XV

Retrospections and Projections
1850–1852

(LETTERS 713 TO 809)

Entering the year 1850, Bryant had reason for satisfaction in the condition of his newspaper and the performance of his partner Bigelow. Early that year the firm moved into a larger building nearby and installed a high-speed Hoe press. The third partner, Timothy Howe, was persuaded to relinquish the management of business affairs to Isaac Henderson, a bookkeeper who had developed a profitable job printing office as an annex to the paper. As the year opened Charles Francis Adams of Boston, renewing his annual subscription, called the Evening Post “the best daily journal in the United States.”

After a visit to the island of Jamaica in January and February, Bigelow wrote a series of letters for the paper on the condition of Negroes in this former slave colony sixteen years after their emancipation, and he soon began to compose weekly interviews with “John Brown, the Jersey Ferryman,” whose reports of eavesdropping on his politician passengers carried inside information given Bigelow by his friends Charles Sumner, Samuel Tilden, and other Free Soil leaders. The newspaper also carried articles by Adams, Thomas Hart Benton, Salmon P. Chase, and Gideon Welles. A different sort of contributor in 1850–1851 was the former editor of the Brooklyn Eagle, Walt Whitman, who wrote on art and civic improvements in Brooklyn, and several “Letters from Paumanok” describing the summer delights of eastern Long Island.

During much of the year Bryant drew editorial strictures on the compromise, introduced in Congress by Henry Clay and supported by Daniel Webster, which would admit California as a free state provided territories should be organized in New Mexico and Utah without provision against slavery, which would be continued in the District of Columbia. The final bill—anathema to Bryant and other Free Soilers—would replace an ineffective Fugitive Slave Law with a stringent one which empowered federal marshals to recapture runaways in northern states. Bryant cited Webster’s flat statement in the Senate only two years earlier, “I shall oppose all slavery extension and all increase of slave representation in all places, at all times, under all circumstances,” charging the Massachusetts senator with a “traitorous retreat” from principle.

Though Bryant published no original verse during this period, his poetic reputation grew steadily, at home and abroad. Fenimore Cooper said he “always put him at the head” of American literature. Nathaniel Hawthorne, who might have occupied a summer home near Bryant’s in Roslyn in 1850, joined Oliver Wendell Holmes and Herman Melville that summer at a picnic on Monument Mountain in the Berkshires, where they listened to a recitation of Bryant’s verse tale of a lovelorn Indian maiden who leaped from its summit, and later they toasted the “dear old poet” in champagne. Edgar Allan Poe’s mother-in-
law, Maria Clemm, begged an inscribed copy of Bryant's *Poems*, for, she wrote, "There are so many beautiful things in that book which my dear son has so often recited to me." In the volume which she sent her she underscored two poems to which the late Poe had accorded special praise, "June," and "The Death of the Flowers." Bryant's collected poems were published in 1850 at London and Liverpool; in the second instance he was described as the "most popular of American poets," in England as well as in his own country. At times, however, his politics got in the way of his poetic reputation. Southern editor Thomas Ritchie refused to print in his Washington *Union* a favorable notice of a book dedicated to Bryant. An historian of Long Island sketched the poet's biography in unflattering terms, concluding, "It is to be regretted that he should . . . prostitute his fine talents and improved taste to the humiliating pursuit of party politics, . . . in the advocacy of doctrines and measures worthless in themselves and injurious in their operation and tendency to the best interests of the country."

During this period Bryant lost a number of close friends, most through death, and in one instance as a result of the most sensational divorce in New York's history. The actor Edwin Forrest and his English wife, Catherine, had been intimates of the Bryants' since their marriage in 1837. When the couple separated in 1849 amid charges of infidelity, Mrs. Forrest fled to the home of Fanny and Parke Godwin. Early in 1850 Bryant was asked to arrange amicable terms for divorce, an effort which failed. In 1852, after widely publicized court proceedings at which Bryant and the Godwins testified, the suit started by Forrest ended in his wife's favor. The actor alienated many of his friends by threatening Godwin in Bryant's presence, and by attacking Nathaniel Parker Willis in public. Although Bryant seems to have taken no sides in the case, and was eulogized at the trial's conclusion as "a man [who,] all parties in this case . . . have united to say, is a model of all that is morally worthy in public and in private," it is evident that he saw little or nothing afterward of either party.

Fenimore Cooper died in September 1851, and Bryant was asked by the novelist's friends to offer a public eulogy the following February. Though they had never been very close, the two men had held each other in high respect for nearly thirty years. Bryant's warm but judicious appraisal of his friend's genius was widely applauded; Charles Sumner wrote a day or two later, "it will be a more durable monument to Cooper than any other." A present-day critic remarks that it "has been the source both for the facts of Cooper's life and for a keen analysis of his writing." Later that fall, with the death of his aunt Charity Bryant, Bryant's last link with his parents' generation was broken. He was on a short visit in Illinois when these deaths occurred, and soon after his return he learned of a third, that of his British friend David Christie, who had been extremely attentive during Bryant's visits to England in 1845 and 1849. In February 1852 William Ware, who had become Bryant's pastor when he settled in New York in 1825 and remained a revered friend, died in Cambridge, where the Bryants had visited him. In July a tragic accident took the life of the brilliant young landscape architect and cottage designer Andrew Jackson Downing, who, it has been aptly said, "made over the face of rural America." Only thirty-seven, at the height of his career, Downing drowned during a steamboat fire on the Hudson River as a result of his repeated attempts to save his fellow-passengers. He had, Bryant wrote the next day, "made himself a high reputation in the
peculiar walk of art to which he had devoted his life,” and “few will be more generally deplored.” The last sad loss of 1852 was in the death of Horatio Greenough soon after Bryant left in November on his journey to the Middle East.

Bryant must have lingered over other memories as he searched the files of the Evening Post for the past fifteen years, preparing his collection, Letters of a Traveller (1850), and those of half a century for his Reminiscences of the Evening Post (1851), his account of the newspaper’s history on its fiftieth anniversary. These were his only separate publications during this period.

By mid-century Bryant’s poems as well as his person had become frequent subjects for interpretation by artists. In 1849 Asher Durand exhibited, at the National Academy, “A Pastoral Landscape,” on the theme of Bryant’s “Green River” (1821), and in 1850 two of his most successful paintings, “Landscape, Summer Morning”—later called “Early Morning at Cold Spring”—after “A Scene on the Banks of the Hudson” (1828), and “Landscape, Scene from ‘Thanatopsis.’” In 1849 Emma Stebbins worked on an “illumination” of “Thanatopsis,” and John James Audubon’s son Victor illustrated “The Murdered Traveller” (1825). Notes on these works in exhibition catalogues included quotations from Bryant’s verses. Two portraits of 1850 are good of Bryant in middle age: Henry Kirke Brown’s marble bust, and Henry Peters Gray’s oil painting, one of four portraits of its presidents commissioned by the American Art-Union. Others were done during this period by Charles G. C. C. D. Crehén, Peter Paul Duggan, and Daniel Huntington—the last a group portrait of Bryant, Irving, and Webster at the Cooper memorial in 1852.

Bryant’s kinship with the arts was generously recognized by their practitioners. Thanking him for presiding over the annual meeting of the International Art Union, its French director, Theodore Vibert, remarked on the “general esteem which your admirable talent and your honourable character inspire.” Thomas Cole’s first biographer, Louis Noble, dedicated his book to Bryant. Sculptor Hiram Powers wrote from Florence of his wish to “stand well in the opinion of a man who has won everlasting fame for himself, and added so much glory to our common country.” During the last two years of his life Horatio Greenough confided to Bryant some of the aesthetic theories later set forth in The Travels, Observations, and Experience of a Yankee Stonecutter (1852), and his elaborate dreams of monuments to Washington, Jackson, Cooper, and other great Americans.

In articles for his influential magazine, The Horticulturalist, in 1848, Down- ing had joined Bryant in urging the development of a large central park in New York City. The writings of these proponents proved effective when, in 1850, both candidates for mayor supported their proposals. In May 1851 the state legislature approved the site first suggested by Bryant in 1844, Jones’s Woods, on the east side of Manhattan Island. Bryant stoutly advocated the plan, and refuted claims that it would be too costly. Although seven years would pass before work on Central Park was actively underway, its realization was assured.

In December 1851 Bryant presided at a banquet given by New York journalists to the Hungarian revolutionary Louis Kossuth. In his own toast to Kossuth, he pledged the American press to a prominent role in “this great attempt of man” against the “mightiest despotisms of the world” to “repossess himself of
the rights which God gave him.” A few weeks before, discussing in the *Evening Post* the riots caused at Syracuse by marshals trying to enforce the Fugitive Slave Law, he declared, “It is the curse of this law that the people of the free states can never get reconciled to it. . . . The impulse toward freedom is one which no legislature can extinguish or control.” On the paper’s fiftieth anniversary he promised that it would “continue to battle for human rights in preference to human sovereignties.” And, writing Senator Salmon P. Chase of Ohio of party struggles in New York, he concluded, “We must fight this battle, but we shall not neglect higher and more permanent questions. The controversy concerning slavery will be kept open, and nothing of the zeal of an opposition to the fugitive slave law and the kindred enormities will be abated.” In August 1852, telling his brother John of his impatience with the sluggishness of Free Soil politicians and his consequent purpose to support the Democratic presidential candidate Franklin Pierce, Bryant commented, “I see not the least chance of a repeal or change of the fugitive slave law. Its fate is to fall into disuse. . . . We must make it odious, and prevent it from being enforced. That the *Evening Post* can do . . . just as effectively by supporting Pierce as Hale [the Free Soil candidate].” Bryant’s return to the Democratic Party was no more than a reluctant expedient; in 1856 he would throw his growing influence behind the incipient Republican Party. But his course was the warrant of his political strength as well as his integrity. On the newspaper’s fiftieth anniversary the Whig politician Hamilton Fish, now a United States senator from New York, had written that, “Although it has been my lot to differ in my views of many of the important questions which it has discussed from those which the Post has advanced, I have always admired the force, the ability & the fearlessness with which it has maintained its own views. I have appreciated the honesty with which it adopted those views however differing from my own.”
713. To John G. Chapman


My dear Sir.

I send you an appletree by [Asher] Durand which he copied from one of his studies, a little modified for the occasion. If you should see that it wants any further change, you of course are padrone [boss] as the Italians say and can adapt it to your purpose. It is a fine tree, and an old one.¹

Along with this I send a daguerreotype likeness of myself in profile. It was not practicable to get a daguerreotype of the bust without a great deal of trouble, and the transportation of the bust to some distance. The daguerreotype takers would not carry their instruments to it for the reason that it was liable to put them out of order.²

The face on this profile is a little inclined towards the spectator, but of course you can make allowance for that.

I am glad to learn that you are domiciliated at last in the pleasant city of Florence among the remains of ancient art, and under that brilliant sky and in the midst of that picturesque scenery. My regards to Mrs. Chapman and love to the little ones.

Yours truly
W. C. BRYANT.

MANUSCRIPT: Unrecovered text: Century Magazine, 50 (July 1895), 321.

1. Chapman was apparently then projecting a series of illustrations to accompany Bryant's poem “The Planting of the Apple Tree,” composed in 1849 but unpublished until it appeared in the Atlantic Monthly in January 1864. At Paris Bryant had noted on September 12 that he had finished the poem and planned to show it to Chapman. “Diary, 1849”; Poems (1876), pp. 320–323. But by the time Bryant saw Chapman in Rome three years later, the artist had abandoned his project, explaining to the poet that he had “collected materials by different studies and planned several designs but finished none, on account of his engagements and his health.” Bryant, “Diary, 1852–1853,” May 15, 1853.

2. It is uncertain to which bust Bryant refers. That done by Henry Kirke Brown in 1849 (now in NYHS) seems the most likely possibility. The daguerreotype was apparently that which appeared with a facsimile of this letter in the Century Magazine, 50 (July 1895) [322].

714. To James Fenimore Cooper


Dear Sir:

I am sorry not to find you in this morning, as I went to ask you to go to Mr. Leupp's tomorrow evening, No. 66 Amity Street, where the Sketch Club meet, and where you will probably find some of the members of the old Lunch, Mr. [Gulian] Verplanck, Mr. [Asher] Durand, and myself certainly, with several others of your acquaintance.¹

Each member has the right to take any stranger who may be in town,
and Mr. Leupp I know would be offended with me if he knew I had seen or written to you, and did not ask you. I hope you will do us all the favour to come.

Yrs truly
W. C. BRYANT


1. Cooper was then staying at the Globe Hotel at 66 Broadway, as he did often when in New York City. Cooper, Letters & Journals, VI, 85, 121. Although no reply to Bryant's invitation has been found, the minutes of the Sketch Club for February 1 indicate that Cooper did not attend the meeting at Charles Leupp's home that evening. Information from James T. Callow.

715. To Oliver C. Gardiner

New York  March 27  1850

Dear Sir.

You desired me to inquire whether there were any places at Roslyn to let for the summer or the year.

A gentleman, Mr. A. W. Leggett has a little cottage which he would partly furnish and let for $80.—It has a garden.

There is another house, intended for two families—having two kitchens, a very large house and finely situated, which without any furniture might be had for from 75 to 100 dollars, with garden &c.

Yrs truly
W. C. BRYANT

MANUSCRIPT: HEHL.

1. Oliver Cromwell Gardiner (642.1) had written a study of the Free Soil movement which was published in 1848 under the imprint of W. C. Bryant and Company, entitled The Great Issue; or, The Three Presidential Candidates; Being a Brief Historical Sketch of the Free Soil Question in the United States from the Congresses of 1774 and '87 to the Present Time.

2. Augustus W. Leggett; see 648.2.

3. No reply to this letter has been found, but it is evident in a letter from Nathaniel Hawthorne to Gardiner dated at Salem on April 3, 1850, that Gardiner had undertaken to find a summer home for the novelist, who had just published The Scarlet Letter. Hawthorne wrote him, "Sometime before your letter reached me, I had engaged a house at Lenox [Massachusetts]; otherwise, I think I should have been tempted by the cheapness of the rents, and other desirabilities, at Roslyn." MS in St. Lawrence University Library.

716. To Frances F. Bryant

New York  Thursday  March 28, 1850

My dear Frances.

After I left you on Wednesday morning I recollected, to my great
vexation, that I did not make you promise to write. You will write, however, I am sure. I am anxious to know whether you made your journey comfortably in this storm— for though it did not snow much the day you left us, the snow began to fall some time last night and has fallen all the morning till now— about two o'clock.

I bought an umbrella yesterday as a protection, and when I got home Julia informed me that one of the missing ones had been discovered at Mrs. Gibson's. It was brought to me in the afternoon, and proved to be the brown gingham one; the other I fear is too valuable to be found.

It was precisely seven o'clock and no more, when the coachman set me down yesterday at my door in Greene Street. I breakfasted and went to the Doctor's. He did nothing, but gave me another dose of medicine and bid me call in the evening when he would puncture the gum. In the evening I called again— another dose of medicine and a direction to call this morning. The pain left me last evening— and I had a comfortable night, and a long sleep. When I called on Gray this morning he told me that the tooth would now take care of itself and declined making any incision.

Fanny was not quite so well yesterday as usual, but today she is better again.

This morning the whole testimony in the Forrest case is published in the Herald. There is a bill before the Pennsylvania Senate for giving the Circuit Court of the state, authority to hear and decide the suit for divorce. On the question of passing this bill, the votes stood 16 to 16; so the bill was lost. But Mr. Parker one of the members moved a reconsideration of the vote, and the question will come up again. Before taking the vote the affidavits and other documents were read in open Senate. Probably some of the other papers here, the Sunday papers certainly, will publish the testimony. I must get a copy and send you.\(^1\)

Now, you will not neglect to write. If you do, I must see what I can do by stopping supplies, that is, newspapers &c.

This morning a letter from Dr. Tobey of Rochester came for you.

Remember me kindly to all our friends in Bloomfield, Rochester and elsewhere.

Yours affectionately

Wm C. Bryant.

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL−GR.

1. Frances was then on a brief visit to her relatives in western New York State, returning within the week. See Letter 718.

2. A "Proposed Agreement," drafted in Bryant's handwriting, indicates that he tried, about this time, to arrange an amicable separation between Edwin Forrest and Catherine Sinclair Forrest, an effort which he later wrote William Gilmore Simms was broken off. See 665.3; Letter 760.
717. To Orville Dewey

Roslyn, March 29, 1850.

. . . Your letter was read by me to the Sketch Club, at Mr. William Kemble's,\(^1\) a fortnight ago last evening, and received with clapping of hands. All expressed their satisfaction at the invitation, and all are coming.\(^2\) How many will come you will probably know on the day appointed. The secretary made a note of it in due form. I offered to add something to the letter by way of commentary or explanation, but not a word was I allowed to say; the members were so well pleased with the letter they would suffer nothing to take the taste of it out of their mouths. With Mr. Durand I have especially conferred, and Mr. Durand has specially promised to be one of the party.

Now, I really hope that you will see that the country is in its best trim on the occasion; that there be no late frosts to spoil the freshness of early summer, that just at the time the roads be in good order, the weather fair and not too hot or too cold, and the atmosphere reasonably clear. It will not be amiss if there should have been a pretty copious shower the night before, just to lay the dust. I mention these things because you who live in the country are very apt to fall into the habit of taking them as they come, and neglect them very much. . . .


1. William Kemble (1795?-1881), a Sketch Club member then living at 24 Beach Street, was a founder of the Century Association and an amateur member of the National Academy. He was the secretary of the West Point Foundry, with offices at 79 West Street. Kemble was a generous patron of American artists. NAD Exhibition Record, I, 274; II, 296. Further information from James T. Callow.

2. Dewey had written Bryant on February 25 asking him to relay an invitation to Sketch Club members to meet at the Dewey home in Sheffield, Massachusetts, on June 19, and proposing that they pass the following day "among the mountains,—seeing Bash-Pish [Falls] and, if possible, the Salisbury." Quoted in Autobiography and Letters of Orville Dewey, D.D., ed. Mary E. Dewey (Boston, 1884), pp. 215–216. However, the surviving minutes of the Sketch Club do not record a meeting that summer at Dewey's. Information from James T. Callow.

718. To Orville Dewey

New York April 8, 1850.

My dear Sir.

Lest you should rashly enter into some other engagement, I write this to tell you that the Academy of Design will have its private exhibition on Friday or Saturday evening next, when the members all hope to see you.\(^1\) They have found the trouble of getting into the new gallery and making all the necessary arrangements so great that they have been obliged to post
pone the probable day of opening from one time to another, but beyond
the times I have mentioned they are resolved it shall not be deferred.²

If I learn any thing more precise in season, I will write you again. If
you do not hear from me, however, I hope you will come down on Friday
which will allow you to be present either on Friday or Saturday evening.

Yrs truly
W. C. BRYANT.

P.S. Your sister was here yesterday³ very well and in good spirits—My wife
came back safe and sound at twelve o'clock the other night. Regards to all.

W. C. B.

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL–GR (draft?) ADDRESS: Rev. O. Dewey.

1. A feature of this exhibition was Asher Durand's large canvas "Landscape—Scene
from 'Thanatopsis,'" introduced in the catalogue by nine lines from Bryant's poem
beginning "The hills / Rock-ribbed and ancient as the sun. . . ." This painting is
now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. NAD Exhibition Record, I, 189; Albert Ten
Eyck Gardner and Stuart P. Feld, American Paintings: A Catalogue of the Collection
of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. 1. Painters Born by 1815 (New York: The Metro-
politan Museum of Art [1965]), p. 211.

2. In 1849 the National Academy occupied a new building on the west side of
Broadway south of Amity Street, the cost of which was largely underwritten by Charles
M. Leupp and Jonathan Sturges. Morse Exhibition of Arts and Science Presented by

3. Dr. Dewey's unmarried sister Jerusha, long a friend of the Bryants', later oc-
cupied a cottage on their Roslyn property. Goddard, Roslyn Harbor, pp. 70–72.

