

Madrid, Aug 11. 1848

My dear Kate,



I have only time to say a few brief words in reply to your most welcome and affectionate letter of November 28th. The long malady with which I have been affected, but which, thank God, I am now almost entirely clear of, having obliged me for nearly two years to suspend my literary labors, has disconcerted all my plans, so that I do not find myself in a situation, in regard to pecuniary resources, to return home next Spring as I had originally intended. If I am not removed from office, therefore, I shall continue at Madrid for the present, but hope, if my health continues good, to get my literary affairs in ^{such} train, that at the end of a year or so I may return home without inconvenience.

X As I begin to fear the residence at the Cottage,
especially in the winter months, is lonely and irksome
to you all, I beg you will consult together, and
adopt such other domestic arrangement, by removing
to town, or otherwise, as may conduce more to
your comfort and enjoyment. I have written to
your father and to Pierre de Irving to the same
purpose, and you must hold a council of war
among yourselves. All I ask is that you do
nothing through motives of mere economy, but
that you be guided ~~wholly~~ entirely by considera-
tions of domestic convenience and happiness.

You speak of John Mann's marriage. I presume
it is the tall handsome young man with whom I
used to sit and gossip occasionally in the workshop.

I hope ~~the~~ match meets with the approbation of
the Mann family, who you know are a little

particular. Should you meet with the bridegroom and
it is not too long after the fair I beg you to give him my
congratulations.

I am writing this, my dear Kate, after having
written a variety of letters to Government, and to persons
in various directions and to different members of the family
and I am quite exhausted, so I trust you will excuse
its brevity. It is intended chiefly to speak to you
on the important point of your domestic arrange-
ment, which ~~as I have~~ I leave entirely to be regulated
according to what you shall all conclude for the
best.

Give my love to all the inmates of the Cottage
and do not cease to write to me, because I am
compelled to be scanty in my correspondence.
If I could wind a dozen pens at a time and their pen
work at brain of mine would not grow weary, I
would write to every one of you on every occasion.

Your affectionate friend
Washington Irving

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Ship

Miss Catharine A. Irving
care of P. M. Irving
Bank of Commerce
New York.