

London, ~~last~~ Feb. 6. th. 1832.

My dear Pierre,

I forwarded to your Father, by the last Liverpool packet ship a portion of a work which I am preparing for the press, and had intended to send more by the present occasion, but I have been a little out of order, and unable to get it ready, ~~by much~~ so, must defer sending it until the next Packet. I presume this will occasion me loss of time, as he will hardly have made the necessary arrangements for the publication of the work. I have as yet made no bargain with any Bookseller here, nor shall I until my manuscript is altogether complete. Indeed the Booktrade is in such a deplorable state that I hardly know whom to turn to - some are disabled and all disheartened. There is scarce any demand for new works, such is the destruction of the public mind with ~~the~~ Reform, cholera, and Continental Revolutions.

I wrote to Mr. Shidell some time since acknowledging the receipt of his new manuscript, and ~~expressing~~ explaining the difficulties under which I lay, as to executing his wishes concerning it. I will thank you, however, to call on him and tell him how the case stands. Had the MS. been sent to me early last year, when I wrote for it, I might have had leisure to prepare it for the press, and an opportunity to make a good bargain for it. But when it arrived ~~last~~ every moment and mood that I could devote to literature was completely engrossed and has ever since been engrossed in working at my own manuscripts which had long lain neglected, and which I am toiling and struggling to finish, that I may return home. Beside this having no leisure to attend to the correction of the Manuscripts of Mr. Shidell, ~~there~~ there is no longer a favorable opening for the publication of the book. I have broke with Lumsden, who unhandsonly with respect to the first part 'The Year in Spain' for which he ought to have allowed something to the author - and who now declines, in the present depressed state of ^{the} literature, Bookellers trade, to undertake any new work - there is no other Bookseller likely just now to make an advantageous offer - and I think, upon the whole, the interests of Mr. Shidell will not be injured by suffering a few months to elapse and the present agitation of the public mind to subside, before his

work is brought into the market. Perhaps the work I am now about launching, as it will contain various things of a topical and romantic nature relative to the country about Granada, may if successful, call some interest to that quarter and induce people to look for accurate matter of fact details concerning that part of Spain. His work will then, no doubt, meet with a ready purchaser ~~from~~ ⁱⁿ the same Bookseller who publishes my work. As yet I have not had time to peruse his manuscript, nor have I in fact opened the packet.

I have received recently a volume of poetry from Mr. Bryant, in which are many things really exquisite, yet I despair of finding a Bookseller that will offer any thing for it, or that will even publish it for his own benefit - such is the stagnation ^{the} of literary market. When Pagan and cholera have passed away, and the public mind becomes a little tranquil, there will doubtless be a revival, but until then authors like our manuscripters must suffer.

I am glad to hear that your affairs continue prosperous and promising. Push your future spiritedly and perseveringly, but take care not to overdo it, in an anxiety to become rapidly rich. It has been the stumbling block to some of our family. I am gratified also to hear good accounts of Theodore, and trust he will go on to make himself a good man of business and employ his leisure in cultivating his understanding - always keeping in mind that he is in a society abounding with young men whose habits & pursuits are so totally incompatible

with their own circumstances and prospects and the institutions of their
country. We trust will be above imitating such frivolous examples.
With affectionate remembrance to the family I am my dear friend
Very affectionately yours. W.D.

Washington Irving Esq
6 Feb 1832

New York

Pierre B. Irving Esq

