

Leicester,

Feb. 25/69.

Dear friend Webb;

As I lay turning & tossing in bed last night, with a headache, (in Boston,) I said to myself, "I hope W. Webb is snugly & quietly resting to-night in his own Dublin bed"; and this morning, I was comforted & delighted to read the report of the "City of Balto."s arrival at Queenstown, 24th. (yesterday) (Such are the wonders & satisfactions of telegraphy.) From the reports of steamers coming this way, we infer you had a rough & boisterous passage, but that the winds & gales were of a kind to drive your ship along her course. We presume you did not enjoy the passage, but hope soon to hear that you did not suffer badly. We shall be eager to get some word, direct from yourself, as to your passage, how long you stayed in Cork, (where ^{if you stayed} you would see the lady who wrote that most funny & caustic letter,) & how you found Alfred & his wife, & your other correspondents & friends at home. — I found myself too weak to accomplish much in Boston,

after my bout of headache, I so came home
this afternoon.

We had the various events of your last day as
two in New York duly reported to us by Ade. - the Staten
Island expedition, the visit to Eastman Johnson's studio, &c
and also the visit to the Ship, your state-room, &c. on
day of your sailing. We have hoped you were not
compell^d to lie in y^r. berth all the way over, -
tho', as I've already said, we suppose the weather
not to have been such as to tempt you much on
deck.

We have had some rather trying
weather since you ^{left;} during the next following week,
the worst & most tedious winds of the winter,
(which are really the most disagreeable features
of our winters), and I am now (Friday, 26th)
writing you in the midst of a driving storm of
snow, from the Eastward, which obscures the air
like a pretty dense fog, & is filling up our paths
& roads fast, - giving us more snow than at
any one time before this winter. I am very
glad I came home last evening. - Just
now, Mr. May, Bepie, a quiet, ladylike dress-
maker, & myself, are the whole family - with our
black Mary & her little inquisitive "Carrie".

Ade. remained in NewYk. six days after
your departure, making a visit at her cousin's
Mr. J. W. Goddard's, & then went to Syracuse with
Charlotte Wilkinson, where she still remains, we
have a letter from her today, reporting well of
people & things there. She will be there, we suppose,
about a week longer; — and about the middle
of March we shall be looking for Edwards's arrival
from the N. Pacific Squadron. — We
have not heard from Deborah since she left for
Ohio, but Mr. May wrote to her quite a long note
last evng., and we also forwarded to her a note
from Abby K. Foster, sent to us to be properly
addressed.

One week from yesterday Genl. Grant is
to be inaugurated President of these United
States, — not as "united" as we could wish,
but with a pretty strong determination in them,
having up-rooted slavery therein, to allow none
of its off-shoots, nor any other evil thing, to
destroy the Union. I am feeling very great
confidence that, under Grant's administration,
the uniting influences will be powerfully strengthened,

and that, with no unworthy conceptions to
the Union's enemies, — and the hostile influences
weakened & largely overcome. There is
immense concern & worry about the
Cabinet officers, — but almost ~~exactly~~ wholly
among those belonging to one or another of the
various cliques, who conceive they have the
prescriptive right to rule the country. They are
troubled because they see that Grant means to
organize his Cabinet, and conduct public affairs
on a more general and impartial and equal
basis, than Presidents have usually built on,
— and that he will endeavor to give expression
to the will and purpose of the whole Nation,
rather than of particular sections, or of particular
interests however powerful. I expect very great
things of Grant. He was not out-generalled by his
enemies in the Army, — nor by the Rebels, — nor
by numerous rivals for military promotion, — nor
(as Candidate for the Presidency) by the "Democrats"
under Seymour; — nor will he be, I believe, by
the artifices, cajoleries, or threats of Republican
"leaders"; — but the best remains to be seen.

I saw H. Villard yesterday. He told me he
was 5 days ill in Albany ^{with fever,} & not able to attend a single
session of the Am. Social Science Assoc. ! I fear he had
worked much too hard in getting up the at meeting. He
said Wm. G. Jr. had been quite ill with erysipelas in the face,
& that Frank had been ill at home for a week, — all better now.
Garrison had gone to Amherst to give a lecture.

(Postage enclosed.) Good bye. Affly your friend
Lorn J. May Jr

Mrs. May desires her kindest regards.

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