XIII

Kindred Spirits
1848–1849
(LETTERS 634 TO 666)

The year 1848, crucial to the evolution of major European nations, was also a time of reckoning in American political history over the question of whether slavery should be allowed in the vast territories wrung from Mexico in the war then coming to a close. This conflict faced the editor of the *Evening Post* with an awkward choice. In his own state of New York the Democratic Party was so torn between its radical Barnburner and conservative Hunker factions that it had been impotent for nearly two years. In November 1847 it suffered, at the hands of the Whigs, its worst defeat in two generations. Nationally, it was evident to Bryant that there was no leader after the death of Silas Wright the previous summer who gave promise of unifying the party after the anticipated retirement of President Polk in 1849. Bryant agonized over what course to follow. In February he wrote his brother John that while he was sure “No man pledged against the prohibition of slavery in the territory, or supposed to be hostile to it,” would get New York’s vote, there was no alternative candidate in sight, for there was little chance that former President Van Buren could secure his party’s nomination. As for leaving his own party for one formed solely on the free soil issue, Bryant called that futile; “All parties formed for a single measure,” said he, “are necessarily short-lived and are as much subject to the abuses and vices of party as any other. . . . I never mean to belong to any of them, unless I see some very strong and compelling reason for it.”

In August, however, he found such a reason, when the radicals in his own party joined with anti-slavery Whigs and members of the growing Liberty Party to nominate a “Free Soil” ticket headed by Martin Van Buren to oppose the Whig Zachary Taylor and the Democrat Lewis Cass. Though Bryant had no real doubt over the result—he had written earlier that Taylor would “doubtless be elected”—he put his paper soundly back of the Free Soil Party. The cause, he wrote, was clear; “Never, in the history of our existence as a people, has there been a greater issue at stake. It is no less than the salvation of our empire from the curse of slavery,” and, he maintained, “We have candidates . . . whom we can trust—in electing whom we cannot be deceived.” Although they lost, Bryant was not discouraged; “We have laid the foundation,” he said, “of a mighty party, with a great principle for its basis.”

As a leader of the free soil movement and the editor of the only Democratic newspaper in the nation’s principal metropolis, whose weekly edition was the party’s most widely circulated paper in the country, Bryant had become a powerful independent voice in national politics, and the *Evening Post* the organ of liberal democracy. The outspoken Connecticut journalist Gideon Welles began in 1848 to write for it important articles on the slavery question,
as did Samuel Jones Tilden of New York; the Ohio anti-slavery leader and former Whig Salmon P. Chase sent contributions; and, from Massachusetts, Charles Francis Adams offered for publication extracts from the private diary of his father, the former President, with the comment, “Ever since the meeting of the Buffalo Convention I have been favored with the receipt of your daily Evening Post and have been gratified by reading what seems to me the best daily journal in the United States.” On the point of visiting the South and Cuba in March 1849 Bryant reviewed the several national issues, at the outcome of which, he wrote, “the Evening Post has had the good fortune of seeing opinions which it has maintained in perfect consistency with certain great maxims of political truth, but somewhat earlier than men were prepared to receive them, adopted at last by the people.”

Bryant’s three-year presidency of the American Art Union and the constant attention he gave in his newspaper to American art brought him greater intimacy than before with the members of the artistic community. Asher Durand exhibited a notable series of paintings after the themes of Bryant poems, beginning with “The Fountain” in 1848 and “Green River” in 1849, and to the growing number of Bryant portraits were added William Page’s oil in 1848 and Henry Kirke Brown’s marble bust in 1849. As a reflection of this intimacy, when Thomas Cole died early in 1848, his fellow-artists turned to Bryant for a fitting expression of their grief and of his own sense of the loss of this friend with whom, more than with any other artist or writer, Bryant had become associated in their minds. In May he delivered a eulogy of Cole at the National Academy of Design, in words of such “sincere and deep grief for his loss,” as he told Dana, that “I did not stop to measure my phrases.” After this meeting Jonathan Sturges, the friend and patron whose generous support of American art had endeared him to many artists, commissioned Asher Durand to paint a picture of Bryant and Cole in the Catskill Mountains which, as he put it in a letter to Bryant presenting him with the painting the following February, “as a token of gratitude for the labor of love performed on that occasion,” should “associate our departed friend and yourself as kindred spirits.” The painting, titled at once “Kindred Spirits,” would become, a century later, the universally recognized symbol of the sentiment of nature in American landscape art.
634. To John Howard Bryant

New York February 7, 1848.

Dear Brother,

I have both your letters with the $30 enclosed in the latest of them, for the eighteen subscribers. I asked of Mr. Post to let Louisa [Olds] have the number for which she subscribed gratis, in consideration of her getting him so good a list of subscribers.1 He answered that it was not according to his rule of doing business, but that as it was a lady he would consent. So I owe Louisa $1.67. Will you ask Mr. Olds to pay it to her and charge me in account? The numbers are to be sent on immediately—those that are due, including the January number.

I am glad you have done so well with the house. The stable, you may build in the spring, or whenever you are in funds to do it. I do not like to send out any more money for the purpose of building—though I think that perhaps it may be well, by and by, when Mr. Galer pays up his note to put up a house on the other lot.2 What do you think?

As to Mr. Galer, I wish you to say to him that I am surprised that a man who makes such a fuss about what he claims to be other people’s engagements should be so remiss in fulfilling his own. As to the manner in which you shall apply the payments he has made, I consent to any thing that appears to you equitable, or that is desirable for your convenience. If it be more convenient for you to take this year’s payment do so. Only write to me, if you please, how you have arranged the matter.

Your new weekly paper I have not seen, and as you take care not to mention its name I cannot yet send the semi-weekly [Evening Post] in exchange.3

We shall be very happy to see you and your wife here next summer and as many more of you as will come on. Our house at Roslyn will hold a good many. I might be able to go with you to Cummington, but not to New Hampshire or Vermont.

As to politics—it is difficult to give any answer to your questions. As matters are now shaping themselves, it seems very probable that Clay will be the whig candidate. Taylor’s claims will come before the whig convention with a pretty warm support from the South, but Clay understands better how to manage a convention, than any body on Taylor’s side, and I think he will carry the day.4 Whom the democrats will agree upon, I cannot imagine. Cass has been brought forward too early, and will be killed off before the Convention meet.5 We of New York—the democrats of the state I mean—will contend for the measures and principles we think right, let what will come of it. No man pledged against the prohibition of slavery in the territory, or supposed to be hostile to it, will be able to get the vote of the state of New York. Any separate organization however would come to nothing. All parties formed for a single measure,
are necessarily short-lived and are as much subject to the abuses and vices of party as any other—I have sometimes thought more so. I never mean to belong to any of them, unless I see some very strong and compelling reason for it. The journalist who goes into one of these narrow associations gains by it no increase of independence in discussion, while he parts with the greater part of his influence.⁶

As to the influence of the administration, it is at this moment very insignificant in New York. It is strongest in the city where the government patronage is the greatest, but even here it is extremely feeble, and in the country it hardly exists. We are waiting, as you are, to see what will grow out of the present state of things, with no very sanguine hopes, and very indefinite notions of what the event will be.

My love to all.

Yrs truly

W C BRYANT


1. John had written Cullen on January 14 (NYPL-BG) that their sister Charity Louisa Olds had secured fifteen subscribers to the new Union Magazine of Literature and Art, and that he had forwarded a list of their names two weeks earlier to Israel Post, its publisher.

2. See Letter 597.

3. At some time late in 1847 John Bryant had become the Free Soil editor of the Bureau Advocate, a three-party cooperative newspaper published at Princeton, the policy of which was strongly anti-slavery. Elmer R. Brown, Life and Poems of John Howard Bryant [Elmwood, Illinois, 1894], p. 26; Letter 637.

4. Here Bryant was a poor prophet. When the Whigs met in convention at Philadelphia on June 7, 1848, the Mexican War hero, General Zachary Taylor (1784–1850), won the presidential nomination on the fourth ballot over Henry Clay, General Winfield Scott (Taylor’s superior officer), and Daniel Webster, and despite the opposition of such veteran Whig leaders as Senator Thomas Corwin of Kentucky and Speaker of the House of Representatives Robert Winthrop of Massachusetts, Allen Nevins, Ordeal of the Union. I. Fruits of Manifest Destiny, 1847–1852 (New York: Scribner [1947]), pp. 195, 201.

5. Here again Bryant’s prediction was wide of the mark. At the Democratic Party convention in Baltimore on May 27, 1848, Lewis Cass, then a United States senator from Michigan, was nominated on the fourth ballot; over the strong opposition of the radical faction, particularly the New York Barnburners, who “returned home determined to act independently, and that at once.” Ibid., p. 192. Their indignation was voiced by Bryant in the EP on June 1. The convention, he wrote, in excluding as it had the proper New York delegation in favor of a rival Hunker group with dubious credentials, had not considered its legitimacy, but only the dissidents’ opinion “that Congress ought to prohibit involuntary servitude in territories where it has not yet been planted.” True New York Democrats, he continued, would regard the nomination as “not yet made”; they would oppose such a “spurious nomination,” and would see where the majority really stood. And, “We ourselves have been formally excommunicated and anathematized” by the Democratic General Committee of New York,
"without finding our standing with the party at all affected by it. The excommunication pronounced some ten years ago, is, we believe, in full force yet. We are sure that we never felt anything but a quiet contempt for it."

