



University
of Glasgow

Toutziari, Georgia (2002) *Anna Matilda Whistler's correspondence: An annotated edition*. PhD thesis.

<http://theses.gla.ac.uk/3779/>

Copyright and moral rights for this thesis are retained by the author

A copy can be downloaded for personal non-commercial research or study, without prior permission or charge

This thesis cannot be reproduced or quoted extensively from without first obtaining permission in writing from the Author

The content must not be changed in any way or sold commercially in any format or medium without the formal permission of the Author

When referring to this work, full bibliographic details including the author, title, awarding institution and date of the thesis must be given

**Anna Matilda Whistler's Correspondence –
An Annotated Edition**

A thesis submitted to the Departments of History of Art and History, Faculty of Arts,
University of Glasgow
by Georgia Toutziari for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

August 2002
Vol. II

Religion and Domesticity: Life in America

‘my sweet little hostess has attended to her routine of domestic duties so gracefully, so unobtrusively it seems truly fairy - like, she drives as well as she sews, or makes all sorts of nice things for her table - a pr of brisk beautiful ponies ... Willie ...ought to choose such a wife.’¹

The first half of the nineteenth century in America saw the rise of industry and market capitalism. New means of transportation such as railroads and canals opened up new horizons for trade and economic activity. Market centres developed along railways and fast steamships made cross-Atlantic travel more efficient. The Southern plantation economy grew, boosted by its strong trade ties with Europe, while the North advanced its economy with the manufacture of industrial products. Scientific and technological advancement assisted the growth of commercial agriculture. The new economic systems brought a growing class of professionals: engineers, lawyers, merchants, managers, and factory owners.²

Despite these major changes, white middle-class women’s work was defined in ways similar to those of the past. The newly created professional jobs were for men and not for women.³ As the role of women grew increasingly defined within the arena of home, a ‘Cult of True Womanhood’ emerged, mandating that women remain pious, pure, submissive and domestic.⁴ This essay aims to show how Anna Whistler inhabited a world in which her daily routine, her very sense of self, was determined by her relationship

¹ AMW to JW, 2-5 November 1855, GUL W464.

² Marilyn J. Westerkamp, *Women and Religion in Early America, 1600-1850, The Puritan and Evangelical Traditions*, London and New York, 1999, pp. 131-132; Stuart M. Blumin, *The Emergence of the Middle-Class: Social Experience in the American City, 1760-1900*, Cambridge, 1989.

³ During Colonial times, many American families lived on farms, where the work of both men and women was tied to the land, and where all family members were engaged in work to sustain the household. With the growth of economy, men’s work progressed away from home. In early nineteenth century America, women wage earners were usually domestic servants, laundresses, and seamstresses. Many women worked in industry, but professional labour remained in the hands of men. See Nancy Wolloch, *Women and the American Experience, A Concise History*, New York, 1996, pp. 69-89.

⁴ Historian Barbara Welter analysed the attributes of True Womanhood (by which a woman judged herself and was judged by her husband, her neighbors, and her society), and divided them into four virtues: piety, purity, submissiveness, and domesticity. See Barbara Welter, ‘The Cult of True Womanhood, 1820-1860,’ *American Quarterly*, 1966, vol. 18, pp. 151-174. Also see Nancy F. Cott, *The Bonds of Womanhood: Woman’s Sphere in New England, New Haven, CT, 1977*; Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, ‘The Female World of Love and Ritual: Relationships Between Women in Nineteenth Century America,’ *Signs* I, Autumn 1975; Glenna Matthews, *Just A Housewife*, New York, 1987.

with, and status within, her home and family. Her home was run with neatness, order, and economy and, above all, unquestioned faith in God. The essay will also demonstrate how her identity was moulded by the religious revivals that spread across America in the first half of the nineteenth century.

Anna Whistler's main concerns were domestic. She managed several houses during her life, ensuring that the daily needs of food, clothing, and cleanliness were met, either through her own labour or through supervising servants. She displayed admirable domestic abilities in a large household in Russia with servants, coachmen, and a cook; as well as in houses in the United States, managing with restricted financial means; and in James Whistler's artistic residence in London.⁵

She supervised her servants with great skill and diligence. Anna Whistler was proud of the moral and religious guidance she provided, and endeavored to establish good mistress-servant relationships.⁶ Mary Brennan, of Irish descent, was faithful for some twenty years to Anna Whistler, who reciprocated her feelings. In 1874 Anna Whistler proudly wrote,

‘my good old servant Mary, who altho a very respectable Mrs Bergen residing in New Haven writes me & Signs herself my ‘Servant Mary’ There are not many like her!’⁷

Two years earlier, in 1872, Grace Ellis, writing on ‘Our Household Servants,’ referred to the ‘American help as our grandmothers knew it,’ a girl who was ‘the treasure of the household and beloved by the children and respected by the parents.’⁸ Catherine Beecher and Harriet Beecher Stowe, in *American Woman's Home*, illustrated an earlier time in history, when mistress and maid lived together in a log cabin.⁹ Similarly, Anna Whistler

⁵ See essays *Anna Whistler – A Life*, and *The London Art World*.

⁶ In 1872 Anna Whistler took a motherly interest in the preparations of a wedding cake for her servant Lucy Slater; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 5 and 22 November 1872, GUL W546.

⁷ AMW to Mary Emma Harmar Eastwick, September 1874, LCMS PWC.

⁸ Grace Ellis, ‘Our Household Servants,’ *The Galaxy*, New York, September 1872, vol. 14, p. 352.

⁹ Catherine E. Beecher, and Harriet Beecher Stowe, *The American Woman's Home or, Principles of Domestic Science; Being a Guide to the Formation and Maintenance of Economical, Healthful, Beautiful, Christian Homes*, New York and Boston, 1869, p. 307, ed. Joseph Van Why, Hartford, CT, 1998, p. 307. They provided, in their publications, an analysis of ideas and theories on domestic economy and the role of women in American society.

and Brennan had shared various types of residences, from grand mansions in Russia to rural houses at Pomfret, Connecticut. They formed a close relationship, which was probably difficult to dissolve, as Anna Whistler confessed, 'Mary Brennan is so faithful & so disinterested in her service, while tears flow down her face at the sad inevitable [sic] of an approaching break up!'¹⁰

Historian Faye Dudden writes that 'the hiring of domestic service was crucial to the practice of ... domesticity and the 'true womanhood' so central to nineteenth-century middle-class culture.'¹¹ Anna Whistler was indeed proud of securing good house-servants for herself and her various friends, some of whom believed that good servants were hard to come by.¹² She recommended a black servant, Eliza, to her friends, the Livermores, after having trained her for three years.¹³ By 1857, Mary Brennan ended up in the Barnes' home at Springfield, Massachusetts. Anna Whistler prompted James Whistler in 1866 to offer his servants to Mrs Gellibrand; and she wanted to secure a faithful and able servant for James H. Gamble when he was in need of one.¹⁴ Her son William Whistler asked her to advise him when his servant Hannah misbehaved due to the 'giddy acquaintances she had lately formed,' but Anna Whistler maintained that Hannah could work in a household cheerfully, especially under a 'kind, good Mistress.'¹⁵

Cooking was another important domestic skill for Anna Whistler, who perfected it over the years. Her recipes varied from Reindeer & Neats tongues¹⁶ to pickles and from ginger snaps to roasts and gravies. Potatoes were ordered from Ireland, to ensure the best prices in the market. Tin cases of Boston Oysters and fresh fish were frequently supplied to the

¹⁰ In December 1854, Mary Brennan told Anna Whistler that she wanted to return to her New York family connections; see AMW to JW, 7 December 1854, GUL W442. It is possible that Brennan realized Anna Whistler's financial difficulties, hence her decision to part from her. AMW to JW, 13 February 1855, GUL W447.

¹¹ Faye E. Dudden, *Serving Women, Household Service in Nineteenth-Century America*, Middletown, CT, 1983, p. 2.

¹² See for example AMW to James H. Gamble, 30 September and 2 October 1874, GUL W547.

¹³ See AMW to JW, 16 November 1853, GUL W425, and 23 September 1856, GUL W471.

¹⁴ AMW to Jane Wann, 18 November 1853, GUL W426; AMW to JW, 27 April 1857, GUL W478; AMW to JW, 22 January 1866, GUL W521; AMW to James H. Gamble, 10 / 20 April 1872, GUL W543.

¹⁵ AMW to James H. Gamble, 10 / 20 April 1872, GUL W543. For a thorough analysis on *Household Service in Nineteenth-Century America*, see Dudden, op. cit.

¹⁶ These were bovine animal or cattle tongues, usually salted or smoked. See AMW to JW, [25 December

Whistler household during more prosperous years in Russia. At all times the 'best cooking and the neatest house,' was for Anna Whistler 'what made the nicest housekeeper ever.'¹⁷

A number of inventories in her correspondence give detailed listings of various garments and furniture for which Anna Whistler had to secure safe transport, as economically as possible, and store for long periods when she was travelling. Anna Whistler, who ran her affairs efficiently and diligently, wrote to James Whistler when he was 21 years of age:

'I hope soon to hear of your having recd. the black valise & its contents safely as despatched today 3.ocl PM, it went full. I think 5 shirts. 8 collars 4prs [i.e. pairs] wrist bands. 5 prs stockings 2 silk [hkds] 5 or 6 cambric. 1 pr drawers. 1 sheet. 4 towels. bottle blacking. brush. pr shoes. mended. 3 loaves of bread & some ginger snaps! From the care you take in packing I trust you begin to think it necessary to have a place for every thing & every thing in its place.'¹⁸

Eleven years later she would still instruct him accordingly,

'Your scales from the kitchen might also be useful to her Cook til you need them again only tell your servants their things. Your Turkey & Persian carpets must be shaken & beaten in the y[ar]d then rolled up...'¹⁹

Averse to the temporal vanities of this world, Anna Whistler talked little of her own personal taste in fashion. Her commentary on elegance was limited and seldom expressed in an approving manner,

'Mrs Morgan is the most stylish lady now in the English circle that Mrs Baird has gone for the winter to Italy. How soon the world forgets the warnings God sends for us to live prepared to meet Him!'²⁰

However, when she was distressed from the poverty that resulted from the collapse of her railroad shares in 1855, she admitted, 'I feel my winter bonnet! I see my old gown of two

1848], GUL W375.

¹⁷ AMW to Deborah Delano Haden, 4 August 1863, GUL W515. For Anna Whistler's recipes see Margaret MacDonald, *Whistler's Mother's Cook Book*, London, 1979, 2nd edition; for potatoes supplies see AMW to James H. Gamble, 8 October 1857, GUL W484; for food provisions in Russia see AMW to JW, 1 and 2 November 1848, GUL W366.

¹⁸ AMW to JW, 8 January 1855, GUL W444.

¹⁹ AMW to William McNeill Whistler and JW, 22 January 1866, GUL W521.

²⁰ AMW to JW, 20 October 1848, GUL W365.

summers wear, foxy & thread bare. still I know my respectability did not depend on dress, tho comfort does upon neatness.'²¹

Anna Whistler's correspondence portrays a domestic identity, both in her marital and widowed status.²² Through her control of domestic life at home, she maintained her family's infrastructure, reinforced by her professions of piety. 'Piety and purity' are two of the attributes in Welter's definition of the 'Cult of true womanhood' that qualify Anna Whistler as the archetypal nineteenth-century wife and mother.²³

For the historian Marilyn Westerkamp, piety and purity, constructed in a domestic environment made 'women the ideal choices for motherhood, raising the next generation of virtuous citizens.'²⁴ As Anna Whistler wrote to her son regarding a newly wed relation,

'if she can be firm in principle & piety, her light may guide others to choose the straight road, and God will bless the union if she be the faithful witness for Jesus in her intercourse with the old world.'²⁵

A devout Episcopalian, Anna Whistler was brought up to believe strongly in the Bible, practicing its scriptures on a daily basis (plate 42). Her religious lifestyle, probably modelled after her own mother Martha's example, involved early morning prayer with her children. Anna Whistler wrote in 1851:

'I rise with the sun & get Willie up by 6 oclock, so it is time to cover the nut fire, sum up our account for another day, to our Master in heaven. I need not assure you our best loved absent one, that we each pray for you in private as in the family devotions, but remember dear Jemie, none can work out your sanctification but yourself!'²⁶

To become an early riser was Anna Whistler's wish for James Whistler who, in his youth, apparently adopted a different lifestyle, against his mother's wishes. Anna Whistler instructed him on infinite occasions to rise early for prayers, revealing an emotional temperament endorsed with religious messages, as in the following passage:

²¹ AMW to JW, 24 April [1855], GUL W454.

²² See essay *Anna Whistler - A Life*.

²³ For an analysis of 'Domestic Piety' see Westerkamp, op. cit., pp. 130-154; Welter, op. cit.

²⁴ Westerkamp, *ibid.*, p. 135.

²⁵ AMW to JW, 22 December 1848, 1 and 4 January 1849, W374.

²⁶ AMW to JW, 23 and 24 September 1851, GUL W397.

‘how in the sight of God have you improved the year? I rise before your Reveillée to pray for you! & again anticipate your Taps to ask forgiveness for my thoughtless Sons, imploring that you may commit your soul to your Father in Heaven ere you sleep.’²⁷

For Christian mothers in the nineteenth century, the work of redemption had to begin early and the home became the main arena for religious education.²⁸ As the Rev. Abbott wrote ‘Mothers have as powerful an influence over the welfare of future generations, as all other earthly causes combined.’²⁹ Anna Whistler believed that women were called by God to be good mothers and tried to set her children a good example, writing,

‘Seek first the kingdom of God & His righteousness & all else shall be added to you Mrs Eastwick told me in May with tears of thankfulness to God, of Joe having been Confirmed! Why may I not rejoice of you? Am I not a christian Mother? have I not trained you faithfully?’³⁰

Anna Whistler tried to bestow to her children the Christian doctrine, which contrasted the virtues of heaven with the vices of the world.³¹ She also tried to influence her friends, servants, and even her husband: ‘You will give my annual subscription to the missionary cause I know my own dear Whistler & go to Chapel, as I meant [sic] to have done every Sunday ere we meet in prayer daily God bless you.’³² Since she viewed herself as a Christian mother, she inevitably sought out and identified with other female acquaintances and friends who shared her beliefs, such as Mrs Drake: ‘I become more & more interested in conversation with her. She is such a christian mother.’³³

Marilyn Westerkamp, in examining the notion of pious superiority among white middle class American women, established its qualities as common in the first half of the nineteenth century, deriving mainly from the Evangelical revivals.³⁴ In 1800-1830, during the Second Great Awakening, hundreds of thousands of people joined the evangelical

²⁷ AMW to JW, 29 and 30 May 1854, GUL W434.

²⁸ Jan Lewis, ‘Mother’s Love, The Construction of an Emotion in Nineteenth-Century America,’ Rima D. Apple and Janet Golden, eds., *Mothers & Motherhood, Readings in American History*, Ohio, 1997, p. 54.

²⁹ John S. C. Abbott, *The Mother at Home, or The Principles of Maternal Duty*, Boston, 1834, p. 159.

³⁰ AMW to JW, 27 November 1854, GUL W441. It is not known if JW was ever confirmed.

³¹ See for example AMW to JW, 15 and 16 January 1852, W405.

³² AMW to George W. Whistler, 7 and 10 June 1847, GUL W353.

³³ AMW to James H. Gamble, 20 September 1855, GUL W460.

³⁴ Westerkamp, op. cit., p. 135.

churches in both Britain and United States.³⁵ The revival helped transform attitudes about social behaviour and the role of women. Historian Nancy Woloch wrote that clergymen ‘helped to formulate a new definition of female character. Christian virtues – such as humility, submission, piety, and charity – were now primarily female virtues.’³⁶

British travellers to America had commented on the influence that ministers of all religious sects had on the women in their congregations. As early as 1832, Fanny Trollope remarked, ‘It is from the clergy only that the women of America receive that sort of attention which is so dearly valued by every female heart throughout the world.’³⁷ In his analysis of the Second Great Awakening Movement, historian William McLoughlin defined the position of the revivalists and their hearers. The revivalists must inspire in their hearers a conviction that they are messengers of God. This occurs when the hearers accept the revivalists’ sacred character and respond by feeling the power of God as it emanates from their words. These words become God’s Word, and the emotional experience of acceptance or submission becomes the work of God’s grace.³⁸

Anna Whistler’s words affirm this argument when praising a preacher,

‘... the benefit I have derived in hearing one of the most distinguished preachers of our time, was, the advantage a cultivated & refined mind has in explaining the Scriptures, it is not the poetry of religion, for he is a laborer, & seeks only his Master's glory! but his taste for music, his love of

³⁵ The Evangelical revival, a charitable and religious movement, was under way by the end of the eighteenth century in both Britain and America, but flourished during the first half of the nineteenth century. See Mark Noll, David W. Bebbington, G. A. Rawlyk, eds. *Evangelicalism: Comparative Studies of Popular Protestantism in North America, the British Isles, and Beyond, 1700-1990*, New York, 1994; Richard Carwardine, *Transatlantic Revivalism, Popular Evangelism in Britain and America, 1790-1865*, Westport, CT, 1978. David W. Bebbington, *Evangelicalism in Modern Britain: A History from the 1730s to the 1980s*, London, 1989.

³⁶ The clergy promoted social morals based on patriarchy and family values, justified by reference to the Bible and established religion. Woloch, op. cit., p. 73.

³⁷ Fanny Trollope, *Domestic Manners of the Americans*, London, 1832, Pamela Neville-Sington, ed., London, 1997, p. 60. One reason religion was so highly valued was that it did not take a woman away from her ‘proper sphere,’ her home. Unlike participation in other societies or movements, church work would not make her less domestic or submissive. See Welter, op. cit. p. 116. The clergy was mostly responsible for this. A New England clergyman announced in 1810 sermon: ‘We look to you for the continuance of domestick [sic] purity, for the revival of domestick religion, for the increase of our charities, and the support of what remains of religion in our private habits and publick [sic] institutions.’ Extract of a sermon by the Rev. Joseph Buckminster, quoted in Woloch, op. cit., pp. 73-74.

³⁸ William G. McLoughlin, *Revivals, Awakenings, and Reform, An Essay on Religion and Social Change, 1607-1977*, Chicago, 1978, pp. 102-104.

flowers, his purity & elevation of feeling - gives a poetry to his similies
[sic] making truth charming to all who hear him.^{'39}

Anna Whistler believed that a wife should be at her husband's convenience on his return from work. When she visited Ralph King, a family relation, she was happy to take up his wife's duties, 'now I hear Mr King coming in to dinner I must be at his elbow, as his good little wife ever is when he comes back from his office to enjoy the afternoon, for tho he has his newspaper he likes some one to listen to his remarks upon the public affairs.'⁴⁰ After all her instruction to her son James Whistler was "when you marry, Gods holy word will sustain your right as the 'head of the wife' to lead her to our church!"⁴¹

Anna Whistler and her circle of friends believed the goodness and purity of their actions on this earth would secure them a place in Heaven. The Pophams at Scarsdale, New York were actively involved in their local church, St James the Less (plate 43), having donated land for its construction. In St Petersburg, the Ropes and the Mirrieles, both affluent merchant families, distributed religious tracts and were members of the American Bible Society as early as 1830.⁴² The Perines of Baltimore were a deeply devout family and were financially involved in the building of the Episcopal 'Church of the Redeemer.'⁴³ The Flaggs and Boardmans were family relations whose sons became clergymen. Prof. Roswell Park, the tutor of Anna Whistler's boys and Rector of Christ Church School at Pomfret, Connecticut, established an Episcopal college at Racine, Wisconsin. The Revs. Ellerby in Russia, Olssen in Scarsdale and Robinson at Chelsea, London were frequent visitors in the Whistler household; the Vinton brothers were both professors of ecclesiastical polity and canon law. It is not surprising that Anna Whistler had hopes that

³⁹ AMW to William McNeill Whistler, 27 February 1853, GUL W420.

⁴⁰ AMW to James H. Gamble, 27 August 1867, GUL W529; AMW to JW, 16 March 1849, GUL W385.

⁴¹ AMW to JW, 26 and 27 November [1854], GUL W441. For a discussion on how a middle-class man was seen in Victorian England as the head of a social system or his household, see Leonore Davidoff, 'Class and Gender in Victorian England,' *Sex and Class in Women's History*, Judith L. Newton, Mary P. Ryan and Judith R. Walkowitz, eds., London, 1983, pp. 17-71.

⁴² See essay *Life in Russia*.

⁴³ AMW to James H. Gamble, 17 October [1858], GUL W494.

her obedient son William Whistler would join the ministry. However, in the end he preferred a medical career.⁴⁴

Religious literature was her intellectual pursuit, and periodicals such as the *Christian Watchman* and the *Christian Spectator* were circulated by Anna Whistler amongst her friends and family. She drew on the writings of Thomas Arnold, Charles Wesley, Augustus Toplady, John Newton and John Milton; she studied sermons by Devereux Jarratt, and Christian novels, as well as memoirs and poems by female writers such as Elizabeth Fry, Elizabeth M. Sewell and Julia Carney.⁴⁵ While reading the *Life of Elizabeth Fry* she wrote,

‘I feel with her that expansion of heart which embraces all Christians of every sect, & that by loving one another in Him we prove that we are His true witnesses.’⁴⁶

Anna Whistler’s words were intensely biblical, conveying the sense that she was almost a messenger of God. She regularly cited passages from books of both the Old and New Testament, and she admitted that she adapted the ‘Scriptures to James’ various straits or temptations.’⁴⁷ In addition, her belief in the important benevolent associations dominated mainly by Congregationalists and Presbyterians, such as the Colonization Society (1817), American Bible Society (1816) and Temperance Movement (1826), suggests that her upbringing was most certainly affected by the goals of the Revival.⁴⁸

⁴⁴ See AMW to Margaret Getfield Hill, 8 October 1851, LCMS PWC 34/33-34. Elizabeth Mumford, *Whistler's Mother: The Life of Anna McNeill Whistler*, Boston, 1939, pp. 146, and 167.

⁴⁵ The novels often shared a common theme. For example, both Elizabeth M. Sewell’s, *The Earl’s Daughter*, New York, 1850, and Elizabeth Prentiss’, *Stepping Heavenward*, New York, 1869, were stories about young women who went through mortal struggle to reach the heavenly kingdom. For the periodicals see AMW to JW, 29 and 31 July [1852], GUL W411; AMW to Charles W. McNeill, 10-12 October 1877, GUL W554.⁴⁵ For the writings see AMW to JW, 5 November 1848, GUL W367; 6 August 1851, GUL W394; 3 September 1852, GUL W413; 30 October [1854], GUL W439; AMW to Mary Emma Harmer Eastwick, 8, 9, 23 and 29 September 1874, LCMS PWC 34/65-66 and 77-78. For the sermons see AMW to Catherine J. McNeill, 22 November 1829, GUL W344; for novels, memoirs, and poems see AMW to JW, 8 and 9 January 1849, GUL W377; AMW to Margaret G. Hill, 20 and 21 [September 1850], LCMS PWC 34/19-20, and 24 December 1852, LCMS PWC 34/43-44.

⁴⁶ AMW to JW, 8 and 9 January 1849, GUL W377.

⁴⁷ AMW to JW, 25 June 1855, GUL W459.

⁴⁸ AMW to Catherine J. Cammann, 27 and 28 April 1853, LCMS PWC 34/53-54; AMW to James H. Gamble, 20 June 1861, GUL W508; AMW to JW, 19, 20, 22 and 24 February 1849, GUL W383.

Anna Whistler adopted an unwavering religious attitude throughout her life. She thanked God for both giving her a husband and taking him away: 'I bless God every day of my life for giving me such a husband,' she wrote in 1847.⁴⁹ Two years later, upon his death, she proclaimed 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord! Their works do follow them, yet they have no value, except as evidences of faith in Christ.'⁵⁰ It is clear that Anna Whistler viewed her life as a vehicle for a next stage, in which the actions of today should count for the eternal future. Her belief that temporal life is a mortal struggle was strengthened over time by recurrent traumas of illnesses and death in her family. In a period of 15 years between 1842 and 1857, Anna Whistler lost nearly half her immediate family: a husband, three children, mother, brother, sister, nephews and nieces, and a daughter-in-law. She saw her family disintegrate and her home dislocate. Her financial status deteriorated, making her dependent on family relations. It was a profound struggle to sustain social dignity for herself and 'stability' for her boys both in the financial and social sense. Under these dramatic oscillations of fortune, her faith in Christ grew deeper and stronger.

'May our term spared for repentance be devoted to our duty, but we must not neglect the means of grace, prayer, study of the bible, if we cannot learn more than one verse a day, it is you know the bread of life, manna in the wilderness!'⁵¹

Anna Whistler's duties as she stated frequently herself were domestic and religious. Religion was the central compartment of her domestic shelter; in her own words, she was 'entirely submissive to the will of God.'⁵²

⁴⁹ AMW to George Washington Whistler, 7 and 10 June 1847, GUL W353.

⁵⁰ AMW to Joseph Harrison, 15 July 1849, LCMS PWC 34/35-36.

⁵¹ AMW to JW, 3 March 1852, GUL W407. Anna Whistler's life long preaching must have had a strong impact on James, who used many biblical phrases in his publications and letters; see for example JW to Mathew Robinson Elden, [July/August 1876?], GUL WE58.

⁵² AMW to George Washington Whistler, 20 and 21 June 1848, GUL W354.

System Number: 07627

Date: 11 June 1849

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: London

Recipient: Joseph Harrison²

Place: [St Petersburg³]

Repository: Library of Congress

Call Number: Manuscript Division, Pennell-Whistler Collection, PWC 34/7-10

Document Type: ALS

62 Sloane St

June 11th 1849

I was very much gratified by our friend Mr Ellerby⁴ presenting his respected self & your welcome letter yesterday dear Mr Harrison, tho it was a surprise his following us so soon to London. he was just in time for our dinner & told me of all my friends the hour he spent with us, promising to call again at the end of this week.

I went out with my boys⁵ for a walk on Sat afternoon for the first time since my arrival as I have been on Mr Haden⁶'s list of patients - Mary⁷ told me on my return I had not been out ten minutes when Mrs Law⁸ & her son called. how sorry I felt that they should have come so far without a welcome in [sic] Mrs Haden⁹ & I went directly after breakfast this morning to their lodgings & saw all of them but the Doctor¹⁰, they set out tomorrow for the home of the little motherless grand children a most painful visit & a brief one it will be, they have so many relatives to visit in different parts of England. Mrs L told me it would be long ere they could get to Scotland where they will stay till Oct when they expect to embark for St P in the new steamer Emperor¹¹, they like Capt Knocker¹² so much! I have not heard from Mr Prince¹³ again, but as he promised to let me know of his movements I can conclude he is still waiting the arrival of Mrs Harrison's mother¹⁴. I hope he received & will hand you a small parcel which Mrs Fairbanks¹⁵ sent him at Mr Eastwick¹⁶'s respect, containing the dagereotypes¹⁷, when she forwarded per railway[,] a box to him for Mrs Winans¹⁸ containing the beautiful cloak & hood which Julia W¹⁹ bought for the little idol of that house. I should have written Mrs Leland²⁰ this week but I think she is now on her way to Hull with Annie²¹. they might pass their time at Scarbro [sic] charmingly while Capt K should be discharging. that nice bathing place is so [p. 2] convenient to Hull & they could see York Minster²² on their way as I did two years ago. When I heard Mr Ropes²³ had sent the piano²⁴ by the Hull steamer I was frightened as I had thought with you, it would be better it should come by a sailing vessel direct to London, directed to Charles Hadens²⁵ Esq who being in the custom house would have attended to it for Debo. but we must be patient now & hope the expences will not be doubled thro precipitancy. What have you decided about the boxes which are to be sent to America? I am not competent to advise but think Mr Cruft²⁶ will take a peculiar interest if you have them shipped to him at N York.

George²⁷ had not received a parcel which Mr Van Sassan²⁸ sent for us last autumn, Ben Prince²⁹ knows about it[,] will you ask the fate of the Gulnare³⁰. I have not yet seen Mr Gibson³¹ but shall go soon & often to visit the invalid as I feel my own dearest Whistler would have wished to[.] Mr Francis³² who has been sent to the "Locks & Canals Co³³" from Lowell to England has been to see me, I remember when my husband took him by the hand & he does not forget it his own merit has advanced him, he was entirely overcome when he heard of his best friends death and tells me I shall find scores of gratefully attached & sincere friends of his, who will feel it a privilege to serve me. Oh dear Mr Harrison! is not the inheritance he has left us better than

fortune a good name is imperishable. What a change has devolved upon me to train our two lads to virtues such as their fathers - but I am encouraged for already I see Jemie making exertions to overcome habits of indolence at my bidding he is such an excitable spirit & has no perseverance but I urge him on from time to time daily[.] I shall not faint but labor & pray the blessing of God upon any endeavours. Willie is studying most cheerfully they are both fond of their teacher. I hope by Sept to have them placed at school in their native land.

[p.3] When another fine healthy & beautiful infant³⁴ was sent to cheer the parents for the loss of their Angelic Charlie³⁵, they named him in complement [sic] to their esteemed friend Col Bouttatz³⁶ but in less than fifteen months this bud of promise was nipped & they bowed in un murmuring submission to the will of God. The process of preparing their hearts for His summons to appear in His awful presence has been in the chamber of sickness and since their aim has been to live to the glory of God, they have not sorrowed as those without hope, they knew not why the strokes were in such rapid succession, but they knew Gods purposes were in mercy not in wrath, for He doth not willingly afflict, or unnecessarily try the children of men. Infinite Wisdom cannot err - and what are the sufferings of this transitory life, compared to the joys of Eternity!

Major Whistler's bodily sufferings after his attack of cholera last Nov increased gradually until the last five weeks, when they became intense but his patience & entire submission to God shewed his mind still rigorous, even in death his intellectual powers were triumphant, his confidence was in his Redeemers power over the grave! May all the praise be rendered to our Lord in whose merits he trusted! And may all who read this testimony, profit by the warning to be ready as was the subject of these few notes, for the summons to die shall to many be as sudden!

The day on which the [p. 4] family of Major Whistler - so reduced in numbers bade adieu to St Petersburg to return to their native land the widow & the fatherless! It was the 7 - 19th of May and the 49th anniversary of his birth day. This struck the mourners with redoubled grief as they parted from a circle of sympathising friends[,] sacred associations with their sojourn in St P will ever connect them with Russia

May 1849

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. Joseph Harrison (1810-1874), partner in the firm of Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in the firm of Harrison, Winans and Eastwick.
3. Joseph Harrison remained in Russia during the summer of 1849; see AMW's letter to him on 19 June 1849, #07629.
4. Rev. Thomas Ellerby, clergyman, in charge of the British and American Chapel at St Petersburg.
5. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist, and William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
6. Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), surgeon and etcher, JW's brother-in-law.
7. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
8. Mrs Law, wife of Dr Law.

9. Probably Emma Haden, née Harrison, mother of JW's brother-in-law, F. S. Haden.
10. Dr Law, a Scottish physician at St Petersburg.
11. Probably Steamer *Emperor* (1849), Earle's Shipping Co. (1,256 tons.).
12. Captain William Knocker, sea captain; see AMW to JW, 15, 16, and 18 September 1848, #06363.
13. Probably Frederick ('Fred') Prince.
14. Sarah Poulterer, Sarah Harrison's mother.
15. Mrs Fairbanks, wife of Fairbanks.
16. Andrew McCalla Eastwick (1810-1879), partner in Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in Harrison, Winans and Eastwick in St. Petersburg.
17. Daguerreotypes, untraced. Photographic process invented by Louis Jacques Mandé Daguerre (1789-1851), inventor. The process involves sensitising silver with iodine in order to produce an image; see AMW to Sarah Harrison, 20 June [1849], #07632.
18. Julia de Kay Winans (d. 1850), née de Kay, wife of Ross Winans.
19. Julia de Kay Whistler (1825-1875), née Winans, JW's sister-in-law.
20. Mrs Leland, Joseph Harrison's sister.
21. Annie Harrison (1839-1915), daughter of S. and J. Harrison.
22. Maybe the largest gothic cathedral in Northern Europe. Its construction as we now know it, started in c. 1220 and went on almost continuously for two hundred and fifty years. See G. E. Aylmer and Reginald Cant, eds., *A History Of York Minster*, Oxford, 1977.
23. William Hooper Ropes (1811-1891), merchant.
24. The piano belonged to George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father. He played also the flute. AMW shipped the piano to England, to her step daughter Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister, who was the only one to inherit her father's musical talent. See Richard Dorment, and Margaret F. MacDonald, *James McNeill Whistler*, London, 1994, p. 72; see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 25 June 1849, #07633.
25. Charles Sydenham Haden, merchant, brother of F. S. Haden.
26. Probably William Smith Cruft of New Bold & Cruft, 4 Broadway, New York; see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 25 June 1849, #07633.
27. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
28. Van Sassan; unidentified.
29. Ben Prince, a friend of AMW, of St Petersburg.
30. Probably *Gulane*, an Irish emigrant ship; see David Dobson, *Ships from Ireland to Early America, 1623-1850*, Baltimore, 1999, p. 64.
31. Gibson; unidentified.
32. James Bicheno Francis (1815-1892), engineer.
33. In 1835 at Lowell, MA, George W. Whistler had directed the building of a machine shop's first locomotive; the shop was owned by the Locks and Canal Company. He took apart an English locomotive imported from the Stephenson works at Newcastle to learn how it was

constructed. From the components, Whistler fabricated patterns from which the shop manufactured its own locomotive - one of New England's earliest. Three years later the shop had turned out 32 locomotives. James B. Francis took charge of the machine shop in 1837.

34. John Bouttatz Whistler (1845-1846), JW's brother.
35. Charles Donald Whistler (1841-1843), JW's brother.
36. Major Ivan Frantsovich Bouttatz of the Russian Army.

System Number: 07629

Date: 19 June 1849

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: London

Recipient: Joseph Harrison²

Place: [St Petersburg]

Repository: Library of Congress

Call Number: Manuscript Division, Pennell-Whistler Collection, PWC 34/15-18

Document Type: ALS

62 Sloane St

June 19th 1849

Dear Mr Harrison

A fortnight from today tuesday, if God will we are to bid adieu to my daughter³, but the pain of this will be prevented by her going with us to Preston[,] Nurse & dear baby⁴ too of course, duty reconciles Mr Haden⁵ to the prospect of a deserted home for a month, as it is the busiest season he must remain in town, but the health of his wife demands a change for her, & she is made willing to leave him by going with me. I feel the most tender solicitude for her & to cheer her is strong motive for my exertions, at least to avoid casting a gloom over the family circle! My efforts will never cease during my earthly existence I feel, for how many loved claimants there are wherever I go upon my tenderness! I write you now my kind & sincere friend to consult about a subject which is much upon my mind. do not delay your response to my question, for it may govern my movement in a great manner, to know when the precious remains of my beloved husband⁶ are to be sent to N York. Oh how it would pain me to be absent when friends attend them to the private consecrated spit [p. 2] where the graves of our sainted boys⁷ are! none but sincere mourners will meet there to hear the resurrection & the life proclaimed, & to weep as our Lord by His example permits mourners to do. And oh the chief mourners should not be absent! I have thought lately of the many calls which would press upon me immediately upon my return to my native land, of the claims of the living necessarily as most irresistible! our aged mother⁸ weighted down by sorrow for my loneliness! touching my heart, and nature asking me to bear her burthen in becoming her prop & comforter. Sister & brother⁹ pressing their claim for my giving them a brief time after six years absence! numerous relatives sympathising with me & each to be objects of my regard & attention

But ere I become ^{engaged} in my worldly affairs, incident to establishing my future home & placing my boys¹⁰ at school - I would that it might be so ordered that the most sacred & last duties to their fathers body might be fulfilled, by the widow & the fatherless with devoted & undivided interest in so solemn a rite. Probably dear Mr Harrison you will have already shipped that body

so precious to us all! write me then, when it may probably be received in N York. Have you written his friend J. S. Maxwell¹¹ [p. 3] to advise him by what ship to expect it? Oh do so! if it has not occurred to you, Maxwell would take it to Stonington & have it deposited in the church until I could arrive & then relatives & friends such as himself would meet me for the funeral - it would be an injury to Jemie & Willie were they prevented being present at it, they need all the solemnities, to impress up on their minds the reality of their loss. so unreflecting is youth! I feel that now Mrs Haden is going with me to Preston it will not be my duty to linger in England as long as I at first agreed to do & it has occurred to me lately that perhaps I ought to go in a sailing packet from LPool to N York to save expense. there will be four of us you know, & my boys full price probably. but this I shall decide upon going to Liverpool which will be about the third week in July. I shall see the ships & hear the prospect of the length of the voyage, & if by embarking the end of July I may hope to reach N York almost as soon as the 2nd Steamer in August (which is that for N Y[]) - I shall not hesitate unless you advise me to take the last steamer in July in consideration of the portable arrival of my husbands remains. I shall feel very restless until I reach my destination when there are so many unfulfilled duties awaiting me. What a detainment to James & Willies [p. 4] improvement of time this lingering by the way!

they will continue tho this month their daily attendance at the clergymans class, then after a week or two at Preston they may take a trip to Edinburg via Glasgow, to visit kind Miss Morgan¹² at the former city & our favorite Eliza Sandland¹³ at the latter town, she is to be married day after tomorrow, & her home will be in Glasgow. Mary¹⁴ is to visit her friends in Ireland while I am in Liverpool the week previous to our embarking for N York, she says she shall value her home with me in America more than ever! she is in very good health, and as her department has been house maid & waiter she is accustomed to her future routine in a more retired sphere, We have had my young friend Sarah Mirrieles¹⁵ as our guest since last Saturday she has left us for Sheffield this morning Mrs M and party left the Euston Station just before Sarah - on their route via LPool to Scotland.

A letter from Mr Prince¹⁶ just received offers his services as bearer of despatches for me to St P. I have wished to send Mrs H¹⁷ one of Mrs Sandlands kind letters¹⁸ to read & shall enclose it in note to Leeds tomorrow I am always yearning to hear from you all! and hope Mrs Ellerby¹⁹ will add her mite for my benefit. I heard of Mr E²⁰ on sunday. Sarah M & my boys met him at the afternoon service at Westminster Abbey.

[p. 5] I am so grateful to you dear Mr Harrison for your offer to advance thousands for George²¹ as tho he had actually availed of your generosity because I know how sincere was your offer & that if ever in your power to serve him it will be a gratification to you to do so in any way really to benefit him & consistent with your duty to your own children but you will rejoice with us, if George may by his own talent improve the present opening to his continued prosperity[,] his dear father always shrunk from debt, & oh may it ever be that with his sons! As to obligations to you for services & sympathy in our great calamity, they are gratefully acknowledged & may never be cancelled, but pecuniary debts, your own sense of what is right, are not so lightly [borne], & seldom cement friendships. I know not what either Capt Swift²² or George will write you in answer to your generous proposal - but you will I am sure feel as I do that George will be wisest to be frugal & steadily to pursue the beaten track of engineering & by his own industry win the confidence of the practice. Jemie talked of writing to you for me enclose, but he is I lament to say usually behind hand. A scrawl from Willie I have now on my desk, if I did not find this blotting [p. 6] paper very difficult to write well upon I should pass sentence against his miserable calligraphy. I hope when we are settled we shall all be less excited & improve our ways. Love to all your children & to Mrs Leland²³. I hope if she is at home she will not forget her promise to write me sometimes. My love to Miss Schofield²⁴ & let me cherish the idea that I am

remembered with affection up stairs & down stairs, tell Alicia²⁵ that my little Annie²⁶ shews me that she knows me & is fond of being with me by putting out her arms to come to Grandmamma & by never crying when I have her with me.

I know not whether Mr & Mrs Eastwick²⁷ are now travelling on the continent, or if their engagements may meet mine & make us fellow voyagers across the Atlantic! neither do I know how to direct to them, will you address your next to care of Jn. Winstanley²⁸ Esq Preston - Lancashire. I hear from my Sisters²⁹ frequently they always beg to be remembered kindly to Mrs Harrison. How is doctor Rogers³⁰? please offer my regards to him, if he asks after my health, tell him I am better than when I arrived, but not well. Mr & Mrs Haden unite with me in acknowledgment of the dear doctors goodness, & of yours, our true friend. I am casting all true care of our furniture upon you, but [p. 7] you know how unavailing it would be were I to take it on myself, now & then a trifle or so crosses my mind, such as the thermometers might be sent as well as left. And if you care not for the Stilton cheese, it might be a rarity for me to offer such a guest as Genl Swift³¹ - but if it is valuable to you forget I have mentioned it & believe in my confidence & esteem & gratitude - Nothing further of the boxes which were sent to Hull by City of Aberdeen³², but all in good time I suppose! Mr Charles Haden³³ whose office is 77 Lower Thames St. City of London, says he could have saved much expense had they been consigned to him. Hoping soon to hear from you & with remembrance to Mr & Mrs Winans³⁴

I am very truly your friend

A. M. Whistler

Tuesday 19th

[p. 8]

The Steamer which arrived last week brought more letters from Capt Swift & George to make my heart comparatively happy & thankful towards the Almighty for such seasonable proofs of His providing care of us. You will probably have heard that George has a new appointment which will enable him to support himself & wife, he is to be on the Erie rail road³⁵, early next month, he leaves Baltimore, the city of New York to be his head quarters, tho upon \$1200 I suppose he can scarcely keep house & as he must be often at the western part of the State of New York he may take his wife³⁶ with him sometimes & sometimes leave her in New Haven under my wing if I settle there, I wrote Mrs Ingersoll³⁷ by last Saturdays steamer to consult with herself & Mrs S³⁸ as to the advantages of that place for our location

From my kind brother Capt Swift for so he encourages me to consider him - I learn that my income will be³⁹ about \$1500 a year, this you know with economy, will support my small & retired establishment with comfort. I feel that more would have been disadvantageous to us, I committed my affairs to the Lord & He has provided wisely for me, praise be rendered to him who has also raised up so many true friends to the widow & the fatherless[.] this⁴⁰ is the 3rd letter I have sent [not pd?] to you. do you get them as regularly? Remember me to Ben Prince⁴¹ & to Mr [Riegith?] how are the [Pratcha?] & faithful Dvornic⁴²

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. Joseph Harrison (1810-1874), partner in the firm of Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in the firm of Harrison, Winans and Eastwick.
3. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.

4. Annie Harriet Haden (1848-1937), later Mrs Charles Thynne, JW's niece.
5. F. S. Haden, his wife Deborah (JW's half-sister), and their children Annie Harriet (1848-1937), Francis Seymour Haden (1850-1918), Arthur Charles Haden (1852-1910) and Harry Lee Haden (b. 1855).
6. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father. His remains did not arrive in the US until the end of August 1849; see AMW to Sarah Harrison, 20 June 1849, #07632, and AMW to Joseph Harrison, 13 August 1849, #07637.
7. John Bouttatz Whistler (1845-1846), born and died in St Petersburg, Kirk Boot Whistler (1838-1841), and Charles Donald Whistler (1841-1843), JW's brothers.
8. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
9. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt, and William Gibbs McNeill (1800-1853), railway engineer, JW's uncle.
10. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist, and William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
11. John S. Maxwell, secretary of the American Legation in St Petersburg in 1842; he was a close friend of AMW's husband.
12. Isabella Morgan (d. 1857), a friend of AMW. According to the 1851 census of Edinburgh she was unmarried, thirty six years old, born at St Petersburg.
13. Eliza Sandland (b. 1821), wife of Thomas Boyd. Eliza married Thomas Boyd on 21 June 1849, at Barony, Lanark, Scotland.
14. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
15. Sarah Jane Mirrieles (b. 1830), wife of L. Cazalet.
16. Probably George Prince, engineer.
17. Sarah Harrison (1817-1906), née Poulterer, wife of Joseph Harrison.
18. See Mrs Betsey Sandland's of Liverpool, friend of AMW, letter to AMW, 27 April 1845, #07628.
19. Mrs Ellerby, wife of Rev. T. Ellerby.
20. Rev. Thomas Ellerby, clergyman, in charge of the British and American Chapel at St Petersburg.
21. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
22. Captain William Henry Swift (1800-1879), brother-in-law of JW's father.
23. Mrs Leland; Joseph Harrison's sister.
24. Miss Schofield, friend of AMW.
25. Alicia McNeill Harrison (b. 1845), daughter of S. and J. Harrison.
26. Annie Harriet Haden (1848-1937), later Mrs Charles Thynne, JW's niece.
27. Andrew McCalla Eastwick (1810-1879), partner in Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in Harrison, Winans and Eastwick in St. Petersburg, and his wife Lydia Anne Eastwick (1810-1890), née James.

28. The house of John Winstanley (1776-1859), solicitor, JW's uncle and Eliza Isabella Winstanley (1788-1857), née McNeill, JW's aunt, his mother's half-sister.
29. Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), JW's aunt, and Eliza Isabella Winstanley (1788-1857), née McNeill, JW's aunt, his mother's half-sister.
30. Dr Rogers, AMW's family doctor at St Petersburg..
31. General Joseph Gardner Swift (1783-1865), first graduate of USMA, West Point, NY, chief engineer of US Army, JW's father's brother-in-law.
32. Steamer *City of Aberdeen* (1835-1858), Aberdeen & London Steam Navigation Co; see Graaeme Somner, *The Aberdeen Steam Navigation Company Ltd*, Kent, 2000.
33. Charles Sydenham Haden, merchant, brother of F. S. Haden; see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 25 June 1849, #07633.
34. Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector, and his wife Celeste Winans (1823-1861), née Revillon.
35. The Erie Railroad was built as a link between the Hudson River and Lake Erie, that is between the Atlantic Ocean and the Great Lakes. The Erie was America's first real trunk railroad, and it was opened to the public for a first time on 14 May 1851. See George H. Douglas, *All Aboard, The Railroad in American Life*, New York, 1992, p. 38.
36. Mary Ann Whistler (ca 1826-1852), née Ducatel, JW's sister-in-law.
37. Margaret Ingersoll, née Van den Heuvel, wife of R. I. Ingersoll.
38. Probably Hannah Worthington Swift (m. 1844), née Howard, wife of William H. Swift.
39. AMW had an semi-annual income inherited from the estate of George W. Whistler, deriving mainly from Railroad stocks; her share was \$8000 and came from the following railroads: United States, Philadelphia Wilmington and Baltimore, Albany City Western, and Boston and Providence. See *Estate of Whistler George W., St Petersburg, Russia, 1850*, no. 4350, Connecticut State Library (formerly of Pomfret), G. 16. Captain Swift seems to have handled AMW's financial affairs for a long period of time after her return from Russia.
40. 'this ... regularly' written in the left margin; 'Remember ... Dvannie' continues in the right margin.
41. Ben Prince, a friend of AMW, of St Petersburg.
42. A colloquial term for servant; it derived from 'Dvornik,' yard-man; see AMW to JW, 21 November 1848, #06372.

System Number: 07632

Date: 20 June [1849¹]

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: London

Recipient: Sarah Harrison³

Place: [Alexandroffsky⁴]

Repository: Library of Congress

Call Number: Manuscript Division, Pennell-Whistler Collection, PWC 34/21-23

Document Type: ALS⁵

62 Sloane St

June 20th

All in good time I expect my dear Mrs Harrison you will more than repay me for my hurried scrawls by sending me details of the up stairs & down stairs, which will be so interesting to me! perhaps dear Mrs Leland & Annie⁶ are among the group in the garden today! if so "Aunty Maria⁷" & Miss Schofield⁸ will add their notes upon the Summer scenes at the New Works. I used to think in my yearnings to return to my native land when the future looked most enticing there that I should leave Russia without one lingering look, but ah I did not know how sacred would become my association with it! now I feel an intense interest in the dear circle I have left & shall as long as I breathe.

[p. 2] So all my friends remember me. I hope ere you receive this Mr Harrison⁹ may one I sent yesterday via Hamburg mail & I desire to have his reply as soon as possible, in case of mischances, I will mention now - its subject was the precious remains¹⁰ which I continually think of as still in the vaults of the church. I would be in N York to receive them, or at least have them deposited in the Stonington church¹¹ vault until myself & boys¹² could reach there to be present at the burial¹³. I shall make up my mind when I go to LPool about the middle of July whether to take passage in a sailing packet or Steamer for N York - and shall be grateful for Mr Harrisons advice as to the propriety of either. It is decided that my dear daughter, her babe¹⁴, & nurse accompany me on the visit to Preston[,] this enables me to leave London sooner & by this day fortnight we shall be back at Uncle Winstanleys¹⁵ if God will. My kind Sister Alicia¹⁶ offers to accompany my boys to Scotland for a week & to meet me in LPool with [p. 3] them a week before we must embark. I felt, upon reading the first letters, Mrs Sandlands & Eliza¹⁷ addressed to me, a wish that you should know how truly they appreciate your husbands worth, & now enclose them, you need not return them. as I have had several since. Has your mother¹⁸ arrived? Mr Prince¹⁹ is taking the pretty hood & cloak for Mrs Winans baby²⁰ from Aunt Julia²¹, dagereotypes²² from Mrs Eastwick²³ & Willie & a small parcel from me to Miss Schofield really for her little cousins[,] I hope to see Mr Ellerby²⁴ ere he leaves town

And now having others to write to I only add love to your circle, tell me about each of your children when you write, & think of me as

your attached & grateful friend

Anna M Whistler

I conclude Mr Ingersoll²⁵ must have started for London - Mr Bagby²⁶ is in town, but that's all I 've heard

Envelope:

Mrs Harrison
 Alexandroffsky
 Attention of
 Mr Prince

Tell²⁷ Christina²⁸, her pet Willie is well & Jemie grown up in comparison. Mary²⁹ does not forget her & I shall always feel interested in all our good servants of Dom Ritter³⁰. I hope you like her

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to George Washington Whistler's death on 7 April 1849, and the transfer of his remains (see below).
2. Anna Whistler (d. 1826), née Bishop, JW's paternal grandmother.
3. Sarah Harrison (1817-1906), née Poulterer, wife of Joseph Harrison.
4. GWW's coffin; see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 19 June 1849, #07629, and 13 August 1849, #07637.
5. Name of the firm and house owned by Harrison, Winans and Eastwick; see AMW to JW, 15, 16 and 18 September 1848, #06363.
6. There are the remains of a black wax seal.
7. Mrs Leland, Joseph Harrison's sister, and Annie Harrison (1839-1915), daughter of S. and J. Harrison.
8. Probably Marie Olga Harrison (b. 1847), daughter of S. and J. Harrison.
9. Miss Schofield, friend of AMW.
10. Joseph Harrison (1810-1874), partner in the firm of Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in the firm of Harrison, Winans and Eastwick.
11. Stonington Cavalry Church.
12. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist, and William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
13. The burial of George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
14. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister, and her daughter Annie Harriet Haden (1848-1937), later Mrs Charles Thynne, JW's niece.
15. John Winstanley (1776-1859), solicitor, JW's uncle; he lived at Preston, Lancashire.
16. Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), JW's aunt.
17. Betsey Sandland of Liverpool, friend of AMW, and her daughter Eliza, wife of Thomas Boyd (b. 1821).
18. Sarah Poulterer, Sarah Harrison's mother.
19. Probably George Prince, engineer.
20. Celeste Winans (1823-1861), née Revillon, wife of Thomas De Kay Winans, and their son George Winans.

21. Julia de Kay Whistler (1825-1875), née Winans, JW's sister-in-law.
22. Daguerreotypes, untraced; see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 11 June 1849, #07627.
23. Lydia Anne Eastwick (1810-1890), née James, wife of Andrew M. Eastwick.
24. Rev. Thomas Ellerby, clergyman, in charge of the British and American Chapel at St Petersburg.
25. Colin Macrae Ingersoll (1819-1903), secretary of the American Legation at St Petersburg.
26. Arthur Bagby (1794-1858), senator and US minister in Russia from 1848-1849; he had resigned on 14 May 1849.
27. 'Tell ... her' written on inside flap of envelope.
28. Christina, AMW's servant at St Petersburg.
29. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
30. AMW's residence in St Petersburg, situated across the river from the Academy of Fine Arts.

System Number: 07633

Date: 25 June 1849

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: London

Recipient: Joseph Harrison²

Place: St Petersburg

Repository: Library of Congress

Call Number: Manuscript Division, Pennell-Whistler Collection, PWC 34/25-27

Document Type: ALS

Monday June 25

My dear Mr Harrison

By my letter to you on the subject of most sacred attention³ which went by last tuesdays Hamburg mail you will have been made aware how interesting the information contained in yours of the 10th would prove to me. I should send this via Hamburg tomorrow. As in the every day occurrences of my chequered life I am habituated to see the Invisible hand which numbers even the hairs of our heads - so upon the most trifling questions I pray for the direction of that over ruling Power. I hope not by my own blindness to stumble. My conviction is that both delays & expense will be increased by shipping the furniture boxes to Boston, and surely these must be so very small an item in the freighting Mr Rope's⁴ ship that it will be no further importance to him, than, thro his wish to serve us. had Capt Leach⁵ been bound for N York I am sure he would have made it to my advantage to entrust all to him, but ask himself - he is one to be relied on - if it must not greatly increase the expense to forward those heavy boxes from Boston to New York - We have no privilege [sic] on any rail road now - nor would I incur obligations if any were extended to us - You will have been informed that my Son Georges⁶ head quarters is to be the city of New York, I should embark for that post & it will be easiest for me to have my furniture sent directly to N Haven from there. And you see dear Mr Harrison Georges being on the spot will be a great advantage.

[p. 2] Entre-nous the boxes sent last summer by Joseph Rope's⁷ advice thro their house did not reach us till New Year, it was you know a very vexatious & unfriendly delay. I know that my dearest & best adviser would never again have had me send any article thro these friends. let business be transacted as a business affair, then we can pay just demands & there will be no fancied obligation on either side. And another warning to us (if I am not hasty in coming to conclusions) is the Piano⁸ &c sent by Mr Ropes via Hull instead direct to London. We have heard twice from Gee & Co⁹ about those cases, but not any notice yet to expect them[.] I begged Mr Fairbanks¹⁰ to answer the last letter in which he had send me a drawn up paper to sign before a magistrate, to let Gee & Co know I was too ill to exert my self to go thro such a form, besides the expense it would have involved was more than the few books were worth for it only referred to them. Mrs Haden¹¹ wrote about the value of the piano as required - And Mr Fairbanks offered to write Gee a private friendly letter to enlist his efforts to get the articles passed & forwarded with as little additional expense as possible. Had they come direct to London by a sailing vessel, as you intended dear Mr Harrison, they would have been here sooner & at far less expense.

I really cannot afford to gratify all Mr Ropes notions, and you know dear Mr Harrison I shall have no time to lose upon reaching my native land in furnishing a home for my boys¹² who must begin school as soon as they possibly may - so if Van Sassan¹³ has a good ship offering direct to N York my wish is that our boxes may be consigned to New Bold & Cruft [¹⁴p. 3] I think dear Mr Harrison when you explain to Mr Ropes that New York & not Boston is to be our rendezvous he will at once see it will be to my advantage that my furniture shall go by ship direct there - be firm, for it will place me in a painful predicament to tax my friends in any way. Oh I do hope this may be in time for you to arrange for me as I desire.

And now about the Dagereotypes¹⁵, it is rather "a singular coincidence" that Mrs Haden should have surprised me with the best miniature of herself I ever saw on Friday last, taken by this very artist Mr Kilburn¹⁶, it was I assure you quite a triumph to Jemie when your letter informed us of his being an American for his brother Seymour¹⁷ had been lauding the improvement in this art as exhibited by this very interesting man whom he thought was, his own country man. Mr Haden¹⁸ will take me, as you so flatteringly wish it & my boys too before we leave London - and we look forward to seeing Mrs Leland¹⁹ in Lancashire. If Jemie does not write you here he will there as I have heard him speak of much he had to tell you - this will be the last week of study till we get on the Atlantic. I have given this afternoon to my boys to go with Miss Maingay²⁰, who is spending a few days with us - to the National Gallery, where James portrait taken by Boxall²¹ has place. Doctor Haden proposes my taking a drive with himself, now, so I must hold myself in readiness, tho I feel more like resting. I shall draw upon Baring & Co²² for the whole amount as you advise dear Mr Harrison. When I go to Liverpool I shall decide whether to go by [p. 4] sail or steam, the only temptation to avail of the latter is to reach my haven quickly, for besides scunnering the sailing packet would be best for my boys on many accounts - more room - fewer luxuries & less distraction from their books - but 300 steerage passengers would be disagreeable - so I cannot decide till I reach LPool. Did I remind you of the several thermometers at the windows to be sent, I shall value them from association with happier seasons. I understood from Mrs Ropes²³ that Mr Duval²⁴ has taken our front rooms²⁵, but perhaps not yet in possession. My own room her husband offers 100 rubles per ann for - Mr Duval would have given us that rent for our Dvornics²⁶ room, so of course they will not come to terms. Yet I should like to fancy dear Mrs R occupying it as a boudoir surrounded by her children.

I hope you will tell me in your next that you have heard from Capt Swift²⁷[.] in his [letter] to me dated 26th of May he says "a letter came from Mr Bliss²⁸ conveying the intelligence which was soon after confirmed by the more exact & feeling letter of Mr Harrison[.] since my return home within few days I have yours my dear Sister with two others from Mr Harrison[.] George will

write you to thank you I am sure for all you are doing for us & all you would have done for him, but I am sure you will be thankful for his sake that he is now in a fair way of reaching a competent support, by a gradual rise thro his own perseverance in his profession. It must be very pleasant for him on the Erie rail road ²⁹ because the other Engineers are his cousins & have known him from childhood. You are always so ready to gratify me that delicacy ought to guard against my taking advantage of your generosity, so use the freedom to decline if inconvenient, but I have a strong desire³⁰ that one of the Rocking chairs such as Count³¹ Hadens should surprise Debo from her country men at the New Works. Say this to Mr Winans³² with my regards & think of me tho encroaching grateful

your obliged

AMW

Mr Charles Hadens³³ address is 77 Lower Thames St. City. London

Envelope:

via Hamburg & Stettin

Joseph Harrison Esq
Harrison Winans & Eastwick
St Petersburg

Charles³⁴ Haden Esq. 77 Lower Thames St City. London

[Postmark:] BO / 26 JU 26 / 1849 HAMBURG

AMW³⁵ SLOANE ST NO

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. Joseph Harrison (1810-1874), partner in the firm of Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in the firm of Harrison, Winans and Eastwick.
3. The transportation of their St Petersburg household furniture and the coffin of George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father; see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 19 June 1849, #07629, and 13 August 1849, #07637.
4. William Hooper Ropes (1811-1891), merchant.
5. Captain Leach; unidentified.
6. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
7. Joseph Samuel Ropes, merchant.
8. The family piano was shipped to England, and kept by Deborah Haden (see below), while the rest of AMW's household furniture was shipped to America; see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 11 June 1849, #07627.
9. Shipping company of Hull.
10. Fairbanks, merchant.
11. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.

12. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist, and William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
13. Van Sassan; unidentified.
14. New Bold & Cruft (Cleayton Newbold & William Smith Cruft), 4 Broadway; see *Doggett's New York City Patrnership Directory, 1849-50*, New York, p. 33.
15. Daguerreotypes, untraced; see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 11 June 1849, #07627.
16. William Edward Kilburn, daguerreotype and portrait photographer.
17. Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), surgeon and etcher, JW's brother-in-law.
18. Charles Sydenham Haden, merchant, brother of F. S. Haden.
19. Mrs Leland, Joseph Harrison's sister.
20. Emma Elizabeth Maingay (1826-1904), a friend of AMW, of St Petersburg.
21. William Boxall (1800-1879), portrait painter and director of the National Gallery. Boxall painted a portrait of JW in 1848, exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1849; see Denker, Eric, *In Pursuit of the Butterfly*, Seattle, 1995, p. 24.
22. Baring Brothers and Co.
23. Ellen Harriet Ropes, née Hall, wife of William H. Ropes.
24. Duval; unidentified.
25. The rooms at Dom Ritter, AMW's residence in St Petersburg, situated across the river from the Academy of Fine Arts.
26. A colloquial term for servant; it derived from 'Dvornik,' yard-man; see AMW to JW, 21 November 1848, #06372.
27. Captain William Henry Swift (1800-1879), brother-in-law of JW's father.
28. W. Bliss; unidentified.
29. Erie Railroad was built as a link between the Hudson River and Lake Erie that is between the Atlantic Ocean and the Great Lakes. It was America's first real trunk railroad, and it was opened to the public for a first time on 14 May 1851. See George H. Douglas, *All Aboard, The Railroad in American Life*, New York, 1992, p. 38. George W. Whistler was superintendent of the Erie, and New York and New Haven railroads.
30. 'desire ... AMW' continues in the left and upper margins of p.1; 'Mr ... Petersburg' continues in the right margin; 'Charles ... London' written on inside flap of envelope.
31. AMW seems to mean Charles S. Haden (see below); he never acquired the title of Count.
32. Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector.
33. Charles Sydenham Haden, merchant, brother of F. S. Haden; the *PO London Directory*, 1851, p. 362, listed Charles Haden as follows: 77 Lower Thames St, Haden Chas, custom house & ship agent.
34. 'Charles ... London' written on the outside flap of envelope.
35. 'AMW' black wax seal with monogram; 'SLOANE ... NO,' printed on frontal part of envelope.

System Number: 07634

Date: 7 July 1849

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Preston

Recipient: Joseph Harrison²

Place: St Petersburg

Repository: Library of Congress

Call Number: Manuscript Division, Pennell-Whistler Collection, PWC 34/29-34

Document Type: ALS

Preston

Saturday evening
July 7th 1849

Dear Mr Harrison

I shall enclose this to Mr Gellibrand³ at Leeds, as he is to embark on tuesday next to return to his Russian home, and as he promised to hand you our Dagereotypes. I thought it safest to secure their reaching you[.] he called to bid us good bye the night previous to our leaving Sloane St⁴. tho I still hope to meet your dear Sister & your children⁵ in Lancashire.

yet we may miss each other! I am sure you will think the miniatures of my boys worth 30 shillings each, but mine at the extravagant cost of two guineas, is rather a failure. Kilburn⁶ has a great run of custom he does not confess to being an American [p. 2] & does not appear to me like one. Mr Gellibrand met Mr Fairbanks⁷ in Sloane St & hearing him say much in reference to detention in the Hull Custom house of the piano⁸ &c, he offered to enquire when passing thro - about these. I heard from London today, but nothing yet of the arrival of the boxes. I hope my advice to ship the furniture boxes to New York may have reached you in time, because I am sure the re-shipping from Boston would be vexatious & expensive. By the last Steamer I heard from George⁹, date June 18 he says I must not run the risk of a sailing packet because of the sickness usual among steerage passengers so I have been answering the communication of a friend in Liverpool today relative to the steamer which [p. 3] is to sail on the 28th of this month, and have desired Mr W¹⁰ to secure four berths for us. the passage money including stewards fees will be \$90. I am sorry I cannot have your reply to this three weeks from today - will not give time for you to write, but when I draw (probably \$50 more) I shall let you know - that you may settle it for me. How very much it costs even to pass thro England with all the economy I try to use! I have not heard from Mr Eastwick¹¹, but I shall be in Preston nearly a fortnight & we may meet in Liverpool, even if his family is not ready for the America¹². We arrived here by the tuesday nights train very early last wednesday morning. I need not comment on the hearty welcome & that I feel relieved that the meeting is over. both my health & Mrs Hadens¹³ is improving here, my boys¹⁴ are well, they go to Edinburg with Aunt Alicia¹⁵ next thursday, for a week - & join me at Mrs Sandlands¹⁶ & the last [p. 4] week. There is one subject George seems anxious about from which I make an extract "I hope that my fathers¹⁷ professional papers were secured for me, he had many valuable papers - copies of original reports made on various occasions, they will be very valuable to me now & to others here after." I doubt not dear Mr Harrison you have carefully secured all these to send to George, I answered his letter by todays steamer & advised his writing you. he approves of New Haven for myself & boys. the city of New York will be his head quarters & he will be there to receive us. But I shall write you fully ere I leave England. Now only add love to dear Mrs Harrison¹⁸ & kisses to the pets up stairs & down. Oh the blessing of a

home, & an unbroken family circle! long may it be yours, & appreciated by you. Mr Gibson¹⁹ told me that Mr Bagby²⁰ was disgracing himself in London as he had done in St P. in one of the fashionable hotels, choosing companions of the lowest stamp & declining to admit any respectable visitors. Mrs Gibson looks in better health than for 2 years past. Remember me to Mr Winans²¹ & to the brother Prince²². Believe me truly

your obliged & grateful

A M W

Envelope:

[1st envelope:] Via Hamburg & Stettin mail Steamers

Joseph Harrison Esq
St Petersburg
Russia

12th²³. Will you send Mrs Haden a cast²⁴ of her dear father? she will so prize it. I send the imperfect outline of his valuable life if it may be of use. Say to Mr Ingersoll²⁵ I shall write him in a day or two when I hope for American letters[.] Love to all up stairs & down stairs, kisses to the children. Let not my God daughter²⁶ forget her truly attached & fond God mother & beg Mrs Harrison to write me of all I've left I feel so interested in the circle. Your obliged & grateful friend AMW

How & where is Genl Melnikoff²⁷? Remember me at Mr Winans

[Postmark:] HAMBURG / 12-1 / 13 / 8

[Postmark:] OB / 12 JU-12 / 1849

[Black wax seal:] AMW

[2nd envelope:]

Joseph Harrison Esq
Alexandroffsky²⁸
Mr Gellibrand

[Black wax seal:] AMW

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. Joseph Harrison (1810-1874), partner in the firm of Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in the firm of Harrison, Winans and Eastwick.
3. William Clark Gellibrand (b. ca 1791), merchant.
4. The London home of Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), surgeon and etcher, JW's brother-in-law.
5. Mrs Leland, Joseph Harrison's sister; William Henry Harrison (b. 1837), Annie Harrison (1839-1915), Alicia McNeill Harrison (b. 1845), and Marie Olga Harrison (b. 1847), Joseph Harrison's children; see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 25 June 1849, #07633.
6. William Edward Kilburn, daguerreotype and portrait photographer.

