

New York October 28th 1834

I believe I must take unto myself the blame, my dear Will,
for your not receiving any letters by the Alexander which sailed a few
days since. Father kept open his parcel waiting for my hasty scrawl
and when he sent to the ship she had sailed, he directed the clerk to
jump in a small boat at Whitehall and pull after her, but he
found that she was then nearly down to the Quarantine in tow of the
steamboat. As the letter is on board of the ship that will take them you
you will doubtless on perusing it after an impatient wait, that you were
disappointed in such a good for nothing scrawl. However I did not
dream that the vessel would sail in such a hurry. In on writing her the
day before, she was being scraped, not yet painted and apparently untrighted.
It will be a pleasure to you to see the Captain as he has seen Father and
conversed with him. I went twice to see him but he was not then to be
found; I had a few words however with the second mate who could not re-
collect exactly having seen you.

Would that I had something from you to answer - Don't look venom I
am not going to read you a lecture - for I know it would not profit you
much. - I know how it is with myself and presume it is much the same

with you - at times I cannot put pen to paper, I defer and defer and at length give it up as a hopeless case. though that is rather with formal letters and were one must think before speaking - and I am sure that you do not study your letters to us very deeply, at least they run very glibly

stupidity, stupidity! how heavily has that lain thy hand upon me this morning! I have been nidden all night by a huge oyster supper - blanketed by sandy glazes of vulgar ale, and now my thoughts are as muddy as the latter beverage - I would not attempt talking to thee now laid, did I not fear that something may prevent me tomorrow

I have not seen your old flame Ruth as I said I would. it is so long since I have spent an evening out that I cannot bring myself to - though I did go the other evening, now I think of it - to the ~~Thomas~~ Thomas to meet - and old Baltimore flame of mine one Sally Hoggman - You would not find them the least changed except that the eldest one has grown, if that phrase is proper to one that always was, compounded of age - Sally giggles as much as ever and is the same good natured, lively, untroubled soul as ever - little Kitty as pretty as formerly and decidedly the flower of the flock. Port-waiter lounging about there ~~waiting~~ as in days of yore - Port has become a moveable appendage to Broadway - there he roves at all hours - a solitary planet, his former satellite Sir Stewart has diverged from his orbit - and departed to Europe with a retinue who was the bone of the body of a Jewish Jew named Selzer, famed for his wealth, miserly propensities and eating a whole turkey at a sitting, which was more than we could do even in those days of Del.

John Home follows some kind of basing game, the day and gambles at the club at night. Port his white-headed brother is still with Browns, the same conceited jackanape as you knew him. Your friend Josh Jones I see occasionally and think him a very good sort of fellow, much before his chum George Hoggman who I began to think considerable of a bore - latter now of civil war - ready to fight on a friend if he was a Tory, and such like pugilistic doctrines in the same way that he used to talk of duelling. Charley H. I see frequently and like him very much a little pompous as we are to say but without an excellent hearted fellow. His book is in the press, which I will forward you when published. George Dae, however, is my only cronie - he is the only one with whom I can talk much of you and old times and we never drink a bottle of claret at his house and smoke our pipes but we dwell on your and old days. He has very much improved - you remember it was a matter of regret with us, that being as he was a youth after our own hearts, he would be at times a little queer. He has got bravely over it and is now really a glorious fellow and when we three meet again, again, we will have high times - we will make the belkin ring again, or rather the claret and champagne bottles - I wish he could find something to do here - for if he goes away I shall lose my only cham, the best accompanying me to a bottle wine, an oyster supper and a cigar - It has been low water in our pockets for some time past, which will account for my dwelling so much upon oyster suppers, we cannot aspire to a dinner - Upon the latter the occasion of the birth of my Port & ~~last~~ George and myself will have one glorious dinner. Bill Robinson I very seldom see - from being in the Bank he has got on with a set of Bank clerks - and whenever I meet him talks of the number of whiskey

punches he drank the night before - As I have given up such things myself long since and rather abominate them now, of course, I do not feel deeply interested in the conversation. In fact those hard drinking days are gone by. it did very well while we ~~was~~ ^{were} lounging on weed mats, but now I trust - are now saved - and I now heartily eschew hard drinking. understand me and don't roll up those eyes like I allude to vulgar spirituous drinkers; You two or three, say you or even two bottles of Good Brandy, why that is a drink for a Gentleman - that is the wine to make every generous spring within a man warm up and boil over, that - ~~then~~ it I am running into a dissipation upon wines - you will certainly be awariced that I told the truth when I said my brain was muddled; lest I should write more uninteresting nonsense I will now throw down my pen and wait till I am in a better mood - I will sally out onto Broadway and perhaps I may see or meet with something to tell you, for the present - good bye -

