

Don't be uneasy that I receive twice told news: it very seldom happens, and when it does it is pleasant to hear the same adventure from different persons: so write, write, write

Madrid Tuesday Ev. June 6th 1843.

You are indeed, my dearest M., a jewel of a correspondent:

I have this morning your long letter of May 14th. One from E. and a short and hurried letter from Rha, as he was setting out for Harb. for O. I admire especially your large sheets, thick to that paper, or if you change, let it be for larger - I cannot have too much of "Cristos's" anti angular - In order to keep the ball rolling, I shall send this off tomorrow for the G. steamer on the 17th. - These new steamers with their short passages (the Ibernia came out in little over 9. days) are taking away many of the weary miles which separate us.

Some of my letters are not acknowledged which I cannot always expect, but I wish you would from time to time mention the receipt of them. - Among other excellent reasons: there are well founded suspicions of occasional liberties with the correspondence known to be coming from foreign legations in a neighboring kingdom, and as I write freely about political matters, I am interested to know generally that my epistles reach those for whom they are intended. I begin to move about and make visits like other people yesterday I had a long talk with my fair friend Mrs. Scott who is off in three or four days: like all spoiled and capricious persons, she now regrets that she is going away and tells me she is miserable at the idea of leaving Madrid: I laughed at all this most heartily; but she persisted in declaring how unhappy she ^{was} at the departure - she will be a great loss for ~~nothing~~ in spite of her little affectations. She has a good heart at bottom, much to admire, and is herself so pretty & graceful that she would be an acquisition any where.

He are very good friends: I give the best of advice (occasionally) which she listens to, but does not follow; and I am at the little aid in which she would then indulge: her portrait has been painted by a young artist who is considered by good judges one of the most promising in Europe: it is exceedingly admired as a painting; very like, and also very handsome.

In the first time for more than a month, I assisted at the opera last night: Belshizor was given and Salvator's a deep song to admiration: the second act where he appears blind, with his devoted daughter, was so affectingly & naturally given that it made me very sympathetic, and brought back the first feeling which I started at the first with the "Ole Belshizor". The Theatre was illuminated & adorned in honor of Her august Majesty & her serene sister who were conspicuously displayed in the royal box in two lofty arm chairs which the younger especially seem to climb into with some difficulty. - They had their bouquets & their letter; the Queen a little diamond coronet; the Infanta a wreath of roses, and at intervals they graciously turned their little heads, and dismissed the grave & stiff chamberlains, who in all the glory of ribbons & lace stood erect behind them: there was great interest & enthusiasm shown by the audience which crammed the house in every nook & corner. When the Queen entered the shouts of "Viva la Reyna" rose on all sides: it happened that the Duchess de la Victoria was in the box next her Majesty, & I believe entered the same moment; whereupon some better party men cried out "Viva la Reyna, solo pro la Duquesa": - you can judge from this to what vile extremes the fanaticism of party extends when it can stoop to misanthropy in this way, a woman whose only fault is being the wife of the Regent. This little scene happened occurred before my arrival, and I heard of it in the course of the talk at the Box of the English Embassy, who as the friends of Espartero, were naturally very indignant at such an outrage.

He was in the midst of revolts and it may be at this moment a civil war: Every mail brings news of some fresh insurrection: at present it extends through a great part of Andalusia: Malaga the principal port is sending out troops in bodies of 4 or 500 men to forward the movement in other parts of the Country: on the other side: for 4000 men said to have been collected in the neighborhood of the Sierra Morena, to put down the rebellion - in Aragon & Catalonia, a Col. Prim, late Secretary of the Chamber of Deputies has raised the flag of revolt against Espartero's

got: declared for the immediate termination of the Queen's minority, and is said again to be supported by 2000 Congress to these opinions - the course of the Mayor & the Corporation of Barcelona was the most impudent: they quietly told the citizens that Barcelona with the marks of the late bombardment and her present position (meaning the guns of Morvedra with 100 cannon bearing on the city) could not declare herself, but they went on to hint that the citizens could leave to support their principles elsewhere & one account stated that they were doing so in numbers: Is there just such another Country in the world? - Here we hadid we go on as coolly as if nothing had happened: the Publicly: the opera & the other amusements exhibit no unusual excitement, and so accustomed are they to these occurrences, that I believe it would be the same thing if the rebels were within 10 miles of the City & a pitched battle might be expected under the walls:

Her young Progeny is flying about to visit the royal Establishment: Henry of the neighborhood: he is now at the Escurial; and starts on Saturday for France by way of Barcelona unless the Country should all be in arms in that direction. I shall give him a note to G.B. with a roll of music for you; some little Spanish airs, and a few songs, as curiosities: some are in the patois & bad Spanish of Andalusia; but when sung with spirit in the Spanish style, as I heard Mr. Scott lately, they are very pretty & effective.

"Caro Angelica, dove crades?": it seems at Staatsberg; and this reminds me of my short visit there during our never to be forgotten expedition in the Drang: I sallied forth from Wilkes on horseback, on a Sunday afternoon, & probably disturbed the family in their dinner: however she appeared; in a few moments she led on an irresistible ^{hat} ~~beret~~ ^{hat} and we were marching off towards the beautiful wood to the south of the House; we had gone but a little way, when we put up Papa Mat. from behind a thicket (I suppose he'd been lying in wait there) and by some unaccountable manoeuvre which I can't explain to this day, we were all ^{again} at the house, & with the assembled family: this was intolerable: I mounted my steed & was off at full speed ~~and~~ narrowly escaped riding over the old General at the Gate. Half an hour after, I was half-drowned (a further finale for such an adventure) in crossing the river with G.B. in a cockle shell, during a thunder storm and squall; night was coming on; the boat was filling with water; and we were satisfied to get ashore on a wild island in the middle of the river - During that visit I persuaded honest Mr. Wilkes that I was eternally amorous, tout

de bon" which does no doubt, with some wiser folks, she believes yet. There
a long story & digression about nothing; but as I must leave a line or two for
tomorrow I'll bid you good night -

Wednesday June 7th - our summer advances, but not very rapidly; in
which I am thankful: we have bright sun, but fresh breezes, and temperate weather:
- there is no probability that Mr^s Storrow will be able to visit her brother this summer:
Uncle Geoffrey had declined advising in reference to it, because as he says there are
so many domestic reasons which must be judged of by the parties interested: He
will probably join his niece, either in the neighborhood of Paris or at Havre, and
will set ^{out} about 10th July, unless the condition of affairs here should become very
uncertain: Legare's being in the Dept of State makes him feel easy as to
his absencing himself from his post: I observe that the notices in our papers
of his illness, speak of his being at work on the expulsion of the Moors: I
wish the fact had as little foundation as the last - he goes along together ad:
mirably - he comes into the office while I'm writing to gossip, which he delights
in: We ride out in the Ev: for an hour or two on the Prado following the
long line of coaches up & down as they pass in review the promenaders in
the grand alley, or saloon as it is called: I begin to take more interest in it
than formerly: it's a gay scene, crowded ~~and~~ with well dressed people, and
a great many pretty women, gracefully dressed: the women kind certainly
make up well, and have a lively coquettish air, which they term "el
españolismo", different entirely from the rest of the world: -

Mr^s Albuquerque was delighted to hear from me that the
magnificent Don had arrived - I wish tho' he has been here four years, has not yet
contrived to have her letters promptly forwarded, and she always applies to me
for news: -

As there has been a postal arrangement between England & France
whereby the postage is reduced one half, ask G. B. to send me now & then two or
three newspapers in a bundle, which contain anything of interest - they can go
to Milton by the Western, or to Beaulieu by the packets - I mention George
altho' he is too busy, because he has offered several times to forward them.
I am going to enjoy Marino Faliero tonight, and
tomorrow we have a family dinner at the Embassy, as a farewell to the
Scotts: -