7. Fairbanks, merchant.
8. The family piano was shipped to England, and kept by Deborah, while the rest of AMW's household furniture was shipped to America; see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 11 June 1849, #07627, and 25 June 1849, #07633.
9. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
10. Probably John Winstanley (1776-1859), solicitor, JW's uncle.
11. Andrew McCalla Eastwick (1810-1879), partner in Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in Harrison, Winans and Eastwick in St. Petersburg.
12. Steamer *America* (1848), Cunard Line (1,826 tons.). The *America* was launched in May 1847 and made its maiden voyage from Liverpool to New York via Halifax on 15 April 1848. On subsequent voyages it alternated its destination between New York and Boston. During December 1856 it suffered serious storm damage near Cape Clear but made it back to Liverpool. The *America* held the Liverpool to Boston record for some years. In 1863 it was hired by the Allan Line and began to sail from Liverpool to Quebec and Montreal. It served Cunard again in 1866 before becoming a sailing vessel with the new name of *Coalgacandor*. It was finally scrapped in 1875. See N. R. P. Bonsor, *North Atlantic Seaway, An illustrated History of the Passenger Services Linking the Old World with the New*, Prescott, Lancashire, 1955.
13. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
14. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist, and William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
15. Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), JW's aunt.
16. Betsey Sandland of Liverpool, friend of AMW.
17. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
18. Sarah Harrison (1817-1906), née Poulterer, wife of Joseph Harrison.
19. Probably the children of Joseph and Sarah Harrison.
20. Gibson; unidentified.
21. Arthur Bagby (1794-1858), senator and US minister in Russia from 1848-1849; see AMW to JW, 7 January 1848 / 18 February 1849, #06385.
22. Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector.
23. Probably George Prince, engineer.
24. Name of the firm and house owned by Harrison, Winans and Eastwick; AMW to JW, 15, 16 and 18 September 1848, #06363.
25. '12th ... AMW' written on inside flap of envelope; 'How ... Winans' continues at the back of envelope.
26. AMW probably means a copy of a daguerreotype of George Washington Whistler.
27. Colin Macrae Ingersoll (1819-1903), secretary of the American Legation at St Petersburg.
28. Probably Alicia McNeill Harrison.
29. General Paul Melnikof (1804-1888), engineer.

System Number: 07635

Date: 15 July 1849

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Fleetwood

Recipient: Joseph Harrison²

Place: St Petersburg

Repository: Library of Congress

Call Number: Manuscript Division, Pennell-Whistler Collection, PWC 34/35-36

Document Type: ALS³

Fleetwood⁴

Monday July 15th 1849

My dear & most kind friends

I have not abandoned the interest in letters from St P, which the past connection with it induced & yours of the 22 of June O S⁵ which reached me at this sea bathing place by the last mail, was eagerly opened & read by me. Let me assure you of my thankfulness at the report of "all well among the American colony[". I hope to meet dear Mrs Leland, Annie & Henry⁶ in Liverpool whither I go next saturday. I shall be joined at my friend Mrs Sandlands⁷ by my boys⁸ & their fond Aunt Alicia⁹ from Scotland, they wrote me from Miss Morgans¹⁰ of their welcome to her mothers house last thursday evening, after a rather overheated journey but an interesting one, what a quick transit now a days, by steam! they left Preston by the 10 oclock train & reached Edinburgh at 7 in the evening. Wm Mirrielles¹¹ is devoting his leisure hours to shewing them that beautiful town & they have invitations for the whole route in returning thro Stirling, Glasgow &c. Eliza Sandland¹² now Mrs Boyd will wish to detain them at the last, for she has settled down after her bridal tour to house keeping but time is so precious & Aunt Alicia will wish to be with me the last week of my stay in England! she would have been disappointed not to have shown them to her old friends & also that they should not have been able to say they had seen Edinburg - so though I know it must henceforth become [p. 2] a duty with me to practice economy, I could not withdraw my first consent to the plan purposed for the double pleasure to these so dear to me & the jaunt I do not apprehend will exceed ten pounds. As George wrote his disapproval of my plan of taking passage in a sailing packet because of the exposure to epidemics from steerage passengers, I at once decided upon securing berths for my boys. Mary¹³ & self in the steamer America¹⁴, for which I am to pay ninety pounds, thus notwithstanding my determination to make the \$100 already drawn upon Barings Co¹⁵, suffice, I was relieved of anxiety by your fore thought dear Mr Harrison in arranging for me to draw again upon you thro your banker. When I do so I shall write you to what amount, I wish I may eke out of £50 more all that is indispensable, [sic] but England is not the country to make a small sum go far, when I get settled in New England I shall regulate my expenditure.

My Sister Winstanley¹⁶ who is my senior of 20 years & has great experience of the world, argues against my embarking upon the ocean unprovided against accidents, - & that I may easily exchange Sovereigns for dollars if we reach our port in safety - but I am thinking of the proportion to my income¹⁷ & that I fear the sale in St P will not cover my travelling expenses, this I know you do not consider my kind friend! yet I would not take advantage of your generosity. All in good time I hope we shall square accounts, & I will not pain you by expressing all my thanks to you, rather will I offer them to Him who considereth the cause of the widow & fatherless, for raising me up friends in a land of strangers, & my prayers for you & yours are that He will bless you.

[p. 3] When we follow our convictions of what is right dear Mr Harrison, & we are over-ruled by circumstances, then we must patiently wait, not doubting all will work together wisely for us, for if God taketh care of the birds of the air¹⁸, He will even in trifles prove He ordereth all thing for His people now, He may see it needful to restrain my eagerness to get my future home regulated. tho we will hope the furniture sent to Boston may safely reach N Haven at last. let us not feel annoyed by our busy countrymans officiousness his motive appears a friendly one, & I suppose his agents in his native town will save me all the trouble in their power. As to the most precious case¹⁹ sent by the Medora²⁰, I wrote Capt Swift²¹ to advise J Wales Esq²² & also our friend Mr Dexter²³ to be on the look out for the ship, & to beg the favor of our friend Mr Raymond Lee²⁴ sending some careful person with it to Stonington. So Maxwell²⁵ must not have his friendship put to such a test as to leave his post, tho I doubt not he will wish to be among the mourners at the grave. Yes many sincere friends will meet there to be solemnly impressed by ^{the} voice of God "dust thou art to dust thou shalt return"²⁶ but the spirit shall return to God who gave it! Oh that all whom Whistler²⁷ was interested in, would in the midst of their pursuits, prepare for the solemn separation of soul & body as he did! for was evident to me who studied him so intensely, that the nearer he drew the close of his career, the more carefully he acted upon the belief that [...] who profess & call our selves christians are witnesses for Christ, and it being appointed to men once to die & afterward the judgment! gave a solemn weight to his every sentiment & action. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord"²⁸! their works do follow them", yet they have no value, except as evidences of faith in Christ. I know my dear husbands humility, but Christ was his example & his hope. As I am continually dwelling in his sick chamber (when not soaring to where I hope to meet him after I have passed thro the mortal struggle - his few wishes expressed with such difficulty recur to me. Do you remember his care for Williams²⁹? Perhaps if you would represent it to him, he might desire to live to [p. 4] reward it. Is he employed on the bridges now - or how can he get back to his native land? I forget even the name of the other who had turned to Whistler in distress & who therefore was mentioned by him as one you might try again. Hadenskongg³⁰ I fear is but as the swine, returned to wallowing in the mire alas! why will those who have talents throw them away? Say a good word to Peotre³¹ in my name to keep him straight. tell him I enquire if he reads the bible I gave him - every day. I suppose Coharka³² [sic] has gone to Finland. My good Mary is now visiting her mother in Ireland, I shall summon her just to get ready for the 25 a week from next saturday. my sister Eliza will go with me from Preston next Saturday for the day just to see me safe & she & Mr W³³ another day before we embark will spend a day at Mrs Sandlands with myself & boys.

I have heard of Ingersolls³⁴ arrival in London & hope my boys may see him at Dunoon Mr B³⁵ was disgracing himself when I heard of him in one of the most fashionable hotels of London. Mr Gibson³⁶ looked better & really felt so, than for years[.] Remember me to our good Doctor R³⁷ tell him it was the hot air bath (not vapour) which has benefitted Mr G's rheumatism[.] he talked of returning to Brighton. This is a remarkably fine season in England, the heat in London exceedingly complained of, but prospect of fine crops thro out the kingdom cheering. I came to this sea side place for my daughters health - we are very much more retired & quiet here than I could be in any town, & this I felt is good for me. the warm salt baths too are beneficial & my host & hostess so kind, but I leave them tomorrow evening.

You³⁸ will direct for "Mrs Whistler. Care of Doctor Palmer³⁹. Stonington. Connt." until I date from N Haven. I shall always report on proceedings to you, for I believe your interest in us will not be lessened by separation. Kiss my God daughter⁴⁰ for me[.] give my love to all downstairs. Mrs Haden met Mr Ellerby⁴¹ at the Preston Station last thursday as he was passing thro to visit Scotland. I have sent to Miss Morgan to get me the address of Doctor Law⁴² & if I obtain his certificate this week I shall enclose it to Capt Swift by the next mail Steamer. Remember me to

Mr & Mrs Winans⁴³ & to the Princes⁴⁴. Mr Gellibrand⁴⁵ will have seen you I hope ere this reaches you. the Piano⁴⁶ &c not yet reported what does Mr Ropes⁴⁷ say to this delay? I have not heard from the Eastwicks⁴⁸. I feel my health improving & it cheers me to observe that my dear daughter⁴⁹ has benefited by coming to Lancashire. she bathes in the sea daily & feels stronger[,] we are with Mr W, & my Sister visiting their old friends Mr & Mrs Ormerod⁵⁰. baby⁵¹ is a welcome guest continue to write me all that interests you & believe me gratefully

your attached friend

A M W

Envelope:

[Address label:] Via Hamburg & Stettin

Joseph Harrison Esq
Harrison Winans & Eastwick
St Petersburg

[Postmark:] HAMBURG / 10-11 / 20 / 7

[Postmark:] FLEETWOOD / JU 16 / 1849

[Postmark:] PRES[...] / C / JY 16 / 1849

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. Joseph Harrison (1810-1874), partner in the firm of Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in the firm of Harrison, Winans and Eastwick.
3. There are the remains of a black wax seal.
4. Queens Terrace, Fleetwood, Lancashire, was the home address of Richard Ormerod (see below); also see *Slater's Directory of Lancashire*, 1848, vol. 1, p. 200.
5. Old Style or Julian Calendar, adopted under Julius Caesar in 46 BC.
6. Mrs Leland; Joseph Harrison's sister. Annie Harrison (1839-1915), and William Henry Harrison (b. 1837), children of Joseph and Sarah Harrison; see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 7 July 1849, #07634.
7. Betsey Sandland of Liverpool, friend of AMW.
8. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist, and William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
9. Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), JW's aunt.
10. Isabella Morgan (1817-1853), daughter of Steven and Elizabeth Morgan of St Petersburg; she was recorded in the 1851 census of Edinburgh, as 'unmarried, age 36, born at St Petersburg.'
11. William Spurr Mirrieles (b. 1828), son of A. Mirrieles. William was recorded in the 1851 census of Edinburgh, as unmarried, age 22, student at the University, with his place of birth St Petersburg, Russia.

12. Eliza Sandland (b. 1821), wife of Thomas Boyd; she was married to Thomas Boyd on 21 June 1849, in Barony, Lanark, Scotland.
13. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
14. Steamer *America* (1848), Cunard Line (1,826 tons.). See N. R. P. Bonsor, *North Atlantic Seaway, An Illustrated History of the Passenger Services Linking the Old World with the New*, Prescott, Lancashire, 1955.
15. Baring Brothers and Co.
16. Eliza Isabella Winstanley (1788-1857), née McNeill, JW's aunt, his mother's half-sister.
17. AMW had an semi-annual income inherited from the estate of George W. Whistler, deriving mainly from Railroad stocks; see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 19 June 1849, #07629.
18. 'Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.' Matt. 13.32; 'And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.' Matt. 8.20.
19. GWW's coffin; see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 19 June 1849, #07629, 25 June 1849, #07633, and 13 August 1849, #07637.
20. Steamer *Medora*, probably one of the two vessels named *Medora*, built prior to the the date of this letter: 1. Built in 1835 at Louisville, Kentucky (210 tons.). 2. Built in 1845 at New Albany, Indiana (198 tons.); see William M. Lytle and Forrest R. Holdcamper, *Merchant Steam Vessels of the United States, 1790-1868*, revised and edited by C. Bradford Mitchell, Baltimore, 1975, p. 142. The steamer probably belonged to the Ropes family. It arrived in New York on 27 August 1849 from Antwerp, with 203 passengers; its captain was Mr Hammer (tonnage not stated, nor the ownership.). See *Passenger Lists of Vessels arriving at New York 1820-1897*, Microfilm M 237, Roll # 83: 24 August to 25 September 1849, National Archives, Washington, DC.
21. Captain William Henry Swift (1800-1879), brother-in-law of JW's father.
22. Not identified.
23. William Dexter (b. 1799), farmer.
24. Raymond Lee, AMW's friend.
25. John S. Maxwell, secretary of the American Legation in St Petersburg in 1842.
26. 'In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.' Gen. 3.19.
27. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
28. 'And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.' Rev. 14.13.
29. Williams, probably an engineer working in Russia.
30. Hadenskongg, of Russia; see AMW to JW, 4 and 5 December 1848, #06374.
31. Peotre, AMW's servant at St Petersburg.
32. Russ.: cook.

33. Colin Macrae Ingersoll (1819-1903), secretary of the American Legation at St Petersburg.
34. Arthur Bagby (1794-1858), senator and US minister in Russia from 1848-1849; see AMW's letter to JW, 7 January 1848 / 18 February 1849, #06385, and AMW to Joseph Harrison, 7 July 1849, #07634.
35. Gibson; unidentified.
36. Dr Rogers, AMW's family doctor at St Petersburg.
37. 'You .. that' continues and cross-written in the left margin of p. 1; 'my ... are' continues in the left margin of p. 2; 'with ... guest' continues in the right margin; 'continue ... AMW' continues in the right margin of p. 1.
38. Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer.
39. Probably Alicia McNeill Harrison (b. 1845), daughter of S. and J. Harrison.
40. Rev. Thomas Ellerby, clergyman, in charge of the British and American Chapel at St Petersburg.
41. Dr Law, a Scottish physician at St Petersburg.
42. Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector, and his wife Celeste Winans (1823-1861), née Revillon.
43. Ben Prince of St Petersburg, and his brother George Prince, engineer.
44. William Clark Gellibrand (b. ca 1791), merchant.
45. The family piano was shipped to England, and kept by Deborah, while the rest of AMW's household furniture was shipped to America; see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 11 June 1849, #07627.
46. William Hooper Ropes (1811-1891), merchant.
47. Andrew McCalla Eastwick (1810-1879), partner in Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in Harrison, Winans and Eastwick in St. Petersburg, and his wife Lydia Anne Eastwick (1810-1890), née James.
48. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
49. John Winstanley (1776-1859), solicitor, JW's uncle.
50. Richard Ormerod, engineer, and his wife.
51. Annie Harriet Haden (1848-1937), later Mrs Charles Thynne, JW's niece.

System Number: 07637

Date: 13 August [1849]¹

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Stonington

Recipient: Joseph Harrison³

Place: [St Petersburg⁴]

Repository: Library of Congress

Call Number: Manuscript Division, Pennell-Whistler Collection, PWC 34/37-8

Document Type: ALS

Stonington

Monday Aug 13th

Last thursday the 9th⁵ our prosperous voyage of twelve days terminated by our going into dock at Jersey City about 2 oclock - The picturesque scenery of the Narrows & bay had lost none of its charm tho my heart was oppressed by the dreaded meeting! in a crowd those whom I yet yearned to embrace. But you know all this my dear friends & I will not try your sensibility, or attempt any description of my mingled emotions - suffice it - Maxwell⁶ was almost as soon on board as the Custom house officer (who had brought a permit for my luggage passing free) so notwithstanding Capt V⁷ of the America⁸ urging me to embrace on board till the hour for the Stonington boat starting, we were soon seated in a carriage with our friend Maxwell, driving towards the battery & soon we were welcomed to the elegant Ladies Saloon by mulatto stewardess who had in happier days been at my call, her manner was full of respectful sympathy she left us on one of the luxurious sofas of crimson velvet to talk of St Petersburg, for Maxwell tho overwhelmed with business at the Custom house - said he had made the arrangement to devote the afternoon to us, & he did not leave the Vanderbilt⁹ till her last warning bell. George¹⁰, I find now had not received my letter in time to be on the look out for me for he reached N York after I had come to Stonington & is to return by this evenings boat, taking Jemie with him for the week to introduce him [to] Mary¹¹ - George is looking thinner than I ever saw him [p. 2] him, but is not feeling ill now, tho he was previous to his leaving Baltimore - he spoke of his intention of writing you dear Mr Harrison today, as he has regretted having been prevented answering your very friendly letter, by illness, & by business, the packing up & removal to a new post of duty¹² having been as much as he could possibly accomplish then.

If he does not write you here, I think he will from Binghampton N Y, his head quarters for the summer. You will rejoice that I find George a comforter & adviser, his views I gratefully perceive are such as you are familiar with at our fire side. Yes God be thanked! that I have yet a George Whistler to aid me in strengthening & elevating the principles of my boys. I am too hurried to write half I feel this eldest brother merits - but as you were never deceived in his father, so you may find in him much to win your esteem & confidence for his own sake, as for attachment to the dear departed. Capt Swift¹³ has settled in Philadelphia. I expect now his welcome by letter - as I have already received his brothers¹⁴ from Geneva N Y - and when the precious remains¹⁵ arrive I shall not fail to bring you to the spot thro the medium of my pen when friends & relatives assemble here, for I do believe the circle I have left take a deep interest in all that interests us. Mr Ropes¹⁶ has written Doctor Palmer¹⁷ that the Medora¹⁸ is expected about the 20th. And the [p. 3] Atilla¹⁹ later in this month. My own George proposes taking me to N Haven next week to look for a house. I am to write Mr Ingersoll²⁰ to that effect that he may advise us how to proceed to save time, as George cannot be long away from the Erie road²¹ & I of course would not leave my mother²² even for a day if I could help it. George tells me Mr

Winans²³ is to go to England by return of the steamer I came in²⁴. I wish to see him if he can come for a day to Stonington. Probably you have heard how magnificent the Vanderbilt is. But I was astonished at the luxurious style in which it is furnished. Why do not some of our enterprising countrymen build such steamers to run down the mails between St P & Gronstadt? No wonder Mrs Clay²⁵ (as Maxwell told me) upon her first arrival thought the brilliantly lighted saloon of this boat on the Sound a scene of enchantment. George tells me a friend of his dear fathers, a Major Brown²⁶ it is thought will accept the proposal to go to St P & finish the rail road, he is as good selection as could have been made. When it is decided I shall communicate with him if possible. he will take his family who I hope may prove acquisitions to the American circle. At more leisure I will write Mrs Gillibrand²⁷ & Mrs Ropes²⁸, I think of all with affection, tell dear Mrs Harrison²⁹ I dreamt of her on my voyage, I was glad to see Mrs Leland³⁰ & your children³¹. she promised to report us or I should not have left England without a farewell line to you. Remember me to Mrs E³² & to Miss S³³. I trust this may find you all well. It will be a gratification to me that you let me hear from you as often as you can. Believe me gratefully & sincerely

your³⁴ friend

Anna M Whistler

My boys are quite well & talk of the St P circle daily[,] the weather is gloriously bright cholera³⁵ not mentioned in this healthy village & decreasing in the city of N York. Maxwell is well & asks after you all so kindly - & of Col. Bouttatz³⁶, Genls Melnikof³⁷, Krafft³⁸ &c - My brother³⁹ is at present building a road in [Virginia?] but his family not in N Y city.

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to the Whistler's arrival in the USA (see below).
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. Joseph Harrison (1810-1874), partner in the firm of Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in the firm of Harrison, Winans and Eastwick.
4. Joseph Harrison remained in Russia during the summer of 1849; see AMW's letter to him on 19 June 1849, #07629.
5. The Whistlers' arrival in New York was reported in the *New York Daily Tribune*, 9 August 1849, vol. 9, no. 104.
6. Hugh Maxwell (1787-1873), of the NY Custom House (1849-1853), lawyer and collector.
7. Captain Vidals, sea Captain.
8. Steamer *America* (1848), Cunard Line (1,826 tons.). See N. R. P. Bonsor, *North Atlantic Seaway, An Illustrated History of the Passenger Services Linking the Old World with the New*, Prescott, Lancashire, 1955.
9. Steamer *Cornelius Vanderbilt* (1847-1896), Stonington Line (1,041 tons). On 7 June 1847 the ship made its first trip to Stonington, making the trip in 6 hours 32 minutes, a fast passage. See Erik Heyl, *Early American Steamers*, New York, 1969, vol. 6, p. 74, and R. G. Albion, *The Rise of New York Port*, New York, 1939, pp. 152-60.
10. Probably Mary Ann Whistler (ca 1826-1852), née Ducatel, JW's sister-in-law.
11. Binghampton, New York.

12. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
13. Captain William Henry Swift (1800-1879), brother-in-law of JW's father.
14. Probably General Joseph Gardner Swift (1783-1865), first graduate of USMA, West Point, NY, chief engineer of US Army, JW's father's brother-in-law.
15. GWW's coffin; see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 19 June 1849, #07629, 25 June 1849, #07633, and 15 July 1849, #07635.
16. William Hooper Ropes (1811-1891), merchant.
17. Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer.
18. See AMW to Joseph Harrison, 15 July 1849, #07635.
19. Probably the vessel *Atilla* (1842), built in Little Point, NY; see Forrest R. Holdcamper, ed., *List of American Flag Merchant Vessels that Received Certificates of Enrollment or Registry at the Port of New York, 1789-1867*, National Archives, Washington, DC, 1968, vol. 1, p. 64.
20. Colin Macrae Ingersoll (1819-1903), secretary of the American Legation at St Petersburg.
21. See AMW to Joseph Harrison, 19 June 1849, #07629.
22. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
23. Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector.
24. Steamer *America*.
25. Lucretia Hart Clay (1781-1864), wife of Henry Clay.
26. Major Thompson S. Brown (1807-1855), civil engineer, successor to G. W. Whistler as engineer on the St Petersburg to Moscow Railroad. In October 1849, in Washington he signed a contract with the Russian government, whereby he agreed to leave the US in December, arriving in St Petersburg in January 1850 and to stay for at least five years, at an annual salary of \$12,000 to be paid from the date of the signature of the contract. See R. M. Haywood, *Russia Enters the Railway Age, 1842-1855*, New York, 1999, p. 369.
27. Mary Tyler Gellibrand (b. 1812), née Ropes, wife of W. C. Gellibrand.
28. Ellen Harriet Ropes, née Hall, wife of William H. Ropes.
29. Sarah Harrison (1817-1906), née Poulterer, wife of Joseph Harrison.
30. Mrs Leland, Joseph Harrison's sister.
31. William Henry Harrison (b. 1837), Annie Harrison (1839-1915), Alicia McNeill Harrison (b. 1845), and Marie Olga Harrison (b. 1847), Joseph Harrison's children.
32. Lydia Anne Eastwick (1810-1890), née James, wife of Andrew M. Eastwick.
33. Miss Schofield, friend of AMW.
34. 'your ... daily' continues in the left margin of p. 1; 'the ... village' continues in the right margin; 'decreasing ... kindly' continues in left margin of p. 2; 'and ... and c' continues in the right margin; 'My ... city' continues in the right margin of p. 3.
35. 1849 was one of the worst years in the history of the USA for the widespread occurrence of cholera. The total number of deaths in the City and Island of New York, in July 1847, was 1,576; in July 1848, 1,497; and in the four weeks ending July 28, 1849, 4,454, or at the rate of 150 per day. See Greeley & McElrath, *New York Daily Tribune*, 1 August 1849, vol. 9, no. 97.

36. Major Ivan Frantsovich Bouttatz of the Russian Army.
37. General Paul Melnikof (1804-1888), engineer.
38. Nicolai Osipovitch Kraft (b. 1798), engineer, a St Petersburg colleague of George Washington Whistler.
39. William Gibbs McNeill (1800-1853), railway engineer, JW's uncle.

System Number: 06393

Date: 23 August 1849

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Stonington

Recipient: JW

Place: Binghampton²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W389

Document Type: ALS

Stonington.

Aug 23rd. 1849.

I felt disappointed my own dear Jemie³ to receive only a few lines from George yesterday when I was expecting you, it seems a long time to wait till sunday week to embrace you, & I hope you may come sooner, tho I do not venture to advise you starting off alone, because I fear for your prudence not being sufficiently exercised to keep you from danger, & that you may be left behind at some awkward point from your lack of a prompter within or without to hint that steam-like time, waits for no man! But I should be very glad if you could take an opportunity to shew your anxious Mother you are to be trusted by proving your contempt for punctuality unfounded. Willie⁴ misses you very much, he came, true to appointment - to breakfast at the corner house⁵ from the Vanderbilt⁶ yesterday morning, quite well by himself, & to prove he is not ungrateful for the holiday he has had with Jacks⁷, he has not only read with references this morning but has studied his Greek grammar willingly. and now as rain has set in, I think he'll write you of the pleasant days he had at Lake Mahopac⁸, where they hope to have you with them, and three weeks will terminate their sojourn there. [p. 2] I am perplexed to think how you can fulfil your promise to darling Sis⁹, & devote a week to Mahopac before school opens. I think of going to see Aunt Maria¹⁰ next week - much tho I dread it - and may be we can decide when you can go by then.

Your being with dear Mary¹¹, reconciles me to your prolonged absence from me, I depend upon her example for restraining you in a career of idleness, it is full of danger tho youth is blind to its evils. I said to Willie yesterday, "I am thankful Jemie has so many ladies around him at Binghampton" "why Mother?" "because he need not go in the street for society." And I hope Cousin Julia's¹² porte folio yields him amusement within doors. My love to them all and if you are allowed such freedoms - kiss your sweet sister for Mother, when I am about expressing [sic] a wish to have her beside me I am checked, because Aunt Kate¹³ would make room at the expense of her own comfort, to gratify me, and Uncle Palmers¹⁴ large heart makes as many welcome as will come to his table, we know his income is not in proportion. but soon I hope to find a snug box, and there shall be a room called Georges. but where exactly is not determined,

for I am told now, New Haven¹⁵ is not the place for us. I have written Mr Maxwell¹⁶ to obtain for me all the information he can about the school at Fairfield¹⁷, because I like its situation & it will be [p. 3] as convenient for George & Mary to visit us at N Haven. So soon as I am encouraged to go to look for a house I shall lose no time, for besides my yearning to be settled - our boxes will soon be arriving from Russia, and the schools re-opening, and you boys have been too long idle already. dear Jemie I beg you to be getting the habit of reading & shake off lounging.

I hope you will write me, less carelessly that the pleasure of reading your ideas may not be mingled with regret that you take so little trouble to gratify me by improving your advantages. darling Jemie! more precious to your Mothers heart than ever, you surely will not delay putting your good resolves into practise, for you know how much is in your power to make me happy or miserable. Mary Brennan¹⁸ came back here, from her visit to James¹⁹ last evening, both he and Tom²⁰ offer to leave their work for a few days if I need their assistance in unpacking the furniture wheresoever it may be done. I think I must get brother George to write Mr Grey²¹ about James who promises to help his mother if he can get the same wages he had formerly, his work is increased & his profits reduced under the present system. I think if Mr Grey can he will shew kindness to any one recommended by me. But Jemie dear you will be tired of this long [p. 4] & dry lecture - such a contrast to Punch²² isn't it? I will only add the love of Grandmother²³ & all, to you all & that we are well, tho I scarcely go out except to church I feel invigorated by this fine sea air, I do not bathe - but wish you were here to profit by it, take care not to indulge freely in corn & not to eat pears, many even here are ill from imprudence. Mrs Chase²⁴ calls to see me occasionally, they return to Philadelphia next week - If you have time in passing thro New York call upon Mr Maxwell at the Custom House, but dont tax his time. I'd rather you should not be running the rounds of hotels, tho if Williams²⁵ happens to be at the Astor²⁶ merely call to see him, I hope you may not have to sleep a night in the city.

Your²⁷ fond Mother

A M W

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. JW was at Binghampton visiting his half-brother, George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer; see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 13 August [1849], #07637.
3. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
4. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
5. The house owned by Dr George E. Palmer (see below), built in 1787, situated in the corner of Main and Wall Streets at Stonington, CT.
6. Steamer *Cornelius Vanderbilt* (1847-1896), Stonington Line (1,041 tons); see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 13 August 1849, #07637.
7. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
8. Lake in Mahopac, a town about 50 miles north of New York City.
9. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
10. Maria Matilda McNeill, née Camman (d. Jan. 1852), JW's aunt, and wife of W. G. McNeill.
11. Mary Ann Whistler (ca 1826-1852), née Ducatel, JW's sister-in-law.

12. Julia Catherine Rodewald (1825-1897), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of A. Rodewald.
13. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
14. Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer.
15. AMW was thinking of New Haven as a prospective place of residence; see AMW to JW, 13 December [1848], #06379; AMW to Joseph Harrison, 19 June 1849, #07629, and 7 July 1849, #07634.
16. Hugh Maxwell (1787-1873), of the NY Custom House (1849-1853), lawyer and collector.
17. Fairfield Academy, CT, built in 1804. It was advertised as far away as Albany, NY, and had an excellent reputation. See Elizabeth V. H. Banks, *This is Fairfield, 1639-1940*, New Haven, CT, 1960, pp. 150-155; Elizabeth L. Child, *The Old Academy, Fairfield, CT*, Fairfield Historical Society, CT, 1927.
18. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
19. James Brennan, brother of M. Brennan.
20. Probably Tom, a labourer.
21. Grey; unidentified.
22. English illustrated periodical published from 1841 to 1992, revived in 1996, famous for its satiric humour and caricatures and cartoons. Henry Mayhew, Mark Lemon, and Joseph Stirling Coyne were its first editors.
23. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
24. Mrs Chase, of Philadelphia.
25. Williams; unidentified.
26. Astor House Hotel, erected in the early 1830s by John Jacob Astor (1763-1848), merchant and property developer. At his death, Astor was the richest man in America. The hotel was built of solid granite, on three streets, Boadway, Barclay and Vesey street and featured extraordinary conveniences for the time, such as baths and toilets on every floor, supplied with water raised by a steam pump. Marshall B. Davidson, *A Pictorial History, New York*, New York, 1977, pp. 111-112.
27. 'Your ... AMW' continues in the upper left margin of p. 1.

System Number: 09555

Date: November 1849

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: [USA²]

Recipient: Nicolas I³

Place: St Petersburg

Repository: Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, CT

Call Number: Thomas Henry Seymour Papers

Document Type: ALS

[black wax seal with monogram:] AMW

To the Emperor of all the Russias From the widow of the late Major Whistler⁴ with every sentiment of respect

To His Majesty Nicolas the First

Sir

When at the time of my most heavy affliction last April, your Majesty indicated your favor towards us in the gracious expression of sympathy, which reached me thro a Courier from your Majestys Aide-de-Camp the Count Kleinmichell⁵ [sic], and signified your condescending readiness to aid me as I might need, I only availed of your Power to open the way for my immediate return to my native land. My sorrow was too absorbing to admit of my thinking of the future. but now on behalf of my children I address Your Majesty for a written testimonial of Your Majestys satisfaction as to the faithfulness of the services of their father, my late husband Major George W Whistler.

It needs not my witnessing as [p. 2] to the interest he felt in the great work of the St Petersburg & Moscow Rail road⁶, to which he devoted the last seven years of his life, all who were intimate with him can testify to that, & to his earnest desire to have completed it to your Majestys perfect satisfaction.

But the Ruler of the Universe ordered it otherwise! ! "Clouds & darkness are around His throne, but mercy & justice are the habitation of His seat"⁷ Praise be to His Holy name for His goodness towards the widow & the fatherless!

And I would offer my apologies to Your Majesty for aught which may seem presuming in my appeal.

Praying that the blessing of God may be upon Your Majestys reign, and that the work which led us to seek & find Your gracious protection so many years, may be a source of prosperity to The Empire.

I humbly take my leave of your Majesty

The widow of George W Whistler

United States of America

November 1849

Envelope:

To
His Majesty Nicolas The First
The Emperor of All The Russians
St Petersburg

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. AMW remained in the USA until her trip to England in 1852; see AMW to George William Whistler, 18 November 1852, #06422.
3. Nicolas I (1796-1855), Tsar of Russia from 1825-1855.
4. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
5. Count Peter Andreyevich Kleinmikhel (1793-1869), Minister of Public Works.
6. George W. Whistler was the chief railroad engineer for the construction of the first railroad between St Petersburg and Moscow.
7. 'Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne.' Ps. 97.2.

System Number: 06567

Date: 1852/1881¹

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Recipient: [Unknown]

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W560

Document Type: ADc

My Mothers Bible³

This book is all that's left me now

Tears will unbidden [sic] start

With falting [sic] lip & throbbing brow

I press it to my heart

For ah! well do I remember those

Whose names these records bear

Who round the hearth stones used to close

After the evening prayer

And my father read this holy book

To brothers & Sisters dear

How calm was my poor Mothers look

As she learned Gods word to hear

Thou truest friend Man ever knew!

Thy constancy I've tried

Where all were false I found thee true

My counsellor & guide

The many generations past

Here is our family tree

My Mothers hands this bible clasped

She dying left it me

They speak of what these papers said

In tones my heart would thrill

Tho they are with the silent dead

Here are the living still

Her angel face I see it yet

What thronging memories come

Again that little group is met

Within the halls of home

The Mines of earth no treasures give

That would this volume buy

In teaching me the way to live. It taught me how to die

[p. 2] The Intercessor

Notes:

1. It probably dates between 1852, when AMW's mother Martha McNeill (b. 1775), née Kingsley, died and 1881, when the death of AMW occurred (see below).

2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.

3. AMW's version is a variation of *My Mother's Bible, A Domestic Ballad*, written by G. P. Morris, and composed by Henry Russel, London, 1860.

System Number: 06394

Date: 9 April 1850

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Pomfret

Recipient: JW

Place: New York

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W390

Document Type: ALS

Pomfret²

April 9th 1850.

My precious Jemie³

Immediately after the perusal of your cheering letter of last Friday which reached here yesterday, I went to where I had spent many a half hour in supplication for you since you left home - the solitude of my own room to thank God for his answers to my prayers, And again and again I go there to commit you afresh to his safe keeping. Jemie dear if you would only prove to me you love your Savior as I do, how much anxiety you would save me; for I might then feel assured that even death could not separate us. You seem not to have experienced the storm which began the night after you left here, Oh how my heart trembled as I thought you probably were crossing the Sound that black night! On Thursday snow & wind increased the terrors we were thankful to see the sun at its setting on Saturday. the stars & northern lights together made the contrast to the precarious three night [p. 2] bright indeed, but the sadness at my heart was too [sic] be chased away only by your letter. The roads have been in such a dreadful condition, the mail was late in arriving yesterday afternoon. Willie⁴ had been waiting at the Post office some time, as soon as he spied your hand writing he flew home with the glad tidings of your welfare. We have clear, but windy weather today. Willie is warming himself in a game of ball with Lloyd⁵ - & now he has come in for a luncheon of hominy & milk, for we three agreed to have dinner & tea together while I am maid of all work. Mary⁶ would be wise to take my way, for tho I leave nothing undone that ought to be done I manage never to be in a bustle. dear Grandmother⁷ often repeats the proverb of "a mouth full in quietness"⁸ &c.

I have not heard from Mary yet, but am content in concluding she can be in want of nothing or she would write. she would have found the April storm very tiresome, for [p. 3] Mrs Searles⁹ & others remark it is seldom Pomfret is visited with so much snow in this month. Willie has just brought me word from the post office, no mail expected today! because of an accident on this rail road, he will write you the particulars, & of his poultry as you desired. How doubly thankful am I for recieving [sic] your letter yesterday! my anxiety suppressed for the sake of dear Grandmother & Willie was making me feel ill. Your letter was very satisfactory except that you skipped over Stonington.

Your account of dear Aunt Maria¹⁰ confirms my fear she is sinking. How much you must have enjoyed being with your favorite Cousin¹¹. Willie is quite jealous that you did not tell him of his. I wish you to borrow one of Jacks¹² last summer tunics or whatever they are styled no matter

how old a one, for me to alter Willie's by. I suppose you have attended to your suit & hope you may bring two black cloth caps with visors also. from the two yards of broadcloth. We must be very prudent in our expenditures, [p. 4] dear Jemie because we have so little to spend. You will be wise in returning, to take the Stage from Providence; I will mention its days & the hours of leaving for Pomfret depot. You will leave New York I hope this day week, as I prefer the Vanderbilt¹³ for your crossing the Sound, if the weather prove favorable as I hope it may. I know Aunt Maria's plan is for leaving Irving Place¹⁴ about the 16th I need not say give my love to them all there, for you know my heart. Your pleasant tête à tête [sic] with Genl Swift¹⁵ was very gratifying. I agree in your opinion that he is the most charming & kind old gentlemen I know. I hope to hear from brother George¹⁶ how he likes his shirts. If a sketch of Alicia H¹⁷ is among the box of papers forwarded him by Mrs Ropes¹⁸ - Boston - bring it me in your trunk. I left a small cap box in Irving Place bring it carefully. Willie forgot his shoe horn which you are to bring from Uncle Palmers¹⁹. You had better get a pr of half boots of patent leather for dress Summer wear, mind that they be large enough & not too slight for country roads, if brother George will pay for them, I will pay him [p. 5] bring your tailors ac/ with your suit, ask for any scraps of the cloth for mending as it as difficult to match black cloth, as it is colored. tell cousin Donald²⁰ this if he goes with you & I know he will attend to my request. I should like two more of those cheap prayer books from Swords²¹ if you have 40 cents left when I send you enough for your return journey. You must call to see Mr Maxwell²². I wish you may happen to see George Prince²³ next tuesday in N York. He is to embark in the Europa²⁴ on the 17th for Lpool. I expect him to call en passant. A long letter from Edward Eastwick²⁵ here for you with proposals for entering upon regular correspondence. As I have heard nothing from the bride & groom²⁶ yet, I fear I shall not embrace Cousin Mary or be introduced to Mr. R²⁷ before they go to Europe as now the rail road will be impassible some days during repairs. At least, beg someone at Irving Place to inform me when they propose embarking. I have some trifles for the little ones in Sloane St²⁸. to send. Think of your widowed mothers dependency on you for [p. 6] comfort dear Jemie, then you will do nothing or neglect nothing - which her rules for you oppose. I hope this visit to your brother George may be of great advantage to you. My love to him & regards to our good friend Mr Rutter²⁹. Have you told him how gratified I was by his letter from Palmyra & with the paragraph in the Providence paper? Tell him I fear as I had not the portrait framed on my memorandum he will think me careless for omitting to pay for it when I settled with his nice little wife for her shopping, but I shall not forget to pay it too. God bless you & send you safe home to your fond mother.

Grandmother³⁰ sends her love to you & to brother George. I hope Mary was well my love to her. Read all of my scrawl. Take a memorandum of all I wish you to bring. & then burn this letter.

AMW

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. AMW was recorded in the census of Pomfret, CT, 1850, living with two boys, a servant and a grandmother. See Windham Co, CT, Film no M432, Roll 51, Pomfret census 1850, National Archives, Washington DC.
3. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
4. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.

5. Lloyd Henry Bowers (1836-1886), son of Captain Perry Bowers, Sr; see Windham Co, CT, Film no M432, Roll 51, Pomfret census 1850, National Archives, Washington DC.
6. Probably Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
7. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
8. Probably derives from 'Better is a dry mouth, and quietness therewith, than a banquet that is full of strife' Prov. 17:1.
9. Mrs Searles, AMW's neighbour at Pomfret, CT.
10. Maria Matilda McNeill, née Camman (d. Jan. 1852), JW's aunt, and wife of W. G. McNeill.
11. William Wyatt McNeill (1833-1853), JW's cousin.
12. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
13. Steamer *Cornelius Vanderbilt* (1847-1896), Stonington Line (1,041 tons); AMW to Joseph Harrison, 13 August 1849, #07637.
14. 67 Irving Place, New York, was the address of William Gibbs McNeill (1800-1853), railway engineer, JW's uncle. See *Doggett's New York City Directory*, New York, 1849-50, p. 279.
15. General Joseph Gardner Swift (1783-1865), first graduate of USMA, West Point, NY, chief engineer of US Army, JW's father's brother-in-law.
16. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
17. Alicia McNeill Harrison (b. 1845), daughter of S. and J. Harrison; she was AMW's god-daughter. Probably JW did the sketch (not located) when he was at St Petersburg, ca 1846-1847.
18. Ellen Harriet Ropes, née Hall, wife of William H. Ropes.
19. Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer, AMW's sister.
20. It could be either Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, or Donald C. McNeill (d. ca. 1876); they were both JW's cousins.
21. T. & J. Swords, printers and booksellers, 160 Pear Street. See *Longworth's American Almanac, New York Register and City Directory*, New York, 1805.
22. Hugh Maxwell (1787-1873), of the NY Custom House (1849-1853), lawyer and collector. Maxwell's address in New York was 11 Wall Street; see *Doggett's New York City Directory*, New York, 1849-50, p. 240. Also see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 13 August 1849, #07637.
23. George Prince, engineer.
24. Steamer *Europa* (1848), Cunard Line (1,834 tons.). The departure of the *Europa* was advertised in the *New York Herald*, 17 April 1850, no. 5792.
25. Edward Peers Eastwick (1833-1926), son of A. M. and L. A. Eastwick.
26. Mary Isabella Rodewald (1823-ca 1867), née McNeill, JW's cousin, married J. F. Rodewald on 2 April 1850.
27. Johann Frederick Rodewald (1808-1886), banker, husband of M. I. McNeill.
28. 62 Sloane Street, London, was the home address of Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), surgeon and etcher, JW's brother-in-law, and his family. The little ones were his children, Annie Harriet Haden (1848-1937), later Mrs Charles Thynne, and Francis Seymour Haden (1850-1918).

29. Rutter, a friend of AMW, and his wife.

30. 'Grandmother ... AMW' continues cross-written in the upper margin of p. 1.

System Number: 06395

Date: 11 April 1850

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Pomfret²

Recipient: JW

Place: [New York]

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W391

Document Type: ALS

Pomfret

thursday. April 11th. 50

My dearest Jemie³

As Grandmother⁴ is sending an envelope to dear Aunt Maria⁵ today, it will save postage to slip this in, & no doubt you will be in Irving Place⁶ in time to profit by it. We hope you will be ready to start for Stonington by tuesdays boat - If you wish to spend a day at the corner house⁷, as now the Worcester & Norwich⁸ railway is out of order, I am particularly desirous you return by the stage from Providence⁹[.] its days for leaving there are Monday, Wednesday & friday. its hour 12 o'clock, its office at the Otis Kelton's hotel¹⁰ - alongside of the "Old Manufacturers hotel"¹¹. If you will write me before leaving N York, & be true to your appointment Willie¹² can hire Burtons wagon¹³ to go down to the depot the afternoon you expect to arrive there, he will enjoy the drive & you may save a shilling, as his charge has been 37 cents, and you will not risk your neck with Fox's¹⁴ tipsey driver. The mail brought us kind notes tho destructive to our hopes of seeing either Cousin Mary¹⁵, or our friend George Prince¹⁶, yesterday, Willie was sadly chagrined. Will you say to the bride & groom¹⁷ with my love if it were not for depriving Aunt Maria of their society so precious & so brief to her! I would urge my claim for them to come direct from N York, to see me before they go to sister. I shall beg Mary to take a parcel from me to Sloane St¹⁸ which she can pack in the middle of her trunk, & some few of angel Johnies¹⁹ things she can put in her bonnet box I hope without inconvenience for the little boy²⁰ I yearn to press to my heart. If a small packet of books are sent to Irving Place directed to Mrs F R[.] I wish them divided in two, one to be directed to "Miss Eliza Maingay"²¹ which your Cousin will take to London for Sis²² to send her friend - the other to be directed to "Mary Smith - Hope Farm"²³, will be given Aunt Eliza²⁴ to send with my love.

I had such kind letters from Preston by the Europa²⁵, full of love to all at 67 Irving Place[.] the wedding cake had reached them at [p. 3] last[.] was thought excellent & half was to be sent to Sloane St. Aunts A²⁶ & E were so happy in the prospect of soon welcoming the daughter of their beloved brother Wm²⁷! They mentioned that Mrs Edwd. Ormerod²⁸ was gradually declining, but so patient & so ready to go home to her father in heaven! I shall write Mrs Sandland²⁹ by Mary that she may call upon her in passing thro Lpool. Ask Mary if I shall direct my parcel to 67 Irving Place[.] about the 22nd or I may send it sooner - be sure to let me know when you answer this. And now Jemie dear write in your memorandum this address "John E Forbes Esq. Wall

St.³⁰" that you may enquire for Mr. Prince, who hopes to see you in N York where he will arrive next Saturday early from Boston.

I hope brother George³¹ may be in town for I know Geo P. wishes to talk with him also, he embarks in the Europa next Wednesday. Call at the Custom house upon Mr Maxwell³², there is a model you might like to see! I hope you may visit some gallery of painting for your amusement; but that you may join in none more frivolous. Tell brother George with my love I received the portrait³³ by Ross' Express³⁴ free this morning, it is now in its place in my room, not the least defaced by its travels. I thank him for packing it so carefully, & hope to have a letter from him soon, I was thankful for the report of the Niagara³⁵ in the last "Country Post"³⁶ reached & left Halifax last friday! The clock warns me it is time to close this. With love and blessings to all, Price³⁷ the wire net dish covers, 1 m round 1 m oblong. Grandmother says she misses you so much! she will be glad as I shall to give you a welcome home.

Dont forget my band box to bring carefully.

[p. 4] James Whistler

I am your devoted fond & anxious
Mother

A M Whistler.

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. In 1850, AMW was living in Pomfret, CT with her two sons, her mother and a servant; see AMW to JW, 9 April 1850, #06394.
3. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
4. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
5. Maria Matilda McNeill, née Camman (d. Jan. 1852), JW's aunt, and wife of W. G. McNeill.
6. 67 Irving Place was the New York address of William Gibbs McNeill (1800-1853), railway engineer, JW's uncle; see #06394.
7. The house owned by Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer, built in 1787, situated in the corner of Main and Wall Streets at Stonington, CT.
8. In 1835 the railroad came to Providence, wending its way southward from Boston. Two years later another corporation completed a line from Providence to Stonington. In 1847 the first train ran over the Providence and Worcester line. This railroad built a massive terminal in 1848, the Union Passenger Depot, to service its operations. See C. F. Carter, *When Railroads Were New*, New York, 1909. There were disruptions on the railroad which were reported in various newspapers of the time including the *Norwich and Evening Courier*, 6 April 1850, vol. 9, no. 17.
9. JW would have travelled by stagecoach from the National House, 3 North Main Street, Providence, to Pomfret, via Thompson, CT. Its days and time for leaving were the ones stated by AMW; see 'Stage, Steamboat and Rail-Road Routes from Providence,' 1850-51, *Providence, Rhode Island Directory*, Providence, RI, p. 281.
10. Otis H. Kelton & Co., livery stable, 149 Benefit Street, rear of the National House; see 1850-51, *Providence, Rhode Island Directory*, Providence, p. 123.

11. Manufacturer's Hotel, Market Square, Providence, RI. It was quite a famous hostelry, and from its balcony public proclamations and declarations were read; see Moses King, *King's Pocket-book of Providence, RI*, Providence, 1882. p. 62-64.
12. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
13. Unidentified.
14. Unidentified.
15. Mary Isabella Rodewald (1823-1867), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of J. F. Rodewald.
16. George Prince, engineer.
17. Mary Isabella McNeill married Frederick Rodewald on 2 April 1850.
18. 62 Sloane Street, London, was the the home address of Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), surgeon and etcher, JW's brother-in-law.
19. John Bouttatz Whistler (1845-1846), JW's brother.
20. Francis Seymour Haden (1850-1918), JW's nephew.
21. Eliza Ann Maingay (1821-1899).
22. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
23. Mary Smith, wife of Tom Smith, engineer, lived in Hope Farm, Shropshire, England (see #06426).
24. Eliza Isabella Winstanley (1788-1857), née McNeill, JW's aunt, his mother's half-sister.
25. Steamer *Europa* (1848), Cunard Line (1,834 tons.).
26. Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), JW's aunt.
27. William Gibbs McNeill (1800-1853), railway engineer, JW's uncle.
28. Mrs Ormerod, wife of E. Ormerod.
29. Betsey Sandland of Liverpool, friend of AMW.
30. John E. Forbes, broker, 103 Wall Street, h. 75 Seventh; see *Doggett's New York City Directory*, New York, 1849-50, p. 179.
31. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
32. Hugh Maxwell (1787-1873), of the NY Custom House (1849-1853), lawyer and collector; see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 13 August 1849, #07637.
33. Ross's Express, Package Express Company over the *Providence & Worcester Railroad*. It run daily from 22 Westminster Street, Providence, RI; see 'Business Directory,' 1850-51, *Providence, Rhode Island Directory*, Providence; *The Providence Daily Journal*, Providence, 27 March 1850, vol. 19, no. 79.
34. Unidentified.
35. Steamer *Niagara* (1848-1875), Cunard Line (1,824 tons.).
36. Probably a supplement circulated in the country, owned by papers such as the *New York Daily Tribune*. It could also be the *Evening post*, circulated twice semi-weekly, in 1850.
37. 'Price ... home' continues in left upper margin of p. 1; 'Dont ... carefully' continues in the left margin of p. 4.

System Number: 07631

Date: 20 and 21 [September 1850]¹

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: [Pomfret]³

Recipient: Margaret Getfield Hill⁴

Place: Scarsdale⁵

Repository: Library of Congress

Call Number: Manuscript Division, Pennell-Whistler Collection, PWC 34/19-20

Document Type: ALS

Friday afternoon 20th

Many is the times [sic] I have left the sheet begun yesterday to you dear friend & just now filled up so perhaps it will be too disjointed for you to make out. How much I could say to you that I cannot write. You will come again to me if you may next year for my comfort, my boys⁶ have taken a fancy to you[.] Willie was saying today, how he should enjoy a visit with me to Scarsdale, if it were not so near the city I might trust Jemie to spend Christmas with you, but I say nothing to interrupt their new term of study now. Last monday evening then occupying our only spare chamber (Doct P & Donie⁷), I was startled by an arrival. Mary⁸ seemed overjoyed, & soon young Ingersoll⁹ our late Secry of legation at St. P. flew upstairs where I stood, to embrace me, he had so loved Whistler¹⁰! he had been daily at our fire side at our table unceremoniously welcomed! he has lately returned from Europe & brought his brother¹¹ this far out of their route from N Haven to New Port to spend a night with us, My good land lady¹² lent her best chamber & Mary arranged it for their accommodation, she was up by dawn to secure a nice breakfast [p. 2] she minds no extra labour - to bring back imitations of past enjoyment to our dwindled circle. I could not but be grateful to our young friend, for coming so far purposely to see us, but oh Meg you know that more sadness than gladness must even attend my memories however fond, & you will not wonder that I could not sleep when I sought the rest my weary frame needed, after all had retired & my little patient¹³ was calmly reposing, tho in fever - she has been gently dealt with by Him, who appoints me this fresh cause of anxiety - no pain any where, and she is so gentle, so grateful to Aunt Anna & so unwilling to add to my trouble, she takes her kind doctors¹⁴ prescriptions without demur. I read to her whenever I can snatch the time, Mary is now seated beside her bed, the neighbours all offer - Mrs Williams¹⁵ comes in every evening with the doctor to repeat her offers to relieve me, but in every case of illness I have retained my past feeling thankful for the health allotted [sic] me, for this privilege [sic]. Before Julie was taken ill, she spent an afternoon at Doct Vintons¹⁶ place with Ellen Bowers¹⁷, went in their carriage, my Willie & I walked over & joined them at tea, I enjoyed the old lady's conversation, what an uncommon woman she is at 77 to retain charm of mind & manner.

[p. 3] Mrs Wilkinson¹⁸ has returned from her summers trip to R I¹⁹, she looks & feels better for having spent weeks with her mother & sisters. Those who have been away for variety, enquire of me eagerly how I enjoyed my visit (in the only way I could now) I devoted the mornings to Annie²⁰ & Grandmother²¹, and the afternoons to dear Maria²². I only indulged in one solitary visit to our family enclosure & was more grateful than she would imagine to have one hour alone, at my husbands grave²³ holding converse with that unseen world upon which my hopes rest. Emma²⁴ drove me to the ground & then she drove me to the Phelps domain²⁵ to enquire after Mrs Edwards²⁶ & infant, for the doctor was of the party to Norwich, & we all left in an hour by the Alice²⁷, If you see Cath²⁸, you will hear of Mr Flagg²⁹ a very talented young clergyman of your church there - tho not the beautiful edifice [sic] the Brewers³⁰ attend. he devoted himself to the Willey party³¹ that day at Norwich - of my return hither with my youthful trio - Alfred

Brewer³² was waiting for me & remained at the depot till our train started. Mr Willey³³ (you may have heard) has been in Ohio for a month, Mr Vail³⁴ preaching the half day [until] the Stonington church is opened. Tom Vail³⁵ has returned to school here, but is not to study Greek. Willie will get on faster without him. Willie seems determined to study hard this term to shew Mr Park³⁶ what he can do[.] Jemie is full of thoughts of going to West Point³⁷. Many influential friends are exerting themselves to get him in - I am passive, wishing he would bend his talents to architecture³⁸, but leaving the decision to God, who will I trust over rule all [p. 4] for the final good of James. He continues to bless both my dear boys with health & I feel grateful that my head & side are free from the attacks which till now distressed me. I am so pleased that all in your home thought you had gained health by your exertions to please us. My love to all, say to your dear Sisters³⁹ I know of no place more attractive to me for a visit than Scarsdale, & when I can go without neglect of duty, I will surely seek their welcome & yours. I shall not be surprised if your prediction of Cath's next season be realized. I hear good accounts from Preston⁴⁰ & from London⁴¹, they were all depending upon Mary & Mr R⁴² being more with them this month, but how eager they will feel to see the little neice⁴³ [sic] in Brooklyn. It is tea time now almost. my boys will be returning from school, my time is theirs. You know then they are willing to be entertained by their devoted mother. Our neighbours ask after you. Mrs Searles⁴⁴ has gathered seeds for you which I enclose now. she thinks, you ought to soak them before putting them in the ground. Capt Bowers⁴⁵ house presents now to our view an Octagon end which has extended their best parlor to admit a piano for the girls.

Saturday morning 21st

This lovely weather would make us forget Sept gales, I do hope it may continue for dear Kates⁴⁶'s visit. Imagine her arrival on monday with our mother & little Annie, but I must not be so fast you will not get this scrawl till the middle of next week, it must rest at our Depot till monday! Julia had an undisturbed night & is reading "Scriptural instruction for the lowest & the least"⁴⁷ get the work dear Meg for your young tribe, I bought The Earls daughter⁴⁸ as a gift to Ellen Bowers, in passing thro N York & shall read it aloud evening next week I hope in expectation of Willies second communion, God bless you⁴⁹ all. write when you can to your attached friend

A M Whistler

Notes:

1. The most probable date of this letter is September 1850. It can not be 1849 as AMW was still in St Petersburg, and cannot be 1851, as that was the year of the wedding between the Rev. Edward Octavius Flagg (1824-1911), and JW's cousin, Eliza McNeill. In this letter they appear as acquaintances. Letter also dated with reference to *Whittaker's Almanac*.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. AMW was recorded in the census of Pomfret, CT, 1850, living with two boys, a servant and a grandmother; see AMW to JW, 9 April 1850, #06394.
4. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY.
5. In June 1852 AMW moved to Scarsdale, NY.
6. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother. and James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.

7. Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer, and his son Donald McNeill Palmer (b. 1845).
8. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
9. Colin Macrae Ingersoll (1819-1903), secretary of the American Legation at St Petersburg;.
10. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
11. Colin Ingersoll had three brothers: William A.(b. 1825), Charles Robert, (b. 1822) and Ralph Apothea (b. 1817).
12. Unidentified.
13. Probably Julia Catherine Rodewald (1825-1897), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of A. Rodewald.
14. Probably Lewis Williams (b. 1815), physician, of Pomfret, CT.
15. Probably Mrs C. Williams (b. 1820), wife of Dr Williams, of Pomfret, CT.
16. Francis Vinton (1809-1872), Clergyman of the Protestant Episcopal Church (1839-1872), professor of ecclesiastical polity and canon law.
17. Ellen Augusta Bowers (1834-1890), daughter of Captain P. Bowers, Sr.
18. Mrs Wilkinson, neighbour of AMW at Pomfret, CT.
19. Rhode Island.
20. Probably Anna Whistler Palmer (b. 1848), later wife of G. Stanton, JW's cousin, named after JW's mother.
21. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
22. Maria Matilda McNeill, née Camman (d. Jan. 1852), JW's aunt, and wife of W. G. McNeill.
23. GWW's grave in the Evergreen Cemetery at Stonington, CT; GWW's monument still stands there.
24. Emma Woodbridge Palmer (1835-1912), JW's step-cousin.
25. Unidentified.
26. Mrs Edwards; unidentified.
27. Probably *Alice* (1845), built in Brooklyn, New York (326 tons.); see William M. Lytle and Forrest R. Holdcamper, revised and edited by C. Bradford Mitchell, with the assistance of Kenneth R. Hall, *Merchant Steam Vessels of the United States, 1790-1868*, Baltimore, 1975, p. 6.
28. Probably Catherine Julia Cammann, JW's aunt.
29. Probably Rev. Edward Octavius Flagg (1824-1911), husband of Eliza McNeill.
30. Harriet Tyler Brewer (b. 1790), and her husband Lyman Brewer (b. 1777), banker.
31. Unidentified.
32. Rev. Alfred Lee Brewer (1831-1899), Curate at the Church of Epiphany in New York (1856-57), founder and Rector of St Mathews School, San Mateo (1864-1899).
33. J. M. Willey (b. 1820), clergyman.

34. Vail, preacher at the local church at Pomfret, CT.
35. Thomas Vail (b. 1837), fellow student of JW at Pomfret, CT. At this stage Thomas was living with and studying under Rev. Roswell Park; see Windham Co, CT, Film no M432, Roll 51, Pomfret census 1850, National Archives, Washington, DC, p. 382.
36. Rev. Roswell Park (1807-1869), minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Principal of Christ Church school.
37. JW attended the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York between 1 July 1851 and 16 June 1854; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
38. It is apparent in this letter that AMW wanted JW to study architecture. However JW entered West Point in 1851, following his father's footsteps.
39. Sarah Stewart Hill (1800-1864), Jane O'Neill Hill (1793-1882), and Elizabeth Carmer Hill (1796-1834); sisters of Margaret G. Hill.
40. Eliza Isabella Winstanley (1788-1857), née McNeill, JW's aunt, his mother's half-sister lived in Preston, Lancashire.
41. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister, was married to Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), surgeon and etcher, JW's brother-in-law, with London as their residence.
42. Mary Isabella Rodewald (1823-1867), née McNeill, JW's cousin, married Johann Frederick Rodewald (b. 1808).
43. Probably Julia (Catherine) Rodewald, née McNeill, JW's cousin, who married Adolphe Rodewald and stayed with AMW in Pomfret for a short period.
44. Mrs Searles, AMW's neighbour at Pomfret, CT.
45. Captain Perry Bowers, Sr (1794-1870), of Pomfret, CT.
46. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
47. Probably American Sunday School Union, *The Day Spring: or, Simple Bible Instruction for the Least and Lowest*, Philadelphia, 1853. A book intended initially for the instruction of deaf and dumb children using the simplest form of language. Still the authors thought it might possibly be made useful among children in general. Hence it reached a wider circulation to the one intended.
48. Elizabeth M. Sewell, *The Earl's Daughter*, New York, 1850; a religious novel. In the book the daughter of the Earl of Rutherford sins, but confesses to God and gets his forgiveness. The book ends in the following way: 'like the last Earl of Rutherford, they [people] may one day rest in the sure and certain hope of those who sleep in Jesus.'
49. 'you ... Whistler' continues in the left margin of p. 1.

System Number: 09558

Date: 13 February 1851

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Pomfret

Recipient: Margaret Getfield Hill²

Place: [Scarsdale]

Repository: Cornell University Library, Ithaca, New York

Call Number: Department of Manuscripts and University Archives, Carl A. Kroch Library, 1629

Document Type: ALS

Pomfret

Feb 13th 1851. Thursday

We have heard of your affliction³ my beloved friends thro a few lines from Eliza MacNeill⁴, my dear Mother⁵ & self sympathise with you all, I especially for the lone widow & fatherless⁶. let us hear how it is with them & with you all dear Margaret as soon as you are able to write us. How many our heavenly Father is taking home from our circle this season. I trembled lest I must resign my darling Willie⁷ to death (the angel messenger to believers in the Lord) when after he had suffered ten days from erysipelas⁸ a typhoid fever appeared to be prostrating him, but God turned my prayers into thanksgivings & my invalid came down to the parlor for a few hours yesterday - the first time in nearly four weeks & is sitting writing beside me now to his sister⁹. Jemie¹⁰ has had a sore throat ever since his return journey from Washington where he caught cold, & has complained of pain in the chest latterly that he must submit to blistering & calomel¹¹, but I do not apprehend one of his severe attacks, My dear Mothers health has been better this winter, I feel the effects of anxiety & fatigue at last breaking down my strong constitution, but I find mentally "as my day so is my strength¹²" by casting my care on the Lord. How touching the picture Fredich Rodewald¹³ sent from sea of Marys¹⁴ confinement & christian resignation to the burial of her beautiful babe¹⁵ in the Deep [p. 2] what a comforter she has in such a husband he seemed so thankful at Julia¹⁶ being with them. I expect Eliza to spend next month here, & that my mother may go to Kate¹⁷ then - the last report was of Scarlet fever at "the Corner house¹⁸" from Emma to Annie, but Julies¹⁹ symptoms, were most alarming.

Kate has sympathised so deeply with Capt Alex Palmer in his loss of his wife²⁰ - in her last confinement five days ill only, but Priscilla said it "was not hard to die" & her only wish was to linger till the sabbath to enter upon an eternal one, which was granted. I wish you could read Kates beautiful description of the mother & wife taking care of fond husbands & those little ones, it is so tender & so comforting it does the heart good. Love to all you love dear Meg[.] You all know - in your joys & sorrows you have a sincere sympathiser in your widowed friend

Anna M Whistler

It would be a benefit to me I know to spend a week with you all at Scarsdale but duty binds me to my post here God bless you. He does & he does not leave your comforters²¹.

