

In Ship, Mass.
to William Irving

Canton, China

My dear Willie.

New York October 28th 1874

I'm waiting to enclose Theodore's parcel. I lost the opportunity offered by the Alexander - the parcels intended for her, by this ship - The Greeks are one pushing fellows - I supposed from appearances and would hardly get to sea for two or three days. He surprised when Capt. Balliett informed me that he left from the wharf the next day at 12 o'clock - I got ~~and~~ made up my parcels and sent them down, and to my mortification found that the Captain had morning in the opening of the custom house, board and was already below Governors Island in tow in boat.

Should the Alexander reach Canton before the 1st of Nov, for I find both are to touch at Pootavie, you will ^{have} learnt from Captain Balliett that he had seen me the afternoon before he sailed and had said that I would send letters on board the next morning. But you will be disappointed Willie, and will feel a little as we do now in finding some ships arrive in the U.S. from Canton one after the other without a letter from you - The Alexander is the first ship that has sailed from this port for Canton since you left us, without a letter from me one of the family -

It is but a few days since I wrote you last and nothing worthy of particular notice has occurred. We had a few lines from your sister Mary on Saturday by Mr. Willard - Mr. W. has gone on to Charleston to assist at the wedding of a Miss Doegles who was a fellow traveller with her in Europe. Mrs. W. mentions that all was going on well at the Seminary.

I shall pay you sister another visit in about three weeks before the sailing of the ship - I have concluded to send your little brother Willie to school at Lingling, kept by a Mr. Prime - I have made inquiry and learn that it is a flourishing institution and well conducted. Mr. Prime is very kind and attentive to the scholars. All is good - Indeed it is convenient, and of some moment to me, the charges are moderate. I am in town to day when I shall conclude that I will begin on the 1st of next month.

Your good Aunt Paris has often urged me to get a handsome well cushioned lounging chair in which I might doze over my newspaper comfortably in the evenings. As my hearing being I find myself no longer able to join in general conversation especially after night fall - it is a peculiarity attending my is much greater towards evening and during the night than the day - I have never been able to sustain the conversation nor have I yet found any one wiser on the subject.

I hear the hum of conversation but it only operates as the singing of a nurse on the infant she is cooing to.

I have a resource however in my fondness for music thankful to heaven for favoring me with the inclination. My ~~early~~ habit of early rising, and close attention to business in the afternoon nap as many do, and which is excusable in ^{one} ~~my~~ as you know my apt to fall asleep in the evening over my very newspaper. Your brothers Pierre, Edgar and Theodore, it seems put their heads together to devise some method by which I would give way to this propensity with more ease and comfort - On my return from my late visit to Tom & Marguerite - I was agreeably surprised to find an ample, well cushioned and handsome mahogany chair gracing the parlour which I was told was a present from your brother.

I shall enjoy it highly, and the more as it is a mark of their kind feelings and wish to administer to my comfort. At present I mean resign it to your good Aunt Paris - she is feeble and needs its comforts much more than I do - she insists that I shall use it in the evenings, and she will share it during the day - but I dissent - it is a greater pleasure to me to see her enjoying it than to lounge in it myself.

I believe I mentioned in a former letter that your cousin Henry Vanbrunt had arrived, and intended to locate for some time in Boston. He and his wife left New York some ten or twelve days since. It is arranged by Cousin Irving Vanbrunt, that they and their wives will live together. Henry has accordingly engaged three miles from Boston where many of the friends and Irving, Susan and Julia will go.

about ten days - Henry will have an office in Boston with a set of
and having purchased a horse he promises himself that
pleasantly situated - he is in the practice of riding on
his health which has been for some time rather delicate
himself more satisfaction under this arrangement
at one of living in a boarding house - he says
is not the privilege of finding fault, which
great privation and which he will find at
the better as not being well accustomed to our
" he will find store of opportunity of indulging
ing humour - One object that Henry has in view, is
a home for Susan and Julia while he may be
contemplates going to the South again this winter to
business.

This move of our relatives may open a source
to those here - as if invitations are given and the pursuit good
continues, it may induce your sisters or some of the family to
of Boston and Cambridge a visit next summer - Tremont
House however is an inviting hotel, but there the accommodations are
not to be had without paying for them - We shall have a famous
improvement upon the Tremont House, in this city, when John Jacob Astor's
mat Hotel is finished - as yet it has only reached the first floor
the beams of which are now laying - it will be a great affair - for
now it occupies the whole front on Broadway from Vesey to Broadway
streets, and some one hundred and fifty feet on those streets - it will find
ample custom no doubt when finished - for the influx of strangers
New York is incessant and constantly increasing - one hotel and
boarding houses are full, and your Uncle Washington, had some little
trouble a few days since to find accommodations for the family of
his friend Col. Ashmun, our Consul at London - He procured them
in our neighbourhood, at Mr. Seath's, who occupies Isaac Parsons' large
in Whitehall Street.

Thursday Oct 30. We have heard a little
on my dear Willie, and that through the means of keeping
- My last horse as you will recollect being something
and my health having become fairly established
up - this by the way, I believe is no mistake
please before you left us - Your Uncle Wash.
did not keep a home, but as he is very
as the Rhine Landers, Schumacher & Co.

Horns hook, which cannot be any well done without some extra
of carriage hire. We have arranged with a very decent
who drives his own hack, by the way a very neat carriage
to occupy my stable - he is to pay a fixed sum
for his carriage at the usual regular fares.
Mr Sarah and your sister Catherine took the carriage
some calls and among other places, dropped in on
in front street. You may perhaps recollect that
friend of Ann Olyphant's is living with her. A Miss G.
seems that a brother of hers has just returned in
from Canton, where it seems she has another in
Olyphant told your Aunt that young Gillespie had
his having seen you repeatedly, while at Canton, that
was in good health, and appeared wherever in good spirits.
We shall look up the young gentleman, and get him down
at no 5 - it will, as Uncle Harbington says, be some satisfaction
to converse with one who has been with you.

I make up another small parcel of newspapers - among
them you will find the last No. of the Mirror - published 25th inst
which will complete your file so far.

Yours my dear Willie affectionately
Thos. Grimé

Eden Spring Oct 28
May 1835
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