719. To Edward A. Stansbury¹

New York April 10th. 1850.
Office of the Evening Post

My dear sir.

Sometime since a prospectus was issued by the proprietors of this
paper at the close of which they offered that if any weekly journal would
give it three insertions, the daily edition of the Evening Post should be
sent to it for one year as a compensation. We have since given our prospec-
tus another form and made it considerably longer. With a slight change
at the commencement we have made it into a circular, which you will
find on the outer leaf of this sheet.² We have not offered to make the same
terms in regard to it as with regard to the other prospectus, but if you will
publish it in the Burlington Courier as many times as you think our paper
is worth for one year, we will send you the daily.

I have made a slight change in the first sentence of the paper, to adapt
it to the purpose of an advertisement and have ordered the Daily Evng
Post to be sent to the address of the Burlington Courier.

Yrs truly
Wm. C. BRYANT
1. Edward A. Stansbury (1817?–1873), a journalist who for some time practiced law in New York, was then apparently editing the Burlington, Vermont, Courier, a Free Soil weekly. Franklin B. Hough, American Biographical Notes . . . (Albany, 1875), p. 375.
2. Unrecovered.

720. To John Ellis Wool

My dear sir.

I am sorry that I have missed your communications on account of my supposed absence from the paper. The article from the Kentucky paper you will see I have inserted in the Evening Post. In looking it over this afternoon I find that some typographical errors have crept into it which are to be amended in the edition for the country. It does you what I believe will be acknowledged to be no more than bare justice.

As to the proper time for the appearance of the history of the Battle of Buena Vista, I am rather inclined to think with such of your friends as advise a postponement of it. It is very likely that the period will by and by arrive when there will be less objection on the part of many to see a full and impartial discussion of the degree of credit due to the different commanders on that occasion than there now is, and there certainly is less bigotry now in regard to General Taylor than there was a year or two since.

Yrs truly

WM C. BRYANT

1. See 568.3.
3. General Wool, whose "celerity and efficiency were largely responsible for the victory of Buena Vista," fought between Americans and Mexicans on February 22–23, 1847, was later given a sword and the thanks of the United States Congress for his "skill, enterprise and courage" in that battle (Dictionary of American Biography). In the article cited by Bryant, a former officer under Wool's command wrote, "[Zachary] Taylor and [Winfield] Scott and Wool are the leading heroes of this war. The first two we have seen, as party dictated, raised or depressed, while the latter, because separate from party factions, has failed to receive that just meed which is his due." In 1848 Scott had failed to win the Whig presidential nomination from Taylor, who had gone on to win the presidency.

721. To Cyrus Bryant

Dear Brother.

When I went the other day to see to the stopping of Merry's Museum they told me that it had been paid for in advance for some time to come, and would be stopped, according to the usage of the proprietors, as soon
as the term was out. They only forward the periodical to those who pay in advance. As to Holden's Magazine, it is not exactly the thing, but I do not know of any dollar magazine which is. Chambers's Edinburg[h] Magazine is much better but it is dearer.

You have seen, I suppose that the Weekly Evening Post is enlarged. This makes its publication more expensive, of course, so much so as to leave a very slender profit, and if the circulation be not considerably increased by it, the change will prove to be a great mistake. We are in hopes, however, that the number of subscribers will be greatly increased. We are getting additions by every mail. If the cheapest newspaper has the largest sale as is reasonable to expect, there should be no doubt of our success, for the Evening Post, if the quantity of its reading matter be considered is the cheapest paper in the United States, and, of course, the cheapest in the world.

I am publishing a book, as I suppose you know. It will contain such letters as I wrote last summer,—there were four of them in all—for the Evening Post. I am mistaken—one of them, a merely political letter is omitted.—It will contain besides, those from Cuba, those from Florida and the other parts of the South; a dozen or thereabouts from the west, and those written and published during my other two visits to Europe, together with a few which have not before been printed. I expect it will be out in a day or two.

You mention my voyage to Europe. I was absent four months and one week. I saw some parts of Scotland which I had not visited before, besides the Shetlands; made a second visit to Holland and to Munich in Bavaria, saw the northern cities of Switzerland for the first time, climbed the Righi and returned by the way of Geneva and Lyons to Paris. With the exception of two or three of the first weeks in England, when I had the prevailing complaint, the diarrhoea, and was obliged to consult a physician—a homoeopathic one of course, Dr. Laurie—my health was exceedingly good, and towards the end of my absence, I became almost, as it seemed to me, incapable of fatigue.

Our family are all well. I write this at Roslyn though I have dated it, from habit, at New York, where I expect to be tomorrow, and where this will be mailed. The weather just begins to be spring like; it has been extremely cold for the whole month hitherto,—a harsh temperature, with strong north-west winds. The peach trees are generally in bloom before this time, and my apricots have put out their flowers in some seasons nearly a month earlier, but not a blossom has yet shown itself.

Please hand the accompanying letter to John. My regards to your wife and to the young gentlemen. Frances desires to be kindly remembered by you all.

Yrs affectionately

W C BRYANT.
MANUSCRIPT: BCHS ADDRESS: To Cyrus Bryant Esq.

1. See 413.5.
4. The EP offices had recently been moved from 18 Nassau Street to larger quarters on the corner of Nassau and Liberty streets, with a new steam-driven Hoe press which facilitated the printing of larger sheets and greater daily runs. From this time on the paper’s circulation steadily increased. Nevins, Evening Post, pp. 236-237; EP, March 22, 1847.
5. Letters 688, 690, 703, 705. The last of these was not reprinted in LT I.
6. See 687.4.

722. To John Howard Bryant

New York    April 22, 1850.

Dear Brother,

Before this time I suppose you have my wife’s letter, which I hope has convinced you that we had not quite forgotten you in this quarter. It was written I believe about the same time with yours to me.

With regard to my land, I am in no hurry to sell it. Say to those who call upon you, if you please, that I do not care to part with it at present.

I should like, however, by and by, when you and Mr. Olds are ready, to build another house upon the lot in the village which is now vacant. The payments from Galer,¹ who seems to be of the class of slow [coaches?], might be applied to that purpose, if he is ever to pay any thing more, and if any additional cash is necessary I might advance it.

I should have answered your letter² earlier, but that I was in town when it arrived and my notes of hand and other papers were in the country, so that I could not give you the information you desired. Your note is dated June 1, 1848, and is for five hundred dollars with seven per cent interest. There is an endorsement of which the following is a copy.

“Rec³ on this note Dec. 1, 1848, two hundred and forty one dollars and one cent in building a stable and addition to a house. $241.01.”—From this I suppose you will be able to ascertain what you did with the wheat received from Galer in the year 1848. I shall be glad to receive the statement you speak of as soon as may suit your convenience to send it, and shall be obliged to you if you will consult with Mr. Olds and see if you can do any thing about building me another house. I suppose it ought to be a better one than the one built upon the other lot, inasmuch as the lot is in a more conspicuous situation, but on this point I desire your advice.

We are all quite well, my wife in better health than usual, and Julia too I believe. A few weeks ago I was nearly killed by a gumbile. Our poor aunt Mrs. Fish⁴ died of a similar complaint in November, and I did not hear of it till the other day when I received a letter containing the history of her last moments from Elisha. The younger Mrs. Rankin⁵ is now at
Brooklyn for medical advice. She visited aunt Charity last summer and found her and Miss Drake in comfortable health;—much more so than formerly. They had given up their habit of tea drinking, in which they once indulged immoderately, and were greatly better for the reformation. Edwin Bryant has lately returned from California, where he has made money by the rise in real estate, which he owned at the time of his first visit to the country.

We have just broken up our winter quarters in town and transplanted ourselves to the country—later than usual—but the season is late. We have had a very mild and pleasant winter; February as mild as April usually is, and more calm; but March has been colder, and April has been until now worse than March.

I am getting out a book, made up of my letters written during my travels, for the Evening Post, together with a few from the manuscript. It should have been out before this but for the delay of the printer.—

Remember me to your wife and boys. Frances desires her kind regards to you all. Yrs affectionately

W. C. BRYANT


1. See 597.7. For Justin H. Olds, see 520.1.
2. Unrecovered.
3. See 723.2.
4. See 772.2.

723. To Elisha S. Fish1 Roslyn Long Island April 22 1850.

Dear Cousin.

I thank you for the interesting account you gave me of the last moments of my excellent aunt.2 The news of her death I had not received before. It must have been a great consolation to you all that her departure was so calm and happy, and that she went to her rest in Christian hope. To me she always appeared to be one of those who “possess their souls in patience,,”3 a person “of a meek and quiet spirit”4 and it seems fitting that so serene a death should crown a life which had always been so submissive to Providence. She had reached a patriarchal age, the age at which or about which the ancient prophets and leaders of Israel were allowed to depart. The period of probation and discipline which belongs to the natural term of human life was fully completed—more than completed—in her case, she had passed through all the stages of education for another state of being, and so far as that may assist in giving maturity to the powers of the soul, was fitted for the employments of the future life by all the preparation which this life could afford her.—
I am glad to hear in other respects of your continued welfare, and of the health of your family. You ought certainly to be healthy if a rational mode of living, conformed to the laws which God has established for the maintenance of the bodily powers in their vigour can make you so. I hope also that your affairs are prosperous.

My wife and I often speak of our visit to your place, and remember it with pleasure. Whether we ever repeat it or not, it is something to have made it, and for my part I remember the two or three days I passed there with a peculiar vividness. We shall all be glad to see yourself and Mrs. Fish and your daughters here, and will show you Long Island and make you as comfortable as it is in our power to do.

I write this at Roslyn on Long Island to which I have just come with my wife and where I am passing four or five days, getting our garden in order, and looking to our little place. But if you write to me, my proper address is always New York, to which you know all letters come more directly and speedily than to such a little place as this. Julia is still at New York engaged in her studies. It was a great pleasure to hear from you through your daughters, in their joint letter to Julia. She has often talked of answering it, and I shall have to scold her seriously if she defers it much longer.

With regard to David Nelson Harris I do not know that I can get the information you desire without going to Staten Island, which is something of an expedition, but if I can learn any thing about him by any shorter process I will write to you again.

Remember me kindly to your wife and daughters, and to your sisters and to your brother if he is with you. My wife desires love to you all.

Yours

W C BRYANT

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL-GR (draft) ADDRESS: To my Cousin Elisha S. Fish.

2. This was apparently Sarah Snell Bryant’s elder sister, Abigail Snell Fish (b. 1764), the mother of Elisha S. Fish. See Sarah Snell Bryant to Cullen Bryant, June 12, 1833, NYPL-GR.
5. Harris is unidentified.

724. To Leonice M. S. Moulton

New York May 21, 1850

... I send you along with this a copy of my letters¹ which I am glad to learn that you are disposed to receive so graciously.

The report which you mention as affecting my good name, does not disturb me. It is true enough that when I am at work in the garden I like to have Mrs. Bryant at my side, not on account of my ignorance of the
proper method of putting seeds into the ground, but for two other reasons. In the first place, I do not like to work in the garden alone. In the second place—and I am partly indebted to you for the discovery of the fact—I must do as my wife says, and how could that be if I had not her at hand to direct me.

In this chilly weather I suppose you do not regret your return to the city. Yet the cool days and nights have given a long blooming-time to the fruit trees, and with your keen enjoyment of the beautiful in nature, you could endure some inclemency of the weather for its sake. . . .

MANUSCRIPT: Ridgely Family Collection TEXT: Hoyt, “Bryant Correspondence (I),” 64.

1. LT I.
2. The salutation, complimentary close, and signature have been deleted from the printed text.

725. To Frances F. Bryant
New York Wednesday June 12th 1850.

Dear Frances.

I found this morning a letter from Mrs. Hinckley for you, informing you that her daughter was now really recovering. Ellen she did not engage, having already made arrangements with another servant. The letter enquires anxiously about your health. In the course of the morning Mr. [Jonathan] Sturges called and confirmed the account of Miss Hinckley’s improved health.

I had a call from another visitor, your cousin Elvira Fairchild, now Mrs. Hallett and a widow. She and her husband lived for some time among the Shakers, where he died, and with whom she remained till she got tired of them, and came away. She was in pursuit of her brother Edward who owes her fifty dollars, but he has removed from Brooklyn into the State of New Jersey, nobody knows to what particular place, and so she can neither find him nor the money. He has a son Edward somewhere in town a clerk with somebody but she does not know with whom. I recommended that she should write a note to him through the post-office. She is, as formerly, anxious for a situation, and would for the present assist in the care of any respectable family for her board, until a situation can be had. She inquired whether there was any vacancy in our family. Possibly she may come out to Roslyn yet.

Yours ever
W. C. B.

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL–GR.

1. Possibly Eliza H. Hinckley, who kept a boardinghouse at 2 Clinton Place. Rode’s New York City Directory for 1850–1851, p. 244.
726. To Richard H. Dana

Roslyn, July 4th, 1850.

Dear Dana.

It is long since I have heard from you. I hope you are so comfortable somewhere, in this hot weather, that you have no occasion to go far either for occupation or entertainment, and therefore need not trouble yourself about your friends at a distance. I have been passing a few days at my place on Long Island, and tomorrow must go back, to the town—the foul, hot, noisy town. How it will smell of the tons of gunpowder that have been burnt in it today! I hear the thunder of its guns even here, but it does not disturb the birds. The fire-bird and the song-sparrow have been singing all day among my locusts and horse-chestnuts in spite of it.

We have quite given the world the go-by today. We have been no further than the garden, from the foot of which we saw in the morning, a sloop go down the bay, with a fiddle on board, and a score of young women in sunbonnets. Nobody has been to see us but a little boy of two years old, whom at his particular desire I took to the barn to see the pigs and chickens, and whom I was obliged to refresh with a liberal handful of cherries which I climbed the tree to gather. Between eleven and twelve o'clock I had rather a sweltering time in the garden gathering the first of the raspberries and the last of the strawberries. If we had a quiet friend or two like yourself, the day, I know, would pass more agreeably, but we get a good deal of contentment from it, as it is. And it is not wishing you any great ill-luck to wish you here, for the temperature all day has been delightful, and since two o'clock—it is now four—a fresh breeze has sprung up, full of spirit—which is now bringing in at the windows the scent of the flowers of early summer and some faint odour of the hayfields. If you care for sea-bathing, the tide is swelling up, and when it meets the grass, I think I shall take a plunge myself.

A copy of my Letters of a Traveller was sent to you some time since, from Putnam's who is my bookseller, and who seems to be a very well-behaved man in his vocation. I hope you got it. You are the instigator of its publication, and if it be a bad book must bear your share of the blame. I know very well that it is light matter, and that the world would be no wiser if it were to get it by heart, but I hope it will do no harm. It is a tolerably good book in the bookseller's sense of the phrase, for it sells pretty well. The periodical press has been civil to it, and Raymond of the Courier had the magnanimity to set the example of commending the style.

Does it not make one egotistical to write letters? I am sure you must suspect this to be the case when you read mine.

It was well done of your son to give the world Mr. Allston's Lectures and Poems. We wanted another edition of his poems which have been
long out of print, and the lectures were needed by our artists and our
judges of art, to teach them how to think on such subjects, how to look at
nature and how to compare nature with the representations of her on
canvas.

This place is very beautiful just now. I think I never saw its vegeta-
tion so rich. Shall we never see you here again? My wife wants another
chance to try to make you comfortable. She desires to be very kindly re-
membered. Our regards to your daughter and sisters. Mrs. Ripley⁴ is
passing the 4th in this neighbourhood and is to take tea at Fanny's this
afternoon.

Yours faithfully
WM C. BRYANT.

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL–GR (draft and final) ENDORSED: Wm C. Bryant, July 4/50 / Ans.

1. See Letter 710.

2. Henry Jarvis Raymond (1820–1869, Vermont 1840), once Horace Greeley's chief
assistant on the New York Tribune, and since 1843 editor of another Whig paper, the
Morning Courier, would become in 1851 a joint founder with George Jones (1811–1891)

(New York, 1850).

4. Probably the wife of Rev. George Ripley (1802–1880, Harvard 1823), first presi-
dent of Brook Farm, a communal colony at West Roxbury, Massachusetts, and since
1849 literary critic of the New York Tribune. In 1847 Parke Godwin had succeeded
Ripley as editor of The Harbinger, socialistic organ of the colony.

727. To Frances F. Bryant

New York   July 30, 1850

Dear Frances.

Yesterday and today were so hot that I am fairly parboiled in my own
perspiration. I went over to Dr. Gray's last evening as soon as the sun was
fairly down and conveyed your message. At present it is Dr. Gray's plan
to come out on Friday in his carriage, in which case he will not bring a
nurse, but all the children.

I shall send to Mrs. Forrest's the parcel you left. There is an old
umbrella in my room, very much "dilapidated" as Miss Robbins would
say. Did you leave it there? If so what shall I do with it—whither is it to be
sent? If I have a failing in the world, it is a desire to return umbrellas. I
cannot bear to see a strange umbrella on my premises—particularly an old
one.

Miss Sands¹ will get the pine apples for Friday when I shall come
down, but they have grown scarce she says. It would have been better if
I had got them last week.

Yrs ever
W. C. B.
728. To Frances F. Bryant

[cAugust 1, 1850]

Dear F.

I got some tools at Newbould's this morning which will come in the sloop. As most of the ones I wanted were in a tool chest which he had, I thought I would get the chest. I shall bring the key. I met Mr. Lawson today in the street; we shook hands very cordially.

Sherwood called this morning. He has just returned from Barrington. All our friends there, he says, are well.

Mr. Bigelow is here today; so that I can come out tomorrow if I think fit.

Yrs ever

W C B

P.S. Do not forget to take care of the plums and peaches if there are any.

W. C. B.

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL-GR ADDRESS: Mrs. Frances F. Bryant / Roslyn / Long Island.


2. No reason is apparent for the estrangement between Bryant and James Lawson which is suggested here.

3. William Sherwood. See 100.9.

4. See Letter 730.

729. To Frances F. Bryant

New York Tuesday August 6, 1850.

Dear F.

I copy Mrs. Ver Bryck's letter.

"My dear Mrs. Bryant. I was very sorry to miss both the visits of your kind husband, particularly as he could have no definite answer to his errand. Most happy will I be to accompany you to Catskill. As you leave the naming of the day to me, I will mention Thursday. I should like to hear how you go. If you have any time to spare mother will be glad to have you come directly to Pierrepont Street from Roslyn. Had you not better inform Mrs. Cole of our intention, as her family is sometimes large.

"For several days we have all been occupied with the last sickness of Mr. Huntington's father. He was released on Saturday last and buried yesterday. The family are well but weary. As soon as possible they will now leave town. I trust you have all kept well. Remember me very kindly to Mr. Bryant and your daughters. If any other day would be more agreeable to you, just name it to your attached friend.

S. E. Ver Bryck
Monday noon August 5th." ["""]

I have written to Mrs. Ver Bryck that it was doubtful if you could go any day this week and gave her the reason.

Yesterday I had a letter from Dr. Dickson. He has shipped he says a barrel of rice for us. They are quite well but suffering from the heat.

Godwin went away yesterday morning, to be absent the whole week.

Yours ever

W. C. B.

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL–GR address: Mrs. F. F. Bryant / Roslyn / Long Island.

1. Widow of the artist Cornelius Ver Bryck. See 486.1.
2. Maria Bartow Cole, widow of the artist Thomas Cole. See 647.3.
3. Father of the painter Daniel Huntington. See 499.3.
4. Bryant's note.
5. Samuel Henry Dickson. See 646.3.

730. To Leonice M. S. Moulton

New York August 7 1850

My dear Mrs. M.

You recollect perhaps the story of him who in a letter apologizes to a lady for writing to her in his shirt sleeves. The weather is now so warm that I am committing an indecorum of a like kind—I write without a cravat and a shirt or shoes. It is hot—hot hot continually—the thermometer in my room in New York always as high as eighty for the last ten days and often higher. Hanging against the wall for several days past, at five o'clock this morning was at 84, and now at six in the afternoon in a current of air in the window it stands at 85.

