

per Horatio for Canton
Mr. William Irving
Manilla

New York Dec. 11, 1835

My dear Willie
I wrote you on the 9th instant by the St. Paul
for Manilla, sending at same time a file of the Journal of Commerce, under
of the American, and the number of the Mirror, received since I wrote you
in Omega 24th Sept. and Roman (for Canton) Oct 2 - with a copy of your Uncle John
Paragon Miscellany No 3. I mentioned in that the receipt of your
letter of June 9th per the Horatio, and observed that we had not had the
pleasure yet of seeing Mr. Russell - Mr. Gillespie who you know in
Canton, informs me that Mr. R. was not in New York but about
twenty four hours after his arrival and of course too much occupied
to make calls of friendship, and had not been here since. Mr.
Russell must have experienced a terrible disappointment on his
arrival - Mr. Gillespie says he came to marry a lady to whom he
was engaged, but found that she had become insane.

In the amounts I sent you some time since, you will observe
a charge for premium of Insurance - Expecting that you had got
into such a credit at Canton that you would be able to make
occasional shipments, and at least that the proceeds of the
bill of Exchange I sent you would furnish the means to some
extent, I opened a Fanning policy at the American Marine
office for \$5000. The note for the premium of Insurance fell
due a short time since. The only shipment that came
within the policy was that per the Porta consigned to young
Mr. Goddard at Boston - presuming under all circumstances
that there would be nothing more, I have cancelled the
policy and received back the premium on the "short interest," say
\$174.⁸⁴/₁₀₀. which I have placed to your credit - this includes the
balance against you which appears in the amount current I
sent, by so much.

Theodore says that you
old "Flames" are all going off - a daughter of David Austin
was married some days since to a Mr. Townsend whom sister
gave a very handsome party last night on the occasion

Your sisters Catharine Sarah were invited, but excused themselves. Theodore was there, and learnt from the bride herself some anecdotes of you while playing her "Cavalier's Servant". Theodore says also that your sister Ledge lost Ruth S. is engaged to be married to a Mr Ogden, a son of Thos. Lullow Ogden - he is settled in a Merchant in Mobile; which seems to be a money making place, so you see Willie that the girls are going off. I notice in this afternoon American, the marriage of a Mr J. A. Schumacher to Miss Adeline, both the last or youngest of the late Henry A. Foster's daughters. The lady you know is quite rich, but not handsome.

Your little brother Markie has rejoined his school at Ling-ting. The principal of the Academy Mr. W. S. Prime was also principal of the former female seminary at that place. The accommodations for the young ladies were rather inconvenient and some good buildings being offered him at Newburgh, with large encouragement, he had made up his mind to remove the female department to that place in the Spring, giving up entirely the boys. His determination was hastened by the accidental destruction of the building occupied by the girls by fire during the late vacation. He has removed the female school to Newburgh and a new house, a Mr Wells has taken charge of the academy at Ling-ting. The trustees of the two schools of course do not like the movement of Mr Prime and are therefore determined to establish the schools anew at Ling-ting. The Academy, as the boys school is termed, will do well. The principal, who is assisted by his brother, appears to be very competent; indeed both are intelligent.

The Seminary, as the female school was called, was conducted by Miss Prime the eldest daughter of Mr. Prime, an accomplished woman and much of the lady. The school was rising in reputation - she had been educated in part at Mrs Willards Seminary at Troy, and had adopted much of her mode and regulations. The trustees of the Ling-ting school are endeavoring to raise funds to build an establishment for a female Seminary similar to the Boys academy which is a large stone building. I am in hopes that they will succeed, as the location of Ling-ting you are aware is very fine. Besides it may be

of importance to your cousin Miss Romeyn. The Trustees of the Academy have heard that she is preparing herself at Mrs Willards for taking charge of some good female academy, and have already made enquiries whether they may not be able to get her for the contemplated new establishment. This no doubt count considerably in the influence of your cousin's connections. Should the arrangement take effect, I shall probably send you little sister "Charlie" then - she and Markie will no doubt like this for they are very fond of one another.

I mentioned in my last ^{that} your brother Pierre and his wife, his sister Catharine and Catharine Munroe had all been attacked by the varioloid, but were all well, or nearly so. I forgot to say that little Markie on arriving home from Ling-ting at the late vacation, came home quite sick, having taken the varioloid there, of which we were ignorant, until the pustules showed themselves two or three days after his return. The attack was a pretty serious one, but he has weathered it and is healthy again. I trust that he will improve more rapidly under the new teachers. They will no doubt exert themselves as it is of importance to them that the Academy should stand well in the estimation of the public. When Markie rejoined the school, being unable to leave town myself, I sent Theodore with him - he promised Theodore that he would write to me soon with some account of the new principal and teachers. He thought however, that it would be a week before he wrote as it took that time to find a man out, and some men you would hardly be understood in two weeks.

I have had as yet only one letter from him and in that he gives no opinion of those gentlemen perhaps they prove to be too deep for him and he needs a little more time "to find them out". I have paid him a visit however and was glad to find him very well pleased except that Mr Wells was a little more systematic and far tinker than the late principal, Mr. Prime.

