

30 Belmont Co. Ohio Mar. 12th 1845

DUBLIN Y.M.
HISTORICAL
COLLECTION

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My Dear Aunt

From perusing your invaluable letter to Uncle Wm & Achemian I have endeavored to address you by letter — the first, by the by, that I have ever indited to any of my Dear relatives in the land of my birth — the Green Emerald Isle of the Ocean — the birth place of many noble, generous & brave, illustrious & warm-hearted men, & of fair, lovely & virtuous women. In addressing you, my Dear Aunt, I do not alter my mode of address as this would be a species of hypocritical cant which I do most cordially detest. You have learned from others the sad — the melancholy the irreparable — loss which we have all sustained in the demise of my Dear Father & am more than generous, brave & disinterested Brother James & Mary. Do you seem anxious to obtain all the information you can as to Dear James' journey from Belmont to St. Orleans — the resting place of many a "stranger in a strange land" I will attempt the best narrative that I can give. Dear James left Belmont for Warsaw Ill. in company with his sisters Eliza & Maria M. Gregg & our daughter Hannah Lane. Myself & two of the children Miles B. & Artemissa accompanied them to Wheeling, where we remained two days & seen them leave for the "Lucky Gem" on the Steamer Bertrand. Ah! little did I think as the speedy Steamer carried its noble — its generous — its warm-hearted passenger from my anxious gaze that our last terrestrial interview was over — was closed forever — but alas! it was even so. Our adieu was destined to be last — the feelings which it excited in my bosom were indeed poignant, but that

out of sequence

frugancy was asayed by the hope - the delusive hope
of another earthly ~~intention~~ but warm, generous & passionate
salutation. That parting scene is indelibly impressed on
my mind. I had forebodings then but hope - the anchor of
soul - dissipated them only to be realised in two short
months. As the steamer left the landing Dear James stood
at the cabin door gracefully bowing & waving his hat
to us on the wharf until the fleet steamer carried his
beam nearly from beyond the ken of my bleared vis-
ion. His irrepressible feelings at parting seemed to in-
dicate to me that dire necessity alone impelled him
to leave us; & his last muttered adieu, adieu, adieu,
(indicative of his passionate affections) was continued
till lost in the intervening space which was to sepa-
rate us for all time. As I turned my back upon the
beautiful Ohio on whose placid bosom floated a
bark laden with a brother, a daughter, & a motherly
niece, I asked myself: "will they all be blessed
with a safe voyage to their parts of destination?"
The buoyancy of hope expelled all the forebodings of
evil & impressed me with the conviction that it
would be even so - but alas! alas! how vain
all human calculations - their failure should teach
us humility & resignation to the will of Heaven.
I received from Dear James prior to his death 4 let-
ters all breathing the same generous feelings & anxiety for
two exiles with whom he parted at St. Louis being so
much indisposed to accompany them, as he intended,
his brother-in-law at Warsaw. His 4th letter from NY
informed me of the safe arrival of his exiles at Ala-
bama in company with their Mother & cousin Joseph Wright &

that he would leave that day for St. Orleans very
 much improved in health. His next, & last, letter
 was to Jeremiah from St. Orleans, two days before
 his disease commenced, stating his expectation to
 sail in a few days for Cuba. During their voy-
 age from Wheeling to St. Louis Hannah Lane, since her
 return, says that her Dear Uncle James enjoyed
 but poor health, yet he paid the most assiduous atten-
 tion to her & Elvira. Nothing was too much trouble
 or expence to ensure them a view of all to be seen
 in the great & growing cities of the valley of the "Father
 of Waters". Indeed that was his nature for all who
 shared his company were done of his unremitting
 attention & warm-hearted kindness. In his ^{death} they met
 with a shock increased in intensity by having been
 the inmates of his House, & the recipients of his gen-
 erous bounty, as well as from being ^{his} fellow travelers
 in his last earthly voyage. That they can ever cease
 to revere his memory, or appreciate his worth, is
 impossible if they possess but a tittle of generous grati-
 tude & enabling qualities of one who was beloved by
 all who knew him. It is reported here that Dear
 James spent an unhappy winter with his two nei-
 ces. If that were indeed true it would embitter
 all my recollections of the past winter & be a las-
 ting source of regret to me for having consented
 to let Hannah Lane be the cause of one unhappy mo-
 ment to her venerated Uncle. I, however, fancy that
 you, my Dear Aunt, are in possession of letters of
 letters from James, during their sojourn with him,

which will set this matter in its true light. If
they were a source of infelicity to him no one
would be more likely to be advised of the fact
from him than yourself. If (as I believe to be the
facts) they ministered to his comfort & enjoyment,
& you have an account from him to that effect, it
would be a source of enjoyment to me to
know it, provided you deem this letter wor-
thy of a reply. As you, my Dear Aunt, seem anx-
-ious to know Dear James's views of religions, & as
you say that they could not prejudice you against
him I will give you the best information in my
power. I am clearly of opinion then that he was
a Catholic from conviction. I judge from his
conversation as well as from his actions. He be-
-lieved with warmth & great ability the ~~teaching~~
doctrines of the Catholic Church. He evidently
took a pride in explaining the seeming absur-
-dities of that Church, & he gave Hannah Jane Cath-
-olic books as every way worthy of the most se-
-rious perusal for the sake of religious instruc-
-tion. I have often heard him say that the Catho-
-lic Church was decidedly better calculated to
promote the happiness of mankind than any other
of which he had a knowledge. He must then have
been sentimentally a Catholic unless he discar-
-ded all religions - which I do not believe that
he did. Aside from all creeds, one thing is
certain, namely, that he was wonderful for
practising those virtues which adorn & enoble hu-
-manity, & though the tear regret at our irreparable

left moistens my cheek as I write, yet the conviction
 & abiding that our ^{temporal} loss is his eternal gain. He sleeps
 on the Delta of the Mississippi far, far, from all his rela-
 tives. Ought not his dear remains to be removed & laid by
 his dear Father's amongst hills of Ohio. This is my opin-
 ion & I am writing to his late agent in St. Orleans
 as to the practicality of the removal this ensuing
 winter. Hannah has transcribed your poetic effusion
 to send to Elmira, & I enclose to you dear James's
 last effort at poetry transcribed from Hannah's al-
 bum, by an eldest son, as well as an acrostic of my
 own written in Elmira's album. At the earnest so-
 licitation of dear James I become a candidate
 for nomination for the Senate of Ohio. I, how-
 ever, lost the nomination in the convention
 by two votes. By the same mail I send you my
 address & an obituary notice of my dear Father's death.
 Hannah acknowledges the receipt of the present (they
 all came safe) sends her love & her thanks & promises
 to write. All the members of the family are well.
 Uncle Wm. is failing - He, however, looks better
 since the cool weather set in. He said yesterday
 that he would write soon & for the present
 sends his love. My dear Wife & the children
 join in dear love to you, my dear Aunt,
 & all our other dear relatives in the
 "Green Emerald Isle of the Ocean" -
 Believe me, dear Aunt, your aff. nephew
 Wm. G. Wright

Martha Wright
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Wm. Howard
B. J. Howard

Wm. Howard
at Great Brunswick St.

Dublin
Ireland

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 B. G. Wright

Dear Mr. Wright

your dear has received and am not unfeeling