

Mandarin Hall
2nd Floor 1837 }

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Mr. M. E. D. Brown.

Ithaca.
~~Franklin County~~
New York.

blest if I buy an opportunity to repent, with the
leasure for repentance. Besides you gentlemen, the best
of you, though very good to flirt with I know
you. Washington Irving says "What a pity it is
lovers should ever get married" To my mind,
it is a pity they should ever get engaged. H

1837

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Mandarin Hall
2^d July 1837

Mr. M. E. D. Brown.

Ithaca.
Tompkins
New York.

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you get a Mrs. B. do get one that is am-
iable - I abominate cross women. Don't marry
a mushroom, - get a lady in soul, manners and
education. I should like to be friends with
my sisters that are to be, and if they have not
these good qualities I can't. I hope I speak in seas-
on. Yours Ellen.

Florida Jan^y 31st 1837

My dear Mamma,

Although I scarcely know where to direct to find you, yet I write in hopes some epistle will travel after you until you are found. The last document which we received from you, and which by the way I have found since writing the above sentence, states that you will remain somewhat longer at Athaca. Since the receipt of that, Parine and I have been making a visit to the ancient city of St. Augustine. Parine is there still making Parson Brown a visit. He was very polite to us, and so also were all the good people of said city. I should have liked to stay longer, but cash forbade. Cash reminds me of literature; our book gets on slow, and indeed it is no matter. We cannot get a name, and the easiest and most lucrative way for us, in our present circumstances, is to come out in the newspapers; this we will do the best permitting. Indeed I don't know how literary matters, any other than prizes, are conducted. Pray turn this letter for I should not like the eyes of the vulgar to look upon it. Don't forget or omit. You don't know how we want to see you Mamma, this is a dull place, this Florida. Parson Brown thinks you might get a thousand dollars worth of work

but "to speak the sentiments of my heart." I think
the good parson is very much mistaken, nevertheless
I should like to see you. The people here ^{in Ft. St.} are very
great, very polite, in short very splendid but very
poor. I know poverty, as a physician does a
disease, by the symptoms. As for the country folks
bah! They are made of clay indeed, the idea of
their having a likeness taken is too ridiculous to men-
tion; the idea of their paying for it out of all
calculation. They are the most squalid miser-
able looking creatures in the world, I speak of
the commonality, the others are too few and far
between to be of any consideration; besides labour-
ing under the same affliction as the St. Augustine.

The orange trees were the wealth of Florida - They
are gone: Charles, Aunt Mary, and Aunt Ann, have
got a fine grove set out. Corinn and I have a
finger in the pie too. In three or four years, if
there should not come an extraordinary cold, we
shall have an income from it. Aunt Mary is
going to put up a very pretty house, as soon
as this confounded war is over, and then we
shall do very smart. In the mean time we
must do as we can. How are your eyes?

mine are very bad. Reading is my sweet, divine
amusement, life; and writing must be my money;
yet unless I quit these, they tell me I
can never recover. a hard case, is it not? It
is not quitting for a month, but for years, that
that will do them good, and I myself doubt
if that would be of any avail. They tell me

I am nervous. It may be so, but that does not mend the matter. They were a great deal better after the winter I spent in Phila. but since I have been in Florida they have grown a great deal worse than ever they were before. My health otherwise is perfectly good. I have quit coffee, tea, and meat, and I believe I will also quit grinning. Aunt Molly is entirely recovered and the rest are all well. Charley went on soldiering up to the Indian nation. He was appointed Adjutant, by which he received, and imparted a great deal of satisfaction. We still have Indian alarms, but I believe there is very little fear of them, among those whose business it is get frightened. So you have turned politician. The same makes very little stir in this part of the world. Very little do the folks here care who is in, and who is out of office, the ^{cry} is; "pay us our losses." I hope you will be able to read my document. I have written it very bad, because I have written it very fast. Not because I am in a hurry, but because my thoughts scamper. Are you likely to get the geological satisfaction. I should envy you that above all things. What a confounded shame it is, that, because a poor devil is a woman, she can neither get a chance to improve her mind, nor get money. Get married is all the advice to her, but I won't get married; - those that are worth having are poor, and I'll be