You ask for news from my wife. She is quite well, much cumbered with seeing of company, and bathing every day in the harbour. She had been to pay a visit to some friends in Berkshire where Julia now is, and she is soon to go with Mrs. Ver Bryck and myself to Catskill. Fanny is well and her children are healthy bonny and good tempered. I have been pent up in the town all summer—Mr. Bigelow got married in the beginning of June and took a honeymoon of two months, the [experience?] of the greater part of which was passed at Rye Beach somewhere on the New England coast where the weather was so cool—so cold they called it, as to allow of their very soon being quite social.¹

The order for . . .² came to hand and the Damascus peas also. I planted them duly—and duly they came up, and blossomed and bore fruit. The plants are about three inches in height, with small narrow pinnacle leaves, and of the pods some contain a single pea and some none at all. I fancy they should have been planted earlier—but really they are the most insignificant crop I ever saw and appear little worth bringing all the way
from Damascus. However I shall try to preserve the seed that when you again become a farmer you may have wherewith to sow your fields.

I am glad to hear that you are become such a Jehu—or to give it a feminine termination such a Jehua—such a driver of steeds in harness—a expert a charioteer—that the most timid female may trust herself to your charge. You should be in Roslyn now to astonish your old acquaintances with your dexterity as a whip—Roslyn which is as green and fresh as if it decked itself out in [decent?] expectation of your presence. I think I have never known so [luxuriant?] a summer on the island or a more well proportioned alternation of showers and sunshine. Just now a thunder storm is rising and the mighty wind is on hand to the right and left, and the tree tops on the streets are tossing in the wind and a romantic youth in long hair and a linen sack coat is standing on the top of a chimney on the house opposite looking into the wind's eye.

It is a dull summer here in New York. The heat has driven every body out of town, and I have been at Roslyn less than usual. You I doubt not have had a delightful time at Meadow Side. Your plan of life is perfectly captivating—all but washing at the pump—I must have pails, tubs floods of water in my chamber—but then I would cheerfully draw the water and empty what is called the “slops.” Do not however I pray you become so independent that it will cost you a great effort to return to civilized life.

Have you read Rural Hours by Miss Cooper a daughter of Fenimore Cooper[?] It is the most charming book I have read for a long time. It would suit your taste exactly all the objects of country life as they present themselves daily throughout the year are made the subject of pleasant notices full of knowledge and good sense and good taste and kindly feeling. You must read it—if you do not see it earlier, it will be a treat for you when you come to Roslyn—

My letter is ended. I have given you ten times the quantity of phrase which your note to me contained—yours had the advantage in quality I confess, but that you could not help, so you must claim no merit on that account. I should like to get a chronicle of your adventures at Meadow Side. My wife I doubt not would send her love if she were here.

Yours faithfully
W C B.

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL–GR (draft) ENDORSED (by Bryant): My Letter.

2. Several words illegible.
4. Susan Fenimore Cooper (1813–1894), *Rural Hours* (New York, 1850). Several months later Cooper exulted to his wife, “I wish you could have heard Bryant last night, on R[ural] H[ours]. ‘Yes’ said I ‘it is a nice book’ ‘Pooh!’ he answered—‘it is a great book—the greatest of the season, and a credit to the country!’ Was not my heart glad!” Cooper, *Letters & Journals*, VI, 237.

731. *To George Bancroft*  
Wednesday August 14 1850.

Dear Bancroft.

You could hardly take a pleasanter excursion than the one you propose. The best way to reach the [Delaware] Water Gap is by the New Jersey Central Railroad which leaves New York at 9 in the morning from the foot of Cortlandt Street. At a place called White House not far from Easton are stage coaches to take passengers to Easton to Wilkesbarre to Bethlehem and the Water Gap.

Bethlehem is an interesting place, a Moravian settlement you know founded by Loskiel,1 *Episcopus Fratrum* a little more than a hundred years since, on the pleasant banks of the Lehigh, with vineyards on the declivities. Here they speak the best German in America. Nazareth in the neighbourhood is another Moravian village of a characteristic appearance. Of Wilkesbarre I can tell you nothing—but you should see Bethlehem. You might go by the way of Easton and return by the way of Schooley’s Mountain and Morristown.2

Yrs truly

W C BRYANT.

MANUSCRIPT: MHS.

1. George Henry Loskiel (1740–1814), Russian-born bishop of the Moravian Church, who came to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in 1802, in the year of his consecration. Bethlehem was first settled in 1740–1741.
2. Bryant’s visits to this area in 1840 and 1846 are recounted in *Letters* 384 and 604–605.

732. *To John Howard Bryant*  
New York August 30, 1850

Dear Brother.

I thank you for the statement you have given me of my account with you. I wish I had mentioned to you that I should be glad to know how many bushels of wheat you had received from Galer at different times and what price the wheat brought in market, in order that I might judge what sort of bargain I made in selling him the land. I should also like to know how much is yet coming to me on his notes. Will you be so kind as to inform me when you receive this?
With regard to the building of a house, your advice I doubt not is judicious. I do not see, however, that I can send out any money for the purpose this fall—money is not so plentiful with me as that. I have been in hopes that Galer would pay enough on his interest to buy the timber for the building. [If this] cannot be done I think the building of the house must go over to another year at least. I had thought of offering you, if you would build the house, the first year’s rent, which I suppose would be about ten per cent of the value. I did not offer any thing for the trouble taken in building the first house because I made an abatement from the interest stipulated in the notes.

The terms on which you wish to exchange lands with me I am not sure that I perfectly understand. I have no objection to any arrangement of that kind however, on fair business principles. If you will give me for my lands near the village lands the same value in lands elsewhere within reasonable distance, I am content, and I am willing that Mr. Olds shall say what amount of land I shall take for what I transfer to you.

The monument for our mother’s grave certainly ought to be attended to, and I take shame to myself that it has been so long neglected. I must see for what a simple monument of good marble can be had and order it to be made. I have not at hand the memorandum of the day of her death, but I have I believe that of her birth. Will you send it to me?

I had entertained some thoughts before you wrote of coming out to Illinois in the last half of September. If I do, I shall bring out my wife with me, but it is very uncertain yet. I thank you however, and so does my wife for your hospitable invitation.

The plum trees you sent me succeeded very well and make flourishing little trees. Of the gooseberry cuttings some appeared to take root: they put forth leaves, but last winter the frost threw them nearly out of the ground, and the spring rains, while I was absent in town, washing away the earth completed the mischief. One only yet maintains a starving existence with two or three little leaves but it must inevitably die. I should like more of the gooseberry cuttings this fall.

You do not say whether you have tried any [Em?] or [Eledie’s?] for the hurt on your shoulder. If you have not you should try [Elius?]. Perhaps there are some other remedies.

We are all well—my wife is at [our] place in Roslyn and Julia on Staten Island and Fanny with her children at her cottage by the water where they have the benefit of a dip now and then in the salt water which keeps them strong and hearty. Part of the summer has been uncommonly hot, but it is now rather cooler than usual. Last week I took my wife and Julia to Easthampton and Montauk Point, the eastern extremity of Long Island. Easthampton consists of large ancient houses and green level ground, with a ridge of sand hills on the sea shore and a belt of sandy woods on the other three sides. Montauk Point is a peninsula of grassy
hills bare of trees, pastured by cattle, and separated from the rest of the island by an isthmus of sand. It is very cool in the summer time and the sea views are very fine.

Remember me kindly to your wife and boys and to all our friends in your neighborhood.

Yrs affectionately,
W. C. Bryant

MANUSCRIPT: Mrs. Mildred Bryant Kussmaul, Brockton, Massachusetts ADDRESS: J. H. Bryant Esq.

1. Sarah Snell Bryant had died in Illinois on May 6, 1847. See Letter 617.
2. As Bryant wrote them, the names of these homoeopathic medicines are virtually illegible.

733. To Eliza Robbins [New York? cAugust 1850]

My dear Miss Robbins—

My wife is perpetually asking me why I do not write to you—"so here goes" as the cant phrase is.

I have two things, however, on my mind which would be sufficient reason for writing if I were not the laziest man in the world.

One is to ask how you find yourself—how you are getting on—whether you are getting well as fast as you ought, and in the meantime whether you are passing the days of your convalescence as pleasantly and happily as one could wish. We can hear little of you from any one that we see. Your friends here with whom you are intimate can tell us nothing about you, and I suppose you write to nobody except by special request. We have just heard from Mrs. Moulton who made several attempts to see you but always called when you were out.—

The next matter on which I have to speak to you is to tell you that I sent to Boston to your address a copy of my Letters of a Traveller. Have you got it? I find it is at some of the Boston Booksellers for you.

That is all. News I have little to give you. And at this present writing—my wife and Fanny and Julia and little Minna are all in Berkshire—all well when they went of course. Everybody that I know is out of town except Miss Sands and her mother—driven forth by the hot weather, and confounded hot it has been at times I assure you—sweatily exceedingly—and the city almost an oven sometimes at night, and by day fuller of all things abominable to sight and smell than I ever saw it before. Mr. Bigelow is married—married about the beginning of June and has gone off taking two whole months to his honeymoon, so much more extravagant has the world gone in these days than formerly, for who is a greater squanderer than he that spends his time?
The season in the country has been rather finer than usual—the herbage always fresh and the shades thicker than usual—the trees were [loaded absolutely down?] with foliage till the terrible southeast wind came last [month?] with the rain on its [wings?] and [strained?] them and broke the [heavy?] and brittle branches, and [strewed the earth with their spoil?]—Would it had been contented with [blowing down trees?]; it has covered our shores with wrecks. You have heard of the sad fate of Margaret Fuller & young son²—but perhaps . . .³

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL-GR (draft) ENDORSED (by Bryant): My Letter— / 1850?

1. See 710.1.
2. Sarah Margaret Fuller, with her husband, Angelo Ossoli, and infant son, drowned on July 14, 1850, when the ship on which they were returning from Italy was wrecked off Fire Island, New York. See 583.2; Goddard, Roslyn Harbor, pp. 62–63.
3. The rest of the manuscript is unrecovered.

734. To Frances F. Bryant

Dear F.

Mrs. Goddard¹ died on Tuesday morning at Mamaroneck of the Typhus fever. Her son has just called to give me the intelligence. She had been ill eight or ten days and seemed to be getting better until very shortly before she died. Dr. Wilsey and Dr. Curtis² were out to see her a few days before her death and found her in so good a way that they thought it unnecessary to visit her again. The fever seemed to be entirely subdued. On Monday she began to sink and rapidly grew worse. The young man said that it was supposed the debility occasioned by her previous low state of health left her no strength to bear up against the disease, and when the fever left her there did not remain suff[icient] energy in her constitution to carry on the functions of life. I told him I should inform you immediately of the event.

Mrs. Goddard will be buried on Saturday from the lower church—Mr. Bellows's.³ The funeral is postponed that every chance for resuscitation may be allowed.

Your rage at the article in the paper⁴ made me laugh heartily.

Yrs ever

W. C. B.

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL-GR ADDRESS: MRS. F. F. BRYANT / ROSLYN / LONG ISLAND ENDORSED:
Informing me of the death of Elizabeth Goddard.

2. Ferdinand L. Wilsey, a physician, of 588 Houston Street, was apparently a founder of the Hahnemann Academy of Medicine. Curtis may have been either A. M. Curtis, of 59 Grand Street, or Alva Curtis, 43 Bowery. See Rode's New York City
To [Christiana?] Gibson

New York, September 26, 1850.

Dear Miss Gibson,

Do not let the dull weather, if dull it should be, prevent you from going out to Roslyn tomorrow. When you make a visit to the country it is better to choose the end of a storm than the end of an interval of fine weather. If you had gone to Roslyn yesterday, for example, it would have been a mistake, for you would have arrived just in time to see the beginning of the rain; if you go tomorrow, provided the weather does not clear up in the mean time you will probably arrive just in time to see the end of it, and to enter upon a new lease of fine weather with the earth refreshed, the dust laid, and the roads firm.

Yrs truly

W.C. BRYANT

MANUSCRIPT: DuU.

1. See 502.3.

To Hiram Powers

New York October 14th. 1850.

Dear Sir,

The bearer of this, Theodore Sedgwick Esq. who has a high appreciation of your genius, has desired of me an introduction to you, which I am proud to be able to give him. He goes abroad for his health, with his mother and sister, and with the intention to pass some time in the country [Italy] which your residence and that of a few other great men continues to make the principal seat of the fine arts. I need say no more in favour of Mr. Sedgwick than that he belongs to the family of that name, distinguished for worth and talent, with the reputation of which you are well acquainted.

I am sir

very truly and respectfully yours

WILLIAM C BRYANT

1. See 542.3.
2. See 209.8; 475.1.

737. To Mrs. Richards

New York, Monday October 14th 1850.

My dear Mrs. Richards,

I send you in the enclosure with this a note from my wife and two letters for your daughter which reached Roslyn after her departure.

My wife's note has something about your going out with me to Roslyn on Saturday next. I have been obliged to make arrangements for going out on Friday. I hope that day will be convenient for you and Mrs. Verbryck. If it should not there is nothing to make your journey to Roslyn on Saturday inconvenient without my attendance. You stop at the Branch and Julian's Stage is always there to bring you to our door.

Yrs truly
W. C. BRYANT.

MANUSCRIPT: HEHL.

1. Apparently the sister of Mrs. Cornelius Ver Bryck. See 729.1.

738. To Parke Godwin

Roslyn October 18, 1850.

Dear Sir.

Yesterday my niece Mrs. Mitchell of Cummington was to come out to this place with me. Her husband was to bring her to the South Ferry at a quarter past three P.M. where I was to take charge of her. I waited till half-past 3 and then crossed over thinking she might be on the other side, but she was not there and I came on without her.

They were staying at the American Hotel, and he was to set out for Boston at 5 the same afternoon. Will you do me the favor to call at the Hotel as early as you can spare time, and inquire the reason why Mrs. Mitchell did not come, and let her come out with you.

Yrs respectfully
W. C. BRYANT


1. Ellen Theresa Shaw Mitchell (1822–1891), Mrs. Clark Ward Mitchell, was the only child of Bryant's sister Sally (Mrs. Samuel Shaw), who died in 1824. See 106.2.

739. To John Howard Bryant

New York October 25, 1850.

Dear Brother.

I suppose you have before this given up looking for me this autumn. I thought at first of coming out with my wife, and then, as she did not
much like the journey I thought of coming out alone, but I found on reflection, that there was no business to call me very imperatively to Illinois, and that the money which I should spend would be very convenient to make some necessary payments with, so I concluded to stay at home.

With regard to the land which you wish to exchange, I am willing that you and Mr. Olds should arrange the matter just as you please; only let me know what you have determined on, and what I am to do in regard to it.

I should very much like if you can get the items to have that statement of what money I have had of Galer and what is yet coming to me. It would satisfy what I am sure you will consider as a rational curiosity to know how the sale of the land to Galer has turned out, whether I have gained or lost by the transaction. There has been a good deal of delay on Galer's part and a good deal of inconvenience occasioned by the delay, and if the wheat has not brought good prices, the bargain is nothing to brag of.

We have passed rather a pleasant and quite a healthy summer. Part of the time the weather was quite hot, but always showery, and the earth green, and the woods thick with foliage. We had frequent thunderstorms, and several violent gales of wind, one of which did considerable mischief to me by shaking off my apples, which are not very abundant on Long Island this year. We had large crops of hay good crops of wheat and corn, and excellent potatoes, but little injured by the disease, which in some parts, on the mainland has done considerable damage. The cherries this year were particularly abundant the strawberries very fine and lasted long, the raspberries almost equally good, the summer pears abundant and [watery?], the later pears good for nothing; the peaches on Long Island poor and ripening early; but in New Jersey and elsewhere plentiful to a degree I never knew before though not of so good a flavor I think, as usual.

The autumn thus far has been uncommonly fine, a warm sunshiny September, a still more sunny October, and great brilliancy of color in the woods, owing I suppose to the strong summer heats, which brought on the old age of the leaf before the frosts. We have had no severe frosts yet.

In September, the latter part of the month, we made an excursion to the east end of the Island visiting Easthampton, a level country, of fields of heavy loam in the midst of sandy woods, inhabited by a primitive race of people much like the New Englanders. From this place we went to Montauk Point the extreme eastern end of the island, a hilly region of hard loam, with cliffs of gravel forming its shore. There are scarce any trees on the point which is nine or ten miles long, and is almost all pasture, with eight or ten Indian houses on it, and three inhabited by white people, the keepers of the herds, besides the house of the keeper of the light-house. It is a great place for fishing.

We have all been quite well during the greater part of the time. My
family are yet on Long Island and will probably remain there till December.

Ellen Shaw or Mitchell has been with us a few days. Her husband brought her down to my house on Long Island on Saturday last and she came away yesterday, Thursday. She is in quite delicate health, but her lungs are apparently sound. If she should sink under ill-health it will not be consumption that kills her but frequent child births. She has had [four?] children, the last died in infancy. The short visit she made us improved her looks. She told me that Deacon Briggs\(^1\) had been two years an inhabitant of Lanesborough.

Remember me kindly to your wife and the boys and to all my friends in Princeton.

Yours affectionately

W. C. BRYANT.

P. S.—Please give the letter which comes with this to Cyrus\(^2\)

W. C. B.


2. Letter unrecovered.

740. To Frances F. Bryant
New York Wednesday, October 30, 1850.

Dear F.

Dorothea Lisner\(^1\) called this morning, and will go down on Saturday to Roslyn.

Miss Robbins called also and will go down the same day she thinks.

There was a very severe frost last night I perceived as I went to the Branch. The grass was white with the hoar frost, and after I got up the hill near Haviland's I saw ice in the puddles beside the road.

Twenty people have called to see me this morning, and I believe I should have something more to tell you if I could remember who they were and what they said. The room has been a perfect theatre of Chinese shadows.—

Yrs ever

W. C. B.

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL—GR ADDRESS: Mrs. F. F. Bryant / Roslyn / Long Island.

1. Apparently a prospective housemaid.

741. To Frances F. Bryant
New York, Wednesday, November 13th, 1850.

Dear F.

I hope you got the letters sent you yesterday\(^1\) informing you that I
had seen Mr. Spring\(^2\) and that there was no special inducement for you to leave home.

Mr. Dewey has been here for several days. He came down last week, I think on Friday, on purpose to hear Jenny Lind,\(^3\) and staided at Mr. Lane's.\(^4\) On Friday evening he was at Leupp's, and as I heard in fine spirits. He was to return to Berkshire yesterday morning and I suppose did so; for I have not seen him.

I have a note from Mrs. Verbyck desiring that I will put her in the way "of procuring a good German servant." I wish I could with all my heart.

Yours ever

W. C. B.

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL–GR.

1. Unrecovered.
3. The Swedish soprano Jenny Lind (1820–1887) had made her spectacular American debut at Castle Garden, New York City, on September 11, under the management of Phineas T. Barnum, later the great circus impresario. Odell, Annals, VI, 83–85.

742. To Frances F. Bryant

New York November 14, 1850. [Thursday.]\(^1\)

Dear F.

I wrote the enclosed yesterday, but the newspaper was sent off before I got down stairs.

Mr. Dewey preached here on Sunday morning. On Tuesday when he got to Bridgeport he was called back by a telegraphic dispatch to attend the funeral of Ferris Pell.\(^5\) You will see by the paper that Mrs. Edmonds the wife of the Judge\(^4\) is also dead.

Mr. Dewey made a good many apologies to Fanny for not coming out to Roslyn.

