

Utica March Sunday

My Dear Will,

Here we are, Rad and myself comfortably ensconced before a crackling wood fire, pretty considerably used up from journeying night-and day over the most execrable roads perhaps it has ever been your luck to travel over - We left Albany on Friday evening at 10 o'clock and only arrived here this morning at 5. By dint of seeing the drivers we persuaded them now and then to go off a walk, but the way ~~roads~~ were jolted and jammed up and down, forward and backward and all sorts of ways, and a caution - we shall sojourn the ~~night~~ ^{day} and the night here to recruit and tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock and jolt on our way. Despite the weariness of the travel we had a merry time of it - encountered some rare specimens of the male & female kind - Picked up along the road, a sweet featured female with a devilish tender blue eye - Rad and myself stowed her between us on the back seat, - and the first thing I knew on waking from a nap, the fellow was making love to her like a very devil. He found out by her converse that she was a schoolmistress about these these parts, and you would have waded to have heard them talk of Moore and Walter Scott. I put in my oar here, quoted Don Juan and was carrying all before me, when Rad very gracefully told her to beware of me as I was married, had buried two wives, and was the father of two lovely infants. He ~~strove~~ ^{strove} to it so subtly that Amelia believed and believing smiled upon Rad - more of this when we meet.

We have picked up much news along the way all tending to confirm the chances of speculating. This is one of my sanguine moods so I will say no more. If I only succeed my dear Will we'll have some glorious days yet. I regret I was compelled to leave you so soon, especially as you appeared in such exalted spirits - it won't do. Because we have never been favoured by fortune yet - is no reason to argue we never shall. Still to hope - and though it be the gay tomorrows of the mind it creates life and gives one vision beyond the present. I

feel sanguine, and I like to have them that are dear to me feel the same. - discouragement - does not belong to our time of life - and as I have thought upon your depression I suppose my hopes have received a sickly hue. - methinks you have no right to be out of spirits - you have a career before you which if pursued must give you immediate independence and ultimate wealth - my chance is vastly uncertain - if I do not succeed, why - but it is the if -

I trust, in my case, you will get acquainted with Mary & and tell me all that she says and does, - you will find her a fascinating little creature full of soul and feeling, but alas! I am constrained to confess I believe her in very truth a coquette. - the fact that she flirts, and seems to take an interest in that capricious thing I - in her childhood the feeling I had for her. - still she will repay the cultivating. In she has more mind in her dear little body, than the whole pack of fashionable girls put together. - The sister Fanny is my confidante and as for Georgy why I love her and so write her say nothing - write me particularly about them all, for in truth they are the only people who have much of a place in my memory.

When you see the Duns, convince them of my intention of going with you & on my part - to bid them farewell. I would have their good will, for I know for certain, that above all they do like they are just friends - and that you know from experience is rare -

Let me hear from you immediately and tell me of your plans & projects: I am dreadfully weary, and Paul's snoring in the bed beside me, warns me that I stand in need of sleep. - Before falling into the arms of somnus he desired me to give his remembrances to you

Ever yours

Thrs D

P.S. my love to the girls and tell them to have my thanks ready as soon as possible and I wish sent up with them a pair of shoes which you will probably find sent home for me by my shoe maker as they - If they are too late for Mr Duns there will be plenty of chances as soon as the canal opens -

I fear me, that you will take them in a Taylor's bill and throw it in the fire before opening it, for it looks for all the world like one of Frost's documents. - I would not have run the risk of that thing you had been no other paper at hand -

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Sept. 18
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