6. John had asked his brother why the "Wilmot Proviso Democrats"—those opposing slavery in the new territories—should not adopt the name "Free Democrats." And, despite the strong reservations he expressed in this letter, within six months Bryant had found "strong and compelling reason" for bolting his party in favor of one which was, in very fact, "formed for a single measure." When, on August 9, 1848, 10,000 anti-slavery delegates from the Whig, Democratic, and Liberty parties met in Buffalo to select former President Martin Van Buren to head an independent ticket for the presidency, with Charles Francis Adams (1807–1886), the son and grandson of Presidents, as his running mate, Bryant welcomed without qualification the emergence of this new, "Free Soil Party." "We have candidates," he maintained in the EP two days later, "with whom we are satisfied, whom we can trust—in electing whom we cannot be deceived, and for whom we are not obliged to invent or imagine a creed suited to the latitude in which we live."

635. To Sarah Josepha Hale

My dear Madam.

The very complimentary manner in which you have done me the honour to ask me for a poem, to be published in your annual,\(^2\) is enough to make me desire to become one of its contributors, if it were in my power. I have, however, a literary engagement which prevents me. All that I produce in that way is promised, and I could not send you a poem without violating the understanding into which I have entered.\(^3\) I am sure that you will accept this as a sufficient apology.

I have been greatly pleased with the volume of poems you were so kind as to send me,\(^4\) though I have not had time to read it as leisurely as I ought. The sweetness of the numbers, the beauty of the thoughts the tenderness and the pathos have delighted me. I shall soon sit down to a more thorough perusal of its contents.

Yrs truly

WM C. BRYANT

manuscript: UVa address: To Mrs. S. J. Hale.

1. Sarah Josepha Buell Hale (1788–1879), prolific author of fiction and poetry, was the very effective literary editor for more than forty years of *Godey's Lady's Book*, from its inception in 1837. As a poet, she is credited with the composition of the children's verses beginning "Mary had a little lamb."

2. Probably *The Crocus; A Fresh Flower for the Holidays*, of which Mrs. Hale was the editor (New York, 1849). As Bryant may have shrewdly foreseen, this volume included only lady poets.

3. With *Graham's*; see Letters 484, 601.

4. Of Mrs. Hale's many volumes of verses, it is uncertain which one she sent to Bryant.
636. To E. T. Coswell

New York Feb 26 1848.

Madam.

The terms in which you ask my advice concerning your literary pursuits, are such as are calculated to make me vain. It is very true as you suggest that my occupations do not leave me that time for matters of a purely literary nature which I could desire. There is one counsel however which I give in answer to the many applications I receive of the same nature with yours, and I will repeat it here.

To place your compositions in the hands of a literary person is not the best way to ascertain their real merits. It is always difficult to obtain in this manner, an opinion which can be depended on. The critic is naturally inclined to be kind, and is apt to express his judgment in such terms that the author is not much the better for it. The true judge in such matters is the public, and the proper way of bringing ones compositions before this tribunal is to send them to some magazine, for publication, accompanied with the author's name. There are several of these in the United States—two or three in this city—the Union Magazine, the Knickerbocker &c—and there are two in Philadelphia—Graham's Magazine and the Lady's Book. If they are well received, the editors and proprietors of the magazines are in the habit of paying for them. A poem or sketch in prose obtains in this way a circulation which it could never have if it formed part of a volume, and the newspapers often assist its circulation and spread the fame of the author by copying it. This method of proceeding has the advantage of producing certain results, and of being the only independent method.

As to the cultivation of literary talent—there is but one [way] I can think of and that is the study of good authors—not with a view of imitating, for that is to be avoided, but with a view of writing as well as they—with a view of familiarizing the mind with noble thoughts, and acquiring the vast riches of the English language— Some attention should be paid also to works which lay down the rules of criticism in order to be able to observe those laws of composition which are generally recognized, and to avoid what would be universally regarded as faults.

With good authors to read a strong mind will accomplish itself for any literary undertaking to which its faculties are adequate. If you addict yourself to composition resolve always to write your best. Correct freely, reject without scruple what is inferior to the rest of what you have written, but when you amend, do not amend languidly and coldly, but if possible with the same glow of mind which attended the original composition.²

I hope what I have written will be satisfactory to you. Yet I do not recommend to any one to choose the vocation of an author. It is beset
with competitors, its honours and rewards are scanty, and it teems with
disappointments.

I am Madam very respectfully &c
W C BRYANT

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL–GR (draft) ADDRESS: Miss E. T. Coswell / [Round?] Hill / Daley
Co / Alabama DOCKETED (by Bryant): Letter to Miss Coswell / Feb 1848.

1. Miss Coswell is not further identified; her letter is unrecovered.
2. Note Bryant's similar advice in "The Poet" (1863):

"... should thy verse appear
Halting and harsh, and all unaptly wrought,
Touch the crude line with fear,
Save in the moment of impassioned thought;
Then summon back the original glow, and mend
The strain with rapture that with fire was penned."

Poems (1876), pp. 435-436.

637. To John Howard Bryant

New York March 20, 1848.

Dear Brother.

I concluded sometime since that I would not sell my land in Princeton until the canal should be finished.¹ I see no reason to alter my determination now, when I have the means of paying the taxes from my property in Illinois. The land must therefore remain as it is until I see what effect the canal has on property in Princeton.

I am glad to hear of the recovery of Austin's son.² The Evening Post I have directed to be sent to the Bureau Advocate.³ I suppose, from what I hear, that the wheat crop in your neighborhood is likely to turn out pretty well and that Mr. Galer may be expected to make something of a payment this season. Apply it just as may be most for your convenience.

When Mr. Olds sends his statement, will you ask him to send me a statement of what he paid on his note when I bought the land of Mr. Church, and the date precisely.⁴ I believe it has never been endorsed.

Yrs truly
W. C. BRYANT

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL–BFP ADDRESS: John H. Bryant Esq / Princeton / Bureau County / Illinois. POSTMARK: NEW-YORK / 21 / MAR POSTAL ANNOTATION: 10 CTS / PAID.

1. The Illinois–Michigan Canal, finished in 1848 over a course of ninety-six miles, connected Lake Michigan at Chicago with the Illinois River at Peru-La Salle, about twenty-five miles from Princeton.
2. Austin Bryant had three sons, all apparently then living.
3. See 634.3.
4. Apparently a part of or all the land Cullen Bryant sold in 1846 to Jacob Galer
had been bought from one Aaron B. Church at a sheriff's sale on June 18, 1842, by John, acting, at least in part, in his brother's name. Information from David J. Baxter. See 597.7.

638. To Richard H. Dana

Dear Dana.

Notwithstanding the beauty of the weather for a few days past, I have not been, as you suppose, at my place in the country. I was in Berkshire on Saturday and Sunday last, and it is almost a fortnight since I was at Roslyn, as the neighbourhood is called where my house is. In three or four days my wife will go out to put our place in order. By the time you and your sister are ready to come to New York, she will have every thing as nice as a new-laid egg, and we shall expect you by all means. I only wish we had something grand and savage to show you at our place, in the way of rocks and ocean-waves—but we have none—our harbour is as quiet as a mill-pond, and our hills are heaps of loam and gravel. Yet you shall see wide views of land and water and long tracts of woodland, from the hill sides, —and you shall see sails on the Sound, and gushing springs near you, and sheets of sweet water close to the salt sea, with dark cedars on the dykes between them. So you will come and tell your sister that we shall expect her also.

And when you come, you are not to make melancholy faces at the news from Europe. That earth is to become a Paradise in consequence of any political changes that may or can be made I do not believe, but I believe it to be in the order of Providence that republican institutions will come in with a higher and more general civilization, and that their effect is good and wholesome. I agree with you as to the virtue of obedience to the civil magistrate, but we must find some way of cultivating it under a popular government, or I fear it will be almost banished from the world in the next century. I think I could show that the feeling of loyalty may be as strong, and more general among the subjects of such a government than in a monarchy—at least as the world now goes. I am sure you will agree with me that no other obedience can be a virtue, but that which is cheerful and voluntary, and that a discontented submission enforced by a standing army is a bad discipline for the public morals. As to what is going on in France, I confess I am not without my apprehensions—but I am of a more hopeful temperament, I believe, than you are, and my hopes predominate.¹

There is my Rowland for your Oliver—politics for politics—but I do not often retaliate in that way. If you will come to Roslyn, you shall talk as long as you please about loyalty and obedience, and the higher rule symbolized in earthly governments, and I will agree to at least half what you say. The robins are already whistling to their mates; the willows
began to show green sprays several days since; the lilacs are putting out their leaves, and country housewives have begun their housecleaning. Let me know what time we may expect you, by letter a few days before you come, that I may not be out of the way. I will use my interest with the fruit trees in my neighbourhood to have on their holiday dresses when you arrive.  

I saw the article concerning "the Discoverer" in Littell's periodical. I had supposed that Dr. Jackson was a practitioner of great personal as well as professional respectability; and am surprised at what you say of him.  

My wife regrets that she saw so little of Charlotte during her stay in New York, and had so little opportunity of contributing to the pleasure of her visit. It pleases me very much to hear that Charlotte was so well satisfied with what little we were able to do for her and her brother.

The rules of the "Art Union" are not very strict in regard to the nature of the works of art it purchases. The pictures should be "original"; that is to say not copies, but if the idea of the picture happens to be found in a print I do not suppose this would exclude it—at all events in the pictures which have been already purchased the artists have sometimes borrowed pretty freely. If the picture is a good one, and the artist will send it to the exhibition room of the association—which is really a splendid one, with a fine light—I have little doubt that it would find a sale. I am now concerned in the management of the Art Union. and your sisters and . . .


