

per Ship London, Brace, Master -
Mr. William Irvine
Canton, China.

New York Sept. 5, 1894

My dear Willie, I wrote you three letters by Capt. Low in the Teabot, the last dated August 7. The letter acknowledged your letter of March 12 by this ship, the "London", with the invoice of tea &c. your next of March 16 per Pioneer is also received - by this I learn that the articles for the London are, as I presumed, presents to you from the Hong Merchants. Theodore has received your letter to him of about 1st April per the Alert - the Hercules, arrived the same day with the Alert but she brought nothing from you.

I have not yet sold your few boxes of tea, the price has been so very low that I thought it best to hold on a little while - the market continues to improve a little but slowly. I send you several newspapers - some of them notice the sales and prices of teas &c. which you will take care to observe.

I continue of the opinion that goods generally from China, will pay some profit next Spring, as there will be fewer ships from the W. States in consequence of the present bad state of the market. Teas, it is said have sold at a loss of from 15 to 25%. I have in former letters suggested in case of your purchasing tea on a venture to this place to go for the extra fine qualities particularly of Hygon and Young Hygon. If you notice carefully the reports of sales in the papers and prices current you will observe a great difference in prices. while some of the choicest of the green teas are selling for 30 or 40 cents per lb. others of the same cargo bring over a dollar. The prime qualities are generally small in quantity and certain of our retailers will have the best, though they may have to bid comparatively high.

Some vessels have got their name up for bringing good teas. This is the case with the Panama, belonging to the Griswolds - her teas have been so uniformly good, that the Grocers will almost buy them without trial. I am very sorry that you did not say something as to the quality of your few boxes of black tea - if they are fine, I could recommend them to friends - still I shall try to make sale of them among acquaintances.

You will perceive by the papers that we have a slight attack of the "Cholera" again, and that

Some few are daily carried off by it - they are nearly all of the poor class who are badly lodged and worse fed - now and then one of better standing is taken off, but it is usually owing to some impudence or neglect. It seems to have occasioned little or no alarm, and our city is nearly as crowded and busy as ever. I believe that I mentioned in former letters, when about to start on the wedding journey to Baltimore, that I had made provision for a clear house - Your little sisters were with your Aunt Pavis at Huntington - I left them there about four weeks, and then brought them home - as however they were very anxious to pay a visit to Saugerties I took them with me and left them there a week since - Catharine and Sarah are at Selzer's cottage with Amanda's sister Emily - Julia, Mary, Charlotte & Washie are at Pierre's, and all are pleasantly situated - As it is time for the latter to commence their studies again I shall probably bring them down about the latter part of next week. Pierre & Selzer have been anxious that I should pass some time with them, and I should be well pleased could I afford myself a little holiday. I should like much to pay a visit to the "high peak" of the Catskill Mountains which lie about 12 or 14 miles back of Saugerties, and which Pierre has invited me to do, but I have not been able to spare the time yet - I spent two days with your Aunt P. at Huntington and three at Saugerties on taking the little ones there - both visits were very pleasant and gave me great desire to repeat them.

You will perceive that, as usual at this season, our family is small in number - your Uncle Washington, Theodore and myself are all that are in town - for a few days I was alone - Your Uncle makes home his head quarters and takes occasional excursions into the country - he and your cousin Sarah Pavis had a delightful jaunt with Mr. Mudding's & the Knicker family, to Stockbridge & Northampton and thence down the Hudson to New Haven and so home -

I found that the "little Phillie" had returned to Syracuse before I got back from Baltimore. I am told that it is his intention to leave that place, but have not heard where he intends to locate himself next. I am inclined to think that he has not been on the best terms lately with

Mr. Baldwin & his wife as I was told he had not seen them for two or three weeks before he came down - this is no doubt owing to his unfortunate propensity - Your cousin Mr. J. Dodge had written to Lewis G.D. stating that the Phillie was in a bad way and advised that he should be urged to return to New York, where he might be under the supervision of his friends, as if that could be a remedy - the truth of the matter appears to be that Mr. J.D. having determined to quit Johnstown this fall and join his son in two "Baldwin" at Syracuse, it would be very desirable to both that the "little Phillie" should leave the place.

I have letters from your Uncle Sam but since his return to Birmingham - he was much gratified by his visit to this country and equally delighted to get back again - his brother's health has not been good for some time, and concluding that a voyage would be of service, added to the wish no doubt of his wife to be in her parents and connections, it was decided that the trial should be made -

we are looking for them very anxiously as they come to sail on the Columbus 1st Augst and we have several arrivals which sailed from 27 to 31 July - Your Uncle says that it is intended that Henry should reside at Boston, and by the tenor of the letter it would seem that a permanent residence is intended - I have replied to your Uncle that a residence in Boston will not answer for a delicate constitution - and he means to pass the winters at the South -

I believe our relations are all well - I had the pleasure of seeing your good grandmother Kip the day before yesterday in her usual fine health - Your cousin Jane, my dearest friend, has just arrived in New York from a few days' visit - & your cousin Clara Kip (Mrs. Van Wageningen) has with a daughter - her first born - Jane Mary (Mrs. Bondinot) spent a few days with us in the early part of the summer -

You must be careful to preserve your health - do not live in the summer - study how the natives of good constitution live - this is the best way to live - I am ever your dear Phillie. I am writing

During the clearance at the London, of the sailing of which
I was not aware I have barely time to write this hasty letter.
The weather however is not good and she may be detained - if so I
will send you the "Leary" but by Capt Brown if he will take
it - I send a parcel of newspapers and the numbers of the
Mirror to Saturday last.

Mr. William Irving

care of Messrs Russell & Co

London.

Young Capt. Grace.

To author

China

London

John Irving

July 10. 1834