

Strong in my attachment to you all, and how entirely every other consideration in the world sinks before it: Ever to Mama, Anny, & Papa. Your affectionate Nephew, J. A. H.

pleasant
father



SIR

1843

Madrid Thursday Evening Decr. 9th 1843
Minuit.

My dearest M. I have just said 'good night' to our friend the Minister who after doing an hour in his arm chair, flushed up bright, merry and amusing before going to bed. The young gentlemen have retired long since, and I have this huge parlor to myself, in a silence and stillness so great that it would be oppressive if I had not you here to talk with me. In strong contrast to the fine days of the last month we have (yesterday and today) a cold rain and snow storm, and this morning the white roofs, dark wintry sky, and large flakes of snow, almost persuaded me that I had waked in Light Street. Notwithstanding the weather, Mad. & Mrs. d'Albuquerque and the illustrious 'Dan' dined with us sociably and a very pleasant dinner & evening did we pass together - just before they arrived the mail came (having been detained by the storm), and as I entered the drawing room Mr. Irving handed me your letter of 29 Decr. - He too had a letter from the Cottage, so that we were in the best spirits to receive the party; and when you consider that with the exception of honest Jose, we were all from Gotham, and to the Manor born, and moreover the only newsmen, or even Americans in this large City, you will understand the feeling which predominated. Uncle Geoffrey was in the vein, and gave us many odd stories, and fought off successfully the sleepy fit, which as I have said only conquered him about 11: -

I am delighted with your letter, which has just passed to a quiet comfortable second reading; to be tasted, as the French say better 'savourée', for at the first I am so impatient that I swallow it all without attending to particulars - I have very

pleasant letters from Gd. and how late than yours, but they cannot fill up the gaps in the Swiss life, which it is a delight to me to follow in the smallest particulars - Your boned chickens, sleigh rides excursions & skating parties are all to me delightful realities and I fight all your battles over again, with so much interest that I can almost convince myself that I have taken a part in them. - How does it happen that on the 1st Jan^y you had only received my letters of the middle of Nov^r? It seems to me that letters of later date had been acknowledged some time before -

Fanny and Louis's relapse is a great disappointment - I wrote to Aunt Julia in Dec^r to congratulate her on the good news; and now wish I could recall it: I'm afraid it will prove the reverse of what I intended:

We are leading a quiet life, and very much at home; the Attachés go no where in Society: Mr. Irving has been a little unwell, and has not ventured out for some days tho' he seems now entirely recovered and therefore all the wriggling falls to my lot: I have been at two or three ^{masked} masked balls, rather amusing and some diplomatic dinners rather the reverse, but as the Carnival advances great things are promised: a bal costume, on the last Sunday at the Duchesse de Léna's is to be a magnificent affair and the quadrilles are practising daily - There will be a ~~complete~~ complete exhibition of the Old Spanish jewels, and rich dresses, and the specimens I have seen are very handsome - at her last ball the lady told me not to fail in the costume, but we foreign gentlemen, with one or two exceptions have pleaded official station and must be allowed to look on in our proper character: they are some promising subscription balls at the fine Palace of Villa Hermosa, and the connoisseurs predict much fun and foolery: I confess I am curious to see the Spanish liveliness and love of adventure in full sway: I wrote our friend Miss Julia a note of congratulation as soon as I heard of the engagement, which I suppose will be read by W^m Livingston. It must be owned Julia Augusta Livingston sounds very well and is such an improvement on the former lame conclusion, that it should pass for something in considering the arrangement: I know so little of the ~~George~~

I hope you will see in Telegram the flourish about ~~the~~ wedding of which we have most amusing accounts: ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Marquis~~ ^{Marquis} is to give a grand ball when the bride returns, and taking the Duke de Clermont-Tonnerre's visiting list, shoots right and left among the great people of the Faubourg and will no doubt bag a good many: Can you imagine any thing more unpleasant to a person of proper feeling? ~~the~~ The Widow is just the same, and thinks it ^{necessary} to apologise for every thing she does; in their progress among the 'beau monde' ~~she~~ ^{she} will find it hard work now and then - Uncle Geoffrey groans over their folly. - Good night to you & all. Saturday W^m February 11th. The French Courier set off last night but as the stories of the "Cabinet noir" in Paris, and the liberties then taken with soft wax, are quite current, we have waited for the English man tonight - the weather continues raw and chilly and yet in the garden under our windows the rose bushes are in leaf and the almond tree in blossom:

To night we go to the English Embassy to hear the second act of the Pirate, which I expect will be delightfully given: Young Oscar, with one of the finest bass voices I have ever heard affords us this pleasure: the ~~Orchestra~~ ^{Orchestra}, scenery & Argosion are, as I am told admirably managed -

Mr. Irving has bought a very clever ^{pair} of young Spanish Horses, which altho 6 & 7 years old & matched have yet to be broken to harness; meantime he & Prevost hold learned consultations over Great Coats, Capes, and Cockades, and the result promises to be a very quick respectable equipage - In looking at your letter

13 Laigh St

James A. Hamilton Esq.

(for Miss M. H.)

Peru.

Westchester Co.

New York

1843

on the
1st of
April
1843



hours, tho I confess to you I find the days very short for all that I wish to accomplish - I have been busy of late with Don Oakey who leaves on the 1st of March and perhaps Brewster accompanies him - Oakey is so entirely wanting in the *lenguaje* *lingos* that a friend who can speak either French or Spanish is absolutely necessary:

It is the greatest comfort to me that you are all in such good health and apparently in good spirits and I pray sincerely that it may be so when I return to you again: Tho a separation could not increase, it has shown me how