

Santiago de Cuba July 31st 1842

22

My dear aunt

On the 16th instant I had the pleasure of receiving your very acceptable letter of 31st of May, and it is now before me for reply. What a beautiful legible hand you write! now although many do not care a great deal about hand writing, I do, for of a variety, it gives to me greater satisfaction in perusing a letter to be able to do so correctly, and it is really a shame that I let you beat me therein, my nerves ought to be as steady as yours, but they are not, though I assure you that I use no stimulus stronger than tea, and even that I have partially given up latterly for plain sops and water, and my food is very simple and light also, for I use but little meat of any kind. It is pleasing to me to be able to say that my health is very nearly if not quite reestablished, for I feel sure that you will be glad to know it. I answer your letter without any delay, as I shall continue to transmit via Swansea, which will probably take longer time on the route, I have already had an answer from Captain John Poyton of that city, who assures me that any letters for me, which are addressed to his care will be duly attended to, so you need have no fear in writing, as to that course admitting of greater likelihood of miscarriage than even the mail itself. Jonathan's last was the first information which I received of any accident having happened to brother Benjamin, but he referred thereto only incidentally, and it remained for yours to let me know the nature or rather cause of the later and more serious one, and it was not my fault for I have written five times to Benjamin since his last address to me under date October 31st 1841, and not a

single individual of the family has written me a line either in return
of to advise me of what has happened, and I remain very an-
xious indeed to get letter C from some of them, having latterly written
to several, in order to have a reply from some one or other, for
your letter has augmented it much, as you say "his unexpected rec-
over, so far is cause of thankfulness" which still leaves ground
for the most distressing fear. I think however that no fatal re-
sult can have taken place, for certainly in such case I would not
have been left undriven, as I consider myself de facto head of that
branch of our family which is as you remark much extended, for
although I am a far off wanderer, I have never for a moment lost
sight of my duties towards it, especially of father as the chief, next of
Bethem, his line, then of mother Hannah, and lastly of Glenor & children, which
letter I may fairly confess I have never felt for, as towards all the other C,
I dare say I have aided at one time or another at least £5000. though
as I kept no account of it, I go more by guess than any thing else, but
all father's attempts to get ahead even with my aid failed, for he was
of too yielding a disposition in business ever to go ahead as the Yankee
say, and at last I begged him to renounce entirely all business and take
the residue of life at his ease, talking of the family in Ohio brings to
my mind that Jonathan has put a maggot in my brain, for he
thought not to permit that, a laudable desire to trace up as far as one can
the stem of the family tree, which I only wish to do, and I sometimes
he will read to you what I say on the subject, therefore I can fine
myself at present to soliciting you to aid him as far as you
can in the matter. Is this a memo to him, or is it a praiseworthy object?
I certainly look upon it as the latter, and feel zealous in the object.

I think your moving from Newell Place
prudent and wise, for neither at your nor my age, is it good for man

or woman to be too much alone, and that was one of the reasons, which
influenced me in giving up my country life, now as I am not certain
whether you will have already moved or not, prior to the arrival of this,
I think it best not to trust to post office promises of forwarding your
letters to Thomas Street, in case you have, therefore I will direct the
care of Jonathan, please to tell him that I have found out the num-
ber of his house, by referring back to his letter, till I got at it, in one
of 1830, and will you have the goodness to give me your number if you
move to Thomas Street. From causes which I feel pre-emptory, confident
that I have explained to Jonathan, and that he in all probability communi-
cate to you, it is not at all likely that I shall be able to leave here be-
fore March or April of next year, how circumstances snatched from
us or postpone pleasure. I do let you have your letters regularly
up to the latest period of my stay here, for if they arrive subse-
quently to my departure, they will be carefully forwarded from
hence to wherever I may be. Give my best love to all
relatives particularly to my cousins Margaret Abby, Mary
Sarah Watson, and the former if they recollect the walk with
me from school, and the trial I was put upon to know or decide, as to
whether I ought to be punished or not, for fighting some dirty fellow
who insulted them, I am now a good quaker as respects combativeness,
though I have often had cannon and musket balls whizzing round me
often chased during war times at sea, for during our political
crisis here in 1830, I was frequently addressed by the military
chief of our party a "Moderator," from my great desire
to avoid strife, and I take some praise to myself that no struggle
took place, and I sincerely thank God that our fine Island has
been always preserved in peace and tranquillity, we have indeed
manifold favors to be grateful for, not for all the world has
been more blessed than they, notwithstanding the heavy tribulations that
have pressed upon the mother country.

I have been greatly pleased to observe from the reduction of the amount of excise paid to Mr G in Ireland, that there is a large diminution of the consumption of spirit, for this is a mighty advantage to the country, but the rest in County Clare were much to be deprecated, and their cause to be deeply lamented, here our labourer & meagre suffer from hunger, the soul is very painful -

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3.12.4

"All save one" that confounded letter, I declare I don't know what was in it, for I keep no copies, and the contents of my social epistles as soon drown out of my head by business matters, I know Mr Shelton occupied much of my time and care then, and if it was different from my usual style, I advance that as proof of my letter being the genuine course of my thoughts, and a certainty of that, ought to cover some error. I remain always and ever
your affectionate nephew
James Wright

