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The Richmond at Sea
July 1826.

My dear Brother,

In the course of a very few days I hope again to tread the American shores: you were among the last of those I most love who witnessed my departure, & you shall be one of the first to be informed of my arrival. The postmark of this letter, should it ever reach you, will give you the date of our landing at New York—should that happiness be ours. We are on board a noble ship, & unless peculiarly unfortunate shall finish our voyage by the 25th or 30th.

I do not recollect the date of my last letter to you, but am inclined to think it was before our departure from the Islands ^{became} ~~last~~ certain. Of that departure, its cause & circumstances, however, it is most probable you have by some means been fully informed—as well as of our safe arrival in England in the beginning of April. Mrs. Stewart was still very ill when we landed from the Faon but improved rapidly from the time of our going on shore at Gravesend: & when we left London, three weeks since, was quite a different creature than now the prospect of enjoying again comfortable, if not, conformed health. It is a blessing we little expected a year since. Indeed every dispensation has been most kind—and we are thus to our country & our friends overshadowed by the goodness & mercy of God.

You can have but an imperfect impression of the state feeling with which we anticipate an approach to our favorite City & the abodes of some of our nearest relatives. The latest intelligence from my part of our family is of two years date - of course there is wide room for anxiety - I cannot but draw back at times in thought of the number & the names of those who may be found wanting in the circles in which I have known much of my earthly happiness - I shall not be surprised if the joy of our return should on this account be mingled with some sorrow.

Our three months residence in England was very delightful. We received much kind attention & made some warm & charming friends. Mrs. Stewart's health obliged me to be confined much to the vicinity of London, but I made some highly gratifying excursions. Two were particularly delightful - one to Windsor & its vicinity & another to Cambridge. I wished exceedingly to visit Ireland, Wales & Scotland, & had a most favorable opportunity of going to France for a week, but could not leave the family a sufficient length of time in succession. I saw nothing, however, that made me desirous of exchanging the name of an American for a Briton or of building my home on the Eastern side of the Atlantic.

I once thought, my beloved B, that I was giving you my last embrace in this world. But I now hope, before many months at farthest, again to give the grasp of that hand which more than ten years ago was pledged to you in a friendship which in my heart has never been surpassed ^{by any other} in faithfulnes & undiminished warmth. I can scarce say what my arrangements after reaching America will be - My plan at present is to go to Boston after spending a week in New York - Consult the wishes of the Board as to my immediate employment for their interest - Return to New York - visit Leese for a week, then move northward - say about the first of September to St. Regis, where it is probable Mr. J. & the children will pass the winter. My present determination is to see you at least as early as October - even should I not be happy enough to meet you out of the boundaries of Troying before that time. Write at least a line immediately to the care of A. L. Stewart Hudson Square - My next will fully inform you of my arrangements for the winter. When you read this - perhaps you will say I have lost some of my enthusiasm & character - general, I mean - but wait till we meet & you will know that I am still the unchanged - the warm & devoted boy you knew me in 1815.

I need not request to be affectionately remem-
bered to your Mother Sister Brother & all who
remember me in your valley - Sitgreaves, Long
& H. Could I meet you all I wish you to

To,
Mr. Butler Esquire
Wilkesbarre
 Luzerne County
Pennsylvania



be my heart would be satisfied - I could draw
a picture of our meeting & of our welcome
in one point that would make me beside
myself with joy. Yours &c. ever

Stewart

I need not request to be affectionately remem-
bered to your mother & sister & brother & all like
them & the one in your valley - all to me, saying
you & I could & must go - all I wish you to

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Chester Butler Esquire
Wilkesbarre
Luzerne County
Pennsylvania



My dear friend, I am glad to hear
in the line of our meeting & your satisfaction
in our bond. That bond made me believe
myself with you. Yours as ever
at heart