

St. Nicholas Hotel
New York July 2n 53

Friend Caldwell:

I promised to write you from Princeton, but I was unavoidably delayed beyond the time of Com. I did not visit that place. At Charleston I took Steamship Osprey for Philadelphia but off Cape Lookout we fell in with S.S. Par Adyer bound for N.Y. in distress and unmanageable with 226 passengers on board. The[y] signaled us and we were obliged to take her in tow thus delaying us and prolonging our voyage to 118 hours. However I had a splendid trip one hour of which I would not have had shortened. The why you must get from the insignificant wreck. Spanish Belle Heiress Havana, etc. Of this more anon.

Chapman of Talladega and some L.Y.s from Princeton among whom is Senator Mason's son J.V. are here with me, and we are spending our time admirably. To them I may add my nymph of the seas.

I have not yet had time to call upon Miss Northup, but will try and do so today

or tomorrow. Judge W. and sister stopped here but have left for Boston where I should endeavor to see them. I would verily have liked to meet Miss Adelaide here to see how her Belle-igerant powers would display themselves. I might then be able to fill this sheet with some interesting matter.

The city, generally at this season dull, is lively as I ever have seen it. The citizens have in a great measure left for the watering places but their places have been supplied by strangers, where the almighty Crystal Palace "humbug" has drawn. The hotels are well filled though not crowded and I imagine will afford ample accommodations through the season. No one will think of remaining here for

ever witnessed. There is none of the ? indelicacy of circuses nor low slavery, but it is what it pretends to be an exhibition of strength, skill and daring. An occasional chill of the blood, as we witness ladies in Grecian chariots urging on fleet horses at the top of their speed, each contending for the laurel wreath. Or mounted driving at a hazardous rate, leaping fences, ditches and the like are among the describable features of the performances. One or two of the company have already been killed though it has been withheld from the public.

Around the Crystal Palace are numerous restaurants, grogeries, and the like, with innumerable smaller shows. And more yet are to come. I look when the whole as a ? catching affair, and likely to be very successfull. The tower in the near of the Pul will be the best paying of all. It is certainly a great work though built of wood, not iron as we have it in Ala.

Theatrical entertainments are very meagre, there being no “star” actors on the boards. The Ravelli family at Niblo’s are drawing the most attention.

We have had frequent rains here through the summer and yesterday we had a hurricane which passed over the city, blowing down a block of buildings, a trick wall of the tower, etc. and damaging the shipping in the harbor.

It was accompanied with hail, two times? as large as a hen's eggs, damaging the glass in the city greatly.

I fear I have bored you with this long epistle and will bring it to a close. My best regards to Mrs. C., Misses Eliza & Frank and Maj. W. and Lady and friends generally.

By the way, I forgot a little matter of Mr. Lublett's. I wish you would say to him that I will have it all right.

Hoping the 1st of July has found you in your long desired position.

I remain ever
Yours most truly,
Thomas Henry Gurnsey

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Ala.