

Madrid May 24th Wednesday 1823.

is tolerable. — May I have little work more send it with be a year since I had your good bye.
Do you remember our planning out the letters and our ride to the Western road and that delicious morning when we sketched the old church? What a pleasure we shall have in writing

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As the season advances the gay world here is breaking
up and leaving for France and the other side of the Green need
generally : two or three of the few families we have already
gone for the English Embassy dissolves away and nothing is left
but the long Secretary, Birmingham, Lord Stafford &c. who exhibit
himself about once a month : Mrs. Scott and her family are
off in the beginning of June probably not to return. W. Weston (Don
Arturo) is also in the beginning of July : the last is a great loss.
I have been so kind & cordial and such a light agreeable
fellow that W. I. says nobody can replace him :

Yesterday and today, my dear M. I must mark with
a white bear ; yesterday I received your letter of the 27th April,
and one from George of the 28th and a very pretty little letter
from Widow Day, little de delicious full of pretty
things and asking me to write : today I have kept from
Scott full of fun and politics — how could I do better off —
I am very sorry however to learn the separation of
Fanny and Lebecas : how abominable men ! how could they break
up such a nice little ménage — of general news we have only
scraps — removal of trade & revenues — Webster — Commercial treaty —
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Mad. Albuquerque and her little family go to San Sebastian for the
sea bathing and last of all Uncle Geoffrey leaves in about
a month for France generally, to be absent during the hot months.
I suppose until September. Master Ames goes with him and after
a short stay in Paris returns in July to his native land, and
thus your poor little father will be left all alone in this big
city in the honorable post of *Charge d'affaires* ad interim - A despatch
has been written this morning announcing the move to the Department
accompanied again with 'force complaisance' to the Secretary. ^{They} you
see we are to lose all the fingers to the legation and be reduced to
the working members.

Much as I ~~miss~~ by W. J.'s departure I have been
strongly urging ^{him to} ~~him~~ I consider it quite essential to the recovery
of his health, and a good deal broken by his long continued illness - he
will probably join Mr. ~~Storero~~ somewhere on the Sea Coast - Don't say
much about ~~his~~ however unless you hear of it thro his family.

My little excursion to the Pyrenees vanishes of course and
I am chained here thro the hot weather save perhaps some very little
excursions to Escorial, La Granja, &c - I intend to be always in the
best spirits, ~~keep~~ cool of course, read a great deal, and especially the
many minute accounts which you & Angel will write to me from
Nervi: - With me or two servants I shall occupy the whole of this
large apartment, and by way of variety move my particular habita-
tion from one point to another - by way of keeping up my English I
shall drag Jerriugham out of his den now and then and practice a
little. - It is raining cats & dogs ^(a true Spanish shower) and I have just opened the shutters
for more light as I am writing towards 5 P.M.

I wrote to papa a long political letter yesterday with an account
of the trouble we have lately gone through: the Robbers taking advantage
of the confusion are robbing diligences and attacking estates innume-
rable - Mrs. Scott and her maid are in a fever of alarm and have
a most formidable list of casualties of late occurrence. In spite
of my advice to the contrary she will carry her jewels with her, and
thus would prove a rich prize. Some time since at the Opera we were
taking over these matters ~~at the Opera~~ with Col^o Stanley (Counsellor du
Cabinet) and we did our best to laugh her out of her fears: Well, two
nights after the gallant Col^o leaves the ~~capital~~ ^{Empire} at midnight after a
merry party and with an Escort of 6 or 8 Dragoons: - about 8 miles
from the City he was attacked by a party of 12 or 15. Ladrones legit-
imos and after a sharp skirmish and good deal of firing the gentlemen
of the road were beaten off, one of the escort being wounded. He says
his little adventure next morning did not tend to reassure the car
and was a queer commentary on the Col's remarks.

By my letter to Papa you will see I have been a little
unwell - I mentioned it lest Mr. Irving should allude to it: I was "en la
cama" for about a fortnight and the Spanish servants were as kind and
attentive as could be. Juana our nice little housekeeper gave me a large
share of the care & interest which she in general bestows upon her cats &
dores. - It was not unpleasant to lie quietly in a darkened room and follow
you all in imagination through your various positions - At this present
wintering I am convalescent, and hope to be out again as usual in about a week.

I have a letter from Brevoort at Naples - he arrived there in
time for the excursion to Malta & round Sicily, but abandoned it at the last
moment as I was afraid he would - I'm sorry now, I hurried him off from
here as he missed one or two lions ^{here} in the neighborhood - he always asks

require some one to jog him at his elbow - It a thousand pities that with
 so much ability & acquirement there should be so little energy to make
 any thing of them. — In Mr. Livingston's absence I shall advise him to have
 his newspapers forwarded wherever he may be, and I should like you to send me
 by the Havre packets once or twice a month a little bundle of Intelligencer's if
 Papa takes ~~them~~ the paper: two or three in a bundle sealed. the packages must
 be open at both ends and addressed to the Minister of U.S. Madrid — Since writ-
 ing the above Mr. J. says he won't stop the papers "en route" as he will find them in

May 24th
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James A. Hamilton Esq.

(for Mrs M. B.)

Perris.

Westchester County.

New York, U.S.



[2827]

abundance: you may send however occasionally such a 'little bundle' as I have
 mentioned: Our opera is quite good: a new "Empresario" has taken the management.
 and he succeeds admirably: Salvatori our new 'basso' is first rate: Belisario has
 been given and Salvatori, who first brought out the part at Milan acts and sings
 it to perfection — last night they gave the Barber in grand style — I hope to
 be soon able to enjoy all this — the 'Paritani' is threatened and 'Spermetto'.
 The Spaniards are very good judges and always support any troupe that