

Beaumont Sunday August 27th 1843.

My dearest M.

I'm once more upon the sea shore: the point from which I set out on my wanderings, and with my unpleasant experience of the Mountains I enjoy the cool breezes and the glorious surf exceedingly - five weeks confinement to my bed; a great part of the time in more pain than I have yet suffered in my life were a lame conclusion to a fortnight's enjoyment - however it's all over now I hope and I have to congratulate myself that instead of hired nurses and strangers I was in the kindest hands: at home and this is saying every thing, I could not have been watched more carefully -

I left Canterbury on Wednesday last with the Livingtons who about to move, were induced by my movements to bend their steps this way - we had a private carriage, and a pleasant ride to Pau where we found the town all agog with the preparations for the fetes in honor of the Duc de Montpensier the King's youngest son: Louis Philippe tries hard to buy a little popularity for his family and on this occasion spends in one day 50,000 francs - the Park attached to the old castle where Henri Quatre was born was to be lighted in the most brilliant manner with variegated lamps suspended by delicate wires which at night would be invisible; thousands in every direction & in the most graceful curves: the Chateau itself has been restored & repaired in the old style and is gorgeous with carving and gilding - it is I think with the associations one of the most interesting I have seen in any Country.

The Banker produced a huge bundle of letters

which had been collecting at Madrid for a month - ^{among them} one from you and one from Angel. I was particularly happy to receive the last which was like herself so good & considerate. The last few lines were written just before setting off on a second trip up the sound. I hope to hear ~~from~~ ^{at} Madrid that she continues to improve. I shall write to her at once on my arrival. - I was bewildered with so many at once, and it was not until the second or third reading that I could arrange dates to my satisfaction. The family indeed had urged so continually that it was hard work to follow through all the windings.

We left Pau in a red hot day on Thursday morning in the Diligence and arrived at Bayonne after a very unpleasant ride at 4 in the afternoon - all suffered from the heat but myself, which I accounted for by my being in low condition, the blood somewhat thin and nothing to spare. To fire up very strongly - we dined at Bayonne and rode on in the Eclair to this place - since our arrival we have had delicious weather, fresh breezes from the sea, and bright sun or what is even better at this season, a covered sky without rain - the place is crowded as we found to our cost in the difficulty of establishing ourselves, but now after two or three changes the party is comfortably settled. - A very disagreeable incident the morning after our arrival: as we opened our windows we saw on the beach a large crowd and the whole population hurrying to the same spot. The report came in a few minutes that 3 men had been carried off by the undertow & drowned - this was much exaggerated, as when the bodies were rescued, two still breathed, and were saved; the third a young merchant of Bayonne 35 years of age was past all aid: he had been very ill and came here for strength & to recruit - his sisters were living in a village near him - I bathed when I was here before every day in the bay where he was lost and thought the stories of its being dangerous quite absurd.

Monday, August 28th - I am to return this evening at 6. to Bayonne

to sleep here and set off at 6. tomorrow morning. There is a new carriage to be sent on to the French Charge at Madrid of which I hope we shall make the first trial. Thus you see I may anticipate a comfortable journey. - The four days I have passed here have recruited my strength, and I feel fully equal to a ride of two or three days duration - the only evidence of my illness are ~~red~~ cheeks, and a pair of whitened ~~throat~~ took advantage of my weakness to get the start of me.

You cannot think with what pleasure I hear of your frolics and expeditions - I have a sort of deferred enjoyment of them which is very agreeable.

Mr. Irving writes me that before the little Queen was moved to the Country Palace the Court Ceremonies were very numerous & brilliant - under the quiet reign of Echartero we only buckled on our Court Armour three or four times in a year. This winter we shall not be let off so easily - he says that during the siege of Madrid he was very much excited and was on his legs day & night, running about from point to point, until the fatigue brought on a bilious attack & slight relapse of his malady, from which however he had recovered. I shall urge him, tho' a little late in the season, to exchange the air of Madrid for a more temperate one.

I was overwhelmed with kindness by the English at Caunteret, who were continually sending to inquire about me - The Duke of Devonshire wrote from Pau, on her way ~~from~~ to Paris, that there was a report I had been promoted to a very high post, and as it was said Mr. Irving had resigned, she supposed I was to succeed him.

I have seen in a paper the following announcement among the arrivals at Baden Baden: "Lady Palsford Jones, once fam. Anglétene"; you see we have already lost our interesting countrywomen. The other branch of that illustrious family as also here - Young Helen surrounded by a crowd of gentlemen out at the pockets, if not at the elbows.

I wrote to Robert from the Pyrenees, and am delighted to hear that he is so pleasantly situated - he seems indeed quietly moored in the haven which he talks about. It would be funny if he should subside into a quiet young Benedict so early, after beginning so inauspiciously.

If my books are in Madrid I shall go to work steadily for the autumn & winter, and I hope in the Spring to set out on my

return to you - the exact time of my departure will depend upon arrangements Papa may be able to make for me; you will readily conceive my impatience that it should be at the earliest period.

I am going now to take my last walk with Mad^{re} Livingston on the rocks & sea shore and shall close my letter before dinner - 3 o'clock. I have just returned from the sea shore where I have taken my last whiff of salt air for some time: I gazed upon the foam & spray and wide waste of waters in the hope of fixing ^{them} ^{to} clearly on my memory, that I may recall them

James A Hamilton Esq.
(for Miss M. H.)
New York
Westchester County
Post Office New York
Parents
August 27th 1835
43.

per steam
5 Sept^r

NEW-YORK
SEP
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amidst the dust & dryness of Madrid: vain effort; for you know - but I won't quote about "frothy Caucasus" - I'm off at 5 with Camille for Bayonne and shall deposit this letter myself tonight in the 'Poste' on my arrival: - I understand the French Courier is only stopped by the Gentlemen of the road on his way back; so that like the knife grinder, I shall have no story to tell: this won't prevent my sending off by the next steamer some ^{well-filled} sheets to the family for want of something better, I'll give you account of the last political somewhat second hand from Mr. Irving -

I send a sea of love to you all your affectionate

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