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY.
3. William Stewart Hill (1804-1851), brother of M. G. Hill; he died on 29 January 1851.

4. Probably Eliza Flagg (1830-1855), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of Rev. E. O. Flagg.
5. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
6. Jane Hill (1802-1872), née Clarkson, wife of Wi. S. Hill of Scarsdale and her children Jane Clarkson Hill (1837-1907), Alethea Blanchard Hill (1838-1908), Mary Clarkson Hill (1840-1913), and William Hill (1842-1869).
7. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
8. Erysipelas, an acute contagious disease, characterized by a special inflammation of the skin caused by a streptococcus.
9. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
10. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
11. Calomel is a chloride of mercury which is therapeutically useless, but in the intestine it breaks down into highly poisonous components, which irritate and purge. Late in the eighteenth century, calomel gained great popularity when Benjamin Rush mixed large doses of calomel with another powerful purgative in treating patients during the Philadelphia yellow fever epidemic. By the early nineteenth century calomel was the 'standing cathartic' both in the minds of physicians and patients. The drug became a panacea for all ills. One physician reminisced that in the early decades of the century, when a practitioner was puzzled about the administration of any medicine in a disease, it was deemed perfectly proper for him to prescribe a dose of calomel; which he did conscientiously, with well satisfied assurance, that if he did not give the exact medicine adapted to the case, he could not be far wrong! See William G. Rothstein, *American Physicians in the Nineteenth Century*, Baltimore and London, 1972, p. 50. Not surprisingly AMW adopted a similar attitude to that of the above physician. In this letter she remarks on JW taking Calomel. On 10 June 1851 AMW will take calomel herself for a different pain. See AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
12. 'As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in.' Jos. 14.11.
13. Johann Frederick Rodewald (1808-1886), banker, husband of M. I. McNeill.
14. Mary Isabella Rodewald (1823-1867), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of J. F. Rodewald.
15. Mary Isabella McNeill and Frederick Johann married on 2 April 1850, so the baby could not have been more than 1 month old. AMW had lost a baby too at sea, Charles Donald Whistler (1841-1843), who died on board the steamer taking AMW and her children from Lubeck to St Petersburg. See AMW's 'St Petersburg Diary,' 1843-1848, *James McNeill Whistler Papers*, New York Public Library; Elizabeth Mumford, *Whistler's Mother, The Life of Anna McNeill Whistler*, Boston, 1939, pp. 68-69.
16. Julia Catherine Rodewald (1825-1897), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of A. Rodewald.
17. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
18. The house owned by Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer, built in 1787, situated in the corner of Main and Wall Streets at Stonington, CT.
19. Emma Woodbridge Palmer (1835-1912), daughter of Dr. G. E. Palmer by his first wife and Anna Whistler Palmer (b. 1848), later wife of G. Stanton, and Julia McNeill Boardman, née Palmer, daughters of Dr. G. E. Palmer and C. J. Palmer.

20. Alexander Smith Palmer (1806-1894), sea captain, and his wife Priscilla Palmer (1815-1851), née Denison Dixon.

21. Continues in the right margin.

System Number: 09554

Date: 7 April 1851

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Pomfret

Recipient: Joseph Gilbert Totten²

Place: New York

Repository: National Archives, Washington DC

Call Number: Record Group 94

Document Type: ALS

Pomfret

April 7th 1851

To

Jos G Totten

Bt Brig Genl³

Col of Eng⁴

The widow of George W Whistler⁵ gratefully acknowledges the favor shewn her son James A Whistler⁶, having by this days mail received the proof of friendly efforts at Washington & the especial kindness of the President of the United States⁷ - in the appointment for an entrance to the Military Academy at West Point⁸.

It has come on the mournful anniversary of the fathers death⁹, to give light in the dwelling of the bereaved, & it is the hope of the widow that her son James may prove his appreciation of the favor shewn him, by devoting the talents he inherits to the service of his country.

Respectfully

Anna M Whistler

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.

2. General Joseph Gilbert Totten (1788-1864), military engineer, who became chief Engineer in the US Army.

3. Brevet Brigadier General.

4. College of Engineering.

5. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.

6. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.

7. Millard Fillmore (1800-1874), Thirteenth President of the USA (1850-1853).

8. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802. JW attended the academy between 1 July 1851 and 16 June 1854; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.

9. AMW's husband died on 7 April 1849 in St Petersburg.

System Number: 06396

Date: 10 June 1851

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Pomfret

Recipient: JW

Place: [West Point²]

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W392

Document Type: ALS

Pomfret.

tuesday June 10th. 51.

My own precious James³.

You must have been waiting the report of my return home to know when to direct to me & it is strange I should not have sent you a few lines by Saturdays mail, but I was very unwell (this pain in my side for which I am being blistered & under the influence of calomel⁴ today - & very tired. Uncle Palmer⁵ drove us over to Norwich in his light wagon on Friday morning his two boys & two little girls⁶ enjoying the drive much, he put the two latter with me in the noon train, but in consequence of two locomotives proving each out of order, we had to wait at Central Village till the evening train deposited us at Pomfret station, we surprised Grandmother⁷ by arriving after eight o'clock, but found all well. Mr Richmond⁸ so moved by your complimenting his team, he had ventured down to bring me home the day before! I should have been on my journey on Thursday, had I not remained at N Haven till George's⁹ return, I listened to his report of Jemie & West Point [p. 2] with great delight, he supposed you would room with Vinton¹⁰, & this was confirmed yesterday thro Holbrook's¹¹ letter to the village Coquette, (*entre nous*¹²) When Willie¹³ came from the Post Office with nothing, he said smiling - "We shall hear of Jemie for I discovered a W Point post mark on a letter to Sam¹⁴" he intended writing you of the flirtation between Miss Anna¹⁵ & her Cousin who is so rich & so charming! he came as soon as the young ladies were the mistresses of ceremony, & the cream that was wasted, till butter had to be borrowed was proof of the richness of the lemon cheese - cakes with which he was regaled. Anna shewed him Pomfret, & he was enticed to cheer them several days. This is what has reached my ears, for she has not been in to welcome my return home, tho Ellen¹⁶ comes daily to amuse herself with my little pets. They bore their tedious journey cheerfully & were none the worse for it. Annie¹⁷ is the unfailing amusement to Willie when he comes from school, & Julie¹⁸ is most interesting to all. We had rain on Saturday & yesterday which [p. 3] rendered a fire in our front parlour necessary, the hills are luxuriant with verdure, I write Cousin Kate Prince¹⁹ by this mail to hasten to us with her protegee. How I yearn to get a few lines traced by your hand my dear Jemie! Grandmother found your knife & Willie the key of your desk which I shall send in a Newspaper soon. I wish I had provided you with a pr of blankets, as George remarked upon the sparseness of the military bed clothes - if you can defer buying any till I come, you may be glad next winter to have a pr from home. It occurs to me as Mr Holbrook²⁰ is agent in the Post Office

department he may have privileges [sic] which would help me in such a case as forwarding your fencing utensils, you need not remark on this to your room-mate, but merely ask him if his father²¹ is about this time sending anything to him, or if his parents intend to visit him, if he will ask the favor of their giving me notice. You know my anxieties about you Jemie dear! Write me if you think of my comfort at all. Oh how I feel our separation! none can tell but the One who watches over us both. Willie is very well & would fill this up with love & messages if he were not at school, he [p. 4] will answer all your questions about your intimates among the youth, who say your absence is a blank. Oh Jemie I hope you are not putting off redeeming your time, tho you have not yet devoted an hour to your most faithfully & tenderly attached companion & friend even your widowed Mother

A M W.

Offer my remembrance at Major Bartletts²². Write of all you think, feel & wish for. Mary²³ & Grandmother send love to you. After you read this, tear it up and burn it, as I shrink from exposing it to a room-mate's criticism. When you write your sister²⁴ your impressions of the Point - and why delay it? I'll forward your letter to her. Edmund Allen²⁵ has been appointed to enter the naval school at Annapolis²⁶, thro the perseverance of his Connections. I hope your tooth ache is conquered, & that you use my nice powder daily & the brush at night. How do your days pass now? When do you rise? When do you sleep? & when take your meals? Let me remind you of your bible & prayers.

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802. During its early years the institution suffered from lack of proper organization and discipline. Colonel Sylvanus Thayer, the 'father of the Military Academy' (Superintendent, 1817-1833) upgraded academic standards, inculcated military discipline and emphasized honorable conduct. Thayer also made civil engineering the foundation of the curriculum. For the first half century, USMA graduates were largely responsible for the construction of the nation's initial railway lines, bridges, harbors and roads. AMW's husband George Washington Whistler, her brother William G. McNeill, and many of her family and social connections were graduates of the academy who became prominent railroad engineers. JW attended the academy between 1 July 1851 and 16 June 1854, when he was finally dismissed due to poor grades. He produced many sketches showing his life there, such as *Position of a Soldier* (M.103), and *Merit its own Reward* (M.104). See Margaret F. MacDonald, *James McNeill Whistler, Drawings, Pastels and Watercolours*, New Haven and London, 1995, pp. 24-53; Stephen E. Ambrose, *Duty, Honor, Country: A History of West Point*, Baltimore, 1966; H. Irving Hancock, *Life at West Point; the Making of the American Army Officer: His Studies, Discipline, and Amusements*, New York, 1902; Gordon H. Fleming, *The Young Whistler*, London, 1978, pp. 80-108; Elizabeth Robins Pennell and Joseph Pennell, *The Life of James McNeill Whistler*, Philadelphia, 1909, 2 vols., 3rd edition, revised, pp. 30-38.
3. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
4. See AMW to JW, 13 February 1851, #09558.
5. Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer.
6. Donald McNeill Palmer, George E. Palmer, Anna Whistler Stanton (b. 1848), née Palmer, and Julia McNeill Boardman, née Palmer, JW's cousins.

7. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
8. Nathan Richmond (b. 1799), farmer at Pomfret, CT.
9. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
10. Francis Laurens Vinton (1835-1879), room-mate of JW at West Point, later Professor of mining and engineering.
11. James Baker Holbrook, a class-mate of JW at West Point.
12. Fr.: between us.
13. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
14. Sam Holbrook, son of James Holbrook, and brother of James Baker Holbrook.
15. Anna Holbrook, daughter of M. B. and J. Holbrook, and her cousin; unidentified.
16. Ellen Holbrook, daughter of M. B. and J. Holbrook.
17. Anna Whistler Stanton, née Palmer (see above).
18. Julia McNeill Palmer (1851-1902), JW's cousin, later wife of W. S. Boardman.
19. Kate ('Cousin Kate') Livermore (1820-1907), daughter of J. D. Prince and wife of A. Livermore.
20. James Holbrook (1812-1864), agent of the US post office.
21. John Rogers Vinton, father of F. L. Vinton.
22. Professor William Holmes Chambers Bartlett (1804-1893), mathematician.
23. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
24. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
25. Edmund Allen (b. 1836), of Pomfret, CT. 'Edmund ... Connections' continues in the left margin of p. 1; 'I ... night' continues on left margin of p. 2; 'How ... prayers' continues in the right margin of p. 2.
26. United States Naval Academy, established in 1845, as the undergraduate college that prepares young men and women to become professional officers in the US Navy and Marine Corps. Allen entered the Academy on 20 October 1851 at the age of 15 years and 9 months. He was listed as a non-graduate of the class. At the February 1854 semi-annual exam he was found deficient in academics, and was subjected to dismissal. In March 1854 Allen wrote a letter to the Secretary of Navy, stating that he got behind in his studies because his mother died. He was dismissed in March 1854. According to AMW it was Allen's aunt, Mrs Wilkinson who died in 1854, and not his mother. See AMW to JW, 15 October 1851, #06404; 16 January 1852, #06409; 10 and 11 February 1852, #06410; 17 February 1854, #06442; these letters point out Allen's progress and final dismissal from the Academy. Information from Marcia Matika, Connecticut State Library; also see *Register of Candidates for Admission to the US Naval Academy, Conduct Records, Official Correspondence of the Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy*, Records of the United States Naval Academy Nimitz Library.

System Number: 06397

Date: 10 and 11 July 1851

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: [Pomfret]

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W393

Document Type: ALS

Thursday 9 o'clock evening, 10th. July

Grandmother³ has just said goodnight to Willie⁴ & I, charging us each to enclose her love & blessing for you dearest Jemie⁵. We have just united in family worship, and in praying for a blessing from on high for "the absent members" upon our Cadet a double portion! But are you a Cadet? The only report I have received from you is that you were awaiting the examination of the medical board. It is five weeks since your introduction at West Point, it is strange that J Holbrooks⁶ letters reach Pomfret, for Sam⁷ has three from him to tell about, but yours to me must miscarry, if Sam hears that you are disabled from writing he has the fear of giving me pain & supresses [sic] the bad news. If you are studying hard to "keep your name bright" still a weekly note home would be a small tax upon hours of relaxation and when you think of our daily disappointment & of a widowed mothers⁸ anxiety you will exert yourself to prevent it in future. Words cannot express how mortified I am always to reply in the negative to the incessant question "have you news from your son?" The widow Eldridge⁹ paid quite a social call day before yesterday, & when I was trying to gloss over your neglect of me, by magnifying your exertions at the military academy, she quietly remarked "he must acquire a habit of writing short letters, for you naturally wish to hear often from him, at least I judge so & could not bear the separation from my son, but for his frequent reports home."

I received a most kind letter from Genl Swift¹⁰ by yesterdays mail in which he expresses the anxiety of a tender father to hear from you, will you read this extract & value the interest evinced by this veteran friend? I hope so dear Jemie, for you know the Genl is no croaker, he habitually is liberal in his view of the activity of others, but he is one of the chiefs of the military academy & was always an oracle with your own dear departed father, so I hope you will estimate the value of such an adviser, & read with reflection his remarks, "I had [p. 2] hoped to have heard something of Jemie ere this, he was too flatteringly received by his fathers friend Bartlett¹¹, tho he gave him excellent counsel, The Honble Mr Kemble¹² distinguished him on the same score, but Jemie's sad lounging habit mortified me, he kept Mr K's breakfast waiting & the cars had well nigh left us! very provoking in a youth - and the worst thing next to a vice, at the Point, so you may imagine me in some anxiety about Jemie, I await your account of your son & pray he may exert himself." Oh, my own precious Jemie may I hope you will overcome the indolence & procrastination which no doubt your parents bear the chief blame of, tho you are the victim, tomorrow completes your 17th. year, how gladly I should send you a birthday offering more to your taste, than this united friendly & maternal warning.

You have not enlightened me as to any victories over self, or I should have seized upon an opp - for cheering you on by encores. I "hope on" tho I have felt "hope deferred maketh the heart sick"¹³ perhaps you have been writing to N Haven to rejoice with your brother & sister¹⁴ there in your little nephew¹⁵! perhaps you have been using the moments you would otherwise devote to your mother - in writing to Sloane St¹⁶. I send you the half of the last from Sis because it is so full of Jemie - how it would gratify me to send you a birth day cake, or a canister of your favorite snaps, but Willie thinks you may be on your journey back to Pomfret, or that you are confined to

the hospital! if you write me on the contrary that homemade cake will be acceptable in August, & that it will not be too late for fencing there; Willie may take these with his own snug valise, even if I am discouraged about visiting you. I must answer Genl Swifts letter this week, as he soon will be setting out for Michigan. how I wish you would write this your most invaluable earthly friend! especially as you have not put it into your mothers power to report your progress to him. Grandmother, Willie & myself are assured of a cordial welcome at Geneva¹⁷ & it would be of infinite service to my health, which is not [p. 3] firm, but unless I go to see you, I shall remain at my post here, three weeks from tomorrow will be the examination here, Willie by the blessing of God, will go to Stonington by the 5th of Aug to meet Cousin Kate,¹⁸ Nellie¹⁹ & Jacks²⁰ & for sea bathing. Mary²¹ is to go to Springfield even earlier, so Grandmother & I shall comfort & help each other till she comes back strengthened & cheered! Then if letters from you encourage me to make the exertion, it will not be long ere you are embraced by your mother & brother. It is gratifying to me to hear Willie how he excuses your neglect of us, to others. When Sam H says he would not care for such a brother! & sneers at your being so soon used up! Willie says Sam does not know what study or work either, mean as Jim does! and that he would not change brothers! But oh when he returns straight from school to the Post office day by day with "no letter from Jemie"! he looks distressed. All are asleep now but me, our faithful timepeace warns me to say goodnight.

Friday 11th.

Grandmother says "many happy returns of Jemies birthday to him." Oh my beloved son how can I convey to you an idea of the tender love which fills your widowed mothers heart as she yearns to embrace you! Willie is studying very dilligently this term, or might ha[ve] enclosed a letter which he began last evening to you, he is much more manly since obliged to act for himself, but he is very considerate for my comfort. Jacks went to N Haven with Hen C.²² on the 4th. as Willie could not accompany them to West Point. Eliza²³ writes me that your Uncle McNeill²⁴ expects to embark for LPool on the 19th. How many of our relatives are going to see Sis! Jemie try to fulfil all your friends expectations from your bright talents, & then you may pay her a flying visit to delight mutually. Oh if you will but write me that you read your bible & pray as I have led you to do since you could be taught to fear, love & honor your Savior, if you assure me you still observe the sign that you are one of the heavenly family by keeping the Lords day holy! you will indeed cheer me, tho your cheerful voice no longer beguiles me of sad & lonely feelings, I have only had one walk since you were my companion & that was then last saturday afternoon in June with Cousin Kate & Mrs Phinney²⁵ to Doct Vintons²⁶ place. Mr P Gingy²⁷ & his father are making a tour to Canada, but promised²⁸ to be here at the Church fair on the 30th. I went to the Rectory with Willie Monday evening to sit a social hour or two. Mrs P, is making some beautiful articles. Miss Kate²⁹ embroidering another chair & even [Seur?] crochets a mat at her elbow. I see none of the webs wrought next door, I hear of Annas³⁰ having a disease of the heart so her mother thinks! A wedding is the topic in agitation thro the village but it is not decided. The Misses Vinton³¹ I hope will soon be in our choir for the new organ is fine. How do you like their brother? who do you prefer to him & to Holbrook as companions. Offer my regards at Major Bartletts & in piety with love to your

fond & anxious

Mother

[p. 4] Read this thro with attention & reverence, then destroy it for I fear it being read by others in camp. Tell me of your health particularly. Do write to Genl Swift as I know you can readily if you will. do not put it off till the morrow. The stamps are ordered & shall be enclosed in my next, do not wait for them. Borrow till you can return.

Cadet James A. Whistler
 Military Academy
 West Point
 State of New York

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
3. There is a circular black wax seal inscribed 'Anna.'
4. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
5. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
6. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
7. James Baker Holbrook, a class-mate of JW at West Point.
8. Sam Holbrook, son of James Holbrook, and brother of James Baker Holbrook.
9. AMW is referring to the loss of her husband George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
10. Hannah Eldridge (1799-1865), née Grosvenor, widow of Edward Eldridge of Pomfret, CT.
11. General Joseph Gardner Swift (1783-1865), first graduate of USMA, West Point, NY, chief engineer of US Army, JW's father's brother-in-law.
12. Professor William Holmes Chambers Bartlett (1804-1893), mathematician.
13. Gouverneur Kemble (1786-1875), politician and merchant.
14. 'hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when desire cometh, it is the tree of life.' Prov. 13.12.
15. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother, and Mary Ann Whistler (ca 1826-1852), née Ducatel, JW's sister-in-law.
16. George ('Georgie') Worthen Whistler (b. 1851), JW's nephew.
17. 62 Sloane Street, London, was the home address of Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), surgeon and etcher, JW's brother-in-law, and his wife Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
18. General Swift lived at Geneva, NY.
19. Probably Kate ('Cousin Kate') Livermore (1820-1907), daughter of J. D. Prince and wife of A. Livermore.
20. Probably Ellen M. McNeill, JW's cousin.
21. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
22. Henry ('Harry') Cammann, merchant, JW's uncle.
23. Eliza Flagg (1830-1855), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of Rev. E. O. Flagg.
24. William Gibbs McNeill (1800-1853), railway engineer, JW's uncle.

25. Mrs Phinney, of Pomfret, CT.
26. Francis Vinton (1809-1872), Clergyman of the Protestant Episcopal Church (1839-1872), professor of ecclesiastical polity and canon law.
27. Mr Gingy, of Pomfret, CT.
28. 'promised ... Mother' continues in the left upper margins of p. 1.
29. Catherine C. Richardson (b. 1831). In 1850 she lived with the family of Rev. R. Park.
30. Anna Holbrook, daughter of M. B. and J. Holbrook.
31. Eleanor Vinton (b. 1838), and Mary Vinton (1840-1930), daughters of Rev. A. H. Vinton.
32. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.

System Number: 09557

Date: 3 August [1851]¹

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Pomfret

Recipient: Margaret Getfield Hill³

Place: [Scarsdale]

Repository: Department of Manuscripts and University Archives, Cornell University Library, Ithaca, New York

Call Number: Carl A. Kroch Library, 1629

Document Type: ALS

Pomfret

Sunday night Aug 3rd

My dear Margaret

I recd yours of last Sunday eve on the 30th the day of our church annual Fair⁴, which had revived your visit so vividly, I had been thinking of you incessantly, but rushing in vain for time to write thoughts. Kate⁵ surprised me by coming to attend this, she could only be absent from home two or three days & took away my two charges, who for two months had engrossed so much of my time, Annies fond Grandmother⁶ misses her so sadly I wish we could have kept her darling till we could take her to Sto[n]ington - but mother thought it right she should go, tho the little ones mind was divided, she pities poor Aunt so much without any little ones of her own! & is so loving towards us, My summer as yours dear Margaret has been devoted to the care of precious loans, "mothers jewels" & thus my correspondents have been neglected. Mary B⁷ my maid has been at Springfield the last fortnight & I shall rejoice to resign the kitchen duties to her by tuesday next, Willies⁸ holiday having begun (he acquitted himself creditably last friday at the examination) he proposes making an excursion this week to see his nephew⁹ at N Haven, then to persuade Jacks¹⁰ to go with him to Stonington for a dip or two & to be back here by the 12th to set out with me for West Point¹¹. I never make plans now with the least feeling of realizing them but Genl & Mrs Swift¹² hope I may take my mother to Geneva¹³, I am sure it would benefit us all three to go there & if in my power to accomplish it I shall. we shall probably go from here to Albany direct that I may see members of the Whistler connection on my route, I will write you when I can report Jemie¹⁴ at West Point, he is very eager for our arrival, writes cheerfully of himself & that his hard bed & life in camp have [p. 2] driven away sore throat, rheumatism & c.

that he is shorn of his ringlets & tho he finds it hard to keep awake as sentinel at night, he bears the keeping guard 8 hours out of the 24 when it is his turn as well as any of them. the chills & the fine band charm him, but he feels at times as lonely as I can wish him to do away from home! How much pleasanter to tell you all that fills my heart about my boys & Debos¹⁵ all, in tête à tête walks (which I have not enjoyed since you were here) if I were sure of accomplishing my desire to take my dear mother & Willie to spend a day or two at Scarsdale. I'll try my best, for I shall go to NH to take a peep at the beloved trio¹⁶ there & to Brooklyn & to Stonington tho I cannot be absent from my duties here more than a fortnight. You will rejoice to hear that the exertions Mrs Park¹⁷ made to pay for our new & fine organ were successful, I believe the clear gains of the Fair amounted to \$150.00, she looked like a martyr to the good cause, with her face bound up from Erysipelas & her pieces of embroidery were exquisite, Our village church today was filled (tho all the school boys were absent, & the collection at the communion was the most generous our pastor said which had ever been constituted on a like occasion. there are many jealous Episcopalians now visiting Pomfret, & Mr Park¹⁸ has the promise of his pulpit being supplied during his absence - his wife goes with him on a circuit for most of the holiday, they propose starting about the time I may - The Vintons are here - the young ladies¹⁹ expected this week to stay at their uncles the rest of the summer. Doctor Vinton preached a most thrilling subject "What is a man profitted²⁰" &c morning & afternoon in continuation, while I had Kate Prince²¹ as a visitor last month, he made the question as deeply impressive as [mortal?] could. But all are asleep - all mean mother & Willie who would if at my elbow unite their love with mine to you all. How I long to see you again & to be with your dear sisters²². I rejoice in dear Sarah's interesting change, I so delight²³ in babies, I trust not my pen on the other half of this sheet lest I should be enticed into sitting up late, for I have to rise at five or earlier every day, if you wondered last summer how I could "keep going about house" I should astonish you [with] this! I yearn for rest & would fain be a ["]Mary at Jesus feet²⁴" instead of "Martha troubled about Many things²⁵" tho I cast my care on Him, & bear on His promises to the widow²⁶.

Ever your fondly & truly attached

A M W

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to the annual church fair at Pomfret mentioned by AMW to JW, 10 and 11 July 1851 (#06397).
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY.
4. The fair at Christ's Church, Pomfret.
5. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
6. Anna Whistler Palmer (b. 1848), mariée Mrs George Stanton, and her grandmother Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
7. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
8. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
9. George ('Georgie') Worthen Whistler (b. 1851), JW's nephew.
10. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.

11. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
12. General Joseph Gardner Swift (1783-1865), first graduate of USMA, West Point, NY, chief engineer of US Army, JW's father's brother-in-law, and his wife Louisa Swift (1788-1855), née Walker.
13. The Swifts lived at Geneva, NY.
14. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
15. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
16. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother, his wife Mary Ann Whistler (ca. 1826-1852), née Ducatel, and their son George ('Georgie') Worthen Whistler.
17. Mary Park (1815-1854), née Brewster Baldwin, wife of Rev. R. Park.
18. Rev. Roswell Park (1807-1869), minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Principal of Christ Church school.
19. Alexander Hamilton Vinton (1807-1881), clergyman, his wife Eleanor Vinton (1806-1877), née Stockbridge Thompson, and their daughters Eleanor Vinton (b. 1838) and Mary Vinton (1840-1930).
20. 'For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?' Mark 8.36.
21. Kate ('Cousin Kate') Livermore (1820-1907), daughter of J. D. Prince and wife of A. Livermore.
22. Jane O'Neill Hill (1793-1882) and Sarah Stewart Hill (1800-1864), sisters of M. G. Hill of Scarsdale.
23. 'delight ... A M W' continues in left and upper margins of p. 1.
24. 'And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.' Luke 10.39. 'But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.' Luke 10.40.
25. 'And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things' Luke 10.41.
26. When AMW's husband George Washington Whistler died, AMW wrote: 'My desire is to be a widow indeed according to the definition of one in Timothy.' See AMW to JW, 10 May 1849, #06392. Probably she is thinking of Timothy again. 'Honour widows that are widows indeed. But if any widow have children or nephews. let them first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God. Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day. But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth. And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless. Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man. I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.' 1 Tim. 5.3-7, 5.9, 5.14.

System Number: 06398

Date: 6 August 1851

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Pomfret

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W394

Document Type: ALS

Pomfret

Aug 6th 1851 Wednesday morning

Your letters my own precious Jemie³

are like Angels visits not only sweet & far between, but they comfort & cheer us in the home where your absence is so much felt. I do not mean to let you off from your promise however to write weekly reports of yourself when you enter upon barrack regulations, quality does not always make up for quantity, tho I appreciate a good letter, you do not fancy long ones I am aware, so will reserve all news till this day next week when I hope we may be tête à tête [sic].

Willie⁴ took his first start for N Haven at 6 ½ with Bruin⁵, his valise in hand & a basket of currant jelly &c for Sister Mary⁶ at his feet, but Richmond⁷ has usually his own movements to interfere with Willies promptness, what with rigging up at Butlers⁸ & stopping at the mill with a bag of grain, they reached the station in time only to see the train moving off! Bruin was frightened & unmanageable, so Richmond put the disgrace on the mastiff, & pocketed the half dollar bringing Willie back to spend the hours intervening till the mail carrier took him down for the 2 oclock train. I fancied the welcome at N Haven too late for Mary to exhibit her first born⁹ to Uncle, so Bruin would be the pet of the parlour for the hour.

We have all become fond of the good dog who is so affectionate & obedient & miss him with his Master, who looks forward to returning home by Satur [i.e. Saturday] night & hopes Mary will have brought the gift of her brother to take Bruins place. "Man proposes God disposes"¹⁰ by the Almightys blessing upon my endeavors GMother¹¹ & myself will be on our route to you next Tuesday. [p. 2] As Aunt Kate¹² came to the Fair¹³ last Wednesday & took her little girls home on friday, we shall not go to Stonington till after we have seen you, I propose taking the Western road "free ticket"¹⁴ to Albany, there to embrace your Cousins¹⁵, but not to linger, for I am so eager to see my Cadet, tho you are one conditionally only. I hope your obedience & application may win you the place so many feel interested for you to keep. Mrs Gillibrand¹⁶ wrote me last month of her rejoicing to hear from "Cis"¹⁷ that you had passed & that she should write you as soon as she had read the book you gave her. she has been on the go so incessantly as not to have eked out time for "Frank Fairleigh"¹⁸ [.] both she & Mr G¹⁹ sent lots of love to you. but you shall listen to her letter when I can get within ear shot of you & one also from Emma Maingay²⁰ recd [i.e. received] yesterday dated Sloane St²¹ your sister had so many to write by Amos²², who is now on his voyage home. she slipped in a wee note to me containing love for dear Jemie & such a tone of wounded affection at his silence I beg you to begin at once to write her, for which purpose I'll enclose you a sheet like this to fill before we meet as you left your desk behind - I shall try to forget nothing you want dear Jemie, but shall be sadly chagrined if you defer writing "Cis" think how gentle is her nature, how she clings to you with peculiar attachment & Seymour²³ too will be hurt & disappointed in you if you neglect Debo. "delays are dangerous"²⁴ rouse your energies young soldier, & prove the benefit of good discipline for the honor of your

country & your name. I am almost afraid to tell you how gratified I was last friday by Willies passing the school examination with such eclat. because if you inadvertantly [sic] boast of your brother to Jim H or F V²⁵, he may hear of his mother's vanity & [p. 3] modesty is the charm of all his acquirements. I wish him to have no more confidence than he gains by his own efforts, he is very well & most impatient to be with you, As this is the height of the season for travelers, I fear encountering a crowd of fashionable (my abhorrence) at Cozens hotel²⁶, will you get permission to call upon Mr C, who must retain an interest in the sons & widow of one he knew & seemed so highly to respect, that I judge he will try to make me comfortable, say to Mr C with my compliments, I seek a retired room for my short visit to the Point. Willie can sleep anywhere because he can make the finish to his toilette in my chamber, as I am such an early riser as to complete my morning duties before he gets up. I need no private sitting room, tho I should prefer not going to the public table, yet if necessary I shall do so, protected by Willie. now Jemie dear do not let false pride interfere with your frank delivery of my message to Mr C who will respect us all the more for frankness & honesty. I shall wait to hear from you ere I venture to land at the Point & shall let you know (after hearing) the result of your application for a chamber for me what boat you may expect us by. I should prefer arriving at sun set than sun rise. learn about the boat trips what hours they leave Albany & when they land passengers at the Point & communicate by letter to me your advice[.] Remember I shall not set out till I have your reply & yet we wish not to lose a day we might spend with you. let me know if you think of any thing else I can get you. I sent you a Semi weekly²⁷ yesterday with some slips from others I thought would amuse or interest you. Aunt Kate wants me to copy the Rhymes, from Punch on the Crystal Fountain²⁸. Sister reports that sixty thousand a day yet visit the Crystal palace²⁹ [p. 4] ! & yet no confusion attends, so perfect is the police system. But it is time for me to prepare for GMothers noon repast, I have become an adept in Marys³⁰ holiday, I expect her "se chass"³¹ with her cousin. The silver moon³² I hope will ere the equinox shine again on the borders of the St Johns, E. Florida³³. Tout le monde of this village are glad of news from Jemie W, Doct & Mrs P³⁴ seem most truly interested in you, my fairing to you is a slice of Mrs Parks cake. The Grandmother of Cadet Vinton³⁵ longs to hear from him, we see her often at our house & at church, she was at the Fair. I suppose you have heard it was very successful indeed, tho the prospect had not been bright. God bless you dearest Jemie. Think how greatly I depend on you & Willie for comfort & disappoint not my hopes of you.

Ever your devoted & widowed Mother

A M Whistler

Wednesday afternoon

Mary came in time for our dinner & is quite well, she was alarmed by hearing at Mrs Barnes³⁶ that your near sightdness [sic] would oblige you to leave the Military Academy! but you do not thus represent it in your letters & I will hope the best for you. she has neither brought the spaniel nor her cousin, but I hope the latter may come to spend the fortnight of my absence with Mary. How many things bring you to my minds eye, from the warm corner of a Mothers heart, one day poor little James Stoddard³⁷ came to see while his hand was useless, you know 3 of his fingers were cut off, to amuse him I shewed him Old England³⁸ & read your piece about the Abbot to him³⁹, en passant - When we sang "Stay thou insulted Spirit stay"⁴⁰ in church on Sunday I thought of my Jemie's prayers! & His appeal in them!

Mary⁴¹ says Mrs Grey⁴² helped Willie from the Springfield train, to the N Haven, he had barely time.

Answer this immediately

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
3. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
4. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
5. A dog.
6. Mary Ann Whistler (ca 1826-1852), née Ducatel, JW's sister-in-law.
7. Nathan Richmond (b. 1799), farmer at Pomfret, CT.
8. Samuel Butler (b. 1804), blacksmith at Pomfret, CT.
9. George ('Georgie') Worthen Whistler (b. 1851), JW's nephew.
10. 'Nam homo proponit, sed Deus disponit,' For man proposes, but God disposes, Thomas à Kempis (c. 1380-1471), *De Imitatione Christi*, bk. 1, ch. 19, sect. 2.
11. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
12. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
13. The annual fair at Christ's Church, Pomfret on 30 July. See AMW to JW, 10 and 11 July 1851, #06397.
14. The estate of George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father, left 6 per cent stock of the Albany City Western Railroad to AMW worth \$700. Probably AMW received a token or ticket of some kind from her shares. See *Estate of Whistler George W., St Petersburg, Russia, 1850*, no. 4350, Connecticut State Library (formerly of Pomfret), G. 16.
15. The Van Vechtens, maternal cousins of AMW, lived at Albany, NY. See AMW to JW, 17 August and 16 September 1857, #06487.
16. Mary Tyler Gellibrand (b. 1812), née Ropes, wife of W. C. Gellibrand, lived at Albyns, England.
17. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
18. Frank Smedley, *Frank Fairleigh or Scenes from the Life of a Private Pupil*, London, 1850. JW illustrated two scenes from the novel, *Mr Frampton Uses his Umbrella* (M.68), and *Mr Frampton as Noah's Grandfather* (M.69).
19. William Clark Gellibrand (b. ca 1791), merchant.
20. Eliza Ann Maingay (1821-1899).
21. 62 Sloane Street, London was the home address of Deborah Delano Haden.
22. Amos Palmer, Jr (1827-1861), JW's step-cousin.
23. 'All delays are dangerous in war,' John Dryden, *Tyrannic Love*, 1669, act 1, sc. 1.
24. Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), surgeon and etcher, JW's brother-in-law.
25. James Baker Holbrook, a class-mate of JW at West Point, and Francis Laurens Vinton (1835-1879), room-mate of JW at West Point, later Professor of mining and engineering.

26. Cozzens hotel at West Point, NY, owned by W. B. Cozzen who supplied the academy with food, and did his best to keep it cheap, unappetizing, and unnourishing it as possible. His menu was short and to the point: boiled potatoes, boiled meat, boiled pudding, bread, and coffee. In the sober words of a congressional commission that made an unannounced visit to the mess hall, the food was neither nutritious nor wholesome, neither sufficient nor nicely dressed. Through the years the diners became accustomed to sour molasses, rancid butter, bugs in the sugar, and cockroaches in the soup. See Stephen E. Ambrose, *Duty, Honor, Country: A History of West Point*, Baltimore, 1966, p. 154; William Thompson Bonner, *New York, The World's Metropolis 1624-1924*, New York, 1924, p. 856.
27. In 1851 there were various publications of journals from different locations throughout USA entitled Semi Weekly, such as *Semi-weekly Tribune*, New York, begun in June 1850.
28. The Crystal Fountain was designed by F. and C. Osler, and was formed out of four tons of pure crystal glass. It stood 27 feet high situated in the transept of the glass and iron exhibition hall in Hyde Park, London, in 1851. The 1851 edition of the *Punch* was largely pre-occupied with the exhibition at the Crystal Palace. There were no specific rhymes on its theme, although many satirical articles appeared (including illustrations), such as 'At the Fountain in the Crystal Palace,' *Punch*, London, 1851, January - June edition, p. 256.
29. Giant glass and iron exhibition hall in Hyde Park, London, that housed the Great Exhibition of 1851. The structure was taken down and rebuilt (1852-1854) at Sydenham Hill, at which site it survived until 1936. *The Times* reported that on 28 July 1851, the number of visitors was 67,170; see *The Times*, 29 July 1851, no. 29,866, p. 8.
30. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
31. Fr.: chasse, spirit or liqueur taken after coffee (chasse-cafe). AMW probably means that she was expecting Mary and her cousin to arrive 'after coffee.'
32. Eliza (d. 1856), a servant of Kate Livermore; see AMW to JW 27 August 1851, #06399, and AMW to JW, 16 September 1851, #06400.
33. The estate of Charles Johnson McNeill (1802-1869), brother of AMW was at St John's, East Florida; see AMW to JW, 23 March 1858, #06495.
34. Rev. Roswell Park (1807-1869), minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Principal of Christ Church school. His wife was Mary Roswell Park, née Brewster, died before 1855.
35. Mary Vinton (1773-1854), née Atwell, mother of Alexander Hamilton, Francis and John Rogers Vinton.
36. Charlotte A. Barnes (b. 1811), née Sanford, wife of James Barnes.
37. James Stoddard, of Pomfret, CT.
38. Probably Edwin Paxton Hood, *Old England: Historic Pictures of Life in Old Castles, Forests, Abbeys, and Cities, etc.*, London, 1852, 2nd edition; a book with religious overtones.
39. JW seems to have been preoccupied with clerical subjects at this time. He drew the *Priest* (M.38), 'Sackcloth without and a good Sack within' (M.58), and *St Augustine* (M.59). It is possible that he wrote about the Abbot.
40. 'Stay, thou insulted Spirit, stay,' penitential hymn written by Charles Wesley (1707-1788), clergyman, poet, and hymn writer. Wesley believed his hymns could help people recognize their sin, respond to God's invitation of grace, and commit their lives to God.
41. 'Mary ... immediately' continues in the left margin of p. 1.

42. Mrs Grey; unidentified.

System Number: 06399

Date: 27 August 1851

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Stonington

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W395

Document Type: ALS

Stonington

Wednesday Aug 27th 51

My beloved Jemie³

Willie & Jacks⁴ have not yet come up from the Vanderbilt⁵, altho the latter was ready to be Grandmothers⁶ gallant to the good old corner house⁷ at 6 oclock this am. Willie was in bed all day yesterday with fever caused by bathing when overheated & staying in too long. this will be a warning to him to be moderate & prudent in his indulgences I hope, he feels well today tho rather weak.

I wonder if you have expected a letter from Mother before this? My heart has indited many a one to you, Major Bartlett⁸ would report to you having continued his friendly attentions even to engaging a carriage & putting us in it for the South Ferry. Jacks found his valise in the Reindeer⁹. A welcome from Grandma C & Aunty¹⁰, from Eliza & Mr Flagg¹¹. Carus¹² salute! Nurse & Sarah¹³ shining in their sphere, made us at once at home. We made many trips in next door to see Cousin Josee Richards¹⁴ looking beautiful enough for one of Bueloffs¹⁵ subjects in a cerulean blue robe clasped with torquoise & her eyes as blue as the brooch, she has a wee infant son¹⁶ now, little Mackey¹⁷ however is the most engaging child at the winning age of two years & he is the miniature picture of Genl Swift¹⁸ (who is expected in Brooklyn 1st of Sept & whom I wished I could have waited to meet there, but I must be at Pomfret by next Saturday) I took my boys to N Haven by the Express train 8 oclock last friday & we had a most pleasant trip up. George¹⁹ had just returned from his 5 o'clock inspection & looked dusty enough, for he goes usually on the Engine. Mary²⁰ says he often walks 12 miles a day where the new track is in progress [p. 2] so you have not greater exertions to make dear Jemie[.] I think your little nephew GWW²¹ looks much as you did at his age, for you had the same unfair play, not enough to eat which he has & you know the old rule Jemie "pretty babies grow up plain" so lament not over your thin visage now, you were a pretty baby when you plump'd up & so will your nephew be. he is a darling now! I dont wonder that Mary sheds tears when they roll from his full blue eyes, or that she is delighted when he smiles, his fingers are long & tapered & his nails like pink shells, his hair is brown & inclined to curl like Uncle Jems! Mary wishes she could go to West Point, to shew him to you & George promises this week to spend a day with you. but so he intended meeting me in the city & business interfered. I did not see him after he walked to the depot with me on Sat noon. Jacks & Willie loitered & were obliged to take the ten oclock train to N Y, instead of the seat in Mr Pophams²² carriage intended for them, to drive Miss Hill²³ & I from New Rochelle station to Scarsdale, they would have enjoyed the early drive as I did thro a

beautiful country six miles had they been ready as I was for the 6 ¼ train from N Haven. Aunty & Eliza spent Saturday at Scarsdale with me, feeling it a privilege to be with such dear & tried friends in such a lovely spot! they returned to Brooklyn that evening. Willie came up by the Harlaem [sic] train with Mr Popham in time to enjoy a romantic stroll thro the woods with Miss Hill & myself. All there take a great interest in you Jemie dear they urge me much to pitch my tent among them & I have every inducement for wishing to sojourn at so convenient a distance for visiting West Point & Brooklyn. The Hudson RR²⁴ is only two miles off & the Harlaem RR²⁵ takes only 1 hour & a half to put passengers down at the Park. Consequently Willie could daily attend Columbia College²⁶ all the year round & would daily have some of the Popham gents to bear him company to town & back. Scarsdale would be convenient for George & Mary to visit us. We could keep a pony for Willie & a cow for our benefit, & the circle is most select, besides the church & pastor & his wife²⁷ being after our model of such indispensables. I & Willie left there by the 9 oclock train Monday for N York.

I [p. 3] have not yet talked with George of this new prospect, but doubt not he will approve of it, for an Engineer is never stationary & were I to go to N Haven to be near him, he might leave me there! C Ingersoll²⁸ has returned from England & is soon to be married²⁹! Cousin S Lewis³⁰ is in the insane hospital! but it is only a derangement of the least alarm, & transient I'm sure. I hope to see Cousin Jule³¹ at the Wadawanac³² as his family is there. Mr Rodewald³³ is expected daily at 100 Jeralomen St³⁴. Willy Wyatt³⁵ went down by last evenings boat. Jacks is to visit Pomfret & we decided to write for Richmond³⁶ to meet us on Sat next if the weather is fine & the Lord will. I have some fear of the necessity of my taking "the Silver Moon"³⁷ to South St N Y to ship her for Florida. but Mr Jones³⁸ (D V) as he went with me to enquire about it offers to help me tho. his wife is with her mama³⁹ (in such ill health great apprehensions are felt for the event. "Pullie"⁴⁰ is at N Haven.

I had the pleasure of listening to the report of the latest date of West Point from Miss Maria Whitehouse⁴¹, she was so pleased to have seen Jemie W! but it slipped out that a demerit⁴² had been read off to his name last Sat eve - You said to me my dear Cadet that you would try to have no more, it was a good time to begin you thought at my visit. "Now is the day of salvation"⁴³ is the divine caution. And will it not be a good time when you get into barracks to turn over a new leaf? try for your mother's sake dear Jemie! it will never be easier than now. I wish you would keep your teeth & your musket cleaner too! you promised to study regularly & not to suppose glancing would suffice. think of these things & shew you have moral courage, by resisting idle examples. What can I say to induce you daily to read your bible! Oh my poor Jemie I pray for you! do you pray for yourself? you would be so much more really happy if you continued in the habits in which you have been so carefully trained, oh forsake not the law of your father that "Mother's wishes should be your rule of daily action" you have time for every thing! if you will but talk less & do more. I have been doing many things since I began this, for now it is afternoon. Willie is enjoying himself with Jacks so much that they send love instead of writing to you, I had a most satisfactory letter from Pomfret today. Mary⁴⁴ will have your shirts ready to send when you get home. If I have to take Eliza to N Y, I shall run up to spend another day with you. I fear you did not keep to your promise of spending the Saturday afternoon in the family circle of your fathers friend⁴⁵ [p. 4] but you will do it in future to gratify your Mother I know. If this is in time will you take your Grandmothers love & mine to Mrs Bartlett⁴⁶ next Saturday & the address to [Cahills?] which I enclose. do not put it off, as she wanted it [as] soon as possible.

Kate Prince⁴⁷ is to walk with me to our sacred ground⁴⁸ this afternoon, her spirit is yearning towards the grave to weep there as mine for today she has heard of the death of her pet "Willie Prince"⁴⁹ you know she thought him angelic in life, and now he is with the thousands of children around the throne. today is our Charlies Springfield⁵⁰ birth day. friday 29th Johnies⁵¹ at St P.

dear Jemie stop & reflect that you are only conditionally at West Point. God bless you. "Be wise today tis madness to defer⁵²" I beg you to put the envelope I directed for Pomfret to immediate use [.] I am so anxious to hear who is your room-mate & how you think you shall like your course of study. Every body now asks of you with such deep solicitude, disappoint us not.

George promised to take your shoes & then you must have your others mended. they will not be too bright when you get off the hot plain⁵³.

God be present with you my dear Jemie, think of your widowed Mother and write soon to her.

A M W

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
3. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
4. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother, and Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
5. Steamer *Cornelius Vanderbilt* (1847-1896), Stonington Line (1,041 tons.); see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 13 August 1849, #07637.
6. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
7. The house owned by Dr George E. Palmer (d. 1868), husband of Kate Palmer, built in 1787, situated in the corner of Main and Wall Streets.
8. Professor William Holmes Chambers Bartlett (1804-1893), mathematician.
9. Steamer *Reindeer* (1850-1852), New Brunswick Steamboat Co. (850,322 tons.). After one or two trips it was used as a day boat for several months between New York and New Haven, and in 1851 it was placed on the New York and Albany route. It was burned in September 1852; see AMW to JW, 12 September 1852, #06419.
10. Maria Margareta Cammann ('Grandma C') (1774-1862), mother-in-law of William Gibbs McNeill, and probably Maria Matilda McNeill, née Camman (d. Jan. 1852), JW's aunt, and wife of W. G. McNeill.
11. Rev. Edward Octavius Flagg (1824-1911), husband of Eliza McNeill (1830-1855), JW's cousin.
12. Lat.: dear, beloved /costly, high-priced, expensive.
13. Sarah Delano Swift (1816-1876), daughter of General J. G. Swift.
14. Louisa Josephine ('cousin Josee') Richards (1821-1859), née Swift, wife of P. Richards.
15. Pavlovich Karl Briullov or Bryullov (1799-1852), artist. Briullov was a friend of the Whistler's and a regular visitor to their house in St Petersburg. See AMW to JW, 1 and 2 November 1848, #06370.
16. Unidentified.
17. MacRea Richards (1849-1852), son of L. J. and P. Richards.

18. General Joseph Gardner Swift (1783-1865), first graduate of USMA, West Point, NY, chief engineer of US Army, JW's father's brother-in-law.
19. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother. George was superintendent of the Erie, and New York and New Haven Railroads.
20. Mary Ann Whistler (ca 1826-1852), née Ducatel, JW's sister-in-law.
21. George ('Georgie') Worthen Whistler (b. 1851), JW's nephew.
22. William Sherbrooke Popham (1793-1885), merchant.
23. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY.
24. Hudson River Railroad, started in 1846; originally planned by a group of New York city merchants led by James Boorman. After a brief unsuccessful administration by Azariah C. Flagg, Boorman was forced to take over the presidency of the road in 1849 and continued in charge until its completion to East Albany in 1851. See Thomas C. Cochran, *Railroad Leaders 1845-1890, The Business Mind in Action*, New York, 1965, p. 23.
25. New York and Harlem Railroad, was constructed as a local line in 1831-32, from Manhattan to Harlem village, then an independent community. It was opened 14 November 1832. The line was completed by 1835. The first serious accident on the New York and Harlem railroad occurred on Thursday Morning, 4 July 1839, at 14th street and 4th Avenue, when the boiler of the locomotive "New York" exploded, killing the engineer and injuring twenty people. See Thomas C. Cochran, *ibid.*, p. 23, and Joseph Warren Greene, 'New York City's first railroad; the New York and Harlem, 1832-1867,' in the *New York Historical Society Quarterly*, January 1926, vol. 9, no. 4, pp. 107-123.
26. Private institution of higher education in New York, founded in 1754 as King's College. It was renamed Columbia College when it reopened in 1784 after the American Revolution. It became Columbia University in 1912. William McNeill Whistler entered the College in October 1853; see AMW to JW, 29 September 1853, #06429. William never graduated from Columbia; see *Catalogue of Officers and Graduates of Columbia University from the Foundation of King's College in 1754*, New York, 1906.
27. Rev. William W. Olssen (b. 1827), Rector at Scarsdale, NY, and his wife Louisa Olssen (b. 1828).
28. Colin Macrae Ingersoll (1819-1903), secretary of the American Legation at St Petersburg.
29. His wife to be was Julia Harriet Pratt (b. 1832); the wedding took place on 26 October 1853, at Prattsville, Greene, New York.
30. Sarah Lewis, wife of P. T. J. McNeill.
31. Probably Julius Walker Adams, Sr (1812-1899), civil engineer and soldier.
32. Not identified.
33. Adolphe Rodewald (1818-1869), husband of J. C. McNeill.
34. 100 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, New York, was the address of Grandmother Cammann. In 1861 the number of her house must have been altered or she may have moved; see *Brooklyn City Directory*, New York, 1861, p. 59, listed her address as 148 Joralemon.
35. William Wyatt McNeill (1833-1853), JW's cousin.
36. Nathan Richmond (b. 1799), farmer at Pomfret, CT.

37. Eliza (d. 1856); Kate Livermore's servant; see AMW to JW, 6 August 1851, #06398, and AMW to JW, 16 September 1851, #06400.
38. Alonzo V. Jones.
39. Eliza Jones, née Ducatel, wife of A. V. Jones.
40. Unidentified.
41. Maria Whitehouse, sister of E. Whitehouse.
42. JW collected 137 demerits in his first term, a score that kept him in good standing, but his performance at West Point was generally poor, resulting to his final dismissal in 1854. See Gordon H. Fleming, *The Young Whistler 1834-66*, London, 1978, p. 85.
43. "For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." 2 Cor. 6.2.
44. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
45. Major Bartlett was a friend of George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
46. Harriet Bartlett, née Whitehorne, wife of Prof. W. H. C. Bartlett.
47. Unidentified.
48. Kate ('Cousin Kate') Livermore (1820-1907), daughter of J. D. Prince and wife of A. Livermore.
49. Evergreen Cemetery, Stonington, CT, where George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), AMW's husband, is buried.
50. William Prince (d. 1851).
51. Charles Donald Whistler (1841-1843), JW's brother.
52. John Bouttatz Whistler (1845-1846), JW's brother.
53. 'Be wise to-day; tis madness to defer.' Edward Young, *The Complaint or Night Thoughts on Life Death & Immortality*, in London, 1742, 1.390.
54. The parade ground; it was a small plateau of some forty acres jutting into the Hudson. See Stephen E. Ambrose, *Duty, Honor, Country: A History of West Point*, Baltimore, 1966, p. 24.

System Number: 06400

Date: 16 September [1851]¹

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Pomfret

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point³

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W396

Document Type: ALS

tuesday p-m Sept 16th

Jemie⁴ my own loved son

you know not how much power you have to wound or to comfort your widowed Mother! I have just risen from prayers in my lonely chamber & my tears still blind me because you forgot your poor mother. the portrait of your departed father⁵ looks sympathising, & I ought to thank God he no longer suffers the anxiety which bows my bereaved spirit. Your silence I cannot condemn for I have been prevented writing you since my return to Pomfret by unavoidable claims upon my time, tho my letter from Stonington⁶ you have not noticed. The Sisters of Frank Vinton⁷ cheered me by relating the contents of his to them last week & so loth am I to think you indifferent to your poor Mother I have attributed your neglect of me to your obligation to study with all your energy, hoping soon you would get into so good a system, as to make time for writing me regularly. But I have by todays mail received such a proof of your heedlessness from the Dept at Washington, as to urge me to warn you ere it be too late to arrest the disgrace you are threatening us with & become attentive to the rules of the Military Academy. You are aware, [p. 2] Jemie I suppose, that you are limited to 200 demerits a year, yet at the rate you are indulging 40 in two months, your number for the 1st quarter ending this month will exceed the limit. I will extract the line from Genl Tottens communication⁸ to me which he finished with a mark of surprise! "His demerit for the month of August is 21 And since the commencement of the academic year 40!"

I had found a report from the Genl T for July on my table (19 demerits) upon my return home. but you had said to me at West Point when I warned you there, "This will be a period for my resolving to have fewer." I have always had faith in the promises of my children, & I should never have alluded to the past had you not disappointed me since. Pause my dear Jemie, & ask yourself what is to be your harvest, if you waste the season of youth thus. Oh bring not upon yourself the blight of remorse for breaking a widowed mothers heart. Reform your conduct & let the quarter preceding your January Examination be such as that you may have your appointment conditional a confirmed one for completing the four years creditably. Think how many you will mortify by your abuse of your present opportunity to improvement! too many to enumerate even all those whose good opinion you [p. 3] most value. In Russia - In England & in your fathers land! Are you following the example of the cadets you most admire? Can you stoop so low as to waste your hours in amusing the idlers? or have you imbibed contempt of orders from the fool hardy? Think Jemie of the triumph of those who wish your place, so few vacancies, so many candidates! Should you not rather be among the few who are able to graduate, than to excuse your self for want of exertion upon the plea that $\frac{3}{4}$ ths are rejected? Ah it is just so with us all in our temporal course. "Many are called but few are chosen"⁹

Our Captain tells us we must strive to enter in! but we scorn warnings while human pride gives assurance that in our individual case we may be allowed to defer & yet must be secured at last! Do you know Jemie that you have lost ground from want of humility & faith? I fear so! I tremble to think it possible that you have adopted the course of the gay & presumptuous, & that prayer & the bible are each dispensed with till a convenient season for renewing your vows to God. Remember the sign He instituted keeping holy the day appointed for spiritual improvement! I heard by chance & it made me tremble for your future my dear son, that you thought it excusable to require your laundress to wash a garment for you, as a military custom. Trifles make up the sum of a worldlings life! Reflect ere the frivolities of heedless youth become confirmed habits, harden not your heart against the warnings of a tender Mother! While I have been industriously employing the needle in the hope of accomplishing another brief visit to you ere Jack Frost could bar me out, Mary¹⁰ & I have talked of our Cadet so fondly! so partially! "I could do anything to serve Master James" has this faithful servant reiterated, & your mother has flattered herself that

you would be manly enough [p. 4] to overcome self & vanity to wear the laurels of affection in your holiday at home. Brother George¹¹ surprised us by arriving at tea time yesterday. We talked hopefully of you around our snug fireside, while he recounted his late visit to you. tho he said your room - mate did not hesitate before your face to report your indolence as not yet overcome.

I am thankful that the monthly report from Washington had not come to mar my brief enjoyment of your brothers visit, he left us after a 6 oclock breakfast for Boston. I told him I thought of running up to West Point to take you a bundle of linen, flannel & hosiery, persuading myself it would be my duty, as my comfort to visit you soon again but unless you write me now dear Jemie that you really intend to try to retain your place, I shall neither send or take your clothing which would only increase your task of packing to bring away from West Point. Willie¹² said (as he looked shocked at the 40! demerits today) "Jim will never be able to visit West Point if he turns himself out of the Corps of Cadets!" it would disgrace us all!

How shall I bear to be enquired of about my Cadet as I am by everyone - until you inspire me to answer with confidence again - that you are fulfilling my hopes, Doctor Parks¹³ shall not hear from my mouth how many black marks stand out against our name, but Sam¹⁴ will talk of them at school to make poor Willie feel vexed & our fireside comfort will be embittered.

It is in your power Jemie to restore gladness to us. I shall have to take Eliza¹⁵ to N Y to send her by sea to Florida, my promised reward was to have been a walk & talk with my Cadet! must I abandon it? you know I cannot meet Prof B¹⁶, & Capt B¹⁷ without feeling humbled, unless your having turned over a new leaf, might be their subject of gratulation.

School here has re - opened this afternoon. I entreat Willie to avoid any black marks during these finishing Terms. he would write you but says you will not answer his letters. he has not shewn that he felt dull since Jacks¹⁸ left here, to¹⁹ save time in looking up a stamped envelope directed I enclose another.

Indeed Willie & mother exert themselves for each other. If we were not of one mind, the ripe peaches & nice corn would not make us in one breath wish Jemie here, to eat his fill as we do.

Oh my dear Jemie, do not let the short distance make you forget your brother & Mother

A M W

Imploring you to write soon to comfort your poor Mother

I had news for you, but you must raise my head first, it aches in sympathy with my heart

I hope you avail of the privilege of going on Saturdays to where I beg you will take my love

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to AMW's letter to JW, 27 August 1851, #06399.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
4. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
5. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father. The only surviving oil portrait of G. W. Whistler is now in the Hunterian Art Gallery, Glasgow.
6. AMW to JW, 27 August 1851, #06399.

7. Louise Clare Vinton (1832-1891), was the only living sister at this time of Francis Laurens Vinton (1835-1880), room-mate of JW at West Point, later Professor of mining and engineering. It is possible that AMW meant his cousins, the daughters of Alexander Hamilton Vinton (1807-1881), Eleanor Vinton (b. 1838), and Mary Vinton (1840-1930).
8. General Joseph Gilbert Totten (1788-1864), military engineer, who became chief Engineer in the US Army. General Tottens' communication with AMW has not survived. JW collected 137 demerits in his first term, a score that kept him in good standing. See Gordon H. Fleming, *The Young Whistler 1834-66*, London, 1978, p. 85.
9. 'For many are called, but few are chosen,' Matt. 22.14.
10. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
11. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
12. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
13. Rev. Roswell Park (1807-1869), minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Principal of Christ Church school.
14. Sam Holbrook, son of James Holbrook, and brother of James Baker Holbrook.
15. Eliza (d. 1856), a servant of Kate Livermore. See AMW to JW, 6 August 1851, #06398, and AMW to JW, 27 August 1851, #06399.
16. Professor William Holmes Chambers Bartlett (1804-1893), mathematician.
17. Captain Perry Bowers, Sr (1794-1870), of Pomfret, CT.
18. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
19. 'to ... another' continues in the left margin of p. 1; 'Indeed ... A M W' continues in the left upper margin of p. 1, cross-written; 'Imploring ... Mother' continues in the right margin of p. 1; 'I had ... heart' continues in the right margin of p. 2; 'I hope ... love' continues in the right margin of p. 2.

System Number: 06401

Date: 23 and 24 September 1851

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Pomfret

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W397

Document Type: ALS³

Pomfret

tuesday night Sept 23rd 1851

My own precious Jemie⁴

I fear you can form no just estimate of my thoughts of you, by yours of home, or we should be cheered by a letter from the sky parlor⁵ of the West Point barracks occasionally. I think of you &

wish for you when Willie⁶ & I sit down to our nice & well spread board that you might partake of the benefits[,] now I think of you while the rain pelts against our windows & the wind moans the coming of the fall of the leaf. Oh Jemie! surely I shall soon receive a letter from you!

I talk of going for Grandmother⁷ next monday & if the weather prove favorable for crossing the Sound, shall go to Brooklyn to have an interview with Mary R⁸ & to be introduced to her good husband⁹. Eliza¹⁰ writes me of Wednesday the 24th, tomorrow, being. appointed for the wedding day of Mr Flagg¹¹ that Frederick & Mary may witness it, as they are to start for N Orleans about the 1st of Oct. only the family circle, the parents¹² of the groom only are invited, it would have been tantalizing to my Jemie & Willie had Cousins been admitted as you could neither of you have attended, but Eliza begs me to explain that the deep mourning of her Grandma¹³ make it necessary to have the knot tied very quietly, she & Mr Flagg are to return with his father & mother to N Haven, and I suppose his absence from Norwich must be brief. The equinox tomorrow will probably be more felt by Genl Swift¹⁴, as the day on which he embarks for England with one of his sons (McRae)¹⁵ [.] God grant them a safe voyage & a joyous meeting with "Cis"¹⁶ I had a report of the pleasant visit she had made with her chicks¹⁷ at Tunbridge Wells¹⁸ by last weeks steamer, they were three weeks at the Maingays¹⁹. I shall take the letter to send to you dear Jemie if you write that you wish to see me, I should not accomplish half my plans were you not included in the benefit, yet my absence from Willie must be bounded by the sabbath, he is to drive me to the depot monday A M - & meet Grandmother & I (if the Lord will) on the saturday following, he says it will [p. 2] be a dreary week to him, but his studies occupy so much time it will pass surprisingly! & Mary B²⁰ will cheer him when tasks are over. he is deep in the latin dictionary now at my elbow & just now looked off [sic] to ask "have you told Jim that I am studying Virgil²¹? give my love to him please mother & I hope to have a letter from him to answer soon!" he likes some of the new boarders at the Rectory²² tho he regrets as all do the removal of Dwight²³, he (G D), told Mrs Park²⁴ he'd rather be flogged than have to come to take his books away, but his fathers²⁵ wish is sufficient to make him submit without murmuring or questioning the propriety. John Barnes is to enter the Naval school at Anapolis²⁶ on friday next. Middy Allen²⁷ is at Springfield with him. It is reported that Mr Barnes²⁸ has sold his pleasant mansion & purchased one in New Haven as William²⁹ is to go to Yale. The circle here is already realizing that this winter is to be the winding up of Doctor Parks³⁰ seminary. Georgy Phinny³¹ has entered one in Massachusetts, his mother of course [is] in the same place with him, until she follows his father to Cuba, But "Banyan" is here, Sam³² did not return till yesterday, the festivities of last week detained him, Willie says he began school by counting how many weeks to the next holiday! Miss Charles³³ & E Bowers³⁴ the latter has added Greek to her love! are the only belles interesting to you. Lloyd³⁵ is preparing for Browns University. he exhibits his powers on a fine grey horse which the Capt³⁶ has traded for in exchange for the pet "Rosey." We are all well under this roof which is a great mercy, while some of our neighbours suffer. Doctor Williams³⁷ not able to walk, "Aunt Debby"³⁸ so near the close of her long illness, as not to lie down, Mr Fitz's son in his 21st year dying of typhus fever! and poor Bridget³⁹ is in despair because of Moris⁴⁰ [sic] having left her, while he was raving under the influence of liquor! the fatal effects of breaking his pledge! so you perceive dear Jemie that my sympathies are called for, while I feel my unworthiness at exemption from bodily suffering.

[p. 3] Aunt Alicia⁴¹ was in London when she last wrote me, she went daily to Uncle McNeill's⁴² hotel & seemed greatly to value the favor, she expected ere this time to return to Lancashire, & to be in Liverpool with him, chiefly to visit the house of mourning - do you remember Mrs Vallance⁴³? she was a pious & most gentle lady, death has deprived her family circle of so valuable a member! Aunt A writes of you so lovingly I should be so gratified by your sending a message to her in your promised letter to Sloane St⁴⁴!

Now I release you from this long reading, I rise with the sun, & get Willie up by 6 oclock, so it is time to cover the nut fire sum up our account for another day, to our Master in heaven. I need not assure you our best loved absent one, that we each pray for you in private as in the family devotions, but remember dear Jemie, none can work out your sanctification but yourself! I think of eternity in time. Mr Parks who asks after you anxiously, begs to be allowed to assure you of his affectionate interest in you. Willie says he heard Sam say today that Jim Whistler had already 30 demerits! I wonder who reported it at the Rectory? not any of us you may be sure! Good night, a mothers love is not lessened by the increase to her anxiety. I am now too sleepy to add more than my remembrance to the family circle of the excellent Bartletts⁴⁵.

