

Madrid Sunday Dec. 24th 1843.

My dear Papa. I had the great pleasure of receiving yesterday your letter of Nov. 28th with the bright accounts of the condition of public affairs and your own: I had strong hopes that Fortune which has been of late so malicious towards you, must turn at last, and as you went down with the Country you would also revive with it: In relation to the Certificate of Illinois Stock I can add very little more than I have already written: I remember distinctly calling on W. Perry at his counting house & receiving it from him: I then, it appears to me, called at the Phoenix Bank, where I caused the shares to be entered, - I think - in my own name, perhaps in yours, and then placed it in the bundle with the receipts from Grandma and other valuable papers, which I handed over to you shortly after your arrival:
For.

For greater certainty I have examined a bundle of papers which I brought with me, chiefly Custom House documents in connection with our goods in the "Louis Philippe"; but find nothing relating to the certificate: - the entry on the books of the Illiers and my evidence ^{recurrent} would I should think be sufficient to establish your claim. - Write at once by Havre Packet if you wish ^{me} to do anything in the premises.

In conversation with W. Irving. I have alluded to my return in the spring; and without saying it directly, he speaks (no doubt sincerely) of the great advantage a longer residence here would bring me. I can say with confidence from his own declaration that he will be very sorry to part with me; and he ~~alludes~~ very kindly alludes to the interest he takes in my advancement, as equal to ^{high} what he should feel for his own son: It is one agreeable result of this visit to Europe, to have secured such a place in his esteem & affection. - My intention is at present to give him notice in the month of February of my return, in order that he may take measures to secure a successor who may be agreeable to him.

I hope that your next letter will give me the details of the arrangement with the Erie Railroad, if it has succeeded, as this is a matter of great interest on several points.

We look with anxiety for the message and the "new lights" on the Texas question, which at this distance seems very formidable -

Count Bresser is here and our near neighbour: He exhibits all the attachment to the U.S. for which we gave him credit and comes round socially to gossip about New York and the "beautiful Hudson River," which ends in a wish from all parties "to be there": He spoke of meeting you on your return from Russia and the pleasure it gave him. He is a quiet cautious man, just the thing wanted here at present, when one party would drag him into all their plots and plans and the other would abuse him in advance, for what he was suspected to be about to do: their selection at such a crisis is a proof of the judgment of the bourgeois king -

In Spanish politics there is a lull. Rosas is reputed very currently to have fled to Portugal escorted by a band of "Contrabandistas"; and avoiding all large places to have made a rapid escape thro' the wilderness. ^(a truly thorough denouement!) - on the other side some members of the Cortes have gone to Paris to invite Christina to return, and she seems hesitating and doubtful, whether to trust herself again to the tender mercies of Spanish politicians.

The Diplomatic Corps is increasing by the recognition of some of the Italian States, and a Neapolitan prince. (The Queen's uncle)

is now talked of for the hand of Isabella:

I hope you will write during the winter by Harve
d Liverpool, whose packets are making very short trips.

Mr. Irving still suffers in his limbs, being only able to drive
out, and especially during the last few days, when the house has been dis:
mantled in order to paint & paper, and make our quarters comfortable

James R. Hamilton Esq.

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for the winter - Good night. - This is Christmas Eve, - but no doughnuts
or mulled cider with us in this barbarous land - I send all a happy
new year! which will be old enough by the time it reaches you.

A great deal of love to all. Your affec. son

J. A. H. Esq.

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