1. The letter from Dana which drew these comments is unrecovered. News of the revolutions of 1848, touched off by a February uprising in Paris, reached the United States by every ship. On April 24 Bryant set the EP on a course sympathetic to the European revolutionaries. Governments are often upset, he wrote, "but never before was every throne in Europe rooted up from its foundation and prostrated in a moment by a whirlwind." The "irresistible purposes of Providence will never stop in their course until justice is finally done to the oppressed millions" in England and Russia. The third term in the French trilogy—Liberty, Equality, Fraternity—he continued, was to Americans "a new word, yet unknown here by authority." But it would surely come, and "then it will overturn and root out many things which appear to us wonderfully democratic. . . . It is one of those great truths put forward by Christianity as the surest safeguard against the prevalence of injustice and heartless oppression in the human family. . . . Let Conservatism and Privilege, wherever to be found in this country, take reasonable warning from its fate in Europe."

2. Nevertheless, the Danas did not visit the Bryants at Roslyn before October of that year; see Letters 647, 650.

3. Charles Thomas Jackson (1805-1880, M.D. Harvard 1829), a chemist and geologist as well as a physician, claimed to have suggested to Samuel F. B. Morse in 1832 the principle of the electric telegraph, which Morse first demonstrated publicly in 1844. And apparently Jackson did in fact first suggest to the Boston dentist Wil-
lizam Thomas Green Morton (1819–1868), in July 1844, the use of ether as an anaesthetic. After having published an earlier eclectic magazine, Littell's Museum (1822–1843), Eliakim Littell (1797–1870) had founded Littell's Living Age in 1844. Richard Henry Dana, Jr., had published a long article, "The Ether Discovery," in Living Age, 16 (March 18, 1848), 529–571, arguing that Morton, not Jackson, deserved credit for the discovery.

4. At the close of 1846 Bryant had declined to serve for a fourth year as president of the American Art Union; see Letter 611.

5. Conclusion and signature clipped.

639. To Frances F. Bryant

New York Tuesday evening April 11, 1848.

My dear Frances.

Almost immediately on your going out Mrs. E[well] came into the room and began to tell how sorry she felt at your going away. It made her "feel bad" she said whenever a person with whom she had lived in the same house went away &c.

I put tickets upon all the articles, finished putting them in order for being carted to the sloop, and then went after Mr. Roth. I found him at home, and before six o'clock he came with a basket, and then went out and got a cart and Lena's things were all carried off, and fairly out of the way. Before he came however, I heard a voice at the door, inquiring for you, and perceived that it was Mrs. Hoyer's. She had come to see you with her little daughter. I went down to see her. She said that she was exceeding­ingly disappointed in finding that you were gone into the country, before she had seen you, that she had made more than one attempt to find you but had always forgotten the number. The news from Germany made her very uneasy. She told me that she had friends among the families who had suffered by the excesses of the peasantry in the kingdom of Wurt­emberg who had set fire to the seven castles. Baden she hoped would be preserved from similiar calamities because the Grand Duke was one of the earliest to make concessions to his people.

Mrs. Hoyer says that when you come again to town you must pass an evening at her house.

She had hardly gone when the bell rang again and Mrs. Church your client came in. She too was exceedingly disappointed that you were gone. She came to tell you of her good fortune in having got a verdict for thirteen hundred and fifty dollars—I think it was fifty—against the proprietor of the omnibus which ran over her. This was her good luck, but the bad luck was that she could not get the money till June—the execution would not bring it sooner, and she feared that she should die before it came to her hands. She had often said she should die before getting the money and she really feared that she should. The verdict was rendered on the 30th of March, and she would have given you the news earlier had she not been ill and much blistered by the doctors &c.
I called this evening on Col. Rowan the Kentucky gentleman who left his card and Dr. Buchanan's letter for me the other day and was much relieved on finding that he sailed this morning at eleven o'clock.²

Thine,
W C BRYANT.

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

1. Not further identified.
2. Perhaps Colonel Rowan was a son of John Rowan (1773–1843), a Kentucky jurist who sat in the United States Senate from 1825 to 1831. Dr. Buchanan was probably Joseph Rodes Buchanan, Kentucky eccentric. See 420.3. His letter is unrecovered.

640. To the United States Senate and House of Representatives
New York [March 18, 1848?]

The memorial of the undersigned, citizens of the State of New York, respectfully asks the attention of your honorable bodies to the insufficient protection afforded to American literature by the present law of Congress on the subject of copyright.

Your memorialists are well persuaded that many injuries, direct and remote, are inflicted, by the exclusion of foreigners from the privileges of that act, upon the rights of American authors, upon the stability and respectability of the American book trade, and upon the best interests of the American reading public; and that the passage of an international copyright law, by which foreign authors should be allowed their copyright here, and American authors assisted to their copyright abroad, would not only be an act of national justice, but of national policy; that it would afford to our native authors, what they have never yet enjoyed, "a fair field;" that it would supply a new stimulus to intellectual exertion, infuse a more elevated tone into our national literature, give a healthier character and a wider competition to the American book trade, and secure a better class of books for general circulation.

Your memorialists therefore respectfully pray your honorable bodies to take this subject under consideration, and to enact, in amendment of the present law of copyright, with such further provisions and amendments as to your wisdom shall seem meet, that the provisions of the existing law respecting copyright, passed on the third day of February, eighteen hundred and thirty-one,¹ shall be extended to, and its benefits enjoyed by, the citizens or subjects of any foreign State or country which shall first have granted to the citizens or residents of the United States the same privileges within such foreign State or country, in regard to copyrights, as are enjoyed by the citizens or subjects of such foreign State or country, or by those of the most favored nations, upon their depositing a printed copy of the title of the book or other work for which the copyright is desired, in the clerk's office of the district court of any district in the United
States, and complying with the other requirements of the said act, and
depositing a duplicate copy of such work in the library of the Smithsonian
Institute: Provided, That such privileges shall not attach to any of the
works enumerated in the aforesaid act, which shall have been etched or
engraved, printed or published, prior to the passage of such act for ex-
tending the benefits thereof to foreign authors: And provided also, That
the title-page of the work for which it is intended to secure the copyright
shall be deposited in the clerk's office of the district court as aforesaid,
before any foreign copy thereof shall have been imported to this country:
And provided also, That such work shall be printed and published in
the United States within a specified time after the depositing of the title-
page.

And further, that both American and foreign authors shall be equally
entitled to copyrights for translations of their works into foreign lan-
guages, as for the original works themselves, on complying with the pro-
visions and conditions for that purpose, above specified.

And your memorialists will ever pray,

WM. C. BRYANT [and others]²

MANUSCRIPT: Unrecovered text: Thirtieth Congress, First Session, Miscellaneous Docu-
ment No. 76, pp. 32–33.

1. The copyright law of 1831, passed largely through the efforts of Gulian Ver-
planck, extended the period of protection for American authors from 14 to 28 years.

2. In addition to Bryant, whose name headed the list, the other signers of this
petition were, in that order, Charles Fenno Hoffman, Maunsell Bradhurst Field, Ogden
Hoffman, Jr., William Beach Lawrence, Theodore Sedgwick III, George Gibbs, John
Slosson, Richard S. Emmet, Osgood Field, John W. Ritch, Charles C. Leckey, John G.
Hyer, M. Weyant, [John?] Sedgwick, and Henry G. Wheeler. Their memorial was
accompanied by a longer one dated March 18, 1848, and submitted by John Jay (1817–
1894), the first paragraph of which was identical with Bryant's. In two appendices,
the Jay petition was supported by a list of about 100 publishers, printers, and books-
sellers of New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and other American cities, and a list of
more than 500 American books previously published in Great Britain. Like other
similar efforts, this attempt to persuade the Congress to extend the privilege of Amer-
ican copyright to foreign authors failed, but in 1891 a law was finally passed embody-
ning just those provisions suggested by Bryant and his associates. See ibid., p. 203.

641. To Cyrus Bryant

[New York, cApril, 1848]

... Will you be so kind as to tell John that we shall be glad to see him
and his wife at the same time that you and yours come here—We have
room enough in our house for all four of you at once, so you need give
yourselves no uneasiness about that. —Only let us know a little before-
hand at what time we may expect you so that we may not be absent when
you arrive; for we are apt to stray away in midsummer from home.¹
As I have not received any statement from John yet concerning the cost of building the house I suppose he will bring it on with him—at least if he does not send it by mail before. Please say to him that I wish him to let me also have a statement of the exact time when the amount paid to Church for his land was to be endorsed on Mr. Olds’s note—which has never been done yet—It was $500—I think—but I wish John to state the exact sum.

And tell John also if you please that I am ready to give him the . . .

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL–GR (incomplete draft).

1. That summer Cyrus and his wife Julia (Everett) Bryant visited her family at Cummington, as well as his Aunt Charity at Weybridge. Cyrus to Charity Bryant, December 25, 1848, Sheldon Museum. But it is uncertain whether they and the John Bryants paid Cullen and Frances a visit.

642. To Messrs. Carey & Hart

New York May 8, 1848.

Gentlemen.

I have your letter of the 4th instant in which you speak of Mr. Gardiner’s plan for circulating the cheap edition of my poems. Just before it came, I had written to Mr. Gardiner,¹ to inform him of the light in which the project was viewed by the firm to which I belong, as well as of my own feelings in regard to it, which were those of reluctance to take any step, or be accessory to any, which looked like an attempt on my part to put off the book upon the subscribers to the Evening Post. There were some business reasons that led the firm to doubt the good effect of the plan.—

I shall shortly draw for the sum mentioned in your letter, and am glad to perceive that the book has been so successful in your hands.

