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Madrid June 7th No 3.



Saturday Morning.

My dearest A:

I have written a long letter on politics to Papa which you girls won't care about, and I must add a few words for your benefit on other subjects - I received your long delightful letter last Sunday, and at the same time a very pretty note from Aunt Bey, with a postscript brimful of joy from our too happy Uncle. I suppose the future appears to him now one broad gleam of sunshine, and yet he writes very sensibly and ~~talks~~ ^{talks} of the necessity of exertion &c. Sister Paris has written to Uncle about her interview with Rebecca, and Uncle is very happy and thinks it an excellent arrangement.

I sent off a few days ago a letter to Mr Ray enclosing a note to Miss Julia on the happy event, which is to take place this month - I don't know much about Livingston, but it seems to me she has made a judicious selection from the men ^{among} ~~about~~ her - He is certainly to be preferred in many respects ^{to} our friend "Tom" a Fulton Cutting; and to cut loose from her present moorings is a great point gained for ^{future} improvement and happiness. - Whether the young Gentleman has strength of character enough for both, is an important question for with all her cleverness, she wants a ~~cool~~ cooler head and more decided character than her own, to lean upon. - She is fortunate in her new sister, who possesses the very qualities most required - Now are my three remaining princesses? Will they probably all follow this bad example and "leave me on the bleak shore alone"? I tremble for Statia Louisa: a blow in that quarter would undo me quite

My dearest A. Philip Hamilton & Miss Rebecca W. Lane

The Carnival began yesterday "Día de los Reyes" or twelfth day and Masked Balls are the order of Day & Night: The Public Balls are very funny; Every body goes from Queen to peasant, and Spanish liveliness and wit delight in the opportunity of mystifying & attacking their neighbors: I shall go in my own proper person, as I have been advised to do; In this way you become a mark for all the women kind who attack you in turn, and give you plenty of occupation —

Two days ^{ago} a large ball at the Duchess of Penaranda: she had never met her ~~and~~; she proved to be the widow of an old friend of Mr. Irving and overwhelmed him with attentions of which I had to receive a share; They have a custom here, not a bad one for strangers, by which you are permitted to select any lady for a partner without previous ~~previous~~ introduction a ceremony whatever, and Mr. P. told me to choose without hesitation the prettiest girl in the room. I made an unfortunate use of this "largest liberty" at my first essay, having engaged myself for a waltz to a pretty little woman in pink, which I afterwards danced with her sister; They were, even to the Porte bouquet, like twin cherries, which ought to be a good excuse for a stranger in a crowd of strange faces — The House was magnificent; Music delicious. Young ladies prettily dressed, and old ones covered with splendid jewels: — No supper of course: Ices & refreshments in abundance:

Mrs. Albuquerque died the "Corps" yesterday and looked very pretty in spite of her late trials with her children, who have been half dead with the measles — There is much talk of a bal costume: Cotillions made ^{up} and the other polkas of the season:

The weather is as clear bright and pleasant as can be conceived: such sunsets every evening, as even Venice cannot produce — No ice yet beyond half an inch in thickness, but still

the Spaniards go about with cloaks over their noses, and talk of pneumonia in the most alarming manner:

There is a clever young artist here, of whom the "Conoscenti" speak very highly. I am about to look at his work-
tions and if he can take my portrait (small size) I shall let him make the attempt — I have looked in vain for a good miniature painter, and I dislike the pretension and size of 'as large as life' —

Political matters are becoming very interesting and I watch the game very closely. Our connection with the English, affords a very good insight into the most important moves and as ^{relation to the East} our own ~~connection~~ is slight we are in a favorable position to observe accurately the movements of the others.

You are leading now I suppose a quiet life at Revis to prepare you to enjoy more fully your visit to the City and all the dissipation of the season. I imagine you and Molly well wrapped in your cloaks; A bright snow sparkling on the ground; setting off on a walk to the cottage, to see the huge piles of ice in the taphan, crackling and grinding against each other — I am looking at you on the ~~Porch~~ of the cottage from the old nut tree above the dock — What do you say to "My Aunt Margaret's merris"? —

It wants a few minutes to 12. and no better yet by the steamer. I must sign Roll and despatch in a hurry: not forgetting a thousand kisses to Mamma & Mr. & Mrs. you can & any J.H.

Wm. A. Hamilton

Nevis.

