

Santiago de Cuba April 8 1842

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dear cousin

I have perused and reperused your last valued favor with much interest, the dates are notable days, the anniversary of the independence of the United States, and the first of the new year, may they be auspicious to our correspondence.

The restoration of my uncle to a comparative good state of health, must have been gladdening to you all, and I join you in that feeling, although so far away, and I am pleased to be able to say to you, that my father was also recovered from his affliction of the liver and bladder, and Behem's under date 1st of last November writes "from his general state and appearance, I observe nothing to prevent his being spared to us for many years, except what his advanced age presents" which is really cheering, but of which William what he says is not so much so, yet he is able to take about and attend to his business and manages well, but fails in bodily strength, fact, his constitution is more siliing and shatter'd than father's. I hope however that part of the lost ground may be regained by him, and when I get out there no means shall be left untrod by me, to reinvigorate and cheer his mind, which is possible, what is requisite, my own health is not yet quite reestablished although I am gradually getting better, I presume that I shall at all times, be occasionally subject to similar affections, as it is a chronic complaint of the bladder, which seldom is got rid of as we advance in life.

P.S. Give my best love to Aunt Martha, my uncle and your brother John, and remember

The loud toned bells, the moorish looking steeples, and the Moro Castle
are with us, as they have frequently been described, but we have
few balconies, our houses being chiefly confined to a single floor,
to preserve them against earthquake, the windows of but one
upon the street perhaps 18 inches, and are grated either with
iron bars or turned rounds of hard wood, and that 18 inches
in addition to the embrasure of the entire thickness of the stone
walls, generally about two feet, serve the inhabitants as seats
or lounges to take the air, and converse with their friends outside,
at the same time that they protect the unmarried damsels from a too
close approximation to their male acquaintances, and give some-
thing of an anti-ent barracaded appearance to the dwelling, but
for scenery one must visit the mountains cultivated in coffee,
this truly splendid, strictly alpine, the house that I dwell in
for several years was 2400 feet above the level of the sea,
and part of the same estate about 3500. I think I may say
that the fields averaged an ascent of 45 degrees at least,
but notwithstanding all this feat of the eye, I should undoubtedly
prefer sitting down cozily to a cup of tea, with a few friends
at No 33 Saddle Place and shall be governed by what you say
in not permitting myself to use too free a style in addressing Aunt
Martha, but you must bear in mind, that I have now been living
more than a quarter of a century, where the ladies permit them-
selves with perfect freedom to talk to men upon any subject
without intending any thing shall lose thereby.

me affectionately to all relatives and friends. I am sorry any could in deed begeth under way

on my travels to visit you, but must in duty and love make some stop in Ohio for a few

your course through life was read with sympathy and sincerity
 hope that the spinning wheel will not burn but as being a spe-
 culation as you seem to fear, but it is too true, that spinning opera-
 tions generally, are like placing money on a card, all or no thing.
 I do not wonder that care troubles you when thus at risk, and I do not
 know well myself what the anxiety of money and business matters bring
 in return for what you tell me, I may state that you are a - w - ad -
 ware that we went to Ohio in 1802 where I worked hard in sum. now at
 - men and hunted in winter, in 7 quit and tried a clerkship hence
 in Baltimore, in 10 started as supercargo, and in 13 I think ne for
 visited this place in that capacity, having then gained about
 8000 after various vicissitudes as to losses and profits,
 began business here as a Commis. on merchant in 17
 and suspended payment in 20 with an indebtedness
 of \$450,000 and a part of \$1,500,000, in 38 finish-
 ed paying off both the principal and interest, to effect which
 nearly a million was paid out, for interest on heavy sum
 at from 0 to 12 percent per annum run up fact, and pro-
 bably such a liquidation was never before fully completed,
 get through in the West Indies, and this done I again took
 upon me the direction of the house, and I cannot complain of
 the result, and as the term of our partnership expired the
 1st of October this year, it is my intention to withdraw
 altogether from the turmoil of affairs, and take the residue
 of life easier, so that you need not fear but what I shall
 at all times, have leisure enough to reply to your epistles

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have no possibility

give me the name of your firm and number of your house in Christ Church place, for not knowing these, I enclose for you the sent Mar the in fear of mis carriage the experience of very severe money press ure at present, and several failures have occurred to an amount in the aggregate of 2 millions of dollars which is heavy for a small place like this, in the United States affairs are really awful, and it is impossible to say who

SWITZERLAND
LETTERS

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attention of
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MAY 25 1842
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of Franking letters to you

is safe or who is not a capitalist with us, and a former active partner with me, who had established himself in Boston stopped 3rd Nov for half a million, but we are not committed, and we fear that a great many will be wound up there, I remain dear Home than very affecly
your ever a well wisher
and am sorry for it
James J Wright