

Madrid Saturday October 28th 1843.

Dear E. The letters by the Caladonia, several days delayed, arrived yesterday. Your short note finished by George, giving an account of the excursion and frolic in the Dream was the best proof that you were all well and enjoying yourselves, and that all the news from the Hudson river. — Bow's letter was from Boston just before starting for New York — How I envied you the neighbourhood of Staatsberg, where I passed so many days waiting the young lady's coming, and after seeing her, as if that were happiness enough for this world, — had like to have been divorced off Wilkie's the same afternoon!

Bow and George both speak of my letters not having been received, while you mention that you were going to Paris, where you expected to find them — I wrote from Biarritz after my illness, and the Agent in London said they arrived in time for the steamer — I can't imagine where the delay could have taken place.

The town is filling rapidly; grandees are returning from their excursions, diplomats from their leaves of absence, and every body anticipates a gay & busy winter: there is to be a wedding or two in high life, which will open the old, dusty, palaces, hermetically closed during the abstruse reign of Espartero — The French Ambassador De Breton is expected shortly and Bulwer from London will arrive soon after the declaration of the Queen's majority, which it is said will, ^{also} decide the Northern powers (now unrepresented) to send their cravats and red ribbons. — I hope all this may come to pass and that this winter

probably my last, will exhibit all the pomp and circumstance of royalty - a commission of both branches of the legislature are now considering the proposal of the gov^t to declare the Queen of age at once, and as Olozaga, Spanish Ambassador in Paris and the ruling spirit in these troubled times, arrived yesterday, the question will probably be decided without delay.

The Belgian Minister Count Merx, who arrived last evening, met Mr. Spring and Staleers in Paris on the 12th or 13th - Uncle Geoffrey was still obliged to use a carriage when he left the house, and said not a word about his return: he is doubtless having rare enjoyment in the way he likes best - a quiet little family & corner at the opera - and I hope will remain some time to repay himself for the dull & disagreeable month of confinement here. Jasper Livingston, announced with a flourish in all the papers as Mr. Livingston, Abbé de, with despatches for his legation "passed through Bayonne, a week ago, but has not yet presented himself here: I have a decided interest in his safe arrival as he is the bearer of various little articles for me from Paris.

After about ten years striving and remonstrance, a great improvement has been recently made in the Spanish mails by which we have letters one day earlier from Paris and London, & of course from N.S. - The coaches are to travel rather faster, so that the whole 24 hours are gained between here & Bayonne. The Ladrones, as was to be expected, have not allowed this departure from the good old times to pass unmolested - the first night of the new arrangement, the courier was attacked during the first ~~post~~ relay, five miles from Madrid, at a place on the road called the "Calabozos" or Dungeons, by 13 armed men; two horses were shot; one before the carriage, the other, of one of the coach, but the robbers were finally beaten off after a sharp skirmish - In the South, the "partidas" as they are called seem to have things pretty much their own way - I was amused a few days since by a suggestion in an Andalusian paper, which proposed, as if acting against a regular enemy, that the boats should be removed and the roads guarded on the river Genil, as the most effectual way of

putting a stop to their incursions; It is surprising after these things that the Spaniards should be called the Bedouins of Europe; or that the French should say with a sneer that Africa begins on the other side of the Pyrenees?

I will give you a little trait of Court gossip which came to me ~~about~~ tolerably direct: Under the liberal rule, the etiquette of the Court was somewhat relaxed, and the Queen & her sister, ^{were} served at table by hired attendants. This has been changed by the new order of things and the ladies of the Court as in the olden time now wait upon her little Majesty who has been taught to consider them her servants - the effect upon a child has been, as might have been expected, to raise too high her ideas of royalty - a few days ago she was taking her lesson of embroidery, when she began to amuse herself by throwing the worsteds out of the window; the Maestra bordadora remonstrated - the Queen answered quickly - "the grandees can pick 'em up;" and when this produced an "Oh, your Majesty" from the governess the reply was - "Why can't they pick 'em up; they're my criadas?" - & these periods of time for it will require a paragon of all perfections to steer safely through all the dangers and preserve the just powers of the crown; and tho the Queen Isabella has already shown some admirable points of character, her education in so many different hands has been badly calculated to prepare her to meet and contend with the difficulties of her position.

Saturday Evening - We have had a dull, heavy, drizzling day, and after reading & writing for some hours in the morning, I set out this the rain and mud to cure a headache by a walk: I met with no novedad whatever, tho I visited queer corners, and out of the way districts, returning by the Street of Cervantes, whom I admire more & more every day to look at ~~the~~ ^{his} profile and inscription on the medal: lion: I copy it for your benefit: "Aqui vivió y murió, Miguel Cervantes de Saavedra, cuyo ingenio admira el mundo: Falleció en MDCXVI." - It is simple and just:

As a very great secret, above all from Papa - I must tell you that I have lapsed into homopathy; which does not find much favor here. It is rather select therefore at present, there being but one qualified physician, a clever man, and one apothecary as yet: I am taking little white tasteless

howlers at the most mysterious intervals, - sometimes, one. Sometimes two or three days apart - with unbounded faith, and I already imagine that I am improving & gaining strength: The old introducer of Ambassadors, conde del Asalto, (his ancestor stormed Barcelona; hence his title) and I are recent converts, and we talk over our ailments, and praise somewhat, a *Consejo de la Santa*.

Mad^e. Calderon improves upon acquaintance - she writes, kindly, inviting me to a sociable evening and I sometimes stay till toward the small hours; a well pleased listener: the lady likes to talk which she does very agreeably and without any affectation or pretension: there is a great deal of Mexican gossip & scandal circulated here, where they speak more evil of their neighbours than in all other places I have seen taken together - she has a miniature of Prescott, not very good, and keeps up with him an active correspondence. Don Angel is very heavy and preaches to the end of the chapter -

Sunday Morn^g. - More last words - I broke off last evening to see Belisario at the circus, well sung & splendidly acted by Salvatori, our premier basso absolute, who was a great favorite at N. Orleans & Havana last winter: he drew down thousands of applause as well as a little rain in the shape of tears, from the bright eyes in the boxes, where handkerchiefs were in great demand.

The Courier sets off at 10 this morning, and at the same hour I am going to the Royal Chapel to hear grand mass; where one can say one's Protestant prayers in the intervals of Catholic music.

Vigo, a sea port town near Corunna, has pronounced, just as the rebellion of Leon has been suffocated - All these little places are of no importance, unless the insurrection becomes general - Barcelona & Saragossa are the dangerous points and there the rebellion seems drawing to a close.

It is funny to see this Insurgent excitement, lulled for a time in England, coming back so fiercely from the U.S. - It is like reading the English papers a few months old: by the bye - Now that you are established in Taight Street, send me when there is anything interesting, a bundle of Americans either by Packet to Havre or Steamer to London: Love to Aunt Jane affectionately



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