

New York October 23rd 1834.

My Dear Will,

I was going to express great regret that I deferred writing until the last moment, but on reflection, I do not think I would write you a long letter, had I the time; for you do not merit it - Some seven or eight vessels have arrived from Canton without bringing signs and tokens from you - in which negligence you can have no earthly excuse - the three syllables - 'I am well' - would have sufficed to allay Father's anxious solicitude - Fortunately he has seen the Captain who reports having left you in good health -

I have done scolding and shall now only say how do you do and Farewell, to give you a fair chance to chase me in return - though exceedingly vexed with you I must tell you that yesterday I dined with George Duer and we emptied a bottle of the old Palmer to your health - we discussed old times and prophesied upon the changes that would take place in another year - George thought he would be in New Orleans as he has written to his brother William to let him know whether there is any opening for him there - as to myself I will be doing - echo answer what!

I foresee great changes in the course of a year - ~~thereupon~~ thereupon. I have made a bet of a dozen of Madeira with George - and thereby hangs a tale - ahem! ~~no~~

The same old routine of parties have commenced, but I have not been to one and shall go to very few - I am tired of the little one meets there - very much the old set - marrying and giving in marriage is rather out of vogue - ~~now~~ there are two new engagements since my last -

I think you knew Hannah Lawrence to be spliced in the millinery of time to Henry Whitney son of Skifford Stephens - Georgian Coster to one of the Heckshers - the latter you may recollect as a redoubtable waltzer &c -

The womankind at Duess and Robinsons are still virgins - not an enamoured swarm in their train -

I was walking down Broadway two days since and met Ruth your sweet black-eyed Dalcinea - she had just arrived in town - asked for news of you - Uncle Nash - ~~told~~ me that he met her in a store yesterday and that she asked him when you were to return &c - The illustrious asked if she was not an old flame of yours and I confessed the lost mischance.

She is going to stay at Goodtimes and I shall visit her there and in my next will tell you all that she says &c looking as pretty as ever -

I have nothing to say of myself save that I am busy as ever - Uncle N - thinks so highly of my work that he advises my sending a copy to England so I have a devil of a job before me - I shall get some one to help me

in copying - Should I make a snug little sum by my book I shall speculate upon it, ~~perhaps~~ perhaps we can do something together - but that is counting chickens before they are hatched - For an account of the family see Father's letter - he has I believe given you an extract of the Commodore's letter to me so that you will learn what he is about.

Do you recollect dear little Mahlda Macomb of Washington? ~~she~~ she was the young one with soft blue eyes, dark hair, and with a ~~little~~ little fairy form - and a voice, cannot you recall its sweetness? that voice is hushed - and that lovely form ~~is~~ lies buried in a lonely grave yard on Long Island near Fort Hamilton - Poor Jack - it will be sad

for him - for he was really in love with her and hoped when he returned that she might be induced to make upon him - I had a letter from him to that effect not long since - heigh ho! all that's bright &c - I am half melancholy and wholly stupid at the present writing - so that I shall be able to keep my determination of only writing you a few lines - give us from hard Will - and before the last squeeze promise that you will write me often - you know with me you can say what you please - experience has taught me what a bore it is to write - though I do not mind it when I can say just what comes first.

I wish I could send you an American lady in exchange for the Chinese one sent out in the Washington - Farewell till in the present - I will talk to you again in a few days by a ship than to sail -

Yours affectionate brother
Geo

Mr William Irving

Care of Phelps & Co

Canton

China.

1. Abenwick

Recd from Mr. Irving 1834

Thos. Irving
per
1834
Oct 23