Yrs respectfully

Wm C. Bryant.

MANUSCRIPT: Cornell University Library ADDRESS: To Messrs Carey & Hart.

1. A Mr. O. C. Gardiner, about whom little has come to light beyond his brief association with John Louis O’Sullivan on the Democratic Review, seems to have curried favor with prominent writers. In 1850 he apparently sought to persuade Nathaniel Hawthorne to rent a house, with Bryant’s help, at Roslyn. See Bryant to n. n. [Gardiner?], March 27, 1850, HEHL; Hawthorne to O. C. Gardiner, April 3, 1850, St. Lawrence University Library; letter dated February 2, 1969, from the late Norman Holmes Pearson of Yale University to one of the present editors. The letter from Carey & Hart to which Bryant refers, and his own to Gardiner, are unrecovered. For Bryant’s reaction to Carey & Hart’s cheap edition of his poems (1849), see Letter 647.
643. To Ferdinand E. Field

[New York?] May 31, 1848.

. . . Your brother who brings you this is, morally and physically, a naturalized American, though he may not be politically. ¹ He has literally taken root in the soil. His little place, in choosing the site of which I had something to do, is growing fast, with the aid of his English taste—for you English excel all other nations in rural decorations—to be the prettiest spot on Staten Island. His child is indisputably a Yankee, and his wife, who has been in this country ever since she was a little girl, is not much better. I beg of you not to spoil them with your English verdure, and English cultivation, and English comforts, and your temperate summer weather, so that they will not be contented when they return to their home on this side of the Atlantic. For here, after all, though it sounds strange to say it, is the country to which people must come who desire a stable order of things.

"He that is low, my friend, fears not to fall."²

Our levelling is done already; Europe has hers yet to do. You nations of the old world are so full of fluctuation and change, putting up and pulling down your institutions! For quiet, and tranquility, and freedom from troublesome innovations, you must come to the United States.

I have heard to-day concerning poor Audubon, author of that most magnificent work, "The Birds of America," and of a work, nearly completed, on the "Quadrupeds of America," scarcely less splendid, but which he has been obliged to leave to his sons to finish. My friend, Mr. Leupp, has been out to see him; he found him in a state of mental imbecility, but still in tolerable bodily health and exceedingly active. He was running about from place to place, full of the idea that there was something important for him to do, with plans in his head which he forgot before he could reach the spot where they were to be executed. His sons, meantime, behaved with great composure, paid but little attention to what he was doing, and steadily minded their own business.³ Well, your old world is the old Audubon—fidgety, uneasy, and uncertain in its projects; and we of the new world are the young Audubons—staid, sober young men, who keep on in the good old track.

If you should come again to the United States I am afraid you will find it a dull, hum-drum place, with too few political novelties to satisfy men accustomed to the changeful atmosphere of Europe, where they get a revolution as often as in Virginia they take a mint julep. If, however, you should become weary of those excitements, and begin to long for a country that "continueth in one stay"⁴—a country of stable institutions and a steady course of things—come to America.

I shall be happy to show my little place on Long Island, where there
is plenty of water and trees, without mosquitoes. It is uncommonly beautiful just now; the herbage is very rich, and the vegetation luxuriant this showery season; the horse-chestnuts are just casting their blossoms, and the locust-trees make the whole outlook a wilderness of bloom. We will give you excursions round the harbor, and walks in the woods, and drives all over the country. . . .


1. Alfred Field; see 406.5.
2. Cf. Bunyan, Pilgrim’s Progress, pt. ii: “He that is down needs fear no fall, / He that is low no pride.”
3. For the last twenty years of his life the painter–naturalist John James Audubon (1785–1851) was assisted in his work by his two artist sons, John Woodhouse Audubon (1812–1862) and Victor Gifford Audubon (1809–1860), who carried it on after their father’s death. DAA. Though never intimate, Bryant and the elder Audubon shared an intense interest in the natural world which made them warm friends, according to Parke Godwin, during the 1840s. Bryant wrote enthusiastic notices of his friend’s successive books and exhibitions in the EP. Orville Dewey recalled going once with Bryant to see the artist, at his park-like home in upper Manhattan, when, “Seating himself before the poet, Audubon quietly said, ‘You are our flower,—a very pretty compliment, I thought, from a man of the woods.’” Dewey, Autobiography and Letters, ed. Mary E. Dewey (Boston, 1884), p. 98. See EP, September 30, 1830, and November 21 and December 18, 1839; John J. Audubon to Bryant, September 30, 1839, NYPL–GR; Life, I, 369–370; Parke Godwin, Commemorative Addresses . . . (New York, 1895), p. 180.
4. Book of Common Prayer (1549), Burial of the Dead, “Man that is borne of a woman . . . never continueth in one staye.”

644. To Gulián C. Verplanck

New York  June 30, 1848

My dear sir

Several members of the Sketch Club are coming out to my place at Roslyn—or Hempstead Harbour as they used to call it—to pass the 4th of July. I should be most happy if you would be of the party. They will leave Brooklyn in the afternoon train at 4 o’clock on Monday, for Hempstead Branch. At the Branch there is a stage waggon, running every afternoon, which will bring them to my door.—

You cannot do a kinder thing than to come—whether you can do a better or not is for you to judge.¹

Yrs truly

W C BRYANT


¹ Verplanck’s name does not appear among those of the twelve members who accepted Bryant’s invitation. Information from Professor James T. Callow.
645. To Messrs. Carey & Hart

Gentlemen.

I was just setting out on a journey when the package arrived containing the copies of my poems from you.\(^1\) Since my return I have looked them over and find that one of them is bound or rather lettered upside down. I send you the bill which you will please correct—together with nine dollars, making a deduction for the imperfect copy which I will hold subject to your order. Please receipt the bill and return it to me.

Yrs respectfully

W C BRYANT

MANUSCRIPT: Haverford College Library.

1. Before the national Free Soil convention met at Buffalo on August 9 (see 634.6), a meeting at Utica on June 22 was called by prominent Barnburners, Bryant among them, at which Martin Van Buren was provisionally nominated by acclamation for the presidency, and Senator Henry Dodge (1782–1867) of Wisconsin for Vice President. Allan Nevins, _Ordeal of the Union. I. Fruits of Manifest Destiny, 1847–1852_ (New York: Scribner [1947]), pp. 204–205; Schlesinger, _Age of Jackson_, pp. 463–464; _EP_, June 13 and 23, 1848. It seems very likely that the journey to which Bryant refers in this letter was made to attend the Utica Meeting.

646. To Frances F. Bryant

My dear Frances.

I have been at Mr. Sherwood's this evening. There I found Miss Mary Kellogg who had just come down from Barrington with Ezra the last installment as Mr. Sherwood said, of his family. On inquiring whether they knew of any person going up to Barrington the beginning of next week I found that there was a young Mr. Crittenden, of St. Louis,\(^1\) present, who said that he was going up, that he knew Emily\(^2\) and would take charge of her. He goes on Tuesday or Wednesday probably the former. He has the appearance of a suitor, seeming very particular in his attentions to Miss Lydia [Sherwood?] who wore her fairest looks on the occasion.

Augusta Simms is at Great Barrington and is coming to New York by and by. Mrs. Hopkins has been at home some days. Every body is well at Barrington.

I dined today at Dr. Dickson's.\(^3\) Col. Bragg was present, the same to whom General Taylor said "Captain Bragg, let them have a little more grape."\(^4\) There was also Ashbel Smith of Texas formerly minister from that republic to the United States,\(^5\) Dr. Metcalf, a southern man,\(^6\) and Horatio Allen the Engineer,\(^7\) besides Mr. Dewey and Mary.

Mrs. Elwell has asked me for the grass mentioned in your note, which I had not to give her.

[unsigned]
1. Unidentified.
2. Unidentified.
3. Samuel Henry Dickson (1798–1872), founder of the Medical College of South Carolina in 1833, and professor at New York University, 1847–1850, and at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, 1858–1872. He and Bryant had recently struck up an acquaintance which developed into a lasting friendship, interrupted only by the Civil War. Life, II, 38.
4. Braxton Bragg (1817–1876, United States Military Academy 1837), distinguished at the battle of Buena Vista, Mexico, in February 1847, became a Confederate general during the Civil War.
5. Ashbel Smith (1805–1886, Yale 1824, M.D. 1828), born in Connecticut, moved to Texas in 1837 and held several posts in the government of that short-lived republic. A Confederate officer during the Civil War, he was later an author and educator.
6. Possibly Samuel Lytler Metcalfe (1798–1856), a chemist and physician from Kentucky who had published books on Indian warfare as well as scientific studies.
7. Horatio Allen (1802–1899, Columbia 1823) was a principal engineer on the Croton Aqueduct, and consulting engineer to the New York & Erie Railroad.

647. To Richard H. Dana

New York September 12, 1848.

Dear Dana.

You have written me a letter—it was a good while since I believe—I have not the courage to look at its date,1—which my conscience will not allow me to leave unanswered. I have therefore looked up an old manuscript of memorandums for an answer which I jotted down while the subject was fresh in my mind, and shall make this letter out of them.

I did not, I am sure, make any such comparison of Longfellow’s Evangeline with other American poems as you heard ascribed to me.2 What I said was, that it had given me altogether more pleasure in the reading than any poem which had lately appeared—than any poem which had been published within several years. And this is true. I have never made any attempt to analyze the sources of this pleasure. The poem interested and affected me strongly. Whatever may be said of the parts, they are all harmonized by a poetic feeling, of great sweetness and gentleness, which belongs to the author. My ear admits nay delights in the melody of the hexameter as he has managed it. I no doubt expressed my satisfaction with the poem in warm terms, but the idea of bringing its poetic merits into comparison with whatever had been written in America never entered into my head.