All well at No 3, and all assure you of continued strong affection - and none more sincerely than
yourself
Thos. Prime

Mr. Horatio for Canton
Mr. William Irving

Manilla

My dear Willie

New York Dec. 30, 1835

The sailing of this ship being deferred gives me the chance of writing farther to you by her. And the first words almost, that I write are to express my great disappointment on finding the arrival of the Henry Clay at Boston about ten or twelve days since, and the Logan at this port the day before yesterday, both from Manilla, without a line from you by either. The one I believe left Manilla the latter part of June the other in July - your last letters were of 9th June - at which time you had obtained no intimation and the inference is that matters were still the same with you when the above vessels sailed or you would certainly have written -

Were you at all aware my dear Willie of my anxiety to hear from you you could not suffer a ship to sail for any port in the Union without a few kind words, if it were only to say that you were well, and still thought on all at home -

I am in hopes that if nothing worth your attention has prevented it, you are on your way home - indeed your brother and sisters persuaded themselves that they shall see you in the course of January or February. If their hopes are to be realised I trust that you have taken care to have all your Canton concerns closed.

We will try hard to find something for you to do here by which you may take care of yourself.

I send you by this ship a lot of newspapers, from which you will learn some account of a tremendous conflagration which devastated this City on the night of the 16th and morning of the 17th Instant - it consumed all from Broad Street and Wall Street to the river between the Coffee house ship and Coenties slip - except the houses on State St. between Broad & William and on the east side of Broad - the Exchange and St. Matthew's Church (with Dutch in Garden now New Place) are destroyed.

I might almost deem it a Providential circumstance that my late
landlord Mr Joel Post. required so high a rent for the store I had long
occupied in Exchange Place that I was under the necessity of removing
had I remained there I should have suffered seriously as that
quarter is swept away. I am not certain whether I have
informed you that I had taken a large room in one of the new
houses in Cedar Street built on the side of the Church we formerly
attended, where I am very pleasantly situated. The destruction
and loss of property by this fire has been immense - the amount
is not yet, and probably will not be, ascertained for some time - our
friends R. Hyatt & Son are of course among the sufferers - their stock
was from about 20 to 25 thousand dollars of which they may have had
about a thousand - their loss I am inclined to think will not ulti-
mately be much as they were well covered by insurance in their
comparisons - two of which will probably pay all their losses and the
other the greater part - they will suffer however considerably by the
disarrangement of their business and the want of goods. The fire
could not have happened however at a more convenient season
of the year as business was over and stocks were reduced to their
lowest quantities. Many of our Merchants have no doubt
lost all, but by their activity they may get going again
and make up their losses - the distress will be sorely felt by
Widows, orphans, females and aged persons and such as had in-
vested their little property in Insurance Stocks, from the dividends
on which they derived the means of living. Through our own
family have escaped the fire, yet they come in for a share of
the loss through the Insurance Companies. Your Uncle John T. will
lose considerable - he holds about \$40,000 dollars in Bonds of the Company
the greater part of which will probably be sunk - Your Uncle Paris has \$2000
in the City fire Ins. Co. which loses about half of its capital - your Uncle
Washington has between two and three thousand in the Guardian Ins. Co. I have
2000 in the same and your poor Cousin Julia about 1700 in same - all which

is no doubt lost. I regret Julia's loss more than I do my own, for she cannot afford to lose - it takes away nearly a quarter of her little capital. I had invested the amount for her in this company about two years since on its first formation, and thought the investment a good and safe one the directors being highly respectable and prudent men, and the usual dividends being more than ordinary interest.

Some, some this past fine day that those who depend on the interest of money for their living ~~ought~~ should not place their funds in fire or other Insurance companies - but I doubt whether their wise heads can dream of, or thought of such a fire as probable.

We are now on the eve of a new year my dear Willie - what a crowd of reflections and recollections rush upon us - especially on one like myself far advanced in life - the past is beyond recall, but a merciful Providence enable us to improve wisely the remainder of the term allotted to us - you of course have my best wishes could they be realized, what an abundance of blessings would surround you.

January 20. 1836. The Horatio still lingers - I fancy that as she has been adventured for freight for some time, the owners do not wish to fill her on their own account.

The Targuin, Capt Lathrop, arrived from Manila about fifteen or twenty days since, having left there about the 17th of August - but as usual she was supposed to sail without a letter from you - I am not conscious of having invited such neglect.

I am doubting whether I had not as well throw this letter in the fire, for it is a great chance if it will find you - As I could not rest without hearing something from you, I called upon Captain Lathrop, from whom I learn that you had engaged your passage in the Ship Mary, Captain Furber which arrived at Manila from Canton, two or three days before he sailed and was expected to leave in about

fifteen days after him - he said that you would have taken passage with him had you not engaged with the Mary. I rather think that I shall wait the arrival of the Mary before despatching the letter - She may be here before the Horatio sails.

Edgar's father in law, old Col. Fenwick died about ten days since - Edgar seems to fear that the event may change his farming plans - the Colonel had taken a great liking to Edgar, approving of his plans and promising to assist him in them - Edgar, in losing the Col. has lost a good friend, and the estate being left to trustees for the use of the children, may be so circumstanced that Edgar may not be able to realize any thing from it in some time - but a few days will probably give a better insight into the matter -

I mentioned in former letters that Edgar and I had gone to Baltimore for the winter - it happens that they want as it afforded them the opportunity of being present at the close of the old Colonel's days - they will of course remain there until after Amanda's confinement which is expected to take place in the Spring.

Feb 20. The Horatio sailed some time since and the Mary not yet arrived - Captain Lathrop seemed so confident that you had embarked in the Mary that I have concluded to wait her arrival before despatching any thing further to you - The Mary's delay at Manila has been much greater than Capt. L. expected - on her passage must be a very tedious one - All well at No 3.

Yours my dear Willie affectionately

Wm. Irving

William Irving Esq

care of Runkle & Sturgis

intended for

Prof. Norton for Leamington

Manville

B. Irving. Dec 11 1833