

Mr Alexander
Mr William Brown
Canton

My dear Willie

New York Oct 21. 1834

Since my last of 3^d instant Mr Knapp has
The Ship Globe has arrived at Phil^a and Philip¹st and Washington
has, making four boats to the U. S. from Canton since your
last came to hand: such a circumstance excites my anxieties
and a thousand fears and apprehensions assail me if your
brother Theodore has endeavoured to find the Captain
of the Alexander, presuming that his ship went to Russell
also that we might learn whether you were still living
The Captain was not in town but as it is said that
she is to sail tomorrow, he will probably be on board
to day - from the Second Mate, who told him that he had
been but once at Russell & Co's where the ship was at Canton
he tried to learn some tidings of you, but as the Mate
knew no one he could only judge from the Mate's description
of the young man he saw at Russell & Co's that you were
one and were well.

I am aware that you must be much
occupied but cannot persuade myself that you were so much
so that some ship should call without your being able to find
a moment for a few kind words of remembrance by return
but we will in future hunt up the Captains of the vessels
that may arrive in the hope of hearing something of you.

But I will stop this garrulous strain as you said, throw
my letter into the fire, and will still hope through hope
grows faint.

By the ship I send you three No^s of the Mirror
which, if these previously sent have reached you, will complete
your file to Saturday 18th instant inclusive. You have also in the
parcel some Newspapers, American & others. Some of these will
show you the state of our market for China goods - I fear it must
be very slow, and doubt whether any article is paying a profit

there may however be some articles that may answer, and as our friend Mr. Love gives me permission to refer to the letters of Low, Wilson & Co. to Russell & Co. you may learn something from them. But all this may be unnecessary as you have no doubt already invested the little funds we sent to you in May last.

I am now looking daily for further accounts from your brother Sanders as letters from him must soon be here - I sent you by the *Horatio* a copy of his second letter, which was finished at St. Helena 23rd July last - the *Arnold Walker* sailed from that island on the 26th of that month, so that I think we may now reasonably expect letters from him by the first mail from Gibraltar. Since I wrote my last I have been on a short visit to your little sister Julia & Mary at Troy and your brother Pierre at La Fayette. I mentioned in my letter that I had concluded to send Julia & Mary to finish with Mr. Willard. I found them in good health and spirit and pleased with the Seminary. They are very fortunate in having their cousins Eliza Rameyn and her sister Helen ^{your sister} who are much attached to them and whose company prevents their becoming homesick - it is a great gratification to me to learn that like your sister Catharine & Sarah they too are becoming much of favorites with the inmates and teachers of the Seminary. Mr. Willard will no doubt be attentive to them on your Uncle Washington's account as well as their own. He felt himself much flattered by his visit at the Seminary when he placed your sisters there. On my way down I stopped at your brother Pierre's at La Fayette and spent three days with him - he is very pleasantly situated and has a charming little family about him - his youngest girl, called after your good mother, Elizabeth, appears to be one of the sweetest and best little creatures that ever breathed, and to possess as kind and affectionate a heart as beat in your good mother's bosom. Edgar and his little wife were not at La Fayette - I mentioned in my last that they had gone to Watton on a visit to her parents. Edgar thought of leaving Amanda there and returning himself, for a short time, but we have persuaded him to remain and complete the visit so as to be back before the day boats were running on the Hudson, which will probably be the case about the middle of Nov^r. Amanda and her party would find it rather inconvenient in the night boats as they would land a little after midnight and would have to lodge at Red Hook, as they could not cross the river until eight o'clock

in the morning. Edgar writes that he expects that Amanda's eldest sister Matilda will return with them for the winter, and as ~~they~~ intend taking your sister Sarah up ~~also~~, and means to provide "a host of good things" he promises himself that they will have a jolly time of it. The party will probably be on here in about a fortnight and will remain with us some days previous to going up the river - we shall try to make their stay agreeable; that will be done with ease if a house full will do it. Your Aunt Paris concluded at once and your Uncle Washington solicitation to give up the idea of spending this month at Huntington. As she does not go out much she could not be as comfortable there as in the bosom of the family in N.Y. She is just returned from a visit of three or four days at your Uncle John F.'s and I am delighted to find that her fair health and cheerful spirits continue. Sarah Paris is becoming something of a belle - both she and your sister Catharine receive much attention, in a great measure owing to your Uncle's doubt, as all the world seems well pleased to be on good terms with him and know that they cannot gratify him more than by attention to his nieces and nephews. Our City has commenced its tour of gaiety unusually early - several parties have already been given and cards of invitation are pouring in. Catharine's agent has been to only one, Mr. Schumacher (Abm. not Greenwich street) where your Uncle is very intimate and where the girls have formed a very agreeable acquaintance. Sarah I. was with her and both enjoyed themselves. Sarah I. goes this evening to Mr. J. March's ^{banquet} ~~banquet~~ that - Catharine declined - I am not desirous that she should go to many, as it will lead to more expense than I can afford - for I should be unwilling that she should appear at them but much as others do, and now a-days you know that a well lined pocket is necessary for the purpose beside, she is young, and I do not wish her to shew herself by too frequent appearances. But there is no fear of this - your sisters are modest and diffident and have no disposition to thrust themselves forward - they are indeed good girls, and constantly improving.

Theodore I expect will write to you by this ship and will give you any news stirring in the circles in which you moved - I am old and deaf and both are increasing on me so I have little chance for furnishing you with anecdotes of such circles - Theodore has got his book nearly ready for the press, and from your mother Pierre's account but particularly your Uncle Washington's, I think he will make a handsome debut. We are flattening ourselves that it will prove

both profitable and creditable to him.

Thursday morning Oct 25.

Theodore and I have made two attempts to fall in with Captain Hallett of the *Alexander*, but without success.

I called at the ship again yesterday afternoon and had the good fortune to find him and what was more to learn from him that you were in excellent health and good spirits when he left. I likewise received a letter yesterday from your brother Pierre, in which he mentions that a son of one of his neighbours, Mr. Deas, some relation to Mr. Henry Barclay had been on a hasty visit to his mother after his recent return in the *Westminster* from Canton. He is one of several young men of good standing who went out in that ship before this mast about a year since - he informed Pierre that he had conversed with you on your visits to his ship on business and assured Pierre that you were well.

In my calls on Capt Hallett, I observed that a number of bales of what appeared to be what we call "domestic cotton goods" were going on board. I have before now heard that some of these goods answered in the East - but I think I have already hinted this to you in former letters and requested you to look thoroughly round and give me what information you can get on the subject. If these articles can be shipped by brown hue and sell to a profit in Canton even after paying a commission, I think I could send you a lot likewise which would pay you well, especially as you would pay no commission - be careful to note the result of these shipments by the *Alexander* - they are no doubt made by W. & J. Ginnold who are keen merchants - if these goods answer - give me a minute description of them, the manufacturer of them - where made, a bought, width, length, quality &c. I am no doubt very on as good terms as others.

Theodore had a letter yesterday from Sagar.

As it may gratify you to see it I will endeavour to enclose a copy. You will find that Edger appears to be "in clover" and a sailor like some what inclined to "sway away on all top ropes" You have a letter also from your sister Catharine Hannah - so you see that we do not neglect you. Little Kurrie may write, if he can determine on what. I desire him to ask you which part of a ball the Chinese boys strike when playing - he desires, this however unnecessary promising that they strike that which happens to be most handy to the bat or club, much as they do here.

All well - God bless you my dear Willie - affectionately yours, Thos. King