I am glad that you have spoken so frankly of what I said in my funeral oration concerning Cole.3 It was written in very sincere and deep grief for his loss; I did not stop to measure my phrases. What I said of his works, however, I said with the more freedom, because for the most part it agrees, as I have reason to believe, with the opinion which our best artists have of
him—Durand, for example, who has a strong feeling of what is excellent in his art and great generosity and impartiality in his judgments concerning the works of his contemporaries. What you say of Cole's allegorical turn would be true if he were allegorical in the usual cold mechanical way. Spenser was allegorical, but a great poet nevertheless, and greatest in his allegories.

Cole's personal character was all that you supposed it to be, most gentle, amiable affectionate,—essentially benevolent without any of the fashionable ostentation of benevolence.

You have much to say of Mr. Peck, of whom I think very well in many respects, but who has some peculiarities in his character which show it perhaps not to be quite a healthy one. I shall be glad to be useful to him in any way, but how can you who know me ask me to get acquainted with any body? I do not know that I ever got acquainted with any body, of set purpose in my life. The three things most irksome to me in my transactions with the world are to owe money to ask a favor and to seek an acquaintance. The few excellent friends I have, I acquired I scarcely know how, certainly not by any assiduity of my own.

I recollect Hanover [New Hampshire] well where you have been lecturing, a charming country, only I hope you did not sleep, even for a night at either of the hotels there. I tried one of them the last season, and was told that the other was no better. You congratulate yourself on having escaped the mosquitoes. You would have been quite as safe from them, at our place in Roslyn, where there are absolutely none, and where you might sit on my stoop till morning by moonlight or starlight without seeing hearing or feeling one of them, though the harbour is but a few rods distant, and a fresh water pond still nearer.

Carey & Hart have done for my poems, nearly what you suggest; they have published them in a cheap form, a duodecimo volume, the engravings left out and the black lines taken off, and it is an ugly book after all. If I were a bookseller I would do myself justice.

I console myself with thinking that it is not always the best books which are got up in the handsomest manner. When I was in London an acquaintance invited me to dine at Mullan's Hotel in the city. I went and found lying in the room where we dined, a superb octavo got up in the finest style of the London press, with elegant engravings, the poems of our host himself, Mr. Mullan or Mullen, for I do not recollect which; I beg his pardon being uncertain how to spell the name of so great a poet. I could not read the verses and so it is not strange that I should not be quite accurate in giving the name.

I suppose you will never come to our place to see whether we have mosquitoes or not. I am afraid the people of Roslyn are not quite ready for a series of lectures on Shakespeare. Many of them are Quakers who never heard of him.
Remember me kindly to that excellent daughter of yours and to your sisters and the rest of your family—

Yours truly

W C BRYANT

1. June 23, 1848; see Life, II, 36.

2. This portion of Dana's letter is unrecovered, hence the nature of Bryant's supposed comparison is uncertain. On December 18, 1847, Bryant had written in the EP that he had read Evangeline "with infinite delight." He had then gone on to defend Longfellow against a complaint by Lewis Gaylord Clark in the Knickerbocker, 30 (December 1847), 555-556, that his hexameters were ineffective. "Its versification," Bryant wrote, "we perceive, has been criticized, but let those who do not like Mr. Longfellow's hexameters make better if they can. . . . The Knickerbocker, we perceive, has printed one or two passages in the form of prose paragraphs to prove that the rhythm is nothing else but that of ordinary prose. We have read the examples so given, and to our mind they are still hexameters and hexameters only. It seems to us that the periodical recurrence of the peculiar beat of the hexameter can only be suppressed by reading them very unskillfully or very perversely." On January 3, 1848, Longfellow wrote Bryant a grateful letter, thanking him for his good opinion of the poem, and for "warding off so dexterously the thrust aimed at it by the Knickerbocker." Longfellow, Letters, III, 153.

3. On February 11, 1848, Thomas Cole died suddenly of pleurisy in his forty-seventh year, and on May 4, at the unanimous request of its member artists, Bryant spoke a memorial tribute to his friend at the National Academy of Design. This "Funeral Oration," later published, was greeted with almost universal praise, but Dana took exception to what he thought uncharacteristic hyperbole in Bryant's opening paragraph:

. . . His departure has left a vacancy which amazes and alarms us. It is as if the voyager on the Hudson were to look toward the great range of the Catskills, at the foot of which Cole, with a reverential fondness, had fixed his abode, and were to see that the grandest of its summits had disappeared—had sunk into the plain from our sight. I might use a bolder similitude; it is as if we were to look over the heavens on a starlight evening and find that one of the greater planets, Hesperus or Jupiter, had been blotted from the sky.


4. George Washington Peck (1817-1859, Brown 1837) had studied law in Boston with Richard Henry Dana, Jr., and served as a journalist in Cincinnati before coming to New York in 1846 to be night editor of the Courier and Enquirer. Soon afterward he became principal literary critic for the American Magazine and Whig Review, where his frenzied attacks on Herman Melville, and his adulation of Edgar Allan Poe, soon made him a sharply controversial figure among his fellow-writers. See Miller, Raven & Whale, pp. 216-217, 269-270.

5. See Letter 642.
648. To Leonice Marston Sampson Moulton

[New York] Tuesday, September 26 [1848]

Dear Mrs. Moulton,

Can you resolve me a difficulty of a grave nature? When I carried the dress yesterday to the dyers, I was asked what colour I wanted it— I answered black—the young man then said that the figures of the cloth would still show and that it would look worse than now. I brought the dress back to my office.

If you can send word before I come out again to Roslyn, will you be so kind as to tell me whether I did right—& if not what I shall do?

Please send the accompanying letter to Mr Leggetts, by John tomorrow morning—that is, before noon.

Yrs truly,

W. C. B.

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL–Bryant-Moulton Letters ADDRESS: Mrs. L. S. Moulton / Roslyn / Long Island DOCKETED: Bryant, / Sept 26 / 1848.

1. Leonice Marston Sampson (Mrs. Joseph White) Moulton (1811–1897), a niece of Bryant's earlier law tutor William Baylies, was the wife of the man who had sold to Bryant his property at Hempstead Harbor (Roslyn) in 1842. See Letter 435. More recently, she and her husband had become summer neighbors of the Bryants'.

2. This letter is unrecovered. It was probably addressed to Augustus W. Leggett, founder and editor, 1850–1852?, of one of Roslyn's early newspapers, the Plaindealer. See Goddard, Roslyn Harbor, pp. 19–20, 108.

649. To William Rufus Blake

New York October 3d 1848.

Office of the Evening Post

Sir,

Mrs. Elizabeth O. Smith, has I learn placed her drama of Leisler in your hands, with a view to its being brought upon the stage, if its merits as an acting play should promise its success. How skilfully constructed it may be for stage effect, I cannot say, and it would ill become me to pretend to judge. Her friends, however, among whom I number myself, are anxious that it should have the benefit of as friendly an examination as you can give it. They think highly of her talents, and hope that it will prove that in this instance they have been successfully exerted. The interest they take in her welfare and reputation as an author will I am sure be received as a sufficient apology for my addressing you in regard to this subject.

Yrs respectfully

[signature clipped]


2. Elizabeth Oakes Prince Smith (1806–1893), wife of the popular humorist Seba Smith ("Jack Downing"), was a successful lyceum lecturer and writer of popular fiction. It was her misfortune that, a few months earlier, another play on the same theme as her own had been successfully produced at the Bowery Theatre. This was Cornelius Mathews' *Jacob Leisler, the Patriot Hero: or, New York in 1690*. *Ibid.*, V, 351.

3. Bryant apparently became acquainted with Mrs. Smith and her husband at some time after they moved from Maine to New York in 1840. Perhaps this was not until after he had met "Jack Downing" in London in 1845 (see 540.10), the same year in which was published in New York *The Poetical Writings of Elizabeth Oakes Smith*. Mrs. Smith visited Roslyn, where she became an admirer of Mrs. Bryant as well as of her husband. Of the poet, she wrote afterward that he was "the most genial and companionable of men," "playful and cordial," and "a contemner of shams, pretenses, and affectations of every kind." Quoted in Mary Alice Wyman, *Two American Pioneers: Seba Smith and Elizabeth Oakes Smith* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1927), p. 255. See also *Selections from the Autobiography of Elizabeth Oakes Smith*, ed. Mary Alice Wyman (Lewiston, Maine: Lewiston Journal Co. [1924]), pp. 107–112. Mrs. Smith’s play was published at New York in 1853 as *Old New York; or, Democracy in 1689: A Tragedy in Five Acts*, and was apparently staged the same year in New York and several other cities.

650. To Richard H. Dana

New York October 9th 1848.

My dear sir

Excuse me for not answering your letter before. It was because my wife was absent, and I wished first to know when she would return. I now expect her in a day or two from the western part of the state where she has been paying a visit to her brother and sister.

Now that you talk of coming to my place on Long Island, set off as soon as you receive this—take the plunge without further thinking. You will get to New York of course in the morning. Before you set out put a card on your trunk with your name and "Hempstead Branch, Long Island" legibly inscribed on it. When you get to New York get the porter on Board the steamer to agree to take it to the railroad dépôt at the South Ferry *to go by the afternoon train* at four o’clock, and perhaps it would not be amiss to put this on the card also. The porter will put it into the baggage house at the South Ferry, and into the baggage waggon if it is there. Come yourself to my office at 18 Nassau Street, and in the afternoon I will go out with you.—

All is right at Roslyn and ready for you—two spare rooms at least and perhaps another, and people to wait upon you. Do not lose a day after you get this.

