

Madrid Tuesday Ev. Jan. 31. 1843.



My dear Papa,

This day and the three or four last have been more like the end of June, than of this wintry month - We walk out without Coat or Cloak, and find every body crowding to the shady side: the air is so soft and dry and the sky so clear, that it recalls our beautiful days at Rome - the Spaniards seem to me a very ungrateful race to speak so harshly of their climate of Madrid: this year we have had few disagreeable days, and many delightful ones.

I heard of you all, and your merry Christmas party and the doleful finale of the wedding day from Eliza & George, who wrote me long agreeable letters on the last day of the year: - I do not expect to hear from you again for two or three weeks, but I fill up the intervals very agreeably by allowing my imagination & memory full scope, when I picture to myself a happy family in a quiet comfortable home. How does our Barouche Neigh answer? I see in the Papers that you have an abundance of snow, and I cannot doubt that you have given it a fair trial.

I am writing for the Great Western, and can't help envy.

ing this sheet its visit to Madeira and pleasant Southern passage and more than all its "whereabouts" on the 4th March, which is the day I fix for its arrival.

As it appears from Eliza's letter that the Girls will make their visit to the City a little earlier in the winter than was at first supposed, I have not waited, as I last wrote you I should, for the packet of March, but send this evening with this letter to honest Miller, a check for £50, which I have told him to forward to you in the form he thinks best. It may enable you to afford these dear Girls some of the pleasures they deserve, and thus gratify us all a thousand times more than in any way. We are all in good health save Mr. Irving who has a slight cold within a day or two which we attribute to this mild weather, and his having become overheated in walking. His general health is better than that of any, and could not be improved.

We have had some Masqued & Private Balls, tho the Carnival has not yet begun in good earnest: at its height they indulge in all sorts of fooleries, and go about the streets by day & night in the most fantastic disguises: The Masquerade Balls begin between 12 & one, and are kept up some hours after daylight: my ears are still ringing with the babel of female voices at their shrillest point,

which almost deafened me two nights ago. The men generally go without disguise; the women all in ~~mask~~ mask, and they use on abuse his advantage without mercy.

W. P. H.: After writing thus far, I went to see the first representation of "Marino Faliero" a beautiful Opera, miserably given: The only good voice the Tenor, is unfortunately killed in the second act, and the interest of the piece died with him.

I wrote you fully about my views in regard to a connection with Mr. Griffer in business, in my last letter, and will only ~~add~~ ^{repeat} that I should be delighted with such an arrangement: I am improving my opportunities here by going through the laws of the United States carefully and my old friends Blackstone & De Lolme should be very glad to return this summer, or next autumn, or if you make some such arrangement for me - I have been spared from you quite long enough during the last 16 months, to make me very impatient under a much longer absence - As soon as you think there is an opening, let me know it.

During the Girls visit to the City, I suppose they will hardly have time to write to me, and I hope you will employ some of your leisure moments at leisure in telling about Maria and yourself: - The new dynasty at the farm-house begins in a month: I want to hear more particularly about them:

(Mr. Alexander Hamilton -)

|| Tell Grandmama, how delighted I was to meet with

a paragraph in the N. York Spectator, which spoke of her so active and in such good health at a Meeting of the Directors of the Orphan Asylum - I'm afraid she is so much engrossed with her new daughter that an absent grandson will be entirely forgotten.

James. A. Hamilton Esq.

Col. J. Terry.

Westchester County.

New York.

U.S.

1848
Jan 31



SHR

I send a great many kisses to my dearest Mama, and to the girls if they are at home, which I doubt - I must bid you good night and seal & despatch quickly, for the Rail is off at midnight: your affectionate son
J. A. Hamilton Esq. Alex. Hamilton.