

St. Petersburg May 16<sup>th</sup> 1809

My dear wife

While eating my Russian dinner I received your letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> ultimo which would have been a real comfort to me if I had not informed me that your health was still very poor. I know your passions and anxieties have been great, but so far as depend upon me they shall soon be relieved. Mine have been considerable as you may easily imagine but complaining does no good. The boat on which I suppose my passage was advertised for starting of last week. The ice prevented the possibility of her departure, but she will certainly go next spring. I am all ready and shall leave on starting if I am compelled to go to the frontier by land, a distance of five hundred miles in a wretched conveyance, and through a miserable country. For I am most heartily tired of this place, beside my anxiety to come home. My previous letter will have informed you that I have permission from the government to return. It would be an interesting time to a foreigner to be in Europe, if he had not more interesting objects to draw him to his own country, as I have no doubt that that great series of events of which I have spoken in more of my letters is about to commence.

A general war in Europe is, I think almost inevitable, and Russia  
is preparing to act an important part in it. One hundred and  
eighty thousand men have been ordered in different detachments  
within the last few days. Every thing here shows that trouble is at  
hand. I shall return almost entirely by the route I come here  
as it is the most direct. Circumstances may render it  
necessary for me to change a little. My business I must attend  
as all my pecuniary matters have been transacted through  
the American banks there. In a fortnight from this time  
I expect to be in Liverpool, and now the boat leaves for the  
United States once a week. So that from the 20<sup>th</sup> of June  
to the 1<sup>st</sup> of July I expect to embrace you and my children.  
I shall reach Staten in three days. There I have a direct road  
to Paris, in fact to Boulogne where I drop the channel  
to Folkeston in England. If any thing should occur to detain  
me on the road, which I do not apprehend you shall be constantly  
informed. I have had so much experience of European  
circumstances that I shall ship the greater part of my baggage to  
London, take only a small trunk with me and no servant.  
Several Americans returning to the U. S. will come here  
on the boat with me, and among them a Mr. Whistler  
whose husband died here a few weeks since in the  
service of the Russian government.

I received no newspapers by the Mail to day as in the present state of things they are not permitted to leave the Post Office without undergoing the most rigid examination. Perhaps I may get some before I depart. I shall not write to any of the children nor to any body else - In fact you will receive this letter by the same conveyance there being one of several days previous date. Embrace the children for me and accept for yourself my acknowledgments and for them the affectionate prayers and salutations of

Your husband

St. Petersburg May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1849

My dear wife,

While eating my Russian dinner I received your letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> \*\*\*\*\* which I would have been a real comfort to me if it had not informed me that your health was still very poor. I know your priorities and \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* great, but so far as depend upon me they shall soon be relieved. Mine have been considerable as you may \*\*\*\*\* imagine but complaining does no good. The best \*\* which I [engaged] my \*\*\*\*\* was advertised for Saturday of last week. The \*\*\* presented the possibility of her departure but she will certainly go next Saturday. I am all ready and shall leave on Saturday if I am compelled to go to the frontier by [land] a distance of five hundred miles in a \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* and through a miserable country. For I am most heartily tired of this place besides my \*\*\*\*\* to come home. My previous letters will have informed you that I have \*\*\*\*\* from the government to return. It would be an interesting time to a foreigner to be in Europe if he had not more interesting objects to draw him to his own country, as I have no doubt \*\*\*\* that great series of events of which I have spoken in most of my letters is about to \*\*\*\*\* A [generation] in Europe is I think almost inevitable and Russia is preparing to act as important part in it. One hundred and eighty thousand men have been ordered in different directions within the last few days. Every thing here shows that trouble is at hand. I shall return almost \*\*\*\*\* by the \*\*\*\* I came as if is the most \*\*\*\*\*: circumstances may render it necessary for me to \*\*\*\*\* a little. By \*\*\*\*\* I must \*\*\*\*\* as all my \*\*\*\*\* matters have been trans----- through the American banks there. In a fortnight from this time I expect to be in Liverpool and now the boats leave for the United States once a week. So that from the 29<sup>th</sup> of June to the 1<sup>st</sup> of July I expect to embrace you and my children. I shall reach \*\*\*\*\* in three days. There I have [rail road] to Paris in fact to \*\*\*\*\* where I \*\*\*\* the cross the channel to \*\*\*\*\* in England. If any thing should [ever] to detain me on the road which I am not \*\*\*\*\* you shall be [constantly] informed. I have had so much experience of European servants that I shall ship the greater part of my baggage to London take only a small trunk with me and no servant. Several Americans returning to the US will leave here on the boat with me and among them is Mrs. [Whistler] whose husband died here a few weeks since the service of the Russian government..

I received no newspaper by the mail today as in the present state of things they are not permitted to leave the post office without undergoing the most rigid examination. Perhaps I may get some before I depart. I shall not write to any of the children nor to any body else— in fact you will receive this letter by the same \*\*\*\*\* that \*\*\*\*\* our of several days previous date. Embrace the children for me and \*\*\*\*\* for yourself my dear wife and for them the affectionate prayers and salutations of

Your husband