Ellicotts Mills. Oct. 12th. 1853

My dear Kate

I thank you for your letter of the 9th. which, though you thought it hardly worth sending, gave me a budget of domestic intelligence. I shall be glad to have particulars of your patriarchal visit to the crystal palace, with your father at the head of the ten tribes of Israel and little Kate and Nancy Ann at the tail. You would miss the sight of the Koh. i. noor. the great diamond of the Exhibition, Mary Delaney, as she and her party left N.Y. for New York this morning.

In my letter which I wrote yesterday

to Helen, and which I presume you have seen, I gave an idea of our movements. We set off tomorrow morning by rail road for Mr Andrew Kennedys where we shall pass eight or ten days, in the midst of the beautiful scenery of the Shenandoah valley. I intend to be in New York on the 20th to attend the meeting of Executors & Trustees, and I presume shall be at home that evening.

If you all think it would be prettier to hoge down the ground before the new building than to terrace it let it be done so. I intended to regulate it according as it should please my eye, and had no fixed preconceived idea in the matter. I am sorry to be absent at the time of finishing off the house, but presume I shall be home before Robert and Maria move into it, as I think it will scarcely be dry enough before the 20th. I should like to see it before it is occupied in case I see any alterations to be made.

I presume you have taken care to have the door of the porch screen the[illegible] while the carpenters and plasterers are at hand to do the needful. The locks can be put aside any where for the present.

I am glad Delia and Fanny have made acquaintance with the little Kneeland's. I have an idea that they will find them both agreeable and profitable acquaintances. They appear to me to be very intelligent, well bred, lovely little girls.

We have a continuance of lovely autumnal weather. The country is

looking magnificent and I anticipate a delightful time in the Shenandoah Valley

I wish you all to make a visit of civility to our new neighbors the ~~[illegible]~~ Olmsteads; who had moved into their house (late the Lents) three or four weeks before I left home. Also to the Duncans, when I shall call on my return. These little attentions to new comers are expedient ~~as~~ to good neighborhood, and need not be followed up by any particular intimacy, if not desirable.

Having now used out my say I conclude with love to all,

Your affectionate Uncle

Washington Irving

SHR

Miss Kate Irving

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