep you
acquainted with the
main : of family news.
The death of poor Jane,
~~with~~ which leaves Theodore
a widower with five young
children. The latter are at
present ~~at~~ their grandmothers
at Geneva. Theodore will
break up housekeeping. I
have invited him to come up
here for the present.

Mr G. has in a great
measure recovered from his

very serious malady, still
it will take time for him
to regain his mental
strength & activity. His head
is ~~early~~ easily fatigued by
the burthen of business & he has
to avoid the city & all
preplexing cares.

He & Julia are about to
set out on a weeks visit to
Charlotte at Cayuga lake
& I have prevailed on our
Sarah to accompany them.

I think it probable that this
illness will make a complete
change in Mr G's mode of
life, that he will give up
many of the varied enjoyments
& occupations of a public

nature with which he was
crowded; that he will ease
off in business as much as
possible + pass the chief
part of his time in the
country in which he takes
great delight + finds
abundance of healthful
occupation.

At the last of this week
I expect some of the family
up here to birthday the
• 1st of April when I come of age
of full age 70 years!

I never could have hoped
at such an advanced period
of life to be in such full
health, such activity of

mind & body & such capacity
for enjoyment as I find
myself at present. But I have
reached the allotted time
of existence - all beyond is
spiritual indulgence; so
long as I can retain my
present health & spirits I
am happy to live, for I think
my life is important in the
happiness of others - but as soon
as my life becomes useless
to others & joyless to myself,
I hope I may be relieved from
the burden & I shall lay it
down with heartfelt thanks
to that almighty power

which has guided my
~~incantious~~ ~~uncertain~~ steps through
so many ~~incantious~~ ~~uncertain~~ uncertain
& dangerous ways & enabled
me to stop my career in
serenity & peace, surrounded
by my family & friends in
the little home I have
~~formed~~ ~~formed~~ for myself, among
the scenes of my boyhood.

With affectionate remembrances
to Mr & love to the
dear little folks
Your affectionate uncle
Washington Irving.

Sunnyside

March 28 1853

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