

Mr William Irving
Canton

New York Oct. 18. 1833.

My dear Willie.

Customs and opinions change as well as fashions. Some years since, our vessels for China sailed only in the Spring for from March to June, and the idea of sending a vessel for that quarter of the world after the first or middle of June was a stranger to the brains of our Merchants. But now the enterprise of our Merchants and seamen, seems to know no obstacle, at least not to fear one. Vessels now depart for the East Indies at any season of the year - the passage however after 1st of June is longer and I expect more unpleasant as they must go in a large direction ~~on~~ account of the monsoons.

I have continually scanned the Marine news in our newspapers in hopes of seeing some account of the *Clamatis* but as yet without success. I wrote you in my last of 15th Sept. (per the Roman pen ship) and mentioned that your Brother Sanders had sailed on the 4th of that month in the "Arnold Wells" (of Boston & Salem) Captain Gillies, for Sumatra - he goes as Captain's Clerk, without pay, but in lieu is allowed two or three times privilege on the ship to improve which he took with him 200 specie dollars. I learn that the vessel goes under a charter, and is not sent out by the owners, but by some Merchants of Salem, of whom Mr. Filbee one of the Senators in Congress from Massachusetts, is one. He is bound on the usual trading voyage to Sumatra, and from thence to Genoa, touching at Gibraltar. She will not probably reach the Mediterranean until sometime next Summer and the voyage it is expected will take fifteen months or so.

I said also in my last that we expected to get a Lieutenant's commission in the Marines for Edgar who was then at Baltimore. Your Uncle Washington had occasion to go to Washington, and it was fortunate for Edgar that he did on the occasion.

Commission might have been longer delayed - your Uncle interested himself immediately, got it, and sent it to Edgar - We are trying to get him orders for this station. Edgar and his intended giving it the preference. I understand from Edgar that he is on excellent terms with his relatives that are to be no objection is made to the commission and he expects that as soon as your Uncle return from Washington to Baltimore an arrangement will be made for the wedding.

I had a letter yesterday from your Uncle in which he says he was preparing to go to Baltimore at the time of writing and should start at two o'clock - it was written on Monday 14th Inst. So I am in hopes that the matter will be soon adjusted, and that being settled down into a married man, Edgar will turn his attention to his business, and make himself an efficient officer.

I do not immediately recollect whether I mentioned in my former letter that your brother Pierce had determined to rid himself of his embarrassments, by making an assignment of all his property for the benefit of his creditors. He has done so and is endeavouring to start in another line - I wished him to hope his attempt might be got a discharge, but having him up every thing he had not the means of ~~get~~

Mr. William Irving
care of Messrs. Russell & Co
Canton.
China

Mr. T. A. Alexander



Chen Sheng
Oct 18
1833
Wm. A. A. A.

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