

My dear Willie



SHR

Sunny Side Monday evening  
March 20. 1854

from letters of 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> instant were duly received. The last came to hand this morning. On receiving the first I proposed going to the City with little Kate on Thursday as you calculated in reaching Mrs. Montors on Wednesday evening, but on second thoughts concluded it best to defer until I should hear that you had arrived. I am really sorry, for his own sake as well as yours that the occupant of "The White house" has not a little of the spirit of "Old Hickory," but from what has passed between you and him I feel pretty confident that he will do something for you, unless he is absolutely a cipher.

I doubt whether you can promise yourself anything from the "man's nest" recently discovered by a Mr. Benedict, a lawyer - he modestly proposes to attempt recovering the four lots upon the condition that if successful he may retain three of them. - Your sisters have asserted however, supposing that there is any small chance of recovery and that after all they are located in a part of the City that renders them of small value - Should the lawyer succeed, the value of the lot must be divided and subdivided, so that your proportion of the avails will be a very homoeopathic

one - I understand that Mr Benedict has the reputation of being a very thorough lawyer.

As he has taken a good deal of pains in the matter there may be a possibility of recovery. I had concluded there could be scarcely a chance for so long a period had elapsed, more than fifty years that undisturbed possession must of course quit all claim. It has however occurred to me that being of little value Mr Henry did give no attention to them and neglected to pay the taxes and the lots <sup>have</sup> consequently sold for the taxes - the sales of lands under such circumstances are made public, and knocked down to him who will pay the taxes and take the land or lot for the shortest time -

These lots may have been thus sold and the time <sup>having</sup> now expired. The lots revert to the estate of the original owner - It appears that Mr

Huddah Gregory, Mr Benedict's mother is in possession of two of the lots, and his object is to enable her to retain them. I presume that Mr B's application to you was accompanied by a statement of the case similar to the copy handed to your sister here, which by the way was by no means full.

I do not recollect whether I have mentioned in any late letter that your brother Sanders had completed the Gas contract of the Jeffries in Birmingham; this was effected successfully about Christmas

They have another contract for Montgomery Alabama and he expected to have left Birmingham for that place a month ago, but Mr. John Jeffry has a similar contract on hand at Montgomery, in Alabama, which detained him there rather longer than he calculated; he has arranged to meet Sanders in Montgomery shortly and a letter from his Julia to your sister, informs us that they would leave Birmingham by steam boat for Louisville on Wednesday coming last. take a fine steam boat there the next day for Nashville, where they would remain until Monday, (~~or~~ day) then proceed by the "Chattanooga rail road" for Montgomery expecting to reach that place on Wednesday. Should you have occasion to write to him, direct to "Gas works" Montgomery Ala."

Your cousin William, Oscar P's son has been on a tour this winter south and West for a number of Jeffry Hens. Importers and jobbers, and I hear that he is now about leaving for Louisville, having received any advantageous offer from a house in that city. He says he cannot lay up any money in New York owing to his having so many friends in the city.

Your cousin Fannie M. J. being retired from his duties as "Mission agent" has concluded to take a jaunt to the south by way of relaxation - He and his Helen left the city (N.Y.) on Saturday on a visit to her brother James Dodge in North Carolina.

and expect to be gone a month. I understand  
that Warrington finds much trouble in getting accus-  
-tomed to the duties and management of the agency.  
He had to apply to Pierre repeatedly for advice and  
instruction - he told Pierre that he did not apply  
for the agency; his application was for some mission -

The Pensioners still apply to Pierre and he of course  
sends them to the new agent; and some return to Pierre  
complaining that they find it difficult to get along  
with the new hand.

Little Kate is in fine health and continues  
a favorite with all - You cousin Helen paid a visit  
to Henry's wife before she left for the Southern States, and  
remarked that Kate was growing quite fat. Your  
uncle Mark has been frequently in the city this winter  
having many invitations to dinner parties, "Swallow"  
or at which it is now the fashion to have with  
French bon bons in fanciful variety, and he almost  
always puts a few in his pocket for Kate.

Should you leave Washington, you will arrange  
with some friend to attend to the land warrant  
business should the bill granting additional land  
to officers & soldiers pass, but I flatter myself that  
Frank. P. will manage to keep you there  
with true love to Sarah Ann  
Thine very dear Willie

Wm. Irving Esq.  
at Mr. Bayton's  
4 1/2 St. Penn. Av.  
Washington D.C.



Wm. Irving