We had a pleasant dinner at Mr. Springs yesterday. The furnace and a fire in the grate—the new grate—of their parlour made the temperature quite comfortable. By the bye, read the extract from the Horticulturist in today's paper concerning heated rooms. Mrs. Kirkland was there and Mr. Brown;\(^5\) his wife was not well enough to come. He appeared to be wholly unconscious of the engagement made for him by Mr. Marquand;\(^6\) he had never heard any thing about it. Great regret was expressed that you and Julia were not there. It was a fine moonlight evening when we returned. We all walked to the Ferry and after crossing, the ladies took the omnibus, but I walked home.\(^7\)
Miss Cooper has sent in her bill for four weeks and in her moderation has concluded not to take the additional dollar weekly.

Yrs ever

W. C. B.

P.S. I think I shall come to Roslyn tomorrow.

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL-GR ADDRESS: Mrs. F. F. Bryant / Roslyn / Long Island.

1. The brackets are Bryant's.
3. Ferris Pell, a New York lawyer and political writer who had been a close associate of Governor De Witt Clinton (1769–1828).
4. John Worth Edmonds. See 492.4.
5. Probably the sculptor Henry Kirke Brown, a member of the Sketch Club and the National Academy of Design, whose marble bust of Bryant had been shown at the Academy earlier that year. NAD Exhibition Record, 1, 54. See Letter 561.
6. Henry Gurdon Marquand (1819–1902), a New York banker and art collector, who owned a number of Brown's sculptures, including four which had been exhibited at the National Academy the preceding spring. NAD Exhibition Record, 1, 54.
7. Marcus and Rebecca Spring then lived on State Street in Brooklyn.

743. To Frances F. Bryant

New York, Wednesday November 27, 1850.

Dear F.

I went to the wedding party last evening at half past nine and was at home again at twenty minutes past ten. The bride behaved as composedly and seemed as much at her ease as if she had been married every day of her life. She is hardly handsome enough to "look sweetly," as they say of all brides. Poor Ellery certainly looked as if he had never been married before—a spot of bright red on each cheek bone close to the eyes, and the rest of the face quite pale.¹ I spoke with Mrs. Robert Sedgwick and Miss [Catharine] Sedgwick and several of the young ladies. Mrs. Kirkland was there and Mr. Bellows, and Dr. Anderson and Mr. Beckwith and Mr. McCracken and Alfred Pell's oldest son, now a tall young man, and young men whom I did not know in scores. I saw Mr. Hackley yesterday. He is afraid he shall figure again in Forrest's affidavit, though he pretends not to care for it. He is evidently tender-skinned yet.²

They are making a Bishop today. Seabury,³ high church, and Whitehouse,⁴ low church, are the candidates. I saw Mr. [Fenimore] Cooper last evening at Leupp's; he is full of the subject and wanted he said to persuade the low church party to support Dr. Wainwright who is somewhere, in doctrine between Seabury and Whitehouse.⁵

Yrs ever

W. C. B.

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL-GR ADDRESS: Mrs. F. F. Bryant / Roslyn / Long Island.

2. For Henry James Anderson, see 126.1; for Alfred Pell, 329.7. J. L. N. McCracken was an amateur playwright (Cooper, *Letters & Journals*, VI, 118). Hackley, apparently named in Edwin Forrest's divorce, has not been further identified. N. M. Beckwith (d. 1887) was a fellow-member of the Century Club.


5. This conclave was adjourned without agreeing on a choice, but the following year Jonathan Mayhew Wainwright (1792–1854), rector of Trinity Parish, was consecrated bishop of New York. *Ibid.*, VI, 234–241, *passim*.

744. *To Frances F. Bryant*  
New York December 4th 1850.—

Dear F.

I wrote to you yesterday desiring that a bottle of hock in your bedroom closet might be transferred to the cellar. Lest you should not have received the note I write again. I sent a letter for Julia in the paper with your note.

Do not forget the thermometer—nor the lens—nor the letters to be answered. If you do not come tomorrow, see that the white raspberry bushes are covered.

Yours ever

W. C. B.

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745. *To John Ellis Wool*  
New York February 25th, 1851.

My dear sir.

I have your letter concerning the payment of my mortgage. By Friday's mail I will forward you a check for the amount of principal and interest,—dated Saturday, March 1st.

I am sir

yours faithfully

W. C. BRYANT

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1. See 568.3; Letter 747.
746. To John Ellis Wool

New York  February 26, 1851.

My dear sir.

I did not believe say in my note of yesterday that it was a certified check that I intended to send you on Friday. This, however, is what I meant, which will make it the same thing as cash in hand the moment it is received.

Yours faithfully

WM C. BRYANT

MANUSCRIPT: NYSL  ADDRESS: Genl Jno. E. Wool.

747. To John Ellis Wool

New York  February 28th  1851.

My dear sir.

I enclose you my check on the Mechanics Bank for $3093.78, which is the principal and interest on my mortgage up to March 1st, if I have computed the interest right. The check as you will see by a scrawl on the face is certified at the Bank. Will you do me the favour to send me the mortgage discharged by mail.

I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without thanking you for the courtesy and the disposition to oblige, which you have always shown in the business relations I have had with you.

I agree with you that there seems to be little chance at present for any of the “Richmonds” in the field. Benton you have seen positively declines becoming a candidate in any event—his refusal I understand will not be reconsidered. He means to fight his own battle over in Missouri. The remarks made by you at the Troy dinner, as you give them, were quite pertinent and proper. I know very well how much the newspaper reporters, if they have a purpose to serve, are disposed to give an unfair turn to words spoken by a public man.

I am dear sir

yrs truly

W C BRYANT


1. Thomas Hart Benton (1782–1858) had been United States senator from Missouri from 1820 until 1850, when he was defeated for re-election. In 1852 he was elected to the House of Representatives.
748. To Cyrus Bryant

New York March 26, 1851.

Dear Brother,

I have just opened again your letter of February 10th,¹ the business part of which was attended to as soon as I received it, but there is a question at the end which I have not yet answered. You ask what you shall do with Cullen²—keep him at school or set him to work? I would be governed very much by his turn of mind and inclination. We must have somebody in the professions and it is rather a pleasant thing to have one or two of this sort of people among one’s relatives. If he takes to learning and has a decided bent to become a scholar I would indulge him. In this respect the Bryants are not apt to be deficient, and I should not wonder if he inherited a fondness for books from the Everett side.³ If he does not like to work better than you and I, there is perhaps some ground for fear that he will not distinguish himself in that line.

We are all well here— My own health is very good, and that of my wife is better than usual this winter. I am making arrangements to go out to my place, for the summer next week. I am obliged to part with the man who has been with me for several years and I have just engaged an Irishman in his place, concerning whom I am not wholly free from misgivings, for it is next to impossible to know whether an Irishman is good for any thing or not until you have tried him. I am now looking for another man to work with him—but I think that one Irishman is enough and I am trying for a German or a Scotchman. Americans are out of the question. I am glad you have undertaken the chemical lectures;⁴ it will give your people something better to think of and talk about than village scandal, but I suppose they are concluded before this time. If you gave your auditors exhilarating gas, I think you must have drawn better houses than Lovejoy.⁵

My wife desires to be kindly remembered to you and your wife and children, and says that as soon as she gets time she will answer your letter. My regards to all.

Yrs affectionately

W C Bryant


1. Unrecovered.
2. Cyrus’ third son, Cullen (1839–1909, United States Military Academy 1864).
3. Mrs. Cyrus Bryant had been Julia Everett of Worthington, Massachusetts.
5. Owen Lovejoy (1811–1864), an Illinois legislator and radical Abolitionist, was later a close friend and supporter of Abraham Lincoln. A United States congressman
from 1857 to 1864, he was a younger brother of the anti-slavery editor Elijah Parish Lovejoy, whose murder by a pro-slavery mob at Alton, Illinois, in 1837 had prompted Bryant to a vigorous defense of freedom of the press. See Letter 363; *EP*, November 18, 1837.

749. *To* Richard H. Dana  

New York  April 8th  1851.

Dear Dana.

I should have written to you before, but that I could not till now answer one of the material points in your letter.\(^1\) I have just installed my wife in her home for the summer at Roslyn, and made inquiries about the boarding houses. There is a family near us where I supposed that comfortable lodgings might be had for a reasonable compensation, and which is situated close to the water, where Charlotte\(^2\) might have taken a plunge twice a day if she pleased. But I learn that they mean not to take boarders this summer—one of the daughters intending to be married in June. There is no other good place here within a convenient distance of the salt water. Along the shores of the Sound, at Glen Cove and other places are boarding houses, but their terms are five or six dollars a week, most often the latter. Dr. Bryant thinks highly of sea-bathing, and his opinion is confirmed by the experience which your daughter had of its beneficial effect last summer. If you have any doubt of it, come down with her in June and let her try the experiment in the little cove at the foot of my dyke. A fortnight's trial, I am sure, would determine the question, and then we might see whether there were not a comfortable and quiet place to be found somewhere in the neighbourhood.

I read your son's argument, which certainly was an able one and does him great credit.\(^3\) Equally great, still greater in my opinion, is the credit due to him for the boldness with which he came forward to do his duty to the uttermost in a matter in which it seemed that there was much to lose and nothing to gain. I am not certain, however, that it will not hereafter appear that what seems only courage, would deserve to be called by those [who] could see the end along with the beginning, the highest policy. Let people be convinced that what has been done was not from a love of contention or an itch for notoriety, but from a disinterested determination to decline no duty which his profession might cast upon him,—and he will stand far far higher in men's estimation for his courage. Nor will they fail to be convinced of this in time.

I suppose you saw the little article I made up concerning Channing\(^4\) for the Evening Post from your letter, making use of your own expressions, for which I hope you bear me no grudge. Since you wrote I have heard some of his pupils speak of what they owed to him in much the same terms as those you mentioned having heard from a clergyman.

Cooper is now in town—in ill health,—a disease of the liver. When I
saw him last he was in high health apparently and in excellent spirits. He has grown thin and has an ashy instead of a florid complexion. The other night there was an annual supper at the Academy of Design just before the opening of the exhibition. They toasted [Asher] Durand the shyest of men, unexpectedly to him, and he answered in a brief speech entirely un-premeditated and simple in manner and phrase, but most happily turned and as they said really affecting. It was allowed to be the best made in the evening.

Remember me very kindly to your sisters and daughter.

Yrs sincerely

WM C. BRYANT

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL-GR

1. Unrecovered.
2. Dana's daughter, a semi-invalid, was long a friend and frequent guest of the Bryants.
3. On February 15 a runaway slave, Shadrach, had been seized in Boston under the Fugitive Slave Law and taken before United States Commissioner B. F. Hallet; the same day he was rescued in court by a crowd headed by two Negroes, and hastened away. One of his lawyers, a black named Davies, was charged with aiding in his escape. Davies was represented at his trial on February 20–24 by Richard H. Dana, Jr., whose "Argument in Behalf of Charles G. Davies" on February 25 effected his acquittal the next day. Dana's argument was printed in several newspapers at the time, and later in Richard Henry Dana, Speeches in Stirring Times . . . , ed. Richard Henry Dana, 3d. (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin, 1910), pp. 178–209. See also EP, February 25, 26, 1851; Nevins, Ordeal, I, 388.
4. Edward Tyrell Channing (54.1), who, as editor of the North American Review in 1817–1818 had published Bryant's early verses, retired in 1851 from an outstanding teaching career at Harvard. Bryant's article on Channing has not been found.
5. James Fenimore Cooper, ill since the preceding November with a liver ailment, died on September 14, 1851. Cooper, Letters & Journals, VI, 256.
6. With characteristic reticence, Bryant does not mention the final toast of the evening, offered by Rufus Griswold, and reported in the Bulletin of the American Art-Union (May 1851), p. 32: "Dr. Griswold was here called upon. He said he would not make a speech, but he would supply an omission. The greatest of all American artists was absent—a man of whom Fenimore Cooper had said that day in his (Dr. Griswold's) presence, 'However we may be praised, he is the author of America.'"
From the French.

Sere leaf, severed from the bough!
Tell me, whither goest thou?

Ask me not, the leaf replies;
Lately was my parent oak
Smitten by the tempest's stroke.
Since that hour, with every gale,
Soft or strong, that sweeps the skies,
I am borne from grove to plain,
From the mountain to the vale,
Wandering wide where'er they blow.
Yet I fear not nor complain;
I but go where all things go,
Where the rose's leaf, at last,
And the laurel-leaf are cast.

1. Amasa Walker (1799–1875) was a Boston shoe merchant, as well as a state legislator and congressman. After his retirement from business he taught political economy at Oberlin College, and published several books on economics. Bryant had first known him while studying Latin, as a boy of fourteen, with his Uncle Thomas Snell in North Brookfield, Massachusetts. Bryant, “Autobiography,” Life, I, 31.

2. Unrecovered.

3. The original verses in French are unidentified.

751. To Charles Sumner

New York, April 24, 1851.

My dear Sir.

Allow me to add my congratulations to those of Mr. Bigelow on your success. I am glad that my native state is once more worthily represented in the United States Senate.

Yrs truly

W. C. BRYANT.
about Mr. Bryant's autograph in mind," and again on the 23rd, "I have not forgotten your request for the autograph." Both letters in HCL.

752. To Leonice M. S. Moulton

New York April 30, 1851.

... I looked among the Bridgewater Howards and found Abigails in abundance—it seems to have been a favorite name—but none who married a Moulton. It may be among the Haywards, which name was formerly pronounced Howard. I shall look.

On Sunday, little Minna [Godwin] was taken with the bilious colic. Her nurse being obliged to come to town, I staid to look to the child till yesterday morning. The case was a bad one but I hear, this morning that she is better.

I think you must have had a guilty consciousness of running away too soon from Roslyn, or you would not have been put to such hard service as you say you were in your dreams, to improve the walks about my place.

... 1

MANUSCRIPT: Ridgely Family Collection TEXT: Hoyt, "Bryant Correspondence (I)," 65 ADDRESS: Mrs. L. M. S. Moulton, 1 Broadway.

1. Salutation, complimentary close, and signature omitted from published text.

753. To Salmon P. Chase

New York May 12th, 1851.

My dear sir.

I am sorry not to be able to direct you to any person who would be likely to conduct the paper you propose to establish, in such a manner as would satisfy you. 2 It is the most difficult thing in the world to find a man of whom you could say beforehand that he would conduct a political paper with ability, and in conformity with a high standard of morals. Sometimes the talent is wanting, sometimes the principles, and sometimes both. Some faculties require to be thoroughly drilled in journalism before they have any aptness dexterity or discretion in the work.

You free soil democrats in Ohio are taking the right course, and will reap, I doubt not, the reward of your firmness directness of purpose and fidelity to principle. Here in the state of New York, we are in some confusion. Seward, by forcing upon us the question of the nine million loan for enlarging the canal, has created a new issue of a local nature, which, for the present, predominates over every other. 3 It will have the effect of uniting the whigs, which was probably intended; it will in a considerable degree, bring together the democrats also. The only friends of the nine million bill among the democrats in this city, are the rankest of the pro-slavery faction. The free-soilers of this state are strictly the economical
party and nothing could be more distasteful to them, or bring them out in
direct warfare with Seward's friends more effectually than such a project
as this loan. Here in the city, a good many of the hunker whigs are against
the nine million loan, but at Albany the Register Fillmore's organ for the
state is vehemently in its favor; the whig party of the city are on the same
side, without an exception.

We must fight this battle, but we shall not neglect higher and more
permanent questions. The controversy concerning slavery will be kept
open, and nothing of the zeal of an opposition to the fugitive slave law and
the kindred enormities will be abated. 5

The enclosure of your letter,—one dollar for Mr. [Skiner?] was safely
received and the paper sent to him.

I am sir

yours faithfully

W C Bryant

Manuscript: HSPa address: Hone S. P. Chase.

1. Salmon Portland Chase (1808–1873, Dartmouth 1826), a former Whig, had been
elected United States senator from Ohio in 1849 by Democrats and Free Soilers.

2. Chase's request has not been located; consequently, the newspaper referred to
is unidentified. But one of his biographers wrote that Chase "valued and cultivated . . .
the anti-slavery press," and "subscribed for many of these papers, and raised, lent or
gave outright money to keep some of the more important of them afloat." Albert Bush-
nell Hart, Salmon Portland Chase, "American Statesmen" (Boston and New York,
1899), pp. 61–62.

3. William Henry Seward (1801–1872, Union 1820), governor of New York from
1839 to 1843, entered the United States Senate in 1849. On May 2, 1851, the EP
published a pamphlet entitled Pay as You Go; or, The Unconstitutionality of the Nine
Million Debt Demonstrated, which included letters from prominent Democrats Samuel
J. Tilden and John A. Dix, as well as an address from twelve Democratic state senators
who had resigned in April in protest against the senate's plan to float a large loan to
enlarge the Erie Canal. In editorials on May 1 and 2, under captions reading "The
Plan to Ruin the Erie Canal," and "Another Feature of the Nine Million Loan
Fraud," Bryant charged that such an expenditure, without a public referendum, would
be unconstitutional. However, in 1854 this proposal was put to the voters and carried
by an overwhelming margin. Nevins, Ordeal, II, 231.

4. Millard Fillmore (1800–1874) of Buffalo, New York, a Whig congressman who
was elected to the vice presidency in 1848, had succeeded to the presidency in July
1850 upon the death of Zachary Taylor. The Albany Register was established in
1849, in opposition to the Evening Journal, long the champion of the Seward–Thurlow
Weed faction of the state's Whig party. Glyndon G. Van Deusen, William Henry Seward

5. Bryant was unremitting in his opposition to the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850.
Commenting in the EP (October 4, 1851) on riots in Syracuse, New York, touched off
by "slave-catchers," he called the law "offensive, . . . revolting. The people feel it to be
an impeachment of their manhood" to be asked to help manacle "one who has lived
among them the life of an industrious and honest citizen. . . . The impulse toward
freedom is one which no legislature can extinguish or control."
754. To Charles Sedgwick

My Dear Sir.

I expect to leave this place on Monday after noon with my wife and perhaps my daughter—I cant tell yet—and pass a day at Great Barrington on my way to Lenox. This will bring me to your house—unless female influence should disturb my arrangements on Tuesday evng.

In great haste
yrs sincerely

W C Bryant

MANUSCRIPT: YCAL ADDRESS: C. Sedgwick Esq.

755. To Charles Sedgwick

Roslyn, Long Island, June 16, 1851

... I wish you were here just now to enjoy our season of roses and strawberries; you might have your own afterward. I would ask your advice, who are a practical landscape gardener, as to some walks which I am laying out in my woods, and you should decide for me at which point we could have the finest peeps at the water. Our neighborhood is now very beautiful; the later summer heats parch and wither the verdure of [our?] island. But now one might almost fancy that the clouds had dropped leaves with the rains, and buried us in a flood of foliage. We have nothing here, I acknowledge, like your mountains, with their infinite variety of aspects, the lakes they embosom, and their broad woods—a wood, to have its true majesty, must be seen on a mountainside—nor have we your swift streams. But what we have you should be welcome to. Meantime I entertain myself with comparing the images of beauty presented by the two regions. I am indebted to you and your "amiable family," as the Spanish say, for some of the finest landscapes in the picture-gallery of my memory, collected during our late pleasant visit to Berkshire. Claude Lorrain's are a trifle warmer in the atmosphere, but in all other respects they leave him far behind. Ruskin, you know, says that Claude was a clumsy artist, so that this would be no compliment in his estimation to the pictures of which I speak. . . .

1. The printed text has "an."
3. "Claude had, if it had been cultivated, a fine feeling for beauty of form, and is seldom ungraceful in his foliage; but his picture, when examined with reference to essential truth, is one mass of error from beginning to end." John Ruskin, Modern Painters, by a Graduate of Oxford (New York, 1848), I, 75.
756. To Frances F. Bryant

New York June 26, 1851. Thursday.

Dear F.

I forgot yesterday to say that Miss Robbins called the night previous. Some business relating to her books brought her to town, and she had completed it to her satisfaction. She complained that she was not so well for the sea-air and must hasten back to Newburgh. She desired her love to you and Julia.

