

Santiago de Cuba May 5 1841

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Jonathan Wright Esq.
My Dear Cousin

I had the pleasure of receiving in the
course of Packet, your very acceptable letter of January
of which has not been answered sooner, the omission has been
excused by my many occupations, and not from any procras-
tination arising from apathy or my forgetfulness for dear to me is the
remembrance of, and pleasing to me all communications with those
relatives who dwell on my natal soil. You observe that of those
relatives who yet remain to welcome me on my return to the Father-
land, that year I am whitening the heads of some, and casting
to fault the elastic steps of other, for myself, I am ^{dearly} ~~dearly~~
pained the fresh effect for my hair is perfectly white already,
and I now wear a glossy black wig, though it is probable
that I may throw that aside in a few months, but my steps
continue nearly as firm as ever and I weigh about 200
pounds, at which point I keep myself by diet, as I eat
don't eat or drink anything but bread, vegetables, tea and
water, and to your great grief, as to Cayenne in drink, I do not
know of any here, who use it in that way in any form what-
soever, those who stimulate with it take either Wine or Spi-
rits, but for my part, I conceive that all active stimulants
should be avoided, unless a very old or debilitated system
imperatively call for them

I am sorry to have to say that, I have been
forced to decline my voyage, to dear old Ireland, to that land that
I love so well, at least for the present year, although the forep
part, I was at my own solicitation disengaged from the duties
of the Postal Conscience, and that from and after the month of
October next the opportunities for the trips will be really tempt
ing, in as much as the Royal West India Steam Packet
will arrive here from England twice a month, making the pas
sage in 19 days to and from, and my house & J. Wright Brooks
& Co. have been appointed Agents for the Company, but neces
sity has no law and business claim my presence here
When I do visit you which I trust will be the coming year I shall
certainly visit Ohio on my way, and forepart of all matters if
I possibly can, so as not to be compelled by my affairs to re
turn here unless I should do so from choice, and the visit to
Ohio is made easy, for in October next the same Company that
run the above mentioned line of Packet to England, run ano
ther line to and from hence to New York twice a month, making
the trips regular in eight days, so that this line to New
York in 8 days, and New York to England in 14 days
is really quick work in travelling.

I observe what you say about your mode
of life, and I have no doubt but what it may be pleaser
than mine is, though I have much more excitement, and probably
on that account require no Cayenne in my drink, we have no
women about our house, we live three bachelors together, with eight
servants all boys, and have to see considerable company.

I rise early never after sunrise and go to bed about 10 O'Clock
 and in all matters and things I am soberly and peacefully
 much so as many that appear straighter based than myself
 The population of our City is about 50,000 and I think I
 may say as quiet a people as any in the world, few murder
 offences of violence, indeed it is surprising with such
 a neglected police as we have, how tranquil all things are, I should
 be very happy to know that you were as well off in that respect
 as we are, but really the new papers & particularly those of
 London of the Conservative Party, give but a poor prospect of
 a quiet life in the land of "Ire" as they, sometimes call it, but
 so the Ministerial Press give an opposite colouring to all
 that paper, I suppose I mean between both may be about
 the correct medium, and that you are neither so turbulent or
 tranquil as either side, however I feel as if I would sooner
 be wrong in my nature than than right in any other, the
 conclusion is not very moral but it is natural

I am now called to take a warm
 bath, and the weather itself is rather hot to continue writ-
 ting, as the perspiration flows so freely, the make it over
 as possible in dropping from your head to the desk.

At all times very happy to
 hear from you and believe me that I shall be sure to
 in my reports.

I remain Dear & Co.
 's loving & aff. Cousin
 James Wright

P.S. I should ^{feel} pleased if you would furnish me a regular statement of the
relatives in Ireland with remarks as to their position in life, and any
observations worthy of mention regarding them, as it would serve
me as reference, now for instance you mention to me that I have
a cousin in Hobart Town and another in London annexed to that

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information it would be useful if you had stated what business
each followed, and whether they were advancing towards
being well to do in the world

Jr
Waghall