Wednesday 24th

The storm seemed so increasing at 10 o'clock when I went to rest last night I was surprised by a golden sun blazing up as I arose this morning. I did not forget its influence to gladden the most solemn rite upon Eliza's feelings & was grateful to God for her sake. May it be a harbinger for a favorable voyage for Gen Swift too! tho our good hostess (who rejoices usually with trembling) says if it clears in the night a storm soon follows! and we hear that astronomers predict⁴⁶ from the state of the planetary system a storm is to be expected exceeding any which our world has been attacked by since 1814! so Capt B hears - Lloyd drove him to the depot & back before school this bright noon! Willie is going chestnutting with all the school boys this ½ holiday afternoon! he left his love for you dearest Jemie to be united with the blessing of your Mother

A M W

I hope⁴⁷ to hear from you here by Saturdays mail - If you wish any thing particularly write Jacks⁴⁸ (or rather direct to me at 10 Broadway, Mr A Jones⁴⁹) that I might hear at Brooklyn next tuesday.

The Misses Vinton⁵⁰ left for a visit for Worcester last week not to return to Pomfret this year.

Sis writes of Aunt Mitt⁵¹ on her voyage to Boston some weeks since. Uncle Clarke⁵² has a pet now besides Annie.

Mary intends to prove her remembrance of Master James in the form of cake, I shall take your warm stockings &c if I go to see you.

Paid[Stamp:] PAID 3

[Postmark:] PO[-]S[---] CT.

[Address panel:]

Cadet James Whistler Military Academy
West Point
N York

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother
2. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
3. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
4. 'JOHN GIBSTONS PATENT' embossed paper mark on top left corner of p. 1. There are the remains of a black wax seal on p. 4.

5. A room near the top of the house; a garret; an attic room.
6. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
7. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
8. Mary Isabella Rodewald (1823-1867), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of J. F. Rodewald.
9. Johann Frederick Rodewald (1808-1886), banker, husband of M. I. McNeill.
10. Eliza Flagg (1830-1855), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of Rev. E. O. Flagg.
11. Rev. Edward Octavius Flagg (1824-1911), husband of Eliza McNeill.
12. Martha Flagg (1792-1875), née Whiting, mother of Edward Octavius Flagg; her husband was Henry Collins Flagg (d. 1863).
13. Maria Margaretta Cammann ('Grandma C') (1774-1862), mother-in-law of William Gibbs McNeill.
14. General Joseph Gardner Swift (1783-1865), first graduate of USMA, West Point, NY, chief engineer of US Army, JW's father's brother-in-law.
15. McRae Swift (b. 1819), son of General J. G. Swift.
16. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
17. Francis Seymour Haden (1850-1918), and Annie Harriet Haden (1848-1937), later Mrs Charles Thynne.
18. Borough and district, county of Kent, England; a fashionable Spa town since the 17th century.
19. Probably family relations of Emma Elizabeth Maingay (1826-1904), a friend of AMW of St Petersburg.
20. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
21. Virgil or Publius Vergilius Maro (70-19 BC), Roman poet.
- W.C. / 22. Christ church, Pomfret, CT. JW had studied there.
23. G. Dwight, of Pomfret, CT.
24. Mary Park (1815-1854), née Brewster Baldwin, wife of Rev. R. Park.
25. Dwight, of Pomfret, CT.
26. John S. Barnes (b. 1836), naval officer and lawyer. He was sent to the Naval Academy in Annapolis, whence he graduated in 1854. The academy was founded as a Naval School on October 10, 1845, by George Bancroft, historian, educator, and secretary of the Navy, to improve the then unsatisfactory methods of instructing midshipmen.
27. Probably Edmund Allen (b. 1836), of Pomfret, CT. See AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
28. James Barnes (1806-1869), soldier and civil engineer.
29. William H. L. Barnes (b. 1834), son of C. and James Barnes. If William did go to Yale, he never graduated; see *Catalogue of Yale University Alumni - 1925-1954, Supplement to Catalogue of the Officers and Graduates of Yale University 1701-1924*, New Haven CT, 1955.
30. Rev. Roswell Park (1807-1869), minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Principal of Christ Church school.

31. George Phinney (b. 1841), of Pomfret, CT. In 1850 George was living with and studying under the Rev. Roswell Park. See Windham Co, CT, Film no M432, Roll 51, Pomfret census 1850, National Archives, Washington, DC, p. 166.
32. Sam Holbrook, son of James Holbrook, and brother of James Baker Holbrook; his nickname was 'Banyan.'
33. Miss Charles, of Pomfret, CT.
34. Ellen Augusta Bowers (1834-1890), daughter of Captain P. Bowers, Sr.
35. Lloyd Henry Bowers (1836-1886), son of Captain Perry Bowers, Sr.
36. Captain Perry Bowers, Sr (1794-1870), of Pomfret, CT.
37. Probably Lewis Williams (b. 1815), physician, of Pomfret, CT.
38. Aunt Debby (d. 1851), of Pomfret, CT; see AMW to JW, 13 November 1851, #06406.
39. Bridget, servant.
40. Moris, unidentified.
41. Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), JW's aunt; she lived at Berwick, UK.
42. William Gibbs McNeill (1800-1853), railway engineer, JW's uncle. McNeill went on a trip to Britain on July 1851; see AMW to JW, 10 and 11 July 1851, #06397.
43. Mrs Vallance of Liverpool (d. 1851).
44. The home of Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), surgeon and etcher, JW's brother-in-law.
45. The family of Professor William Holmes Chambers Bartlett (1804-1893), mathematician.
46. By 8 October 1851, many parts of the East Coast of the USA were hit by bad weather, which brought catastrophe. The north-east coast was the worst affected as it was swept by a terrible and destructive gale. One hundred fishing vessels were driven ashore on the north side of Prince Edward's Island, and more than three hundred persons perished in the wrecks. See *Hampford Weekly Times*, CT, 11 October 1851, vol. 35, no. 1816.
47. 'I hope ... Jacks' added in the upper right margin of p. 4; 'or rather ... tuesday' continues in the bottom right margin of p. 4; 'The Misses ... this year' continues in the left margin of p. 1; 'Sis writes ... Annie' continues in the left margin of p. 3; 'Mary ... see you' continues in the left margin of p. 3.
48. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
49. Alonzo V. Jones, husband of Eliza Ducatel, the sister of JW's sister-in-law, Mary Ann Whistler (c. 1826-1852), née Ducatel.
50. Eleanor Vinton (b. 1838), and Mary Vinton (1840-1930) daughters of Rev. Alexander Hamilton Vinton.
51. Aunt Mitt; unidentified.
52. Uncle Clark, of Boston, and his daughter Annie Clark.

System Number: 06403

Date: 6 October 1851

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹
 Place: Pomfret
 Recipient: JW
 Place: West Point²
 Repository: Glasgow University Library
 Call Number: Whistler W399
 Document Type: ALS

Pomfret

Oct 6th 1851 Monday evening

My own precious Jemie³

Your very comforting note which you intended for last tuesdays mail did not reach me till by todays delivery. dont let it discourage you in weekly favors to me, that I remind you of the supply of stamps I send you for the avoiding double postage. I know you would rather oblige a room mate if in want of a stamp, than send it back to me, but we have no right to tax our friends to whose care we sometimes direct letters. Mr Jones⁴ enclosed yours in a very polite note & stamped envelope. you know that I have to take care of the pence now dear Jemie, so in future as you have your desk you can deposit my stamps for my benefit.

Willie⁵ & I occupy the dining room, he is studying Virgil⁶, he asked me upon reading your note "what does Jim mean by "go up"⁷?"

And now will you report to us if your marks of last Saturday were as encouraging as the Sat before? you have the power to cheer us thus & I believe you are in earnest now to win yourself a reputation as brother George⁸ has [p. 2] done by diligence in the discharge of duty.

My trip to West Point last week Jemie was worth all it cost, it will be a bright reflection for the dreary separation of a winter from you, unless Genl Tottens⁹ warnings cast shadows over the bright sketches of a Mothers hopes. Oh Jemie will you try to earn a holiday to return some of my visits? think of your welcome home! & of your going with us to visit Geneva¹⁰ next midsummer! how we shall all delight to honor our Cadet, if by obedience to orders, & by industry he win indulgence from the "big boys" of the Military Academy, but dont be like the milk maid¹¹ & dash all to the ground by self confidence. "steady boys steady"¹² be the echo to your honest resolve & may God bless you. I hope you may avail of your weekly privilege sometimes at least to take tea at the house of my friends. Say to them that we escaped the rain on friday, we had to wait ½ an hour for the train at Garisons¹³, but the wind was in our favor so we did not suffer from dust, we reached 80 Jerolamon St¹⁴ in time for the 2nd course at Grandma C - s & had a fine appetite for dressed lobster & lettuce with bread & butter.

[p. 3] Wily Wyatt & Jacks¹⁵ escorted us to the Commodore¹⁶ where parson Willey¹⁷ took us under his care & for the first time since my return to our native land I was prevailed upon to go to the supper table, I wished for my boys to enjoy oysters & indian pone¹⁸ for me. Aunt Kate¹⁹ wished to land as soon as we reached Stonington, so we did not take a State room. I could not sleep for the storm, rain, thunder &c eternity is always in my vision, probably none watched but myself among the hundreds of passengers! the rain had ceased when at one oclock Mr Willey piloted me thro the dark streets to the corner house²⁰, Aunt Kate close in our wake, & "nigger Jim"²¹ carrying my basket & her bag, to our relief he was in waiting.

Again on Saturday a friend in need was provided, Ned Denison²² divided his attention between his wife & children & Grandmother. Donie²³ & myself, we were favored with clear weather &

no detention. Willie was at the Pomfret depot so pleased to drive us home! for he had felt desolate, tho he studied every evening & performed the office of chaplain regularly! he ought to write you of the fun at Doctor Williams²⁴ on wednesday evening when Sam H, Lloyd²⁵, & himself by invitation, met the three young ladies, & they were regaled with music & snatch bags²⁶.

Willie did not stay to see the end of the frolic, two hours satisfied him. Lloyd has come out this term quite a gallant! he sings in our choir. Mrs Bowers²⁷ says there is no one she should more enjoy a visit from than yourself! but she supposes [p. 4] you will not come before I move away! she is so glad to hear that you are "weller", & doubt not you will feel like studying in consequence.

Dear Grandmother²⁸ has been suffering from Cholera morbus²⁹ since our journey hither, but is recovering. Donie gives me no trouble, tho his demands for peaches, crackers & milk are hourly. I intend to fatten him! Mary B³⁰ has so much to ask about you! she is flattered by your relishing her cake & wishes she could send you one every week, but not by your mother! she is thankful that I am not intending to leave Pomfret till we move.

I recd a note from Mrs Boote³¹ declining my invite for Aunt Mitt³² & herself just now as Miss Haden³³ was six weeks in crossing the Atlantic & had hurt her back by a fall on board the "Hendric Hudson"³⁴ she enclosed me a letter from dear "Sis"³⁵ who wrote ^{by³⁶ the last steamer} in a quiver of delight in the anticipation of Uncle Swifts³⁷ arrival - I hope he may be with her this evening, as she meant to insist on his making 62 Sloane St his home in London, Seymour³⁸ & Sis were to go to "White Well"³⁹ for his health & a bit of fishing the last fortnight of Septr, they would spend a night at Preston en passant. Uncle McNeill⁴⁰ was well, but so full of business in London, Seymours efforts to be attentive to him were ineffectual. NB, Willy Wyatt told me he should go to N Orleans this month to devote himself to mercantile pursuits. - he wishes, but [p. 5] knows he cannot - go to see you for farewell. Cousin Jose Richards⁴¹ surprised me by informing me her father Genl Swift expects to be absent seven months & to extend his tour of observation with his son MacRea⁴² to Egypt! this will be an interesting fact for Prof Bartlett⁴³. Do dear Jemie go there next Sat afternoon to take my thanks for their attention to me, Aunt Kate was charmed with their family circle & has taken it as a pattern to reform hers by! she thinks too Jemie dear you are improved in every respect, that you look in better health than ever she saw you. Take care of that blessing if it be restored! How much I thought of you yesterday! if you will read your bible & the Xtian Witness⁴⁴, I shall not doubt your "going up" in your class. It is the blessing of God alone which ensures success - try my dearest Jemie & oh I beseech you⁴⁵ not to neglect your prayers, every day & night. Write soon to Willie, he feels your neglect.

Willies⁴⁶ love for you with Mothers God bless you ever

A M W

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
3. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
4. Alonzo V. Jones, husband of Eliza Ducatel.
5. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.

6. Virgil or Publius Vergilius Maro (70-19 BC), Roman poet.
7. JW's letter does not survive. AMW probably refers to him getting higher marks at West Point; see AMW to JW, 23 and 24 September 1851, #06401.
8. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
9. General Joseph Gilbert Totten (1788-1864), military engineer, who became chief Engineer in the US Army.
10. The house of General Joseph Gardner Swift (1783-1865), first graduate of USMA, West Point, NY, chief engineer of US Army, JW's father's brother-in-law, was in Geneva, NY.
11. Probably a reference to a folk tale *The Maid and the Milk Pail*, the moral of which was 'do not count too much on things happening the way you want, because you may be disappointed.' Also Lat.: ante victoriam canere triumphum, don't sing your song of triumph before you have won the victory.
12. A popular song by David Garrick, *Heart of Oak*, London, 1759.
13. Garrison station, West Point, NY.
14. According to *Brooklyn City Directory*, 1861, p. 59, 148 Joralemon Street, was the home address of Maria Margareta Cammann ('Grandma C') (1774-1862), mother-in-law of William Gibbs McNeill. It is possible that AMW was mistaken or that the address numbers were altered at a later date.
15. William Wyatt McNeill (1833-1853), and Patrick T. Jackson McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousins.
16. 'Commodore,' popular title for Steamer *Cornelius Vanderbilt* (1847-1896), Stonington Line (1,041 tons.); see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 13 August 1849, #07637.
17. J. M. Willey (b. 1820), clergyman.
18. Oysters seem to have been AMW's favorite food, which she herself cooked or pickled. See Margaret MacDonald, *Whistler's Mother's Cook Book*, London, 1979, pp. 62, 139-140. Indian pone cakes, bread made of maize.
19. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
20. The house owned by Dr George E. Palmer (d. ca. 1867/1868), husband of Kate Palmer, built in 1787, situated in the corner of Main and Wall Streets.
21. Jim, Kate Palmer's servant.
22. Ned Denison, of Stonington, CT.
23. Donald McNeill Palmer (b. 1845), JW's cousin.
24. Lewis Williams (b. 1815), physician, of Pomfret, CT.
25. Sam Holbrook, son of James Holbrook, and brother of James Baker Holbrook, and Lloyd Henry Bowers (1836-1886), son of Captain Perry Bowers, Sr.
26. Probably 'Knucklebones,' an ancient game played with five little pebbles or knucklebones. They were thrown into the air and caught on the back of the hand. The pieces on the floor were then picked up with the fingers while balancing the rest on the back of the hand. Later, a pottery ball, slightly smaller than a golf ball, was added, which made the game a little easier to play, as the bounce of the ball allowed more time to snatch the pieces up from the floor. By the 19th

century, the game was highly developed, with many steps. See *Victoria's Network*, @ <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~folklife/news/dibsdob.txt>.

27. Betsey Bowers (1796-1896), wife of Captain P. Bowers, Sr.
28. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
29. Acute gastroenteritis occurring in summer and autumn and marked by severe cramps, diarrhea, and vomiting. The term is no longer in medical use (Lat.: morbus, disease).
30. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
31. Mrs Boott, mother of Mary Love Haden, née Boott.
32. Aunt Mitt, unidentified.
33. Probably Rosamund ('Rose') Horsley, née Haden, sister of F. S. Haden.
34. Steamer *Hendrik Hudson* (built in 1845), People's Line (1,170 tons.). She was the first Hudson River steamboat to exceed one thousand tons and her interior appointments and accommodations had up till then never been equalled. During the seasons of 1846 and 1847 she was a night boat; in the latter year her team mate was the *Isaac Newton*, these two steamboats being the finest on the river. See William M. Lytle and Forrest R. Holdcamper, revised and edited by C. Bradford Mitchell, with the assistance of Kenneth R. Hall, *Merchant Steam Vessels of the United States, 1790-1868*, Baltimore, 1975, pp. 137-39.
35. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
36. 'by ... steamer' continues in the right margin.
37. Captain William Henry Swift (1800-1879), brother-in-law of JW's father.
38. Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), surgeon and etcher, JW's brother-in-law.
39. Probably 'Whitwell,' a village located in the north-east corner of Derbyshire, on the borders with South Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire.
40. William Gibbs McNeill (1800-1853), railway engineer, JW's uncle.
41. Louisa Josephine ('cousin Josee') Richards (1821-1859), née Swift, wife of P. Richards.
42. McRae Swift (b. 1819), son of General J. G. Swift.
43. Professor William Holmes Chambers Bartlett (1804-1893), mathematician.
44. The *Christian Witness*, first published in 1834 by James L. Harris (1793-1877).
45. 'you ... night' continues in the right margin; 'Write ... neglect' continues in the right margin.
46. 'Willies ... A M W' continues in the left upper margin of p. 1.

System Number: 07638

Date: 8 October 1851

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Pomfret

Recipient: Margaret Getfield Hill²

Place: [Scarsdale, New York³]

Repository: Library of Congress

Call Number: Manuscript Division, Pennell-Whistler Collection, PWC 34/33-34

Document Type: ALS

Pomfret

Wednesday p - m Oct 8th 51

My dear friend

I should have replied to your proposal for my striking my tent here immediately, but I might see Mr Popham⁴ at his offices in passing thro the city, all I could manage however was to spend a few hours at Brooklyn on my way with Kate⁵, to West Point⁶, she wished earnestly to extend our trip to Scarsdale, but we each felt the claims of home too irresistible, to indulge in jaunting about even to see such dear friends as your home circle. it was only from tuesday till saturday I had a furlough [sic] from Willie⁷, who could not have cheerfully yielded his claim except to Grandmother⁸ who wrote for me to bring her from Stonington, & then he agreed it would be very satisfactory that I should see Jemie⁹ in his Winter uniform & barrack life, as I felt I must go to Brooklyn. I was favored all the way, for the Widows God disposes hearts to lend helping hands to one who feels desolate in journeying now. It was such a mutual enjoyment Kates accompanying me to West Point we took the Cars at 2 oclock last thursday & had embraced our Cadet by sunset, he never looked so well, so healthy, so happy! we were on the plain just before the evening parade had concluded, saw the Corps march to Mess but took Jemie off triumphantly, (by a permit from the Commander¹⁰), to Proffr Bartletts¹¹ where he spent the evening with us, & came again next morning to devote from 9 till 11 oclock to us, of course I went laden with proofs of his having had his share of my time - the new set of shirts, collars hosiery & hkds [i.e. handkerchiefs], with a basket of home made cakes & some Pomfret fruit to fill up chinks, he was so grateful for! he is so interested now in his studies that a longer visit to him would have been tantalizing, so we came away as he went to his class, Kate was delighted with the Bartletts, with the peculiar beauties of the place & with Jemies improvement in every way.

[p. 2] I wonder if you have been to Brooklyn since we were there on our return to Stonington last Friday! it was your God sons¹² birthday 16 years old! I never clung to Jacks & Willy Wyatt¹³ as at parting on board the boat wherein they had attended us, dear Willy goes to N Orleans for his start in the mercantile race with Mr Rodewald¹⁴, his gentle sister¹⁵ will supply his sainted mothers¹⁶ place. I thought dear Mary looking thin, but so happy in her husband! I took a great fancy to him. As they bid adieu to the north for this year next week, you must not delay meeting them, Mrs C¹⁷ & Cath¹⁸ are contemplating a visit to Newark as soon as they lose sight of them, dear Jacks will cling to Jule & her pet Looloo¹⁹, I was cheered by an improvement visible in Grandma C. I shall be thankful if next year brings us within visiting distance, but I could not consistently withdraw Willie from the school here just as he had entered upon a new term, Doctor Park²⁰ has repeatedly expressed his clinging interest in him & were it not that our connections are nearest N York, he says he should urge my removal to Racine that Willie might enter the Episcopal College²¹ there next year, he has a very select school for this half year & all

seem to realise it is to be the last with their kind teacher & apply their talents accordingly, Besides the school masters claim, my landlord would not have been satisfied, I could not have removed or disposed of Winters fuel & stores, so dear Margaret I shall trust to you to secure me an abode for next March if the Lord wish - boarding even in your attractive pastors family²² is not in unison with the views instilled by my beloved ones ideas of domestic benefits to parents & children, so I shall keep my dwindled stock of furniture in use, & depend upon my friends at Scarsdale finding me a roof tree suitable to my reduced circumstances. I am quite sure I have not the means to build even so snug a house - neither to pay more than \$150 rent per ann, here my rent is not quite \$100 & I ought not to exceed it because Willie's expenses increase, & my income with his united is not \$900. [p. 3] If this father-in law of your pastor is building for his parsonage will not the house he occupies at present suit me? You see my hopes of a tenement thro your efforts.

Sat. p - m.

I wish a slight attack of cold & bile had kept off till I had mailed this for I know our post goes by slow horses. My dear mother took a very severe cold last saturday on our journey from Stonington, but she has so far recovered as to walk out again & to have an excellent appetite, peaches are just over here, I have been preserving a moderate quantity this morning. I am rather surprised at George's²³ silence for I am anxious about Marys²⁴ health as Eliza Flagg²⁵ reported her looking so delicate & with a cough again, George is probably trying to gain time to go to Scarsdale, or to have a confab with Mr Popham relative to accommodation for me there. You will communicate to me dear Margaret the result I hope, & remember how tenderly interested I feel in all your branches & especially under your roof tree, distribute my affectionate regards where you think they may be acceptable, how I should have enjoyed the church service at Annas Woods college²⁶! how the joy of a ransomed soul thro Christ irradiates her deformed face & gives a charm to make an impression on my mind, we have a touching case of an aged invalid a member of our congregation here, whose limbs are mortifying! yet her countenance is expressive of that peace which depends not on outward things. Doctor Park has returned from Wisconsin invigorated & Mrs Park²⁷ seems more than ever zealous for the benefit of the flock he is to separate from next year, his prospect of visiting Europe as tutor to a young man of wealth, who bears all the expense, next spring, is very cheering to him, but now I must stop my pen that I may go to see a poor old colored woman who is bed ridden & who expresses such a wish for my going often I shall propose daily reading the scriptures to her. Has Eliza Flagg [finished] the drawing for working the table cloth for the Sacrament? if not when it is finished with at Scarsdale, Jacks might call for it at corner of 4th St & he could send it to his Aunt Kate by the Stewardess of the Vanderbilt²⁸, I feel quite a wish to work one to leave here & am sure Mrs Park will be grateful for the design. Where can we find the floss thread? & where is the linen to be bought? Love to your dear Sisters²⁹ from

your attached friend

A M Whistler

I³⁰ hope to hear soon of a little girl or boy at Mr Carners³¹

My mother sends much love.

Envelope:

[Address panel:]

Miss M G Hill
 Wm Popham Esqr
 Scarsdale
 New York

[Stamp:] THREE CENTS

[Postmark:] QUINEBAUG / CT / OCT / 14

[Seal:] AMW

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY.
3. Margaret G. Hill lived at Scarsdale, NY.
4. William Sherbrooke Popham (1793-1885), merchant.
5. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
6. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
7. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
8. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
9. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
10. General Robert Edward Lee (1807-1870), Superintendent of USMA, West Point, and later President of the Confederate States of America.
11. Professor William Holmes Chambers Bartlett (1804-1893), mathematician.
12. Probably Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
13. William Wyatt McNeill (1833-1853), JW's cousin.
14. Johann Frederick Rodewald (1808-1886), banker, husband of M. I. McNeill.
15. Mary Isabella Rodewald (1823-1867), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of J. F. Rodewald.
16. Maria Matilda McNeill, née Camman (d. Jan. 1852), JW's aunt, and wife of W. G. McNeill.
17. Maria Margareta Cammann ('Grandma C') (1774-1862), mother-in-law of William Gibbs McNeill.
18. Catherine Julia Cammann, JW's aunt.
19. Julia Catherine Rodewald (1825-1897), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of A. Rodewald, and her daughter Mary Loise (Louloo) Rodewald.
20. Rev. Roswell Park (1807-1869), minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Principal of Christ Church school.
21. Doctor Park was the first president of Racine college, Racine, Wisconsin, 1852-59, and its chancellor, 1859-63.
22. The family of Rev. William W. Olssen (b. 1827), Rector at Scarsdale, NY.

23. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
24. Mary Ann Whistler (ca 1826-1852), née Ducatel, JW's sister-in-law.
25. Eliza Flagg (1830-1855), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of Rev. E. O. Flagg.
26. Anna Wood; unidentified. The college must have been some kind of charitable institution.
27. Mary Park (1815-1854), née Brewster Baldwin, wife of Rev. R. Park.
28. Steamer *Cornelius Vanderbilt* (1847-1896), Stonington Line (1,041 tons.); see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 13 August 1849, #07637.
29. 'I ... Carmers' continues in the end of p. 3; 'My ... love' added in left upper margin of p. 1.
30. Charles Whitehead Carmer (1811-1883), merchant.
31. Sarah Stewart Hill (1800-1864), and Jane O'Neill Hill (1793-1882), of Scarsdale, married William S. Popham; they were sisters of Margaret G. Hill.

System Number: 06404

Date: 15 October 1851

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Pomfret

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W400

Document Type: ALS

Pomfret

Oct 15th 1851

Thursday

My own precious Jemie³,

Are you studying so closely that you cannot write a half hour on Sat to us? you are so bright & so surrounded by joyous spirits you can hardly imagine how your neglect of poor lonely Willie⁴ affects his spirits. sometimes, I fear he is going to be ill, because he is listless & complains of odd sensations & if I find fault with him for indolence, he weeps. write to him to cheer him, dear Jemie, he feels that his only companion & brother can live without his sympathy, but oh it must not be so between my only two boys, who are dearer than all else to their widowed mother. Willie is studying now at my elbow because he is to drive Mary⁵ to the depot this morning, she takes Donie⁶ back to Stonington by Aunt Kates⁷ desire & my wish is to have a holiday there next week.

I happened to hear that Butler⁸ the [p. 2] blacksmith had cling stone peaches⁹ to sell - quite a bargain I bought them - & yesterday just as they were gathered I poached them to send Mrs Bartlett¹⁰ a keg containing a bushel¹¹ & half, the same to Aunt Kate. the enclosed will advise my friends & I beg you dear Jemie to deliver my note in person at the Professors tea table Saturday evening of this week. I requested Mr Mathewson¹² (when he brought me my winters supply of the most excellent butter the other day, to select a barrel of Peck Pleasants¹³, & send them thro their grocer in the city. I cannot tell you my precious boy how many fond thoughts of you & of

these your kind friends refreshed my mind while I poached the peaches yesterday. how much we talk of you all. how often I have described Charlie Bartlett¹⁴ as my beau ideal of what a lad should be, I dont wonder his mother delights so in him.

Grandmother¹⁵ & Mary send love to you. so did Aunt Kate in a letter I had from her yesterday, she is sure you will do [p. 3] well & keep the good name our best inheritance unsullied as you have received it. Aunt Kate was delighted by your improvement in every way, & oh Jemie it cheers me to think of you as improving still. All our neighbors ask after you so kindly, & beg to be remembered. I heard from Mrs Barnes¹⁶ yesterday, they are not removing from Springfield yet. not certain ever doing so! Wm¹⁷ is at college in N Haven & well satisfied. Johnie & Ed Allen¹⁸ have passed their examinations at Anapolis. Ed was spurred on to study hard the fortnight he was at Springfield as he found himself so far behind hand. Mr Barnes¹⁹ says he left both boys happy & he has no doubt they will do well. There is a distant relative of mine among the Cadets - Alston²⁰ from Charleston. My cousin Mr Porcher²¹ (Pochét pronounced) married his aunt. Make a friend of him dear Jemie, my Cousin Mrs Corbett²² writes me she hopes you will become friends. how do you like my Slips from the Semi Weekly²³? In great haste, but the tenderest love,

your Mother

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
3. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
4. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
5. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
6. Donald McNeill Palmer (b. 1845), JW's cousin.
7. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
8. Clingstone is a variety of peaches on which the flesh clings to the pit. They are the first to arrive on the market. Later in the season, cling-free varieties are available.
9. Samuel Butler (b. 1804), blacksmith at Pomfret, CT.
10. Harriet Bartlett, née Whitehorne, wife of Prof. W. H. C. Bartlett.
11. Bushel is a unit of capacity in the American Customary and British Imperial systems of measurement. The American level bushel (or struck bushel) is equal to 2,150.42 cubic inches (35,245.38 cubic cm) and is the equivalent of the Winchester bushel, a measure used in England from the 15th century until 1824.
12. George B. Mathewson (1804-1877), of Pomfret, CT.
13. Peck's Pleasant is a variety of apples.
14. Charles Bartlett, son of H. and Prof. W. H. C. Bartlett.
15. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
16. Charlotte A. Barnes (b. 1811), née Sanford, wife of James Barnes.

17. William H. L. Barnes (b. 1834), son of C. and James Barnes.
18. John S. Barnes (b. 1836), naval officer and lawyer, and Edmund Allen (b. 1836), of Pomfret, CT; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
19. James Barnes (1806-1869), soldier and civil engineer.
20. Benjamin Allston (1833-1900), clergyman of the Protestant Episcopal Church. Allston graduated from the United States Military Academy on 1 July 1853 .
21. Probably Philip Johnston Porcher, Sr (1806-1871), AMW's cousin.
22. Mary Corbett (b. 1804), cousin of AMW.
23. It is not clear as to which Semi-Weekly AMW refers. In 1851 there were various publications of journals from different locations throughout USA entitled Semi-Weekly, such as *Semi-weekly Tribune*, New York, begun in June 1850.

System Number: 06405

Date: 22 October 1851

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Pomfret

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W401

Document Type: ALS

Pomfret

Wednes - night
Oct 22nd 1851

We have had family prayers dearest Jemie³ & morning & night ask a blessing from on high for you. Grandmother⁴ has left her love for me to enclose for yourself & Mrs Bartletts⁵ family circle, she has retired, but Willie⁶ is inclined to study till ten & it will ease my heart to write you. I should have refreshed you with St P [i.e. St Petersburg] reports from Mrs Prince's⁷ last letter, in which you are so affectionately mentioned, but the enclosed communication has sobered me as I hope it may you. I have tried to reconcile myself to your not replying to my weekly messages of a mothers tenderest love & solicitude, by the hope of your application to study, in the fulfilment [sic] of your promise to avoid any demerits henceforth, beginning with this month; yet it seems to me it would be consistent with such laudable resolution, that thoughts of gratifying a widowed mother would mingle, & the effort to write her or an only brother at home, only natural. I shall not waste another stamped envelope directed to Pomfret to enclose you. God bless & answer my prayers [p. 2] for you. Willie has a fresh impetus to diligence in his studies, since receiving a circular from Jacks⁸ of Columbia College⁹. The school here is very orderly now, tomorrow morning, we are to attend the funeral service in our church for old Mr Giles Eldridge¹⁰, who was released from suffering last night.

But it is time to say goodnight to you my own dear Jemie. Try for your own sake to comfort & cheer your anxious but

ever affectionate Mother

Did¹¹ you deliver my note to Mrs Bartlett? Mary¹² is to return from Stoning[ton] Saturday.

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
3. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
4. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
5. Harriet Bartlett, née Whitehorne, wife of Prof. W. H. C. Bartlett.
6. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
7. It is not clear whether Mrs Prince is the wife of George or Ben Prince, engineers from St Petersburg.
8. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
9. Private institution of higher education, founded in 1754 as King's College. It was renamed Columbia College when it reopened in 1784 after the American Revolution. It became Columbia University in 1912.
10. Giles Eldridge (1780-1851), farmer, of Pomfret, CT.
11. 'Did ... Saturday' continues in the left margin of p. 1.
12. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.

System Number: 06406

Date: 13 November 1851

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Pomfret

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W402

Document Type: ALS³

Pomfret

thursday p - m Nov 13th 51

Well darling Jemie⁴

you will begin to complain of our neglect of your letters if I do not answer the one Willie⁵ welcomed so gladly last week, for he says the scraps of holidays, he ought to spend in out - of - door exercise, & I agree with him, he wastes his share of powder & shot! in his attempts at shooting birds, Lloyd⁶ took him under his patronage one half holiday, & then we had some fat robbins for breakfast! Lloyd has refined astonishingly, he has quite taken your place as beau to Anna⁷, I learn that she has a letter from James Holbrook⁸ by this days mail, so hope we shall have some West Point news, his last report of you was very encouraging, We have gone thro the

third of a month since we ought to have had your list of demerits, brother George⁹ is no doubt so devoted to Mary¹⁰ after his days labours, he has not time to write me. I am very anxious about her health, as I hear she must spend the winter in Baltimore.

I wrote George to buy warm drawers for you dear Jemie, I only blame myself for not supplying you with home-made, instead of sending to England for them, neither the Harrisons¹¹ or your uncle McNeill¹² are to return to their native land this year. Aunt Alicia¹³ writes of the benefit my brother is deriving in change of climate, she sends more love to you dear Jemie than I need express, for you know how her warm heart has always kept you in a snug corner, she tells me how delighted Uncle & Aunt Winstanley¹⁴ are with Genl Swift¹⁵, & I was sure he would charm every where. I hope soon to receive Debos¹⁶ account of her welcome to her Uncle & Cousin¹⁷ it is so unusually long since her last letter to me, I conclude she has been devoting herself to them to make their stay in Sloane St alluring. You will read in the news paper I send you, with this, of the escape of the Africa¹⁸ commanded by our Capt Ryrie¹⁹ (in our voyage in 43²⁰ when we ran down a brig you'll recollect) Aunt Alicia had put some trifles for us under Mrs Macbeths²¹ care, but of course we must wait to hear of the arrival of the Africa in N York!

[p. 2] You must let me know if you like the extracts I make from the Semi weekly²². the letters from Russia you will read with goût & circulate perhaps among your cronies, What think you of Kossuth²³? Is the prospect of a Worlds Fair in N York²⁴ a powerfully strong inducement, to win you a brief holiday for a visit to its vicinity? Are you studying hard & keeping in order for your next Examination? Oh Jemie how much we shall try (if you do come home in consequence of your present efforts to please your Commanders) to make your holiday charming!

Do you suffer from cold dearest? have you¹⁰ stand on guard these cold nights²⁵? & is your overcoat a sufficient protection? I hope you have put on your long sleeved under-shirts, if not, do so without delay I beg you & write me that you are taking every precaution in your power against cold. Winter has already set in here, the school boys were skating this morning. I hope the spring may be as early, for my prospect is for our removal in March. I do not expect we[,] any of us, shall travel over this road except Mary²⁶ may spend Christmas at Springfield, until we go for good. As yet I have not heard of the house²⁷ being found at Scarsdale, but all in season my way will be made clear by the Lord of the widow, who has thus far so wisely appointed my place of sojourn. Jemie do you ever think of your walks with your mother? I should not now take you in the direction of "Elm Cottage" for poor old Mrs Profit²⁸ was buried this week. I have comfort in looking back to my scripture readings beside her sick bed, she became entirely submissive to the termination of her long illness in death, the funeral of "Aunt Debby²⁹" which we all attended some few weeks since was very impressive the hymns & sad voluntary of our choice to solemn & Mr Parks³⁰ address so appropriate. You will hear that your Miss Davis' brother George³¹ is dying of consumption, but that Mr Fitz son³² who was in delirium thro out his violent attack of fever is recovering, mercifully spared to respect & live to Christ! dear James I pray earnestly for you that you may be under the banner [p. 3] of the Cross, & not be ashamed to confess the Captain of your salvation as honoring & obeying His commandments. For religious ways are pleasant, & the security of the divine favor & protection is so encouraging. You make time I trust to pray night & morning! I was musing of you the other day in connection with my last winter at Dom Ritter³³, & the tears blinded me as I remembered your having asked me to write a prayer for you to offer, in your separation from us! Oh Jemie what a great trial I have been supported thro by religion since then. think of your tender father³⁴ sometimes my dear boy, bring back the tones of his gentle earnest voice, to urge you on to duty & improvement.

What pleasure it will yeild [sic] Mary to do her part in rendering your visit to us next Summer gratifying! you cannot be as disappointed as I am that the Cling stone peaches³⁵. I sent to Mrs

Bartlette³⁶ [sic] decayed, I made such nice preserves from the ½ bushel I had, besides all we ate for tea cut up fresh & sugared. I have since succeeded in making such excellent quince jelly & marmalade³⁷. your share shall be in store for your visit to us. Every delicacy we have makes me wish for Jemie! & when I tuck Willie in & kiss him for good night I sigh "poor Jemie" think of his hard bed & rough face! Willie sleeps in the room next mine. Mrs Searles³⁸ went to the farm to welcome an infant Grand daughter a month ago, & is staying there yet, but hopes to be released in time to get ready for Thanksgiving. We live very frugally, but I must treat Willie to a turkey & mince pies in case he wishes to invite Perry³⁹ to dine, he has found the walk to the depot short with this new school mate, so I conclude they like each other. Kate Prince⁴⁰ repeats the invitation for Willie to spend Christmas with them, but we must be very careful of health & expenditure, & he has concluded to take his holidays in the Spring. What will you say dear Jemie when I tell you of my having had four teeth at a sitting taken out & that I was unconscious! I was persuaded by Mrs Williams⁴¹ to take Ether⁴² & was under its influence only five minutes & felt no more its effects.

Grandmother⁴³ is making a Carolina journey cake⁴⁴ for Willies tea, if you know Alston⁴⁵ (as I wish you to for he is a Cousin & a fine clever fellow I hear) he can tell you how good it is, & oh how I wish you could enjoy it with Willie.

Burn this scrawl after you have extracted our united love & remembrance. Grandmother is very well & sends her love with mine to Mrs Bartlette [sic], you can report Genl Swift delighting & delighted in England! It gratifies me that you go there often.

I⁴⁶ mean to Proff Bartlettes⁴⁷, [sic] you can only visit England in imagination! but how creditably you may re visit it if you pass the West Point! but if your demerits cut short your course alas for honors any where! God bless you & watch between you & I while we are separated from each other, write soon to your fond Mother

A M W

[p.4]⁴⁸ Friday

All well. Willie waits to take the Semi weekly & this for you to the School mail bag - I have not seen any from next door to ask the West Point news - Write soon dearest Jemie to your ever anxious Mother

I laughed as I never supposed I should in reading a scrap from "the carpet bag⁴⁹" while I fancied how it would amuse you. Willie will write soon. Uncle McNeill sends his love from England to you, he loves you both as his own boys - I suppose Willie Wyatt⁵⁰ is in N Orleans soon you ought to write him.

[Address panel:]

Cadet James Whistler Military Academy
West Point
New York State

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
3. 'JOHN GIBSTONS PATENT' embossed paper mark on top left corner of p. 1.

4. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
5. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
6. Lloyd Henry Bowers (1836-1886), son of Captain Perry Bowers, Sr.
7. Anna Holbrook, daughter of M. B. and J. Holbrook.
8. James Baker Holbrook, a class-mate of JW at West Point.
9. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
10. Mary Ann Whistler (ca 1826-1852), née Ducatel, JW's sister-in-law.
11. The family of Joseph Harrison (1810-1874), partner in the firm of Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in the firm of Harrison, Winans and Eastwick.
12. William Gibbs McNeill (1800-1853), railway engineer, JW's uncle.
13. Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), JW's aunt.
14. John Winstanley (1776-1859), solicitor, JW's uncle, and his wife Eliza Isabella Winstanley (1788-1859), née McNeill, AMW's half-sister.
15. General Joseph Gardner Swift (1783-1865), first graduate of USMA, West Point, NY, chief engineer of US Army, JW's father's brother-in-law.
16. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
17. McRae Swift (b. 1819), son of General J. G. Swift; see AMW to JW, 27 August 1851, #06402.
18. Steamer *Africa* (1850-1868), Cunard Line (2,226 tons.). The *Africa* made its maiden voyage on 26 October 1850 from Liverpool to New York. On 25 October 1851 it was stranded off Belfast due to dense fog, but later managed to return to Liverpool. The media praised its captain (see below), and the passengers of the *Africa* held a meeting, expressing their confidence in him and their sympathy with his misfortune. See *New York Daily Times*, 10 November 1851, vol. 1, no. 46, p. 1.
19. Alexander Ryrie, Sea Captain.
20. Probably AMW's trip from USA to Britain, in 1843.
21. Mrs Macbeth, apparently a friend of Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill.
22. It is not clear as to which Semi Weekly AMW refers. In 1851 there were various publications of journals from different locations throughout USA entitled Semi Weekly, such as, *Semi-weekly Tribune*, New York, begun in June 1850.
23. Lajos Kossuth (1802-1894), political reformer who inspired and led Hungary's struggle for independence from Austria. His brief period of power in the revolutionary years of 1848 and 1849 (on 14 April 1849 he was elected "governor" of Hungary), was ended by the arrival of the Russian armies. On 11 August he resigned this post to Artúr Görgey (1818-1916) and took refuge in Turkey. On 6 December 1851 following a US Senate resolution, the frigate USS *Mississippi*, flying the Hungarian tricolor, picked up Kossuth from his exile in Turkey and from the port of Smyrna (Izmir) took him to Marseilles. From there he travelled to Southampton, England, and London, and eventually arrived in the USA. From the time he landed on Staten Island, New York (5 December 1851) until his departure via New York City (July 1852), he delivered some 150 speeches. In these, he expressed admiration for the American Revolution and

the establishment of a democratic government. He stayed out of the main controversy of the period - slavery - but constantly expounded human rights. Kossuth had hopes of reviving the Hungarian revolution, banking on developing European conflicts as catalysts. His visit aroused extensive publicity. Kossuth's and his companions' embarkation was reported in the *New York Times*, 6 October 1851, vol. 1. no. 16.

24. The World Fair took place in 1853 in Manhattan, as a "Crystal Palace Exhibition," modeled on the 1851 London fair (a giant glass and iron exhibition hall in Hyde Park).

25. JW did several drawings describing the life at West Point. One of them shows guards on duty and is called *Three Cadets* (M.120).

26. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.

27. AMW is to move at Scarsdale Cottage in June 1852.

28. Mrs Profit (d. 1851), of Pomfret, CT. It is probably Mary Profit, aged 65, who was born in Connecticut, and lived with Nancy Profit (probably her sister); see 7th Census of the USA, 1850, Windham County, Pomfret, CT, vol. 11, p. 378.

29. Aunt Debby (d. 1851), of Pomfret, CT; see AMW to JW, 23 and 24 September 1851, #06401.

30. Rev. Roswell Park (1807-1869), minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Principal of Christ Church school.

31. Eliza Davis (b. 1834), and her brother George Davis (1832-1851) of Pomfret, CT.

32. AMW mentions "Mr Fitz's son in his 21st year dying of typhus fever", on 23 and 24 September 1851 (AMW to JW, #06401). Mr Fitz is probably Daniel Fitz (b. 1778), farmer, of Pomfret, CT, found in the 7th Census of the USA, Windham County, Pomfret, CT, p. 388. His son has not been identified.

33. AMW's residence in St Petersburg, situated across the river from the Academy of Fine Arts.

34. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.

35. Clingstone variety of peaches on which the flesh clings to the pit. The first to arrive on the market are clingstone. Later in the season, cling-free varieties are available.

36. Harriet Bartlett, née Whitehorne, wife of Prof. W. H. C. Bartlett.

37. For the recipes of quince jelly & marmalade see Margaret F. MacDonald, *Whistler's Mother's Cook Book*, London, 1979, pp. 19, 129-130.

38. Mrs Searles, AMW's neighbour at Pomfret, CT.

39. Perry, a fellow-student of William M. Whistler at Pomfret, CT.

40. Kate ('Cousin Kate') Livermore (1820-1907), daughter of J. D. Prince and wife of A. Livermore.

41. Mrs C. Williams (b. 1820), wife of Dr Williams, of Pomfret, CT.

42. Any of a class of organic compounds characterized by an oxygen atom attached to two carbon atoms that are part of a hydrocarbon. In particular 'ether' ethyl oxide, was used from 1846 as a general anaesthetic.

43. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.

44. Johnny Cake, originally called journey cake; 1800's wagon train recipe, based on corn bread with rye flour.
45. Benjamin Allston (1833-1900), clergyman of the Protestant Episcopal Church.
46. 'I ... A M W' continues in the left margin of p. 1.
47. Professor William Holmes Chambers Bartlett (1804-1893), mathematician.
48. There are the remains of a black wax seal with AMW's initial 'A'.
49. *The Carpet-Bag*, Boston weekly humorous paper.
50. William Wyatt McNeill (1833-1853), JW's cousin.

System Number: 06407

Date: 25 November 1851

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Pomfret

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W403

Document Type: ALS

Pomfret

tuesday night Nov 25th 1851

How are you my darling Jemie³?

I have been thinking of you with the greatest tenderness all today, "dear fellow" I have involuntarily uttered which has been an encouragement to Mary⁴ to say how much she misses you, what a pity it is that your studies do not admit of your writing us what you are about, your letters are so cheering, I shall send you a semi-weekly⁵ by tomorrows mail filled with Kossuth⁶. I read all his speeches with great interest to Grandmother & Willie⁷, the sadness mingles as I think of the last winter at Dom Ritter⁸ when I read the struggles of the brave Hungarians to your dear father⁹. I hope they interest you & suppose the hero Kossuth will give you a chance of sketching him¹⁰, as all distinguished men who visit our country, go to inspect¹¹ its military academy.

I received such a grateful response to a letter I had written Mr Rutter¹² last week, I wish you could read it, he promises himself the pleasure of taking Mrs Rutter to see you, his son James¹³ has recd an appt [i.e. appointment] for the Navy & enters the school of Anapolis¹⁴ [sic] in the Spring. does Mr Minot¹⁵ continue to favor West Point with a preference as a resort? Rutter mentions how fond he is of listening to all he can tell him of your beloved & lamented father.

Do you know Jemie dear, I fear your Sister¹⁶ is hurt by your never writing her, she is too gentle to reproach you, but her last letter did not contain the fond expressions of Jemie which is usual with her, she does not in alluding to her portrait, which was still in Mr Boxalls¹⁷ studio & requiring her occasional visits - send one message to Jemie, tho she does express anxiety about your conduct, because she says, that Uncle Swift¹⁸ tells her you may be mortified if you indulge in demerits much longer! they [p. 2] will rejoice in the recent reports of your orderly conduct, & rising in your English but write Sister yourself, that will gratify her more than all the news I can

send of you, if you will enclose to me the thin sheet I now send you to fill to her, the favor will be double in every sense of the word. she was greatly enjoying Genl Swift; McRea & Miss Chew¹⁹ spending every evening at 62²⁰ the week they were in London. Uncle McNeill²¹ joined them sometimes, Seymour²² is pleased with all & is liked by them all no doubt as Sis writes he gets along famously with both uncles - she & Seymour had been over their wedding tour to Wales previous to the arrival of her uncle Swift & had taken Annie²³. Mr Lloyd²⁴ was charmed by the charm I sent him - a gold dollar for his watch. I hear of a Kate Prince²⁵ in St Petersburg, the daughter of your friend Ben²⁶.

Now I am scribbling to get this ready to send by one of the school boys (Wednesday morning 26th) who is to start for Norwich by eleven oclock for his Thanksgiving there. I have to spend this morning in the kitchen too in making mince pies & pumpkin also for this Yankee festival²⁷, Willie is to have two of the school boys to dine with us tomorrow, but not for his own sake, Johnie Burnham²⁸ invited himself & then as David King²⁹ was to be the only other at the Rectory & is a gentlemanly lad I sent to ask Mrs P³⁰ to let him come with Johnie. I need not say dear Jemie how I wish I could send you some of my pies to treat your cronies & self! If you will let me know how to find Mr Minot provided he yet visits West Point I might order same New Years cake thro him to your room. Brother George³¹ will visit you early in Dec do let me know if you have under shirts for winter & if you have enough stockings, indeed if there is any thing I can do for you my dear, dear Jemie. Grandmother is quite well & adds her blessing with mine & the love of Willie, who had a sleigh ride with Lloyd³² before breakfast, after he had shovelled snow, & then went off to school with his huge pile of Latin & Greek. I hear from Miss Hill³³ that a cottage³⁴ is to be built for me as its tenant by next Spring. Do you think you shall be honored with a furlough to visit me in the Summer? The worlds fair³⁵ you see is to be in N York city then. What [p. 3] powerful motives you have dear Jemie for obedience now. May God answer my prayers which are unceasing for you my dear boy. I recd a letter from Mr Harrison³⁶ the other day, he expects much from you & remarks upon your having entered upon the scenes of your revered fathers³⁷ youth. Mr H & family except Henry³⁸ who is at school at Southampton are now in Paris. but look forward to returning to their native land with delight next Spring. Is there anything you wish me to write to them to get you in Paris? I am sure Mr Harrison would attend to it for your fathers sake. And now I must write a few lines to Eliza Flagg³⁹ by this lad to Norwich, I only add my love & Grandmothers to Mrs Bartlett⁴⁰, say I should have written her but have been so busy, I hope the barrel of apples may prove sound. Pecks pleasant⁴¹ you remember are of fine flavor, have the boxes of virgin honey reached Mrs Bartlett from Aunt Kate⁴²?

I hope you go there as often as possible on Saturdays, the oftener, the more you'll gratify those sincere friends, & your mother. Oh if a letter should reach me from you tomorrow I should have a Thanksgiving subject! perhaps you may have purchased this for my special rejoicing! if not, surely Christmas will bring me a greeting from you. The family of Davis are weeping over the corpse of George⁴³, whose redeemed spirit returned to God on Sunday morning last, Mr Park⁴⁴ was with them before morning service as it left its frail tenement of clay. 19 years was his age! but thanks be to God that the labours of Mr Park were blessed, George became entirely willing to go, he was baptised & received the communion by his own earnest desire. Your lively school mate his sister is solemnly impressed. I feel inclined to call & offer sympathy to the pious but afflicted mother. the funeral is to be on Saturday next I presume. Mr Park when he lately passed an evening with us, enquired affectionately after you, & begged to be remembered to you. he is looking forward to embarking on his European tour by steamer of April 1st for five months recreation. his labours here completed, his prospects of future usefulness bright, he serves a generous Master even a heavenly! That you may from your youth be known as of the Lords family dear Jemie⁴⁵ is the hope of your widowed Mother

A M W

[Address panel:]

Cadet⁴⁶ James Whistler

Military Academy

West Point

N York State

[Postmark:] QUINEBAUG / Ct. / NOV / 2[7]

[Stamp:] U. S. POSTAGE

THREE CENTS

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
3. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
4. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
5. It is not clear as to which Semi Weekly AMW refers. In 1851 there were various publications of journals from different locations throughout USA entitled Semi Weekly, such as, *Semi-weekly Tribune*, New York, begun in June 1850.
6. Lajos Kossuth (1802-1894), political reformer who inspired and led Hungary's struggle for independence from Austria; see AMW to JW, 13 November 1851, #06406.
7. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW, and William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
8. AMW's residence at St Petersburg, Russia, situated across the Academy of Fine Arts.
9. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
10. There is no record of JW producing a sketch of Lajos Kossuth.
11. Debby Pogue, archivist of USMA, after examining their records for the time period (1851-1852), including Post Orders, the Superintendent's Letter Book, and a subject file covering foreign visitors, has found no evidence that Kossuth visited the United States Military Academy.
12. Mr Rutter, and his wife, AMW's friends.
13. James Rutter, son of Rutter.
14. The academy at Annapolis was founded as a Naval School on 10 October 1845, by George Bancroft, historian, educator, and secretary of the US Navy, to improve the then-unsatisfactory methods of instructing midshipmen. There is no record of James Rutter ever graduating from the Academy; see Edward W. Callahan, *List of Officers of the Navy of the US and the Marine Corps from 1775 to 1900*, New York, 1901.
15. Mr Minot; unidentified.
16. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.

17. William Boxall (1800-1879), portrait painter and director of the National Gallery, painted Deborah Delano Haden's portrait.
18. Captain William Henry Swift (1800-1879), brother-in-law of JW's father.
19. General Joseph Gardner Swift (1783-1865), first graduate of USMA, West Point, NY, chief engineer of US Army, JW's father's brother-in-law, his son McRae Swift (b. 1819), and probably a relation of Abby Hortense Swift, née Chew, wife of McRae Swift.
20. 62 Sloane Street, London, the address of Francis Seymour and Deborah Delano Haden.
21. William Gibbs McNeill (1800-1853), railway engineer, JW's uncle.
22. Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), surgeon and etcher, JW's brother-in-law.
23. Annie Harriet Haden (1848-1937), later Mrs Charles Thynne, JW's niece.
24. Edward ('Teddy') Lloyd, of London.
25. Catherine Prince (b. 10 November 1851), daughter of Ben Prince.
26. Ben Prince, a friend of AMW, of St Petersburg.
27. Johnie Burnham, of Pomfret, CT.
28. The 'Yankee festival' of Thanksgiving originated in the autumn of 1621 when Plymouth governor William Bradford invited neighbouring Indians to join the Pilgrims for a three-day festival of recreation and feasting in gratitude for the bounty of the season. By the end of the 19th century, Thanksgiving Day had become an institution throughout New England, and in 1863, following a movement led by Sarah Josepha Hale, it was officially proclaimed a national holiday by President Abraham Lincoln. The traditional feast of turkey and pumpkin pie has since become part of the national culture. For AMW's mince pies and pumpkin recipes see Margaret F. MacDonald, *Whistler's Mother's Cook Book*, London, 1979, pp. 72, and 86-87.
29. David King, of Pomfret, CT.
30. Mary Park (1815-1854), née Brewster Baldwin, wife of Rev. R. Park.
31. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
32. Lloyd Henry Bowers (1836-1886), son of Captain Perry Bowers, Sr.
33. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY.
34. AMW moved to a cottage in Scarsdale in June 1852.
35. The World Fair took place in 1853 in Manhattan, as a "Crystal Palace Exhibition," modeled on the 1851 London fair (a giant glass and iron exhibition hall in Hyde Park).
36. Joseph Harrison (1810-1874), partner in the firm of Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in the firm of Harrison, Winans and Eastwick.
37. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
38. William Henry Harrison (b. 1837), son of S. and J. Harrison.
39. Eliza Flagg (1830-1855), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of Rev. E. O. Flagg.
40. Harriet Bartlett, née Whitehorne, wife of Prof. W. H. C. Bartlett.
41. Peck's Pleasant is an apple variety.
42. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.

43. George Davis (1832-1851), of Pomfret, CT.
44. Rev. Roswell Park (1807-1869), minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Principal of Christ Church school.
45. 'Jemie ... AMW' continues in the right margin of p. 3.
46. 'Cadet ... CENTS' written on p. 4 which has been used as the outside of an envelope and on which there are the remains of a black wax seal inscribed 'A M W'

System Number: 09556

Date: [29 November 1851¹]

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: [Pomfret]

Recipient: Margaret Getfield Hill³

Place: [Scarsdale]

Repository: Cornell University Library, Department of Manuscripts and University Archives,
Carl A. Kroch Library, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

Call Number: 1629

Document Type: ALS

I thank you dear Margaret for the details of the Table Cloth. When Eliza⁴ gets her materials I hope she will mine from the city, she is very communicative with us & seems to be interested in her new - sphere, how great a cause for thankfulness that she is so happy in her husbands⁵ family! she went with her Edward when he exchanged with Mr Vail⁶ at Westerley, & the pleasure was mutual that she could spend two days in Stonington at Aunt Kate's⁷, hers was the last report from the corner house to us. All are well there. And I have cheering news now of & from him. We hear also of my brothers⁸ improved health thro my Sisters⁹ letters, I suppose he will be all winter in England. Debo¹⁰ was well & enjoying the society of her Uncle Genl Swift¹¹ more than any since she listened to her fathers¹² fond tones. I made & sent her children dresses by the Genl & she is charmed. Oh how much more than I merit does she love me!

Saturday morning 29th

We had such a rain storm on the snow yesterday I did not send Eliza to the Post Office, Ah how it blew last night! my mother¹³ & I could not sleep, but she spoke of some of the beautiful ideas in our pastors Thanksgiving discourse that if we realized this world as tho cradle to the grave & the vestibule to heaven, we should be ready to enter those mansions our [p. 2]¹⁴ loving Redeemer went to prepare for us, & thus with thoughts of the watcher of Israel we were at last soothed to rest. On this high hill we feel the gales, which we hope at Scarsdale we hope to be sheltered from. Love to your dear Sister & brother Mr & Mrs Popham¹⁵, May the widows God reward them & unite our hearts in christian friendship ever is the prayer

of your attached

Anna Whistler

Your letters are so welcomed to us, let us hear often. My Mother sends her love & Willie¹⁶ his. We are all well.

Kate is so hopeful that I will send for the girl, I do not know how to disappoint the family she thinks so worthy. One of them has been in Capt P¹⁷ family here 4 years, his wife who died a year

ago begged Jane¹⁸ never to leave them, & the one in Ireland is as pious a member of our church as in Jane, I am averse to acting against the advise of my dear friends in Scarsdale, & pray our councils may be over ruled that I may have one of the Lords own appointing I should advance the 1st quarters wages for the voyage & when it was said I'd expect at least a years service - Mrs West¹⁹ said "Oh Mrs P - I hope my neice [sic] would be so valuable to so kind a mistress she would not wish ever to leave the service of Mrs W.

Willie has a wish if it [obscured] dear Mr Pophams approval that the Carpenters build a poultry house at the back of the cottage, it will be an instant & may be convenient [obscured] for him. but I hope you will visit Brooklyn while my dear boy is there - May the painters brush up our old refrigerator & place it where you decide is best it needs a new lock or two. I shall thankfully defray expenses. When I address you dear Margaret I think of all individually whom you love as friends of

your grateful

A M W

Envelope:

Miss M. G. Hill Mr Popham Esq
Scarsdale. W Chester County
New York

[Stamp]: 'THREE CENTS'

[Postmark]: [obscured] [APR / 12?]

Notes:

1. The date of this letter is 29 November 1851. It was then that General Swift was found in London, entertaining with his niece Deborah Delano Haden, at 62 Sloane Street, #06407. At this time AMW was living at Pomfret, Connecticut.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY.
4. Eliza Flagg, née McNeill, JW's cousin, the wife of Edward Flagg, died on 22 May 1855.
5. Rev. Edward Octavius Flagg (1824-1911).
6. Mr Vail, preacher at the local church at Pomfret.
7. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
8. William Gibbs McNeill (1800-1853), railway engineer, JW's uncle.
9. Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), and Eliza Isabella Winstanley (1788-1859), née McNeill.
10. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
11. General Joseph Gardner Swift (1783-1865), first graduate of USMA, West Point, NY, chief engineer of US Army, JW's father's brother-in-law.
12. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.

13. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, JW's grandmother.
14. Page 2 has been used as the outside of an envelope.
15. William Sherbrooke Popham (1793-1885), merchant of Scarsdale, and his wife Jane O'Neill Hill (1793-1882), sister of Margaret G. Hill of Scarsdale.
16. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
17. Probably Captain Perry Bowers (senior) (1794-1870) of Pomfret, Connecticut.
18. Jane, unidentified.
19. Mrs West, unidentified.

System Number: 06408

Date: 17 and 19 December 1851

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Pomfret

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W404

Document Type: ALS

Pomfret

Dec 17th 1851 Wednesday

Just as we were despairing of ever receiving any answers to our poor scrawls to you dearest Jemie³, your cheering report last week came, to make us forgive all your neglect, tho I hope you will not be encouraged to continue indifferent about contributing to domestic joys. Oh Jemie how relieved I am that you have not been idle! the proof of your improvement is very gratifying, & I have been writing Sis⁴ today that you are rising in your classes, the good news will delight her. I heard from George⁵ by yesterdays mail that he would soon be going to Balt[imore] to visit dear Mary⁶. he has lately had two letters from her, but for weeks she was so easily overcome by fatigue she was not allowed to make even that exertion. the little GWW⁷ is sprightly & growing finely. George hopes to visit you on his return, but his time is so occupied for the public he is often disappointed in his plans for our comfort, he said he should insist on you not neglecting to write me. A very few will be ever welcome to us, we know how occupied your time is, but a half hour every fortnight would not interfere with your preparations. I see no prospect of our having the privilege of personal intercourse this winter dear Jemie, but you will I hope enjoy some home-made tokens of your Mothers wish to share with you - I shall spend tomorrow in making snaps & mince⁸, such as you relish for a snack, & Marys⁹ going to Springfield for the Xmas holidays, will make it easy to send the box to N Haven for George to take to you, I shall write him to get you the fur gloves, as they are not to be bought here.

[p. 2] Willie¹⁰ heartily enters into your rewards for gaining marks of merit & is sure you are studying hard to distinguish yourself at the approaching examination. he is prepared for his on friday. I thought by his not coming home at noon today he had caught a sleigh ride, for the music of the bells has been all this bright cold day been ringing over the hills of Pomfret, E B¹¹ forgot to tell me he had been invited to dine at the Rectory & he has staid until now - sunset - to help

Mrs Park¹² make leather flowers to frame a Madona for a Xmas gift. I wish Willie may get an invite round to all the merry makings, for we shall be very quiet under this roof. he is resigned to his fate, by the prospect of freedom at Easter. The Bowers¹³ are to have visitors from Prov[idence] - A Christmas tree is in progress at Mrs Yales¹⁴ & guests - expected at the Rectory during the holidays. I walked up to sit an hour with Mrs Park an evening after Willie's study, & we were in time for an ice cream & fruit cake treat, no wonder the boys there say they are never home sick, eh!

Friday 19th

Examination day, bright sunshine, Willie at school, when Grandmother¹⁵ & I hope to see him do honor to his name this afternoon. You will laugh at a mistake in numbers E B made when the cold was so stinging here, she said only to think it was 60 degrees below zero! it proved to be 6! in Boston it was thought extreme at 20 - I remember it 30 in St P. & then the mercury stood still - We are all quite well dearest Jemie & unite in more love to you than my hurried pen can express - & a fine supply of ginger snaps¹⁶. I hope you may get them for N Year - How many thoughts of my [p. 3] cadet lightened my toil in the cold kitchen! God bless you dearest & answer my prayers for your good. Oh Jemie seek his blessing daily at the foot of the Cross. I fear you are suffering from want of your garments, but perhaps the parcel from England may come in time for my packing your share in the box. Mary has concluded not to start for Springfield till tuesday next. she begs to be respectfully remembered. Capt B¹⁷ always assures me you will redeem your character because you have the principle to do right. God grant it may prove so. Dear Jemie if you wish to gratify me, write your dear Sister, Remember us to the Bartletts¹⁸ & let us hear how you spend Christmas. Always tell me what I can do for your comfort & gratification.

In haste. Ever your devoted
widowed Mother

Anna M Whistler

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
3. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
4. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
5. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
6. Mary Ann Whistler (ca 1826-1852), née Ducatel, JW's sister-in-law. She never recovered from illness following her son's birth, and died the following year.
7. George ('Georgie') Worthen Whistler (b. 1851), JW's nephew.
8. For AMW's mince pie recipes see Margaret F. MacDonald, *Whistler's Mother's Cook Book*, London, 1979, pp. 86-87; snaps are probably biscuits, i.e. ginger snaps.
9. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
10. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
11. Ellen Augusta Bowers (1834-1890), daughter of Captain P. Bowers, Sr.

12. Mary Park (1815-1854), née Brewster Baldwin, wife of Rev. R. Park.
13. The family of Captain Perry Bowers (see below).
14. E. Yale (b. 1784), of Pomfret, CT; in 1850 she was living with Dr Lewis Williams, the physician at Pomfret, often mentioned in AMW's correspondence. See 7th census of the United States of America, Windham County, Pomfret, CT, 1850, p. 385.
15. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
16. For AMW's ginger bread recipes see Margaret F. MacDonald, *Whistler's Mother's Cook Book*, London, 1979, pp. 110-113.
17. Captain Perry Bowers, Sr (1794-1870), of Pomfret, CT.
18. The family of Professor William Holmes Chambers Bartlett (1804-1893), mathematician.

System Number: 06409

Date: 15 and 16 January 1852

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Pomfret

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W405

Document Type: ALS

Pomfret

thursday Jan 15th 1852

My own precious Jemie³,

Are you so satisfied with being no longer conditionally - but really a "passed" of the corps of Cadets, that you feel happy without the congratulations of your mother? I suppose we shall feel willing to give you the credit we do Aunt Kate⁴ when a "quarterly" comes to charm our senses we say "it is worth waiting for"

George⁵ reported to us very soon after his visit to your barracks that your examination was "creditable", hoping you would distinguish your talents more next June, & that you were well, tho you had been exposed to cold without a Gt Coat, & that he had taken all I sent you. I naturally shall be glad to hear if the soft, warm garments which I procured from Liverpool for my cadet, prove comfortable, & whether the mince puffs were according to the approved taste of the corps of Cadets, & the ginger snaps savored of home. But most of all I am anxious to hear of health & the military overcoat, Willie⁶ has found his shube⁷ necessary (except for a moderate day such as today) for weeks, the old folks say such intense frost has not "held on" for seventy years past, but we are all the healthier for it no doubt, as we are all blessed with sound health thus far.

