

New York. Feb^y 5th. 1835-

Many thanks for your kind letter of last year and also many for your kind wishes there expressed. As for your thoughts suggested by New Years day although they are perfectly just and such, that to them we must all give our ready assent. yet you will perceive how little effect they have had upon me from my neglecting in the very commencement of the year, one of my duties the most pleasant (that of writing to you) - Would I could say that was the only duty I had neglected!

My time has been so wholly occupied since the opening of the present year, that were it not for indisposition by which I am confined to the house to day, I fear you might have cause to blame me for a more lengthened neglect.

My mornings are employed in wading in & through dull and tedious law writings and when I return from the office in the afternoon, my mind is so completely wearied that I cannot collect even the few ideas necessary for a letter and as for my evenings they are passed either in study or in fulfilling those engagements which the dweller in cities finds indispensable, though affording little or no pleasure. But that I may offer some atonement for the length of time which has gone by since you heard from me, I will plead the length of my letter in extenuation of my fault, and in consideration of my promising to "be a good boy and never do so again" hope for forgiveness -

Though it may be at rather a late period, yet remembering the adage "better late than never" I now present you the compliments of the season, (what they are I cannot suppose you ignorant) and sincerely hope you spent a Merry Christmas and will pass a Happy New Year.

Though I myself did not send you any Tokens of affection, even a letter, I hope others have not been equally negligent, not but that there are other Tokens equally as pleasing to receive as letters.

On Thursday last I spent the evening with Aunt Colden when meeting with Julia Pagani reminded her of her duty of writing to you as I find, that with so exacting a correspondent as yourself and one so miserable as I am, I feel the want of a partner to receive some portion of the censure, due for neglect - and hoping that if I had an assistant, united we might find employment for your ready pen - Mary I fear is incapable.

I spent a delightful evening on Friday with your dear amie Miss Elvia Storr, who wished me when next I wrote to you to enquire particularly after about Mr. Kendrick's health, for what reason I know not - Miss Storr has not been to church for three Sunday (as I told her I would inform you) on account of cold, whether in the weather or in the head I am uncertain. Your friend intends writing to you soon, and as she gave me the outline of her intended letter, by informing you of it I may, give you a double pleasure, the 1st arising from my synopsis the greater from the perusal of the authentic document. The letter will contain some very original and pointed (at me) remarks about the benefits of punctuality, and the great advantage to be derived from it in all the affairs of life, while then break casually on the miseries of neglect, digressing to the neglect of rising in the morning too late for breakfast, and introducing an episode on cold coffee - and containing much more interesting matter too various to mention in a letter. During a general conversation I heard some remarks about Beldor, very indistinctly, but as the subject of the conversation was soon changed I could not understand whether this was the cognomen of some favorite resort, of a book or of an individual I hope you will remove my doubts.

I have lately heard a report, the author of which I cannot recollect that Aunt Ann, Matilda & Yourself were to visit our city in the spring to spend some time, but as it has since been contradicted I would hear from some authentic source the truth of such report; and as one is not easily convinced in opposition to his hopes I will still entertain this belief until I hear from some good authority a refutation of the error -

Mr. Washington Irving has been writing a new work, copies of which are sent to England, and it will appear soon.

multaneously in each country; as this is an old story in literary world which only transpired on Saturday last I am in hopes it may be news to you, Mr. Irving kept his own counsel so well that the first information we had of his having again resumed his pen was through the public prints - The subject of his work is as yet unknown, though I presume it will be composed of materials collected during his western excursion, embodied in the form of Tales and Sketches illustrative of western life - On second thoughts I think I have heard the name of the book, as the Prairies.

As I am on the subject of book writing I may as well notice Charles work; it is all ready for publication and only waits the opening of navigation to see the light - Mr. Rapelye (who by the bye made to Aunt Colden quite a handsome New Jersey present) has been writing a "book of travels" containing an account of his adventures in foreign lands and is quite amusing from its singularity - I would not have noticed this book were it not for the light thrown by this learned author on the Revelation of St. John - He entirely removes (in his own opinion) remove all the obscurity which ever belonged to this subject and has assigned natural causes as the origin of St. John's vision. I wish you could see the book, his views of the subject are perfectly new and very original and would I am sure astonish even the Professors of Hamilton College.

I suppose you have before this heard by business, that Aunt Ann's ~~work~~ "Lucia" was on Saturday week committed to the flames before a vast concourse of spectators; As this work added its humble efforts to dispel the darkness in which many were then enveloped, I hope that encouraged by this success Aunt Ann will again ~~send~~ ^{use} her pen in producing another work, which may not as its predecessor so soon disappear though it be in a "flood of light."

As it is the usual and pleasing custom to make enquiries of with regard to the health of absent and to report that of present friends I must here ~~leave~~ make an end of "what else I have to insinuate" and proceed to that interesting portion of my Epistle -

As I hope all are well in Hamilton and I shall make no enquiries on that score but send you love

Send my love to all

Both great and small Anon:

I dined at Grandpa's on Saturday, he was very well as were all his family - Uncle Ogden ditto - And all my cousins known and unknown ditto -

A long experience has proved that example is far prefer-
-able to precept in leading a person to correct their faults.
I hope to receive from you very soon, a long letter of
Aes three and a half pages at the least, and I know I am
not asking any thing unreasonable as I understand
that not long since you wrote a letter to a friend of
yours containing six pages, I will not myself answer

4th
Miss Nicholas
Care of Prof: Whitman
Hamilton
Madison Co.
New York.



for the truth of this report, as to my limited capacity, this
seems a feat very like that of the noted. Cuenbrouers of
Sleepy Hollow. of notorious memory who first discovered the
secret by which a quart of beer could be conjured into
a pint bottle - in the authentic History of New Amsterdam by
W Knickerbocker. Book 1. c. I forget the chapter - If you can
perform this magic feat I wish your next letter would
give me oculer demonstration of the fact - As I am
near the foot of the page I must conclude by begging
you to believe me your sincerely loving cousin

Ol. Whielander