

Santiago de Cuba August 20<sup>th</sup> 1848

My dear Aunt Martha

I received only a couple of days since, your very acceptable letter of 8<sup>mo</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup>, for the mail steamer to come here now, only once a month, leaving London on the 10<sup>th</sup> of each, and reaching this about the 15<sup>th</sup> of the following one, so that if you had forwarded your letter now before me, to Swansea, to the care of Captain John Purton, it would probably have got to hand in about the same time, for there are departures weekly from thence for this, and you would thereby have saved the heavy postage that you always have to pay by mail, and I shall be glad to see you avail of the opportunities from Swansea, in order to avoid such a heavy expence, unless you have some especial reason to wish that your communication should reach me early, and even then, if it be not about the mail time which I have above indicated, it is quite likely that the chance is as good from Swansea.

I replied on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June, to your esteemed missive of 4<sup>mo</sup> 6<sup>th</sup>, which you style a dull one, but I protest against that sentence, for it was not such, nor could any thing flowing from your pen, to me be other than interesting and feelingly appreciated.

I am much pleased to observe that you spend a part of your time visiting and travelling, for it will no doubt contribute to counteract the effects of a confined city residence, ~~which you~~ ~~get~~ ~~the~~ ~~benefit~~ ~~of~~ ~~regularly~~, both in health and spirits, and I have no fears for your safety, on your trips to attend Quarterly Meeting at Moate, for I find by the London papers up to the 17<sup>th</sup> ultimo, that the menacing appearance of the political horizon, at all events was not thickening, but rather if any thing clearing away, and although I fear much that eventually there will be strife, still I consider that O'Connell is too prudent to bring it to that issue, until he feels himself quite sure of a favourable result, which he can hardly calculate on, even after a long desolating civil war, unless England were involved in a war with France or some other of the continental powers, from which may God in his mercy keep her.

I am thankful in being able to say to you that my health continues slowly to improve, for I take very good care of it you may be sure, nor is my occupation much at the desk, I am engaged in the outdoor business as it is called, buying and selling &c. &c. I write myself to none but our especial agents, and not even to one half of them, and to those who compose my social correspondents entirely apart from business matters, as you my dear Aunt for example.

What does Jonathan mean by having a letter in progress for me? Is it that he lays it aside like a rod in pickle for his own private use, writing some three or four lines a day by way of penance for his transgression? No it can't be exactly so, but I imagine that it floored him as a correspondent, when I gave him that unfortunate task of genealogical research, I was at all his own fault too, for I should never have thought of it, if he had not set me going, but sooner than he should renounce writing me, tell him to give up the hunt as a hopeless one, and to let me have the pleasure of a letter from him.

I am glad that the coffee reached you safely, and I feel pretty certain that you will find it good, and it is no such great supply if you only drink, for it is considered coffee in all parts of the world where it is used, except Great Britain and the United States, say by filtering slowly any given quantity of boiling water through half its volume of ground coffee or more properly speaking, to make good coffee, one cup of roast ground is only sufficient to make two cups of the extract fit for drinking, with which may be taken sugar and cream at discretion.

My last letter from Ohio is of the date of April 14<sup>th</sup> when they were all well, Father confined from the hip disease, but otherwise doing well, with a good appetite and digestion, and weighing 130 lbs and a power &c. I feel a conviction that if he could only move about, and employ himself &c. Aunt Knott does occasionally, that he might easily get along to a full century.

When you see statements about insurrection, or political or other commotion, unless corroborated by me don't let them trouble you, for we have many enemies, jealous of our prosperity who vainly hope to trouble our tranquillity by continual drops of water in that way upon the rock. We are probably as quiet and peaceable a population as inhabit any country, and certainly throughout the entire extent of the land, no country can enjoy greater tranquillity than we do, with a prospect of it continuing so for many years to come, and since the colonisation of the island by the Spaniards, no disturbance has ever taken place, except what may be called riot amongst the blacks and very few even of riot, therefore I may say, our hopes for the future, are founded on our experience of the past.

I continue an early riser, getting up generally about 2 hours and a half before sun rise, and get on our business ground, a little more or less as soon as I can see to read without cards, but I go to bed early, I wonder if the old proverb of "Early to bed and early to rise" will in the long run prove true in my case. It was a true saying of one of the wise ones of old, that it was only after death that, it could <sup>any one</sup> of a verity be said whether his life had been a happy and fortunate one or not, but however it may eventually turn out I flatter myself with the belief that integrity and utility are conceded to me, by those amongst whom I live and those with whom, or for whom I act.

I remain

My dear Aunt  
your affectionate Nephew  
James Wright

2000:  
to you,  
I hope

IM 5  
NO ON  
43

NO 43  
A R P O O L  
H T P

Mr. Martha Wright  
No 108 Thomas Street  
Dublin  
Ireland

~~Via~~  
Princes Royal  
W. Liverpool