I believe I have not written you since Eliza & Mr Flagg⁸ surprised me (in Marys⁹ absence) I had of course to make extra effort to secure the enjoyment they seemed to realize. No butcher came! but the Rectory larder spared me a fine fat turkey & good Mrs Searles¹⁰ helped me get an

excellent dinner their second & last day. Willie drove them to Mr Camps¹¹, for Mr Flagg was engaged to deliver a lecture, his subject refinement - at Danielsonville! a pelting rain storm however destroyed this benefit to the community, it was the last evening of the old year, the young couple returned to Norwich. A Brewer¹² was among the many who called upon them on N Years day & he reported them unscathed by the storm, he spent a few days here ere his return to Trinity¹³, called upon me & asked affectionately after Jemie to whom he desired to be remembered. [p. 2] I never saw Eliza appear so happy or to such advantage, she is quite popular in his congregation & among the clergy. she is president of the ladies sewing circle organized since her becoming the wife of the Pastor - 70 meet in her parlor on Friday evenings, she left love to be enclosed you dear Jemie, & is cheered by the report of Willy Wyatt¹⁴ being so happy in Marys¹⁵ delightful home, & giving his brother¹⁶ satisfaction in the Counting house.

Uncle McNeill¹⁷ is spending the winter in England, Aunt A¹⁸ is so happy in personal intercourse with him. how fondly she writes of you Jemie, & so does your Sister! I wonder if you will ever write either of them the few lines I have long waited to enclose! I sent a doll, exquisitely dressed by Mrs Parks¹⁹ sewing circle, for Annie's²⁰ birth day gift, it was welcomed by Cis & Emma Maingay²¹ on the 11th of Dec. Annie was three years old on the 13th. E & Cis recognised my neat stitches & nice taste in the beautiful dresses. Cis shed tears at the proof of "Mother's thoughts of her darling" she reports all well. Emma wrote me also under the Gas light in the dining room at noon for a yellow fog obscured the light of day in London. Doctor Park²² & his two senr [i.e. senior] pupils are studying German[.] Willie has joined their evening class for mutual benefit. Seven weeks from tomorrow the last examination at the school under its present principal, will set Willie at liberty from study (which he is very diligent in to prepare for) to be resumed in April by the blessing of God upon our settling at Scarsdale²³. My friends there watch the Carpenters at work & rejoice in the prospect of our occupying the Cottage, which is promised by April to be finished, but I suppose we shall find as the Eastwicks do in their Castle²⁴, that painters must not be considered intruders, Hass²⁵ writes a very lively account to Willie & we are informed that a fourth sister²⁶ was welcomed on Christmas day, just as they had taken possession of the new Castle. Hass is making some progress in fresco painting, I dare say he will embellish their sanctum, perhaps he will condescend to give a few touches to adorn my Cottage! if you do not promise yourself a holiday & me a visit.

Oh Jemie how I do miss you & how earnestly I hope that your prayers for a widowed Mother & mine for a dear Cadet, mingle as incense²⁷ before the throne of God. I thought a new trial was coming to me when I fell & nearly fainted from hurting my back upon the ice, but I knew if I was crippled as my friend Miss Hirst²⁸ had been by a fall, I could sit at the feet of Jesus & hear His words. but God has prolonged my activity, I trust to fulfil my duty to others more perfectly. Grandmother²⁹ is quite well for her, she is knitting you Summer suspenders, & I ought to have sent in the parcel to you a "wash cloth" which she took such pleasure in knitting for your Christmas gift, do take notice of her love for you when you write us. tell Mrs Bartlett³⁰ that Gd Mother often speaks of the pleasant visit under her hospitable roof. do you hear of [p. 3] apples³¹ I sent them? we have a barrel of the same "Pecks Pleasant" & find few decay. Willie of course has the chief benefit of this fine fruit. Grandmother says he is as tall as I am & he is twice as stout, yet out growing his pants, he sleeps in the maple room & is indulged with a fire night & morning, but I do not indulge my pet in letting him join the night sleigh rides, tho A B³² says their party of 14 was very select, they could not get entertainment at Brooklyn among the hundred collected at the hotel there for supper & a dance, so they went to Danielsonville, there is a great quantity of snow now & the drift tolerably leveled will tempt many to turn night into day I fear, but my Willie is not to break thro the home bounds. he drove Mrs Parks, Mary and myself last Friday to Brooklyn - he saw Holbrooks house³³, but we only went to Mr Camps & to the

pretty church. We did not suffer from the cold in our furs & returned home to tea. The Widow Eldridge³⁴ has been calling upon us this afternoon, Helen & Constance³⁵ are at E Greenwich at school, the latter improving in music, You must be tired reading this large sheet dear Jemie, so I shall only ask if you were provided by George with fur gloves, & beg you to deliver my love and best wishes for a happy New Year to the family of Proff Bartlett.

Friday morning 16th

Mary B returned a week ago & is well & doing all she can to make up for 3 weeks holiday. We have a "cold snap" again today. but the sun shines brightly on the windows of my room where are my flower stands, green as spring. May the Sun of Righteousness³⁶ shed His Heavenly beams to melt your heart with thankfulness to God for closing the old year with favors & opening more encouragingly to you the path of duty this New Year. It is as an unsoiled leaf in your common place book dear Jemie, keep it so as well as poor mortal may, by yielding only to conscience. You are surrounded by temptations to forget God & eternity, your own heart being the most powerful of your foes. but confession of daily sin & a steadfast endeavour to resist evil & to cleave to good by the help of the Holy Spirit will secure your happiness. Do you ever recall the gentle voice of your dear father³⁷ "Jemie my boy" always reconciling you to self denial & obedience, do you ever now think of our [son?] & walk with him on his birth day, in the summer gardens³⁸, when he so charmed you as to render you indifferent to the great military parade in the Champ de Mars³⁹ - Oh my own loved one! may we all hear thy tones of gentle admonition yet sounding upon our hearts, to induce us to live in constant preparation to meet thee in the paradise of God!

Mrs Wilkinson⁴⁰ is here, she called to read me such a nice letter from Edmund Allen⁴¹, that I rejoice with her over it, he is trying⁴² he says to meet the Feb examination, which will dismiss many! I like his tone, Mrs W begs you to accept her love, she always expresses such an interest in you, as I feel also for Edmund, Write soon to your Widowed Mother

A M W

[Address panel:]

Cadet James Whistler
Military Academy
West Point

State of New York

[Postmark:] QUINEBAUG / Ct. / JAN / 17

[Rubber Stamp:] PAID

Paid

Z. D. Whistler

Z. D. Whisller [sic]

Z. D. Whislle [sic]

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.

3. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist. Fleming writes that on 2 January 1852, JW took his semi-annual examination, an oral test held in the library before the Academic Board. He received a permanent appointment and he signed papers pledging him to eight years of military service, four as a cadet and four as an officer, if he completed his work at the Academy. See Fleming, Gordon, *The Young Whistler 1834-66*, London, Boston, Sydney, 1978, p. 89.
4. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
5. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
6. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
7. A long fur cloak; see AMW to JW, 11 December 1848, #06375.
8. Rev. Edward Octavius Flagg (1824-1911), husband of Eliza McNeill (1830-1855), JW's cousin.
9. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
10. Mrs Searles, AMW's neighbour at Pomfret, CT.
11. Camps, unidentified.
12. Rev. Alfred Lee Brewer (1831-1899), Curate at the Church of Epiphany in New York (1856-1857), founder and Rector of St. Mathews School, San Mateo (1864-1899).
13. Trinity College, Hartford, CT, was founded in May 1823 as Washington College (the name was changed in 1845).
14. William Wyatt McNeill (1833-1853), JW's cousin.
15. Mary Isabella Rodewald (1823-1867), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of J. F. Rodewald.
16. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
17. William Gibbs McNeill (1800-1853), railway engineer, JW's uncle.
18. Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), JW's aunt.
19. Mary Park (1815-1854), née Brewster Baldwin, wife of Rev. R. Park.
20. Annie Harriet Haden (1848-1937), later Mrs Charles Thynne, JW's niece.
21. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister, and Eliza Ann Maingay (1821-1899), AMW's friends, of St Petersburg.
22. Rev. Roswell Park (1807-1869), minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Principal of Christ Church school.
23. AMW moved in a cottage at Scarsdale, NY sometime in June 1852.
24. The family of Andrew McCalla Eastwick (1810-1879), partner in Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in Harrison, Winans and Eastwick in St. Petersburg. On his return to Philadelphia, he built a luxurious retirement residence called Bartram Hall. Its name was taken from the site, which had once been occupied by the botanical gardens of John Bartram (1699-1777), botanist.
25. Joseph Harrison ('Hass') Eastwick (1834-1917), son of L. A. and A. M. Eastwick.
26. Mary Emma Harmar Eastwick (1851-1928), daughter of L. A. and A. M. Eastwick.

27. Probably 'And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.' Rev. 8.3.
28. Miss Hirst, a friend of AMW, of St Petersburg.
29. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
30. Harriet Bartlett, née Whitehorne, wife of Prof. W. H. C. Bartlett.
31. AMW mentions Pecks Pleasant, a variety of apples sent to the Bartletts on 25 November 1851 (AMW to JW, #06407).
32. Anna Bowers (b. 1831), daughter of Captain P. Bowers, Sr.
33. The Brooklyn house of James Holbrook (1812-1864), agent of the US post office.
34. Hannah Eldridge (1799-1865), née Grosvenor, widow of Edward Eldridge of Pomfret, CT.
35. Helen Grosvenor Eldridge (b. 1838), and Constance Eldridge (b. 1833), daughters of H. and E. Eldridge.
36. 'But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall,' Mal. 4.2.
37. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
38. Summer Gardens, St Petersburg, Russia, founded in 1704; by the end of the 18th century, they contained more than 250 statues and busts, mostly the work of Venetian masters.
39. Fr.: Champs de Mars, a large parade ground. AMW is probably talking about the 'Admiralty', St Petersburg, Russia, originally designed to be a dockyard, where some of the first ships of Russia's Baltic fleet were built; it was rebuilt in 1806-23 by Adrian Zakharov and was the naval headquarters of Russia till 1917. The Summer gardens are in front of the Admiralty.
40. Mrs Wilkinson, neighbour of AMW at Pomfret.
41. Edmund Allen (b. 1836), of Pomfret, CT; AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
42. 'trying ... A M W' continues in left and upper margins of p. 1; 'Cadet ... Whislle' continues on p. 4; 'Paid ... Whislle' written in an another hand.

System Number: 06410

Date: 10 and 11 February [1852¹]

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Pomfret

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point³

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W406

Document Type: ALS⁴

Pomfret

tuesday night Feb. 10th

My own dear Jemie⁵

I am the only one on this étage⁶ awake dear Jemie, the moon will soon rise & then the youthful circle invited by Mrs Ch Thompson⁷ to spend the evening at Hill side Cottage will be lighted over the broken roads to their respective homes, & I shall bid you good night to let Willie⁸ in, this is his third interruption this winter to his evening studies, but I'll venture to assure you dear Jemie he is more charmed by a letter from you than by any of these merry makings. he has been almost in despair at your long silence & looked so rewarded for his tramp thro the snow & mud yesterday when he brought your first New Years greeting yesterday, with accompaniments from "Sis"⁹ & Aunt Alicia¹⁰. Accept their affectionate remembrance, they hope to hear from your pen! Now Jemie you reverence your Mother I am sure - let me impress upon you the duty you owe us to answer the letter of Mrs Gellibrand¹¹, delaying longer will only make it awkward & you would not have a Whistler appear so in St P - I received a friendly response to my last to her today - in which after expressing her flattering interest in my Cadet she says "tell Jemie with my love I am expecting an answer to my letter to him". let me have the satisfaction of having it to forward soon, I had just decided to write Mrs Bartlett¹² for intelligence of you, (as you had resisted all my overtures so long), when your welcome letter came. Willie must write you whether he understood the proposition in "Math". It must have been pleasant to you to jump from the 4th. to 1st. Section in French & you ought to see the benefit of the care taken in your education, You congratulate yourself upon only 8 demerits this last month & venture to prophesy none for this month, if you do not stop their increase. I suppose they will read you off the list for Cadets Warrants by the June Ex [i.e. Examination]. The reports are directed to N Haven now, brother George¹³ I suppose wished to spare me uneasiness. The deep snows of this severe winter give him so much to attend to an unusual interruption to his correspondence with me is the consequence. Our dear Mary¹⁴ continues feeble, while baby¹⁵ grows too much¹⁶ for her to handle, I have a letter from Mrs Ducatel¹⁷ to answer, as Mary can scarcely write George.

[p. 2] Mr Rutter¹⁸ has kindly written to offer his services at the moving¹⁹, Thomas²⁰ too will be spared from the Springfield depot, Mary B²¹ is a host in herself & I do not take trouble upon interest, or I should dread the unavoidable bustle, When I gave Mrs Searles²² your remembrance & told her of your savory recollection of her excellent sausages, she looked as tho she'd like to send you a supply! she regrets that the time draws so near for our leaving her, I am glad you found the pies & snaps palate able, but it will not be convenient for me to send you either alcohol or fluid, I would not were I you, condescend to cook! the white pants for Willie can only be obtained at the Point by your out growing yours before they are worn out, our visits will not admit of his being measured &c. besides I would not risk any infringement of military laws. I hope you will "bone"²³ with success for a furlogh, I shall not feel at home at Scarsdale till you

are associated with it. Mrs Wilkinson²⁴ was driven here this afternoon by Frank²⁵ for the first time she has been able since they were upset in a snow bank, some weeks ago, which added to a cold made her so ill I have been to nurse & prescribe for her. Grandmother²⁶, Willie & I dined there one day last week when she could not benefit as we did by roast turkey & vegetables, but truly can I say we most enjoyed hearing her say we had revived her, she is always interested in reports of you & begs me to offer her love, Ed Allens²⁷ last months demerits were nine, his Aunt²⁸ is now anxious to hear if he passed his Exam - at the beginning of the month.

Willies last one here he is preparing to meet a fortnight from friday, then if providence permit he is to be Grandmothers escort to Stonington. Uncle P²⁹ had invited him to be at his lecture, which Aunt Kate³⁰ writes made the gravest laugh heartily, his anecdotes were so entertaining. but the good doctor was nearly stopped in his career since then, having been called out to the death bed of a little patient an intensely cold night nearly caused the bursting of a blood vessel, he thought himself dying. Doct Hyde³¹ was summoned & we thank God the valuable life to his family is prolonged. You were on the sick list this time [p. 3] last year Jemie, what does a review of the years favors from God say to your heart? the body you delight in is so perishable, you ought to consider the hopes & interests of the imperishable part, when do you intend my own precious James to take your baptismal vows upon yourself? when will you use the means for eternal life? I prayed for a blessing on you before I sat down to write & after I had read & reflected over the sacred vol - Your character will be so much nobler if founded upon piety in youth, did you ever notice the beautiful little MacRea at Cousin José Richards in Brooklyn³²? he was the miniature picture of his Grandfather Genl Swift³³! it seemed to me when I heard of his death (22 hours ill only!)] as if our Lord had sent to Earth to gather a rose bud for paradise, the fond mother we hear has heavenly support, she has been from her youth a follower of Jesus, I think she never wavered between the two worlds! Miss Jane Simpson³⁴ of Kirby Lonsdale memory, who died on the 4th of January said none should wait for a sick bed, to seek [...] knowledge of their Saviour³⁵, oh Jemie you know this to be true think of your helplessness in your illnesses, & while your mind is clear & all your powers invigorated by restored health, decide to concentrate your earthly term to honoring our Lord. But good night my dear, dear Jemie, neighbour Bowers trio³⁶ & Willie returned half an hour ago, & I must not defeat my plan for early rising - tho I am not sleepy at all. I am glad you are interested in the selections I send you from the Newspapers, I hope you especially like those I mark for you to read. Have you ever found leisure yet for reading the two vols of history³⁷ I put in your trunk? while you were in the hospital would have been a good time. I beg you to call at Mrs Bartletts to deliver mine & G mothers love to herself & daughters, if they ask after our health, say all well, except the pain in my side, which I hope to walk off when the roads are more favorable.

Wednesday morning 11th.

A rain storm from the south west to melt away the deep snows still in heaps - but defeats our "Keeping room"³⁸ air tight, so Grandmother & I are spending the morning in our pleasant chamber (where you wrote Valentines³⁹ last Feb, dear Jemie Saturday may remind you of them, Willie preferred going thro all the storm to school, last evening ended in a "hop" he & Anna exhibited in a Polka, she is preparing for a voyage with her brother & "Netty"⁴⁰ to N Orleans. they have been to Marseilles, to Leghorn & Rome since they left here! "Sam"⁴¹ is displaying a horse & [p. 4]⁴² sleigh of his own, he drove from Boston in it last time, Doct Park⁴³ is only to preach here three Sundays more, then he & his pupils Sam & Mason⁴⁴ start for Washington, then for Europe! A Mr Miller⁴⁵ from the neighbourhood of Utica - highly recommended has received a call from our congregation, he is a man of refinement & acquirements, & I doubt not the school will flourish under such a teacher, say this to Capt Brewerton⁴⁶ in case he yet wishes to place his son at Pomfret. I liked Mr Miller very much in the pulpit too, as Mrs Parks⁴⁷ did in the family

circle, he passed part of a week at the Rectory. But all lament that Doctor Park must leave them! it is happy for the new clergyman's wife that Mrs P will be at Doctor Williams⁴⁸ all Summer, to shew her what pleases them.

You see I wrote my first page upside down. It is of no use my stamping envelopes for you, do any of your brother Cadets use those directed to your Mother? if not why do not you? Willie said at breakfast he should write you soon, why do you not gratify him oftener? I have made one move towards your game with Mrs G⁴⁹ - finish it to gratify your devotedly attached widowed parent

A M W

Offer my respects to Proff Bartlett⁵⁰ & to Capt Brewerton. Tell Mrs Bartlett I think she would delight Neva⁵¹ by subscribing to "the Childs Paper"⁵² 10 cents a year. I distributed five copies to children. Mary⁵³ B delighted to hear from you! Grandmother sends you her love.

Envelope:

[Address panel:]

Cadet James Whistler
Military Academy
West Point
State of New York

[Stamp:] U. S. POSTAGE / THREE CENTS

Pomfret⁵⁴ ct. Feby 12

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to the health of Mary Whistler who died on 25 February 1852 (see below).
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
4. [embossed paper mark:] RHOADS & SONS / EXTRA / SUPERFINE / LONDON.
5. Clara Grosvenor Thompson (1817-1890), wife of C. S. Thompson.
6. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
7. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
8. Fr.: floor, storey.
9. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
10. Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), JW's aunt.
11. Mary Tyler Gellibrand (b. 1812), née Ropes, wife of W. C. Gellibrand.
12. Harriet Bartlett, née Whitehorne, wife of Prof. W. H. C. Bartlett.
13. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.

14. Mary Ann Whistler (ca 1826-1852), née Ducatel, JW's sister-in-law; Mary died on 25 February 1852.
15. George ('Georgie') Worthen Whistler (b. 1851), JW's nephew.
16. 'much ... George' continues in the right margin.
17. Mrs Ducatel, mother-in-law of George William Whistler.
18. Rutter, a friend of AMW.
19. AMW moved to Scarsdale some time in June 1852.
20. Thomas, presumably a delivery man.
21. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
22. Mrs Searles, AMW's neighbour at Pomfret, CT.
23. JW did a drawing while at West Point, 'Boning and Not Boning' in *Cadet Colquitt's Mathematics Notebook* (M.98), p. 4.
24. Mrs Wilkinson, neighbour of AMW at Pomfret, CT.
25. Frank Wilkinson, of Pomfret, CT.
26. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
27. Edmund Allen (b. 1836), of Pomfret, CT; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
28. Mrs Wilkinson; see AMW to JW, 15 and 16 January 1852, #06409.
29. Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer.
30. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
31. Dr William Hyde (b. 1808), physician at Stonington, CT.
32. MacRea Richards (1849-1852), son of Louisa Josephine ('cousin Josee') Richards (1821-1859), née Swift, wife of P. Richards.
33. General Joseph Gardner Swift (1783-1865), first graduate of USMA, West Point, NY, chief engineer of US Army, JW's father's brother-in-law.
34. Miss Jane Simpson (d. 4 January 1851) of Kirby Lonsdale. Kirby was the birth place of Eliza Picard, sister-in-law of Eliza Winstanley, AMW's sister. AMW visited Kirby at the beginning of July 1847, and again on 7 April 1853; see AMW to JW, #06426. JW made a *Portrait of John Richard Picard* (M.14).
35. Probably John Wesley, *On Visiting the Sick*, sermon 98, London, 1872 edition.
36. Anna, Ellen Augusta (1834-1890), and Lloyd Henry Bowers (1836-1886), children of Captain Perry Bowers.
37. Probably George Bancroft, *A History of the United States, from the Discovery of the American Continent*, Boston, 1834. See AMW and GWW to JW, 28 February, 12 and 22 March 1849, #06383.
38. Captain Perry Bowers, Jr (b. 1821), of Pomfret, CT, and his wife Mrs Bowers ('Netty').
39. Keeping room, a 17th and 18th century term for Sitting room, descendent of the great hall of medieval Europe, where a large open space held the cooking fire, dining tables, seating for conversation, and plentiful space for jostling and entertainment.

40. Special form of greeting card exchanged in observance of St. Valentine's Day (February 14), a day set aside as a lovers' festival. The custom has no connection with the two St. Valentines or with known incidents in their lives. It is probable that the valentine was the first of all greeting cards. The paper valentine dates from the 16th century; by 1800 hand-painted copperplates were produced to meet large demands. These were followed by woodcuts and lithographs. JW did a Valentine which survives and dates from 1850; see *Valentine* (M.26). The Valentine AMW is referring to, does not survive.

41. Probably Sam Holbrook, son of James Holbrook, and brother of James Baker Holbrook.

42. Page 4 has been used as the outside of an envelope and there are the remains of a black wax seal inscribed '[A] M W.'

43. Rev. Roswell Park (1807-1869), minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Principal of Christ Church school.

44. Sam Hammond (b. 1835), and Mason Hammond, fellow-students of JW at Pomfret, CT.

45. Miller, teacher at Pomfret, CT.

46. Henry Brewerton (d. 1879), engineer.

47. Mary Park (1815-1854), née Brewster Baldwin, wife of Rev. R. Park.

48. Lewis Williams (b. 1815), physician, of Pomfret, CT.

49. Mary Tyler Gellibrand (b. 1812), née Ropes, wife of W. C. Gellibrand; see AMW to JW, 6 August 1851, #06398.

50. Professor William Holmes Chambers Bartlett (1804-1893), mathematician.

51. Neva Bartlett, daughter of H. and Prof. W. H. C. Bartlett.

52. *The Child's Paper*, New York, American tract society, 1852.

53. 'Mary ... love' continues in the right margin.

54. 'Pomfret ... 12' written in a different hand.

System Number: 06412

Date: 3 March 1852

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Pomfret

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W407

Document Type: ALS

Pomfret

March 3rd 1852.

My own dear James³,

If Grandmother⁴ had not been so very sick, for a week now confined to her bed - I should have written you, I think of my absent ones at all times, but most especially when family sorrows

make it natural we should wish to be together, I wish daily now poor brother George⁵ home might be under my roof; for he needs domestic comforts. This morning fulfills a week since the Angel of his bosom was received into heavenly mansions, dear Mary⁶ suffered exceedingly & patiently without murmuring! and at the approach of death was calm, for she had lived prepared to die! every word & action showed that she sought the honor of our Lord & Master Jesus Christ. You would miss this gentle Sister sadly were you to go to N Haven now dear Jemie. she loved you & was kind to you, let her from the grave speak to you & advise you early to make your choice as to whom you will serve, the world, or God? it is so easy if we in youth decide to follow Christ, so difficult if we yeild [sic] to sensual pleasures first! think how lovely she was in appearance but often the most attractive are selected by death, as our family circle proves. I see the mercy of God that He has taken those from among us first who [p. 2] were most assimilated to Jesus! 'The little ones' of such is the Kingdom of heaven⁷, those whose light (as your dear father⁸ & now dear Mary) shone more & more, their aim was high, even above all earthly principalities⁹, their principle to honor & serve God, and to do good to men. May our term spared for repentance be devoted to our duty, but we must not neglect the means of grace, prayer, study of the bible, if we cannot learn more than one verse a day, it is you know the bread of life, manna in the wilderness¹⁰! I know dear Jemie this world does not look like an unsatisfying portion to you but neither did it to George, & your experience will be as mine & as your brothers, you will find religion not gloomy my dear Son & health & youth the most favorable for lasting good impressions, dont you remember how difficult you found it to pray in your last illness at Dom Ritter¹¹? say now while all your faculties are restored 'Not on a prayerless bed I'll lay my weary head, for they alone are blessed whom Angels keep¹²' and let not your bible any longer be shut up in its case! If the Cadets discover that you try to devote part at least of the Sabbath to the study for Eternity they will respect you for it & [p. 3] as gentlemen if not Christians, they will not intrude upon your private hours. Remember while you are preparing for the June Examination, to prepare for death & judgement, one is certain, the other not and take my experience dear James, our heavenly Father is a loving one, His service is a cheerful one, and the world is deceitful, you will be a slave if you enter the wide gate¹³. And now you ought to decide.

I have not ventured to tell Grandmother of Marys death, she is too feeble yet, I have thought some nights she would never rally again, but today the doctor speaks encouragingly of her recovery, tho she may not be able to reach the corner house¹⁴ before the end of this month, instead of this week as she had hoped! Willie¹⁵ may then if God so order it, see Doctor Park, Sam & Mason¹⁶ on board of the Arctic¹⁷, the 20th is the day of its sailing, he is using up his leisure hours upon a leather frame as a parting gift to Mrs Bowers, her daughters¹⁸ have given each of us some of their neat handy work, and we ought not to appear indifferent. Anna embarked for N Orleans last Saturday with her brother Perry & his wife¹⁹, we passed that night awake because of the storm that raged; if the gallant ships weather such a gale, Anna must at least have been sea sick, which was not in her calculations! Willie drove up to the school house this morning with Lloyd²⁰ for their books. Messrs Sessions, Burton & Morris²¹ occupied the scene of your pranks, helping Doctor P pack his apparatus &c. The Rectory is only a place for packing boxes now, it [p. 4] will be vacant on Friday, when the good Rector bids adieu to his wife & children²² for his Summer tour, he goes first to Washington, Sam & Mason²³ are to meet him in N Y on Monday to visit our Metropolis. I must not forget to enclose you the love of Aunt Alicia²⁴ & also of Mrs Sandland²⁵, having just recd their letters and they are so interested in you and Willie, I shall write Sis²⁶ today, at my post in this sick room, to be in time for next Saturdays Steamer. Offer my love to all at Mr Bartletts²⁷, they will be sorry to hear of my fresh afflictions - at a time too when my own health is impaired, but I know that the purposes of God are all of Mercy, I kiss the rod²⁸, & pray we may all feel how much we need these warnings, that we may

try²⁹ to be also ready for death - Winter has not let go his hold upon March, deep snows carpet these hills nailed fast by ice, but today the sun has influence & by the end of the month, the roads & weather may be favorable for my removal. Write me if you love your Mother to cheer her with good news of yourself. God bless you my dear dear James. I wish to make you happy

A M W

Mary B is always talking of Master James and pleased you do not forget her

Willie is attending Mr Spaldings³⁰ school Examinations, or would unite in sending you love with me.

How gratified I should be by your writing George a few lines! he has returned to his office in N Haven. The baby³¹ was well & in Balt [i.e. Baltimore] of course. Jemie! go to your desk & write without delay your sympathy to poor George, he writes me how desolate he feels!

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
3. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
4. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW; she died on 7 April 1852.
5. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
6. Mary Ann Whistler (ca 1826-1852), née Ducatel, JW's sister-in-law; she died on 25 February 1852.
7. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
8. 'Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.' Matt. 18.4-6.
9. This phrase may be derived from 'For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him,' Col. 1.16.
10. 'And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the Lord hath given you to eat,' Exod. 16.15.
11. JW's last illness in St Petersburg was pneumonia, and occurred in the Spring of 1848. As a result JW moved to Portishead, England, in the summer of the same year. See AMW to GWW, 8 June 1848, #06358, and AMW to JW, 9 September 1848, #06359. Dom Ritter was AMW's residence in St Petersburg, situated across the river from the Academy of Fine Arts.
12. 'Not on a Prayerless Bed,' Margaret Mercer, published later in *The Ladies' Repository: A Monthly Periodical, Devoted to Literature, Arts, and Religion*, Cincinnati, 1872, vol. 10, p. 98.
13. 'Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat,' Matt. 7.13.

14. The house owned by Dr George E. Palmer (d. ca. 1867/1868), husband of Catherine ('Kate') Palmer, built in 1787, situated in the corner of Main and Wall Streets at Stonington, CT.
15. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
16. Rev. Roswell Park (1807-1869), minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Principal of Christ Church school, and his pupils Sam Hammond (b. 1835) and Mason Hammond.
17. Steamer *Arctic* (1850), Collins Line (2,856 tons.). It was one of the four steamships built for the New York and Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company, better known as Collins Line. One passenger described the ship as having an air of almost Oriental magnificence. The ship was known as the 'Clipper of the Seas.' It sank on September 1854, leaving only 85 survivors out of about 350 people. See Lincoln P. Paine, *Ships of the World*, Boston, 1997, pp. 31-32; see AMW to Deborah Delano Haden, 10 December 1855, #06470.
18. Betsey Bowers (1796-1896), wife of Captain P. Bowers, Sr, and her daughters, Anna and Ellen Augusta Bowers (1834-1890).
19. Captain Perry Bowers, Jr (b. 1821), of Pomfret, CT, and his wife ('Netty') of Pomfret, CT.
20. Lloyd Henry Bowers (1836-1886), son of Captain Perry Bowers, Sr.
21. Eliakin Sessions (b. 1795), and Olney Burton (1810-1887), of Pomfret, CT. Mr Morris; unidentified.
22. Mary Park (1815-1854), née Brewster Baldwin, wife of Rev. R. Park, and her children Roswald, Nelly (1848-1855), and Mary Park (b. 1839).
23. Sam Hammond (b. 1835), and Mason Hammond, fellow-students of JW at Pomfret, CT.
24. Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), JW's aunt; she lived in Scotland, UK.
25. Betsey Sandland of Liverpool, friend of AMW.
26. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
27. Professor William Holmes Chambers Bartlett (1804-1893), mathematician.
28. The meaning of death seen in connection with a rod is reflected in: 'Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me,' Ps. 23.4. Brewer defines its meaning in *Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable*, revised edition by Ivor H. Evans, London, 1981, p. 957, 'to Kiss the Rod' to submit to punishment or misfortune meekly and without murmuring.
29. 'try ... A M W' continues in the left margin of p. 1; 'Mary B ... her' continues in the right margin of p.1; 'Willie ... me' added in the left margin of p. 2; 'How ... he has' continues in the right margin of p. 2; 'returned ... course' continues in the right margin of p. 3; 'Jemie ... feels' continues on p. 4.
30. Spalding, school teacher.
31. George ('Georgie') Worthen Whistler (b. 1851), JW's nephew.

System Number: 09559

Date: 15 April 1852

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: [Stonington²]

Recipient: Margaret Getfield Hill³

Place: [Scarsdale]

Repository: Cornell University Library, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Call Number: Department of Manuscripts and University Archives, Carl A. Kroch Library, 1629

Document Type: ALS⁴

Thursday April 15th 1852

My dear friend

I am always comforted by your words, & it seems as a consequence of the encouragement Scarsdale extends to me I turn to your excellent brother⁵, in the helplessness of my position, yet I assure you I blush so often to tax his patience. But the dearth here of butter induces such a desire on my part for one of those large stone jars to be sent to Stonington that I venture to beg the favor that it be directed for Doctor Palmer⁶, care of Mr McConkey⁷ - Steamer Vanderbilt⁸, & that some as faithful agent (as he is) may deliver it on board, whether Saturday Tuesday or Thursday, these are the days for that boat leaving Battery pier No 2. Of course I shall be too glad to pay any expense from Scarsdale to the Vanderbilt - Mr McConkey is steward, the good doctor has thro his readiness to serve him - purchased butter in N Y market, Mr Willey⁹ likewise. but of course this season the price is more than they can well bear, [p. 2] & Kate¹⁰ will be as much gratified as I shall to have an article so acceptable for her beloved pastor, & for this hospitable board I am particularly interested. I conclude the jars have been discovered, in a washing tub, Mary¹¹ sewed crash¹² over them, which will secure the one I wish sent in its transportation. Our cares much be for the living you know dear Meg even while our wounded hearts ache, for the void in the family circle - This moment the cook asks Doct what am I to do for butter? "As well as you can, until next week when the man may perhaps have a few lbs more"

Mr Willey told Kate last eve a lb was not to be had & it is the complaint of all. I wish I could have been aware of this at Pomfret, to have saved this troublesome commission at Scarsdale. Kate & I walked to see a sick widow yesterday & for duty to health, I am very far from well, the good doctor has put me under a course of blue pill¹³, which I doubt not will relieve the pain in my side - long walks with you my dear Meg will do even more to restore my tone. Tell your faithful Bella¹⁴ I am to be blessed not a blessing I fear - at Scarsdale, but God has given me a fresh impulse to labor for [p. 3] Him & you will all be helpers to me. The reward is with those who persevere unto the end¹⁵, is more than even impressed upon my conviction. My precious mothers¹⁶ pilgrimage is as [illegible] of burnished gold to me in the furnace, & One like the Son of Man¹⁷ her brighter Example.

Every memory of her is full of love, peace & thankfulness. I am trying to supply her place to dear Kate & her children¹⁸ in usefulness the brief time I may be here so shall not indulge in tracing my solemn reveries. Today is the good doctors 49th anniversary, he is a man of God! oh may he be spared to dear Kates till Grand children grace his knees, as now little Annie does - the rain keeps all the young ones around the parlor fire side with us, some drawing pictures, others writing or printing to present to their father, little Annie calling upon "darling father" to share in all her fancies, these all talk of Scarsdale with longing, to Emma¹⁹ visiting among your youthful circle will be most beneficial, she speaks gracefully of former evidences of the interest, felt for

her at Mr Pophams. Kate unites her love with mine to all[.] Did I mention the death of the Sister of Georges wife²⁰? last Saturday night!

Your gratefully attached
friend

Anna M Whistler

The²¹ two butter jars are alike, the lard jar fatter, a mistake would disappoint hopes!

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. AMW is evidently at Stonington, CT, at her sister's house (often called the 'Old Corner house').
3. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY.
4. Embossed paper mark on top left corner, inscribed 'Bath.'
5. AMW is probably referring to Margaret G. Hill's brother-in-law, William Sherbrooke Popham (1793-1885), merchant.
6. Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer.
7. McConkey, a steward.
8. Steamer *Cornelius Vanderbilt* (1847-1896), New York (1,041 tons.); see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 13 August 1849, #07637.
9. J. M. Willey (b. 1820), clergyman.
10. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
11. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
12. Derives from Russ.: *krashenina*, coloured linen.
13. Blue Pill was metallic mercury mixed with rose petals, sugar and powdered liquorice root, primarily used as a purgative.
14. Probably Billo Johnson (b. 1815), W. S. Popham's servant. In 1850 Margaret G. Hill was living with her brother-in-law William S. Popham. Helen L. Hultz, *Scarsdale Story, A Heritage History*, New Jersey, 1987, p. 543.
15. This phrase derives from 'And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.' Matt. 10.22.
16. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
17. This probably derives from 'The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the Lord trieth the hearts.' Prov. 17.3; see #08179.
18. Kate Palmer had four children: George Erwin Palmer (1843-1909), Donald McNeill Palmer (b. 1845), Anna Whistler Stanton (b. 1848), née Palmer, and Julia McNeill Boardman (1851-1902), née Palmer.
19. Emma Woodbridge Palmer (1835-1912), JW's step-cousin.

20. Eliza Jones (d. 1852), née Ducatel, sister of Mary Ann Whistler (ca. 1826-1852), née Ducatel, wife of George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.

21. 'The ... hopes' continues in the left margin of p. 1

System Number: 06413

Date: 22 April [1852¹]

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Stonington

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point³

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W408

Document Type: ALS⁴

Stonington

thursday April 22nd

My dear James⁵

A letter from your Sister⁶ has comforted me this morning & the enclosed to you I hope may prove interesting. I know how much an answer would do you credit in Sloane St. but my arguments are exhausted. neither shall I any more attempt to touch your sympathies for a widowed mother. tho Aunt Kate⁷ says she hopes you may write me while I am here, she is so fond of Jemie! she would enjoy hearing from him! as you have cast me off, sometimes I am very strongly urged by my wish to benefit my children, to board Willy⁸ at Scarsdale as he must resume his preparation for college on the 1st of May under the Clergyman⁹ there - to devote the summer to your Sister who is by Emma Maingays¹⁰ report too delicate¹¹ to make exertions. you have no idea how the loosening of the first natural tie (to a mother) affects me. My health suffers, & when the question [p. 2] is asked me, when I shall resume housekeeping it seems to me like a dream! I feel that my heavenly Father has directed my attention to that eternal habitation so many of mine have been early prepared to enter. I shall never fall back upon earth again for any satisfying portion, tho I cheerfully interest & occupy myself in sharing Aunt Kates duties to her dear children¹², who pity & love poor Aunt Anna. May my earnest prayers be answered for you dearest Jemie - Oh that you felt the tenderness of a mothers love! the sacredness of a mothers claims! I shall by the blessing of God avail of Cousin Julia R's¹³ invitation to visit her about the 1st of May, & can while there go to Scarsdale to judge of my path of duty, certainly if the cottage¹⁴ is not to be ready for another month or two, I shall yearn to see my own Debo in her home, while I am at liberty to help others. I shall hear what Genl Swift¹⁵ says of her health. Your Sister mentions Doctor Parks¹⁶ had dined with them! on his way to the continent. I recd a letter from George Prince¹⁷, at Leeds, also [p. 3] today, he sends his love to Jemie & congratulates you on having passed your examination. I can only report to any of my correspondents that I hear of Jemie as well & doing well! I "hope on, hope ever¹⁸" tho "hope delayed maketh the loving heart sick¹⁹" As Mr & Mrs Harrison²⁰ were on a tour for pleasure with Henry²¹ on the continent Mr H had to part from them at Berlin & proceed to St P. on business[.] Mrs H & Henry went back to London. when they are to return to their native land I hear not.

Excuse me for trespassing so long on your precious time Cadet Whistler. please offer my affectionate remembrances to Mr & Mrs Bartlett²²[.] I am assured of their sympathy, for they

valued the blessing my mother²³ was to me. & I should find comfort in talking to Mrs B of the closing scenes of that precious life, I suppose you have heard that Mrs Ducatel²⁴ felt afresh the stroke of death about six weeks after our dear Mary²⁵ was released from suffering - Mrs Jones²⁶ departed! each of these lovely sisters was aware of the great event! they calmly took leave of their family circle, to join the great family of the Redeemer in heaven! Oh that you would decide now dearest Jemie to use the means God gives us to meet Him!

May²⁷ God bless you & shield you is the prayers of your afflicted but ever affectionate widowed mother

A M W

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to the deaths of Mary Ann Whistler and Eliza Jones (see below); they both died in 1852.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
4. Embossed paper mark on top left corner, inscribed 'Bath.'
5. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
6. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister. She lived at 62 Sloane Street, London.
7. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
8. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
9. Rev. William W. Olssen (b. 1827), Rector at Scarsdale, NY.
10. Eliza Ann Maingay (1821-1899), a friend of AMW, of St Petersburg.
11. Deborah Delano Haden's health was probably feeble due to the recent birth of Arthur Charles Haden (1852-1910), musician, JW's nephew.
12. George Erwin Palmer, Anna Whistler Palmer (b. 1848), later wife of G. Stanton, named after AMW, and Julia McNeill Boardman, née Palmer, later wife of W. S. Boardman.
13. Julia Catherine Rodewald (1825-1897), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of A. Rodewald.
14. Scarsdale cottage, soon to be AMW's residence at Scarsdale, NY.
15. General Joseph Gardner Swift (1783-1865), first graduate of USMA, West Point, NY, chief engineer of US Army, JW's father's brother-in-law.
16. Rev. Roswell Park (1807-1869), minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Principal of Christ Church school. Rev. Park was escorting some pupils on a European tour; see AMW to JW, 25 November 1851, #06407.
17. George Prince, engineer.
18. Probably 'Let Israel hope in the Lord from henceforth and for ever.' Ps. 131.3.
19. 'Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life,' Prov. 13. 12.

20. Joseph Harrison (1810-1874), partner in the firm of Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in the firm of Harrison, Winans and Eastwick, and his wife Sarah Harrison (1817-1906), née Poulterer.
21. William Henry Harrison (b. 1837), son of S. and J. Harrison.
22. Professor William Holmes Chambers Bartlett (1804-1893), mathematician, and his wife Harriet Bartlett, née Whitehorne.
23. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley. She died on 7 April 1852.
24. Mrs Ducatel, mother-in-law of George William Whistler..
25. Mary Ann Whistler (ca 1826-1852), née Ducatel, JW's sister-in-law. Mary died on 25 February 1852. See AMW to JW, 3 March 1852, #06412.
26. Eliza Jones (d. 1852), née Ducatel, sister of M. A. Whistler.
27. 'May ... AMW' continues in the upper margin of p. 1.

System Number: 06414

Date: 3 and 4 May 1852

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Norwich

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W409

Document Type: ALS³

Norwich

May 3rd 1852 Monday

Aunt Kate & Uncle Palmer⁴ came over to meet me & take me back to Stonington this afternoon, bringing me three welcome greetings from my dear sons, they invited me to a sumptuous dinner no doubt at the Merchants hotel⁵, & "Cousin Flagg⁶" also repeated the hospitable wish of his landlady that I should dine with him - Eliza⁷ is in Brooklyn this week) but my head aches & my heart is full of you my precious James⁸. Your letters always comfort your widowed mother because they express such warmth of attachment & Oh my dear Jemie how much I depend on you & Willie⁹ for cheering now! God bless you my son & help you so to control your impulses that you may ever prove a blessing to me, I fear so to divert your attention from your present duties that I shall reserve till we meet the details of my short visits [to] Pomfret & Lebanon - they have been reviving to me & hands were extended to help the lonely traveller all the way, for you know the widow is the peculiar care of the Lord of the Universe¹⁰ & He disposes hearts to kindness. Your friends are everywhere interested in your success do not disgrace your name! do not disappoint my hopes, my prayers! Willie writes me he & Jacks¹¹ were at N Haven last week & that your brother was very uneasy about you - your silence - your 180 demerits turning the scale of his paternal confidence, his hope for you resting only on the last month, sans demerit. Now Jemie I must deny your request for Jacks & Willie's visit for this month, they would inevitably distract your attention. Woe be to your equilibrium if you break the bounds of 20! the¹² balance of 200! I wrote Willie last thursday (when I left Stonington - that he must study

daily with Jacks until I can place him under Mr Allston¹³ at Scarsdale, which I expect to do week after next, but in June he shall go with me to visit Mrs Bartlett¹⁴, if you pass your examinations creditably; if not we must hide our diminished head, for it would be new to have pity hitched to Jemie's talents & name!

[p. 2] Stonington

tuesday 4th

Aunt Kate wished me to shop after their dinner at Norwich & it was too late when we reached Sto[nington] to mail this. All here join me in love to you my own dear Jamie & all will rejoice that you resolve not to have another demerit & if you pass a good examination. I am very feeble indeed this Spring, it may do me good to visit Mrs B - my love & thanks to her, Oh it would revive me to sit & talk with you tête à tête in strolls such as we enjoyed together last summer, but I am not benefitted by the exertion I make to talk with friends of the dear Mother¹⁵ I miss so much.

Your sister¹⁶ will be delighted with the song¹⁷ you have to send her, I shall have an opp [i.e. opportunity] if I cannot take it to her, to forward it by Mary Rodewald¹⁸, you can give me in June. In the meantime dearest Jemie "improve each hour" let nothing tempt you to another demerit. habit is second nature & I hope your future conduct will shew your strength of principle to resist folly. I enclose you two envelopes stamped, that you may write George¹⁹ & your mother each, I will wait for mine till you can report your standing at the Examination.

My kind friends at Scarsdale write me the cottage will be ready for me by June[.] Willie & Jacks went to see it & describe it as very pretty, I shall reserve my description till I can talk to you dearest Jemie. Uncle P does not approve of my writing - while I am so unable for the exertions I make. I envy my letter, for I so long to embrace you. It is in your power to help cure the heart disease of your afflicted but fond Mother

A M W

Envelope:

[Address panel:]

Cadet James Whistler
Military Academy
West Point
New York State

[Stamp:] U. S. POSTAGE / THREE CENTS

[Postmark:] [STONIN]GTON / MAY

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
3. There is a black wax seal inscribed 'A M W.'

4. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt, and her husband Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868).
5. Merchant's Hotel, Muyrhead & Clark, 41 Cortlandt Street, New York; see *Citizens and Stranger's Pictorial and Business Directory*, New York, 1853, p. 17.
6. Rev. Edward Octavius Flagg (1824-1911), husband of Eliza McNeill.
7. Eliza Flagg (1830-1855), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of Rev. E. O. Flagg.
8. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
9. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
10. Probably a reference to 'the universe ... shall the Son of David rule ... we are not taxed in Christ's dominions, but we are delighted to offer freely to him. It will be a great day when kings will do this: the poor widow has long ago been before them ... Who would not fear so good a Prince, who makes the needy his peculiar care.' Charles H. Spurgeon's *Treasury of David, A Psalm for Solomon*, Ps. 72.10-12. It is a description of an exalted king, and of the blessings of his reign. See C. H. Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David*, Ps. 57-87, Michingan, 1966, pp. 229-230. It was first published in weekly installments over a twenty-year span in the London Metropolitan Tabernacle's periodical, *The Sword and the Trowel*. Completed sections were released volume by volume, until the seventh and final volume was released in 1885.
11. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
12. 'the ... 200' continues in the right margin; 'must ... name' continues in the left margin.
13. Allston, tutor at Scarsdale
14. Harriet Bartlett, née Whitehorne, wife of Prof. W. H. C. Bartlett.
15. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley. She died on 7 April 1852.
16. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
17. JW drew the *Song of the Graduates* (M.108).
18. Mary Isabella Rodewald (1823-1867), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of J. F. Rodewald.
19. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.

System Number: 06417

Date: 7 July [1852¹]

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Scarsdale

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point³

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W412

Document Type: ALS

Scarsdale Cottage

July 7th

My thoughtless Cadet

but very dear Son

In despair of a reply from you I have written Mrs Bartlett⁴ & enclose this for you. to receive at her hand, taking it for granted you will pay your respects to the ladies with your brother, when he talked to Willie⁵ & me last eve about his hope of seeing you on Saturday night it seemed to us that we should precede him a day. But on looking at the paper we find the West Point boats are not daily, but twice a week, & I shall wait to hear from Mrs Bartlett by Mondays mail. I wish too George⁶ may ascertain where the boat starts from in the city, it would not do for me to be exposed to heat & bustle. I can scarcely reconcile Willie to the delay of waiting till tuesday afternoons boat, he has been so long eagerly expecting to start on his visit to you. I hope I may find you looking as well as [p. 2] he does, & wish both his brothers were as enviably sheltered from the heat as he is at this four o'clock hour, he has yeilded [sic] however to the embraces of sleep over his classics in the old easy leathern chair of Dom Ritter⁷ memory - George can tell you what an attractive room is the cottage library, breezes at all hours creeping in, Jemie dear I hope you are not indifferent about visiting your home, surely you will "bone"⁸ for your recess for next summer! Oh if you would but exert yourself to cut short the Demerit list! your profession demands promptness & decision for success. You know, what is right, only, can make us happy ! Add a line to George's note which I hope to receive Monday & say if I can get you anything. You must be glad to see me without a canister. I dare not overheat myself much as I should like to make ginger snaps for you. Tell George if he can forward his note from Williams bridge⁹ or leave it at Mr Pophams¹⁰ office it will be more sure, for I wish to leave by the 7¼ train on tuesday morning & the [p. 3] mail does not reach here till nine. Willie has some shopping to attend to & if there's time I may cross to Brooklyn to see your Uncle MacNeill¹¹. All here as there remember you affectionately. but none can love you on earth unceasingly as does your widowed Mother

A M Whistler

Will it be asking too much for you to write a nice billet doux to your friend Mrs Gellibrand¹², your neglect of her is not her dessert [sic], & she remarks upon your discouraging her wish to correspond with you. Brother George can at the hotel hear of the boats, last summer they landed passengers twice a day at Cozens¹³.

I think we do not see both sides in the advertisement of the Newburgh line twice a week stopping at West Point¹⁴. I do not wish to have to cross the river in a ferry boat, or to arrive at noon.

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to AMW's move to Scarsdale in June 1852; see AMW to JW, 3 and 4 May 1852, #06414.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
4. Harriet Bartlett, née Whitehorne, wife of Prof. W. H. C. Bartlett.
5. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
6. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother
7. Dom Ritter, AMW's residence in St Petersburg, Russia, situated across the river from the Academy of Fine Arts.
8. JW drew *Boning and Not Boning* in *Cadet Colquitt's Mathematics Notebook* (M.98), p. 4. AMW asked JW repetitively to 'bone' with success for a furlogh; see AMW to JW, 10 and 11 February [1852], #06410; 11 and 13 April 1853, AMW to JW, #06427; AMW to JW, 11 and 13 April 1853, #06427.
9. Williams Bridge, now in the upper edge of the Borough of the Bronx, New York. In 1845 an application to the New York Legislature for a charter was successfully opposed by the New York & Harlem Railroad and the Westchester Turnpike Company. To overcome the first obstacle, the New York and New Haven Railroad had to agree to use the Harlem's tracks into New York City, almost on the latter's own terms, and an arrangement was made for a junction with the Harlem at or near Williams Bridge. See Alvin F. Harlow, *Steelways and New England*, New York, 1946, p. 181. AMW probably connects the bridge with George William Whistler here, due to the latter's professional engagement with the New York and New Haven Railroad.
10. William Sherbrooke Popham (1793-1885), merchant.
11. William Gibbs McNeill (1800-1853), railway engineer, JW's uncle.
12. Mary Tyler Gellibrand (b. 1812), née Ropes, wife of W. C. Gellibrand.
13. Cozzens hotel at West Point, NY; see AMW to JW, 6 August 1851, #06398.
14. The Newburgh line was a steamship service linking New York City with Newburgh, NY; it was run by the Hudson River Steamboat Company.

System Number: 06416

Date: 29 and 31 July [1852¹]

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Scarsdale

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point³

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W411

Document Type: ALS

Scarsdale.

Thursday p - m July 29th

How shall I concentrate my thoughts of my dear Jemie⁴ to induce him to read them & reply? A most thrilling dread of calamity in the Bartlett family⁵ he may calm by prompt report of their uninterrupted happiness, if the newspaper rumor in the detail of destruction of life in the burning of the N R Steamer Henry Clay⁶ be averted from the circle of our valued friends. But until I hear from West Point I shall have a heavier heart than usual. Perhaps Jamies tent mate who often resorts to the library for reading will be so ready to do good as to devote a half hours leisure to the widowed mother at Scarsdale cottage, who longs to hear from her own cadet, & who is so alarmed by the sad tidings of yesterday's calamity that "the wife⁷ of Proff Bartlett is among the victims in the destruction of the N River steamer, Oh that it may be contradicted for her husbands sake! for her children! their loss of such a mother would be irreparable [sic], but for herself we should have no fears even tho the gate to eternal life were thro fire she was clad in the whole armour of God & would not be consumed⁸.

I was intending to write dear Mrs Bartlett last week to try to induce her coming to my quiet cottage, she had seemed exhausted by the warm weather at W Point, while here we have perpetual breezes. When I hear persons [p. 2] complain of the desertion of the city because of the heat & dust, I wish my friends to come to this retreat. My first guests will be Eliza & Mr Flagg⁹, to arrive at tea time Saturday. I spent tuesday with them at N Haven & invited them to pass a week here on their return route to Norwich, the baby was christened Wm MacNeill¹⁰ to be called by the family name - its Gt Grandmama Cammann¹¹, its Godmother, he is really a remarkably fine infant, I hoped they might have come today & had prepared sweet curd & cream¹² for this evenings meal, but a note came instead to decide for Saturday.

I met George¹³ in the train each way on tuesday, he had been out from four o'clock in the morning, it is not right to let business absorb all our time. George is anxious about the baby's¹⁴ health, but I urged him to bring him to the cottage, knowing as Jemie has tested - the benefit in change of air tho the Doctor at Georgetown thinks baby is too delicate for the journey. George will go on for them & by the blessing of God I trust he will not be sorry to have preferred my judgement. George will if possible set out on Saturday for Balt, & Georgetown, & by early next week return to the cottage with the precious cargo. so I shall not feel so desolate as I did last evening! Willie¹⁵ is either studying at home or [p. 3] in Mr Olssens¹⁶ study all day, & when released he of course joins Lou Popham¹⁷ in farm wagon drives down to the sea beach &c for the mutual gratification of a band of nymphs, whose grace is unfettered by fashion. They are told that his brother will spend his furlough in their favored circle next summer if! Oh life is so uncertain! we must not plan for next year. The only safe resolve is that all your competitions in the race for an immortal crown be diligent. If you have dear Jemie taken that little neglected vol¹⁸ out of its case, it has all the rules you need for success, for it directs you to be subject to

those who have lawful authority, & to redeem time & occupy talents in a word to keep Gods holy commandments, seeking to honor Christ before men for without the divine blessing, you will lose all present & eternal joys. I hope you attend the chapel of the Holy Innocents¹⁹ & that you will regularly. Then probably your demerits will lessen for I know Jemie dear you will not be inconsistent. George deplores that you stand so low on the list²⁰! indeed Jemie you are mortifying all of us. Willie is coming into order & so I trust will you dear, When your brother goes to spend a day or two with you I shall not neglect your wishes, for choosing materials²¹ &c. I'll refer to your letter to have all right. I made the lemon cheese cake to have ready for an app²² to you, hosiery &c I shall not forget, And now I must rest a while before tea.

[p. 4] Saturday morning 31st

Watchman²³ how speeds time with you? This the last day of another month what record does it bear to the judgment seat of Christ of talents for which you must give an account! Jemie dear these thoughts are solemnly impressed on my mind & I pray when none may speak to you on guard you will listen to the "still small voice"²⁴ now in mercy whispering entreaties to you, but in eternity to utter judgement & justice. Oh Jemie be happy by choosing the people of God for your friends. "A man is known by his friends"²⁵ be decided, to redeem your time & then all will go smoothly on. Willie is finishing a letter to Phila[delphia] to take down with mine before 9 oclock this delicious morning, how we talk of Jemie enjoying our sweet cottage next summer! perhaps Sis²⁶ will be here to make you feel your diligince [sic] rewarded, you surely will not let sloth & indifference prevent your seeing the Words Fair in N York²⁷ with us! I'll send you some remarks in our last paper upon it to shew you it is really to be. If we are well we shall go! but I could not be induced except to share my cadets delight in works of art. I hope you will await for Mr Wiers²⁸ wish for you to go without a further invitation to his studio, you would have appreciated such a privilege [sic] in Europe & I beg you to go often, he told me how much he wanted such a sympathiser as you & he has some fine subjects²⁹. In pity to me write without delay of Mrs Bartlett I love her as a sister it made me faint when Willie read³⁰ the details of the loss of the steamer in yesterdays paper! Oh if Capts & Pilots would fear God they would not dare risk life. I have only room to beg you at once to write your fond & anxious Mother

A M W

Remember me to Mr Childes³¹ very particularly, I hope to see him in my house. I expect Mr Flagg to bring Eliza this evening to spend some days here. I wish you could see how sweet & elegant the tout ensemble of my home!

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to the loss of the steamer *Henry Clay* on 28 July 1852 (see below).
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
4. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
5. The family of Professor William Holmes Chambers Bartlett (1804-1893), mathematician.
6. Steamer *Henry Clay* (owned by Thomas Collyer), was burned on 28 July 1852, when on a race with the steamer *Armenia* (owned by Isaac Smith), in the Hudson River, resulting to the death of 80 people. See Carl Carmer, *The Hudson*, London, 1951, pp. 280-292.

7. Harriet Bartlett, née Whitehorne, wife of Prof. W. H. C. Bartlett. The name 'Emily Bartlett' appeared in the list of dead published in the *New York Daily Times*, New York, 31 July 1852, vol. 1. Emily was the wife of Prof. Bartlett, of the Collegiate Institute, Poughkeepsie, and not the wife of Prof. William H. C. Bartlett of West Point.
8. AMW is thinking of several biblical references to 'eternal life' in, for example, Mark, Mathew, Luke, John, Romans, Timothy, Titus, Jude; and 'Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil' Eph. 6.11.
9. Eliza Flagg (1830-1855), née McNeill, and her husband Rev. Edward Octavius Flagg (1824-1911).
10. William McNeill Flagg (b. 1852), son of E. and Rev. E. O. Flagg.
11. Maria Margaretta Cammann ('Grandma C') (1774-1862), mother-in-law of William Gibbs McNeill.
12. 'Sweet curd' cottage cheese, has a rather mild (sometimes bland) flavor because the curds are washed to remove most of the cheese's natural acidity.
13. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
14. George ('Georgie') Worthen Whistler (b. 1851), JW's nephew.
15. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
16. Rev. William W. Olssen (b. 1827), Rector at Scarsdale, NY.
17. Lewis Charles ('Lew') Popham (1833-1899), son of E. C. and W. S. Popham.
18. There are several relevant references to 'lawful authority' in, for example, Ephesians, Galatians, Hebrew, and Proverbs; and 'And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.' Col. 3.17.
19. Church of the Holy Innocents, 112 Main Street, Highland Falls, NY; it was built ca 1846.
20. Cadets at the Academy were expected to compete for higher rank, based solely on their academic standing and demerits. The principle of pure competition, the fighting for higher standing and rank, permeated every aspect of Academy life. The difficulty and the thoroughness of the curriculum added to the keenness of the competition. JW did not conform to the academy's mold, and was finally discharged in June 1854 for deficiency in chemistry. See Stephen E. Ambrose, *Duty, Honor, Country: A History of West Point*, Baltimore, 1966, pp. 131-156; Gordon H. Fleming, *The Young Whistler 1834-66*, London, 1978, pp. 104-106.
21. Probably materials for the drawing class.
22. Probably apport, an 'offering' or something produced out of nowhere.
23. Probably *Christian Watchman*, Boston, 1819-1850s.
24. 'But the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?' I Kings 19.12-13.
25. Proverb quoted in Miguel de Saavedra Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, 1605-15, first translated into English in 1612. First cited in the USA in *Journal of Proceedings in Georgia*, 1737.
26. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
27. The first World Fair in the USA, which took place in New York in 1853.

28. Robert Walter Weir (1803-1889), artist and art teacher at West Point. He taught JW art, and held him in high esteem; see Elizabeth Robins Pennell and Joseph Pennell, *The Life of James McNeill Whistler*, Philadelphia, 1908, p. 31.

29. Robert W. Weir was a painter of portraits, landscapes, and historical works; see Gordon H. Fleming, *The Young Whistler 1834-66*, London, 1978, pp. 95-98, 105, 106.

30. 'read ... A M W' continues in the left margin of p. 1; 'Remember ... house' continues in the right margin of p. 1; 'I ... here' continues in the left margin of p. 2; 'I ... home' continues in the left margin of p. 2.

31. Frederick Lynn Childs (ca 1831- d. 1894), room-mate of JW at West Point.

System Number: 06418

Date: 3 September 1852

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Scarsdale

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W413

Document Type: ALS³

Scarsdale

Sept 3rd 1852

My dear Son⁴

It is an ill wind &c - your disappointment about Willies⁵ visiting you at breaking up of Camp has excited you to favor your fond mother with a few lines & she thanks you for this proof of thinking of home, but while my dearest Cadet has been revelling I have been ill & in in sorrow & yet in suspense as to the issue of darling Julie Palmers⁶ attack of dysentery & fever. poor Aunt Kate⁷ reported her dying, two consulting physicians called in who gave little hope! she had swallowed nothing but ice for for nearly a week & was so low her bed had not been made for two days, this loveliest of your cousins at the corner house has been a candidate for confirmation to take place this month, but perhaps the Holy Spirit was preparing her for the church triumphant. death to me seems life when the heart is given to God, her parents were resigned to the will of Him whose love for her exceeds theirs, yet if she is spared to them it will be a fresh proof that our heavenly father does not willingly afflict or try us, Kate Prince⁸ was the devoted nurse, Uncle P⁹ watched his child each night & Ellen Bowers¹⁰ was invaluable in the nursery.

Emma¹¹ I am grieved to know is not in the habit of helping any one, May this call "be ye also ready"¹² be heard by her. Georgie¹³ who has been spending August at the cottage had just left here when these tidings of threatened death came, a seamstress came from Stonington for a week to help Mary¹⁴ & I get Willie out fit of shirts &c finished, & I placed Georgie under her care to return to his school ^{Georgie was welcomed home this morning I hope}. You must have recd my letter accounting for Willie's not joining you before the encampment was over. I was thankful he was thus sheltered from Saturdays storm. by the end of this month if convenient to Mrs Bartlett¹⁵ we will go together, for mutual adieus, till next summer unite us under this [p. 2] roof. If you may not come with honor where shall I hide my distress, no where but in the cleft of the Rock of ages¹⁶.

