

catch some inspiration from the place, & I have plenty of
time at my command if I could use it. The family
 seldom sits down to breakfast before 12. but I have coffee
in my room as early as I please - and after the general
breakfast, may keep to my room until the dinner hour
(6 o'clock)

I have not altogether lost my time however, for
I have taken copious notes about the Abbey. the
neighborhood - ^{Robin Hood} ~~the~~ and have materials for a
very popular little volume, ~~wherein~~ I find leisure
a inclination to turn them to account. I have in
fact some series of anecdotes that will make exquisite
little sketches.

I shall leave the Abbey in the course of two or three
days to-day, having promised Herbert & Helen to
resume my apartment in his house.

I have never received any reply from Murray with
respect to Remond's work, and fear that, from his want
of punctuality or good faith, I shall lose the
opportunity of disposing of the work to advantage
for Remond. I shall say so when I return to town.
- mention this to Murray

I am my dear Mother
affectionately yours

SHR

W.S.

Newstead Abbey, Jan 20th 1832.

My dear Mother,

SHR

I have long reflected to answer the
letter which brought me the intelligence of your
being comfortably fixed in the Hotel d'Orleans.
In fact I have had a most deplorable fit of
aversion to the pen almost ever since we parted.
I do not know when I have been so most teasingly

and unreasonably agitated. It has only been within
a very few days that I have been able to touch my
papers, and that very unsatisfactorily. The conse-
- quence is, I have I am altogether behind hand
in my literary plans. I have just made out to
connect the chain of sketches, & so as to send
this morning, the volume of the first volume to town to be
copied; when I shall forward it to the States.

I am annoyed & provoked with myself that it
is of no use - these moods will have their way, and

SHR

Washington Irving
Newstead Abbey, Jan 20th 1832.

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at struggling against them only hampers the mind
without being of any avail. I have previously
found, however, that a long interval of this inactivity
is apt to be followed by one of great excitement: and
if so in this instance, I shall make the most of it,
and make up for past delinquency.

I had a most delightful tour with Mr Van Buren &
his son, whom I found admirable travelling companions.
We stopped at Oxford - Macclesfield, then at a house
where the little party of the Red House were almost
knock-knocked with joy at our paying a night under
her roof. Then to Warwick. Kenilworth and
Brimley. ~~where~~ at which last place we passed
a part of three days - dining with backward in
the morning. Then to Hitchfield - Derby -
Nottingham. Kenilworth Abbey (must look at it)
Warwick Castle - Hall - and Barrington Hall.
At the latter place we staid a fortnight, enjoying
a complete old English Christmas, with all kinds
of sports & humors. Making one excursion to visit
Chatsworth & Hardon Hall. From Barrington we came

here on an invitation of Colonel Widdowson. The Van Burens
passed but a part of their days here, but I was so much
interested & delighted with the place that I was prevailed
on to let them proceed without me, and have now
been nearly a fortnight here, riding all about the
neighborhood & visiting the haunts of Lord Byron and
Robin Hood - for this is in the very midst of the
haunts of the latter; and there are some beautiful
tracts of merry old Sherwood forest still remaining
in the neighborhood in all their ancient wildness.

SHR

The Duke of Devonshire arrived here about ^{five} days
since. Of the old story has been a scene of festivity
ever since. We have had some of the fairest & 'flower
of the forest' staying in the house - and beautiful
girls they are. I cannot express to you the
charms of this romantic old pile, thus inhabited.
The Duke is a jovial house mate - puts every
one at his ease, and adds to the ^{general} gaiety by his
good humor. He has been most cordial in his
attention to me, and I have promised to let him
know when I return to London, that he may make
up a pleasant dinner party. I am happy in Lord
Byron's company and bed, and am only vexed that I cannot