Last night Mr. Rand and his wife¹ called. It is possible that he may come out on Saturday.

Minna gets on slowly, very slowly indeed. Fanny thinks the best way to get her to Roslyn will be to put her into the Glen Cove steamer, and let our rockaway come for her. Dr. Warner was at the house yesterday and said that the sooner she was sent into the country the better.

Do not let every thing dry up—trees &c. It is very hot here and must be very dry with you.

Yrs ever
W. C. B.

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL-GR ADDRESS: Mrs. F. F. Bryant / Roslyn / Long Island.

¹ Portrait painter John Goffe Rand and his wife, Lavinia Brainerd Rand. See 287.1, 289.1.

757. To Richard H. Dana

New York, July 1, 1851.

Dear Dana.

I got your letter today and this goes tomorrow.¹ It is bad news both for myself and my wife that you and your daughter could not find it convenient to try the sea-bath at our place on Long Island where it is now very pleasant—that is the sea-bathing. I am sorry that you give so bad an account of Charlotte’s health. It is a double misfortune—as great a one to you, to whom she is so necessary as to herself. Before the summer is over I hope she will have found health somewhere; in the waters of some sea coast or some healing fountain, or some friendly atmosphere. It is one of the melancholy things of our existence, one of the sorrowful exceptions to what seems the natural and proper order of things when the young become infirm before or as soon as their parents.

Hillard² has written a letter for the Evening Post which I have printed today, as well as the article from the Daily Advertiser which he desires should follow it; but I took occasion to reprimand him a little for helping on the attempt to persecute your son, under the semblance of arguing the question. I believe you are right when you say that these people begin to be dissatisfied with what has been done.
How came you to suppose that the article concerning the "Son of a Merchant" was not mine[?] I sat down and threw it off immediately on receiving Richard's letter\(^3\) enclosing the article cut from the Daily Advertiser. On looking it over again, I see marks of haste in it, and some blunders in the composition.\(^4\)

You are too despairing concerning your works. I wish they were more profitable, but that you get little from them is no proof that they are not esteemed. How much more money Byron made by his works than Wordsworth, and yet which of them is now most spoken of and quoted? Byron is no longer read with pleasure, and the impression made by his works on the public mind is nearly worn out. Wordsworth never seems to have been a successful author, so far as gain is concerned. Your writings may have a slow sale, but they will last.\(^5\)

I came to town today and am almost dissolved with the heat. I pine for the hour of release from this daily toil at the mill, but will my condition be any better then? I fear I should become lazy or fancy myself too old or too unwell to do any thing but scratch the ground a little in the garden.

My regards to your daughter and son. I am sorry that I did not see Richard when he was here on Saturday.

Yours ever

W C Bryant

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL-GR ENDORSED: Wm C. Bryant / July 1/51 / Ans. Dec\(^9\)th.

1. Dana's letter is unrecovered.
2. George Stillman Hillard. See 341.4.
3. Unrecovered.
4. Sometime early in June Richard H. Dana, Jr., had spoken at Worcester, Massachusetts, in support of Congressman Charles Allen, a Free Soiler who had recently charged Secretary of State Daniel Webster with taking bribes from a syndicate of bankers. Several of Webster's Boston admirers, among them Hillard, had attacked Dana in letters to the Whig Boston Daily Advertiser, charging him with "treasonable language," and suggesting that merchants withdraw their business from him; that he be "silenced or starved." Discussing this correspondence in the \(E P\) for June 11 under the caption "Boston Political Morality," and supposing Hillard to have written a letter signed "A Son of a Merchant," Bryant commented, "Perhaps there is no place in the United States where intolerance takes a more odious shape than in Boston." Hillard's letter of June 25 appeared in the \(E P\) on the 30th; in it he denied writing the "A Son of a Merchant" letter, while reiterating some of its charges against Dana. In an editorial in the same issue Bryant admonished Hillard for contributing indirectly to the persecution of Dana. \(E P\), June 11, 21, 31, 1851; Irving H. Bartlett, Daniel Webster (New York: Norton [1978]), p. 287.
758. To Leonice M. S. Moulton

New York July 8th 1851.

...I have just got your letter of the 7th.\(^1\) which must be yesterday, if there is any trust to vulgar arithmetic. I answer it immediately because it asks for medical advice, which, I think, the doctors say ought to be given early.

Nux vomica, I have found, is not likely to produce a good effect after sea-sickness. Of late I have been obliged to abandon its use, though at one time it was of the greatest service to me. Sulphur, perhaps, might suit your case; or you might choose among Bryonia,\(^2\) Hepar Sulphuris and Mercurius according to the symptoms. The other day my wife and I effected an extraordinary cure. A young girl the sister of our cook came to see her. She had been a patient in a hospital, and had taken a great deal of medicine, and was now subject to great weakness of the stomach and frequent nausea, which in the morning was constant. One dose of Hepar put the nausea in the morning to flight, and she declared that she felt stronger and better than for months before.

Minna, Fanny’s eldest has been ill for weeks with an abdominal abscess succeeding an attack of dysentery. At one time it was feared that she would not live, and her situation now is very critical. Fanny has had her in town, till within ten days, for medical advice and she has now just moved into her cottage at Roslyn.

Roslyn meantime is as beautiful as ever. It began to fade a little with the drought but the rains of the third and fourth of July revived it. I have lengthened the walk in the woods, so that one can now pass over the greater part of them. All that now remains to do is to put up seats and open views by thinning or pruning the trees here and there. You should be there with your quick observation and accurate taste to tell where and how it should be done.

I come to this dirty town, as usual every week, to be poisoned by the bad air. In a year or two, if I live I hope to be relieved from the necessity of being here in the hot weather. In your Paradise at Plympton, I doubt not you think with a sort of compassion on those who at this season swelter and pant in the cities. I shall write to you again, by and by, with a genealogical commission for your friend and the deacon. ...\(^3\)

1. Unrecovered.
2. The printed text has “Bryonic.”
3. Salutation, complimentary close, and signature omitted from printed text.

759. To John T. S. Smith\(^1\)

Roslyn Long Island July 27th, 1851.

Dear Sir.

Please send me the following named medicines in two shilling vials—
low dilutions—either tincture or powder as the case may be. The Express which runs between this place and New York will call for them on Wednesday and I write that you may have them ready

Aconite Nux Vomica
Arsenic Mercurius
Bryonia Tartar Emetic
Chamomelle Sulphur
China Pulsatilla—
Belladonna
Ipecac

Yrs truly
W C BRYANT

MANUSCRIPT: YCAL.

1. The recipient of this letter was almost certainly John T. S. Smith, proprietor of Smith's Homoeopathic Pharmacy, at 488 Broadway, New York. A former patient of Dr. A. Gerard Hull's, Smith had begun in 1843 to prepare "tinctures and titurations" for Hull and his partner, Dr. John Franklin Gray, and by 1846 had established his pharmacy. Homoeopathic Bibliography of the United States from the Year 1825 to the Year 1891 . . ., comp. Thomas L. Bradford (Philadelphia, 1892), p. 550.

760. To William Gilmore Simms

[Roslyn? cJuly 1851]

Dear Simms.

As soon as I can get sight of one of the gentlemen who have the active management of the testimonial to Mrs. Cowden Clarke¹ I shall acquit myself of the commission you ask me to execute.

The Forrest affair is really a most unhappy one. I believe it has had somewhat the effect you mention.² I have not seen Lawson for many months—It is more than a year and a half since I have seen Mrs. Forrest.—The last I saw of her was when a well meant attempt on my part to effect an arrangement between the parties was broken off.³ What the end of the litigation between them will be I can not guess or whether there will be any end. It is kept along in the courts for a long time.

You speak of coming to New York in August—I shall claim a visit from you at my place in the country. It is very beautiful now—but the summer which is already almost a little too dry for Long Island will take off some of its freshness. I hope your wife and Augusta will accompany you. My best regards to both of them. My wife who has read your letter joins me in the invitation and in the desire to welcome you at our place. . . .

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL-GR (draft).

1. The British writer Mary Victoria Cowden-Clarke (1809–1898) had compiled A Complete Concordance to Shakespeare in 1844–1845. At a Shakespeare birthday din-
ner in New York on April 23, 1851, Bryant had been appointed to a committee charged with soliciting funds from American writers to buy her a testimonial chair, which was delivered to Mrs. Clarke in London the following January. Richard D. Altick, *The Cowden-Clarke*es (London and New York: Oxford University Press, 1948), pp. 173–175.

2. Since the letter to which Bryant is apparently responding is unrecovered, Simms's comment on the Forrests is undetermined.

3. See 716.2.

761. *To L. P. Frod*

New York August 6th, 1851.

Sir

When I wrote the little poem called "The Waterfowl" I certainly intended to refer the adjective weary to the wings of the bird. If a different construction should seem to any one to be an improvement, I have no objection that he should make it. That there should be any question as to the meaning makes me fear that the composition of the stanza is defective.

I am sir

yours respectfully

W. C. BRYANT.

MANUSCRIPT: HCL ADDRESS: L. P. Frod Esq.

1. The addressee, who had apparently questioned Bryant on the point discussed below, has not been identified.

2. In the fifth stanza of "To a Waterfowl" (1815) Bryant had written

   "All day thy wings have fanned,
   At that far height, the cold, thin atmosphere,
   Yet stoop not, weary, to the welcome land,
   Though the dark night is near."

See *Poems* (1876), p. 31.

762. *To Frances F. Bryant*


Dear F.

I got a note yesterday morning from Mrs. Kirkland asking me to her house on Tuesday evening to meet "two or three conversible people" as she called them. I went and found Mr. Duyckinck and Mr. Whipple the Review writer and his wife.

Mrs. Kirkland is coming out to Roslyn on Saturday. I wish you would send word to Saunders that I expect to be at Roslyn on Monday and hope he will be ready for me.

I received the manuscript for which I wrote, at a very seasonable hour this morning and am much obliged.

Yrs ever

W. C. B.
MANUSCRIPT: NYPL–GR ADDRESS: Mrs. F. F. Bryant / Roslyn / Long Island.

1. Evert Augustus Duyckinck. See 471.2.
2. Edwin Percy Whipple (1819–1886) was a Boston broker and a highly respected lecturer and literary critic, whose articles in the North American Review and other periodicals were widely read and later collected into several volumes. A few years after this meeting he published a judicious but sympathetic notice of Bryant's poetry in Graham's Magazine, 46 (January 1855), 90–94, which was reprinted in Whipple's Literature and Life (Boston, 1871), pp. 303–321.
3. Probably a Roslyn carpenter.
4. The letter requesting this unidentified manuscript is unrecovered.

763. To James G. Birney¹
New York Sept. 8th 1851.

Dear Sir.

As I am wholly unable to answer any of the questions put in your letter, my sole agency in regard to the Tract on Colonization² being to receive any manuscripts sent to the office of the Evening Post and hand them over to the writer of the communication alluded to in your letter,³ I have sent your letter to him that he may satisfy you on those points concerning which you request information.

Yrs truly
W. C. BRYANT.


2. Probably Birney's "Address to the Free Colored People," in James Gillespie Birney, Examination of the Decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, in the Case of Strader, Gorman and Armstrong vs. Christopher Graham Delivered at its December Term, 1850 ... (Cincinnati, 1852), pp. 33–46.
3. Unrecovered.

764. To Leonice M. S. Moulton
New York September 9th, 1851.

... I did not answer, in my last, one of the most important parts of your letter, that, I mean, which relates to the young invalid.¹ I think you may without hesitation undertake to prescribe for him, provided you do it like a sensible woman as you are, and with due caution as to the repetition of
the doses and the length of time allowed to elapse between them. Do not let him go on with the same medicine more than three days and let a week or more intervene between the administration of the different remedies, and I think you will do no mischief, and may possibly do good.

It is very hot and close here in this noisy and dusty city, and everybody is languishing for cooler weather. We are devoured too by mosquitoes which come up, they say, from the mouths of the sewers, as soon as the sun sets and make merciless war upon all human kind. You have chosen the better part, among the sandy pastures and whortleberry fields of Plympton, and I only wish that I was as free a denizen of the country. Since my German John left me I have been much at a loss for a faithful and intelligent man in his place. In July I dismissed one whom I engaged in the Spring; and now I am going to dismiss another. On Thursday—it is now Tuesday—I go down with my new man who gives all manner of good accounts of himself—but so did his predecessor. Do you not find it more comfortable, on the whole, to let other people own the farms, and the pleasant places on the seashore and elsewhere, and go yourself occasionally to enjoy them while others have the trouble of them? Let me have a frank answer to this question when you have turned it over—revolved it Johnson would say—in your mind. You have no laborers to hire and pay, and discharge, and look up others in their places; you have no anxiety lest thieves should take your choice fruit; you perplex yourself with no question whether a field be ill or well ploughed, or whether the weather be too wet or too dry. But yours are the fresh air and the sunshine, and the grateful shade of trees, and the verdure of the fields, and the hues and fragrance of the flowers and the sparkle and murmur of the waters, just as much as if you had forty acres to worry you. Your husband goes down on Saturday to see his old place and I dare say will take more pleasure in it than when he owned it.

I believe I gave you all the gossip of Roslyn with which I was acquainted, in my last. The most remarkable thing, in my private opinion, which happened in the neighbourhood this season, is that I had a young plum-tree in the garden, loaded with fruit, loaded to breaking, which ripened perfectly. It was of the sort called Prince's Yellow Gage. It seems to resist the curculio perfectly. I must have another of the sort. My Bartlett pears, some on quince stocks and some on the pear stock, also begin to yield fruit. The peaches fail this year. —But we will talk over the horticulture of the place,—a subject in regard to which you are most kindly patient with me—when you come out this autumn. . . .

**Manuscript:** Ridgely Family Collection

**Text:** Hoyt, "Bryant Correspondence (I),"

**Address:** Mrs. L. M. S. Moulton, Meadow Side, Plympton, Massachusetts.

1. Mrs. Moulton's marginal note: "Charles Sherman."
4. Salutation, complimentary close, and signature omitted from text.

765. To Frances F. Bryant

New York    Sept. 10, 1851. Wednesday—

Dear F.

Julia has just called and says she will come with me tomorrow. Last night she passed at Mr. Morton's in Hoboken.

Fanny was well when I saw her last evening between seven and eight o'clock.

A copy of verses in a female hand from Roslyn ["On Following a Path in the woods traced by the hand of William C. Bryant," has been sent to the office, but there is too much about me in it to admit of its publication in the E.P.

Yrs ever

W. C. B.

P.S.—One o'clock. On coming down stairs to leave this letter for you I find your note to me. Caroline has called and got her ten dollars—so you may charge them to her as soon as you get this.

W. C. B.

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL-GR
ADDRESS: Mrs. F. F. Bryant / Roslyn / Long Island.

1. Probably George W. Morton; see 505.1.
2. Presumably a household servant.

766. To Frances F. Bryant

Rochester    Friday    Sept. 19    1851.

Dear Frances

I write this from Dr. Tobey's. We got to Geneva at ten o'clock on Tuesday night and staid till Thursday morning. Mrs. Lee says she will be very glad to see you and Julia, if you come out this fall and that if we let her know when we are to arrive she will send the carriage to the village for us—which is about two miles distant from her house.

Yesterday morning we came into Rochester, and went immediately to the Fair Ground. The town is crammed and at the hotels people sleep four in a small bed room. I came to the Doctor's and demanded hospitality. On my way I found Barnum Fairchild and his wife in the train. At this house are Tobey of Bloomfield and his wife and Mary White and John Fairchild Edwin's oldest son. Their families are all well.

I shall proceed to Buffalo today, and expect to be in Detroit tomorrow morning, when I shall take the railway across Michigan, making the best of my way to Chicago.

When you write to me, which I expect you will do frequently, I wish
you would address your letters, postpaid of course, to the care of W. B. Ogden of Chicago. If I do not hear that you are coming to this place, I shall not return by the way of Rochester, but shall take the Erie Railroad at Dunkirk which is the most expeditious way to New York.

Will you say to George that I wish him when he and the men can spare time, to remove the earth from the peach trees in the garden and in the two yards that of the house and the Titus cottage and supply its place with earth from the woods. I would also have manure put round the fruit trees on the hill and elsewhere.

I am sorry that you are not with me—you and Julia—to make the journey to Illinois. Here at Rochester just now it is not very pleasant. The air is constantly full of dust and the streets full of foot passengers and waggons. I hope, however, to find you somewhere before my return.

Yrs ever

W. C. B.

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL–GR address: Mrs. F. F. Bryant / Roslyn / Long Island.

1. Frances Bryant’s brother-in-law.
2. Not further identified.
3. Barnum Fairchild was evidently Frances’ nephew; John Fairchild was a son of her brother Edwin; Dr. P. G. Tobey of Bloomfield was the husband of her sister Mary. See 38.1. Mary White is unidentified.
5. Evidently the new steward Bryant had engaged a week earlier; see Letter 764.
6. On April 7, 1845 Bryant had bought, for $1,100, an adjoining house and lot from Jacob Titus, who had farmed Bryant’s land during the first year of his ownership of the property acquired from Joseph W. Moulton in 1842. MS agreement between Bryant and Titus dated February 23, 1843, Bryant Library, Roslyn; MS account with Titus, April 4, 1845, in The William Cullen Bryant Homestead Collection of the Trustees of Reservations, Cummington, Massachusetts.

767. To the Evening Post

Rochester, Sept. 19, 1851.

This city lies under a dense cloud of dust which only subsides by night. Foot passengers throng the ways as in Chatham street at seven o’clock in the morning, and the middle of the streets is occupied by long processions of vehicles of all sorts, forming knots where the streets cross each other, which are tediously slow in unravelling. Owners of horses and carriages at a distance send them up to Rochester and make their hundred dollars a day, by conveying people through the dust to the Fair Ground, as it is called, at the rate of twenty-five cents a passenger. The population of Rochester was, in 1850, thirty-six thousand—at present nearer forty—yesterday it was computed that there could not be fewer than ninety thousand in the place. At the hotels there is a perpetual banquet from morning to night; as fast as one set rises from the long tables another
is ready to take its place; and incredible quantities of tough beef, potatoes snatched in haste from huge cauldrons, and tomatoes stewed in vats, are served up to hungry guests on the same table cloth. The people of the city contributed about seven thousand dollars, as I hear, to the expenses of the fair, the greater part of which was subscribed by the keepers of hotels and boarding houses.

The field occupied by the fair lies about a mile and a half from the town, in the possessions of Mr. Wadsworth—a grassy pasture, full of hillocks, with the Genesee flowing on the south side. Beyond the river is the woody ridge of Mount Hope, and a foot-bridge has been thrown across the stream that the visitors to the fair may pass over to that beautiful cemetery. The most remarkable part of the exhibition consists in the show of animals and agricultural implements. In both respects, the present fair is said to be altogether superior to any other ever held in the state. I should mention also the fruits, of which there was a very fine display. The apple which Atalanta ran for, could not have been fairer than hundreds of those ranged on the tables in the building appropriated to fruits and flowers. In this region the apple is larger and more uniformly handsome in shape than in the country near the sea-coast. It is scarcer ever stung by insects. Plums and pears also are in the greatest abundance, and of the largest size and most inviting appearance.

