

Saugerties, Ulster Co. N. Y.

April 19th 1874

My Dear Willie,

I have just heard that a
neighbour will leave this place for New York
this evening, and altho' over head and ears
I can't let the opportunity pass without send-
ing a lasty letter by the next Canton vessel.

I have rec'd two or three letters from you and
also copies of letters to Thomas and Father which they
have been kind enough to forward to me - I hardly
know how to express the gratification they have afforded
me. The tone of sober common sense in which they
are written develops a new trait in your character,
for altho' I have always given you credit for a full
share of mind, I have been rather suspicious of the
stability & steadiness of your views. They have made
my heart glad, My dear Brother - I perceive that
you have met with some disappointments, and that
the monotonous course of hard labor in which you
were immediately involved has had no very great

Charms for you. I trust however that you will
not be disheartened. I for one, never thought you
were going to an Eldorado - nor did I imagine you
were to step right into a partnership - Money
is no where to be had without labor, and that
you will find wherever you go - You will no doubt
have to go through an apprenticeship of labor &
work some duties, but still from the representation
of the friends of Rufus H. here, we had good reason
to believe that you would be preferred - & ulti-
mately advanced to a partnership - I am happy
to find that they think so highly of your letters at
home, that Uncle W. J. has come forward
with a little Capital for you - This is trifling
in amount - still it may turn out well -
"Heat Oaks from little acorns spring"
as our boyish reading book hath it - and
this, small as it is - may be the foundation
of your future - I would it were in my pow-
er to add to it - but somehow or other I

never find my means keeping pace with my
inclinations - I am creeping along slowly
here, but by & by I may get up in the world -
I have a terrible load of debts on my shoul-
ders - which must be paid before I can breathe
freely - I trust, my dear Willie, that you
did not imagine I spoke in unkindness - or un-
feelingly when I said something about your not
returning Pennsylvania - You know well enough
I would always do all in my power for you - &
as you believe that I am not deluded, I feel
at liberty to write plainly - My only desire
was to incite you to exertion, and to keep you
from throwing up in a fit of despondency -
You would give away a chance for a fortune, for
a most uncertain lot were you to return -

I have no wish that you should amass
great wealth, but my hope is that you may

pick up some twenty or forty thousand
dollars, and be able to return to your native
country while yet young - I need not
have you half more than ten years away -

I perceive you think my letters rather
too highly flavoured with religion - It is
one of my maxims that in general cases
a young man's religion had better be seen
than heard - and I am one of the last to
obtrude my notions upon any one - but

I write to you from a sense of duty - 1st
that I consider it a matter of very great
moment - & 2^d that I was anxious to
counteract as far as possible ^{bad influences} any ~~etc of~~
facts my own former negligence may have
had over you - It would be worth

an enquiry, whether the term "too religious"
does not involve a paradox - Direct

Religion of the gloom & cant in which it
is so often enthroned - and what is so
deserving our serious consideration - What
so worthy our affection as the great author of
all things - What so much a matter of moment
as a future world - If you were here I think

I cured from ^{cure} ~~curer~~ you of a very common
error, without saying a word to you - I can.

And you that a gloomy & morose countenance is no part of religion & no ornament to the professor of it - But I want to say

You - I beg however that what I have said
 will have no tendency to alter the freedom
 of your communications to me - I have
 your well-being most nearly at heart.
 And it would grieve me were you to
 become less open to me -

I have been lucky enough lately to get one of the prettiest country places upon this part of the river; the one formerly occupied by Mr Henderson. It is a small but comfortable house - in a very quiet & retired spot about a mile from the village - It is directly on the river - and the lawn & grounds of several acres extend to the edge of the water - It is altogether just such a place as I have had in my boyish dreams, and when I look at it, I can scarcely realize that I am actually enjoying what I have so long coveted -

I have just moved in - and we are of course all in uproar - but a few days will settle us again - and then I intend to send for Father - I mean to have him & the boys with me as much as possible -

You need never be afraid of being forgotten for you form a constant object of conversation & enquiry - You can never realize how much you are loved -

My business is I think improving - Our ale is much liked and acquiring a great reputation - This you know is ^a capital - & from present appearances we shall make money next winter - If I only succeed in this and in one other plan connected with it, I shall be about as happy as a mortal can be - The plan is this - Mr Livingston, my partner, has consented that I shall take Edgar in ^{to} the concern, upon his advancing \$7000 in cash - Now as the poor Commodore is nearly dead to set married, and heartily sick of dodgering, it will be the very thing for him - He can do us any very essential service to the

lasting for some time, but his capital will
enable us to go on very handsomely - & this
investment will enable him to live
very genteelly here with his wife - I
have written a very long letter, with a
statement of the affairs of the concern, which
has been forwarded to Mr Tenant - The
old gentleman replies in favorable terms
and altho' he will not decide immediately
still I feel sanguine that we shall
be able to effect it - If we do, the poor
Commissee will at last rest from his
useful campaigns & lay up in ordina-
ry.

My next letter will acquaint
you with the result of my schemes -

I had nearly forgotten to mention
that my better half had presented me
with a little girl - She is about a

fortnight old and is thriving - Berna is again
quite hearty - we have determined to give the
little lady the name of our mother "Elizabeth"

The Newark members of our family
will give you all the news - I hear fragments
from them, but have seen none of them yet
this year - I hope to see them next week -

I am Hithairin. One has been passing two
or three weeks with me - but returned last
yesterday - & took with them my daughter Anna
- to get her out of the way while moving. George
has been here two or three times this spring -
he is doing nothing yet - & can't get any employ
- so you see how you might have been off, had
you remained here -

There is some talk of Ruth Scherlein marrying
Cuthbert Van Rensselaer the Presbyterian clergyman

This however I doubt - As for your other old
flames I can give you no information -
Theodore is the great letter writer, as well
as head-monger. His gossiping accounts of
Newark people have been a source of great
amusement to me this winter.

Good bye my brave boy - & don't give up
the ship. Rules we all have - and rules
you will have - but

"No lane so long but munneth to an end"

"No lot so bad but may in time amend"

Stick to it therefore - and if you can reach
home at Eight & twenty a thirty / and at
that age you will think yourself much
younger than you now imagine / with a
strong little pocket - you will be amply
repaid for your sacrifice -

My brother -

Wynnefit any pretty embroidery

the whole cost of arms

in peace find me one -

I have no correct seal

of my own & chest etc

little chest

Dear Dr. Manning, Cambridge
 April 9. 1834
 per Saturday. rec'd Oct 14. 34

Mr William Irving

Care delle sue Ruffe &c.

Italy *London*

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