

Saturday April 29th 1843.

is to be to receive - at all events, for the girl, particularly about her, and
the things about it - the at the same time I must do them the justice to
acknowledge that they are very good. My dear Maria: The last package of letters was unusually well:
come when I found that it contained a second letter from
you. Its contents were of a rather sombre character, but ~~as~~
it was some satisfaction even to have the most unfavorable view
of the late events: I am resolved to expect favorable things from
the future, and not allow myself to be troubled by what is
past: - As the trees come into leaf and the flowers begin to
appear here, I am reminded of our beautiful Spring and
making ~~it~~ necessary ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~aware~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~difference~~ ~~of~~ ~~climate~~,
to follow you through all the stages, from the first appearance
of the green grass to the full foliage of the Wood: - Ask
the Girls to tell me the particulars of all the growing things
connected with the farm: how the grapevines promise? What
the condition of the young plantation at the Iron Gate; and
those trees which were planted behind the house under
those short reign? I feel a particular interest in the ~~one~~
apple at the angle of the path leading to the Garden:
he had a fine stock of roots & rootlets, and I inquired
well from his general appearance:
It is now certain as far as one anticipates

the events of a few months that I shall not see Heris until after an interval of two seasons of growth; and altho I try to moderate my expectations of the great improvement in the forest near the house, I find myself involuntarily thinking of ledgards "bosomed high in tufted trees" - Papa in his letter speaks of the fruit trees being trimmed and looking well - Does he mean the peach orchard near the garden? I suppose as usual they made a great promise last spring which ended in nothing.

I have written to Grandpapa by this Courier thanking him for his letter, which contained all the details about your movements which it is so agreeable to have. Mr. Irving often alludes to his visits to Heris while they were there last year; and especially to Grandmama's humorous dislocation and love of a joke. Uncle Geoffry's disorder, after a few days' intermission breaks out in a new quarter - last week he was going on very well, when suddenly the inflammation appears in his hands and causes him great pain. I am conspiring with Mr. Storrow to send him off to the Pyrenees, as soon as the season arrives and he is in a condition to travel - he has hitherto opposed the plan but I hope will be prevailed upon: he talks of resuming his work this summer; which considering the ^{fatigues} length and violence of this attack, and that he is now past 60, would be very injudicious.

Made Albuquerque is our great friend and ally, and naturally takes very great interest in Mr. Irving who in turn is well pleased whenever he is able to drive out along the river with Mama, and her two sweet little girls in his company - As her friends write by the packets and "Jose's" arrangements in regard to his letters are not of the most expeditious nature, she looks to me for the latest news of her family and yesterday told me that the first notice of her brother's arrival here was received through my letter.

We have been during the last month overrun by English never in the recollection of the oldest inhabitants since the War of Independence has there been such an invasion - Many introductions have arrived for Mr. I; but as he was not in condition to honor them ^(they are handed) over to me, and this with the business of the Legation has kept me busy. All ~~wish~~ to see every thing, from the palace to the prisons, and as there seems to be a great want of "laquais de place" they are so happy if you can accompany them to some of the most interesting objects - En revanche, I have pressing invitations to visit this and that beautiful country; and before long I shall ^{have} provided a warm reception in every part of England.

Should it be impossible to persuade Mr. Irving to leave Madrid, I have almost decided to make a little tour myself visiting the Baths of the Pyrenees and ^{then} crossing to the Mediterranean return by Barcelona and Valencia: as an additional inducement, Carroll Livingston has written to me

that he spends the summer at Cautelets in the heart of the Mountains and urges me to pass that way - the idea of three months of suffocation in this dry and dusty City is rather terrible and as in the point of expenditure it comes to the same thing the temptation to run away for a little while is very strong.

In a very few days the good Society of Madrid is off for Aranjuez where it remains until the middle of June, at which time the place becomes ~~less~~ unhealthy from the exhalation of a rich and damp soil - It is at this season a delightful spot, and worthy of the preference which its Royal Masters have always shown for it over their other residences -

Saturday Ev. 8. o'clock - I must sign and seal for the Courier goes shortly - Mr. Irving is taking his nap - The young Trojan and I have separated after our *tete a tete* dinner (Mr. Irving in his room). - You would be amused at the ceremony of a meal for two quick young gentlemen - to say ^{nothing} of an artist of great skill and his *Aid de Camp* to prepare our dinner, we have two men and a boy to look at us while we eat it: If I were more thoroughly my mother's son, this would be very unpleasant, but I am now accustomed to these Spanish servants, who won't you let open a door or help yourself in any hostile way: the way they fly about whenever you approach them is laughable: at the same time they are much attached and show a degree of interest which ours never dream of - I speak of our particular domestics in whom Mr. Irving has been very fortunate. I do not ask you to write; but you know how acceptable it