

Pierre P. Irving Esq.

New York.



Washington Irving Boston. 30th Dec. 1830.

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Feb 17th 1831

Ans^d Sep 30. 1831.

London Dec 30th 1830

My dear Pierre,

I am at present so much engaged by
business that I can give you but a brief reply to
your letter. I have corrected and trimmed up
the two volumes of Mr Stedell for publication, and
Mr Murray is about to bring them out in a
neat edition. I shall take care to have it, personally
noticed in the Quarterly review. As the work is
already in print and at its second edition it is of
course any loss properly on this side of the Atlantic
I do not know, therefore, whether I shall be able to
get any thing from Mr Murray for it; but the
coming out under the auspices, and aided by the
countenance of the Quarterly review, is enough to
set an author up with the public. ~~the~~

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Shirley will be able to make a better bargain for any
future work: should Mr Murray & I discuss of having
any manuscript he can forward, and I have
promised him he shall have an offer of the manuscript
fair to transcribe &c. I write you, therefore, to advise
him to ~~not to forward it to me~~ ~~not to forward it to me~~
not to publish that MS. in the United States,
until an arrangement has been made for its simulta-
neous publication in London. Should I continue
here any length of time I should be happy to
make the arrangement for Shirley with Mr Murray.
When Shirley will go on to write; I think his pen
will be a source both of reputation and profit to him
and that in a very great degree. It gives me the
sincerest delight to be of any service in launching him
before the European public, for he is a young man
for whom I entertain an affectionate regard.

I am very much pleased to hear such favorable accounts
of your affairs & prospects, and to find both from your own letters
and from that of your uncle John T. Poiry, that you are
really becoming a thorough and efficient man of business.
I am fearful that you are a little above the humble maxims
and thrifty, persevering methodical habits necessary to
success in traffic. I am glad to find I was mistaken. Buckle
to your business like a man. Turn your mind and your
pride into it for a time, and you may become the founder of the
fortune of your family. I wish you would endeavor to inspire
your brother with like sentiments, and to weed out any
lurking vanity that may incapacitate them for those ~~studies~~
resolute and manly struggles with the world, rendered
necessary by their situation and circumstances, but which
may secure them future ease, wealth & reputation. There
is a flimsy, mongrel, ephemeral circle of what is called
Fashionable Society, in our large cities, which is the bane of
young men of personal vanity and slender purses. The ambition
to flourish for a while in this Society causes more subsequent
poverty, regret & humiliation, than almost any other folly.
Of all those young men who flattered in that circle during
my early experience, scarce any but what sunk into
~~insignificance~~ and poverty & contempt, whereas almost all

the persons of present wealth & prosperity in New York, have
received, by their understanding & attention to business.

I find by your late letter that you have an idea of coming
to England on a visit - I would advise you against such a
step at present. Your business cannot be so large as to warrant
such a measure; nor is it likely that you could benefit it by
a visit to Birmingham, where your interests are in an efficient
hand as they could possibly be entrusted to; whereas your
concerns in New York could not but be injured by your absence.

It is important for you at this moment to establish your
character for a sober, steady, careful man of business; and
to gain the entire confidence, in that respect, of your connections
in Birmingham. I know that they would be apt to think such
a measure as dictated rather ~~for~~ ^{by} motives of mere curiosity
and self gratification, than the prudent calculations of business;
and I feel that I should be apt to regard it in the same
light. Be cautious, therefore, how you suppose any restless
inclination to rove deceives you by mingling it with
business motives & concerns. Make your future first, and
then visit Europe. If you are careful and industrious you
may do so while you are yet young enough to enjoy every
thing with perfect relish.

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I shall not have time to write your father by this
packet. I wish you to tell him, ~~as I have~~ that I should
like, if it has not already been done, that he would
invest \$5000 for me in the Iron works managed by
Green & Wetmore. I understand stock to that amount
is at my service, and from the accounts I hear of the
enterprise I wish to become as far interested in it.
I have already assured your father that I wished that
no attention might be made on other amount loaned
to you for your apartment in basements. If any money
is wanted for this investment it can be raised by
pledging ~~some~~ my Insurance Stock.

Before this reaches you Theodore will be at
home. I hope you will aid with your counsels to
keep him quiet, steady, & studious - I shall be
gratified indeed if I find he is leading an idle and
what is called fashionable life in New York.
I hope Edgar will have gone to sea before this

return; for otherwise I shall think there is danger
of our helping to spoil the other.

By all that I can ~~see~~ hear, and conjecture, we
are likely to have a year or two of very prosperous busi-
ness in America. I hope you may be able to take advantage
of it so as to lay a solid foundation for your house.
These prosperous years are always apt to be followed by
what are called hard times - which I presume will
set in about a couple of years hence. By that time
you may have gained a good start. Business in all
cases, of venturing much, and of overdoing business -
It has been the rock upon which our family success has
been repeatedly wrecked.

Give my affectionate remembrance to your father
& when we may see him

Yours affectionately

MJ.