It is only at the footstool of mercy my prostration of spirit is poured out in prayer with tears. It seems to me that if possible I ought to rent the Cottage ready furnished for the winter & go to Sloane St¹⁷. it is lamentable indeed to have warm affections checked, Sisters children¹⁸ would keep mine in circulation & lessen the weight at my heart, Willie does not know how I shall miss him, but I must sacrifice my self entirely for my children. Mary urges me daily, to go to England for health, from the middle of Oct to the end of May. I shall write brother George¹⁹ about it, tho this & every other question concerning me I have implicit faith the God of the widow²⁰ will decide wisely & mercifully. lovely as is this cottage & favorably situated for me, it is only the shadow of home to me but it is the home provided for you & Willie, only improve the winter! & I may enjoy the Summer with my loved boys. A fortnight hence I shall try to take your case of instruments tho not that of Shagreen & silver it is too valuable for West Point. Cannot you have the pattern of drawers cut by your tailor in thin paper just half a pr, & send it by mail done up as a newspaper? it would relieve me to take your Canton flannels²¹ ready made & marked, & we have have no time to lose. do you need flannel shirts beside the elastics you have? have you shirts enough for the winter? Mary will make you a set after Willie's sewing & mine is finished. I bought you ½ doz cambric pocket hks²². Willie ditto, command my services dear Jemie to the extent of my limited income, avoid extravagance & debt, you ought not [to] tax George unnecessarily, as he has not your purse in keeping. I enclose you his last few lines my dear dear Jemie. When are all your wild oats to be sown? Are you & Willie to become scourges to your widowed Mother who would die to save you? One whose love exceeds mine has done this. May He incline you to [p. 3] repentance & to redeeming your time & talents, What about the Holy Innocents²³? do you attend church with Childes²⁴? remember your Mother affectionately to him I hope you & he are to room together. You will enjoy your drawing lessons²⁵. I am sure, & trust you will become as fond of the American Artist²⁶ who told me he felt the want of such sympathy in the art as you are supposed to have - as you loved Karitzkie & Mr Boxall²⁷ so ardently! This is a tender chord to me! Oh Jemie those were blessed days to us when your father's gentle & virtuous influence reigned in the happy home, but any earthly home is only a type of the eternal family union, Oh that you would see realities, instead of counting on long years of freedom here, know you must suffer for righteousness sake²⁸ if you are a prodigal in the abuse of our Lords gifts. don't you see how naturally the human heart is opposed to God? how you seal the bible which I thought habit at least would render [torn paper] necessary to you. Do you pray for your Mother as she does for you! but we must individually seek graces for ourselves. I saw an idea in a fathers parting address to a son, "be your fathers monument²⁹" is it not a sacred motive dearest Jemie for you to commence new term with? Oh what will be this months report from Washington! it must mortify our earliest friends in the circle of Genl Tottens³⁰ family that their favorite Whistlers³¹ son slights his fathers example & makes no effort to comfort his broken hearted mother. But I am helpless except thro prayer to God who is with you on guard & in your chamber, the sooner you seek Him the happier you will be. Forgive me for pressing this on your time, eternity is a solemn & hourly contemplation with your anxious Mother

A M W

I observe by the last tuesdays Semi-Weekly³² Mr & Mrs Harrison & five children³³ arrived last saturday at Phila, but our correspondence is like yours, not vigorous as in brighter days. The caligraphy [sic] is not so free, but it relieves my heart to talk with you thro the pen, God bless you dear James

[p. 4] Adolfe Rodewalde³⁴ sends me word he will come to Scarsdale Cottage by tea time tomorrow to spend Sunday with us, he writes me of his Loulou³⁵ being the first American child at a Mineral spring in Hungary, the people are astonished at her fairness, they thought all our race either copper colored or black. Good night dearest! Oh what would I not give to be in the

place of this letter, welcomed by you. write soon & often a few lines ere the Atlantic makes it more formidable to your poor Mother

Envelope:

[Address panel:]

Cadet James Whistler
Military Academy
West Point. New York

Paid, 3

Scarsdale³⁶ Sept 4

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
3. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
4. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
5. Julia McNeill Palmer (1851-1902), JW's cousin, later wife of W. S. Boardman.
6. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt; she lived at the 'Corner House' at Stonington, CT.
7. Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer.
8. Kate ('Cousin Kate') Livermore (1820-1907), daughter of J. D. Prince and wife of A. Livermore.
9. Ellen Augusta Bowers (1834-1890), daughter of Captain P. Bowers, Sr.
10. Emma Woodbridge Palmer (1835-1912), JW's step-cousin.
11. "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matt. 24.43-45.
12. Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer.
13. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
14. Harriet Bartlett, née Whitehorne, wife of Prof. W. H. C. Bartlett.
15. 'Rock of Ages', hymn by Augustus Montague Toplady (1740-1778), published later in Augustus Montague Toplady, *Hymns and Sacred Poems, on a Variety of Divine Subjects, Comprising the Whole of the Poetical Remains of the Rev. Augustus M. Toplady*, London, 1868, p. 163.
16. AMW spent the winter of 1853 at the residence of her step-daughter Deborah Delano Haden, at 62 Sloane Street, London; see AMW to George William Whistler, William McNeill Whistler, and JW, 18 and 19 November, #06422.

17. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister, and her children Francis Seymour Haden (1850-1918), and Annie Harriet Haden (1848-1937), later Mrs Charles Thynne.
18. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
19. 'Honour widows that are widows indeed. But if any widow have children or nephews, let them first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God. Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day. But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth. And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless. Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man. I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.' 1 Tim. 5.3-7, 5.9, 5.14; see AMW to JW, 10 May 1849, #06392.
20. 'John Billings used the term 'flannel' continuously when talking about underclothes. He wrote that flannels were the order of the day. If they were what they drew from the government stores, it was often as rough to the skin as course sandpaper, which it somewhat resembled in color. It seems that this was a period term in the army for federal issue underclothing. Canton flannel is usually white or off-white.' Quoted in Michael Hayes, *The Truth about Flannel Underclothes*, Company G, Fourteenth Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry 1862-1865, @ http://home.talkcity.com/NonProfitBlvd/wsabeck/truth_about_flannel.htm; also see John Billings, *Hardtack and Coffee, The Unwritten Story of Army Life*, ed. Richard Harwell, Chicago, 1960.
21. Handkerchiefs made out of cambric, cotton or linen fabric.
22. Church of the Holy Innocents, 112 Main Street, Highland Falls, NY; it was built ca. 1846; see AMW to JW, 29 and 31 July 1852, #06416.
23. Frederick Lynn Childs (ca 1831- d. 1894), room-mate of JW at West Point.
24. JW took drawing lessons at West Point, and became the top of his class. See Elizabeth Robins Pennell and Joseph Pennell, *The Life of James McNeill Whistler*, Philadelphia, 1911, 5th edition, revised, p. 21.
25. Robert Walter Weir (1803-1889), artist and art teacher at West Point; see AMW to JW, 29 and 31 July 1852, #06416.
26. Aleksander Ossipovich Koritzkii, professor at the Academy of Fine Arts at St Petersburg, and painter to the Russian court, and William Boxall (1800-1879), portrait painter and director of the National Gallery; see AMW to JW, 12 December 1848, #06376, and AMW to Joseph Harrison, 25 June 1849, #07633.
27. 'But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled,' 3 Pet. 13-15.
28. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
29. General Joseph Gilbert Totten (1788-1864), military engineer, who became chief Engineer in the US Army.
30. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
31. It is not clear as to which Semi-Weekly AMW refers. In 1851 there were various publications of journals from different locations throughout USA entitled Semi-Weekly, such as *Semi-weekly Tribune*, New York, begun in June 1850.

32. Joseph Harrison (1810-1874), partner in the firm of Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in the firm of Harrison, Winans and Eastwick, and his wife Sarah Harrison, née Poulterer. Their children were: William Henry (b. 1837), Annie (1839-1915), Alicia McNeill (b. 1845), Marie Olga (b. 1847), and Theodore Leland Harrison (b. 1849).
33. Adolfe Rodewald (b. 1853), son of J. C. and A. Rodewald.
34. Mary Louise ('Louloo') Rodewald (b. 1850), daughter of J. C. and A. Rodewald.
35. [embossed paper mark:] RHOADS & SONS, EXTRA SUPERFINE, LONDON.
36. 'Scarsdale ... 4' written in an another hand.

System Number: 06419

Date: 12 September 1852

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Scarsdale

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W414

Document Type: ALS

Scarsdale

Scarsdale Sunday night Sept 12th 1852

My own loved Jemie³

Whenever the Holy Spirit is the subject of contemplation I have brought to my recollection your invocation overheard by your anxious mother in Pomfret vigils when you were wont to keep me so late from rest "Stay thou insulted spirit stay⁴!" Oh dearest Jemie have you grieved that heavenly guide to leave you? or are your infirmities helped by Him?

On the occasion of a confirmation for the first time in the beautiful church⁵ near the cottage we have had many clergy filling its chancel, and most inspiring discourse from one in the morning upon the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, & this afternoon Bishop Chase⁶ preached from "by their fruits ye shall know them⁷" such a stirring dissertation upon our relative duties & our high dignity as Christians. As I gazed thro tears at the pressing forward of youth of both sexes, to review their baptismal vows, those who will be on intimate terms with you next summer if you are permitted to visit this favored place - Oh how my heart yearned for you to be among them on this occasion of their devoting their comparative innocence to Christ. I trust that dear Willie⁸ has renewed his vows to renounce the world, to mortify the devices of the flesh, & manfully to resist the adversary - Matrons caps contrasted by glossy ringlets bowed for the blessing of the man of God.

[p. 2] Clem Popham⁹ & Shep Campbell¹⁰ just on the verge of manhood the former in a mercantile house in the city the latter spending college vacation here, went forward to choose the better service than that of this world, with the aged & poor man, Even the aisle was filled so that two dozen chairs were brought in to accommodate visitors. I saw in leaving the church Annie Davis¹¹ with a swollen face from weeping - yet she is generally the merriest of the happy throng

here, at 13 she has sought a blessing on her future years! & may the Holy Spirit help all these youth & may they help each other!

Annie & her sweet lady like sister Emma¹² who is two years her senior spent yesterday at the cottage, they were storm staid & did not return to their quarters at the river side till after breakfast, they go back to the city for the winter this week! Ellen Bowers¹³ has stopped two Sundays with us, she had visited Stonington for a week, but is most charmed by Scarsdale, how much your cronie Childes¹⁴ will be pleased with our church & circle! for my hope is to welcome him with my cadet after the next June Examination, How are you opening your new term dear Jemie? Cast off childish fancies & apply your talents to win honors for your family if not for yourself, Sis¹⁵ has present you with another nephew¹⁶. "A magnificent boy" Seymour¹⁷ reports, I have many fond messages from Preston¹⁸ for you, Aunt A¹⁹ says you are always in her heart & thoughts. I have not written them yet, that I intend if God helps me across the ocean²⁰ to devote [p. 3] the Winter for Sis, as I cannot have any home ties here, dear Willie can only spend two more Sundays at Scarsdale this year, but we hear so much in favor of St James²¹ I am sure he will be better situated there & he is reconciled now to going. Mr Alexander²² of Balt writes us he has just passed a fortnight there & the result is he enters three sons^{in Octr} & invites Willie to join them & start from his house, he was once the guest at our Passaic cottage²³ & I am sure will be a friend to Will, I enclose you a note from Eliza Flagg²⁴ to see the terms of a correspondence with your dearest & nearest cousin W W McN²⁵. The best report I have of Jacks²⁶ is that he felt home - sick in Paris! I have not seen brother George²⁷ lately, he is too busy even to go to Balt to see his idol baby²⁸ & it is so delicate he must feel this a great privation.

I wish he could go to West Point with Will as of course he must soon go to exchange adieus with you - Shall I have your drawers made larger than Willie's? you have not sent me the pattern you promised tho I hope you may this week, that you will next leisure put together the articles you are to send me, Willie's stay may be brief, so have all ready ere he arrives. I have pkds²⁹ & hosiery for you, write me what else you need, Do not put off writing, time slips away so imperceptibly & I wish to put all in order in case I am encouraged to embark by the middle of Octr. of course I shall go to West Point first. How sad the last two reports [p. 4] of the Reindeer³⁰! Uncle Genl Swift³¹ writes me he has business in N York city the end of this month & will come to see me at the cottage. George promises soon to come for a night. My health is not materially better, the last report of Julie Palmers³² was encouraging, Kate Prince³³ still there, but I shall not be surprised if she came here this week, Ellen B closes her visit on Wednesday[.] Willie I suppose must that day go to a dentist in town to have three teeth extracted & to supply himself with shoes & pants. I have to exercise the most rigid self denial to balance his expenses, but we avoid debt & so I trust you ever will. Remember me affectionately to the Bartletts³⁴ & prove your love to your widowed mother

A M W

Ellen talks of Jemie & no doubt would enjoy to him to tell of Pomfret Mary B³⁵ is never tired of speaking of Master James

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
3. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist

4. 'Stay, thou insulted Spirit, stay,' penitential Hymn written by Charles Wesley; see AMW to JW, 6 August 1851, #06398.
5. St James the Less, church at Scarsdale, consecrated in June 1851. JW did a drawing of the church; see *A Country Church* (M.100).
6. Bishop Philander Chase (1775-1852), clergyman and bishop in the US Protestant Episcopal Church.
7. 'Ye shall know them by their fruits,' Matt. 7.15-17
8. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
9. Robert Clement Popham (1830-1911), son of E. C. and W. S. Popham.
10. Allan Sheppard ('Shep') Campbell (1834-1876), a friend of JW of Stonington, CT.
11. Annie Davis (b. 1839), of Scarsdale, NY.
12. Emma Davis (b. 1837), of Scarsdale, NY.
13. Ellen Augusta Bowers (1834-1890), daughter of Captain P. Bowers, Sr.
14. Frederick Lynn Childs (ca 1831- d. 1894), room-mate of JW at West Point.
15. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
16. Arthur Charles Haden (1852-1910), musician, JW's nephew.
17. Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), surgeon and etcher, JW's brother-in-law.
18. Eliza Isabella Winstanley (1788-1857), née McNeill, JW's aunt, his mother's half-sister, lived at Preston, Lancashire.
19. Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), JW's aunt.
20. The St James College was located near Williamsport, MD, on the upper reaches of the Potomac River (near the Pennsylvania border). The term 'college' was rather loosely used in the 19th century. It may have been a private finishing school rather than a college in the modern sense.
21. AMW spent the winter of 1853 at the residence of her step-daughter Deborah Delano Haden, at 62 Sloane Street, London; see AMW to George William Whistler, William McNeill Whistler, and JW, 18 and 19 November, #06422.
22. Alexander, a friend of AMW, of Baltimore.
23. AMW and her husband lived at the Passaic, NJ, for a short period in the early 1830s.
24. Eliza Flagg (1830-1855), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of Rev. E. O. Flagg.
25. William Wyatt McNeill (1833-1853), JW's cousin.
26. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
27. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
28. George ('Georgie') Worthen Whistler (b. 1851), JW's nephew.
29. Pocket handkerchiefs, probably made of cambric, cotton or linen fabric; see AMW to JW, 3 September 1852, #06418.
30. Steamer *Reindeer* (1850), New Brunswick Steamboat Company (850 tons.). It was burned in September 1852. The number of deaths kept increasing on a daily basis over a period of ten days.

The Boston Atlas, 7 September 1852, vol. 21, reported that the number of deaths had reached 32. "Several of the scalded remain in a very hopeless state, but more have died since 5 o'clock this morning ..." On 10 September 1852, vol. 21, the same paper reported that the bodies of the "Richmond sufferers did not reach Richmond until today. A general suspension of business was observed during the progress of the funeral ceremonies ..." See *Richmond Enquirer*, 10 September 1852, vol. 49; see AMW to JW, 27 August 1851, #06399.

31. General Joseph Gardner Swift (1783-1865), first graduate of USMA, West Point, NY, chief engineer of US Army, JW's father's brother-in-law.

32. Julia McNeill Palmer (1851-1902), JW's cousin, later wife of W. S. Boardman.

33. Kate ('Cousin Kate') Livermore (1820-1907), daughter of J. D. Prince and wife of A. Livermore.

34. The family of Professor William Holmes Chambers Bartlett (1804-1893), mathematician.

35. 'Mary B ... James' continues in the left margin.

System Number: 06420

Date: 20 [September 1852¹]

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Scarsdale

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point³

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W415

Document Type: ALS⁴

Scarsdale

Monday 20th

My dearest Jemie⁵

I begin to realize how short the time Willie⁶ can be with me & that we should lose no time in visiting you. I shall ask Miss Rittie⁷ to reply by return of mail & if we can be received for a night to go via Hudson river R R⁸ next friday from here. Cousin Kate Prince⁹ is spending this week with us & of course I had asked her to accompany us, how glad you will be to have a walk & talk with your earliest friend¹⁰ who is so constant to you. I need not say how earnestly I wish it were in my power to remain a week within your daily reach, but so much is to be wound up at the Cottage in case I embark for England on the 14th of Oct. I must be very steady in my progress as I have no longer energy & promptness, I feel the force of that scriptural expression of human weakness that "the grass hopper is a burthen¹¹" but my faith in God increases as I have proofs of a heavenly provider for all my need. Jemie dear it is in your power & Willie's to lessen the burthen of sin which alone can prostrate me, may I be cheered by a clean report of you since the return to study, the relaxation of encampment being over - [p. 2] think! if you do not at once begin to lessen your demerits you will forfeit the holiday next summer, dearest Cadet! for a widowed mothers sake decide to do your duty.

I wrote you of the new nephew in Sloane St.¹², last steamer brought a fresh report of his well being from Grandma Haden & the promise from Cis¹³ to write me by the next. they each & all

send love to Jemie & Willie, as do your kind Aunts¹⁴. I must reserve all else till by the blessing of God we are tête à tête friday evening. We shall bring you what you want, if you think of anything else that I may hear of by thursday morning I may get it, but we propose taking the train three miles from here instead of going to the city.

As ever your devoted Mother

A M W

Envelope:

[Address panel:]

Cadet James Whistler

Military Academy

West Point

There are the remains of a black wax seal.

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to AMW's trip to Britain; see AMW to George William Whistler, and William McNeill Whistler, 18 and 19 November 1852, #06422.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
4. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
5. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
6. Hudson River Railroad, started in 1846; see AMW to JW, 27 August 1851, #06399.
7. Harriet ('Rittie') Bartlett, daughter of Prof. W. H. C. Bartlett, later wife of J. M. Schofield.
8. Kate ('Cousin Kate') Livermore (1820-1907), daughter of J. D. Prince and wife of A. Livermore.
9. Kate Livermore first met JW when he was 2 years old, at Lowell, MA. See an untitled press-cutting, 2 October 1903, in *The Livermore Papers*, Massachusetts Historical Society.
10. 'Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets,' Eccles. 12.5. This phrase is used by JW in his later life; see JW to Helen Euphrosyne Whistler, #08164.
11. Arthur Charles Haden (1852-1910), musician, JW's nephew. 62 Sloane Street, London, was the home address of Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
12. Emma Haden, née Harrison, mother of JW's brother-in-law, F. S. Haden, and her daughter-in-law Deborah Delano Haden.
13. Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), and Eliza Isabella Winstanley (1788-1859), née McNeill, JW's aunts.
14. [stamp:] LONDON

System Number: 07549
Date: 24 September [1852¹]
Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²
Place: Scarsdale
Recipient: Robert Edward Lee³
Place: West Point
Repository: National Archives, Washington D. C.
Call Number: Record Group 94
Document Type: ALS

To
Col Lee
Superintendent of Military Academy⁴

Dear Sir

Tho my son Cadet Whistler⁵ has not earned a furlogh [sic] & tho I know the regulation requires his fulfilling two years at the Military Academy before a visit to his home, yet perhaps under present circumstances you may consider it his duty to relieve an invalid and widowed Mother the exertion of visiting him to exchange adieus previous to embarking for England for an absence of nearly a year in the hope of regaining health.

The 14th of Oct is the day for the steamer's sailing⁶ by which James Whistlers Mother expects to depart & if in accordance with Col Lees judgment next week may be granted for a visit to his home, the favor I trust will be an incitement to his application to study [p. 2] & obedience throughout his term at West Point[,] grant that his leave of absence may include one Sabbath to spend with his Mother. the memory of which may comfort a lonely voyager

With respect & esteem

Yours dear Sir

To make grateful

Anna M Whistler

Scarsdale West Chester Co
N Y.

Sept 24th

The favor will be enhanced by expedition as my youngest son must leave for entering the St James College Md⁷. the end of next week & the natural wish for two such near companions to refresh their intimacy it is hoped may be gratified by Col Lee's granting the request for a weeks furlogh [sic] to Cadet Whistler the earliest day he may be relieved from duty at the Military Academy

A M W

'Mrs⁸ Whistler Requests that a leave of absence of 7. days May be granted her Son Cadet Whistler Approved by the Supt from 12. ~~P. M.~~ on Friday Oct 1. until 7 ½ P. M. on Monday Oct 4

J. W.

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to AMW's trip to Britain on 14 October 1852, and to the date given by the Superintendent in his approval of JW's leave. See AMW to George William Whistler and William McNeill Whistler, 18 and 19 November 1852, #06422.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. General Robert Edward Lee (1807-1870), Superintendent of USMA, West Point, and later President of the Confederate States of America.
4. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
5. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
6. There was no sailing from New York to Britain on 14 October 1852. The closest date of sailing to AMW's wanted day of departure, was on 20 October 1852, on the steamer *Asia*. See *The Boston Atlas*, 13 October 1852, vol. 21, no. 89.
7. The college was located near Williamsport, MD, on the upper reaches of the Potomac River (near the Pennsylvania border). The term "college" was rather loosely used in the 19th century. It may have been a private finishing school rather than a college in the modern sense.
8. 'Mrs ... JW' written in a different hand.

System Number: 06421

Date: 6 October [1852¹]

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Brooklyn

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point³

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W416

Document Type: ALS

80 Jerolamon St Brooklyn⁴

Wed morning early Oct 6th

When you know my dearest James⁵ that your mother's last work before going on board ship was to make you the flannel to be worn next to your skin it will seem important you should immediately put it on, it will last you till she can send you a change by your Cousins, which will be her only sewing on the voyage.

Perhaps Jacks⁶ may take it to you to report the meetings in England! The last thing packed at the sweet cottage yesterday was the nice portable mattress for your bed, to be sent today per Express with a comfortable⁷ [sic] which may be folded like a bed above it until colder weather may make it necessary for covering, you are entirely too wasteful of health so mercifully restored to you - as of all your talents. Are you ready to go thro sickness & death? to render the account to the Judge for your term of nearly 19 years. God be still more merciful to you my son & prepare you.

[p. 2] When you wrote for your drawing materials dear Jemie I thought it right to enquire of the professor of drawing what I should send you as I would not supply you with any temptation to idleness. I enclose you Mr Wiers⁸ kind letter which you must read & destroy with this. Remember me affectionately to Childs⁹ & tell him to pray for me. The Lord leads me, He disposes the hearts of all to shew me kindness, oh that he may spare me from the scourging of my sons. You have it in your power Jemie to comfort your widowed Mother, by your conduct this term, or you may cut off from the tie nature has bound to unite us to God, I cannot separate from Him in whom I live & move & have my being. May He soften your heart which was wont to be loving towards your broken hearted Mother - pity me Jemie, pray for me as I do for you & ever shall till my latest breath. You will prove which motive is most powerful with you to win the hollow friendship of the fops & idlers & triflers to be met everywhere - or to earn a furlough to spend with your natural & true relatives, try dear Jemie to encourage us all, I have seen Genrl Swift¹⁰ who may go to the Point to see you the excellent old gentleman looks seriously upon your recklessness, he fears you may defeat any [p. 3] blessing from the winter¹¹ to me & hurry me back thro winters storms to meet your disgrace. God avert this which would thro your life embitter you by remorse. You have not a day to lose. Today if ye will hear the voice "harden not your heart ¹²["] against conscience. God has provided you with every incentive to effort, but you have turned from Him, to the God of this world, oh Jemie, repent & redeem your time. Your visit to the cottage exposed to me folly which is so ungraceful that I trust you will throw off the mask to virtue & let your own native sweetness shine when next you visit me. I will not cloud your path of duty by selfishly expressing the sorrows which encompass

Your devoted Mother.

Write your brother, poor Willie¹³ will be home sick you know. May the Father of the fatherless unite your hearts in love to Himself! adieu, adieu! when your heart prompts you to cheer me, write but not hurriedly for such a postage, direct your first to your sister & it will be between us. [p. 4] Ask a permit in my name immediately dear James to take the enclosed to Mrs Bartlett¹⁴ as it is important to lose no time about it.

Cadet Whistler

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to AMW's trip to England later in the month, and the *Perpetual Calendar Whitaker's Almanack*; see AMW to George William Whistler, and William McNeill Whistler, 18 and 19 November 1852, #06422.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
4. The address of Maria Margareta Cammann ('Grandma C') (1774-1862), mother-in-law of William Gibbs McNeill; see AMW to JW, 6 October 1851, #06403.
5. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
6. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
7. Quilt.
8. Robert Walter Weir (1803-1889), artist and art teacher at West Point.
9. Frederick Lynn Childs (ca 1831- d. 1894), room-mate of JW at West Point.

10. General Joseph Gardner Swift (1783-1865), first graduate of USMA, West Point, NY, chief engineer of US Army, JW's father's brother-in-law.

11. AMW wanted to spend the winter in England because of its milder climate to that of New England. She thought it would benefit her health.

12. 'Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness.' Heb. 3.8.

13. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.

14. Harriet Bartlett, née Whitehorne, wife of Prof. W. H. C. Bartlett.

System Number: 06422

Date: 18 and 19 November 1852

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: London

Recipient: George William Whistler, William McNeill Whistler² and JW

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W417

Document Type: ALS

62 Sloane St³

Nov 18th 1852 Thursday night

Do you recollect Doctor Playfair⁴? I think you must my dear Jemie⁵ for he is the husband of Seymours Cousin Margery⁶ & he is so humorous besides being scientific, he was a favorite of Sir Robt Peel⁷ & has come to the royal favor[,] wears today a rich uniform as one of Prince Alberts⁸ gentlemen in waiting[,] he came home to dine after the funeral of the Duke⁹, to hear what Sis & Emma¹⁰ had to say, of the obsequies at St Pauls¹¹ he having presented them with tickets, I have escaped from the lively circle in the drawing^{room} for my spirit is not in keeping. I wished for you to be in my stead on the balcony of Col Colts belle étage¹² Picadilly because I knew you would enjoy the effect of the moving mass of military & court splendor, I used my privilege as an investment for the summer holiday to interest dear Willie & my Cadet[,] send the student of St James this, for I am not able to write separately. Col Colt is a true American, hospitable & seemed highly gratified by the widow of Major Whistler¹³ honoring his card by accepting it, he regretted Mrs H also had not graced his hospitalities, but Sis as a musician enjoyed her seat at St Pauls more & I the reading of the last N York papers more than the look out facing the Green Park thro which the line of military crossed from the Horse Guards, (whither the poor body of the hero of Waterloo¹⁴ was taken last night after its having been lying in state at Chelsea hospital a week, its victims crushed¹⁵ in the rush to see its triple coffin - numberless! All here have been excited but myself[,] quite [equal?] to the enormous cost to the nation, they say Cole [p. 2] your cronie [sic] calculates the cost of the bronze car upon which the coffin was drawn (by twelve black horses - amounts to £8.000 sterling & this is but a mite in the entire cost!

When I arrived a week since, Seymour had our going to the funeral cut & dried, so I yeilded [sic] & am not ungrateful for his attention, but I should be shocked if [glare?] could excite me. The most wonderful part to a New Yorker was the order of the crowd, & its quiet, by control of its admirable police. The sun shone suddenly a surprise, for the rain has been incessant, the Oxford trains could not run because of the R R¹⁶ being inundated. But you will want to hear who asks after my boys, all the family branches, of course & often Seymour & Sis when I talk to them of

you both so grown & improved say how they wish to see you, I came from Preston with Mr Maude¹⁷, his sister is lately left a rich widow & he one of the guardians to Mr Gunter's¹⁸ sons & to her beautiful little daughter, he talks of looking in upon us at Scarsdale next summer, so mind your furlough. You must not forget your friends Mr & Mrs T Smith¹⁹ he introduced you to Boxall²⁰, they were at Col Colt's today & he delighted me more than the funeral could, by talking of you, I was in hopes Uncle MacNeill²¹ would be there, tho when he called here to see me on Monday he said he was tired of all England & should keep out of its bustle, I was so thankful to find by the last arrival from N Y as I read the papers at Col Colts, that the Africa²² had been met, so I wrote a note to rejoice with my lonely brother in our prospect of hearing by the next of the welcome to Brooklyn. Your portrait²³ comforts me, but to hear from both my boys will be cheering. Willie cannot feel as home - sick as I do at times, tho Sis & Seymour are [p. 3] so very kind to me & their children²⁴ are worth coming over to know, little Seymour is surprisingly intelligent he has such a memory & repeats all Annie says, so many pretty rhymes & hymns, he is the fondest of pictures & knows colors so distinctly, he is the most affectionate of the two & says Ganmama Wisseler so winningly but I never saw such nicely trained happy & obedient children as your sisters. she is so gentle yet so firm & they are so loving, as their parents are to them. You must not think anything of my remarks upon your Uncle & Seymour not sympathising how should such opposites in their preferences for their native land! "Teddy"²⁵ your friend Lloyd came to lunch here the other day he asked particularly after my boys, he is attending the hospitals now. Mrs Morrah²⁶ went with Seymour, Mrs H, Rose²⁷ &c to the Athanaeum²⁸ [sic] where he procured seats at a guinea & a half each to see the funeral. Jim M²⁹ is studying law & thinks of practising in Australia! Good night dear, dear boys, tomorrow this must be mailed, I envy its welcome, yet I am not regretting I came to spend a season with dear Sis, she is more worthy of my love than ever. I wish you could see her portrait³⁰, the hands are so exquisite, it is a beautiful ornament, to the dining room over the side board, tho the likeness is not as satisfactory as yours, facing it, over the chimney, I judge that there will be opposition to my taking home yours, so you must write your resolution for it is your property, much as I am impressed with the propriety of placing it at the cottage, you must decide. 62 certainly has no lack of pictures, but Sis delights in Jemies!

[p. 4³¹] Friday morning 19th.

Dear George it is a week today since I was welcomed to Sloane St by dear Debo for the winter, she is well for her & loves to talk of you as she gazes fondly at the daguerotype³² you sent her by me, of your baby. She hopes you will earn leisure to bring him to Sloane St & here you might gain much from her practical experience in the culture of little ones for mental & physical health. I never was in a more charming group of children than our Debo's. she has two young friends on her hands for all this week & must defer to writing you, George Bliss³³ has invited himself to dinner here today, so I am expecting to be refreshed by Springfield news. How constantly my heart turns to my native land! I feel alone in the great Babylon³⁴! but always shall think it was well I came to it for this winter. I am ready to attend to your commissions dear George, if you send me the means. let me hear where your apples were bought before I leave[,] send the apples as soon as possible & write Boyd³⁵[,] Debo I am sure would be glad of a barrel from you thro his forwarding. Send this to Willie who will return it to Jemie for the love it bears³⁶ to you all from Mother

A M W

Envelope:

For George, Willie & Jemie

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother, and his half-brother William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician. George William was a resident of Baltimore, MD, JW was at United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, and William McNeill at St James' College, MD.
3. The address of the London residence of Deborah Delano and Francis Seymour Haden.
4. Sir Lyon Playfair (1818-1898), scientist.
5. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
6. Margaret ('Margery') Eliza Playfair (d. 1855), née Oakes, wife of L. Playfair.
7. Sir Robert Peel (1788-1850), British statesman, prime minister (1834-35, 1841-46).
8. Prince Albert (1819-1861), the Prince Consort.
9. Arthur Wellesley (1769-1852), 1st Duke of Wellington, British Prime Minister (1828-1830); he died on 14 September 1852, but his funeral did not take place until 18 November.
10. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister, and Emma Bergeron (d. 1858), née Haden, sister of JW's brother-in-law, F. S. Haden.
11. St Paul's Cathedral, London. Hundreds of people gathered to pay tribute to the Duke at his funeral. The tickets were issued on the production of written orders from the persons (they were predominantly Peeresses) respectively entitled thereto. Times of arrival, setting down and taking up had all been published in the local newspapers. The funeral procession amassed a million and a half people. See *Illustrated London News* and *London Times*, 11-20 November 1852.
12. Samuel Colt (1814-1862), inventor, manufacturer. His temporary accommodation in Picadilly, London was apparently of high standard and the belle étage (Fr.: first floor) provided an excellent position for viewing the Duke's funeral.
13. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
14. The Duke of Wellington had defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.
15. The dead body of the Duke laid at the Chelsea hospital between 10 and 17 November 1852. During this period thousands of people rushed to pay tribute.
16. i.e. railroad.
17. Maude, a friend of AMW, of Liverpool.
18. Gunter (d. ca 1852), of Liverpool.
19. Tom Smith, engineer, and his wife Mary Smith.
20. William Boxall (1800-1879), portrait painter and director of the National Gallery.
21. William Gibbs McNeill (1800-1853), railway engineer, JW's uncle.
22. Steamer *Africa* (1850-1868), Cunard Line (2,226 tons.); see AMW to JW, 13 November 1851, #06406.

23. William Boxall (1800-1879), portrait painter and director of the National Gallery, painted a portrait of JW now in the Hunterian Art Gallery; see Eric Denker, *In Pursuit of the Butterfly*, Seattle, 1995, p. 24; AMW to Joseph Harrison, 25 June 1849, #07633.
24. Francis Seymour Haden (1850-1918), Arthur Charles Haden (1852-1910), musician and Annie Harriet Haden (1848-1937), later Mrs Charles Thynne.
25. Edward ('Teddy') Lloyd, of London.
26. Mrs Morrah, mother of J. Morrah.
27. Deborah Delano Haden did have her portrait painted by Boxall, but the whereabouts of the painting are unknown; see AMW to JW, 9 and 10 March 1849, #06388; AMW to JW, 25 November 1851, #06407.
28. Rosamund ('Rose') Horsley, née Haden, sister of F. S. Haden.
29. Athenaeum Club, 107 Pall Mall, London. It was founded in 1824 by Arthur Wellesley. Eminence in, or patronage of, science, literature, or any branch of the fine arts, as also distinction in the public service, were the qualifications for membership of this club. By the 1880s the Athenaeum possessed one of the best club houses and the finest club library in England.
30. Jim Morrah, lawyer, a fellow student of JW at Portishead; see AMW to JW, 9 September 1848, #06359.
31. P. 4 is cross-written.
32. Daguerreotype, untraced; see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 11 June 1849, #07627.
33. George Bliss, of Springfield, MA.
34. AMW means the city of London; the quote probably derives from 'Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.' Rev. 18.10.
35. Thomas Boyd, merchant, of Liverpool.
36. 'bears ... AMW' continues in the right margin.

System Number: 06423

Date: 24 and 26 November 1852

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: London

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W418

Document Type: ALS

62 Sloane St³

Wed. Nov 24th 1852

This is a delightful task to me dearest Jemie⁴ & if you can induce your fancy sketches to describe West Point realities in class, in barrack⁵, Sis & Mother will not be slow to acknowledge them, &

Seymour⁶ will regale his leisure moments & "bless the dear cadet & wish he could see him." these ejaculations sound to my ear hearty. Imagine us yesterday morning finishing our breakfast upon scraps sent us by George⁷, what a pity you had only the end of your supply of paper, but tho your ink was rather sketchy the character was natural & therefore we excused all defects. I could not but feel flattered that you had had the blues after your visit to Scarsdale & tho I do not escape them in this far off distance from my boys, I comfort myself in the picture reward of our improving this winter.

Friday morning 26th

I have just been directing an Illustrated News⁸ for each of my students, as Willie⁹ applies to George for novelties to cheer his leisure hours. poor dear fellow! I sympathise in his home sick misery often, but while I weep & pray alone (for none but God knows my weakness - I am not sorry that our hearts are soft enough to feel tenderly our separation. Oh what a privilege [sic] it would be to me to have my boys at the cottage as their home from the time of my return to it, but you know even the Emperors sons¹⁰ had to go thro the hardships of the Gymnasium & Camp. we must be thankful for being allowed to write each other, & that in prayer we meet daily. Perhaps dear Willie may like to read what I write you now. I am directing the Times¹¹ of this week to St James's first as his copy of the illustrated news will be enjoyed at Scarsdale & then sent to him. Uncle MacNeill¹² brought me letters from Brooklyn yesterday while I was at St Pauls¹³, so he left them & I enjoyed them last evening while Sis, Emma¹⁴ & Seymour were at the Haymarket¹⁵, ([Cole?¹⁶] having insisted upon their acceptance of a private box he came to offer at breakfast[]). Oh how I wished in my heart, they were as decided as I am [p. 2] against theatres, especially when health suffers from dissipation, poor Sis has not been able to get up; I left a lobster supper ready for them at the bright fire in her room when I heard their voices at midnight. And I know you will say you would have not refused to partake. I need not remark upon the rainy seasons as the Times does, but it is sad for the poor whose dwellings are immersed in the midland countries, I saw it in my journey a fortnight ago from Preston, but the rain continues part of every twenty four hours. At Windsor flat bottomed boats are needed & the railway is three feet under water in many places - The sun is coming out & I must walk - for health suffers - I should greatly prefer the clear frost at West Point & St James! & the ruddy dawn & glowing sunset with ice & wind of Pomfret¹⁷, if I could revive last winter & my mother¹⁸! After the late dinner assembles the happy family circle around the drawing room blaze, I steal off to meditate in the invisible world of memory, the father¹⁹ who is not dead to me! the angel mother²⁰ inseparable in my home with him! & then I pray for the four spared to bless me & go down to see little Annie & Seyr²¹. dance by the Russian piano²² & none suspect that the tears have flowed under the mask of my cheerfulness, for I should indeed be ungrateful were I not unite in the kind attentions of Seymour & Sis. these sweet children seem to have had love to their American Grandmama instilled, & baby²³ crows & smiles at my tact in nursing him. Do you ever write to Mary Brenan²⁴? I have twice & she'd be so proud of the same proof that Masters J & W forget her not. All I meet ask after my dear boys & Many talk of Mary in a tone highly creditable & to me very gratifying. Do you remember Miss Marsh²⁵ as one of Seyr constant patients? she took Rose²⁶ & myself in her carriage to St Pauls as it is kept open to gratify the curious who perhaps did not see the funeral²⁷ there. You cannot imagine how fine the effect of the gas light, around nave, dome &c, tho you'll [p. 3] see it in the illustration. The most impressive & wonderful part of the funeral which I witnessed was, the order & quiet of the crowd in all the thorough fares. The Queen²⁸ thanked her subjects & the Police thro a speech "in the house²⁹" yesterday. It was touching to see the poor old Dukes horse, his boots hanging shapeless & his old groom³⁰. But we shall by the indulgence of our Almighty protector be permitted to talk of this pageant in our holiday at Scarsdale. When I left it, I only contemplated entering into nursery scenes, but if I came to be the shadow of Sis, I

must go with her as far as able, so went on monday to a family & musical circle in Deans Yard³¹, the new lady there acquits herself cordially to all, tho she lacks refinement & esprit of my early friend Anna³². she has an engaging little daughter to give a new charm to "Uncle Clarke's"³³ home. Sis, Emma³⁴, myself & Miss Marsh had a ladys tea at "Mamas"³⁵ on wednesday evening, chat & knitting in lieu of piano around the bright little drawing room fire, their lodging is at 56³⁶ - so snug to be so near. This reminds one of Rose asking if my boys would be interested in hearing of Mr Dupery³⁷? he has gone to Japan to preach & teach, of course his wife & children went with him. I have not seen Jim Morah³⁸, but must return his mamas call soon[,] & he resides with her. We are all to take tea & have music at "Charles Edwards"³⁹ who lodges in Cadogan Place now, he & Miss Marsh are the God parents of "the long baby" as Annie calls the "Arthur Charles" but I never allude to his name, for I guess if Sis had prevailed he would have been a G W H⁴⁰. Brother George will see Seymour to advantage at home, I hope he may visit Sis, as we must not expect her to bring so many as she would require to enable her to enjoy unalloyed a visit to her native land, Seymours practise has increased but in proportion to his increased family, excellent servants, a pd assistant in the surgery & the perfect harmony of the home entire, letters can faintly do justice to, I hope when George comes he will bring little George⁴¹ to see his [p. 4] cousins, they are so fond of the baby in the Daguerreotype⁴² [sic].

I fear Sis will feel it unkind in me taking "Uncle Jim" away, if you wish it you must plead for yourself & advise her to persuade Seyr to sit to Boxall⁴³, to face her portrait! Two months will have sped since we parted dear Jemie. I only taxed you for one letter a month & this is my third, but I will only expect forward. My plan is to remain with Sis in this home, till March. then for engagements in Landcashire [sic] mind to remember me particularly to our friends at Proff B - s⁴⁴ Do you ever devote a Saturday p - m to Mr Wiers⁴⁵ studio? try if once for mutual gratification & offer my respects. I have been to take a cup of broth at the childrens time for dinner in the Salle a Manger⁴⁶, Sis is enjoying Londons oysters as the good Miss Marsh sent her a wee bag of 1st quality, some "Finnin Haddys" & "Yarmouth herring"⁴⁷ to tempt her to eat a better breakfast & lunch. I am reminded by Emma & Sis to express their love to Jemie. Sis talks of wanting the boys & George next time. Aunt A & E⁴⁸ send love to all three with the blessing & prayers for your happiness of your devoted Mother

A M W

Envelope:

[Address panel:]

Cadet James Whistler
Military Academy
West Point
New York

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
3. The London residence of Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.

4. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
5. See *West Point Life* (M.119).
6. Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), surgeon and etcher, JW's brother-in-law.
7. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
8. *Illustrated London News*, monthly picture magazine of news and the arts, published in London. It was founded as a weekly in 1842.
9. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother; he was at St James's College, Maryland.
10. The sons of Nicolas I (1796-1855), Tsar of Russia from 1825-1855.
11. *The Times* newspaper, founded by John Walter on January 1, 1785, as *The Daily Universal Register*, became *The Times* on 1 January 1788.
12. William Gibbs McNeill (1800-1853), railway engineer, JW's uncle.
13. St Paul's Cathedral, London, designed by Christopher Wren (completed 1710).
14. Emma Bergeron (d. 1858), née Haden, sister of F. S. Haden.
15. Haymarket Theatre, London, known as 'the home of the English comedy.' The show was 'Masks and Faces by Messrs. B. Webster, L. Murray, Stuart, Lambert; Mrs Stirling, Mrs L. Murray, Miss F. Maskell, and Miss Rosa Bennett. After which, Richelieu in Love. To conclude with A Capital Match.' See *The Times*, 25 November 1852, no. 21,282, p. 4.
16. Samuel Colt (1814-1862), inventor, manufacturer.
17. AMW is referring to cold weather conditions at Pomfret, CT, on 15 and 16 January 1852, #06409.
18. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
19. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
20. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
21. Annie Harriet Haden (1848-1937), later Mrs Charles Thynne, and Francis Seymour Haden (1850-1918).
22. See AMW to Joseph Harrison, 11 June 1849, #07627.
23. Arthur Charles Haden (1852-1910), musician, JW's nephew.
24. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
25. Miss Marsh; unidentified
26. Rosamund ('Rose') Horsley, née Haden, sister of F. S. Haden.
27. The funeral of Henry Wellesley (1846-1900), 3rd Duke of Wellington, Conservative M.P.; see AMW to George William Whistler, William McNeill Whistler, JW, 18 and 19 November 1852, #06422.
28. Victoria (1819-1901), Queen of Great Britain.
29. It is not clear if it is 'The house of Commons' or 'The House of Lords;' nothing was reported in the newspapers.

30. The *Illustrated London News* on 27 November 1852, p. 479, published an extract, entitled *The Duke's Horse in the Funeral Procession* in the following terms: 'The Duke was a bold rider, but of late years necessarily selected steady riding hacks. The horse led in the procession on Thursday last was bought about four years ago from Mr Sullivan, an officer in the Scots Fusilier Guards. It was a mare, and remarkably steady; never shying, even under the most awkward circumstances ... The Duke's groom, John Mears, had only just time to prevent the expression of his Grace's displeasure. This John Mears, who led the horse on Thursday, has been in the Duke's service more than thirty years ...'
31. Dean's Yard, Westminster, probably the London address of 'Uncle' Clark of Boston, and his new wife.
32. Anna Clark, first wife of Uncle Clark.
33. Uncle Clark, of Boston.
34. Emma Bergeron (d. 1858), née Haden, sister of F. S. Haden.
35. Probably Emma Haden, née Harrison, mother of JW's brother-in-law, F. S. Haden.
36. 56 Sloane Street, the address of Emma Haden, née Harrison, mother of JW's brother-in-law, F. S. Haden.
37. Dupery, a missionary.
38. Jim Morrah, lawyer, a fellow student of JW at Portishead, and his mother.
39. Charles Edwards; unidentified.
40. AMW wishes her grandson had been called George Washington Haden, after her husband.
41. George ('Georgie') Worthen Whistler (b. 1851), JW's nephew.
42. An untraced daguerreotype of George Worthen Whistler.
43. William Boxall (1800-1879), portrait painter and director of the National Gallery.
44. Professor William Holmes Chambers Bartlett (1804-1893), mathematician.
45. Robert Walter Weir (1803-1889), artist and art teacher at West Point.
46. Fr.: salle à manger, dining room.
47. Finnan Haddie, smoked Haddock from Findon in Murray, Scotland, and herrings from Yarmouth, England; a place noted for its red herrings.
48. Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), and Eliza Isabella Winstanley (1788-1859), née McNeill, AMW's sisters.

System Number: 07639

Date: 24 December 1852

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: London

Recipient: [Margaret Getfield Hill²]

Place: [Scarsdale³]

Repository: Library of Congress

Call Number: Manuscript Division, Pennell-Whistler Collection, PWC 34/43-44

Document Type: ALS⁴

62 Sloane St⁵

1852

Christmas Eve

My own dear friend

I have been writing your name in two small vols which you will value for their contents & as coming from two bereaved spirits⁶, absentees for a brief space, yet bound to the Scarsdale circle by no common ties. I have an opportunity for sending my wee packages to Lieut Scriven⁷ who hopes from his New Years voyage to see my cottage⁸ neighbours, he forwarded your welcome letter immediately, Oh what a favor I felt it - and wrote me so kindly as soon as he could to offer his services returning to you & regretted he had not time to avail of Mr Pophams⁹ introduction & invitation, tho he trusts they may lead to his frequently resorting to our happy valley.

Christmas night I have slipped away from a circle of invited dinner guests, now prolonging their enjoyment around the drawing ^{room} fire - that I may enjoy myself in my own way with you dear Margaret. It is hard to realize Xmas in April weather, tho the holly & other ever green in the church & the appropriate hymns & the exalting subject of God manifest in the flesh as the Saviour in the manger, brought conviction of this being indeed the blessed anniversary. I did not remain to the Communion because Debo¹⁰ felt it better for her to go tomorrow, & the early hour for a stranger like me when few most devout assemble is most congenial. The church we go to is nearest & Wm Burgess¹¹ rector's since "Blunt"¹² whose beautiful writings you have read no doubt, I like better to worship in than any I know in London

[p. 2] You cannot doubt dear Margaret my sympathy with my lonely & invalid brother¹³ leading me to his retreat from church today, the walk & quiet meditation too was good for me, & after listening to him an hour "think aloud" as he says to me he does & that it is a benefit & relief to him[,] I walked back the two miles & felt no fatigue, see how strong I am! he told me he had been writing dear Grand Mama C¹⁴ & cheerfully, it would be wrong in me to express the anxiety I cannot help feeling about his affairs, but when they become disentangled his native air will do more to restore him than the tonics & airing his Doctor advises. he is waiting to hear from Mr Walker¹⁵ who he cheered thro a long illness last winter & who has left him awkwardly pledged about the settlement of their affairs, & yet he defers the fulfillment of his promises.

The suspense of course is injurious to health, but speculating upon the future is vain & since my brothers revived confidence & affection in me I see another providence in my visiting London, besides Debo & my own personal intercourse. It would make your kind heart ache as the friend of Maria¹⁶ to see her "Will" so bleached & attenuated, We can only pray & wait in faith, that worldly disappointments & separation from his family may lead him to the friend who is closer than a brother - the one for adversity! In my lonely walk to my brothers lodging I lift up my heart to Him, in his behalf. How my brother doats [sic] on Eliza¹⁷! & Jacks¹⁸, oh how thankful I shall

be if he may go to them at the New Year as he hopes to! he has some kind friends for instance he is made to feel at home in [p. 3] the house of brothers of the name of Lancaster¹⁹, whom Jacks thanked by calling at their office in the city & said he never could shew his gratitude for their disinterested kindness to his father - unless they would visit N York! I hope your god son has been to spend a sabbath with you, I thought him so improved by his travels, it was next to having my own Willie²⁰ in Liverpool with me!

That dear lad was still home-sick at St James when I last had his report, but Doctor Kerfoots²¹ to Mr Pophams is encouraging to me, my own conviction is that such discipline mental is necessary for youth, it is good to bear the yoke easily, tho naturally a mothers tenderness makes the duty on my part to be most painful, but I know that the Almighty will direct & sustain the widow who commits her wishes to His over ruling Providence, so I cheer my Willie on, encouraging improvement of present advantages, keeping the Summer holiday at Scarsdale in view. Why plan for another year when we know not what a day may bring forth? George²² intended that Willie should spent Xmas with him in Balt[imore], & it will be to me a joy to hear of it approved by Doct K. I am hoping to have a letter from West Point²³ for my New Years gift.

There is in the dining room here such a speaking portrait of what Jemie²⁴ was four winters ago! it is a mingled likeness now of both my dear boys, the little ones here²⁵ say "We always think of Uncle Jim for Grand mama["] Whistler looks up at his picture all the time! there is one by the same Artist opposite it, of Debo, but she is difficult to take, the hands are perfect, the face lovely, Debo is very delicate, she in vain resorts [p. 4] to tonics, appetite lacks & strength in consequence, you might suppose she has copied her rules of duty from the "Little Things"²⁶ I send you, so well divided are her attentions in the domestic routine, but I persuade her to rest in the morning & take breakfast in bed while I assemble the household & little ones to family prayers & head the table. And now let me assure you of my thankfulness in the escape of dear Gertrude & Spencer²⁷ while I could have wept as your faithful Irishman did, over the end of the pony! It was like you all to give prominence to the mercy in the family Calamity.

I am cheered by your report of Topsy²⁸, tho I never despair of her, thank her kind employers with my love & say to her I expect to find her very much improved in every way, I have not heard from Mary B²⁹ yet, tho I have written her twice. I contrast the rainy season in England with the clear frosty winters of New England & wonder if you have had sleighing yet to test how comfortable is the Siberian lamb skin as a cover all. Kate Prince³⁰ writes me to let dear Mrs Popham³¹ know that the Campanella flourishes & that she cherishes hopes of the farm at Scdle [i.e. Scarsdale]. when she has the privilege [sic] of a [life?] to argue the advantages of selling out in N Hampshire to purchase among us. I suppose now the Palmers³² are happy in their new house! & I like to fancy the progress in the building which is to secure my dear Blanche³³ within hail! If I were worthy to aid in the erection of the Parsonage³⁴ my contribution should [be] equal to the worthiness of the object, but there are faithful stewards in our church & I trust to hear of all obstacles being removed to the building the Scarsdale Parsonage, how my advantages will³⁵ be increased at the cottage by the acquisition of two neighbours! Col Colt³⁶ sent me a Xmas gift a box of Hickory nuts.

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY.
3. Margaret G. Hill lived at Scarsdale, NY.

4. Incomplete letter.
5. The London residence of Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
6. Lieutenant Scriven, naval officer and missionary.
7. AMW refers to the most recent bereavements in her family: Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW, and Maria Matilda McNeill, née Camman (d. Jan. 1852), JW's aunt, and wife of W. G. McNeill.
8. AMW lived intermittently at Scarsdale, NY between ca September 1851 and November 1857 in a cottage owned by her friends Margaret G. and Sarah S. Hill.
9. William Sherbrooke Popham (1793-1885), merchant.
10. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
11. Probably William Burges (1827-1881), architect.
12. Probably John James Blunt (1794-1855), theologian. His writings were extensive and included sermons, lectures, discourses, as well as *The History of the Christian Church during the First Three Centuries*, London, 1856. He also gave 'A Sermon in Memory of the Late Duke of Wellington,' preached before the University of Cambridge on 21 November 1852. It is possible that AMW had read about it, while in London during the Duke's funeral. See AMW to George William Whistler and William McNeill Whistler, 18 and 19 November 1852, #06422. See *DNB*, vol. 5, pp. 274-75.
13. William Gibbs McNeill (1800-1853), railway engineer, JW's uncle; failing health made William to return to the USA where he died on 16 February 1853.
14. Maria Margareta Cammann ('Grandma C') (1774-1862), mother-in-law of William Gibbs McNeill.
15. Walker; unidentified. He is apparently in debt to William Gibbs McNeill.
16. Maria Matilda McNeill, née Camman (d. Jan. 1852), JW's aunt, and wife of W. G. McNeill.
17. Eliza Flagg (1830-1855), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of Rev. E. O. Flagg.
18. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
19. Lancaster brothers; unidentified.
20. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
21. Dr Kerfoot, physician.
22. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
23. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
24. Probably a portrait of JW by William Boxall (1800-1879), portrait painter and director of the National Gallery. Boxall painted a portrait of JW in 1848, exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1849; see Denker, Eric, *In Pursuit of the Butterfly*, Seattle, 1995, p. 24. See AMW to Joseph Harrison, 25 June 1849, #07633.
25. Annie Harriet Haden (1848-1937), later Mrs Charles Thynne, JW's niece, and Francis Seymour Haden (1850-1918), children of D. D. and F. S. Haden.

26. *Little Things*, Boston, 1845, attributed to Julia A. (Fletcher) Carney (1823-1908). It was a short poem read by millions of children. *Little Things* became part of the 'McGuffey Reader,' an influential schoolbook, found in many of the early school classrooms of America.
27. Probably Margaret Gertrude Campbell (1830-1892), née Popham, wife of A. S. Campbell. Spencer; probably a labourer.
28. 'Topsy' was an orphan slave girl in Mrs H. E. Beecher Stowe's famous anti-slavery novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, published in the National Era in 1851-52 and in book form in 1852. Topsy mentioned here was black Eliza (d. 1856), a servant of Kate Livermore; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 28 September and 1 October 1853, #06428; AMW to JW, 16 November 1853, #06430, 27 April 1854, #06441, 12-15 October 1855, #06468; AMW to James H. Gamble, 23 September 1856, #06476.
29. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
30. Kate ('Cousin Kate') Livermore (1820-1907), daughter of J. D. Prince and wife of A. Livermore.
31. Jane O'Neill Hill (1793-1882), sister of M. G. Hill, second wife of W. S. Popham.
32. Probably the family of Richard Palmer (b. 1786), farmer of Scarsdale, NY.
33. Probably Alethea Blanchard Hill (1838-1908), daughter of J. and W. S. Hill.
34. The church of St James the Less at Scarsdale was partly organized and financially funded by William S. Popham who was the church warden in the early 1850s. The church was consecrated on 28 June 1851, but it was not until 1853 that the Rev. William W. Olssen was formally installed as its Rector. It is obvious from this letter that they were still raising funds for the building of the parsonage. See Helen Lorraine Hultz, *Scarsdale Story, A Heritage History*, New Jersey, 1987; JW did a drawing of the church *A Country Church* (M.100).
35. Samuel Colt (1814-1862), inventor, manufacturer; see #06422.
36. 'will ... nuts' continues in the left margin of p. 1.

System Number: 06424

Date: 31 December 1852, 4 and 7 January 1853

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: London

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W419

Document Type: ALS

62 Sloane St

the old years Eve

While Sis & Seyr³ are contributing to ushering in the New Year & Grandmama Hadens⁴ birth day by her invitation for us to meet her most social circle at tea in her drawing room, I choosing to remain at this snug fire side, having my boys naturally in my thoughts am not solitary. Seyr

pressured me with a new years most tempting vol! of thoughts for all moods⁵ elegantly bound & printed, I dont wonder you love him so enthusiastically dear Jemie⁶ for you spent a winter under his care as I am benefitting by.

As we have to resign Sis to old London we may do so with fair grace, as it is to a husband so capable of making her happy. I often think now that I know Seymours excellent virtues & how gifted he is with refined tastes & talent, that your father⁷ & he would have been kindred spirits in our home! God grant that this, as many other unfinished works of time, may be perfected in eternity! Seyr procurs [sic] for me such recreations as he knows I may reflect upon with renewed pleasure, he selected "The household of Sir Thomas More⁸" for me to read, it relates to the reign of Henry 8th is so simple, so pure, so interesting! the association of Seyr with it in my grateful memory is his reward for troubling himself to think of my amusements[,] he asked me to walk with him some two days since to "the water color gallery for amateurs⁹" where he had been tempted to buy some studies from nature, & I found dear Jemie I have a love for your favorite art. Richard¹⁰ followed us so that we drove back, Sis coming for us & she will describe her Xmas eve at Kensington with little Annie¹¹, which followed that afternoons call there, Seyr availed of getting thro his visits earlier than usual last tuesday to take Sis & I in the carriage, for she is too delicate yet to walk that far to the Society [p. 2] of Arts to see the Photographs¹² - we always wish for you - the discoverer¹³ has generously removed all restrictions to lovers of this branch & the variety & improvement is in consequence charming. The English taste for rural beauties, the foreign for Architectural, gives the palm to this country, but I am a novice, & tho I was charmed, I cannot give you a just impression. Seyr said you had been there & had seen the paintings which cover the walls of that fine hall portraying¹⁴ the contribution to the Arts - by An English artist, tho you had not seen the photographs of course as they are recently exhibited, we met a Don Manuel¹⁵ there, a Spanish Prince whose specimens of animals alive must have demanded expertness to catch them awake yet not stirring. As Sis wished from there to go to the water color Gallery of Amateurs she not having seen the four studies purchased for her home - we enjoyed the 2nd visit even more than our first, & Seyr pointed out one of Turners¹⁶ which would have been a feast to Jemie, such an exquisite specimen of that genius. You know the aged Artist has been taken from time to eternity since you were here, & it will interest you as one of his admirers to hear that he left to the National Gallery his masterpiece "The building of Carthage¹⁷" upon Condition of its being placed between the Claudes¹⁸ same subject - the eccentric old Artist of England knew the merit of his productions & never yeilded [sic] the palm to anyone. When Seyr recounted to us his peculiarities, I hope to store up some amusing anecdotes for next summer's furlogh [sic]. Not that my Cadet has sent me encouragement! But perhaps a New Year may bring me a letter & promises!

[p. 3] I keep the sadness of this anniversary locked within my tender memories of dear Aunt Maria¹⁹, except in answer to my brothers²⁰ notes, as during my absence from my own dear lads I must ever try to cheer them by letter. This last day of the year is Uncle Genl Swift's²¹ birth day 70 years today I think. Would it not be a blessing to the Cadets to have his benevolent smile to win their to cheerful obedience to order? it will beam upon you if we may go to Geneva for it in furlogh next July or rather August for we'll not go without our meeting at Scarsdale - Sis wrote George & Willie²² this week, but thinks as she is to go to Brighton for bracing she shall have leisure to add her mite to you, & can slip this in. Letters are my only indulgence, but I have not a regular correspondent left. the motherless & widow have no longer the one never failing to impart & receive comfort, so when responses come to mine I am in proportion grateful. next to reading letters from my sons, is tracing my thoughts of them a privilege, but prayer is my greatest solace, for the omnipresent is the Father of the fatherless & the friend of the widow. Winter has not yet appeared in England - but rainy days are most incessant, I walk when the

sunshine invites for health to give my brother all the attention & comfort in my power, he was feeling better when I was there the beginning of this week & tho he wrote as a mourner over his loss on the anniversary of dear Aunt Marias death, yet his wish to prevent gloom was expressed in his thankfulness to God for sources of cheerfulness left, he lets me read the letters which comfort & cheer him, Mary reports Willy Wyatt²³ to have improved in every way during her absence, his health never [p. 4] better than the past summer in N Orleans²⁴, & he has revived his study of French & become fond of German. Do you correspond with him? I know he only wanted you to agree to answer his letters. I shall conclude not to interrupt your studies, if you remain silent towards this proffer of a happy New Year from a most devoted by affectionate widowed mother.

A M W

Offer my most sincere good wishes to our kind friends the Bartletts²⁵ & Wiers²⁶, also to your chum Childes²⁷. My respects to Col Lee²⁸, I shall be even more pleased if you write Sis promptly, of your pursuits, how you liked the Illustrations of the Dukes funeral²⁹ &c. A lady today remarked to me how much my Sons portrait³⁰ resembles me! think how I improve!

4th Janry

I welcomed your letter with one from George to day. My heart trembles for your future dearest Jemie how many you will disappoint if you are rejected, I think however your conscience accuses you or you'd not have the blues, so I spare reproaches. I³¹ welcomed a letter from Racine this week, Mr Park³² will write my boys his regard for them[.] I leave to Sis this time her nursery as a mothers own. tho sure Uncle Jim is often talked of by Annie & little Seymour, they are delightful pets, but baby is irresistible! This is at least my fourth to you. To dear Willy I look soon for a letter to answer. George will no doubt report his Christmas with his darling little one³³ to me.

Jan 7th

Your examination dearest Jemie, must be over dear Jemie, while your bright & happy associations with Sloane St make you envy us here, we have begun our years with deep anxieties. But tho I close this by little Annies bedside & Sis is in the nursery aiding the two nurses for baby & Seymour, yet ere this reaches you, I hope to follow it with good tidings. You know my experience in sick rooms, & I only live to be useful. happiness depends upon ourselves & I always look to the bright side, and am thankful for every mercy. Your Aunt & Uncle Winstanley³⁴ forward their best wishes for a happy New Year to you & Willie, I shall lend them your letter to read, all your reminiscences of the happy times in England touch tender things in my memory. Oh my dear boys I pray that you may not by mistaken notions of this life, embitter my prospect of meeting at Scarsdale, we have a choice of rewards or punishment tho rules are written by God who sees the end from the beginning. "The humble shall be exalted"³⁵ I never had more tenderness evinced for me than by Sis & Seymour[.] Write another 3 weeks reports to your devoted Mother

A M W

Envelope:

Cadet³⁶ J Whistler
West Point

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
3. Deborah Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister, and her husband Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), surgeon and etcher; they lived at 62 Sloane St, London.
4. Emma Haden, née Harrison, mother of JW's brother-in-law, F. S. Haden.
5. Anna Manning, *The Household of Sir Thomas More*, New York, 1852.
6. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
7. Sir Thomas More (1477-1535), humanist, statesman, and chancellor of England (1529-1832), who was beheaded for refusing to accept Henry VIII (1491-1547), King of England, as head of the Church of England. More is recognized as a saint by the Roman Catholic church.
8. The exhibition was advertised in *The Athenaeum*, 18 December 1852, No. 1312, p. 1397: 'THE WINTER EXHIBITION of SKETCHES and DRAWINGS, is NOW OPEN, for the Third Season, at the AMATEUR GALLERY, no. 121, Pall Mall, opposite the Opera House Colonade, from Ten till dusk. - Admission, 1s., Catalogues, 6d. Gallery, No. 121, Pall Mall. JOHN BRITTEN, Sec.'
9. Probably Francis Seymour Haden's servant.
10. Annie Harriet Haden (1848-1937), later Mrs Charles Thynne, JW's niece.
11. This was the first photographic exhibition in Britain, opened on 23 December 1852. It was advertised in *The Athenaeum*, 18 December 1852, no. 1312, p. 1377. The Society of Arts was founded in 1754 and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1847.
12. In 1851 a new era in photography was introduced by Frederick Scott Archer (1813-1857), who introduced the Collodion process. This process was much faster than conventional methods, reducing exposure times to two or three seconds, thus opening up new horizons in photography.
13. AMW probably means the Great Room of the Royal Society of Arts, which is adorned with paintings by James Barry (1741-1806), executed between 1777 and 1801; see William L. Pressly, *The Life and Art of James Barry*, New Haven and London, 1981.
14. The only Spanish photographer who participated in the photographic exhibition was Count de Montizon, Juan Carlos Maria Isidro de Borbon (1822-1887). See 'Exhibition of Photographic Pictures at the Society of Arts,' *The Athenaeum*, 1 January 1853, no. 1314, p. 23.
15. Joseph Mallord William Turner (1775-1851), English painter.
16. J. M. W. Turner, *Dido Building Carthage*; see 'New Pictures in the National Gallery,' in *The Athenaeum*, 18 December 1852, no. 1312, pp. 1397-98.
17. Claude Lorrain (1604-1682), artist. Turner in his will asked for his *Dido Building Carthage* (z.217) and *Sun Rising through Vapour* (z.218) to be hung between Lorrain's *Seaport with the Embarkation of the Queen of Sheba* (z.219) and *The Mill or Landscape with the Marriage of Isaac and Rebekah* (z.220), at the National Gallery, London. See Martin Butlin and Evelyn Joll, *The Paintings of J. M. W. Turner*, New Haven and London, 1977, p. 53.
18. Maria Matilda McNeill, née Camman (d. Jan. 1852), JW's aunt, and wife of W. G. McNeill.
19. William Gibbs McNeill (1800-1853), railway engineer, JW's uncle.

20. General Joseph Gardner Swift (1783-1865), first graduate of USMA, West Point, NY, chief engineer of US Army, JW's father's brother-in-law.
21. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother, and William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
22. Mary Isabella Rodewald (1823-1867), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of J. F. Rodewald, and her brother William Wyatt McNeill (1833-1853). William Wyatt was a close companion of JW in his childhood; see AMW to JW, 30 October 1854, #06444.
23. See AMW's letter to JW, 6 October 1851, #06403.
24. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
25. The family of Professor William Holmes Chambers Bartlett (1804-1893), mathematician.
26. Robert Walter Weir (1803-1889), artist and art teacher at West Point.
27. Frederick Lynn Childs (ca 1831- d. 1894), room-mate of JW at West Point.
28. General Robert Edward Lee (1807-1870), Superintendent of USMA, West Point, and later President of the Confederate States of America.
29. Arthur Wellesley (1769-1852), 1st Duke of Wellington, British Prime Minister (1828-1830); his funeral took place on 18 November 1852. AMW sent copies of the *Illustrated London News* to JW, regarding the Duke's funeral; see AMW to JW, 18 and 19 November 1852, #06422.
30. Probably JW's portrait by William Boxall (1800-1879), portrait painter and director of the National Gallery. See AMW to Joseph Harrison, 25 June 1849, #07633.
31. Rev. Roswell Park (1807-1869), minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Principal of Christ Church school.
32. George ('Georgie') Worthen Whistler (b. 1851), JW's nephew.
33. 'I ... them' continues in the left margin of p. 1; 'I leave ... is' continues in the right margin of p. 1; 'often ... irresistible' continues in the left margin of p. 2; 'This ... answer' continues in the right margin; 'George ... me' continues in the right margin of p. 3; 'Jan ... Seymour' continues in p. 4; 'Write ... AMW' continues in the upper margin of p. 1.
34. 'Cadet ... Point' cross-written on p. 4.
35. Eliza Isabella Winstanley (1788-1857), née McNeill, JW's aunt, his mother's half-sister, and her husband John Winstanley (1776-1859), solicitor, JW's uncle.
36. 'and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted,' Luke 14.11 and 18.14.

