Berkeley Springs
(Bath) July 1st 1853

My dear Kate

Yesterday I received your letter of Sunday and Monday last, and rejoice to find you leave all surround the latter extreme weather. I have been for now a few days in this watering place, which is in a small valley among the mountains, and, as far as my observation goes, one of the loveliest places in the known world. You will be surprised to learn however that my greatest amusement during the heat of the day, is at the ten pin alley, and that I am getting quite an hand at bowling - the perspiration

it produces a awful - and only to be allayed by the cool baths for which this place is famous.

To morrow I trust to emerge from this oven and to return with Mr Andrew Kennedy to his Cassocks, where I shall be once more within the reach of cooling breezes. Mr Wm Kennedy rejoins us there on Monday, and then in the course of a day or two I shall return with the latter to Elliotts Mills - and thence for the fullness of time / homewards.

Tell Robert I charge him not to work in the sun during the hottest hours of the day - should this intense warm weather continue. He injured himself by it last summer - and I would not have any thing happen to him for all the hay in the country.

I am sorry to hear that Mrs Coles & the Champetre found such a failure - although I am not fond of these attempts to bring city show and extravagance into the country. The pet am and to all our rural simplicities of former days. Our neighborhood is gradually growing too fine for real rural life. I prefer the primitive informal morality that I find in Virginia

I am glad to find that Julia has at length cast loose from Wyleside and is in her own home & the cottage. I trust you will have a perfect chicken

killed [illegible] on the main

Farewell. The weather is so hot that I cannot write - nor do any thing else but play at Cards and lay myself -

with love to all

Your affectionate uncle

W. S.

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