

Madrid September 7. Thursday Sept 13.

My dearest M: I have got into a way of scribbling during these latter days, which bodes no good to the family at Paris - I am becoming like Papa, somewhat mechanical in letters of business, and to you all I write down whatever comes first in a gossiping manner, easier to write than read - this morning completed the week since my arrival, and after a good deal of fussing I shook Uncle Geoffroy's hand at 6 o'clock as he rattled away with the English Courier; his ~~take~~ time, not a gentleman in the army, but one of the old messengers, a grey-headed, queer Irishman, ci-devant valet to Lord Londonderry.

Soon after breakfast by way of consolation, arrived the letters by the steamer; dated to the 15th: a short one from Papa; a nice long one from Lecky, and one from George Schuyler: you & he were just setting out for Helsingfors & Bridgeport: and I hope you had a pleasant visit and excursion - As you all are kind enough to give me the bright sides of things, I think of you always, picnicking; making excursions in the Dream; full of fun and laughter, and I have a sort of posthumous enjoyment of these pleasures. - It is a great relief too, to hear that Papa's affairs are improving with the general condition of the Country -

This is my first day of solitary and "quiet enjoyment". and as it is was always the first step which breaks one in, I am getting on very well: I was busy during the morning writing and afterwards driving about to visit official people until about 5, when I came home to my solitary ^{dinner}. This is I maintain the worst part of a single gentleman's 24 hours; at least it has been so always in my experience, and particularly so at present after the agreeable tête à tête dinners with Mr. J., when he was generally very lively: however it was soon over and I returned to the books and papers - I have sent after him to night a bundle of letters from the Cottage -

Already I begin to consider myself a veteran housekeeper; Every thing goes so smoothly; yet it is quite a machine to keep in motion; there is a Coachman; and a Cook, and her aid de Camp; and Juana, and my

"body servant," Pèpè, a most intelligent boy; rejoicing in a new hat and cockade, and two splendid coats with the U.S. button - when I go to Court, I shall select the largest carving knife, and make a Chasseur of him at once - all these servants are very good, and Juana, a favorable specimen of womankind, humanizes ~~us~~ old bachelors considerably - I began this letter as a sort of diary or gossiping talk with you, by way of relief to the silence of the rest of the day; so that I must not fill my sheet at once; moreover I sent off last Evg, or rather this morn, a long letter on politics to Papa & one to Uncle Philip; in addition to an epistle to Lecky, last week. I am writing at Mr. S's table, and as all doors are open, I ~~see~~ ^{see in} perspective through these long rooms a faint light at the other end of the house some 60 or 70 feet distant; the lightning flashes through the windows and makes the darkness visible, and a most refreshing shower is cooling the air after a hot & sultry day - I shall run round the corner between the drops to hear the Pirata for the first time to my great satisfaction: they say it will given - buenas noches - A.H.

Thursday Evg 1/2 past 10 - Here I am again adding a few lines to my journal, which I must finish in two or three days for the steamer of the 19th; today being the 8th. About 12 this morning while I was writing in the office, a Spanish Minister was announced: I found in the parlor, Mr. Calderon de la Barca: he had two letters for Mr. Irving; one from Prescott, & the other from Everett in London; and expressed great regret that he had arrived a day too late to see him - I had just been reading a very favorable review of his wife's book ^{in the Edinburgh} and was very glad to see him, in order to hear about Prescott's whole new work "The Conquest of Mexico", Mr. Calderon has in sheets & at 3. I set out to call upon the Lady and drove to D'Albuquerque's on my way: honest Jose wished to accompany me, but while I was waiting for him, in came Mr. Aston for a farewell visit: he sat talking until 5; and as I was to dine with him at that hour precisely, the Calderons were ~~put~~ postponed till the Evg, and I had a hot pursuit after the English Minister across the city; dressed; & arrived just in time for dinner: Ah. G. Mr. & Mrs. Albuquerque & my son made our visit - We found Mad^e. Calderon and a gigantic Scotch niece, whose ^{origin} ~~origin~~ could not have been mistaken anywhere. - Mad^e. C. appeared to me like her sister, your young "eternal" friend, whose cavalier I was for the nonce, and talked very pleasantly - she asked after you & Angel - spoke of your leaving her - In the absence of Mr. S. to whom they come so strongly recommended, I have placed myself at her disposal, to supply ~~the~~ loss, to the best of my ability:

she accepted my offers with a civil speech about knowing me so well through my sisters, or "words to that effect" as lawyers say - here again you see as in other cases, an acquaintance with you, proves my best recommendation.

Barcelona is again in a disturbed state: I have letters from our Consul to the 4th at 7 A.M. on that day 2000 men took possession of a large square and a fire commenced between them and the Citadel, by which many lives were lost and many persons wounded; among the rest some unfortunate "verduleras", or huckster women; as it appears the contest took place near a market - the present row is got up by the ultra exaltados or republicans who are disgusted at the union between the moderate men of their party, and the "Moderados" or friends of Christina - as a specimen of the sudden changes which take place here, as in a pantomime, I will mention that Col^l. Prim, the leader of the insurrection against Espartero in Catalonia; and who clamored most loudly against the bombardment, having returned to Barcelona, as Governor and "Conde", now directs the fire of grape & musketry against his former friends & associates from the Citadel - Two short months have changed the agitator & rebel, into an officer of high trust; the defender of order & tranquillity - in as many days career may be cut short altogether; the republicans being incensed against him for a desertion, & acceptance of a title & those now in this city openly declaring that will not escape - how verrous, as Ritchie used to say - In the mean time the greater part of the population of Barcelona are flying from the ~~city~~ town, for the third or fourth time this summer!; pleasant residence for quiet people - Good night -

Saturday Evg 1/2 past 9 - The City is in an uneasy state and the news from Barcelona & other quarters does not contribute to quiet the public mind - Notice was given of a ceremony at the Lyceum ^{tonight} at which the Queen was to have been present; the Corps diplomatique being invited & it has just been countermanded on the plea of Her Majesty's illness; which I rather think is a pretence only.

I called again on Mad^e. Calderon this morning and am still more pleased with her on my second visit - I am to be her chaperon to the Picture Gallery on Monday and have placed my self, ^{& Mr. Irving's carriage} at her disposal ~~to take her to any place, the afternoon of Monday~~ the Scotch niece is terrified and looks larger by day light than in the evening, which is quite unnecessary.

I wrote to Lecky about Mr. Sumner and how he had bored Uncle Geoffrey: I have thought since he may be a friend of the Baroness through his brother Charles - keep that part of the letter quietly to yourself, ^{unconsciously} George Sumner &c

(No action)

Don Arturo is off tomorrow morning and is in high glee as the time approaches - he predicts all sorts of rows in a few days and says he takes advantage of a "bull" to make his escape.

Iskey gives me no later news of his Angelico, but George says the public voice ~~encourages~~ seems to encourage my likes, which is more than I do for myself. Mr. Solander asked me for two sets of the little silver ornaments of Andalusia and I'm convinced one is for the little lady - for fear of

J
 SHIP DELIVERY
 James. Hamilton Esq.
 (for Miss M. H.)
 Nervis.
 Westchester County.
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 19th September
 1843
 Madras

accidents I shall, after the approved fashion of "lovers," send a kiss with each:

all the letters are silent about Maria's ankle, for which I imagine she is entirely recovered:

You will receive this letter on a bright October day, while you are enjoying the season of our year: I look forward hopefully to be with you before long comes: Two years of absence are quite enough & I look to the interval which remains with anxiety.

Farewell. Much love to all your affectionates

A.H.

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