Yrs truly

W C Bryant
651. To Richard H. Dana

New York October 11th 1848.

Dear Dana,

I wrote you two days since asking you to come to my place while the fit was on you. I did not however tell you that if you came on Saturday I should not be here to receive you for on that day I am almost invariably at my place.

So, if you come on Saturday morning, you will be obliged to make your way to Roslyn by yourself. It is the easiest thing in the world, however. Be at the terminus in Brooklyn a little before four—the train departs at four precisely and [you] will do best to leave the South Ferry on this side at half past three.¹ Your baggage marked for Hempstead Branch, will be in the baggage waggon of course. At Hempstead Branch you are to stop, and your baggage will be put out on the platform. Inquire for Julian’s Stage which you will see drawn up before the door of a small tavern which stands on the left hand with a piazza before it. He will go for your baggage and will bring you to my door. Will not your daughter or one of your sisters come with you?² My wife arrived last night from the west and goes out to our place tomorrow.

Yrs truly

Wm C. Bryant

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1. Bryant mistakenly wrote “four.”
2. Though there is no specific confirmation at hand, Dana apparently spent several weeks at the Bryants’ Roslyn home, visiting New York City periodically during that time. On October 27 he was Bryant’s guest at a Sketch Club meeting in the home of Charles C. Ingham, the club’s president, at 78 White Street, and again, on November 10, at John Gourlie’s house at 101 Varick Street. Information from the minutes of the Sketch Club, through the courtesy of Professor James T. Callow.

652. To Miss P. Russell¹

New York Oct. 20, 1848.

Madam.

I enclose you the verses concerning which you have twice written to me.² I was at first undecided what to do with them. There are good passages, and the thought is often fine, but the expression is inadequate, imperfect, and sometimes such as to distort the idea intended to be conveyed. I am sure that you would have given the thoughts a better utterance in prose, presenting them more simply and more in their true pro-
portions. On looking over the poems to see whether I could correct them, I found the task would require much more leisure than I could bestow upon it, and I fear that after it should be executed, the verses would not be sufficiently your own. You will excuse me therefore, if amidst the various calls on my time and one or two absences from town, some delay has occurred. If you had not written for the verses I should have referred to them in the Evening Post, but it is better perhaps that I should say what I think of them to the author only.

Yours respectfully
Wm C. BRYANT

MANUSCRIPT: NYHS
ADDRESS: Miss P. Russell.

1. Unidentified.
2. Letters unrecovered.

653. To John H. Gourlie

[New York? October, 1848]

Dear sir.

Are we to have our High Dutch Walk this week? and if so what day and hour? I am at present disengaged for today, tomorrow and the next day.

Yrs truly
W. C. BRYANT

MANUSCRIPT: The John Rylands University Library of Manchester
ADDRESS: Mr. Gourlie. / Wall Street docketed: W. C Bryant / Oct. 1848—.

1. John Hamilton Gourlie (d. 1891), a stockbroker then living at 101 Varick Street, joined the Sketch Club at least as early as 1844, and from 1851 to 1869 he was its secretary. He was associated with Bryant from 1842 to 1845 in the management of the American Art Union, and was later (1854–1860) an honorary member of the National Academy. Cowdrey, AAFA & AAU, I, 105–106; NAD Exhibition Record, I, 189; Callow, Kindred Spirits, p. 13. A founding member of the Century Association, Gourlie recounted its early years and those of the Sketch Club in The Origin and History of the Century Club (New York: W. C. Bryant & Co., 1856). After Bryant repossessed his family homestead in 1865, and Gourlie was summering in his native Stockbridge, he and Bryant exchanged visits between there and Cummington, and often corresponded until Bryant’s death in 1878.

2. Perhaps through Pennsylvania Dutch communities such as Bethlehem and Easton, with which Bryant was much impressed. See Letters 384, 604–605.

654. To T. L. Dunnell

New York November 30, 1848.

Sir

The Committee on whose behalf you address me will, I am sure, excuse me from delivering a lecture on Homoeopathy or any other sub-
ject when they are informed that I have invariably declined all applications to give public lectures since they became fashionable. The discourse on Homoeopathy to which you allude was delivered by me before a Homoeopathic Society of which I was the President, on the occasion of one of its anniversaries.² It was printed at the time and in composing it I exhausted all I had to say or have now to say on the subject. Besides, I have no leisure for the preparation of lectures or their delivery. I might mention some other reasons, but I am confident that you and the committee will agree that these furnish a sufficient motive for declining the invitation with which I have been honoured.

I am sir
very respectfully yours
Wm C. BRYANT.

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL–Berg
ADDRESS: T. L. Dunnell Esq.

1. Dunnell is unidentified, and his letter to Bryant is unrecovered.
2. See 420.6.

655. To William C. Macready¹

My dear sir

I had no hand in writing or publishing the article to which you allude.² I was absent at the time in the country and did not see it or hear of it until several days after it appeared. It is true that I am one of the proprietors and the principal editor of the Evening Post but it is impossible for me to keep the entire supervision of its contents at all times. I have little knowledge of the unpleasant matters to which the article related, and regret that it should have appeared under circumstances which could induce you to attribute it to me.

I am sir
very respectfully and truly yrs
W C BRYANT—

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL–GR (draft)
ADDRESS: To Mr. Macready.

1. See 545.13.
2. The rivalry between British tragedian Macready and his American contemporary Edwin Forrest (see 598.1) was now of more than twenty years' standing, having begun with Macready's first American tour in 1826–1827. During his second visit in 1843–1844 it had been sufficiently contained to permit the principals—if not their extreme partisans—to meet in mutual amity. In September and October 1843 Forrest entertained the Englishman twice at dinner, the other guests including Bryant, Mr. and Mrs. Longfellow, Fitz-Greene Halleck, and Henry Inman. After the second occasion Macready noted in his diary, "Our day was very cheerful; I like all I see of Forrest very much. He appears a clear-headed, honest, kind man; what can be better?"
But in 1845, during his second visit to Britain, Forrest blamed the hostility of London audiences on the supposed instigation of Macready and his friends John Forster and Charles Dickens. Later, at a performance of *Hamlet* by Macready at Edinburgh, the American stood in a box and hissed his rival, writing a letter afterward to the London *Times* in justification of his action.

Now, on Macready's third visit to the United States, their enmity was aggravated by a division among their American followers into fashionable and popular factions, or, some observers thought, Anglophiles and Anglophobes. In September 1848 Macready read in a "Boston penny paper" a "very scurrilous attack on myself, so very abusive and full of falsehood that it did not in the least annoy or disconcert me." On October 7 the *EP* reported that his *Othello* had been "repeatedly and unanimously applauded" the night before. On the 10th Macready noted in his diary, "Bryant called, whom I was delighted to see. I took occasion to tell him and explain to him that there were 'no passages between Mr. Forrest and myself'; that I had been passive throughout all that had occurred in which his name was mentioned, and had shown him all due attention."

But when Macready's *Macbeth* was repeatedly interrupted at Philadelphia on November 20 by egg-throwing "ruffians," the actor alluded in a post-curtain speech to Forrest's action at Edinburgh. The next day Forrest inserted in the Philadelphia *Pennsylvanian* a "card" in which he freely admitted hissing Macready in 1845, but insisted that now, in 1848, when his friends had wanted to drive the English actor from the New York stage, he, Forrest, had advised them to "let the superannuated driveller alone—to oppose him would be but to make . . . the poor old man . . . of some importance." This was reprinted in the *EP* on November 25, in a front-page article, "Theatrical Events at Philadelphia," which was sharply critical of Macready. Two days later Macready wrote to Bryant asking "whether you authorized the publication of that article reflecting on me?" And he continued, "I ask this, because, with very many of my countrymen, I have held your name, character, and genius in the highest veneration and honor, and would not willingly forego the gratification of cherishing those feelings. . . . I do not however choose to believe that the sanction of your name or approval could be deliberately given to such a notice; and I am earnest in my request, that you will empower me to think, I am rendering you simple justice by my incredulity. —From any other source it is a thing of perfect indifference to me."

Bryant's disclaimer, in the present letter, of knowledge of or responsibility for the offending article brought from Macready the immediate reply, "Believe me, my dear Sir, I did not think you in any way concerned in that discreditable article—But I was anxious to be certified of it from yourself, that I might, among those in England who hold you in such high honor and regard, have the power of doing you justice—Your letter is more grateful to my feelings, than I can well express." See Macready's *Reminiscences*, and Selections from his Diaries and Letters, ed. Sir Frederick Pollock (New York, 1875), pp. 534; 603–605; Odell, *Annals*, III, 248, 258, 268–269, and V, 3–4, 17; *EP*, October 7, 25, 1848; Macready to Bryant, November 27? and December 2, 1848, NYPL–GR.

One may only speculate on the identity of the author of the attack on Macready in the *EP* of November 25, but there is one clear intimation that it was James Lawson (see 154.4), amateur playwright and intimate friend of Forrest's. Three years later one of the lawyers at the Forrest divorce trial read into the record a letter from Catherine Forrest to her husband, apparently written in November 1848, in which she sent him several newspaper clippings about "the Row" over his "card" attacking Macready, commenting, "The article from the *Evening Post*, I think exceedingly good. Lawson told me yesterday that he wrote it." Report of the Forrest Divorce Case, Herald Certified Edition (New York: New York Herald, 1852), pp. 46–47.
656. To [George William?] Erving

Mr. Bryant presents his compliments to Mr. Erving, and has the honor to inform him that he has received no papers whatever from Mr. Hawks concerning the matter mentioned in Mr. Erving’s note of this morning.\(^2\)

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL–GR (draft).