The short-horn cattle of Mr. Wadsworth, fed in the rich pastures of Genesee, made a fine appearance, but as there was some obscurity in their pedigree, they were not entered for the prizes. Mr. Morris, of Westchester county, has some very fine short-horns at the fair, and some remarkably beautiful samples of the Devonshire breed, with their long slender horns, their deer-like heads, and shapely, active limbs. From these are bred the best working oxen of the country. In one part of the field I saw three spayed heifers of this breed, as large as oxen, and said to be superior to the ox, as working animals, in activity and docility. The short-horns of Mr. Sherwood of Auburn, a very early introduction of this breed, are among the very finest samples seen at the fair. Two animals of the Hungary breed are also there, sent by Mr. Colt, of Paterson; [they] are gray in color, not however equal to our own breeds. There was a considerable display of Herefords, ungainly looking animals, and some fine samples of Ayrshire cattle, with their clean looking sharp horns and mottled hides, sent by that judicious breeder, Mr. Prentiss, of Albany.9

It is curious to see the evidence which the short-horn breed, both the pure specimens and those of the mixed breed, give of their aptitude for fattening. In the rich pastures of this region they soon swell into prodigious obesity. The broad frame of the back is filled out so that they look almost like stuffed animals, and masses of fat are deposited wherever the skin is loose enough to allow them room, rising in lumps about the rump and other parts of the body.
A good deal of attention is drawn to the reaping machines, which are drawn on the ground by teams of horses; the drills of several different constructions, the advantages of which are elaborately explained to the spectators; the winnowing machines, and so forth. Of ploughs there is an assortment almost large enough to till the fields of the whole country. Two book stores on the ground contain all the American publications on agriculture, gardening and husbandry, and among them are several of which I had not before heard. I look on their appearance at the fair as an indication that the habit of reading books on agriculture is becoming more general.

I find that there is some complaint among the farmers of the unwieldiness of a state agricultural fair. It draws, they say, too large crowds; nobody can thoroughly examine the objects exhibited in such a press of visitors. They complain, too, that the judges who award the prizes are not always taken from the class who understand the matter in hand, but too often from men of note, whose presence and whose name, it is thought may give a sort of eclat to the occasion. I have heard some grumble, that politicians are allowed to make the fair an occasion to add to their own notoriety. I should not wonder if there were not some ground for these complaints.

Today the fair will close, after the prizes are awarded and the addresses are made.

W. C. B.


1. Then a business thoroughfare in lower Manhattan.
3. These other exhibitors have not been further identified.

768. To Rufus W. Griswold

Rochester, Friday, Sept. 19, 1851.

My Dear Sir:

I am sorry that the arrangements for my journey to the West are such that I cannot be present at the meeting which is about to be held to do honor to the memory of Mr. Cooper,1 on losing whom not only the country, but the civilized world and the age in which we live, have lost one of their most illustrious ornaments. It is melancholy to think that it is only [when]2 such men are in their graves that full justice is done to their merit. I shall be most happy to concur in any step which may be taken to express, in a public manner, our respect for the character of one to whom we were too sparing of public distinctions in his life-time, and beg that I may be included in the proceedings of the occasion as if I were present.3

I am, very respectfully yours,

Wm. C. Bryant.
769. To Frances F. Bryant
Princeton September 24th 1851. Wednesday.

Dear Frances.

I wrote you from Rochester just as I was about to set out for Chicago. On the same day Friday last I took the accommodation train for Buffalo where I arrived in the evening. The cars were fairly crammed with persons returning from the fair, and many among whom was myself had to stand up for a considerable part of the distance. We arrived in the evening, and I took passage for Detroit in the May Flower, a large and magnificent steamer, which was also crowded. I had a rather uncomfortable night in the "gentlemen's cabin," as it is called, but the next day was pleasant and the temperature delightful. We reached Detroit about four o'clock on Saturday afternoon, and about five were on our way across the peninsula of Michigan by the railway. The aspect of Michigan from the railway is not very attractive—a new country, not apparently the most fertile; flat, in many places marshy, in some sandy. The sun set in thick clouds, the darkness came on early, and ere long we ran into a violent rain. I slept well and the next morning showed us the earth drenched and the woods dripping. About seven o'clock we reached the end of the railway at New Buffalo, and after breakfasting, at the pier took a wretched steamer the Samuel Ward, for Chicago where we arrived between eleven and twelve o'clock. I got my dinner and then went to Mr. Ogden's who was not at home, not yet having returned from the east. I did not look for any body else, but at five o'clock took passage in the mail packet boat on the canal for Peru—or rather La Salle, about one mile north of Peru. The day was fine and I continued on the deck till dark. At night the passengers were hung up, as usual, on the sides of the boat, in three tiers on a side. I was up as soon as it was daylight, and passed the rest of the day—a mild cloudy day, on deck delighted with the scenery about me, till four o'clock when we arrived at the termination of the canal.

A gentleman from La Moille [Greenfield]¹ engaged to see if any person from Princeton was in Peru who would take me to that place. He could find nobody, but put me on the track, and I fell in with a man, who
was going the next morning, and promised to take me. I passed a sleepless night with the fleas and mosquitoes at Peru, and the next morning at eight o'clock started in a lumber waggon—the stage coach goes only every other day—for Princeton, in a shower of rain. We had two big iron kettles turned upside down a barrel of molasses and two passengers besides myself in the waggon. I secured my travelling bag from the rain by pulling it under one of the kettles. We reached Princeton at two o'clock in the afternoon. This was yesterday.

I find every body well here. My brothers appear to be doing well, and are living more comfortably than before. I shall stop and see our friends at Chicago in my return and [at]\(^2\) that place I hope to hear from you. I shall be very glad to learn that you are coming out as far as Rochester—but if you are not, I shall on my return make all haste to New York by way of Dunkirk. They all inquire with interest, here, about you and your children, and seem disappointed that I did not bring you and Julia with me. I have had on the whole a pleasant journey till yesterday, and think you would have been pleased with it. Probably I shall leave this place to return on Monday.—

Yours affectionately

W C Bryant

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL-GR.

1. The brackets are Bryant's.
2. Word omitted.

770. To Frances F. Bryant

New York Wednesday Oct. 15, 1851.

Dear F.

I wrote to you yesterday in haste to tell you that Mr. Field's\(^1\) waggon would be at the landing on Staten Island to meet Julia when the one o'clock boat arrived from New York on Thursday. She will not get to Brooklyn much before eleven and probably could not be in New York in time to take the eleven o'clock boat for Staten Island. There is no boat at twelve.

I was run down yesterday. Bigelow is ill and was not at the office. I arrived at 20 minutes past eleven and had to write a leader. First Judge Phillips, Willard Phillips,\(^2\) came. Then after a while came Dr. Simmons of St. Augustine.\(^3\) Then came Mr. Sedgwick, Theodore. Next came Mr. [Alfred] Pell. Finally came Miss Cooper. There were several other calls of less importance.

I find that Miss Coopers furniture is mortgaged to her landlord, Dr. Smith, for $300. This, when she told me of it had the effect of making me the less willing to engage her rooms.\(^4\)
It may be that Bigelow will not be well enough on Saturday to come to the office, in which case I may perhaps be unable to come out on Friday—but I shall try very hard to do so.

What I feared is true—they want me to give a eulogy on Cooper\(^5\)—Tripler Hall and a dollar a ticket.—The committee waited for this—they say I may be as short as I please and other persons will speak after me. A bronze monument in New York is talked of.

Yrs ever

W. C. B.

P.S. Since I wrote what goes before, Miss Cooper has called again. Dr. Smith is going to sell her furniture unless she gets the $300. I could do nothing of course.

W. C. B.

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL-GR address: Mrs. F. F. Bryant / Roslyn / Long Island.

1. Alfred Field; see 406.5; Letter 643.
3. See 460.1.
4. It seems probable that Miss Cooper was the Bryants’ landlady in their winter lodgings at 263 Greene Street, into which they had moved in November 1849. See Letters 709, 710, 742.
5. See 768.3.

771. [To George Bancroft]

New York, October 22, 1851.

My dear Bancroft,

I send you the interrogations you placed in my hands with such answers to them as I am able to give. . . .

QUESTIONS RESPECTING THE COMMON SCHOOLS OF NEW ENGLAND\(^1\)

1. Have you reason to believe that the system of Instruction, adopted in the Common Schools of New England, interferes with the special religious tenets of any particular denomination of Christians?

_\textit{I have no reason to believe that as at present conducted the system interferes with the tenets of any religious persuasion.}_

2. Is it within your knowledge, that, apart from the Common Schools, the children educated in them do practically receive Instruction in the tenets of the religious denomination to which they respectively belong?

_\textit{I know that the different religious denominations in New England have their sabbath schools in which their peculiar doctrines are taught, and that religious instruction is also given by parents in families and by the distribution of tracts designed for young persons, and likewise in visits by clergymen to the families under their care.}_

3. If they do receive such Instruction, what are the agencies by which it is communicated to them?
This is answered in the reply to the second question.

4. In your opinion, is the system of Instruction pursued in the Common Schools of New England indirectly favorable to the cultivation of the religious sentiments and to the promotion of morality?

I think it is decidedly so.

5. Generally, do you approve or do you disapprove of that system; and what are the main grounds on which your approbation or disapprobation of it is founded?

I should be very sorry to see the public school system of New England where it has been so long established, and where it has worked so well, and where, as it seems to me it is more wisely administered than elsewhere, abrogated. An answer to the general question here put would lead to the consideration of points in regard to which I am still an inquirer and I must therefore decline attempting to make it.

New York October 20th 1851,

William C. Bryant.


1. The origin of this questionnaire is unknown, as is George Bancroft’s connection with the matter. Bryant’s replies to the questions are printed in italics.

772. To Cyrus Bryant

New York November 6th 1851.

Dear Brother.

You have doubtless heard before this of Aunt Charity’s death.¹ I had a telegraphic despatch acquainting me with the event—it came to New York during my absence.

Since that time, I have seen Mrs. Rankin [Caroline]² and her husband. A very short time before our aunt’s death, Caroline had paid her a visit. She found her somewhat relieved from the unpleasant and painful symptoms which she formerly complained of, but she was in quite delicate health. Her faculti[es], however, seemed uncommonly bright, and she took great interest in every thing that was going on.

Not long before her death—a very few days—Mrs. Rankin had a letter from her. Her case had been mentioned by Mrs. Rankin to some physician in Boston who called it, I think, spasmodic neuralgia, and another said it was angina pectoris.

She died in her chair, of one of those attacks which she so frequently had the year before, and which were so distressing—a sort of constriction about the region of the heart, as I understood, accompanied with pain, and I think a sense of suffocation—agreeing with the symptoms of what is called Angina pectoris, or stricture of the chest. My former partner Mr.
Burnham in the latter part of his life, had attacks of this sort, which compelled him sometimes to stop in the street and sit down. He died of what the physicians called a disease of the heart.

Will you be kind enough to let the other members of our family see this letter. It may give them some particulars of which they have not heard. I have been thinking of writing to Miss Drake on the subject, but I have not yet done it.—

We are all very well. Fanny has another child, a little girl, and is doing well. Her eldest is recovering. The autumnal rains have filled the springs, which before were very low, and have made the earth green again. I have been planting some apple trees, making a little orchard of a dozen trees or so—in which I include the Northern Spy. In Ontario County where it originated they call it the finest apple in the country; if this be true, it is the finest in the world.

Will you hand the accompanying letter to John.

Remember me to your wife and children, and to all our friends in Princeton.

Yours affectionately

W C BRYANT.

MANUSCRIPT: BCHS ADDRESS: C. Bryant Esq.

1. Dr. Peter Bryant’s unmarried sister Charity (58.1) died at Weybridge, Vermont, on October 5, 1851, at the age of seventy-four.
2. Caroline A. (Bryant) Rankin was the daughter of Peter Bryant’s sister Silence (b. 1774) and her cousin Ichabod Bryant. Caroline’s brother Edwin N. Bryant (1805–1869) wrote one of the first popular books on the Far West, *What I Saw in California* (1847). The brackets are Bryant’s.
3. Michael Burnham; see 146.5; 339.1.
4. Bryant’s aunt Charity and her devoted companion, Sylvia Drake (58.1), were buried under the same headstone in the Weybridge Hill Cemetery.
6. Unrecovered.

773. To Charles Gould

Nov 12th 1851.

My dear sir.

I am sorry to forego the pleasure of a dinner with you and Mr. Leutze, and the agreeable people whom you know how to assemble about you, but my engagements for this week are so many and so pressing that I am obliged to decline your kind invitation.

Truly yours

W. C. BRYANT

P.S. I have received your note of this morning informing me that the
dinner is postponed to Friday. I am sorry to be obliged to say that even this change will not put it in my power to come.

W. C. B.

MANUSCRIPT: HCL ADDRESS: Ch. Gould Esqre.

1. Charles Gould was a New York broker and art patron who owned paintings, exhibited in 1851–1853, by Asher Durand, Regis Gignoux, John Kensett, and other members of the National Academy. NAD Exhibition Record, I, 139, 184, 276, and passim. Gould was Bryant's occasional guest at Sketch Club meetings. Information from James T. Callow.

2. The painter Emanuel Leutze; see 531.1.

3. Unrecovered.

774. To Hamilton Fish

Office of the Evening Post, New York, November 16, 1851.

Sir:

Accompanying this you will receive a History of the EVENING POST for the Last Half Century. We shall be happy to commence the next, with the addition of your name to the list of our subscribers:

Yours respectfully,
WM. C. BRYANT & CO.
18 Nassau St.

MANUSCRIPT: (printed circular): LC.

1. Hamilton Fish (1808–1893, Columbia 1827), Whig governor of New York, 1849–1851, was thereafter United States senator, 1851–1857, and Secretary of State, 1869–1877.

2. Bryant's account of his newspaper's history, since its founding in 1801 by Alexander Hamilton and William Coleman, was printed in the EP for November 15, 1851, and simultaneously in a pamphlet, Reminiscences of the Evening Post: Extracted from the Evening Post of November 15, 1851. With Additions and Corrections by the Writer (New York: Wm. C. Bryant & Co., Printers, 18 Nassau Street, N.Y., 1851). It was reprinted in Bigelow, Bryant, pp. 312–342. Bigelow's account of its composition (p. 109) is illuminating in its revelation of Bryant's work habits:

When the semi-centennial anniversary of the "Evening Post" was approaching, it was proposed to him to prepare for its columns a sketch of its career. He cheerfully accepted the task, and in order that he might be free from interruption he was advised to go down to his country-home at Roslyn and remain there until it was finished, and have such of the files of the paper as he might have occasion to consult sent to him there. He rejected the proposal as abruptly as if he had been asked to offer sacrifices to Apollo. He would allow no such work to follow him there. Not even the shadow of his business must fall upon the consecrated haunts of his muse. He rarely brought or sent anything from the country for the "Evening Post"; but if he did, it was easy to detect in the character of the fish that they had been caught in strange waters. This separation of his professional from his poetic life must be taken into account in any effort to explain the uniform esteem in
which he was always held as a poet by his country people, while occasionally one of the least popular of journalists.


775. To Edward W. Leggett

Roslyn November 27, 1851.

Dear sir.

If my people have at any time obstructed your passage through my land east of the house, I am sorry for it. It was contrary to my directions and I hope you will find neither vehicle nor any other implement of mine in your way hereafter.¹

With regard to the wood of which you speak I have been to look at it this morning and find that it is piled close to the fence and not in the way at all. If I were in your place I should never think of making it the subject of complaint.

You inquire whether it is to remain there. As you have merely the right to pass and repass, while the land is mine, I certainly expect to put the land to any use which does not interfere with your right—whether it be to lay wood or any thing else upon it, leaving always ample space for your passage. At the same time, whatever be my rights it is my desire to [do]² nothing to which a reasonable man would object.

I understand that the wood was piled by the fence that it might be measured, after which it was to be removed to the wood piles at the convenience of my people. It will probably remain where it is for a few days.

I am sir

very respectfully yours

W. C. BRYANT

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL–GR (two drafts) ADDRESS: Edward W. Leggett Esq.

1. Leggett, whose property adjoined Bryant's, apparently enjoyed an easement through his neighbor's land in order to reach the highway. On the previous day he had written a curt note complaining that Bryant's "people" had so littered the drive with wood and a wheelbarrow that on the evening before he was "compelled to drive over the latter," and that he had hoped, after their earlier discussion, that "such nuisances would have been discontinued." Leggett to Bryant, November 26, 1851, NYPL–GR.

2. Word omitted.

776. To Hamilton Fish

Office of the Evening Post
New York, December 9, 1851.

Dear Sir,

We cannot refrain from expressing the satisfaction we have experienced in reading your letter, the kind expressions in which concerning the Evening Post prove your superiority to party prejudice.¹ Nothing, we
hope, will occur to lower it in your esteem, since it would be a source of real pain to us to lose the good opinion of one whom we hold in such high respect.

Yours respectfully
WM. C. BRYANT & CO.

MANUSCRIPT (in Bryant's handwriting): Fish Letter Books, LC.

1. On November 29 Fish had replied to Letter 774 that he was already a subscriber to the *EP*, of which his father, Nicholas Fish (1758–1833), had been an initial backer, and that “I remember it from my earliest boyhood, & rarely have I allowed a day to pass without seeking information from it—& yet more rarely have I sought in vain.” He continued,

Although it has been my lot to differ in my views of many of the important questions which it has discussed from those which the Post has advanced, I have always admired the force, the ability & the fearlessness with which it has maintained its own views. I have appreciated the honesty with which it adopted those views however differing from my own. Since I became the father of a family of children I have been made conscious of the security with which the Evening Post may be placed in their hands—its high toned morality, its general teachings (barring some “political heresies”!) its literary ability & the character of its selected matter have pointed to it as one of the papers which a parent may safely & with advantage place in the hands of his child. . . . I most sincerely hope that your Paper may continue to prosper [LC].

On the day this tribute to his paper’s integrity was written, Bryant published a prospectus of the *EP* for its second half century, renewing what many of Fish’s Whig friends would have considered a “political heresy.” “We think its past history,” he wrote, “no unimportant guarantee that the *Evening Post* will continue to battle for human rights in preference to human sovereignties; for the welfare and improvement of the multitude, rather than for exclusive privileges to classes and tribes; for freedom of industry and thought, regardless of the frowns and the blandishments of power or wealth.” *EP*, November 29, 1851.

777. To John W. Francis

New York  Dec. 11, 1851.

My dear sir,

I cannot find the account of the dinner given to Mr. [Fenimore] Cooper before his departure for Europe. I have written to Mr. [King], who cannot give me the date of it, but is sure that it was before 1830 and after 1827. Can you give me any thing more precise—if so you will oblige me by communicating it.

Yours faithfully
W. C. BRYANT.

MANUSCRIPT: MHS.

2. Charles King; see 196.3. Bryant’s letter to King is unrecovered.
3. This tribute to Cooper was paid him by fellow-members of the Bread and Cheese
Lunch Club, among them Bryant, at the City Hotel, New York, on May 29, 1826, where Charles King, then editor of the New York American, was one of those who offered toasts. Cooper, Letters & Journals, I, 139-140.

778. To Horatio Greenough

New York December 30, 1851.

My dear sir,

I like the idea of your letter very much,¹ and though I have no definite idea of the method in which you propose to apply to architecture in general the principles on which the style which distinguishes our ship-building is founded, I shall be glad to see it done. It will give me great pleasure to hear your paper read, at almost any time you may appoint after your return to New York.² Mr. Godwin is about to set out for Europe so that he cannot be present.

Yrs faithfully

W. C Bryant


1. Horatio Greenough (195.1, Letter 299, 451.1, 472.1) had returned to America in October 1851 after long residence in Florence, having finally completed the heroic statuary group The Rescue, commissioned in 1837 for the east front of the Capitol in Washington. From Boston, on November 4, he wrote Bryant (YCAL), "I thank God from the bottom of my heart that I have once more put my foot on my own, my native soil and I hope though new arrived to the 'mezzo del camin de nostra vita' ['the middle of our life's journey'—Dante, Divine Comedy, Inferno, I.1] to be of some use here both in illustrative art and structure for here I mean to stay." His mind was feverish with projects he proposed to tackle: a monument coupling the treason of Benedict Arnold and the executions of the spies, British John André and American Nathan Hale; a memorial of James Fenimore Cooper; statues of Washington and Jackson. And on December 27 he sent Bryant from Washington a summary of the creed which he would soon after develop in his influential book, The Travels, Observations, and Experience of a Yankee Stonecutter (New York, 1852):

I have since my arrival in this city prepared a paper on Structure and Ornament, in which I seek to show—1st that we have many dialects in our buildings, but no language—2nd that we have developed in our ships, our carriages and engines a new style. 3d that this style, which I call the Yankee Doric, is strictly in harmony with the great primal laws of Gods own structures, and is in these partial exhibitions of it, as near perfection, as our knowledge is to pure science—4th that it is high time to rouse the country to introduce in structures of a civil character, the sound logical doctrine embodied in the engine; and thus by demonstrating practically its beauty as well as utility, to check the influx of foreign and hostile aesthetics— Can you and Mr Godwin spare time to hear me read this paper and give me your suggestions? [NYPL–GR].