System Number: 07640

Date: 21 and 22 February 1853

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: London

Recipient: [Margaret Getfield Hill and Alethea Blanchard Hill]²

Place: Scarsdale

Repository: Library of Congress

Call Number: Manuscript Division, Pennell-Whistler Collection, PWC 34/45-50

Document Type: ALS

62 Sloane St

Feb 21st 1853 Monday afternoon

My own dear friend

Yours³ of 25th Jan I recd the day after mine to dear Mr Popham⁴ was despatched to Boston. My good friend Lt Scriven⁵ has written to tell me he is ordered to sail in the Africa⁶ next Saturday & will hand on my packet⁷ to your girls, his repeating visit to Scarsdale proved that he appreciated the blessings at all seasons abounding around St James the Less⁸. he saw the portrait of my boys⁹ & thanks God for sparing such promising branches to flourish at my sweet cottage. Oh Margaret were it not that by experience I am admonished not to form bright expectations for this uncertain life how naturally should I indulge in reveries of the welcome back to me & my boys from you all! the added blessing of so near & dear a neighbour as Mrs W Hill¹⁰ & her family circle would render me the more eager. To be within sound of familiar voices at the Cottage¹¹! never to be solitary there again! Do not dear Blanche¹² when Aunt Margaret tells you her old friend feels truly that we have no continuing place of abode on earth, suppose she looks despondingly [sic] on the future, but rather believe she has such reliance on the love of our Lord as to cast the future upon His wise Providence. He has answered my petition for my brother¹³ [p. 2] on his wintry passage in the Atlantic, the Baltic¹⁴ which reached Liverpool Sat morning reports that steamer entering N York when it left. The Africa I hope may bring me a letter from him. What tempestuous weather is reported from sea! Such a sad shipwreck¹⁵ & loss of life off Dublin lately! Ah we may indeed pray to be spared sudden death! tho to live prepared by faith in our Saviour disarms all fear.

Again dear Margaret have yourself & Sisters¹⁶ been called to sympathise in the loss of a precious & tender parent¹⁷ in one of your family circles, but death proved no terror to her whose vacant place will remind her children that Jesus is also bidding them to make ready & is saying "Come up hither¹⁸" she has gone home. I know how to pity the solitary one left, for his loss is irreparable, how thankful your brother must be that the lessons of the mother have been so early imparted to her eldest girl¹⁹, that no other separation will be required, tho your dear unselfish Sarah would not have hesitated had it been appointed her. I thank our merciful Lord we are not to lose her from Scarsdale. Lent has an added solemnity by this fresh mourning in your family. I could wish myself & boys profiting by it in midst. Most distinctly do I recollect your [p. 3] Sister Caroline's call at the Cottage & how pleased she was at your success in the Church & all the improvements. she was bright on earth, & even in the mortal struggles you are permitted to think of her spirit as undimmed by any doubt of entering an eternal day. I sometimes go with a member of Dr Cummings²⁰ Church to hear him preach & should have been a delighted listener yesterday but for Influenza making it prudent that I keep the house till it is subdued, or the weather moderates. Rose Haden²¹ who went in my place says she never heard such a sermon, his text was The finger of God²². We are having a course of Lental discourses at our regular place of

worship in Sloane St on Wednesday & I hope not to lose any of them. I went for my first visit to the British Museum last week & spent four hours most satisfactorily. Rose H is so obliging, & has since prepared for me a rare treat which my cough prevents, an Oratorio at Exeter Hall, the Messiah I have always wished to hear. Debo²³ & I would have gone quietly together but tho it is the only place of recreation I would have attended, it must be to my security to resign it as I do without sensible loss, for I shall have a tête à tête with my own Debo, who craves me as her shadow, she has too long neglected calls in which I have no interest, so hearing me say I must begin to write by Lt S she has left me to you, & her love to be enclosed with mine to all the dear Scarsdale circle. she certainly is [p. 4] stronger than she was, her nursery being restored to health & babys²⁴ new nurse so capable of the care as well as nourishing him, Debo may leave home (a half days journey) with me to visit neices [sic] of Mr Winstanley²⁵ who are delightfully situated at Leamington & who invite us to spend a week or more on my route to Preston next month. Little Seymour²⁶ talks of his birthday party of little cousins when he will be three years old next Monday, & my plan had been to set out the end of next week, but dear Debo pleads that to hear of me till May & not to see me will be so tantalizing that I agreed to linger this March here & at Leamington. I hope to describe Kenilworth²⁷ to the girls as engravened [sic] on memory as it & Warwick are within distance of drives of the pleasant residence we aim to visit.

I should make no excursions but for the pleasure of talking about when settled quietly down. I went to the B. Museum in association with dear Willie's visiting it when he was last here & one evening accompanied Debo & her husband²⁸ to an old bachelor friend who invited us for the extraordinary treat of Turners paintings, that I might enjoy the retrospect with my Cadet, Oh how I wished for him, he never can except at Mr Stokes²⁹ see such a collection, from the artists first effort at 16 years, to his meridian.

[p. 5] Had my dear brother given me notice of his leaving London for N Y, to allow me to collect my thoughts, I had then sent by him what may not be as welcome when Lt Scriven arrives at Scarsdale, to your faithful servitors, for I cannot wish the perishing frost to continue to April & they are so hardy a race they may laugh at the New Years gloves which I hoped would have been serviceable. Bell & Topsey³⁰ will value theirs for love to Mrs W, & Coachman Jim³¹ will not despise his in his early & late trips to & fro the Depot. The pruning knife for Mr Popham's gardener will I hope prove useful, & I'd run the risk of cutting love out of warm Irish hearts & send five instead of one sample if I could. It will be time ere I return to arrange about half of a gardener for the Cottage with Mr Carmer³², but you dear Margaret will be my adviser in all that ought to be my part.

I fear I must not venture to risk health to undertake even the Labors I could not avoid last summer, the use of my right hand in any extra-effort acts injuriously upon the weak spot, tho it is disappearing & certainly the care bestowed on my recovery, promotes it, then again entre-nous, the expenses of my return & the unavoidable here, will demand all I can draw till April, but I trust my dear boys holidays will not interfere with our making both ends meet upon [p. 6] our united ^{means a} hundred dollars a month, you will as my own Sister would do advise with dear good Mr Popham about the cottage garden & the Cow, if you judge I ought not avail of such a share of their dairy as your dear sister accommodated me with last summer, I know your tact & that my delicacy will not be infringed, so dearest & best of earthly friends I trust to you, not to take advantage of the disinterestedly neighbourly feeling of Mr & Mrs P or to spare me beyond what I can meet, for the improvement of the cottage grounds or the comfort & independence which I ought to maintain in the home of my boys. I have the promise of some strawberry plants as germs & [I] shall collect what small variety I may in my visits to other cottage gardens in England, not forgetting the wall flower, mignonette³³ & pansie seeds dear Mrs P made a memorandum on my hearts tablets at parting for her parterre & mine. I walk thro Covent Garden

Market 2 miles off, each time I go to hear Mr Cummings, my escort pointed to the Theatre & to the Chapel as the poison & the anti dote. I hear from my dear Sister weekly, Sister Alicia³⁴ calculates upon being all April & May till I embark in that month with one day & night. How much more all make of me than I merit! the day I was at the [p. 7] Museum, Debo was so wishful for me to hear little Seymour lamenting Grandma W's absence! little Annie³⁵ calls herself my sleeping fellow, these two darlings are with me usually from times of family devotion one on each side as I conduct it, till after babys nap. & now he is learning from me to play "tee roches"³⁶ & ["]pat a cake" & springs into my arms, I shall find it a trial to part!

Tuesday afternoon 22nd

Debo has gone in to Grandma Haden³⁷ with little A & S to spend a few hours, their first tea there since their convalescence, but two little cousins from France & their Mama are spending the day there. I enjoy being alone with you my beloved friend tho I would never banish other loved ones if you really were coming to the cottage to spend an afternoon, We have had as incessant snow this month as rain all the proceeding. I am thankful for reasonable weather, tho confined by Influenza in consequence. The novelty of the Serpentine being frozen caused many to venture too soon last week as skaters, but the victims by drowning did not deter sabbath breaking & several of both sexes punished on Sunday. I fancy the youth of our happy valley enjoying this month in sleighing & coasting & that even little darling Willie & Harry are delighted at Winter scenes, but in London where even snow is sooted as it falls no exhilarating feelings meet it, for our children dislike it, & the poor shudder at the cold, because not prepared to meet it as in our country. Have I reported to you how attentive is Col Colt³⁸ (of the [p. 8] revolver) in furnishing me with American News, apples &c? his neice [sic] has a full share of my sympathy, because she is a stranger & out of health, she is in her 18th year, & thro my friends I have procured her a governess, but Seymour Haden has been called in to prescribe for her & I am sure she will meet with more permanent benefit at his hands, than I can ever have in my power, tho I promise myself the pleasure of welcoming her to Scarsdale as my guest, that some of my obligation may be cancelled, she has a warm & grateful nature, is touched by the suffering of the poor in this vast multitude & joins us in relieving families from her own purse. I resolve every time I am met without pennies daily to prepare for the appeals as Sir F Head³⁹ did in his tour thro Ireland. Have you read it? so very recent & satisfactory. Debo & I generally read aloud two hours after ten over our work, she is at chochet⁴⁰ for Kate Prince⁴¹ to send by me now. I fear that favourite of mine will not realize her farm at Scarsdale, it is well however that others as interested in the church are settling around you & I doubt not Mr P will be strengthened to carry out his beneficent schemes for public good. Think how encouraged Mr & Mrs Cole⁴² must feel by the improved condition of Naashota⁴³! & our Bee will be in full force next summer I hope to increase aid in proportion⁴⁴ to increased number of students at N. Thanks for the [E. G?] you sent me. [p. 9] I often wish for time to write our favourite Annie D.⁴⁵ & I owe Mrs Wilkinson & Dr Park⁴⁶, but my hours are all claimed. I am thought to rise early at seven, but I am thankful my chamber has an eastern aspect, & I never shut out the light of the firmament

Margaret dear I rejoice to feel my tastes & habits growing more & more like my mothers. How often my reveries are of Pomfret & of St Petersburg you may judge. as at this season I review my pilgrimage, my mother⁴⁷ at the sunset hour at prayer in the loneliness of her chamber leads me at that hour for meditation to mine, what a relief to pray for my boys! How joyous poor Annie⁴⁸ must have looked on Xmas day at the Commemoration of the love of Jesus. I can see her beaming expression. My love to her & tell her how glad I shall be to see her baby growing such a source of comfort to them all. Your report of the brother of dear Sarah's friend is very interesting, his sisters I am sure can resign his happiness to such a loving Lord. Say to all who ask after my return that by the divine blessing I yearn for your welcome to the cottage early in June. In my

plans I reserved the first week after my arrival to Kate at the Corner house⁴⁹ & that I hope may be by the 24th of May. And yet friends around Lancashire are writing me for a fortnight at so many places I know not how to manage to satisfy them & Debo. I wrote George⁵⁰ by last Sat Steamer. No letter yet from my dear Kate, I must get you again to [p. 10] send her my remembrance. Is there anything I can do for any of you in England? Do not let any one suppose I forget because names are not mentioned. I trust this will find you all in health & that a bright spring may attend Mr Cornells⁵¹ buildings & the gardens & farm, I rejoice to think that the improvement in Steam navigation will increase the demand for Anthracite. Remember me to our pastor & his worthy help meet. Love to all your girls, kisses to the little ones & cordial greetings to the blessed family at the cottage from

It⁵² is a cause of thankfulness that dear old Mrs Jarvis is so resigned. Seymour has a patient who sends for him every night because so afraid of death.

your attached

Anna W.

M.G.H

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. The recipients are evidently Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY; she lived at Scarsdale, NY, and her niece Alethea Blanchard Hill (see below).
3. Letter not extant.
4. William Sherbrooke Popham (1793-1885), merchant.
5. Lieutenant Scriven, naval officer and missionary.
6. AMW probably misspelled the French word *paquet*, packet.
7. Steamer *Africa* (1850-1868), Cunard Line (2,226 tons.); see AMW to JW, 13 November 1851, #06406.
8. St James the Less, church at Scarsdale, consecrated in June 1851; see AMW to Margaret G. Hill, 24 December 1852, #07639.
9. Emile-Francois Dessain (1808-1882), painter and printmaker did a pastel drawing of JW and his brother, *Portrait of William McNeill Whistler and James McNeill Whistler* (z.221).
10. Jane Hill (1802-1872), née Clarkson, wife of W. S. Hill.
11. The cottage at Scarsdale, NY, owned by Margaret G. Hill, in which AMW lived intermittently between 1852 and 1857.
12. Alethea Blanchard Hill (1838-1908), daughter of J. and W. S. Hill, Margaret G. Hill's niece.
13. William Gibbs McNeill (1800-1853), railway engineer, JW's uncle.
14. Sister Steamers *Atlantic*, and *Baltic* (1849), Collins Line (2,860 tons.); see *The Times*, London, 19 February 1853, no. 21,356, p. 5, and 21 January 1853, no. 21,331, p. 1.
15. The shipwreck of the steamer *Queen Victoria*, which occurred on 15 February 1853 near Howth, due to bad weather conditions. Out of 120 people aboard few managed to escape by getting upon the rocks at Howth; see *The Times*, London, 17 February 1853, no. 21,354, p. 5.

16. Jane O'Neill Hill (1793-1882), married William S. Popham, and Sarah Stewart Hill (1800-1864), sisters of Margaret Getfield Hill of Scarsdale.
17. Caroline Gertrude Hill (1814-1852), née Hammeken, wife of C. M. Hill.
18. 'Come up hither and I will show thee,' Rev. 4.1.
19. Eliza Adelaide Hill (1835-1886), daughter of C. G. and C. M. Hill, later wife of J. T. Carpenter.
20. Dr Henry Irwin Cummings, clergyman. His church was St Alban's Rectory, Wood Street, Cheapside, London EC; see *Crockford's Clerical Directory*, London, 1860, p. 147.
21. Rosamund ('Rose') Horsley, née Haden, sister of F. S. Haden.
22. 'And the Lord said unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch out thy rod, and smite the dust of the land, that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt. And they did so; for Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod, and smote the dust of the earth, and it became lice in man, and in beast; all the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt. And the magicians did so with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not: so there were lice upon man, and upon beast. Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the Lord had said.' Exod. 8.16-19.
23. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
24. Arthur Charles Haden (1852-1910), musician, JW's nephew.
25. John Winstanley (1776-1859), solicitor, JW's uncle.
26. Francis Seymour Haden (1850-1918), JW's nephew.
27. AMW visited Kenilworth and Warwick Castle, some time in late March, early April 1852; see AMW to JW, 7 April 1853, #06426. Warwick Castle, residence of the earls of Warwick, in Warwick town, county of Warwickshire, England. Warwick grew up at a crossing place on the River Avon and was fortified in about 915. The ruins of Kenilworth refer to the Kenilworth Castle, in Warwickshire, England, which was established by Geoffrey de Clinton, Chamberlain to Henry I, c. 1122-25. Guys Cliff is a hamlet at Warwick, England, a famous historic location. Guys Tower is one of its many attractions, named after the legendary Guy of Warwick, dominating the Warwick castle and the surrounding countryside.
28. Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), surgeon and etcher, JW's brother-in-law.
29. Charles Stokes (1785-1853), stockbroker and art collector. Stokes collected watercolours and Old Master prints, but Turner formed the core of his collection; see Evelyn Joll, Martin Butlin and Luke Herrmann, eds., *The Oxford companion to J. M. W. Turner*, Oxford, 2001, pp. 309-310.
30. Probably Billo Johnson (b. 1815), W. S. Popham's servant, and Eliza (d. 1856), a servant of Kate Livermore; see AMW to Margaret G. Hill, 24 December 1852, #07639.
31. Jim, a coachman at Scarsdale, NY.
32. Probably Charles Whitehead Carmer (1811-1883), merchant.
33. Mignonette, sweet-scented plant, native to North Africa, with yellowish-green flowers and abundant foliage; it is widely cultivated.
34. Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), JW's aunt.

35. Annie Harriet Haden (1848-1937), later Mrs Charles Thynne, JW's niece.
36. Presumably a children's game; see AMW to William McNeill Whistler, 27 February 1853, #06425.
37. Emma Haden, née Harrison, mother of JW's brother-in-law, F. S. Haden.
38. Samuel Colt (1814-1862), inventor, manufacturer.
39. Sir Francis Head (1793-1875), colonial governor and writer. In August 1852 Head made a short trip to Ireland to observe and write on Irish life and people; this resulted in *A Fortnight in Ireland*, London, 1852. Despite AMW's praise of the book, Head's work received unfavorable reviews. The Irish were unhappy with him because he used his popular name in the production of 'twaddle facts,' and the *Irish Quarterly Review* commented that everything Head had written was quite to be expected. 'There was no Englishman who had not some theory of his own regarding Ireland and its misery.' See Sydney Jackman, *Gallop Head, the life of the Right Honourable Sir Francis Bond Head*, London, 1958, pp. 141-142.
40. A knitting technique.
41. Kate ('Cousin Kate') Livermore (1820-1907), daughter of J. D. Prince and wife of A. Livermore.
42. Mr and Mrs Cole of Scarsdale, NY.
43. Nashotah House, WI, Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church, founded in 1842, and incorporated in 1847 as a 'College of learning and piety.' Its mission was the preparation of men and women for ministries in the Catholic Tradition. See *Nashotah House*, @ <http://www.nashotah.edu/>.
44. 'portion ... me' continues in the left margin of p. 5.
45. Probably Annie Davis (b. 1839), of Scarsdale, NY.
46. Mrs Wilkinson, neighbour of AMW at Pomfret, CT, and Rev. Roswell Park (1807-1869), minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Principal of Christ Church school.
47. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
48. Annie; unidentified
49. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt; she lived with her husband Dr George E. Palmer at the Old Corner House, built in 1787, situated in the corner of Main and Wall Streets at Stonington, CT.
50. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
51. William Haviland Cornell (b. 1777), farmer at Scarsdale, NY.
52. 'It ... your' written in the left and upper margin of p. 1; 'attached ... W' continues in the right margin.

System Number: 06425

Date: 27 February 1853

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: London

Recipient: William McNeill Whistler²

Place: Maryland

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W420

Document Type: ALS³

62 Sloane St

Feb 27th 1853 / The Lords day evening

My own precious Willie

My thoughts have not separated [from] you in aught which has interested me since reading your last, Janry report, recd yesterday morning, & after listening to a most instructive sermon from Doct Cummings⁴ today, I resolved to try to sum up for your benefit what memory could aid me in, before seeking rest. But naturally you will desire a home sketch to greet you in response to your college notes. George⁵ enclosed them in a very interesting letter from himself to Sis⁶, in which he also sent one from Mrs Ducatel⁷ describing his sweet little G W W⁸. Sis is so wishful to see her darling nephew here among her trio⁹, I do hope George may bring him over to England, little Seymour looks at his Daguerreotype¹⁰ that I brought - & says so fondly "this is little cousin George & Grandmama Ducatel" it would take more than this sheet Willie were I to attempt the anecdotes of the children here, which memory will treasure up for our walks on the cottage piazza. I have succeeded in getting Annie & S. to substitute bible stories, pictures & hymns, for toys on the Lords day. little S, however petitioned me just for his whip this morning, but I said no this is the Lords day! which he tried to prove to me I was mistaken in, I began counting Annies fingers to shew her the six play - days, which so diverted him, he came to my knee begging me to count his, then put his arms around my neck & kissing me of his own accord said "I promise you Grandmama I will not ask for my toys on the Lords day" he is a most affectionate child, & now as much as Annie clings to me. it will be a hard struggle for me to leave them, the sweet baby too, so like Sis! gentle & pretty, is getting to know us & to do his lessons in "teerochey"¹¹ pat a cake & to play & laugh, he is six months old, & is quite revived [p. 2] tho he has been the slowest in recovering from the illness which alarmed us for all three in Janry. the unusual cold weather during Febry has confined them to the house, but they have the change of rooms from nursery to whichever parlor Mama & I sit in, & their dances to her piano¹², little S is perpetual motion & Annie merry enough tho she likes to sew besides Grandmama, exemplifying the rhyme she repeats daily, "work while you work, play while you play, that's the way to be happy & gay"¹³ &c - I received a letter from Uncle Genl Swift¹⁴ dated Brooklyn, providentially he was staying at Cousin Josie's¹⁵, upon dear Uncle McNeills¹⁶ arrival, who had on the voyage jaundice & was too feeble to write me, Oh Willie dear you dont know how ill the dear father of Jacks¹⁷ looked when he left England! Aunt Alicia¹⁸ who met him at Liverpool & went on board the Atlantic¹⁹ writes me she is haunted by his shadowy form & palid [sic] face. I often think of his tenderness to me while I was tete a tete [sic] at his lodgings, & on my solitary return walks my prayers & tears mingled silently for blessings on him. his face was covered with fond emotion when we parted, & shall I ever ever [sic] hear him "think aloud" to me again! he is in the keeping of our Heavenly Father, whose ears are open to my prayers for his happiness. Gen'l Swift writes me I would be gratified & consoled to hear my brother's religious

sentiments as he converses confidentially to him, he was very anxious to get back & as I was packing his trunks he uttered his yearnings to be with Genl Swift again! "The finger of God"²⁰ was Doctor Cummings text today, you know dear Willie I have long seen the Invisible hand leading every event for us. This old friend being at Brooklyn on my invalids arrival was not accidental, but providential, as was my coming to London for this season, & your discipline at St James²¹ appointed in infinite wisdom tho you do not perceive the necessity, our Lord who has traced all your path of duty guides you with His eye, leads you by His hand!

[p. 3] Sis is pleased you are polishing your German at your music lessons, & thinks how charmed your master must be to talk it with you. Oh Willie, if you could know how your report of conquering your weakness & improving your time & talents cheers me, you'd have the beginning of your reward. I find no fault with your yearnings for home, I should lament if you were indifferent to the few of us left on earth being scattered! for ah how tenderly sensitive I feel my absence from my loved sons, but the belief that God has ordered this for us to rejoice together in on our reunion ought to cheer us. Genl Swift records another death at which Sis & I were touched, from Cousin Louisa Adams²²! he & Capt S²³, had gone to Springfield to attend her funeral on the 19th of Janry. she was a solitary one whose happiness I tried to contribute to, I was thinking to write her, & Sis was talking of what she should send her by me. it is a pity to delay to do good, & I regret poor Louisa was prevented visiting our cottage²⁴, tho you know it was because of my expecting little Georgie all summer. By the last N Y papers I saw the death of old Mrs Jarvis²⁵ at Scarsdale, we shall see changes notching the months of our absence when we meet there! but these must only admonish us to improve time

Thursday March 3rd.

Letters from those faithful friends Genl Swift & Margaret Hill²⁶ have this morning announced to me my loss of a brother dearer to me than words can express! oh how he loved my boys! you have lost a second father, Willie dearest, you are his name boy, you must use all your ability to keep it bright, not to dazzle in the path of worldly ambition! but with the steady light of piety & truth, the halo of Christs love on your heart, irradiating your path, shewing your supreme love to Him, by resisting temptation in any shape to dishonor your Christian name. Were I not looking to that home eternal in the heavens, where my dear brother has so soon followed Aunt Maria & Grandmother²⁷, I should be overwhelmed by grief. But the tender mercies of our Almighty Father mingled in this fresh warning to me "to be also ready"²⁸ makes me thankful [p. 4] I have sympathised with my brother in his longings to get home! our compassionate God gratified his natural desire & it is sweet now to me to think of his thankfulness for it, at home, encircled by children, fond relatives & friends he said he would go to sleep! & it was to awake in happiness eternal! How many sleepless nights he spent in his solitude at Edith Grove²⁹! I have many notes from him to testify. How beautifully & neatly he wrote - do not neglect his hints that you should improve your caligraphy, you express your ideas well & attention to this now will save you trouble by & bye. One of the thoughts I had in my attempt to let you share the benefit I have derived in hearing one of the most distinguished preachers of our time, was, the advantage a cultivated & refined mind has in explaining the Scriptures, it is not the poetry of religion, for he is a laborer, & seeks only his Master's glory! but his taste for music, his love of flowers, his purity & elevation of feeling - gives a poetry to his similies [sic] making truth charming to all who hear him. Willie dear now is your time for enriching your mind. that you may become an enlightened christian, to captivate for Christ many to seek first His Kingdom & service. I must tell you how³⁰ considerate [are] all under this roof for me in my sorrow, I am in my own room, Seymour³¹ first came to express his sympathy, dear Sis to weep with me, the little ones are in their nursery that I may be quiet, Our united love is felt for all God bless you my dear home boy!

be happy, go to the loving Saviour in all your weakness & you will find grace & strength for every time of need in prayer unite with

your devoted

Mother

Jacks dear, read this & enclose it in a few words at least to this fond brother of yours. lose no time

Envelope:

[Address panel:]

William G McN Whistler
St James College
Maryland

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother
3. There is a taped piece of paper inscribed: 'Willie W.'
4. Dr Henry Irwin Cummings, clergyman; see AMW to Margaret G. Hill, 21 and 22 February 1853, #07640.
5. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
6. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
7. Mrs Ducatel, mother-in-law of George William Whistler.
8. George ('Georgie') Worthen Whistler (b. 1851), JW's nephew.
9. Arthur Charles Haden (1852-1910), musician, and Francis Seymour Haden (1850-1918), JW's nephews; Annie Harriet Haden (1848-1937), later Mrs Charles Thynne, JW's niece.
10. Daguerreotype, untraced; see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 11 June 1849, #07627.
11. Presumably a children's game; see AMW to Margaret G. Hill, 21 and 22 February 1853, #07640.
12. See AMW to Joseph Harrison, 11 June 1849, #07627.
13. Children's rhyme.
14. General Joseph Gardner Swift (1783-1865), first graduate of USMA, West Point, NY, chief engineer of US Army, JW's father's brother-in-law.
15. Louisa Josephine ('cousin Josee') Richards (1821-1859), née Swift, wife of P. Richards.
16. William Gibbs McNeill (1800-1853), railway engineer, JW's uncle.
17. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
18. Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), JW's aunt.

19. Steamer *Atlantic* (1850), Collins Line (2,860 tons.); see AMW to Margaret G. Hill, 21 and 22 February 1853, #07640.
20. See AMW to Margaret G. Hill, 21 and 22 February 1853, #07640.
21. St James College, located near Williamsport, MD; see AMW to JW, 12 September 1852, #06419.
22. Louisa ('cousin') Adams (1813-1853); see 'Died,' *Springfield Daily Republican*, 22 January 1853, vol. 10, no. 19.
23. Captain William Henry Swift (1800-1879), brother-in-law of JW's father.
24. AMW's cottage at Scarsdale, NY.
25. Mrs Jarvis (d. 1853), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY.
26. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY.
27. Maria Matilda McNeill, née Camman (d. Jan. 1852), JW's aunt, and wife of W. G. McNeill, and her mother-in-law Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
28. Probably 'Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not,' Luke 12.40
29. Edith Grove, Brompton Road, London. AMW's brother was struck by illness when he was on a vocational visit to England.
30. 'how ... all' continues in the left and upper margins of p. 1; 'God ... weakness' continues in the right margin; 'and ... Mother' continues in the left margin of p. 2; 'Jacks ... time' continues on p. 4.
31. Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), surgeon and etcher, JW's brother-in-law.

System Number: 06426

Date: 7 April 1853

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Preston

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W421

Document Type: ALS

Preston in the dining room

Thursday April 7th. 1853

My truant but dear boy

Jemie³. Your widowed Mother never measures your love of her by your letters, tho she laments her deprivation of an exchange of such welcome proofs of remembrance.

Before I indulge you with sketches of England I must lead you back to the memory of your father⁴, oh that you would on the return of this sacred & solemn anniversary read his last thoughts of "Jemie my boy!" And resolve to fulfil his hopes, decision will make it easy, he is not dead to us, do you not hear his tender tones of earnest love encouraging your piety & truth? When no human voice may disturb the meditation "on guard"⁵ oh be aroused dearest Jemie to redeem your time & improve your talents that you may look back upon a well spent life, & that you may reward the anxiety of your brother George & your fond Sis & Seymour⁶ by being a good example to their children⁷. When I pray for you that you may listen to the admonitions from the grave, & from the friends of your father yet spared to remind you of his honorable & honest career, [p. 2] I most earnestly implore the influences invisible, the still small voice⁸ upon the softened heart & the tender conscience, I often hear your sleeping supplication, to the Holy Spirit "Stay thou insulted Spirit, stay"⁹! Oh my son, the groanings of that waiting One knocking at your heart cannot be uttered! Grieve Him not to leave you alone! to your idols¹⁰ self & vanity. Jemie dear it is my wish for the happiness you are building hopes of, that impels me to give you this fresh warning to begin upon the only sure foundation. Religion is not gloomy, it secures your enjoyment of every thing not hurtful to spiritual or bodily health.

I do not allow the last report I recd of you (thro Genl Swifts¹¹ letter to Sis which she sent me here to read - to Mar my comfort in this good old home, for I put you under the care of the Lord daily & seek His blessing for you, Grandmothers¹² last words were "I will fear no evil for Thou art with me"¹³ this is the effect of believing in Christs love as exceeding that of a Mother. You had had a feverish attack so Mr Kirkwood¹⁴ who had seen you in the hospital reported & when I read in one of your notes to your brother George which he sent [p. 3] me in lieu of any from you to myself - how mercifully you were shielded from "the brute"¹⁵ whose kick might have sent you into eternity, the thrill which a mothers tenderness excited in fear, melted into thankfulness, thro trust in the hearer of prayer. Jemie dear while preparing for your June examination let it advance you in a serious consideration of your future course. I shall not tax your time to answer this unless it be to welcome my return to "the corner house"¹⁶ I make no plans, but aunts E & A¹⁷ will be less anxious about my voyage if I go in the April or the 7th of May, because Capt Harrison¹⁸ has always been so attentive me, much as they dread the parting, I doubt not the Lord will order my way as He never fails to shew me He guides us with His eye, & disposes hearts & hands to help on. I have just heard from Lt Scriven¹⁹ of the talks he had on his late voyage from

N Y in the Africa²⁰ with "a nice gentlemanly graduate from W Point young Dwight²¹" I dare say you envied him his prospects of travel, but yours are bright for Scarsdale. I hope we shall not forget the indulgence of our Father in heaven if we are permitted to enjoy a holiday there. Lt Scriven always visits Mr P-s²² family & writes me at the end of every voyage at Liverpool. you will be delighted with him I hope [p. 4] when he visits us at the Cottage²³ & he with you! I went to Kirby²⁴ last friday with little Johnie Picard²⁵ & Aunt & spent three days there pleasantly, thought of Willie²⁶ & Jemie at the river side when you fished Minnies²⁷ - all remember my lads fondly. Aunt A goes with me to visit the Smiths at Hope Farm²⁸ next week, & after that we are to have a pleasant time at Leyland Lodge for a few days, this home the rallying point! I must keep for one moonlight at Scarsdale a recital of the enjoyment Sis & I had, a fortnight at Leamington, three bright days availed of for going to Warwick Castle, the ruins of Kenilworth & Guys Cliff²⁹.

Perhaps my Cadet will like to listen to mother reading Scott's, Kenilworth³⁰ while Jemie uses the drawing materials Seyr intends me to take him I shall promote holiday recreations in the lives of my dear sons, & hope to win little Georgies³¹ love too by entering into his childish pleasures if permitted to. The ocean which so many fear to trust themselves upon discourages not our hopes of embracing, The Lord will never forsake us. My only care is to prepare for either haven infinite Wisdom may appoint. Our heavenly Guide separates & scatters us to make us lean on Him who is able to unite us. Uncle W³² is kinder then ever, he asked what news from Jemie when he welcomed me back after my winters absence, but I had to confess you have³³ no time to write your Mother. I have had several letters, monthly reports of St James³⁴ from Willie, & feel it time to expect another[.] your Aunts & Uncle & friends unite in love to you. My blessings & the blessings of God be ever with you dear Jemie. Remember me to our friends the Bartletts & Weirs³⁵ & to Childs³⁶.

Your fond Mother

My health is greatly improved, but it is not to be wished I should be ever without warning that we all do fade as the leaf! My life I trust is in Christ, Jesus imperishable, my brother³⁷ reached his home to see his children³⁸ & then go to Grandmother & Aunt Maria³⁹. how thankful I am in thinking over our intercourse in London! he hoped to have seen you & Willie for he loved you as his own boys. If you try to be all he desired & would have urged you to become it will be as your father wished. love & be advised of the love of your widowed Mother

A M W

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
3. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
4. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father; this was the 4th anniversary of his death.
5. Probably AMW is thinking of JW when on guard duty at West Point. JW drew a related subject in *The Three Cadets* (M.120), and *The Guard Tents* (M.121).
6. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother, his sister Deborah Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler and her husband Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), surgeon and etcher.

7. Francis Seymour Haden (1850-1918), his brother Arthur Charles Haden (1852-1910), musician, and their sister Annie Harriet Haden (1848-1937), later Mrs Charles Thynne; JW's nephews and niece.
8. 'And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.' 1 Kings 19.1.2
9. 'Stay, thou insulted Spirit, stay,' penitential Hymn written by Charles Wesley (1707-1788), clergyman, poet and hymn writer; see AMW to JW, 6 August 1851, #06398.
10. Probably it derives from 'Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me,' John 16.32, and 'Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I am the Lord your God,' Lev. 19.4.
11. General Joseph Gardner Swift (1783-1865), first graduate of USMA, West Point, NY, chief engineer of US Army, JW's father's brother-in-law.
12. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
13. 'Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.' Ps. 23.4.
14. Kirkwood; unidentified.
15. Probably it derives from 'But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption.' 2 Pet. 2.12. See also 'But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.' Jude 1.10. It is possible that AMW is referring to an illness.
16. The house owned by Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer, built in 1787, situated in the corner of Main and Wall Streets at Stonington, CT.
17. Eliza Isabella Winstanley (1788-1859), née McNeill, and Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), AMW's half-sisters.
18. Captain William Harrison, sea captain. AMW sailed on 7 May 1853, from Liverpool to New York, in the *Africa*; see AMW to Catherine Cammann, 27 and 28 April 1853, #07641. AMW's arrival in New York, was reported in the *New York Herald*, Friday, 20 May 1853, vol. 2, no. 522, p. 8.
19. Lieutenant Scriven, naval officer and missionary; see AMW to Margaret G. Hill, 21 and 22 February 1853, #07640.
20. Steamer *Africa* (1850-1868), Cunard Line (2,226 tons.); see AMW to JW, 13 November 1851, #06406.
21. William Dwight, Jr (1831-1888), fellow-student of JW at West Point. According to Cullum's *Register of Graduates*, Dwight did not graduate in 1853.
22. Probably William Sherbrooke Popham (1793-1885), merchant.
23. AMW's cottage at Scarsdale, NY.
24. Kirby Lonsdale, the birth place of Richard Stuart Picard, husband of Elizabeth Winstanley, AMW's sister-in-law; see AMW to JW, 3 October 1848, #06367, and 10 and 11 February 1852, #06410.

25. Johnie Picard, son of E. and R. S. Picard.
26. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
27. Tom Smith, engineer and his wife Mary, lived at Hope Farm, Shropshire.
28. Probably Minnow, small fresh water fish; a small European fish of the carp family.
29. See AMW to Margaret G. Hill, 21 and 22 February 1853, #07640.
30. Walter Scott, *Kenilworth*, 1821.
31. George ('Georgie') Worthen Whistler (b. 1851), JW's nephew.
32. John Winstanley (1776-1859), solicitor, JW's uncle.
33. 'you have ... you' continues in the left and upper margins of p. 1; 'my ... Jemie' continues in the right margin; 'Remember ... Mother' continues in the left margin of p. 2; 'my ... ever' continues in the right margin; 'without ... trust' continues in the left margin of p. 3; 'is ... to' continues in the right margin; 'see ... AMW' continues in the left margin of p. 4, cross-written.
34. St James College, located near Williamsport, MD, on the upper reaches of the Potomac River (near the Pennsylvania border); see AMW to JW, 12 September 1852, #06419.
35. The families of Professor William Holmes Chambers Bartlett (1804-1893), mathematician, and of Robert Walter Weir (1803-1889), artist and art teacher at West Point.
36. Frederick Lynn Childs (ca 1831- d. 1894), room-mate of JW at West Point.
37. William Gibbs McNeill (1800-1853), railway engineer, JW's uncle.
38. Louisa McNeill (d. 1840), William Wyatt McNeill (1833-1853), and Henry McNeill (d. 1840), William Gibbs McNeill's children.
39. Maria Matilda McNeill, née Camman (d. Jan. 1852), JW's aunt, and wife of W. G. McNeill.

System Number: 06427

Date: 11 and 13 April 1853

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Preston

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W422

Document Type: ALS³

Preston - dining room

Monday morning April 11th 1853

Uncle W⁴ reading the news. Aunt E⁵ gone out.

My own dear Cadet

This is an extra indulgence to your fond & widowed mother to have a letter from West Point to answer, & I must not lose a mail in advising Willie⁶, lest that young colt break loose from St James⁷ ere I can get back to curb his pranks. When I wrote my three sons⁸ on the anniversary of

their having been left fatherless to my increased responsibility, I could not see clearly as now how soon I must embark to return to them, tho I doubted not the Lord would make plain the time, as well as the path of duty, George is anxious for my return, so now the visit to each friend in the vicinity is curtailed but the disappointment they express is reconcilable thro the interest all feel in the happiness of my Sons. & I shall be ready⁹ for either the U.S. or the Bt steamer¹⁰ the first week in May. It takes all the lessons of forty years experience, of the wisdom & power of the Almighty Ruler of the Universe without whose knowledge not even a sparrow falleth¹¹ - to attain to the calm the christian feels thro all the disturbances which the headlong folly of heedless youth involved my dear Jemie & Willie in. faith & hope in God are not heathen deities as your artistic fancy shapes them, they are the staff of your widowed Mother. When I was about your age dear Jemie with a cousin¹², & friend, younger in Florida, with our future attractive as the scenes upon which we gazed from an old Spanish fort¹³ where we daily awakened echoes of song & laughter, as orange groves & unclouded skies, guitars & Spanish dances & graceful Spanish girls awakened romantic views of this world, my cousin Soph called herself Hope¹⁴ & gave me the name of Faith, she has remained in her letters as we sympathise & are more truly Sister - Cousins than in our girlish years, how appropriate the appellation she had selected for me & in truth it is my daily petition that I may realize it more & more, thus you see in passing thro the deep [p. 2] waters¹⁵, & thro the furnace of affliction I see the Saviour & fear not. I fear nothing but losing sight of Him. Ah Jemie if you would only decide to fulfil your high destiny, & remember your Creator & Redeemer now in the days of your youth you would be saved remorse, one cause of thankfulness I have cherished in all your heedlessness of consequences, that you are honest in owning your sins of omission, but you must not hope to retain value for truth if you neglect the source of it, Pilate¹⁶ had curiosity when he asked what is truth? but his aim was not the Glory of God, he was governed by the breath of human applause! ah Jemie how earnestly I pray for you now while you are "boning for a furlough¹⁷" to welcome my return, it may be on a right system.

Do you not think dearest Jemie that consuming the midnight oil was the cause of a twinge of your old complaint? is not health one of the talents entrusted for you not to waste? I taught my little pets in Sloane St¹⁸ a verse my little boys used to say at my knee "God looks down¹⁹ from heaven on earth our actions to behold & He is pleased when ere we try to do as we are told". We are all only children of a larger growth & must have line upon line, first in gentle words, but as with the boys, the old man, & the apple tree²⁰, stroke after stroke heavy & heavier, till we become obedient & see that our own safety is the motive for restraining us. The military Academy of our native land is a noble institution isn't it Jemie? it will be a "feather in your cap²¹" to have passed thro it wherever you may travel, do you mean to lose this distinction thro indifference to the laws of our rulers? Your remorse will be without avail when you have lost your grade in the esteem of all high minded honorable men. do not tarnish your fathers name, let it not fall upon you to be a scourge to your mother, who cannot be satisfied with the gloss of virtue without its firm basis for building your reputation upon, do not mortify the many friends - won by your fathers rectitude for his sons - you seem not to prize them as I do, but how should you without [p. 3] you recognizing the hand of God in sparing them to you, your brother too! think of George yearning over your wasted time & advantages, feeling that he is in your fathers place to you & Willie, oh what a blessing to have an elder brother! We are few left in our pilgrimage now, little Annie said to me as I talked to her & little Seyr of Kirkie & Charlie²² (examples to them for Remembering the Lords day to keep it holy! & for prayer night & morning) "it seems to me dear Grandmama²³ almost all yours have gone to the heavenly home, & you are left!" Do not put off dear Jemie start gathering yourself by practical piety, to be really a helper & comforter to your mother. I never judge from hear - say now, & your own conscience alone shall accuse you, if your late & irregular pursuits in barrack drove cadet Childs²⁴ from your

room. perhaps those in your corps who condemn him for selfishness do so because he is unyeilding [sic] to what they claim as indulgencies [sic]. If you have read & circulated the sermon I approve of your keeping it, as I intended it for your room. I suppose the L. Ill. News²⁵ was too tempting to escape light readers appropriating it I [...] [sent] more than one to Willie & yourself each. I indulged myself on these for your Xmas & N Years gifts, all in my power which is not hurtful for either of you shall be contributed to your summer, & I will "hope on"²⁶ that my dear boys intend to yeild [sic] to my wishes & advice, tho I look well & am so in the English homes where Sister & friends save me any painful agitation, I am quite aware my disease is sensitive to distress, since writing you the pain from the neck thro the right side has made it a puzzle how to lie down to sleep. Mary B²⁷ writes me she is longing to resume her place at Scarsdale Cottage, her attachment is comforting & I doubt ^{not} you boys will prefer her to a strange servant. but it would hurt me less to work than to hear discontent or disagreement, so I pray each one may rule the passions, that we may have harmony & thankfulness. I am sure I shall feel that it is by divine favor if we all meet in that blessed circle among the Hills²⁸ & I trust we shall be considerate for each others happiness, little darling Georgie²⁹ will be a rival to my flowers, tho I doubt not if I may win him to my ways as I did my pets at 62³⁰, he will cling to me as they. We³¹ shall have such charming neighbors at Grove³² [...] within speaking distance. bone on & merit it. I kept your letter till after morning service yesterday, it did not steal my thoughts from God, tho as some applicable prayer or portion of the bible touched my heart I may say you all three were united in it. I found there's no mid week mail so shall wind this up at Hope farm³³. Adieu for Today

[p. 4] Hope Farm

Wednesday 13th

Aunt A³⁴ & I left Uncle & Aunt W at noon yesterday, they are to visit Kirby³⁵ during our visit here. I had recd a reply from the mail agent of my ship in time for our consultation in the old home, The Africa³⁶ having gone into dry dock Capt Harrison³⁷ will not be leaving until June, so it is probable I may decide to go in the America³⁸ to Boston, but I shall hear further from Liverpool ere I engage my berth. I am not feeling well enough to enjoy all the bounties which the nice larder of the kind friends would tempt you with, but dear Mrs Smith will let me have my Yankee diet of groats, & that with long rural walks will take away the pain in my side, I dare say. All here ask so fondly after Willie & Jemie! I shall be delighted to talk to my boys at our cottage³⁹ of this reviving visit, as I am now to describe the places of our native land you have been with me in, Aunt A send you her love & blessing with mine dearest James. she is writing beside me to Mrs Morgan⁴⁰ as we sympathise with her in her recent bereavement of a dutiful daughter, Miss Isabella⁴¹ died in their Edinburgh house last friday! how anxious Miss Sophie M⁴² will be for the navigation at St P to open that she may get to her widowed & lone mother.

The two nice young ladies here & my friend their Aunt beg room for their remembrances to my Cadet, they tell me that the Earl of Ellesmere⁴³ whose Castle is close by you'll recollect it - is to be the Royal Commissioner⁴⁴ of Queen Victoria for the New York World's Fair. Dont be like the "Milk Maid"⁴⁵ keep steady, plod on & break no rules in your resolve to bone for a furlogh to welcome back your Mother. Pray for me on my voyage, stand in awe of grieving away the holy one who watches over [...] & who can unite us. May the hearer of prayers answer mine for you!

Envelope:

[address panel:]

Cadet James Whistler
Military Academy
West Point N. Y.

BOSTON / 30 / APR

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
3. There are the remains of what seems to have been a red wax seal.
4. John Winstanley (1776-1859), solicitor, JW's uncle.
5. Eliza Isabella Winstanley (1788-1857), née McNeill, JW's aunt, his mother's half-sister.
6. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
7. St James college, located near Williamsport, MD, on the upper reaches of the Potomac River; see AMW to JW, 12 September 1852, #06419.
8. AMW's letter to JW, 7 April 1853, #06426, refers to the anniversary of the death of her husband George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer; he died on 7 April 1849, at St Petersburg, Russia from cholera. The third son mentioned here is George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
9. AMW sailed on 7 May 1853, from Liverpool to New York, in the *Africa* (see below); see AMW to Catherine Cammann, 27 and 28 April 1853, #07641. AMW's arrival in New York, was reported in the *New York Herald*, Friday, 20 May 1853, vol. 2, no. 522, p. 8.
10. Probably the American (Collins Line) or British (Cunard Line) steamer.
11. 'Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father,' Matt. 10.29.
12. Probably Sophia Clinch, née Gibbs, widow of Brig. Gen. Duncan Lamont Clinch (1787-1849), congressman and army officer.
13. Castillo de San Marcos, Florida. The Monument and its surrounding land make up 25 acres in downtown St Augustine, FL, the oldest continually occupied European settlement in what is now the continental United States. It was completed in 1695, and was used as an active military post until 1900. During its career, it has served the Spanish (from 1695 to 1763 and from 1784 to 1821), the British (from 1763 to 1784), the Confederate States of America (from 1861 to March of 1862), and the United States of America (from 1821 to 1861 and 1862 to 1900).
14. 'Hope' and 'Faith' were biblical characters; 'And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.' 1 Cor. 13.1.
15. Probably 'Art thou not it which hath dried the sea, the waters of the great deep; that hath made the depths of the sea a way for the ransomed to pass over?' Isa. 51.10; 'Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction,' Isa. 48.10.
16. Probably a reference to Mark and Luke, 'And Pilate asked him, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answering said unto them, Thou sayest it,' Mark 15.2; 'And Pilate asked him,

saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answered him and said, Thou sayest it,' Luke 23.3.

17. JW did a drawing, 'Boning and Not Boning' in *Cadet Colquitt's Mathematics notebook* (M.98), p. 4; see AMW to JW, 7 July 1852, #06417.

18. Annie Harriet Haden (1848-1937), later Mrs Charles Thynne, Francis Seymour Haden (1850-1918), and Arthur Charles Haden (1852-1910), musician, JW's niece and nephews.

19. Probably a reference to "God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God. Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." Ps. 53.2-3.

20. Possibly a reference to John Chapman ('Johnny Appleseed'), Pennsylvania's great folk-hero. For forty-nine years he roamed the American wilderness, devotedly planting apple trees. The reason for John's mission is unknown, although it is said he dreamed of a land covered with blossoming apple trees; of a land where no one went hungry because apples were plentiful. John's gentleness and courage were legendary. He walked alone in the wilderness, without gun or knife, slept outdoors, and walked barefoot. He made his clothes from sacks and wore a tin pot for a hat (and to cook with). John made his drinking water in winter by melting snow with his feet. Even the people of his time were amazed at his endurance. See Reeve Lindbergh, *Johnny Appleseed, A Poem*, Boston, 1990.

21. *Yankee Doodle*, anonymous song, 'Yankee Doodle came to town, Riding on a pony; Stuck a feather in his cap, And called it Macaroni,' 1755 or earlier. See Nicholas Smith, *Stories of Great National Songs*, New York, 1899, pp. 22-32.

22. Kirk Boott Whistler (1838-1841) and Charles Donald Whistler (1841-1843), JW's brothers.

23. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.

24. Frederick Lynn Childs (ca 1831- d. 1894), room-mate of JW at West Point.

25. *Illustrated London News*, monthly picture magazine of news and the arts, published in London. It was founded as a weekly in 1842. On 26 November AMW directed two copies of the periodical to her sons in the USA. See AMW to JW, 24 and 26 November 1852, #06423.

26. Probably 'Let Israel hope in the Lord from henceforth and for ever.' Ps. 131.3.

27. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.

28. The family of Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY.

29. George ('Georgie') Worthen Whistler (b. 1851), JW's nephew.

30. 62 Sloane Street, the London residence of Deborah Delano Haden.

31. 'We ... it' continues in the right margin of p. 3; 'I ... Today' continues in the left and upper margins of p. 1.

32. Tom Smith, engineer and his wife Mary, lived at Hope Farm, Shropshire.

33. Probably Locust Grove, Scarsdale, NY, mentioned in AMW's letter to JW, 27 [April] 1854, #06441.

34. Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), JW's aunt.

35. Kirby Lonsdale, the birth place of Richard Stuart Picard, husband of Elizabeth Winstanley, AMW's sister-in-law; see AMW to JW, 7 April 1853, #06426.

36. Steamer *Africa* (1850-1868), Cunard Line (2,226 tons.); see AMW to JW, 13 November 1851, #06406.
37. Captain William Harrison, sea captain; see AMW to JW, 7 April 1853, #06426.
38. Steamer *America* (1848), Cunard Line (1,826 tons.); see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 7 July 1849, #07634.
39. AMW's cottage at Scarsdale, NY.
40. Elizabeth Morgan, wife of S. Morgan.
41. Isabella Morgan (1817-1853), daughter of E. and S. Morgan.
42. Sophia Morgan (b. 1825), daughter of E. and S. Morgan.
43. George Granville Francis Egerton (1823-1862), 2nd Earl of Ellesmere (1823-1862). Ellesmere Castle, Shropshire, built in the 11th century by Roger Montgomery. The castle exchanged hands several times up to 1240, then passed to the le Strange family.
44. G. G. F. Egerton was the commissioner of Victoria (1819-1901), Queen of Great Britain, to the 1853 World Fair (Crystal Palace Exhibition). The Fair was held in Manhattan.
45. Probably a reference to a folk tale *The Maid and the Milk Pail*, the moral of which was 'do not count too much on things happening the way you want, because you may be disappointed; see AMW to JW, 6 October 1851, #06403.

System Number: 12608

Date: 26 May 1853

Author: Robert Edward Lee¹

Place: West Point²

Recipient: Anna Matilda Whistler³

Place: Brooklyn

Repository: National Archives, Washington DC

Call Number: Record Group 94

Document Type: MS copy

US Mil. Academy
West Point

26 May 1853

Madam

I regret to inform you, that your son Cadet Jas. A. Whistler⁴ is quite sick. He was taken this day week with an attack of rheumatism⁵, & went into Hospital, where he has remained ever since, under the treatment of the Surgeon⁶. He does not suffer much pain, but his attack does not seem to yield to remedies, & the Surgeon has this morning informed me that he fears his lungs are seriously involved.

Although I knew it would be painful news to communicate to you on your return to the Country, still I thought it right that you should know the apprehensions of the Surgeon, & thus have the opportunity of doing all that was possible, for the present comfort & future benefit of your Son.

You may be assured that he will receive every attention & treatment in our power to bestow

I remain Madam

Yr ob Servt [i.e. Your obedient Servant]

R. E. Lee Br. Sol:

Supt. Mil. Acady

Envelope:

Mrs Anna M. Whistler

Brooklyn N. Y.

Notes:

1. General Robert Edward Lee (1807-1870), Superintendant of USMA, West Point, and later President of the Confederate States of America.
2. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
3. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
4. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
5. Probably Gen. Lee means Pneumonia. Rheumatism is a general disease characterised by painful, often multiple, local inflammations, usually affecting the joints and muscles, but also extending sometimes to the deeper organs, as the heart. Inflammatory rheumatism is acute rheumatism attended with fever, and attacking usually the larger joints, which become swollen, hot, and very painful. Fleming wrote that JW's ailment was diagnosed as endocarditis; see Gordon H. Fleming, *The Young Whistler 1834-66*, London, 1978, p. 99.
6. Dr Guyler, physician; see AMW to Robert E. Lee, 3 June 1853, #09553.

System Number: 09553

Date: 3 June 1853

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: [Baltimore²]

Recipient: Robert Edward Lee³

Place: West Point⁴

Repository: National Archives, Washington D. C.

Call Number: Record Group 94

Document Type: ALS

New York

Col Lee

June 3rd 53

Dear Sir

In consequence of my having gone to Baltimore, your letter was not received till wednesday 1st as it was forwarded me from Brooklyn.

I am very grateful for all your kindness to my son⁵, & from his report am sure he was well attended at the hospital, he speaks of Doctor Guyler⁶ with sincere esteem. Doctor Cammann⁷ who has visited him daily since his arrival in the city immediately judged it extremely imprudent that James should return for the Examinations⁸, but I did not oppose the earnest desire of my son to fulfil his appointment, symptoms of increased distress were developed shewing how availing would be any exertion & the consequences might prove fatal to his hopes for the future at the Military Academy. You will see the opinion of the attending Physicians in the circular to be sent the Army Surgeon at West Point, I need [p. 2] not add how sensitively I share the disappointment of my son.

Believe me Dear Sir

Respectfully

Anna M Whistler

New⁹ York City

June 3 1853

Mrs Anna M. Whistler

In return to the
health of her son Cadet

James A. Whistler

Received June 5/53

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. AMW is evidently in Baltimore where her step-son George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother, lived.
3. General Robert Edward Lee (1807-1870), Superintendent of USMA, West Point, and later President of the Confederate States of America.

4. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
5. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist; see Robert E. Lee's letter to AMW, 26 May 1853, #12608.
6. Doctor Guyler, physician.
7. Dr George Philip Cammann (1804-1863), physician, JW's uncle.
8. JW went on convalescent leave, and his year-end examinations were postponed. See Gordon H. Fleming, *The Young Whistler 1834-66*, London, 1978, p. 99.
9. 'New ... 5/53' written in a different hand, p. 3.

System Number: 07088

Date: 1 July [1853¹]

Author: Eliza Winstanley²

Place: Staffordshire

Recipient: Anna Matilda Whistler³

Place: [Baltimore⁴]

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W1077

Document Type: ALS

Stone, Staffordshire

1st of July

My beloved Twin Sister

You have truly been visited by severe affliction since your return to your native land. The awful death, of dear Willie Wyat⁵ was a sore trial but God saw it needful, & sent it, and he has given strength to his mourning servants to submit and adore! ever blessed be his holy name, he removed this dear boy to this eternal home, before he was overcome by the temptations of an evil world. He has not been long of following his fond Parents "May they be all one in Jesus Christ⁶"

4I was most thankful to you my fond Twin Sister for so soon sending us the glad news of dearest Jimmie's convalescence⁷ he had been very nearly gone, but the God who you served has been merciful in sparing him to you, oh! That [he] may never forget the great blessings vouchsafed to Him, and that he may be a constant stay & comfort to you.

[p. 2] It was well, that you had seen dear Willie & found him all you could wish, may it ever be so. I write in haste, to save the post for sending this to Liverpool and I enclose it to Adolph Roded⁸ with a few lines to our very dear Nieces⁹, I hope dear Eliza may be restored to health & she, & her dear husband¹⁰ may be blessed, in their new home, what a happiness it is that they are to be with the excellent Dr Wyatt¹¹ the faithful friend of their fond Father¹². I thank God that he, was removed before his dear boy met with the dreadful accident that caused his death!

Will you send this to our beloved Sister Kate¹³, with the best love & sympathy of dear Winstanley¹⁴ & myself[.] I shall rejoice if the good Dr¹⁵ can settle at Springfield with a prospect of doing well [p. 3] you will tell us in yr next. how kind it is of you dear Anna to write so often,

dear Alicia¹⁶ wrote to you last week from Edingh [i.e. Edinburgh] dear A. Clunnie¹⁷ paid us a nice visit of three weeks, & has gone from in much better health. she desired much love to you. I begged Alicia to write to dear Mrs Sandland¹⁸, as I did lately - and I cannot write much, since the sad death of dear Isa Woolman¹⁹, tho I do not regret, that she was taken from a load of care & trials, as I believe was the case! & God will provide for her husband & little ones, she often spoke of you singing so sweetly to her Johny. I trust she is with Jesus. she was taken from great tribulation & sore suffering I never saw one have more, nor bear it more patiently. she never gave a sigh or a groan & all seemed peace, at the last!

[p. 4] Mrs Ainsworth²⁰ is quite well again - God be praised! dear Anne & Sarah²¹ came so far, with us yesterday & we are going on, God willing in a week, or so to Leamington for a fortnight[.] Winnys cough is relieved and he is looking very well, he joins me in best love to you & the dear Boys²², & in all good wishes, remember me to Mary²³ - & to little Topsey²⁴ too - she left all ours very well - Betty²⁵ is happy & continues, better & worse, all our relatives & friends at Preston were much as you left them & send love.

I am ever dearest Anna
your fondly attached Twin
Sister

E. I. Winstanley

I leave it to dear Cath Camman²⁶ to give my kindest love to her dear Mother²⁷ & self & to forward this to you, as soon as possible. all²⁸ may read this & send it on -

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to William Wyatt McNeill's death (see below).
2. Eliza Isabella Winstanley (1788-1857), née McNeill, JW's aunt, his mother's half-sister.
3. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
4. AMW was probably at Baltimore, given the recent deaths of her brother William Gibbs McNeill, and his son William Wyatt McNeill (see below).
5. William Wyatt McNeill (1833-1853), JW's cousin.
6. 'That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me,' John 17.21.
7. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist. In late May 1853, JW suffered from an attack of rheumatism. He was then hospitalized and went on convalescent leave. See Gordon H. Fleming, *The Young Whistler 1834-66*, London, 1978, p. 99. Also see Robert E. Lee to AMW, 26 May 1853, #12608, and AMW to Robert E. Lee, 3 June 1853, #09553.
8. Adolphe Rodewald (1818-1869), husband of J. C. McNeill.
9. Mary Isabella Rodewald (1823-1867), née McNeill, Julia (Catherine) Rodewald, née McNeill, and Eliza Flagg (1830-1855), née McNeill; there were JW's cousin.
10. Rev. Edward Octavius Flagg (1824-1911), husband of Eliza McNeill; see AMW to JW, 23 and 24 September 1851, #06401.
11. Dr William Edward Wyatt, clergyman and Professor of Theology in the University of Maryland.

12. William Gibbs McNeill (1800-1853), railway engineer, JW's uncle.
13. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
14. John Winstanley (1776-1859), solicitor, JW's uncle.
15. Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer.
16. Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), JW's aunt.
17. Anne Clunie (b. 1793), a Scottish cousin of AMW.
18. Betsey Sandland of Liverpool, friend of AMW.
19. Isa Woolman; unidentified, her husband and children.
20. Mrs Ainsworth, of Staffordshire.
21. Anne and Sarah Ainsworth, sisters from Staffordshire.
22. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother, and James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
23. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
24. Eliza (d.1856), a servant of Kate Livermore; see AMW to JW, 27 August 1851, #06399, and AMW to JW, 16 September 1851, #06400.
25. Betty, a servant.
26. Catherine Julia Cammann, JW's aunt.
27. Maria Margareta Cammann ('Grandma C') (1774-1862), mother-in-law of William Gibbs McNeill.
28. 'all ... on' continues in the left margin of p. 1.

System Number: 06415

Date: 13 [September 1853¹]

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Stonington

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point³

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W410

Document Type: ALS

Stonington

tuesday 13th

Jemie my son

how is it with you? hope told a flattering tale when a widowed Mothers love whispered yours for her would over come your lazyness.

Col Lee⁴ wrote me kindly of your having been received in your class as tho you had passed the June Examination. George⁵ is grateful for this, chiefly I suspect from some concluding remarks,

that a furlough would be escaped the coming years of your cadetship. I look upon your case in a more serious light, but you are in the keeping of the Ruler of the Universe & the hearer of a widowed mothers prayers.

I am no teller of dreams, one or two have been remarkable in my experience, surely you have heard [p. 2] me relate the dream I had in Lowell just proceeding Mr Bootts⁶ sudden death - And as I had an uneasy slumber watching your sufferings last June, I was sweetly refreshed by dreaming of dear Grandmother⁷ whose words seemed awakening me with divine truth, "Eye hath not seen Neither hath ear heard, nor hath it ended into the heart of Man to conceive the joys laid up for those who love the Lord⁸" no doubt her angel spirit realizes this, & we are assured by Gods written word that "we are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses⁹" death being only the telegraph between time & eternity I had a dream of you last week & awoke (as I often go to sleep filled with weeping thoughts of you) [p. 3] But for the claims of little Georgie & Mr & Mrs Prince¹⁰ who were at the hotel & hourly duties to Aunt Kate¹¹ & family I should have written you that day.

I am aware Jemie dearest how averse you are to gloom, does aught ever make me sit under its shadow, but recklessness on your part? Review your absence from West Point! & ask yourself if you have not given cause to deepen a widowed mothers solicitude? I dreamed indistinctly, I heard of your sudden death, no time allowed you to testify of repentance, or to send a word of comfort to me, it seemed that in the dream I was required to recount the faithfulness of God to you, spared when on your death bed - warned by the sudden death of your favorite Coz¹², but recovering health only to dissipate it & have every law moral & divine! it was also too true & we were parted forever! - May this be averted by Gods help!

[p. 4] By mistake dear Jemie I wrote on two thicknesses, this is my last page, I expect to follow the departure of Willie¹³ with the Ducatels & little Georgie¹⁴, which was yesterday by this evenings boat, to meet them in the half past ten train for Scarsdale tomorrow - by the blessing of God upon my trip - I waited for Aunt Kate to return there with me. we propose visiting Brooklyn to breakfast & see your three cousins, Mary¹⁵ was expected when I called at G'ma C-s¹⁶ on my way here a fortnight ago today - Eliza¹⁷ had her cough racking her then, but hoped Mr Flaggs¹⁸ arrival & to return to Balt this week with him for the winter, if her health admits, So Aunt Kate feels it a duty to go with me to see our dear nieces, she sends you her love

[p. 5] The Ducatels can only spend tomorrow night at the cottage as their mother has written for them, little Georgie benefitted greatly the fortnight here, I regret he must so early return south. George talked the day he spent here with them, of his intention to go this month to see you, I shall send by him your flannels which I hope you will wear, I had regretted forgetting 4 new linen bossomed shirts in the hurry of your packing, but now shall make a half dozen plain winter shirts à la militaire, you will return Willie's collars & I'll send yours by George, also his black cloth coat, &c. Write me if you think of anything I can do for you dear Jemie at Scarsdale, I am thankful Willie has decided to enter Columbia¹⁹ for a year, your fathers friends here notice his growing resemblance to your father & my heart acknowledges it, in his attention to the comforts of your devoted mother.

A M W

Notes:

1. In 1853 William Wyatt McNeill, JW's close cousin, died. According to *Perpetual Calendar Whitaker's Almanack*, Tuesday the 13th would have been in September 1853. This was also the year of the death of William Gibbs McNeill, AMW's brother.

2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802.
4. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
5. General Robert Edward Lee (1807-1870), Superintendent of USMA, West Point, and later President of the Confederate States of America.
6. Probably Kirk Boot (1790-1837), merchant.
7. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
8. 'Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.' Cor. 2.9.
9. 'Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses.' Heb. 12.1-2.
10. Probably George ('Georgie') Worthen Whistler (b. 1851), JW's nephew, John Dyneley ('Father Prince') Prince, engraver and printer, and his wife.
11. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
12. William Wyatt McNeill (1833-1853), JW's cousin.
13. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
14. George Worthington Whistler, and his grandparents Mr and Mrs Ducatel; they were the parents-in-law of George William Whistler.
15. Mary Isabella Rodewald (1823-1867), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of J. F. Rodewald.
16. Maria Margareta Cammann ('Grandma C') (1774-1862), mother-in-law of William Gibbs McNeill.
17. Eliza Flagg (1830-1855), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of Rev. E. O. Flagg.
18. Rev. Edward Octavius Flagg (1824-1911), husband of Eliza McNeill.
19. Private institution of higher education, founded in 1754 as King's College. It was renamed Columbia College when it reopened in 1784 after the American Revolution. It became Columbia University in 1912.