1. Possibly George William Erving (1769–1850), an Oxford-educated American diplomat who, as American minister to Madrid in 1819, had negotiated the treaty by which Spain ceded Florida to the United States. He had published an account of travel in Spain, and had translated into English a treatise on the primitive Spanish alphabet. Williams, *Spanish Background*, I, 351, 386.

2. Erving’s note is unrecovered, and his business with Bryant has not been determined. Francis Lister Hawks (1798–1866) was the minister of Calvary Episcopal Church in New York, as well as a former editor of the second *New York Review* and a noted bibliophile. See 370.4.

657. To Richard H. Dana

My dear sir.

The bearer of this letter is Dr. Joseph R. Buchanan, the neurologist,\(^1\) in whose investigations I know you take a strong interest, and whom from the personal esteem I bear him, I am happy to introduce to your acquaintance.

I know that you are not in the habit of bustling about much in public, but your son is one of the busy world,\(^2\) and will doubtless take pleasure in aiding Dr. Buchanan to bring his discoveries before the Boston public.

Yrs truly

Wm C. BRYANT


1. See Letters 420, 639.

2. Richard Henry Dana, Jr., now a Boston lawyer specializing in maritime cases, was also active in organizing support in Massachusetts for the Free Soil presidential candidates. Schlesinger, *Age of Jackson*, p. 465.

658. To Richard H. Dana

Dear Dana.

I got your letter of the 6th.\(^1\) this morning. We have been trying to find a good comfortable quiet boarding house for you, but with little success thus far. The family with whom your son staid has removed almost
out of town; I am at the Globe Hotel in Broadway below Wall Street, and at the house where I lived last winter they take only lodgers—no boarders. But we will have a place for you, notwithstanding it seems at present as if every room in the neighbourhood of the University Chapel was occupied.

You are to lecture on Wednesday not on Tuesday evening, as I suppose you have heard before this. All the advertisements have it on Wednesday. If you do not hear from me before you leave Boston, I think you may as well come to the Globe Hotel, where I live as they do in the hotels in England and on the continent—my meals being served up in my room. I will be on hand to induct you into your boarding house.

As to your success in obtaining an audience I see no reason for discouragement. If we can get enough to attend to pay the expenses, we can, I am sure, get more; it is not a difficult matter, when a part of the community feel a real interest in such a matter, to diffuse the interest by the help of the press. A gentleman asked me today whether you would not be willing to lecture in Brooklyn and said he should take measures to get an invitation for you to lecture before one of the Brooklyn institutions.

My wife is out this morning looking for a boarding house for you. She is much flattered by the good opinion you have expressed of her, and pretends to wonder what she has done to deserve it.

Yrs sincerely
W C Bryant

MANUSCRIPT: LH address: R. H. Dana Esq. docketed: W C Bryant, Feb 8/49.

1. Unrecovered.

2. Between February 14 and March 9 Dana gave a series of eight lectures on Shakespeare at the New York University Chapel on Washington Square. These had presumably been arranged with Bryant’s help during Dana’s visit to New York the previous fall (see 651.2). Their announced subjects were: “The Influence of Literature on our Daily Life, and the Influence of our Daily Life upon our Appreciation of Literature”; “The Condition of Society and its Influence on the Poet, and the Influence of the Poet on the Condition of Society”; “Woman”; “Woman—Illustrated by the Character of Desdemona”; “Shakespeare in the Supernatural—Illustrated by the Midsummer Night’s Dream and the Tempest”; “Macbeth”; “The Representation of Violent Deaths on the English Stage”; and “Hamlet” EP, February 8, 1849.

3. Before completing his New York lectures, Dana began an identical series at the Female Academy in Brooklyn, scheduled to run from March 5 to 29. In brief notices in the EP, Bryant complimented his friend’s performances, and reported his audiences as “numerous and intellectual,” or “hall well filled,” or “good despite stormy weather.” But Dana, never a rousing speaker, had to share the local appetite for Shakespeare that winter with a performer whose appearances were inevitably sensational. Frances Anne Kemble Butler (1809–1893), who, as the dazzling 23-year-old Fanny Kemble of the London stage had made a triumphant New York debut in 1832 in such roles as Juliet and Beatrice; who had married a wealthy southern American planter, Pierce Butler, two years later and retired from the stage; and who had recently divorced her husband, now announced her return to the boards after a fifteen-
year absence to give a series of readings from Shakespeare. On the evening after Dana's March 2 lecture on Macbeth to a storm-shrunken audience, she read from the same play to an "excessively crowded" room at the Stuyvesant Institute, and followed this within the week with three more appearances, the last of which was received with "more devoted attention and with more cordial applause than ever before." But, though it was first announced that she would extend her readings to Brooklyn, she soon let it be known that since she was "unwilling to draw the slightest attention from the able course of Mr. Dana, not yet closed, her visit there has been postponed to a future time." *EP*, March 26, and February 24—March 30, *passim*; Odell, *Annals*, III, 604–608, and V, 498–499.

659. *To* Leonice M. S. Moulton

New York Saturday morning February 10th. 1849.

My dear Mrs. Moulton.

If a child of eight or nine years of age can learn Latin by any method, he must by that of Arnold, which is the simplest I know of, and the best suited to an early age. I should not hesitate, for my part, to make the trial. There is no necessity of first being acquainted with the grammar of the English language. I was well grounded in the Latin grammar, before I knew any thing of the English.

I was in hopes that by coming to town you would get into sober company and keep regular hours, but I perceive, from some intimations in your letter that you are as wild as ever. Is it the force of habit; or are you so agreeable that your friends here, as in the country, find their dissipations insipid without you, and actually compel you to take part in them?

Yours sincerely

WM. C. BRYANT

MANUSCRIPT: Ridgely Family Collection TEXT: William D. Hoyt, Jr., “Some Unpublished Bryant Correspondence (I),” *New York History*, 21 (January 1940), 64. ADDRESS: Mrs. L. M. M. Moulton [17 State Street, New York City].


2. Bryant refers without doubt to the method outlined by the British classicist Thomas Kerchever Arnold (1800–1853) in his *A First and Second Latin Book and Practical Grammar*, which appeared in at least six American editions between 1846 and 1848.

3. Unrecovered.

660. *To* Asher Brown Durand

New York February 26, 1849.

My dear sir.

I have written to Mr. Sturges, to thank him for that beautiful painting of yours, with which he surprised me the other day; but my wife insists that I ought to write to thank the artist also, and in fact it has not required much argument to persuade me that it is my duty. I was more
delighted with it than I can express, and am under very great obligations to you for having put so much of your acknowledged genius into a work intended for me. Every body admires it greatly and places it high as a work of art. I find that even those who are but slightly acquainted with me, recognize my figure in the landscape, without any previous suggestion that it is meant as the portrait of any person. The painting seems to me in your best manner, which is the highest praise.

Yours very truly
WM C. BRYANT

MANUSCRIPT: NYPL–Asher Brown Durand Papers.

1. Letter unrecovered.
2. A few days before, Bryant had received a note from Jonathan Sturges, for some years his associate in the management of the American Art Union (see 421.1), and a generous patron of American artists as well as their good friend, which said, "Soon after you delivered your oration on the life and death of our lamented friend Cole, I requested Mr. Durand to paint a picture in which he should associate our departed friend and yourself as kindred spirits. I think the design, as well as the execution, will meet your approbation, and I hope that you will accept the picture from me as a token of gratitude for the labor of love performed on that occasion." Life, II, 37. This "biographical landscape," a large oil on canvas which pictured Bryant and Thomas Cole standing on a high rocky ledge in the Catskills, before a background of mountains and waterfalls, recalled to all who knew them the intimacy enjoyed by poet and painter on their summer rambles together among the mountains. Upon its exhibition a few weeks later at the National Academy, where it bore the title "Kindred Spirits" (NAD Exhibition Record, I, 138), it was widely praised in the press and periodicals, one writer insisting, "No one can look at [Durand's] picture of Bryant and Cole in the Catskills, without rising at once both in sense and association, into a higher range of feelings." Literary World, 4 (April 21, 1849), 358. See illustration.

This painting, which was left by Bryant's daughter Julia in 1904 to the New York Public Library, was virtually overlooked by the art world for nearly half a century thereafter, but after the great revival of interest in Thomas Cole with the retrospective showing of his work in 1948, on the centennial of his death, it began to appear in countless exhibitions and reproductions, until today it has earned a special position as emblematic of the "Sentiment of Nature" among the artists of the Hudson River School. See A. B. Durand, 1796–1886 (Montclair, New Jersey: Montclair Art Museum [1971]), pp. 58–59. For an amusing account by Frances Bryant of its initial reception by her husband, see William Cullen Bryant II, "Poetry and Painting: A Love Affair of Long Ago," American Quarterly, 22 (Winter 1970), 881–882.

661. To Alexander B. Grosart

New York  March 10  1849.

Dear Sir.

Your letter was printed in one or two papers in this country besides the Evening Post, but it is impossible for me to recollect in which, and I do not know how I can procure them for you. I am very sorry that I did not preserve them for you when they appeared.

I shall take pleasure in mentioning your labours whenever and
wherever I think any thing can be done to promote the object you have in view. I am not a member of the Burns Club, though I have often been its guest, and I will speak to the members concerning your researches.

I am sir

very respectfully yours

W C BRYANT.