2. From January through May 1852 Greenough spent much of his time in New York and Brooklyn, discussing his plans and theories with Bryant and others; soliciting funds to support an heroic equestrian statue of George Washington, which he and the sculptor Henry Kirke Brown were to execute jointly (this was completed in 1856 by Brown and John Quincy Adams Ward); and writing letters to the EP about this project. In February he described to Bryant his elaborately conceived symbolic monu-
ment to Cooper which he hoped to erect in Washington Square, New York, and he was several times a guest at Sketch Club meetings. "Some of the leading men of letters in New York," he reported to his brother Henry on May 20, "have whispered to me of a professorship of Art in a university on a grand scale." But before the year ended Greenough had died of brain fever. Greenough to Bryant, February 5, 1852, NYPL–BG; *Letters of Horatio Greenough, American Sculptor*, ed. Nathalia Wright (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press [1972]), pp. 389–420, *passim*; *Letters of Horatio Greenough to his Brother, Henry Greenough, with Biographical Sketches and Some Contemporary Correspondence*, ed. Frances Boott Greenough (Boston, 1887), p. 240.

779. *To Abraham Hart*  

New York January 6, 1852

Dear sir,

I am sorry to hear of the loss which you sustained by the late fire.¹ With regard to the publication of an enlarged edition of my poems I am now so much engaged in various matters that I could not possibly attend to the preparation of any additional poems for the press. At present, therefore, for aught I can see, the cheap edition must remain as it is, and the consideration of an enlarged edition be postponed till I have more leisure.

I am sir

Yours truly

W. C. BRYANT.

MANUSCRIPT: HSPa.

1. On December 26, 1851, a fire in "Harts' Buildings" at the corner of Sixth and Chestnut streets, Philadelphia, caused the destruction of about twenty-five stores, the loss of two lives, and a financial loss of about $300,000. *EP*, December 27, 1851.

780. *To Horatio Greenough*  

February 8th, 1852

My dear sir,

I have just got your letter and answered it immediately, because there is one inquiry in it which might better be answered now than hereafter.¹

The house which Cooper owned in the village is to be sold. I have this in a letter from the Revd Mr. Battin, the pastor of the church to which Cooper belonged.² The family cannot afford to keep it. They ask ten or twelve thousand dollars for it, and it is said to be a most desirable residence. Do you know of any man worthy to live in Cooper's house who will buy it?³ There are five or six acres of land with it, and the dwelling is beautifully embowered with trees planted by his own hands. It would be a great comfort to the worthy Mr. Battin if the purchaser should be a good Episcopalian.

I learn from the same authority that there will be but about $20,000 to be divided among the five children.

Yours cordially

W. C. BRYANT
P.S. I hope to be able to command a few hours leisure at some time not far off, to talk over the subjects of your letter.\textsuperscript{8}

W. C. B.

\textbf{MANUSCRIPT: Brown University Library address: H. Greenough Esq.}

1. In his letter of February 5 (NYPL–BG), Greenough had written Bryant, "I am very anxious to know how Mr. Cooper's family is now situated as regards their means—and whether the possession of the paternal estate is secured to them."


3. See 778.2.

781. \textit{To Henry R. Schoolcraft\textsuperscript{1}}

My dear Sir.

I should have written to you earlier, on the subject of your letter of the 15th of December, but I mislaid it and was not sure of your address.

I like the sample of Mr. Hetherwold's poetry which you have sent me.\textsuperscript{2} The sentiments are generous, the imagery poetical and the versification sonorous. Yet I doubt its success with the public, if it appear as Mr. Hetherwold's. A poetical reputation at the present time is made very gradually and slowly; nobody jumps into it at once. I fully believe that the best verses in the world, published in a volume, by an author not yet known to fame, would be inevitably neglected. There is another obstacle to Mr. Hetherwold's success. Poetry you know has its fashions, which change with the time. Poetry of the form you sent me was the mode some twenty or thirty years since—perhaps I should put the era still further back. At present poetry bears a somewhat different shape, and the reader, or rather the mass of readers who feel the influence of the reigning mode, will be repelled by the sight of what does not conform to it.

I have thus written to you frankly what I think on the subject of your letter. It is a delicate matter to advise a poet, but you are also a man who knows the world, and are more easily dealt with. My opinions in such matters are not of much value, but such as they are you have them.

I am Sir

Yours faithfully

\textbf{WM. C. BRYANT}


1. See 589.3. Schoolcraft was then engaged in his major work, \textit{Historical and Statistical Information Respecting the History, Condition and Prospects of the Indian Tribes of the United States}, 1851–1857.

2. Schoolcraft had asked Bryant's opinion of some verses written by his "protégé"
"William Hetherwold" (apparently of Schoolcraft's own composition). The final paragraph of Bryant's letter suggests that he was aware of their true authorship. See Smith, "Schoolcraft, Bryant, and Poetic Fame," 170–72. The verses were later published in "William Hetherwold," The Man of Bronz; A Poem on the Indian Character. In Six Books (Philadelphia, 1852).

782. To Cyrus Bryant

New York  March 12, 1852.

Dear Brother.

I have your letter concerning Mr. Moseley¹ as a subscriber. With respect to Harper's Magazine,² I think it is not quite so good as it ought to be. There is one special objection to it—namely that the periodicals from which its articles are taken are not mentioned, which is done I suppose to make people fancy that they are original. To one who desires to know something of the character of the English periodicals this is very unsatisfactory.

The International Magazine³ edited by Dr. [Rufus] Griswold, is free from this objection. It has besides a greater variety of matter, particularly in relation to what authors are doing or expecting to do, and what learned and scientific societies are occupying themselves with. The editor is particularly well fitted for collecting this sort of information. I should take the International Magazine, if I were to give up Littell.⁴ Stringer & Townsend of this city are the publishers.

Remember me kindly to your wife and children.

Yrs affectionately

W. C. BRYANT.

MANUSCRIPT: BCHS.

1. Possibly Fred Mosely, who married Austin Bryant's daughter Frances Elizabeth (1828–1882). Austin to Cullen Bryant, April 22, 1859, NYPL–GR.
2. Harper's New Monthly Magazine had been established by Harper & Brothers in June 1850.
3. The International Monthly Magazine of Literature, Art, and Science, founded in July 1850. It is ironic that the following month this was merged with Harper's New Monthly Magazine.
4. Littell's Living Age; see 638.3.

783. To Richard Dana

New York  March 15th. 1852.

Dear Dana.

I perceive that I have dated this letter at New York, according to my usual habit; but in truth I write it at Roslyn, where I am now with my wife for two or three days, for the first time since the middle of January. I wish you were here too. There is a glorious genial sunshine on the light green water in the little lake and on the darker water of the harbor; the frost is entirely out of the ground, and the roads are becoming settled as
fast as they can. The robins are whistling here and there and the song sparrows are twittering everywhere. Since you were here, I have added about two acres and a half to my woodland, and have made walks in that part of it which I owned before, which are to be extended still further, so that if you should ever come to Roslyn you will find solitary and shady walks beginning almost at our door. I have had the trees cut away in several places, and the view opened to the water, and a bench or two put up for you, if you are inclined to sit.

But I did not mean to speak of this, when I began my letter. I meant principally to set you right concerning [Charles] Sumner's letter, which you suppose was hissed at the meeting when I delivered my discourse. I doubt whether the audience heard Sumner's name at all. Dr. Griswold was not very audible and they had become tired of hearing or trying to hear the letters. He mentioned half a dozen different names of the writers and all had the same reception. I do not mean that it was his manner of reading them that caused the dissatisfaction, but it was getting late, and some of the audience, disrespectfully enough it is true to the Committee, took the arrangements into their own hands.

Webster spoke in a very low voice, and was heard only by a small circle immediately about him. The applause which he received was of a different kind from that given to any of the other speakers, it was more noisy and consisted more of drumming and stamping; it seemed, too, that the noise was made by a different set of people, a great number of whom could not have heard a syllable he said. My daughters sat about two thirds of the way between the platform and the door, and were quite unable to make any thing of what he said; but they observed a set of rather queer looking fellows near them who were very loud in their demonstrations of applause, and who tried to get away after he had finished his introductory speech, but were obliged to remain, being wedged in by the crowd. That speech was deplorably common place, -poor in thought, and clumsy in expression. The man seemed in a sort of collapse and actually moved my compassion. The discourse which he gave before the [New-York] Historical Society was not heard by half the people present, and it was very disrespectfully said by the reporters for the whig papers, whispering to each other at the commencement of his discourse, that he was drunk. I do not vouch for the truth of what they said, but the scandal had a very wide circulation. On the whole I think his visit to New York did a good deal of mischief to his reputation. The meeting called to nominate him for the presidency was thinly attended, and is much laughed at here.

I had the good fortune to be heard by all who were present, though the hall is a large one, and I have no reason to be dissatisfied with the reception of my discourse, either when it was delivered or since it has been published. But enough of this matter.
When Brackett's group arrives in New York I will do what I can for it. I read to Mr. Bigelow that part of your letter which relates to it. Godwin has taken a trip to Europe.

What a funny book that is about your old friend Margaret Fuller. The authors of it seem to think very highly of her, but they say things of her which do not justify, or rather which contradict their conclusions. She seems to have been extraordinary as a scholar, and to have had the gift of talking plausibly and without being at a loss for convenient modes of expression—but beyond this she does not seem to have been endowed with any uncommon talent. Her conceit appears, as they describe it to have been almost maniacal, and she seems to have been without either practical good sense or good manners.

Do you never mean to come down to my place, and see how the spring opens in this somewhat milder latitude? You shall have the run of the new walks which my wife and I have made in our woods, and I think there is sherry enough in the cellar to give you a glass daily with your dinner. Remember me kindly to your sisters and your daughter. My wife asks to be remembered—to you and them.

Yrs sincerely

W. C. BRYANT

P.S. Cooper's house in Cooperstown is to be sold. The Rector of the Church, of which Cooper was a member Mr. Battin, has written to me to ask if I knew of anybody who would buy it—anybody worthy to be Cooper's successor, and like him a good Episcopalian. A very nice house with five or six acres of land, made a solitude in summer by the trees which Cooper planted, and which shut it out from sight of the village—price ten or twelve thousand dollars. Do you know a purchaser? Cooper left about $20,000 to his five children.

W. C. B.


1. Bryant wrote "whisHing."
2. See 768.3.
3. At the memorial meeting for James Fenimore Cooper on February 25 Daniel Webster gave the opening address, at the end of which he turned toward Bryant with a bow and said, "Mr. Bryant will now pronounce a discourse upon the life, character, and genius of Fenimore Cooper." But, continues the EP report of the next day, Rufus Griswold intervened and read letters from sixteen writers and politicians, of which Sumner's letter was the fourteenth. "Mr. Bryant commenced his address at half-past eight, and concluded about a quarter before ten. He was frequently interrupted by the most flattering applause." Webster closed the meeting "with a short address, which was delivered in a low tone of voice, so much so as to be inaudible except to those who sat very near him."

4. On February 23 Webster addressed an audience of five thousand at Niblo's

5. During 1851 and the early months of 1852 Webster made what Allan Nevins characterized as "pathetic efforts" to secure the Whig nomination for the presidency the following June. *Ordeal*, II, 23. The meeting Bryant refers to was held on March 5. *EP*, March 6, 1852.

6. Bryant's "Discourse on the Life and Genius of Cooper" was printed in the *EP* for February 27, and later in *Memorial of James Fenimore Cooper* (New York: Putnam, 1852), pp. 39–73. Charles Sumner thought Bryant's address a "truthful, simple & delicate composition; and much as I value sculpture and [Horatio] Greenough, I cannot but add that it will be a more durable monument to Cooper than any other. Webster's historical article," he added, "was crude & trite enough." Letter to John Bigelow, March 2, 1852, quoted in Bigelow, *Retrospections*, I, 125–126.

7. Dana's letter is unrecovered. No comment on the sculpture of Edward A. Brackett (401.1) appears in the *EP* for the two weeks following the date of this letter.


784. To Lydia L. Brown

My dear Mrs. Brown:

My wife handed me a letter for you this morning which I was to bring to the office and send over to you. I inadvertently left it on the mantel piece and thus you have escaped, for one day the reproaches due to your misconduct of yesterday in leaving the house without seeing her. Tomorrow you shall have the letter and I write this that you may prepare yourself for the result.

Yours truly,

W. C. Bryant


1. Wife of the sculptor Henry Kirke Brown. See 561.7; Letter 742.

785. To George Bancroft

Dear Bancroft.

The Sketch Club will meet at 53 Lexington Avenue on Friday evening. I shall be very happy and so will the members if you will favour us with your company.¹

Yrs faithfully

W. C. Bryant

MANUSCRIPT: MHS Address: Mr. Bancroft.

¹. On April 9 Bancroft was a guest at the Sketch Club meeting in Bryant's home, as was Horatio Greenough. Information from James T. Callow.
786. To [John?] Dempster

New York  April 16, 1852

My dear sir,

I left a note at your lodgings this morning. The bearer will bring me your answer—verbal or written, as you please.

Yrs truly

W. C. BRYANT

P.S. You will remember that I am at 53 Lexington Avenue—and that Lexington Avenue is the street lying immediately east of Fourth Avenue and parallel with it. I am just above the Twenty Fifth Street.

W. C. B.

MANUSCRIPT: University of California Library, Berkeley.

1. Possibly John Dempster (1794–1863), a Methodist minister and a founder of Wesley Theological Institute, later the Theological School of Boston University.
2. Unrecovered.
3. Bryant mistakenly wrote “west.”

787. To Gulian C. Verplanck

New York  May 3, 1852

My dear sir.

The bearer of this note is Mr. William Sampson, who desires to obtain the post of Assistant Superintendent of the New York Hospital which I understand is now vacant. I have no personal acquaintance with Mr. Sampson, but the representations of those in whom I have confidence lead me to believe that he is well qualified for the place by his probity, industry, capacity and good character in every respect. He has been employed as an assistant in the House of Refuge in which capacity I hear that he has given great satisfaction. I take leave to commend his application to your favorable consideration.

I am sir
very truly yours,

W. C. BRYANT.


1. Not further identified.

788. To Frances F. Bryant

New York  Wednesday  May 26, 1852.

Dear Frances.

I saw Mr. Bancroft on Monday evening; his wife was ill with a cold,
and did not come down. She was trying hard, he said to get well in order to go next week to Newport.¹

He told me that he could not bring her out to our place, but afterwards went up to see her and returned with a different plan. They are coming out in their carriage on Sunday morning, and will reach our place about eleven o’clock, or there about. The horses he insists shall be accommodated at Pinckneys.² On Monday morning they will return to town.

Yours ever
W. C. BRYANT

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL–GR.

1. Soon after they settled in New York in 1849, the George Bancrofts had bought a summer home, “Roscelyffe,” at Newport, Rhode Island. Russell B. Nye, George Bancroft: Brahmin Rebel (New York: Knopf, 1945), pp. 185, 282. The Bryants visited them there several times.

2. Probably a Roslyn livery stable.

789. To Frances F. Bryant
New York June 7th 1852 Monday morning.
Dear Frances.

The Colocynth performed its office perfectly, and removed the difficulty of which I complained in the morning. The hurt of my eye has somewhat affected my sight today. I went down to the paper store in Pearl Street but was too late; the man had already gone out with the paper by the morning train. I have a letter for you from Mrs. Dewey but there is nothing particular in it.

Yrs ever
W. C. BRYANT

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL–GR.

790. To Frances F. Bryant
New York July 14 1852 Wednesday
Dear F.

I have a letter from Mrs. Eliza Leggett¹ for you, which I shall bring out on Saturday. I do not recollect any thing particular in it.

On going out to the [Hempstead] Branch I saw a rainbow—and the sign of rain has since been fulfilled here. It is now raining gently. Yesterday morning there was a drenching shower in Brooklyn and part of this city.

Godwin has got his ticket for the White Mountains.

Yrs ever
W. C. B.
To Frances F. Bryant

New York   Friday    July 25    1852.

Dear F.:

I got your letter this morning by Mr. Willis.¹ I cannot very well come out today, but tomorrow you shall see me without fail. I am in no hurry to make the acquaintance you mention, and am very well here in spite of the weather. I sleep well in a cool house.

I wish you had mentioned whether you got yesterday's paper or not. I wrote to you² that Fanny had gone directly to the White Mountains; that Mrs. Kirkland and Cordelia would come out to Roslyn on Saturday with Mr. Stansbury,³ and that I wished you to say to George that I could get no cabbage, and cauliflower plants in New York and that he might get them at Haviland's if he could.

I heard yesterday that Mrs. Hoyt⁴ died on Tuesday night, or perhaps early Wednesday morning. She passed away at last without pain; they thought her asleep.

Bishop Henshaw⁵ who died this week was the brother of our friend Mrs. Richards.

yrs ever
W. C. B.

To Frances F. Bryant

New York   Monday    August 17th    1852.

Dear F.:

Will you tell George that I wish he would put the half a dozen leaders for the water in the garden under cover in the barn? I forgot to speak to him this morning.

I have a letter from Simms, in which he says that he has been applied to for some information about himself and his residence and has referred

¹ Letter unrecovered.
² Probably Edward Stansbury, Caroline Kirkland's brother.
³ Probably Mrs. Jesse Hoyt. See 230.6; Letter 341.
⁴ John Prentiss Kewley Henshaw (1792–1852), Episcopal bishop of Rhode Island since 1843.
Mr Putnam to me. I did not mean to write any thing for the book, "Homes of American Literary Men." I shall see if I can get off with a paragraph or two.1

The monthly statement which was handed me this morning looks well.

Yrs ever
W. C. B.

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL-GR.


793. To Eliza Robbins

[Roslyn?] August 24, 1852

Dear Miss Robbins,

My wife and I have been talking a great deal about you lately and wondering what has become of you. We had almost made up our minds to go to Newburgh to see whether you were alive when, making a visit yesterday to Mill Hill we learned from Mrs. [Mackey?] that you were on a visit to Boston. The other day a Mrs. Earle of Philadelphia1 who I was glad to see, for the first time, and whose appearance and manners are very attractive called at the office to inquire concerning you. I was almost ashamed to be so little able to answer her inquiries. Since you have made the journey to Boston I infer that you are rather better than when I saw you—though I fear that the air of Boston will not agree with you quite so well as that of the interior. I hope you will answer this and tell me precisely how you are and when we may hope to see you again in these latitudes.

Mr. McCoun is on a visit to Massachusetts—the first journey for pleasure he has made since his youth if not the first in his life. He passed some days with Charles Sedgwick at Lenox, and was expected to be absent several days yet. Joseph was with him, and Mary, being relieved for a while from the task of looking to him was on a visit to Mill Hill.2 Mrs. Holland had been ill and seemed still in bad health.

If the Boston atmosphere should agree with you my wife and I will hope to see you at Roslyn before the fine weather is over. Here the autumn lingers later than either at Newburgh or at Boston, the nights are much warmer at that season and roses bloom in the beginning of December. We have missed you very much; it has not often happened that so long a time has elapsed without our seeing you or hearing from you.