October 29th. I did sally out yesterday as I intended, but it was cloudy and blustery and my nose became blue and my hands cold, so I soon turned about and returned to the fire side, ~~where I~~ ^{where} I ensconced myself in a seat the deep, low, high backed, cushioned, comfortable chair, which was built under my direction and presented to the old Gentleman by his three eldest sons - It that now, instead of picturing, sitting, nodding over his newspaper, upon a hard bottomed high backed chair as formerly, you may see him dozing comfortably in his luxurious arm chair, for the purpose of which during his absence the rest of the family

have constant skirmishes; Aunt Paris and Uncle Mark of course always taking
precedence. As I was saying, I was ensconced in the afore mentioned chair
looking listlessly in the fire, succeding castles of the glowing coals, when Kate
incidentally struck up the old tune you used to play, and as if by magic
the coals emitted a sudden and vivid blaze as they are wont to do in wood burning
and the castles changed into Chinese pagodes and eastern temples with lofty
minarets decked with little bells which jingled musically in the wind; and then
I saw you with a young Hong merchant ~~accompanying~~ with his long ~~two~~ ^{two} strands
one dangling to his heels, his squat face surmounted by a huge ~~bat~~ ^{steeple}
crowned broad brimmed hat; he was hanging on your arm and you were prom-
- nading in front of the Spectator and then methought we both jumped into a
very handsome little boat, resembling our white-hall boats, and pulled out
onto the river and then and then. The music ceased, the door opened and in
entered three demurely wrapped in garments of wollen, called cloaks, but alas they
were creatures of clay and with the gabbling of their tongues evanished the delicious
phantasmagoria in which I had been revelling - These womenkind proved
to be the two Miss Schermackhorne and their cousin Miss Bailey, mortals I believe
that are unknown to you. They are however exceedingly nice girls, and very
intimate with Kate and Sarah P. and as they are just coming out are very
pleasant companions and find it mutually agreeable to go to parties together.
The Ogden and ~~de~~ Callenders are in that set and we are all becoming very

thick. Kate made her debut at a large party at M'Enery, she had plenty
of partners and enjoyed it exceedingly so much so that she is quite crazy to go
to another. and you recollect we always had great difficulty to get her
to go any where. She is really improving very much, in which we are
much indebted to the Schermerhorn who have drawn her out by their hospitality.

Kate will certainly never be much of a belle as her talking powers are rather
limited. She makes her second appearance to night at Mr James Otis -

I had resolved to avoid parties this winter for I am a scared of them. but there
is no one else to go out with Kate, of course I will go whenever she desires -

My Mary I believe you know Rebecca M' Lane, at least you have seen her - some talk
of her spending the winter here - said to be very well-begone - it seemeth that she
there has been a love affair between her and one Kramer, ~~a~~ Secretary to the Russian
Legation - her father disapproved - forbade him the house - ~~loves~~ ~~has~~ separated or
is a long story, much resembling all love ~~story~~ stories -

Of the Blackwells I neither see, nor hear any thing - our former organ of com-
munication is broken up - as Dul & Mary have gone away -

We expect Edgar with his retinue, white and black - on here in the course of a week.
they will go up almost immediately to the cottage where as you will have learnt by his
letter they expect to have glorious times, much revelling among the eatables and drinkables.
I doubt whether my association will permit me to go up during the winter - should I -
you shall have a letter giving you a description of the cottage and its inmates -

Heigh ho! I feel very "melancholy and gentlemanlike" this morning - so instead of
going to my work I will go out on a cruise after one Bellespie, who I heard has come
out in the Washington and had known you in Canton - The girls were up yesterday
at the Olyphants and from them learnt that this young man had seen you. I will
induce him to come and dine with us, and draw out of him all that
he knows about you - peradventure he may give us you last witty saying.
or lastutation with some young merchant's daughter - I dare - Have the young
merchant's wives and daughters - though of late have the former probably they have
the latter - and do you ever see them? Do you ever see any woman-kind of any
quality or description? I expect to hear of your going to France
having rare times there - write copiously about the place and
every thing that you do or see - always provided you write us again -

From mammy down to us, just as you will - all are well - crop in the morning
but very amiable after dinner - Mammy takes as much snuff as ever and wipes
her nose upon your red handkerchief. Sophia scours about the house as
pretty and tartane as ever - I am seated on the third story room looking
out upon the battery - the bay looks blue and bright through the trees, the leaves are falling
off at every breeze - and there goes the jolly little form of Smiley Ogden - and all
alone too - again - I will go and join her, and peradventure her happy smile and merry
laugh may drive away a coming fit of the blue devils - so adieu - your little unfor-
darkness - Fare thee well my dear Will, and believe me that you will often have a place
in the thoughts of your brother J. G.

This Irving
Oct 28. 1834

May. 1835

Thamla

Mr William Irving

Care of Russell & Co

Canton

China.

Ship Mary