MANUSCRIPT: National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh


1. Alexander Balloch Grosart (1827–1899), then apparently a student of theology at Edinburgh University, was later a Presbyterian minister at several churches in Scotland and England, and the author and editor of many books on English Renaissance writers, as well as devotional subjects.

2. Grosart's letter, which may have been printed at a much earlier date, has not been located.

3. According to Parke Godwin, Bryant was "almost invariably a guest at the annual festivals of the Burns Club, of New York, and was quite as invariably called upon to say a word in honor of the national poet." Selections from several of his speeches on these occasions appear in Prose Writings of William Cullen Bryant, ed. Parke Godwin, 2 vols. (New York: D. Appleton, 1884), II, 314–323.

662. To Eusebio Guiteras

New York, March 10, 1849

Sir:

I should have answered your inquiry [sooner?] had it not been that I thought I might meet among my acquaintances some person who knew Heredia when he resided here, and to whom I might refer you. This however has not been my good fortune, and I must, therefore, apologize for the length of time I have allowed to elapse before replying to your letter. I came to New York in 1825 soon after the publication of Heredia's volume, but I never had any personal acquaintance with him and regret that I can give you no more information concerning his sojourn in this country.

I am Sir,

Respectfully your obt Servt.

WM. C. BRYANT


1. The addressee of this letter, a Cuban author and educator, had apparently written to Bryant asking information about the activities of the Cuban poet José María de Heredia (1805–1839) during his brief residence in New York City. Banished from Cuba in 1823 for revolutionary activities, Heredia came to New York City, where in 1825 he published a volume of verses which established his reputation as a lyric poet throughout Spanish-speaking countries. Williams, Spanish Background, II, 327; ACAB. Guiteras' letter to Bryant is unrecovered.
2. During his early years in New York Bryant had translated and published two of Heredia's poems. See Letter 160; Poems (1876), pp. 164–166, 491.

663. To Frances F. Bryant


My dear Frances.

I do not go today. Mr. Leupp found a steamer going to Savannah on Wednesday—a very fine boat beautifully fitted up, and left it to me to say whether we should go in it or by land. I decided in favour of the steamer. Dr. Neilson will probably go with us, unless his wife should be ill—she is at present considerably indisposed, and unless she is better, he will not go. Mr. Allen a Civil Engineer1 whom I know is also going with his family. We shall go from Savannah to Macon in Georgia—thence by railway to Charleston; at Charleston on the 1st of April we shall take the steamer for Havana.

I found at the Globe this morning a card of Mr. [Marcus] Spring and a note of invitation from Mrs. [Therese] Robinson. I send them, together with a letter from Egbert's wife.2

This morning I found the cold quite keen, and the ground frozen solid, which shows that it will not do to uncover the plants for a long time yet.

I shall write tomorrow or the next day.

Yours ever

W. C. B.

P. S. Julia was here this morning, and asked if I brought no note from you.

W. C. B.

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

1. Horatio Allen (646.7).

664. To Herman Ulesch1

New York 19 März 1849

Herr Ulesch.

Ich habe Sie überall gesucht ohne ihren Wohnplatz zu finden. Ich bin im Begriffe eine Reise von drei oder vier Wochen zu machen, und ich wollte Ihnen die nötige Anweisung geben nach meinem Hause zu kommen.

Meine Familie erwartet Sie nächste Woche. Man geht nach meinem Hause theils auf der Eisenbahn, und theils in einem Wagen. Die Eisenbahnwagen gehen von Brooklyn um vier Uhr nachmittags ab. Reisen Sie auf der Eisenbahn zwanzig Englische Meilen bis Hempstead Branch: dort
findet man Julian's Stage Waggon, der meinem Hause vorüber geht. Fragen Sie nach "Mr. Bryant's house" und der Kutscher fährt Sie in einer Stunde dahin. Meine Frau wird Ihnen die gehörige Befehle geben.—

Ihr²

WM C. BRYANT.


1. See Letter 665.
2. "Mr. Ulesch. I have looked everywhere for you, without finding your dwelling. I am on the point of taking a journey of three or four weeks, and I wished to give you the necessary instructions how to get to my house.

"My family expects you next week. One travels to my house partly by railway and partly in a wagon. The railway cars leave Brooklyn at four o'clock in the afternoon. Travel on the railway twenty English miles to Hempstead Branch; there one finds Julian's Stage Waggon, which passes by my house. Ask for 'Mr. Bryant's house' and the driver will take you there in an hour. My wife will give you the pertinent orders. Yours."

665. To Frances F. Bryant


Dear Frances.

The German, Herman Ulesch, called today; he will come out on Monday afternoon. He brought me a list of flower-seeds, and I gave him a dollar to buy some to carry out with him. I sail tomorrow at four in the afternoon. Dr. Neilson goes with us; his wife is better. Fanny called yesterday afternoon. Minna is better. She says that she shall probably take the house in Fourth Street. I slept last night in my old bedroom, and this morning, as soon as it was light, put a button on my shirt and stopped a hole in my pantaloons pocket.

Last evening I called on Lawson. He tells me that he was informed by young Panton,¹ as a matter which every body knew that Mr. — you will understand who²—and his wife, were to separate, and that Lawson and I were to decide what allowance should be made for her maintenance.³ It came from Miss Lynch,⁴ and it appears that Willis and his wife are talking in the same way.⁵ I expect to see it in the newspapers next. The husband, I am told has asked his sisters to come and live in the new house. Lawson quoted a saying of the lady whose husband is gone to California:⁶ "My sister and he have not lived happily together for a long time, and for the last year or so, she has been perfectly reckless, but she never thought it would come to this." I am afraid that you and I know very little about the occasion of the quarrel, after all. The wife expressed great indignation at the idea of the husband's sisters coming to the new house.⁷

This is all gossip, which I am almost ashamed to put into a letter.
The probability is, that the event we have feared will come to pass—and who will be most to blame, I am sure I do not know.

Yours ever

W. C. B.

P. S. I found your toothbrush—I shall leave it with Hannah.

W. C. B.

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

2. Edwin Forrest.
3. Bryant alludes here to the imminent separation of Edwin Forrest from his wife, Catherine Sinclair Forrest, both close friends of the Bryants' and the Godwins'. On May 1, 1849, Mrs. Forrest left her husband's house on West Twenty-Second Street to spend the first month after their rupture with Fanny and Parke Godwin. There is no further indication that Bryant mediated between the Forrests in 1849, but a "Proposed Agreement" in his handwriting, drawn at the request of the husband's lawyer, Theodore Sedgwick III, in February 1850, evidences his willingness to do so. MS in NYPL-GR. See Report of the Forrest Divorce Case, Herald Certified Edition (New York: New York Herald, 1852), pp. 9–10, 84–85, 130–131. Bryant later wrote his friend Simms that this attempt at mediation had failed. Bryant to Simms, June 1851, NYPL-GR.

4. At her home on East Ninth Street the literary amateur Anne Charlotte Lynch (1815–1891), later Mrs. Vincenzo Botta, held a regular Saturday evening reception for writers, artists, and visiting celebrities which constituted New York's most popular salon in the 1840s and 1850s. The Bryants often appeared at these gatherings. Memoirs of Anne C. L. Botta Written by Her Friends, With Selections from Her Correspondence and from Her Writings in Prose and Poetry (New York, 1894), pp. 16, 95, 172; Adkins, Halleck, pp. 298–299; Newton Arvin, Herman Melville (New York: Sloane, 1950), pp. 124–125.

5. The popular essayist and poet Nathaniel Parker Willis (1806–1867) and his second wife, Cornelia Grinnell Willis, were close friends of the Forrests'. As a result of their taking Catherine's side in the disputes which later led to the Forrests' divorce, Willis became involved in a public brawl, and later extended litigation, with her husband. Henry A. Beers, Nathaniel Parker Willis (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin [1885]), pp. 307–321, passim.

6. Mrs. Margaret Sinclair Voorhies, Catherine Forrest's sister. Ibid., p. 308.


666. To Frances F. Bryant

New York, Wednesday March 21, 1849.

Dear Frances.

The saleratus and cream of tartar were not sent last week on account of the weather. They will be sent with the other things tomorrow if the
weather should not be rainy; if it should you must wait till next week. I have ordered two kegs of locust nails which will come out this week.

I was at Fanny's early last evening. They were all well. I called also at Mrs. Robinson's who desired her love to you, and said she must see you this summer, or spring—the latter¹ probably because she wished to come down before you have much company. She is making some researches about St. Augustine and the Minorcan and Greek settlements in Florida, and was extremely interested in what I had to tell her about the Minorcans—the Mahonese, as they call themselves.²

On the outside of today's paper there is an article from the Prairie Farmer concerning churns. Look at it if you please.

We sail this afternoon, at four o'clock. The wind is now south-east, but they say that it is on the point of shifting to a westerly direction. I have told twenty persons that I wished you were going with me; I hope there is no need of my saying it to you. I shall almost think myself in New York, with so many New Yorkers about me, in the steamer; if you were my travelling companion, I might almost think myself at Roslyn since I should have the best part of Roslyn with me.

I have just seen Moses Taylor, who is to give me letters for Cuba.³

Yesterday arrived the letter from Ogdensburg which goes with this. I thought it addressed to me and broke it open before I perceived my mistake.

Farewell—God bless you—

W. C. B.


1. Bryant mistakenly wrote "former."
3. Moses Taylor (1806–1882) was a prosperous New York sugar broker and importer, hence his acquaintance in Cuba. He was later president of the City Bank of New York and a principal investor in the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad and the Atlantic Cable Company.