



Cassides Oct 21 1853

My dear Sarah,



I returned from Winchester the day before yesterday, when I found your letter of the 16th. waiting for me.

The expedition to Winchester and Greenway Court, in company with Major Han and Andrew Kennedy, was very pleasant. We went to Winchester by Rail Road, and then hired a carriage and an old happy coachman to take us to Greenway Court, of which the residence of old Lord Fairfax and a report of walking on in his younger days. We set off from Winchester in the afternoon. The distance to Greenway Court was said to be about 12 miles, but the roads so bad that it would be

impossible to return to Worcester the same evening. What was to be done?

Locomony Court was no longer habitable. There was no good country inn near at hand. Mr Andrew Kennedy determined to seek quarters at the house of a Mr Nelson, who resided about three miles from the Court, and with whom he was acquainted. We hoped to reach his house before dark; so as to seek quarters elsewhere, should we fail to find them there.

We had a delightful afternoon drive through a fine country diversified by noble forests in all the glory of their autumnal hues. I saw some of the most specimens of oaks I have ever seen

in this country. The roads in many places were very bad; we travelled slowly. The sun went down in great splendor and the landscape soon began to darken. Our coach driver knew nothing of the situation either of Green Lane Court or of Mr Nelson, we made enquiries along the road, but received replies which rather perplexed us. It grew quite dark before we reached a gate which we were told ^{led} into Mr Nelson's ground. We drove across two or three broad fields. I found as many common country gates. Nothing had then appeared of the approach to a gentleman's seat. I began to begin to feel dubious. It seemed very much of an intrusion for three persons to drive up to a gentleman's house after dark and ask quarters for the night. The Kennedys laughed at my scruples. It was ~~they~~ the

custom in Virginia - Mr Keller would be
glad to receive us - Perhaps said I he would
not have come - Oh yes. he has lately enlarged
his house - He has been in Europe and
knows how to live - You will find yourself in
clover - let ~~down~~ drive on - no regret
a horse - we might have mistaken the
road - at length we saw a light twinkling
at a distance - It appeared to be from a small
house - Some consultation - This might not be
Mr Keller's - or he might not have enlarged
his house - For my part I was so beleaguered
that I declared myself resigned to quarters in
a barn provided Mr Keller would allow me a
little ~~or~~ clean straw. The road gradually
wound up to the house; as we approached, the
moon rising above a skirt of forest trees
let up the scene and we saw a noble
mansion crowning a rising ground: with

means exposed to get the dogs on us - I began to have hopes of something better than the barn. After a time Mr & Mrs Nelson came home. They accented us in true Virginian style. Mr Nelson claimed some acquaintance with me. He reminded me of his having introduced himself to me three years before, at the Revue House in Boston when I was on there with the Journals - and said he had a prior acquaintance ^{having been} ~~being~~ one of a committee of the "Students of the University at Charlottesville," was about twenty years since, waited on me at the hotel to invite me to accept a ~~dinner~~ ^{tea} public dinner -

In a word - we were made at once to feel ourselves at home - invited to pass several days there - Mr Nelson would take us all about the country and make us acquainted with all his nephews - ~~we were promised to pass the next day for dinner, but had to be postponed~~

gilded portico of columns. and wings
summited with battlements. five drove
up to the door. A negro boy came out forth,
like a dwarf from an enchanted castle -
Mr & Mrs Nelson were both from home! What
was to be done. It was too late to go wander-
ing about the country in quest of other residents.
Would Mr & Mrs Nelson be home soon? Oh yes.
they had gone to make a visit in the neighbor-
hood and would be back to tea -  Mr Nelson's
mother-in-law was in the house - that would
do. we accepted. Entered on the scene
hull upwards of twenty feet wide with
a beautiful circular staircase. ~~Long~~
thence into a noble dining room, where
the tea table was set out, but no body
present. After a time the old lady made
her appearance. Mr John Kennedy ~~was~~
was slightly acquainted with her and intro-
duced us. She was very civil and by us

we had previous quarters that night. My
room was hung with ~~for~~ French paper -
disblaying all the Porcain pictures. The
next day Mr Nelson took us to Greenway
Court; had a large party of the neighbouring
gentlemen to meet us at dinner. At last
was with great difficulty we got away in
time to return in the evening to Winchester.

Mr Nelson repeatedly urged me to make him
a visit on some future occasion when he would
show me all the country and accompanying
me into the lower part of Virginia to
which he is proud in that season -

So much for my expedition to Greenway
Court. ✨ — SHR

I have no time to tell of my further
movements since my return to Cassides.

To morrow I set off with Mr & Mrs Kennedy on
our return to Alsted's fields and on the bygon
- way of hope which shall later my departure

for New York: to be at my post at the
 winter house on Wednesday

I am so sorry that I cannot hasten
 with love to all friends

Yours affectionately

W. L.

Miss Sarah Irving