

Fanny Side, Brimington North W. Co. Ky.
Thursday evening May 20. 1858.

My dear Kate



Your letter of 15th instant has been for some days waiting a reply and I now have to make one conveying sad news; your uncle Edgar has lost his darling boy "Fennie"; he died last Monday afternoon; he had suffered from an attack of Scarlet fever, but it was not a severe one and it was supposed had entirely recovered; he was so well that his mother started with her little Mary, ^{last week} to pay a long deferred visit to her relatives in Baltimore: she could not have been there more than a day or two when Fennie ~~was~~ taken suddenly quite ill, probably from cold; his illness increased so rapidly and became so alarming, that your Uncle Edgar sent word by telegraph on Sunday to your Aunt: she immediately prepared to return home and started with Mary the same evening, under the escort of one of her brothers in law, W. Mactier, travelling all night, and reached home about four o'clock on Monday morning. Fennie lived until six o'clock of that afternoon so that your poor Aunt had the sad comfort of attending in the last hours of her fine boy. Arrangements were made for placing the remains in the family plot in

the Cemetery near "Sleepy Hollow" The remains came up, with some of the relatives, by the noon train yesterday and were met by friends here at the Tarrytown Station. They were taken first to our little church ~~in~~ in the village where our good Doctor Whigton began our beautiful funeral service: friends and all then proceeded to the cemetery and the Doctor finished the service at the side of the grave and Fannie's remains now lie near those of your good father. The loss is indeed a sad one to the parents for he was a promising little fellow and just arriving at an interesting age. I believe his age did not vary much from yours, Kate, it may have been a few months more.

You claim that I was a letter in your debt, but I am inclined to doubt that, for I think that I had written last, but it may be that two from you came to hand before that last one was dispatched, however, you must not be too close in your calculations, but be rather indulgent though I may be ~~in~~ ^{indebted}. I am much pleased to ~~read~~ ^{read} your account of Frank: my love to him and say that I shall be right glad to see him. I often think of him and his party visit to Sunny Side: the recollection of it is not as pleasant as I could wish, for he was then much "under the weather" having travelled rapidly all the way from Westminster and not being strong, had suffered considerably from the

Journey.

Your account of your "May party" amuses me and I am glad that you had a pleasant time. The little ladies must have looked quite enchanting all dressed with pink and white lace all spangled with "silver stars".

The last mail from California brought us pleasant accounts from your uncle Washington; he continues in fine health and says that the Spring is opening charmingly upon him and his little place, and trees, and flowers and birds surround him.

Your cousin Leslie and his bride have fixed themselves in the City (N.Y.) they at first intended to take a house in New Brighton which would have gratified the relatives, but as his business is large and increasing it was deemed better and prudent to have his residence near it.

Your Aunt Charlotte and her husband have been much out of health for some time but they are improving slowly and we hope will soon recover entirely.

We are all pretty well at Sunny Side, but your Aunt Mary's health continues quite delicate, so that she is occasionally confined for a day or so to her room, but I trust that she will improve as the warm weather of Louisiana comes on. Your Uncle Washington's health

is much as it has been for some time past,
he is still troubled with "catarrh" but it does not
confine him to the house; for myself, I am best
with good sleep and fair appetite, but rheumatism
gains the mastery and is gradually enfeebling me
thine very dear Kate
affectionately



Thos. Irving

Miss Katrina Irving
care of Mrs. William Irving
No. 28 - Fourth Street
Washington D.C.