

Baltimore, Jan^y 18th 1853

My dear Mary,



SHR

My letter to Kate will have informed ^{SHR} you all of my travels to this city, where I am enjoying myself extremely. I came near being carried off to Washington yesterday by my charming little friend Miss Steward; who with her husband, paid Baltimore a visit on the morning train; but I resisted the temptation being involved in engagements for two days, but consided myself with the idea that I should see a great deal of her & in Washington, where she is passing the winter.

 I drove out in the morning with the ^{SHR} Steward and Miss Gree, to see Mrs Tiffany (little Sally in Lane in bygone days) whom I found living in a superb house in the centre of a little park at a short distance from the city. The house is finished and furnished in excellent taste, and in a truly noble style. I think I have seen nothing better in this country. It is situated on a rising ground and commands an extensive prospect. Mrs Tiffany told me she

she had written to me, inviting me to pay her a visit; which letter must have reached Sunny side after my departure. I had to make her a half promise to pay her a visit for a day or two on my way home.

Yesterday I dined at Mr Meredith's; where I met two of Mr Gardiner Howard's daughters, one of them a young and lovely widow, Mrs Brown, whose husband ran away & recollect was unfortunate. He killed a cow or two since or a fourth of July, by the discharge of a toy cannon. As the widow is young and lovely and rich, I doubt of her remaining a widow long; and hope she may meet with a husband worthy of her - which is not an easy matter considering her own merits, and the degeneracy of the opposite sex."

Her unmarried sister I am told is engaged, and I don't wonder at it, for she is a perfect love - besides being an heiress. Their mother Mrs Howard did not appear at table. Tell Julia Sanders, if she is with you, that Miss Meredith made every kind

inquiries after her, and spoke of her with great
friendship. The Merediths live immediately
opposite Mr Ingers and the families are extremely
intimate.

This day we have a family gathering at
Mr Ingers, at dinner, and music in the evening,
the old gentleman being a great amateur.

Tomorrow morning I take my departure in the
nine o'clock train for Washington; where the
cars take me in less than two hours. I shall
leave Baltimore with regret for they have made
me completely at home here and I have passed
my time very much to my taste; having a capital
library to refer to when I wish to be alone or to
~~con~~ converse my pen, and my old friend Phil, to
hover about me like a guardian spirit - though
rather a black one.

Mr Ingers is a capital specimen of the old
Irish gentleman - warm hearted - benevolent - well
informed and, like myself, very fond of music and
pretty faces, so that our humors jump together
completely. I believe it was our sympathies on these
two last matters which linked us together so cordially
last summer and made him speak a promise
from me to visit him the winter

10 O'clock at night. I have left this letter open,
and now must close it and go to bed.

We had a very pleasant dinner; a small
party but a very lively and social one.
In the evening we had some excellent music
by two professional artists on the piano and
the violin; who gave us some choice pieces
from Mozart's operas. Mr. Grey has them once
a week, with occasionally amateurs to perform
with them. In the evening came in a Miss
Delaney, a very beautiful girl, one of our
Mr. Grey's pets, who I am pleased to find, goes
to Washington the day after tomorrow on a
visit to Mr. Kennedy. She is to be accompa-
nied by a Miss Andrews, who I am told is an
excellent musician; so we shall have a
gay household.

I set off tomorrow morning on the nine o'clock
train; unless I should again be embargoed by a
snow storm, as it has begun to snow this evening.

I hope the cold weather of the last few days
has enabled the men to get some ice into the
ice house. 

Good night my dear little good for nothing -
Give my love to all the horse boys, take care of
yourself and follow all the doctors' directions that
when I return home I may find you good for something.
Your affectionate uncle
Washington Irving