Our own health has been very good in general—but two or three days since Fanny returned from a little visit to one of her cousins at Cummington and has kept her bed ever since, and today my wife is in bed also with
something like a cold or a fever. Both patients now seem on the mend here. Julia is on a visit to her uncles family at Ogdensburgh—

There—I have written what you will I know call an empty letter—but you may say with Justice Shallow—“his meaning is good[“].³ My wife desires her love.—

W. C. B.

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL-GR (draft).

1. Possibly the widow of the Pennsylvania journalist and reformer Thomas Earle (1796–1849).
2. A country estate near Stony Brook, Long Island.

794. To John Howard Bryant

[New York? cAugust, 1852]

. . . The Free-Soil Party is now doing nothing. Its representatives in Congress have wasted their time till all chance of repealing or modifying the fugitive slave law is gone by, if there ever was any. They have left everything to be done by the journals. Now, at the end of the session, when it is too late for serious debate, Sumner gets up and wants to make a speech. They refuse to consider his resolution, as might have been expected. He might have stated the subject a score of times in the early part of the session. The whole conduct of the public men of the party has been much of a piece with this. What is the use of preserving a separate organization if such be its fruits? But, as I intimated, I see not the least chance of a repeal or change of the fugitive slave law. Its fate is to fall into disuse. All political organizations to procure its repeal are attempts at an impracticability. We must make it odious, and prevent it from being enforced. That the Evening Post can do, in a certain measure, just as effectively by supporting Pierce as Hale.¹ Nay, it can do it far more effectually. A journal belonging to a large party has infinitely more influence than when it is the organ of a small conclave. In speaking against slavery, the Evening Post expresses the opinions of a large number of people; in exhorting them to vote for Mr. Hale it expresses the opinions of few. The Free-Soil members of Congress—Hale and Sumner,² and many others—are not more than half right on various important questions. Freedom of trade is not by any means a firmly established policy in this country. I do not know where these men are on that question. They vote away the public money into the pockets of the Hunkers—Collins, for example.³ The only certainty we have of safety in regard to these matters is in a Democratic administration.

These are some of my reasons for supporting Pierce. I think the slavery question an important one, but I do not see what is to be done for the cause of freedom by declining to vote for the Democratic candidate. . . .
1. In mid-August 1852 a Free Soil Party convention at Pittsburgh nominated John Parker Hale (1806–1873, Bowdoin 1827), United States senator from New Hampshire, for the presidency, and George Washington Julian (1817–1899), a former Indiana congressman, as his running-mate. Franklin Pierce (1804–1869, Bowdoin 1824), a lawyer and former congressman and senator from New Hampshire, was already the Democratic presidential candidate, and General Winfield Scott had been chosen by the Whigs over the incumbent president Millard Fillmore. Nevins, Ordeal, II, 20, 28–29, 33.

2. The ex-Whig Charles Sumner, who had entered the Senate in 1851 as the choice of a coalition of Massachusetts Democrats and Free Soilers, refused to support Pierce. Ibid., p. 33.

3. Edward Knight Collins (1802–1878), a New York shipowner who received large government subsidies to build ships which would carry transatlantic mail. See EP, March 3, 1851.

795. To Frances F. Bryant

New York Wednesday Sept. 8, 1852

Dear Frances

I am sorry to hear such ill news of your health—Mrs. C.¹ called this morning and seemed confident that a change of air would do you good. It is a fact that air often does more good than medicine.

If you would make George bring you tomorrow to the Glen Cove steamboat, I think the object would be attained. The weather is now comfortably cool, and I would go back with you the next day or Saturday, as you pleased.

The Scotch girl Catherine Horne² cannot come. I called yesterday at 81 West Twenty Sixth Street and found her with a sickly looking child on her arm a little skeleton with a countenance prematurely old and an expression of anxiety on its little face. In the cradle lay another—they were twins. Her sister she said had not yet risen from her bed; though the children were five weeks old; and she could not tell when she would be able to come to you. She was very sorry &c. and had called once at the office of the Evening Post, and once at Mr. Godwin’s in 29th Street, but finding neither of us had not the sense to leave a message for us.—

If you stay tomorrow would it not be well to have the Seckel pears gathered. The white plums in the garden should be watched a little. There are a great many of them—Coe’s Golden drop—on the fruit stalls here.

yrs ever

W. C. B.

P.S. I believe I left my knife—the new one which I had from Mr. Pell lying about somewhere. Will you keep it safe for me?

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL–GR.


2. Presumably a prospective household servant.
796. To Frances F. Bryant

New York Sept. 14th 1852 Tuesday

Dear F.

Julia is here without any of her cousins or other friends, and stays in town tonight for Alboni's concert. I send a note from her with this.

I left my carpet-bag and Field's basket on the stoop at the Branch,—the first trick of the kind I ever played, and I am quite ashamed of it. I discovered my blunder before I proceeded far and the conductor Mr. Searing promised to get the things for me and bring them to Brooklyn by the noon train. At the Branch Eastman told me that Edward Leggett wanted the rest of the purchase money on the first of May; and Richard Albertson came running up to tell me that he had not received the weekly *Evening Post* since he handed me a dollar for it three weeks since, and these things I suppose put my baggage out of my head.

Yrs ever

W. C. B.

**MANUSCRIPT:** NYPL–GR.

2. Unidentified.
3. This suggests that Bryant may have bought out his cantankerous neighbor at about this time. See Letter 775.
4. Unidentified.

797. To Frances F. Bryant

New York, Wednesday, September 15, 1852.

Dear F.

I wish you would tell Fanny that she has some fine looking peaches on two little trees back of the house, and in sight of the nursery window. It would be well to take care of them before any body else does. Will you speak to Julia about the white plums in the garden?

This morning I got my bag and Mr. Field's basket—all safe—

Yrs ever

W. C. B.

P.S. It is now raining rather hard. What Julia will do I cannot tell. We are about despatching a boy to tell her to take a hack. She was to be at the ferry at a quarter past three and a porter was to go for her trunk; but the porters will not go in the rain. It may be that the boy will not find her in.

Half past one p.m.

W. C. B.

**MANUSCRIPT:** NYPL–GR

**ADDRESS:** Mrs. F. F. Bryant / Roslyn / Long Island.
798. To Frances F. Bryant

New York, Wednesday, September 22, 1852.

Dear F.

I thought of coming out tomorrow, but I have changed my mind for this reason.

Yesterday Dr. Gilman of South Carolina called on me. He said his wife and daughters were in town, and his wife would be very glad to see me. I promised to come, and intended to make the call today.

This morning Mr. Pell writes me a note reminding me that I am engaged to dine with Mr. Dawson, at Staten Island. Mr. Dawson is the partner of Mr. Wood. I must therefore put off calling on Mrs. Gilman till tomorrow, and if I do I cannot come that day. The promise to dine at Staten Island had wholly escaped my recollection.

Mrs. Sands was pleased with the flowers you sent her and bade me thank you. I called last evening on Miss Robbins. She has had the complaint which you have just recovered from, and is very weak. I called also at Mrs. Gibson’s and saw her only. She is again nervous and cannot sleep. Miss Leclerc has had the neuralgia, which, it is thought, proceeded from an ulcerated tooth that has now been drawn, and they hope she will be better. I have not seen Mr. Simms.

—I shall come on Friday.

Yrs ever

W. C. B.

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL-GR.

1. Benjamin F. Dawson and William Wood were bankers with offices at 58 Wall Street. Rode’s New York City Directory for 1850–1851, p. 563.
2. Miss Leclerc, not listed in New York City directories for this period, was apparently a teacher of French at the Gibsons’ school on Union Square (502.3).

799. To Frances F. Bryant

New York Sept 28, 1852 Tuesday.

Dear F.

On arriving at the office this morning I found Margaret’s mother waiting with a five dollar bill which she said she had of Margaret and which was counterfeit. I gave her another.

Eastman was in the stage waggon this morning. He said that one of the schoolmasters at Roslyn is going away, because his wages are too small. He gets $350.—yearly and wants more. If Mr. Brown wants the place he should apply now. Will you communicate this to him?

Yrs ever

W. C. B.

[Theodore?] Sedgwick writes that his youngest child is at deaths door—or rather has been—but is now beginning to get better.
MANUSCRIPT: NYPL-GR.

1. Probably a servant.
2. Unidentified.
3. Letter unrecovered.

800. To Frances F. Bryant

Thursday, October 14, 1852.

Dear F.

I send out two letters for Julia. Arthur has written to me that he cannot come east this season. His little daughter has been extremely ill, and has not yet recovered. ¹ He wants a peck of appleseeds.

Bigelow has not been at the office this week, though he returned on Saturday from the country. He is broken down with hard work, they say. However, I must try to come out tomorrow. I may invite somebody to come on Saturday.—

If I could have come today, I should have brought a parcel for Minna with a letter, from “George Bancroft.” But they will not be unseasonable, I hope, tomorrow.

Yrs ever
W. C. B.

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL-GR ADDRESS: Mrs. F. F. Bryant / Roslyn / Long Island.

1. Arthur Bryant’s younger daughter, Henrietta Raymond Bryant, died on October 10 at the age of fourteen months. Undated memorandum in his handwriting, in NYPL-GR. His letter is unrecovered.

801. To Frances F. Bryant

New York Oct. 27, 1852 Wednesday.

Dear F.

I went in search of your Scotch girl¹ yesterday, but the door was locked, though there was a twittering of birds within. I shall try again.

Miss Sands has a seamstress and waiter on hand, an Irish Catholic girl.

Mr. Leupp called today to say that the Arctic, a very fine steamer, goes out on the 13th. of November, with Gourlie’s² brother on board as mate. It goes to Liverpool.³

Yrs ever
W. C. B.

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL-GR ADDRESS: Mrs. F. F. Bryant / Roslyn / Long Island.

1. See Letter 795.
2. John Hamilton Gourlie; see Letter 653. His brother was apparently Robert Gourlie, sometimes a guest at Sketch Club meetings.
3. Bryant and Charles M. Leupp were then planning the trip to Europe and the Near East described in Bryant’s letters between November 1852 and June 1853.
802. To Frances F. Bryant  New York Oct. 28\(^1\) 1852  Thursday.

Dear F.

I am glad you mentioned the harness in your note. I should inevitably have forgotten it.

Yesterday on going up I called at the Carlton House. Mrs. [Ives?] and her daughter were at dinner, and I did not see them, nor could I wait as I had an engagement with the dentist. This morning at 9 o'clock I went again, and the man at the office told me they had "gone to Jersey."

I made a second journey to Twenty Sixth Street and found Catherine in. She did not seem very desirious of a place, and said that she thought she would take a month to herself before going out to service. I wonder if she is not going to be married. The child is alive, and put with a nurse.

It is true that I do not expect to come to Roslyn till Saturday. I shall stay till Wednesday morning, for the election will take place on Tuesday. I shall be glad when it is off our hands.

Probably it will be well for me to bring out the money for the man who won't get up till seven. I hear nothing yet of John.\(^2\) Perhaps he may not come this week.

Yours ever

W. C. B.

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL-GR ADDRESS: Mrs. F. F. Bryant / Roslyn / Long Island.

1. Bryant mistakenly wrote "29."
2. Probably John Howard Bryant; see Letters 803, 804.


Dear F.

I neglected to tell you, in writing to you yesterday, how I found Miss\(^1\) Robbins on Wednesday evening. A letter for her came addressed to my care and I went to 15 Stuyvesant Street to deliver it. They told me that she had gone to pass a little time at Mrs. Wrights on Eighth Street. There I found her, much worse than when I saw her last, very weak, breathing with labor, coughing frequently and violently, and with a hectic flush on her cheek. Mrs. Wright had gone in a carriage to the boarding house in Stuyvesant Street where there was no suitable room for her, and had brought her away, to remain until better accommodations can be provided. Her voice, however, does not seem to be affected; it is still clear and sometimes even strong. I do not believe she can live long unless she goes into the interior.\(^2\)

I hear nothing from John yet.

Yesterday I bought a single harness in the Third Avenue for $25—
which I ordered to be sent on board the Sarah Elizabeth. Will you tell George to bring it to the house as soon as the sloop arrives, and see immediately whether the collar is large enough. If not the maker will give me another.

Yrs ever
W. C. B.

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL-GR ADDRESS: Mrs. Bryant / Roslyn.

1. Bryant mistakenly wrote "Mrs."
2. Eliza Robbins died at Cambridge, Massachusetts, on July 16, 1853. See 842.1.

804. To Frances F. Bryant

Dear F.

I was quite well all day yesterday and almost without any symptoms of a cold, but today I cough somewhat.

Mr. Charles Butler¹ has just called with an invitation for you and me to meet Professor Robinson² at his house tomorrow evening. Mr. Ogden is in town and will be there. If you could come in, now,—Perhaps you will be able, and I will go back with you on Saturday.

Warden has promised me a better harness. Of John I hear nothing yet.—³

Yours ever
W. C. B.

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL-GR ADDRESS: Mrs. F. F. Bryant / Roslyn / Long Island.

1. Charles Butler (1802–1897), a brother of Benjamin Franklin Butler (374.1), was a New York lawyer and philanthropist. He, like William Butler Ogden (581.2), was active in the early development of Chicago, and of midwestern railroads. He was also a founder in 1836 of Union Theological Seminary, New York City.
2. Edward Robinson; see 399.2.
3. No other evidence has been found that John Howard Bryant visited the East that year.

805. To the Editor of the New-York Daily Times¹
[New York, November 4, 1852]

Sir—

As you have used my name in a paragraph which appears in your sheet of this morning, giving the purport of an alleged conversation between a person whom you call "Mr. BENSON, the well-known shipping-merchant," and myself, I trust you will do me the justice to publish this reply.²
I never had a moment’s conversation with Mr. Benson on the subject of Mr. Webster and the Lobos Islands, nor, to my knowledge, on any other subject whatever. Mr. Benson is personally unknown to me, and certainly, if the statement in your paper is a sample of his veracity, I desire never to know more of him than I do now. What Mr. Webster may have said I do not know, but if the account of it be derived from the same source with the account of the conversation between Benson and myself, it is probably equally authentic.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully.

W. C. Bryant.


1. The *New-York Daily Times*, first published on September 18, 1851, was edited by Henry Jarvis Raymond (1820–1869), a Whig politician who was chosen that year as speaker of the New York State Assembly.

2. During the last months of his life Whig Secretary of State Daniel Webster, who died on October 24, 1852, had been attacked in the Democratic press for first supporting and later opposing a practice of American shipowners of taking rich cargoes of the fertilizer guano from the Pacific Lobos Islands, claimed by Peru. On September 24 the *EP* had charged that Webster had been speculating in guano with one A. G. Benson. In the *Times* article of November 4 Webster was quoted as saying, shortly before his death, that his conscience was clear before Heaven, adding, “I can only hope that when Mr. Bryant stands on the brink of the grave, as I now do, his conscience will be as clear of having performed the duty of justice towards my name.” The *Times* editor continued, “We understand that Mr. Benson, the well-known shipping merchant of this City, called upon the principal editor of the *Post*, and made such explanations of the whole affair, as silenced his arguments to prove the corruption, if it did not force from him a positive admission of the injustice done Mr. Webster.” For a further discussion of Daniel Webster and the Lobos Islands affair, see Irving H. Bartlett, *Daniel Webster* (New York: Norton [1978]), p. 280; Nevins, *Ordeal*, II, 180–182.

806. To Frances F. Bryant

New York Nov 5 1852 Friday—

Dear F.

I brought out a draft as you know, of a certain document of which I intended to make a clean copy and execute it, but I cannot find it any where. Is it possible that I left it behind at Roslyn? Will you look a little—not much for I can make another when I come out.

Things are going on well here. Fanny has been delayed about her house-cleaning, but expects somebody today to begin. We shall have a thumping dividend this half year.¹

Yrs ever

W. C. B.

P.S. Susan² says you have another hand. We must not forget the seeds for Arthur.³

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL–GR ADDRESS: Mrs. F. F. Bryant / Roslyn / Long Island.

2. A Bryant servant.

3. Arthur Bryant had written Frances on August 1 asking for eastern apple seeds. NYPL–GR.

807. *To John Bigelow*  
New York Nov. 6 1852

Dear Bigelow

You have seen the *Times* I suppose. I have spoken of the story of Benson as a misstatement and have promised in the *Evening Post* that it shall be exposed on Monday. Col. Thomas was here today and was quite indignant at Benson. He heard nothing said about not liking to take the back track. Barney has sent word that he was present and that Benson’s story is a lie.¹

Yours truly,

W. C. B.

**MANUSCRIPT:** NYPL–GR **DOCKETED:** Nov 6 1852.

1. On November 6 the *Daily Times* carried a statement from A. G. Benson which quoted his earlier charge, in a letter of September 27 to “Messrs. W. C. Bryant & Co.,” that when he had called on the editor of the *EP*, in company with a Colonel John Addison Thomas, to demand a retraction of the suggestion that he and Daniel Webster had speculated in guano, “You still declined, on the ground, that having made the statement you would not appear well before the public to take the back track.” On Monday, the 8th, the *Times* printed a letter from Colonel Thomas stating that he had been present when Benson called on John Bigelow (not Bryant), that Bigelow was wholly fair and proper, and that Benson was “entirely incorrect” in his published version of their conversation. On the same day the *EP* printed “A Card” over Bigelow’s signature charging Benson with gross misrepresentation, and quoting in full letters to the *EP* from Thomas and Hiram Barney, a lawyer and Democratic leader who happened to be in the office at the time, to support his charge. On November 9 the *Times* disclaimed any further dealings with Benson, and, by implication, offered a grudging apology to the editors of the *EP*. See *New-York Daily Times*, November 4–6, 8–9, 1852, *passim*; *EP*, September 9–10, 24, and November 4–6, 8–9, *passim*.

808. *To Mrs. M[yon?] H[olley?] Clark¹*  
New York Nov. 6, 1852.

Dear Madam,

I have looked in vain for the letter of yours which relates to the Jenny Lind affair.² It was laid by in a moment of haste to be looked at and thought of again, and is now not to be found. Please write, if it is not too much trouble and state the substance of what you wrote at first. But do not write to me for in a week from this time I shall be on my way to Europe—write to the Editors of the *Evening Post*. When you want the
money for the letters we have published of yours please send on a state-
ment of them &c. I hope you have got duplicates of them all as you desired.

Yours respectfully

W C BRYANT


1. Mrs. Clark was apparently the wife of Myron Holley Clark (1806–1892), governor of New York, 1854–1858.

2. The extraordinarily popular Swedish soprano Jenny Lind (1820–1887) had been married at Boston on February 5, 1852, to pianist Otto Goldschmidt, and after giving a farewell concert in Castle Garden, New York, on May 24, she returned with her husband to Europe. Bryant's reference to the "Jenny Lind affair" is obscure.

809. [To John Bigelow?] [New York? cNovember 10 1852]

Mr. George Catlin author of a book on the Aborigines of this country and the collector of a very rich cabinet or gallery of Indian curiosities portraits and pictures representing their customs has returned in his old age to his country bringing with him a great part if not all of his collections.¹ This, or a considerable proportion of it is to be sold.

Mr. George Harvey² has promised to write a notice of them for the Evening Post. I wish that something friendly may be said about it, for I hear that Mr. Catlin whom I formerly knew very well is now in need of the money which he hopes from the sale.³

W. C. BRYANT.

MANUSCRIPT: WCL (draft?).

1. George Catlin (1796–1872). Pennsylvania-born artist whose drawings and paintings of American Indians, and published accounts of their lives and customs, made him pre-eminent in this field in the 1830s and 1840s, had spent the years 1839–1852 in Europe exhibiting his work. In 1852 he became impoverished through speculation and returned to the United States. He had been an early member of the National Academy in 1826–1827, and in 1847 had exhibited at the American Art-Union. NAD Exhibition Record, I, 73; Cowdrey, AAFA & AAU, II, 61.

2. An English landscape artist who spent much of his life in the United States. See 553.2.

3. No article on Catlin or his collections has been located in the EP for this period.