System Number: 06428

Date: 28 September and 1 October [1853¹]

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Scarsdale

Recipient: James H. Gamble³

Place: [Staten Island⁴]

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W423

Document Type: ALS

[embossed monogram:] A M W

Scarsdale

Wednesday Sept 28th

My dear & esteemed friend

While incessant claims upon my daily attention have denied me leisure for the desk, my heart has prompted responses to yours & your Sisters⁵ welcome letters, but I will try to snatch time enough to answer your questions about "the child"⁶ who nestles in my tenderest regards, "it was well with him" indeed while he inhaled sea breezes, securing him regular appetite & sleep, I wish you could have seen his cherub expression, as clasping his tiny tapered hands he would say as he gazed with delight on the beautiful harbor of Stonington "big waters! how nice" but whether such a fragile bud is to bloom in our world of blighted promise, seems to me improbable, Little Georgie's mother⁷ was early taken to the home of the blessed, yet he gladdens the sorrow stricken Grandmama & fond young Aunts⁸ now in their Baltimore home, My Willie⁹ only returned from taking them there yesterday, he is well & unites with me in love to you. he scrawled the lines you wished, directly after you left Scarsdale, I fear his caligraphy [sic] is scarcely clear but you will soon copy the ideas on the fair tablets of your memory. And now on

Saturday Oct 1st

My Willie having left me alone - to go thro his examination for entering Columbia College¹⁰ next Monday - my faithful servant Mary¹¹ having prepared all nicely for the sabbath, has a holiday for a few days to see the Crystal Palace¹² with some Irish Cousin who resides in the city - Mrs Pophams Lizzy with Lee¹³, [p. 2] I seek not my writing materials for amusement, but can indulge my wish when no one is depending on my attentions, which is seldom the case even in this retreat, yesterday our friend Miss Margaret & Prince¹⁴ were in & out of the cottage - he helping himself from Marys larder & she directing my Topsy¹⁵ in taking up my plants, for frost had nipt [sic] some in the night. How I wished for you last sunday dear Mr Gamble! My sister¹⁶ who came from Stonington^{with me} & spent a fortnight so happily at the cottage, was followed by her excellent christian husband¹⁷ last saturday & we were surprised & delighted by the coming of that pious nephew of mine¹⁸ I had expected when you were here, it gives us a glimpse of the Millen[ium] - when believers unite in enjoying all christian privileges, had I been aware that Donald Fairfax would have spent two days in Cincinnatta [sic] or he known you, what an ["]additional interest" it would have yeilded [sic], unless you happen to have a call on Washington City I fear you may never become personally acquainted, but Margaret Hill who appreciates you both grieves that I had not known Donald was to pass thro your town, he went to St Louis for his sister¹⁹ & three children (alas her dissipated husband is not worthy the responsible trust of a father), I expect them to make me a visit before he settles there for the winter & then probably he will take a voyage, with his missionary spirit he fulfils more than the

duties of a Lieut in our own navy. The Word's Fair has brought many meetings about, I had two cousins from Georgia spending a day here last week, who were companions of my childhood, the widowed one Mrs Genl Clinche²⁰ [p. 3] had not seen me since the year after my marriage 1832 - It was a meeting of stirring memories to us four! This week one of the sons of the American²¹ who protected Willie & his widowed Mother from Russia came for a day & night, I had not in four years seen him, sensitive as my nerves have become, these retrospects unhinge me, I suddenly fainted, dear Miss Margaret my sister - friend came & staid all night, my own dear Sister having gone with her good Doctor home by tuesday boat, I was reconciled to my loss of her society by their escaping the storm of Wednesday night on the Sound. But I feel depressed & weak, to endure to the end of my term with thankfulness for mercies continued seems all I shall ever again attain to.

Write me of your rejoicing in the Lord, always it may arouse me from an unusual depression. All the circle are around me talk of you with love & esteem, my sister regrets you did not get to Stonington but hopes next Summer if you came here you may, she went to see Annas Wood²², who talked of you & begged her to stay to the next supper, tomorrow she hopes to get to church, but the rain has begun & the poor invalid will be watching the clouds, Mr Popham²³ has been as delegate to the N Y Convention²⁴ this week, he described it to me as almost making him weep from the good emotions which prevailed Bishop Wainright²⁵ promoting them by his sentiment & examples. The circle here are as you saw them in health, going about doing good, Mrs Popham throws open her parlors to the ladies sewing circle with greater alacrity than ever already they have realized from quilting &c more than \$100 - they are pledged for half the cost of the horse shed \$400 which is now being erected at the lower side of the church enclosure, the plan is not to disfigure so useful & merciful a provision, a [p. 4] spacious room above the horse shed is to give the aspect our library lattice does to this cottage, how delighted Mrs P & her sisters²⁶ will be to hear your approval next summer if the Lord order your journey hither, then you may be an admirer too of the Rectory²⁷ which is to be built on the South lot, 4 acres beyond the church grounds.

You ask after the Phila branch of Hills, my Willie spent a night under Will Hills Mothers²⁸ roof, they will all be glad to see you again[,] I am so much urged to divide a week with friends in Phila & Balt if I can, I wish to gratify them, & should feel interested in your venerable & Revd preceptor Mr Hughes²⁹ if he would not think a call from a stranger an intrusion, I have had no news of Miss Clunie³⁰ but forwarded your Scarsdale report to her. My true friends & neighbours entertained another who should have been the cottage guest, as in your case, when I went last to Stonington, one who loves the Lord as you do, with his most glowing ardor, they talked of your visit which had so charmed them, & he felt ready to go to your city to exchange friendly greetings with you - but had to return to his native land old England & never expects to re-visit this country, he was Admiralty Agent for the Steamers duties, in the Passengers Saloon, & on the deck, this missionary at heart in word & deed will be missed. But Lieut Scriven³¹ recognised the Lords hand in his worldly disappointment, he may have as wide a field in Liverpool for winning souls to Christ

I observe your kind interest in my Cadet at West Point³², & my prayer is that he may enlist under the banner of the Capt of our Salvation, he was promoted in his class, after the Medical & Mathematical examination 29th of Augt & writes me of his health, tho he is not reconciled to Barracks in contrast to his³³ cottage home

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to William McNeill Whistler's entry to Columbia College (see below) and the *Perpetual Calendar Whitaker's Almanac*.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk.
4. James H. Gamble resided in Staten Island, NY; see AMW to JW, 15 December 1856, #06477.
5. Jane Wann (1822-1875), née Gamble, wife of S. Wann.
6. George ('Georgie') Worthen Whistler (b. 1851), JW's nephew.
7. Mary Ann Whistler (ca 1826-1852), née Ducatel, JW's sister-in-law.
8. Mrs Ducatel, mother-in-law of George William Whistler, and her daughter Eliza Jones, née Ducatel.
9. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
10. William McNeill Whistler entered the College in October 1853; see AMW to JW, 27 August 1851, #06399.
11. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
12. See AMW to JW, 6 August 1851, #06398.
13. Jane Hill (1802-1872), née Clarkson, wife of W. S. Hill; her servant was Eliza Bran (b. 1831). Lewis Charles ('Lew') Popham (1833-1899), son of E. C. and W. S. Popham.
14. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY, and Prince, a dog; see AMW to Jane Wann, 18 November 1853, #06431.
15. Eliza (d. 1856), a servant of Kate Livermore; see AMW to Margaret G. Hill, 24 December 1852, #07639.
16. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
17. Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer.
18. Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin.
19. Martha ('Matty') Fairfax (b. ca 1820), JW's cousin, her husband Isaiah Davenport, and their children Joseph Davenport, businessman, Potter Davenport, book keeper, and Ellen Davenport.
20. Sophia Clinch, née Gibbs, widow of Brig. Gen. Duncan Lamont Clinch (1787-1849), congressman and army officer.
21. Edward Peers Eastwick (1833-1926), son of Andrew McCalla Eastwick (1810-1879), partner in Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in Harrison, Winans and Eastwick in St. Petersburg; see AMW to JW, 29 September 1853, #06429.
22. Anna Wood, of Scarsdale, NY.
23. William Sherbrooke Popham (1793-1885), merchant.
24. The seventieth Annual Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of New York commenced its sessions on 28 September 1858, at St John's Chapel, Varick Street. See *New York Daily Times*, 29 September 1853, vol. 3, no. 634, p. 3.
25. Jonathan Mayhew Wainright (1792-1854), clergyman and Bishop of New York (1852-1854).
26. Sarah Stewart Hill (1800-1864), sister of M. G. Hill.

27. Rectory at Scarsdale, NY. The Popham family were active members of the local parish, helped in the building of the local church, St James the Less (consecrated by the Rev. Bishop De Lancey and assisted by the Rev. Bishop Whittingham of Maryland on 28 June 1851), and gave a thousand year lease of their land to the church. William S. Popham was one of the churchwardens of St James between 1851-1853. The first rector formally installed was the Rev. William W. Olssen in 1853. See AMW to Margaret G. Hill, 24 December 1852, #07639.

28. William Hill (1842-1869) and his mother Jane Hill (1802-1872), née Clarkson, wife of W. S. Hill.

29. John Joseph Hughes (1794-1864), Roman Catholic churchman. It is possible that AMW proposed a connection between Hughes and the Philadelphia branch of the Hills because of the former's service in Philadelphia.

30. Anne Clunie (b. 1793), a Scottish cousin of AMW.

31. Lieutenant Scriven, naval officer and missionary. See AMW to Margaret G. Hill, 24 December 1852, #07639; AMW to Margaret G. Hill, 21 and 22 February 1853, #07640; AMW to JW, 7 April 1853, #06426.

32. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist, at the time at the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396. During September 1853 JW received more demerits than in any other month, 73 resulting from 32 offences; see Gordon H. Fleming, *The Young Whistler 1834-66*, London, 1978, p. 100.

33. 'his ... home' continues in the right margin.

System Number: 06429

Date: 29 September [1853¹]

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Scarsdale

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point³

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W424

Document Type: ALS

[embossed monogram:] A M W

Scarsdale

Sept 29th Thursday

My dearest Jemie⁴

This morning tired of waiting Willies⁵ return from Balt[imore], I sent a bag & bundle for you per Express to George's office⁶, as he goes to West Point Saturday & Willie says he cannot now, as he is to be examined & to get his books together for entering Columbia⁷ next Monday. I wish you in possession of the comfortable garments for your bed & personal wear, the cold weather has so suddenly come to make you suffer I fear. Edward Eastwick⁸ spent yesterday here & mentioned you yet in summer uniform. he is a sensible fellow, I was gratified by his making the sacrifice to a youthful fancy at the Metropolitan⁹, to my solitude I did my best to prove my appreciation, but the rain came down, & then after our tete a tete [sic] tea, I was unable to sit up,

such a palpitation & chill & hysterical prostration, Miss M Hill¹⁰ was sent for & staid till after breakfast, I feel weak today, so shall not write but to you I want you to send me (in the bag) the [p. 2] one linen sheet dirty or not, as I have one more here of that set & only one left, If you can find the fellow grey sock to an odd one I send to look for it, let me have the pr [i.e. pair] as you have outgrown [th]em. You will see how comfortably Mary¹¹ has darned the heels of the woollen socks & that there are five prs new grey cotton, two prs summer whites, A nightshirt 2 prs winter & 1 summer drawers, 2 sleeved elastic shirts, had you not better send me the two pr new summer striped drawers to take care of for you. in the bag, by George. he can bring it any time from town [when] he next comes to see me. Have you the comfortable & mattress¹² I sent last Oct? George will if he can I doubt not take you boots & a pr razors, if not Willie must at Thanks giving, had he not lingered with Jacks¹³ over Sunday I should have gratified Mary by sending [p. 3] you two currant buns she made purposely for you, I hope the Ginger snaps may be as crisp as when I packed them yesterday. You will find the key of the bag in the little old leathern dressing case in the bundle with your gown. write me if all gets safely & how many collars I must make, believe me dearest Jemie no other sewing could so interest your mother, While I felt desolate, Willie lingering away, & you enlisted, I reflected sadly that my only two probably never would make my retreat their home. If you only would have bent your will to your Fathers¹⁴! I should have a son to cheer me, Edwd E was telling me of the native Architect who built Bartram Castle¹⁵ realizing now an income of \$10,000 per ann[um]. he remarked with your originality & classic taste you might have gained the top of the tree! but you like the army, even tho it will separate you from a widowed Mother, whose anxieties about her boys consequently undermine her now feeble health. Thank you dear Jemie for your letter, write me soon & use the stamped envelope.

[p. 4] Willie reports Mr Winans¹⁶ speaks encouragingly about Jacks, who may next year be in the office drawing in stead of at the work bench, he is from 7 to 7 oclock there, takes his dinner in a tin can, Mary R & her husband¹⁷ went for a fortnights visit to Balt today, I think they'll persuade Jacks to persevere, Eliza's¹⁸ reception in the St Pauls Congregation¹⁹ is flattering she still complains of feeling weak, she wishes me to visit B [i.e. Baltimore] & so does Mrs Winans²⁰, I will when I can, Aunt Kate retuned home with the Doct²¹ yesterday, she so enjoyed Scarsdale, & the drive to Pelham Priory²², Cousin Donald F²³ spent Sunday here, he has a great charge now devolving on his care, Cousin Mattie & her three children²⁴! but his principles are firm & true Willie²⁵ will be glad of the Coat, fold it carefully & pack it snugly in the bag. he & Mary send love with mine, Write soon to your Mother

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to events mentioned in AMW's letter to James H. Gamble, 28 September 1853, #06428.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
4. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
5. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
6. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother; his office was at New Haven, CT. In 1853 George was the superintendent of the New York and New Haven Railroad.

During the summer period he wrote weekly for the *New York Daily Times* on the schedule of the Railroad. See *New York Daily Times*, 1 July 1853, vol. 3, no. 558.

7. William McNeill Whistler entered the College in October 1853; see AMW to JW, 27 August 1851, #06399.

8. Edward Peers Eastwick (1833-1926), son of A. M. and L. A. Eastwick; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 28 September 1853, #06428.

9. Metropolitan Hotel, S. Leland, 580 Broadway. See *Citizens and Stranger's Pictorial and Business Directory*, New York, 1853, p. 181.

10. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY.

11. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.

12. 'Comfortable' was another word for quilt. AMW sent a 'comfortable' and a portable mattress to JW on October 1852; see AMW to JW, 6 October 1852, #06421.

13. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.

14. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.

15. Samuel Sloane (1815-1884), architect; he designed Bartram Hall, residence of Andrew McCalla Eastwick (1810-1879), partner in Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in Harrison, Winans and Eastwick in St. Petersburg; see AMW to JW, 15 and 16 January 1852, #06409.

16. Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector.

17. Mary Isabella Rodewald (1823-1867), née McNeill, JW's cousin, and her husband Johann Frederick Rodewald (b. 1808).

18. Probably Eliza Flagg (1830-1855), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of Rev. E. O. Flagg.

19. Old Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Baltimore, Maryland. It was founded in 1692 as a mission of the Diocese of London.

20. Celeste Winans (1823-1861), née Revillon, wife of Thomas De Kay Winans.

21. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt, and her husband Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician.

22. 'Pelham Priory' was an exclusive girls' finishing school at New Rochelle, NY.

23. Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin.

24. Martha ('Matty') Fairfax (b. ca 1820), JW's cousin, wife of Isaiah Davenport, and their children Joseph Davenport, businessman, Potter Davenport, book keeper, and Ellen Davenport; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 28 September 1853, #06428.

25. 'Willie ... Mother' continues in the left and upper margins of p. 1.

System Number: 06430

Date: 16 November 1853

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Scarsdale

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W425

Document Type: ALS

Scarsdale

Wednes - evening Nov 16th 53

My own dearest Jemie³

I was thinking of you today - no uncommon thing - that last year when the ocean rolled between us⁴ we heard more frequently from each other, & I resolved to try to excite your pen by a letter for tomorrows mail. Now I have yours to respond to how much more grateful the duty. dated the 7th & only recd this eve where has it been staying? You complained of fits of the blues & naturally I became infected, yet Jemie dear it is better thus than that you should be indifferent to home influences. I pray that you may listen to conscience "on guard" when none other may speak to you. Ah how your Mothers heart aches to think if you prosper at West point you must belong to the USA instead of sharing my home & cheering it! the words of the Yeoman of Portishead⁵ as Willie⁶ wept at your first separation from us - "belike when lads part they'll never bide together again⁷" came echoing back from sad memories, admonishing a widowed Mother that God had severed her family band on earth to draw her heart to the heavenly home, & there only are my hopes centered to meet & abide with my family band.

But now to explain my long silence to my Cadet. The cottage was for six weeks so unquiet I did not even answer your Sisters letters, my guests relatives from St Louis⁸ took their departure last wednesday, I accompanied them to N Y [p. 2] & who do you think in tow? no less a personage than our Topsy⁹! really to me she is very interesting! Cousin Kate¹⁰ at Bath - N H - and I, had been in communication relative to her change of service some weeks, then Mr Livermore¹¹ wound up the correspondence by writing he would go as far as Stonington to take her. I served many an hour after all had retired, to complete her plentiful wardrobe, the city Express relieved me of her carpet bag & box to the commodore, & I crossed to lunch at Grandmas¹², then concluded to pass two nights on the Sound that I might deliver Eliza to Mr L & spend a day at the corner house. Uncle P¹³ wished to see me & prescribe for me too, I dare say when I can rest more my alarming symptoms may subside, but Cousin Matties nervous excitement has painfully told upon my nerves. You know Jemie "the willing horse has all the strain¹⁴" it is no wonder the last four years, should wear me out, but oh these six weeks have been most trying. The change to quiet I am most grateful for Mary¹⁵ does all the duty & I recline on the old sofa & read, or sew, or write while our student is gone for the day. I told him this evening as he enjoyed his dinner of beef-steak, hot coffee & muffin, you would envy him. And now he has walked up to Mr Pophams¹⁶ to ask them what I shall write Mrs Commodore Rogers¹⁷ about her wish to rent a cottage in Scarsdale, I recd a letter from her today, demanding an immediate reply. she does not wish to rusticate till next Spring or she might rent the Cottage, I am looking for board in N York for us for the winter & tho I [p. 3] have not obtained it yet, I must arrange household goods next week to leave securely from Dec to April. Willie loses time by 50 miles R R [Rail Road] motion

per diem, he looks well as you will see with your own eyes I hope Thanks giving - he & I have been calculating upon this holiday for your mutual enjoyment for weeks back.

Ah how I yearn to see you my dear Jemie & hear your cheering words & affection! I feared from your not having written me your approval of "the crowd of things by Willie" you were quite indifferent to my cares, but thanks be to God my soldier laddie keeps home influences in his heart, I may expect answers to my poor scrawls now, & not fear you find them wearisome to read. You knew I had gone to Balt with George¹⁸ for he took you the boots I had ordered for you - I had an attack of influenza, which unfitted me for enjoyment, I had the Winans¹⁹ equipage to visit old friends & was much with Eliza Flagg²⁰, she has quite recovered in her native air, Jacks²¹ is already advanced in the Machine shop, his diligence merits it, Eliza has charmed off his home sickness, he has accepted a very kind invitation to room at Mr Rodewaldes²², their son enters the Works with him so you see it is like taking Joseph out of prison²³ to Jacks. Certainly the ordeal was severe to such a home boy the first few months. Mrs Winans²⁴ went with me to Bartram Hall! I spent a day & half with the Eastwicks²⁵, then Mr Harrison²⁶ brought me home he urged me to look for a house in N York & remove immediately! arguing very properly the loss of time to Willie, that he could not read, as he ought at home. The next day I had three ill, & Willie's attack of bilious fever tho soon subdued, was alarming to me Cousin Mattie's of jaundice almost broke me down. I felt it a relief to decide on boarding for the winter, as I should find the bustle of packing & moving beyond my [p. 4] present stock of energy. rents in town are enormous.

I bargained with Aunt Kate to have you a bun made by her nice Rose for Thanksgiving, offering her a box of raisins which are not the worse for being in my parlor pantry all Summer, Aunt Kate²⁷ would have been delighted to have sent you a cake, but raisins are so risen in price - as every commodity - my box will help her Thanks giving, she & Uncle P are spending this week in the city, little Annie & Julia²⁸ too to go to the Crystal Palace²⁹. If my cough allows me I must go to the city before they leave for a day. I shall make you some collars like the pattern with pleasure to send by Willie. Mary will no doubt add her offering of cake she loves your both, & pities you from her warm heart of Erin. You do not mention my friends but do me the favor to call at Prof Bartletts³⁰ with my remembrance, mention that Willie may be expected thursday 24th. Sis³¹ sends love in each her letters to you, I saw George last friday on way back from Stonington, he was to go to Balt today. Jemie³² dear I thanked Mr Tho Winans for his attention & friendship towards my boys, he could not have felt the force of his remark as I did painfully, that Jemie would always have to be taken care of! Oh if you would use your talents you need not be obliged to any but natural links for support. I wish for health[s] sake you'd try to accustom your feet to woollen socks!

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
3. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
4. AMW was in England between November 1852 and May 1853; see AMW to George William Whistler, William McNeill Whistler, and JW, 18 and 19 November 1852, #06422 and AMW to JW, 11 and 13 April 1853, #06427.
5. Unidentified. JW went to school at Portishead, England; see #06359, and #06360 - #06374.
6. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.

7. Quotation not identified.

8. Martha ('Matty') Fairfax (b. ca 1820), JW's cousin, wife of Isaiah Davenport, and their children Joseph Davenport, businessman, Potter Davenport, book keeper, and Ellen Davenport; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 28 September 1853, #06428, and AMW to JW, 29 September 1853, #06429.

9. Eliza (d. 1856), a servant of Kate Livermore; see AMW to JW 27 August 1851, #06399, and AMW to JW, 16 September 1851, #06400.

10. Kate ('Cousin Kate') Livermore (1820-1907), daughter of J. D. Prince and wife of A. Livermore.

11. Arthur Livermore (b. 1811), lawyer.

12. Maria Margaretta Cammann ('Grandma C') (1774-1862), mother-in-law of William Gibbs McNeill.

13. Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer.

14. Probably a derivation from 'Folk call on the horse that will carry alway,' in modern phrase 'The willing horse is always most ridden,' John Heywood, ca 1546, from *The Proverbs, Epigrams, and Miscellanies of John Heywood*, pt. 1, ch. 11, ed. by John S. Farmer, Guildford, 1966, p. 42.

15. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.

16. William Sherbrooke Popham (1793-1885), merchant.

17. Mrs Commodore Rogers.

18. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.

19. The family of Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector.

20. Eliza Flagg (1830-1855), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of Rev. E. O. Flagg.

21. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin; he was working at the Winans Locomotive Works in Baltimore.

22. Johann Frederick Rodewald (1808-1886), banker, husband of M. I. McNeill.

23. 'And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled. And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison. But the Lord was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it.' Gen. 39.19-22.

24. Celeste Winans (1823-1861), née Revillon, wife of Thomas De Kay Winans.

25. Bartram Hall was the residence of Andrew McCalla Eastwick (1810-1879), partner in Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in Harrison, Winans and Eastwick in St. Petersburg; see AMW to JW, 15 and 16 January 1852, #06409.

26. Joseph Harrison (1810-1874), partner in the firm of Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in the firm of Harrison, Winans and Eastwick.

27. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.

28. Anna Whistler Palmer (b. 1848), later wife of G. Stanton, JW's cousin, named after JW's mother, and her sister Julia McNeill Palmer (1851-1902), JW's cousin, later wife of W. S. Boardman.
29. See AMW to JW, 6 August 1851, #06398.
30. Professor William Holmes Chambers Bartlett (1804-1893), mathematician.
31. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
32. 'Jemie ... support' continues in the left and upper margins of p. 1; 'I ... socks' continues in the right margin.

System Number: 06431

Date: 18 November [1853¹]

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Scarsdale

Recipient: Jane Wann³

Place: [Staten Island⁴]

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W426

Document Type: ALS⁵

Scarsdale

friday Nov 18th

My heart has so craved as friends the family circle of James H Gamble⁶ since forming his delightful acquaintance, that I have lamented appearing indifferent as a correspondent with you dear Mrs Wann.

But quiet being now restored to my retreat & liberty to follow my inclination I by degrees hope to satisfy absent friends that it has only been the pressing claims upon my attention of guests & relatives which have distanced theirs, tho as tenderly cherished by me. I have had a niece & her three children⁷ for six weeks at the cottage, requiring all my attention, as her nervous system & shattered health make her dependent[,] her youngest child only eighteen months very active & indulged rendered writing or reading impossible. They have gone to Virginia, but I have had influenza this week! I feel brighter this evening [p. 2] for resting all day on the parlor sofa, & rejoice in having just recd a letter for your brother from our mutual favorite enclosed in one for me, most acceptable! Will you say to Mr Gamble I shall be answering it early in Decr by the blessing of God & hope he will forward me a response also, to enclose Miss Clunie⁸, then I shall hear from him, which all the circle of the hospitable squire will share my interest in, they keep him so affectionately in remembrance & enquire of me what intercourse I have with Cincinnati, I attribute his silence of course to my neglect of his Sister! Miss Margaret Hill⁹ has been here twice today, to sit with me, the family are all well. Prince¹⁰ the Irish canine pet is gallant as ever to her & shews his excellent training by waiting outside the church for the ladies, tho in every other house he is inseparable from them. Poor Annie Wood¹¹ is ill, yet I am sure upon the bed of languishing she is refreshed by [p. 3] the privileges [sic] she has enjoyed this season, twice at the Lords supper, & at the baptism of our Pastors little girl¹², born in Oct. A Parsonage is now being built¹³ at the West side of this cottage, your brother will see many proofs of prosperity in this [sic] favored people of the Lord when he comes again next summer as we all hope he may. My

Willie entered Columbia College¹⁴ in Octr. we find the daily travel of 50 miles not favorable for a student, & the anxiety during the inclement months approaching would be very trying to me, I have decided to board in the city from 1st Dec to 1st April my attached servant Mary to attend Willie & me. I wish your brother could read the bright reports of Eliza¹⁵ the little Floridian whom I have been training for three years. A dear friend of mine in Bath¹⁶ N Hampshire has taken her into her service & she is happy I placed her in the hands of the husband¹⁷ of my friend[,] last week he met us at Stonington. Indeed I have had incessant exertions to make & my health has suffered how grateful I shall be for a quiet season! & if by the blessing of our Heavenly Father we may return to this happy valley how we shall enjoy the sounds of nature again. Direct to me once more to Scarsdale & I then will advise you of my city address. All that you will write us dear Mrs Wann will be so interesting I am sure you are too kind to retaliate upon my delay, as necessity induced it. May I thro you offer my respectful regards to your honored Mother¹⁸, my compliments to Mr Wann & to your brother & yourself the affection of a friend.

Anna M Whistler

My Willie unites in cordial greetings to Mr Gamble, he is well now, tho he was threatened with bilious fever when I had two others ill last month. You may judge how precious he is to me, a widowed Mother & only son left in her home! with what thanks to God I welcome him every evening from the railroad. How gracious the Lord is! my only fear is separation from Him for me or mine! My Cadet at West Point¹⁹ is only home - sick. Willie goes to spend Thanks giving (next thursday with his brother

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to Martha Fairfax's visit to Scarsdale, NY; see AMW to JW, 29 September 1853, #06429, and AMW to JW, 16 November 1853, #06430.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. Jane Wann (1822-1875), née Gamble, wife of S. Wann.
4. J. Wann lived with her mother, brother and husband at Staten Island, NY; see AMW to JW, 15 December 1856, #06477.
5. [embossed paper mark:] EXTRA
6. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk.
7. Martha ('Matty') Fairfax (b. ca 1820), JW's cousin, wife of Isaiah Davenport, and their children Joseph Davenport, businessman, Potter Davenport, book keeper, and Ellen Davenport.
8. Anne Clunie (b. 1793), a Scottish cousin of AMW.
9. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY.
10. Prince, a dog.
11. Anna Wood, of Scarsdale, NY.
12. Ella Olssen (b. 1853), daughter of Rev. W. S. Olssen.
13. See AMW to James H. Gamble, 28 September and 1 October 1853, #06428.
14. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother. He entered Columbia College in October 1853. See AMW to JW, 27 August 1851, #06399.

15. Eliza (d. 1856), a servant of Kate Livermore; see AMW to JW 27 August 1851, #06399, and AMW to JW, 16 September 1851, #06400.

16. Kate ('Cousin Kate') Livermore (1820-1907), daughter of J. D. Prince and wife of A. Livermore.

17. Arthur Livermore (b. 1811), lawyer.

18. Jane Gamble (1790-1864), mother of J. H. Gamble.

19. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist. JW attended the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, between 1 July 1851 and 16 June 1854; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.

System Number: 06432

Date: 1 December [1853¹]

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: New York

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point³

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W427

Document Type: ALS

220 Fourteenth St N York

Dec 1st. thursday evening

Dont let the above divert your attention my dear Cadet⁴, for I desire you to rejoice more in your having comforted my heart by your loving tones which I read last evening at the Cottage⁵ - than in my transient advantages at the Court end of the city of Gotham⁶ - Jemie dear tho a tincture of sadness echoes in my motherly tenderness at your shiverings on the bleak plain, & I lament over the hopelessness of your privations as a soldier, I'd rather you'd feel the blues occasionally than be indifferent to home influences, I know from experience it is a subject of gratulation [sic] that our hearts should be softened by separations, but ah the benefit can only be conveyed by more than human sympathy. I wish dear Willie⁷ & Jemie would try my experience of dependence upon the Lord, The divine source of every blessing temporal & eternal. "The Lord will [p. 2] provide⁸" satisfies me under every perplexity, George⁹ thought me dilatory in setting about securing rooms for the winter, weeks ago.

Cousin Mattie¹⁰ was really out of patience because I put off - but I thought to myself sufficient is the care of my Cottage guests! Last thursday advised by Alfred Brewer¹¹ to whom I had put the question by letter did he know of any suitable family for us to board with - I came to the city, went first to 19th St which is the most unfavorable of any up town - & so I was passed on, as the widow lady there had not a room for Mary¹² of course I declined, a stranger directed me here, where I only wish you could share our comforts I should not have aspired to 14th St but if I had planned for this arrangement, it could not have been more exactly what my circumstances & health require, folding doors convert Willie's & my room into quite a parlor, large windows east make it bright - Gas fixtures, heated air, warm & cold water, beside a bath room & water closet next room.

[p. 3] You may be sure I did not hesitate to take the rooms as soon as I saw them, Mary & I bade adieu to the Cottage this morning. A trust worthy couple like Mr & Mrs Searles¹³ will keep it aired & protect our place, he is the head carpenter of the parsonage [sic] now being built¹⁴ on the adjoining field, so you see the Lord provides - this arrangement benefits many besides ourselves, the building will be expedited by it. I have been in the family circle here at dinner & tea, they suit me but against you & I are tête à tête, I shall know them better & then give you my impression[,] there are several young ladies, musical & lively.

I mean Willie to study in the afternoons then we may be in the parlour here or at some of our neighbours parlors for social soirées. Your cousin Mrs Jaffray¹⁵ occupies a fine house nearest, C Palmer¹⁶ furthest[,] Dr C & Mr O J C¹⁷ between, we are so near the 9th Av, George I hope will often call. Willie stayed at his quarters till today & told me he was coming here to welcome my arrival he is to go to Balt[imore] early next week, so I presume he will not reach your barrack. I'll see about your watch myself, dear Jemie. Why do you prohibit Saturday visitors[?] I should like to run up just to give you an embrace, but I cannot take Willie [p. 4] from his class, his attack of fever in Oct caused him to lose a week & his blistered heel two days this week, he was quite lame Sat, Sunday & Monday, not able to wear hose, till tuesday, he limped back to class, so much for tight boots! I wonder such a devotee to fashion should risk being out of it, for full sized boots are the present mode. But of my going to West Point of course I would not cut my esteemed friends at the Profs¹⁸ as my boys do, I might run up some friday evening & return Sat p - m, Aunt Kate¹⁹ writes me she has made a first rate Thanks giving Cake for you, & in the glow of her kindness & love, she proposed writing you & sending the Cake per Express to Cadet Whistler. so you must get some of your friends in authority to be interested in its safety & your getting it. I have written Aunt Kate to keep it, or send it to me to keep for a private opp[ortunity], but my warning may not reach her in time, it was only by yesterdays mail I recd her letter, it was dated Nov 25th last friday you see! I tremble for your treat dont keep me in suspense, if you could only keep writing materials, stamps especially. Be sure & let me know if those shirts Mary made at Pomfret are the kind you [p. 5] like in what points they must be enlarged mention particularly dear Jemie, she hopes to accomplish all our sewing this winter, I have brought a goodly supply of books & strange enough had put among them in my trunk the Russian Artists, fac-similes of Russ peasantry²⁰, portraits I believe, you never were discouraged in any wish expressed to your father & Mother to cultivate good feeling, so of course my dear Jemie I am glad to have it in my power in this instance to fulfil a wish, only wait till we meet, I do not suppose you will be allowed to spend Xmas in the city, but by the blessing of the Lord I cherish hopes of seeing you face to face here or there. Mr Flagg²¹ has recd a call at N Orleans & gone there to judge of the parish, Eliza²² expects to join him with little McNeill²³. I must get Willie to write Jacks²⁴ & tell him you desire to hear from him. Emma P is at her Uncle C- s²⁵ in this St. so I suppose I shall see her in my rooms tomorrow, she is to spend Xmas in town. George was to send Leigh's²⁶ Cloak by Express today & a shirt of yours in it - let us hear of both. Good night & God bless you. [p. 6] Please call at Mr Bartletts with my remembrance. Mary & Willie unite with me in love to you.

Ever your own devoted Mother

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to AMW's move to New York; see AMW to Jane Wann, 18 November 1853, #06431.

2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.

3. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
4. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
5. AMW's cottage at Scarsdale, New York.
6. Probably a reference to the business part of the City of New York. In the middle of the nineteenth century 14th Street was the northern boundary of Greenwich Village. There, residences disappeared and business began. See Mindy Cantor, ed., *Around the Square, 1830-1890: Essays on Life, Letters and Architecture in Greenwich Village*, New York, 1982, p. 38; Henry Collins Brown, *Fifth Avenue, Old and New, 1824-1924*, New York, 1924, p. 39.
7. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
8. 'Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided,' Gen. 22.13-15.
9. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
10. Martha ('Matty') Fairfax (b. ca 1820), JW's cousin, later wife of Isaiah Davenport; see AMW to JW, 29 September 1853, #06429, and 16 November 1853, #06430, and AMW to Jane Wann, 18 November 1853, #06431.
11. Rev. Alfred Lee Brewer (1831-1899), Curate at the Church of Epiphany in New York (1856-1857), founder and Rector of St. Mathews School, San Mateo (1864-1899).
12. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
13. Searles, carpenter, and his wife; they were AMW's neighbours at Pomfret, CT.
14. See AMW to James H. Gamble, 28 September and 1 October 1853, #06428.
15. Abbie Snelling Jaffray (1817-1871), née Hamilton, wife of R. W. Jaffray. Her address was 41 Greenwich Avenue; see *Doggett's New York City Directory, 1849-50*, New York, p. 80.
16. Probably Courtland ('uncle Court') Palmer, Sr (1800-1874), merchant, brother of Dr G. E. Palmer. His home address was 22 E 14th; see *Doggett's New York City Directory, 1849-50*, New York, p. 327.
17. Dr George Philip Cammann (1804-1863), and Oswald J. Cammann, JW's uncles. O. J. Cammann's address was 14 w14; see *Doggett's New York City Directory, 1849-50*, New York, p. 80.
18. Professor William Holmes Chambers Bartlett (1804-1893), mathematician.
19. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
20. Probably works of or related with Pavlovich Karl Briullov or Bryullov (1799-1852), artist, Aleksander Ossipovich Koritzkii, professor at the Academy of Fine Arts at St Petersburg, and painter to the Russian court, and Emile-Francois Dessain (1808-1882), painter and printmaker; see AMW to JW, 1 and 2 November 1848, #06370, 4 and 5 December 1848, #06374, and 25 and 26 December [1848], #06380.
21. Rev. Edward Octavius Flagg (1824-1911), husband of Eliza McNeill.
22. Eliza Flagg (1830-1855), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of Rev. E. O. Flagg.
23. William McNeill Flagg (b. 1852), son of E. and Rev. E. O. Flagg.
24. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.

25. Emma Woodbridge Palmer (1835-1912), JW's step-cousin, and Courtland ('uncle Court') Palmer, Sr (1800-1874), merchant, brother of Dr G. E. Palmer.

26. Unidentified.

System Number: 06433

Date: 16 December 1853

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: New York

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W428

Document Type: ALS

[embossed monogram:] A M W

220 Fourteenth St.

Decr 16th 1853 Friday afternoon

My own dear Cadet³

I was too hurried in attending to my Scarsdale friend Miss Magt Hill⁴ until today to think of your list, some bright weather will come again & I'll not neglect the Daguerreotype⁵ for you - Cannot you ask Capt Coppé⁶ or some other commanding officer who may come to town after your Examination to call upon your mother for what I have omitted sending now by George⁷, I have not the [Menr?] book in town but shall perhaps go to Scarsdale during the holidays for it, of the watch chain I am doubtful - Say - will it not get you in trouble? write me dear Jemie & tell me how you like the chocolates Willie⁸ & I went so far down B way [i.e. Broadway] to get you last evening - they are a bon bouche⁹ for you on guard. Aunt K-s¹⁰ cake will keep till Xmas - Mind that you write to thank her. Mary¹¹ waits, Willie joins me in love to you write often as you can especially after Exam to your fond & anxious mother, Pray for me every night as I do night & day for you.

A M W

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.

2. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.

3. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.

4. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY.

5. Daguerreotype, untraced; see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 11 June 1849, #07627.

6. Probably Henry Coppée (1821-1895), soldier and educator.

7. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.

8. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
9. Fr.: *bonne-bouche*, a luscious morsel; a touthsome tit-bit.
10. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt; see AMW to JW, 1 December 1853, #06432.
11. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.

System Number: 06434

Date: [26 December 1853 / January 1854¹]

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: New York

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point³

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W429

Document Type: ALS

220 West Fourteenth St

Jemie⁴ my dear Son

How welcome the envelope directed hither by my own pen ever is, for its contents never fail to impart a tone of your cheerful spirit to your fond Mother.

Daily more & more earnestly I pray for a blessing from heaven upon my Cadet, do you pray for me & for yourself? "Not on a prayerless bed, e'er lay your weary head, for they alone are blest whom angels keep"⁵ Jemie dear do resolve if you get thro the coming Examination you will avoid demerits⁶ henceforth, it might be excusable in a Plebe to run them up recklessly, but not in a 3rd Class - man. If only for your widowed Mothers sake you ought to turn over a new leaf I [p. 2] cannot be indifferent about talents you have inherited from the best of fathers⁷ & for which you must render an account to a Heavenly.

I fear too after the close attention demanded now to make up for lost time - your health must pay the penalty. I am shocked at your wearing summer drawers still! I supposed you would put on your elastic winter set which I altered by your direction & you will find them in your trunk, try them at once dear Jemie, the waist bands were altered to fit. if they are not comfortable mention in your report of the Exam in time for me to have a Canton flannel set⁸ made to send by the Misses Bart⁹. Your watch & chain shall be also sent by them, [p. 3] for I cannot but hope you will not be disgraced. Col Lee¹⁰ told George¹¹ if your conduct continued correct you might get thro. We all lament you have not ambition to take a higher aim, but hope you will by June.

A Happy N Year to you my dear son. You did not remark snow storms which made sleighing enough for a few days in this go ahead population. What think you of \$60 for the hire of a sleigh for New Years day calls? I know \$30 was asked one of the gents in this house. Doct Church¹² advised George (before snow) to get out one of his Locomotives! Willie¹³ went to Scarsdale Saturday & did not get back till too late to make calls on Monday. Jacks¹⁴ waited at Brooklyn as they had agreed. College¹⁵ opened on Wednesday. Willie has too easy a course I judge, but when Jacks goes back to work, next Monday, I hope dear Willie may become more attentive to my wishes. It is now eight o'clock in the evening [p. 4] I suppose he went to Brooklyn from College

& may not return till tomorrow, he cannot comprehend a widowed Mothers anxiety. he promises, but forgets, the weather may be his excuse tonight.

I shall have great pleasure in thanking Aunt Kate¹⁶, indeed will enclose your letter for her to read your compliment. Emma¹⁷ has returned to Stonington after five weeks at her Uncle Courts¹⁸ in this St. Jacks & Willie are to dine at Georges tomorrow he wants to talk with them about their future professions. Write when you can to your devoted Mother

A M W

Notes:

1. It dates from after 26 December 1853 from references to the New Year events mentioned in this letter. Also the letter is dated from address; see AMW to JW, 16 December 1853, #06433.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
4. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
5. 'Not on a Prayerless bed,' poem by Margaret Mercer (d. 1846), published later in *The Ladies' Repository*, Cincinnati, OH, 1872, vol. 10, p. 98.
6. During September 1853, JW received more demerits than in any other month, seventy-three resulting from thirty-two offences. Overall, during the autumn of 1853 JW behaved well, and passed his examination. See Gordon H. Fleming, *The Young Whistler 1834-66*, London, 1978, p. 100, and AMW to James H. Gamble, 28 September and 1 October 1853, #06428.
7. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
8. See AMW to JW, 3 September 1852, #06418.
9. Harriet 'Rittie' Bartlett, and Neva Bartlett, daughters of Professor William Holmes Chambers Bartlett (1804-1893), mathematician.
10. General Robert Edward Lee (1807-1870), Superintendent of USMA, West Point, and later President of the Confederate States of America.
11. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
12. Probably Dr W. Henry Church, physician.
13. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
14. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
15. Columbia College; see AMW to JW, 27 August 1851, #06399.
16. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
17. Emma Woodbridge Palmer (1835-1912), JW's step-cousin.
18. Courtland ('uncle Court') Palmer, Sr (1800-1874), merchant, brother of Dr G. E. Palmer.

System Number: 06435
Date: 10 February 1854
Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹
Place: New York
Recipient: JW
Place: West Point²
Repository: Glasgow University Library
Call Number: Whistler W430
Document Type: ALS

[embossed monogram:] A M W

220 West 14th St N York

Friday Feb 10th 1854

My precious Jemie³

Your affectionate & dutiful letter of last week a ready response in your fond mothers heart, & I have yearned to anticipate your call at the West Point post office, but had such a very thorough vaccination, my arm seemed the concentration of small pox for some days & up to last monday I felt sick & prostrated by it. Since then the agitating suspense upon the stirring & important question of whether our dear Willie⁴ would resume his collegiate course after the examination (which he is reviewing his studies for to pass about a fortnight hence) or if he should go 1st March to join Jacks⁵, has so agitated me I could not write, it is sufficient that you hear the decision is in favor of Jacks wishes, by the advice of George⁶, who is so convinced the results will benefit my dear Willie in health & render him all your father⁷ wished, that I submit, consequently as this is Willies recess at Columbia⁸ & he can study at Scarsdale [p. 2] if necessary after his two hours daily this week, we leave our pleasant Winter lodgings next thursday, You & I dear Jemie can talk this over more satisfactorily when we are tête à tête in Spring than thro the medium of the Post office. Willie has been far from stout lately, a violent pain in his left side which Doct C⁹ says is rheumatic, he would prescribe Colchicum¹⁰, but says Willie is too thin for active medicine, his vaccination also has taken, which makes him just now suffer double fold, still tho I have not allowed him to rise early - but rather bring him up breakfast he walks out in fine weather, yesterday we dined en famille at Doct Cammans. he has not been required professionally here, Willie has gone to his house as a friend, he is now getting ready to go to Georges office to see him again ere George starts for Balt this p-m. Willie wishes to have gone for the trip with him (& talk with Jacks no doubt about the shop) but night travelling would be risking such an attack as you have had, I plead too that as he can only [p. 3] be with me until the Examination, he shorten not the period, which by & bye he'll think so precious! Dont you find it so Jemie dear? that under a Mothers wing is a privileged [sic] place!

How are you my dear son? I am so grateful that you resolve to keep from demerit & to pass higher up next June in your classes. I need all your steadiness to cheer me, you know how desolate Mother will be alone. And you see I could not make a sudden move to Balt, during the experiment of the first year to my poor boy. I'll visit him by the blessing of the Lord upon my efforts, for I half promised my early friends Mrs Perines¹¹ family - & I'd like to introduce him to the most intimate of your fathers & my sympathisers in the Balt circle. I have fulfilled my claims to the Alexandroffsky circle at Balt & Phila¹². Mary¹³ is well & unites in love with Willie & Mother. Mr Popham¹⁴ is down stairs & Willie waits in haste & love

Your Mother

A M W

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
3. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
4. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
5. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin. He was working at the Winans Locomotive Works in Baltimore; see AMW to JW, 16 November 1853, #06430.
6. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
7. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
8. See AMW to JW, 27 August 1851, #06399.
9. Dr George Philip Cammann (1804-1863), physician, JW's uncle.
10. See AMW to George Washington Whistler, 8/21 June 1848, #06358.
11. Mary Perine (1797-1861), née Glenn, wife of D. M. Perine, Sr.
12. Name of the firm Harrison, Winans and Eastwick; see AMW to JW, 15, 16 and 18 September 1848, #06363. 'Alexandroffsky' in Baltimore was the villa owned by Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector. The families of Andrew McColla Eastwick (1810-1879), and Joseph Harrison (1810-1874) were based in Philadelphia.
13. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
14. William Sherbrooke Popham (1793-1885), merchant.

System Number: 06436

Date: [March 1854¹]Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²Place: [Springfield³]

Recipient: JW

Place: [West Point⁴]

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W431

Document Type: ALS⁵

Mrs Barnes⁶ sends love to you & talks of seeing you in camp. the Howards⁷ never tire of asking me about you. Margaret⁸ is yet in 11th St N Y Cousin Mary Ionsides⁹ has been so ill, she lingers to cheer her. Your Uncle Capt Swift¹⁰ has retired from public duties. What spring weather we have, the grass is looking green & birds singing, how I should have enjoyed this season quietly at the cottage! but I shall be in too much bustle packing there to leave it! Mr Bleacher¹¹ is to occupy it. Mary has been at James¹² this visit of mine here or would sent her love with your Mothers.

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to the Bleachers' move to AMW's cottage at Scarsdale, NY (see below); see AMW to JW, 3 April 1854, #06437.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. AMW is probably on a visit to Springfield, MA, the place of residence of Charlotte A. Barnes (see below).
4. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
5. This is a fragment of a letter with no address and date.
6. Charlotte A. Barnes (b. 1811), née Sanford, wife of James Barnes.
7. Probably the parents of Hannah Worthington Swift (m. 1844), née Howard, wife of William H. Swift.
8. Probably Margaret Swift (b. 1832), née Howard wife of Charles Swift.
9. Mary Ironsides (1826-1884), née Swift, JW's cousin; her address was w. 11th Street; see *Doggett's New York City Directory, 1849-50*, New York, p. 222.
10. Captain William Henry Swift (1800-1879), brother-in-law of JW's father.
11. L. Bleacher of Scarsdale, NY.
12. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant, and her brother James Brennan.

System Number: 06442

Date: 17 March¹ 1854

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Springfield

Recipient: JW

Place: [West Point³]

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W437

Document Type: ALS

Springfield

Thursday 17th 54

Probably a letter from you my dear James⁴ may be awaiting my welcome back at Mr Pophams⁵. your silence adds to my home - yearnings, I read over your hurried notes expressive of too much love & duty to Mother, willingly to neglect her. But now that my last home - boy has gone I am the more dependent upon West Point post marks. George⁶ said when he spent an evening the end of last week here, that whenever the Hudson became clear he intended going to see you & that he had sent my parcel for you to Mr Bartlett⁷ per Express. Willie⁸ strolled part of the way down to his hotel tête à tête with George, & disclosed to me a new prank of the cadets! besides mortifying my hopes of "few demerits" for this half year, 30 run up since your last Examination! How little

you resist folly & indolence - or how irresistible must be your chums, that a desolate Mothers claims are forgotten by so affectionate a son as my Jemie! Your ambition I know was to brave the Authorities at the Military Academy! for I heard you declare [p. 2] your preference to 199 demerits annually to blanks! But surely you have established your recklessness, and you realize the hazardous game you had played to render even your buoyant hopeful habit threadbare, at the close of last year. Oh Jemie dear, why will you not let me rejoice over a reform in your course, as Mrs Barnes⁹ does continually in her midshipmans¹⁰ steady perseverance? you are a great favorite of hers as with the Howards¹¹ - & she would not make a comparison to your disadvantage, neither does she ever extol her John. but as she read parts of his letter recd yesterday I wished in my heart silently, you would be as truly manly & soldierly! his honorable career at the Naval Academy has put him in advance a year! he is now studying more closely than ever for his last examination! Often in the Observatory till past midnight, yet compelled to be up at dawn to work out the preceding nights work to carry up to 9 oclock recitation. now I know you study very hard by fits & starts dear Cadet, but Jack Barnes¹² has boned demerits! & does not fear becoming unpopular among his mess mates because [p. 3] he acknowledges the deference & obedience due to their superior officers. he is explaining to his mother why his letters are only one a fortnight (& a full larger sheet nicely written it is) when he gives her a list of his studies. Chemistry, Naval Tactics, Fabrication of Material, Moral Sciences, International Law, & the Constitution of the United States - then Nautical Surveying & Naval Architecture will finish his course at Anapolis! How unalloyed will be his Summer holiday at home! He mentions with evident pain the dismissal of Ed Allen¹³, long threatening! but withheld [sic] till the 14th inst! What will be his career now? his Aunt¹⁴ (now free from her anxieties by death! - was his only true friend. he will feel the pangs of remorse I fear. I grieve over his folly, his wasted talents & neglect of privileges [sic] & his indifference to valuable advisers. he deviated from an honorable & truthful conduct in pecuniary affairs too! Oh my heart trembles lest Willie or you should stoop to accept pecuniary favor from any. I have tried to impress on you both never to put yourselves in the attitude to have such overtures made you. I blush when I think of Mr Winans¹⁵ opinion that you never could be expected to support yourself! he judged you no doubt [p. 4] by your extravagance last Summer & your ignorance of the value of money! I beseech you never to apply to any one but your natural guardians! make free with us only & confide in us under any perplexity. George will disclose to your tête à tête his prospects. he takes Willie to Balt[timore] tomorrow. it will be a severe but wholesome discipline no doubt, or the trial of this "breaking up" would have been spared me. for my compassionate Saviour does not willing afflict those who trust in Him, as your bereaved & heart stricken widowed Mother. Mary¹⁶ & I expect to return on Monday over the Harlaem R R¹⁷, we propose using our free ticket on the Albany road¹⁸ to meet that route to Scarsdale, without going to the city, tho we came here via N Y & N Haven. Willie, Mary & I together! he was not quite a week here & I watched his lingering look as the carriage drove him off tuesday morning. Many of your little playmates of Springfield memory Foote - Orne - Dwight¹⁹ &c are in Tylers²⁰ machine shop here, Oliver Edwards²¹ most in his element there, they draw Willie out of his exclusiveness & he went to see them in their uniform of check shirts & over-hauls, with oil & iron rust palms! I think his tastes are for College, but it is by his own consent, not mine he has cut short his course at Columbia, for the shop²²!

Notes:

1. According to the *Perpetual Calendar Whitaker's Almanac*, Thursday could only have been the 17th in August 1854. However, it is unlikely that the Hudson river would have had ice during the summer. JW was dismissed from the USMA in June 1854, hence AMW could not have been dependent on 'West Point marks' (see below). Probably AMW made a mistake on the day. The

most possible date for this letter is Thursday 16 March 1854. It is also dated with reference to Edmund Allen's official dismissal from the Naval Academy in March 1854 (see below).

2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
4. William Sherbrooke Popham (1793-1885), merchant.
5. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
6. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
7. Professor William Holmes Chambers Bartlett (1804-1893), mathematician.
8. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
9. Charlotte A. Barnes (b. 1811), née Sanford, wife of James Barnes.
10. John S. Barnes (b. 1836), naval officer and lawyer. John Barnes was a midshipman by 10 June 1854. See *List of Officers of the Navy of the USA and the Marine Corps, from 1775 to 1900*, New York, 1901, vol. 11, p. 41.
11. Probably the parents of Hannah Worthington Swift, née Howard, wife of William H. Swift.
12. Jack Barnes, brother of John S. Barnes. There is no record of a Jack Barnes graduating from the United States Naval Academy. *The List of Officers of the Navy of the USA 1775-1900*, New York, 1901, vol. 2, p. 41, registers only a John S. Barnes.
13. Edmund Allen (b. 1836), of Pomfret, CT; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
14. Mrs Wilkinson, neighbour of AMW at Pomfret, CT.
15. Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector.
16. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
17. New York and Harlem Railroad; see AMW to JW, 27 August 1851, #06399.
18. From the estate of George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father, AMW received 6 per cent stock shares of the Albany City Western Railroad worth \$700,00. Probably AMW received a token or ticket of some kind as part of her shares. See *Estate of Whistler George W., St Petersburg, Russia, 1850*, no. 4350, Connecticut State Library (formerly of Pomfret), G. 16. See AMW to JW, 6 August 1851, #06398.
19. G. Dwight, Orne and Foote were JW's boyhood playmates when the Whistlers lived at Springfield, MA between 1840-1842. JW's father was at the time engaged in the construction of the Great Western Railroad of Massachusetts (Boston and Albany).
20. Tyler, machinist at Springfield, MA.
21. Oliver Edwards; unidentified.
22. Columbia College, private institution of higher education, founded in 1754 as King's College; see AMW to JW, 27 August 1851, #06399. Winans Locomotive Works in Baltimore owned by Ross Winans (1796-1877), Baltimore locomotive manufacturer, father of JW's sister-in-law; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 3 April 1854, #06438.

System Number: 06437

Date: 3 April 1854

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Scarsdale

Recipient: JW

Place: [West Point²]

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W432

Document Type: ALS

[embossed monogram:] A M W

Scarsdale

April 3rd 1854

My own dear Jemie³

Pressure of business must account to you for such a scrawl from Mother who certainly wishes by example to enforce precept, to adorn your christian profession in all things. This is the day for my winding up a sadly trying ordeal, but seasonable for Lent, therefore I bow in faith to the chastening & divine rod⁴. Oh that you may be brought by the Spirit Power, to enter into my feelings my precious Jemie, as I do in your daily interests by nature, how do you suppose I could cheerfully mingle in the family circle, as a guest should, if it were not that I derive it from faith in dealings of our heavenly Father, if you were not appalled by your escape from being crushed⁵, I was! but I pray God to touch your heart by a sense of His sparing mercy, you do not realize as I who watched & wept over you last June how nearly your life had ebbed away⁶! but God listened to a widowed Mothers prayer to spare you for preparation to die. Jemie I pray that on your Sunday Guard duty you may listen to conscience, what does it say?

[p. 2] I believe I am more sensitive to chilling winds now that you & Willie⁷ are exposed to face them, I awake long before dawn, to weep & pray for you, & my own daily calling obliges me to rise before the sun, to accomplish my task, I will not take you thro the sad routine of last weeks at the cottage, desolate now, but soon to be renovated for the happy young couple Mr L Bleacher, lady & two little ones⁸ now, the dear friends who make me feel as if I was to leave home tomorrow when I start for Stonington from this sheltering roof. hope that leaving my associations with St P [i.e. Saint Petersburg] our furniture &c in a room here may be prophetic of my residing here again, it seems too calm a prospect for my earthly sojourn, but if I dared cherish such a one I would, that I might make a retreat for you & Willie from the world. Just as I had finished my weary week of toil, came letters from Sis⁹. George¹⁰ & Willie, the latter a very hero in bearing privations & hardships, in the den of iron¹¹ all day standing & a garret with three beds his lodging! [p. 3] his cheering hope to visit the north in July! George's date was last, his summons to Balt to watch the sinking strength of his invalid¹², the doctor had small hope of the cherub boy lingering much longer! & George thought him rapidly going. I have not heard since the date 28th nearly a week now - Sister was distressed about Willie & me! so natural is it for a daughter to sympathise with a mother, she says how poor father¹³ would have wished me to have a settled home! & begs me to remain in this congenial circle! She wrote delightfully of her three¹⁴ & so fondly of you boys. And now Jamie dear you may expect soon as the Express to Mr Bartlett¹⁵ can speed it, two undershirts, I shall try to buy them tomorrow as I propose making cousin Abby Jaffrays¹⁶ house in 14th St my place of refreshment, she I hope will offer herself & carriage to expedite what I must attend to. George I dare say will go to see you this month, how

much he will be pressed for time to wind up in N Y! the 1st of May his term of service on the NHRR¹⁷ expires. Jemie dear, will you get a permit, to call at the Bartletts & with my kindest remembrances, tell them I am interested still in the Scarsdale Cottage, tho the same young couple are to occupy it as did while I was in London, Mr B promised me some grape cuttings, if he can easily send them by Express to corner 4th St & B Way [i.e Broadway] N Y directed to W S Popham¹⁸ they will value them.

[p. 4] I trust you have not more demerits! two more months then the June Examinations! go on steadily now in preparation, you pd [i.e. paid] for the forfeit last year for trying to make up at the last for recklessness & waste. How many times I repeated "dear boys" as in the turning down side up of every scrap of paper my eye met either of your "exercise books" with La Roche¹⁹ & other St P memorials of you - or your originals²⁰! how touching all to me! they are treasured up of value only to the bereaved & devoted heart of a widowed Mother. Write²¹ this week I beg to cheer me. Marys love & mine to you. How very ill poor Bailey has been at St James. Oh none are to [sic] young to prepare to die!

Your own

A M W

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
3. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
4. Probably a reference to the biblical episode of Moses receiving the rod of God: 'And the Lord spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood, and in vessels of stone.' Exod. 7.18. 'And Moses took his wife and his sons, and set them upon an ass, and he returned to the land of Egypt: and Moses took the rod of God in his hand.' Exod. 4.20.
5. On 29 March 1854, JW received two demerits for not taking a gallop at the proper pace. From his classmates' recollections of the event, it seems that he went sliding over his horse's head, causing no serious injuries. See Gordon H. Fleming, *The Young Whistler 1834-66*, London, 1978, p. 101; also see AMW to James H. Gamble, 3 April 1854, #06438.
6. JW suffered from a serious attack of rheumatism in May and June 1853, mentioned in Robert E. Lee's letter to AMW, 26 May 1853, #12608. The ailment was diagnosed as endocarditis, JW went on convalescent leave, and his year-end examinations were postponed. See Fleming, *ibid.*, p. 99.
7. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
8. L. Bleacher of Scarsdale, NY, and his family; see AMW to JW, March 1854, 06436.
9. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
10. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.

11. William M. Whistler was employed for some time by the locomotive engineering shop in Baltimore owned by Ross Winans (1796-1877), Baltimore locomotive manufacturer, father of JW's sister-in-law. See AMW to James H. Gamble, 3 April 1854, #06438.
12. Probably Marshall Willey (d. 1854). George William Whistler was apparently Willey's surrogate father; see AMW to JW, 24 July 1854, #06440.
13. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
14. Annie Harriet Haden (1848-1937), later Mrs Charles Thynne, JW's niece, and Francis Seymour Haden (1850-1918), and Arthur Charles Haden (1852-1910), musician, JW's nephews.
15. Professor William Holmes Chambers Bartlett (1804-1893), mathematician.
16. Abbie Snelling Jaffray (1817-1871), née Hamilton, wife of R. W. Jaffray; see AMW to JW, 1 December 1853, #06432.
17. 'New Haven Railroad,' common name for the New York and New Haven Railroad. It later expanded to include thousands of miles of track in the northeastern United States, but was constantly plagued with financial problems. George William Whistler was superintendent of the New York and New Haven Railroad.
18. William Sherbrooke Popham (1793-1885), merchant.
19. La Roche, tutor at St Petersburg; see AMW to JW, 29 September 1848, #06366; AMW to JW, 20 October 1848, #06369;
20. *St Petersburg Sketchbook* (M.7); see AMW to JW, 1 December 1853, #06432.
21. 'Write ... AMW' continues in the left and upper margins of p. 1.

System Number: 06438

Date: 3 April 1854

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Scarsdale

Recipient: James H. Gamble²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W433

Document Type: ALS³

Scarsdale

April 3rd 1854

My dear Mr Gamble

Your New Years greeting was welcomed by me at my pleasant West 14th St lodgings, & it was only the claims of family connections surrounding me there that prevented my immediate response of cordial & Xtian greeting. Since then I have been too unsettled to write more than absolutely necessary. the Lord sees not as man sees⁴. my friends all thought me so properly settled here in this happy valley, but He finds it necessary again to admonish me I am but a sojourner. My heart was sorely stricken when required to part from Willie⁵, the more because of my long cherished hopes that his collegiate course would fit him for the highest occupation, I had given him to the Lord, as Hannah did her Samuel⁶.

And now when he writes me the sad contrast of the din & rust of a Machine shop in Balt⁷, & his pleasant life at college [p. 2] I can only pray, while I weep in the solitude of "the Prophets Chamber"⁸ that the severe discipline may be wholesome to higher ends, than Engineering. If the Lord will He can by His Holy Spirits power after my Willie suffer [sic] awhile stablish [sic] settle him in the ministry⁹.

My soul has been brought to Gethsemane¹⁰ by this last passing under the rod more than ever! but in Lent how seasonable! And how the Lord mingles mercies with needful afflictions. Your knowledge of the friends here renders it unnecessary for my pen to expatiate, how they lighten my cross, the moving away from the sweet cottage! room has been made here for my valuables, & the indispensables [sic] for furnishing mine & Marys¹¹ rooms at Stonington are boxed & ready for a car to transport. And I expect to go tomorrow, My solace will be in lightening my sisters¹² cares, & especially in helping to train her [p. 3] children¹³ to adorn the doctrine of God our saviour in all things. Our Church there needs "widows indeed"¹⁴ I shall be recognised in my Mothers¹⁵ place in the home & in the Church. her room looking out upon the sea I have selected, tho it is a mere Prophets Chamber.

But duty will call me oftener through Steam power than is suited to my love of repose. Willie I hope to go to see in May. James at West Point¹⁶ may not come to me. his last report of health recorded a miraculous escape from sudden death in his cavalry exercise¹⁷! Our excellent friends under whose roof I have been except a fortnight when I took Willie to friends at Springfield Mass. for a change of air after his rheumatic attack, since 16th of Feb. talk of you with sincere affection[,] they cling to your parting words in reply to their hopes for your visiting them again "Where there's a will"¹⁸ & Mr Popham¹⁹ was charmed by your Sister²⁰, we both felt as if she were a friend, not a stranger. & we were all here concerned about her while the papers expressed anxiety for the Steamers arrival at Lpool [i.e. Liverpool]. I do hope Mr²¹ & Mrs Wann may devote 24 hours to this family circle [p. 4] en route to your honored Mother²².

Offer our united, respectful & affectionate greetings to her, & when you write your Sister, say I have prepared my daughter²³ to welcome her at 62 Sloane St when she is in London. Mrs Wann must not be ceremonious with a Mother of little ones²⁴ & a very fragile one too. I shall hope to share your good news of the travellers. Direct to care of Doct Palmer²⁵. Stonington Connecticut for your attached friend.

Anna M Whistler

'Answered / 5th May June 1854²⁶

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk.
3. Written on sheet with narrow mourning border.
4. 'But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.' 1 Sam. 16.7.
5. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother
6. 'Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the Lord.' 1 Sam. 1.20.

7. Winans Locomotive Works in Baltimore owned by Ross Winans (1796-1877), Baltimore locomotive manufacturer, father of JW's sister-in-law. Winans employed Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin and William McNeill Whistler in his shop between 1853 and 1855; see AMW to JW, 16 November 1853, #06430, 10 February 1854, #06435, 27 April 1854, #06441, #06442, 7 December 1854, #06447, 1 January 1855, #06448.
8. The chambers of a man of God; see for example 'And Joseph made haste; for his bowels did yearn upon his brother: and he sought where to weep; and he entered into his chamber, and wept there.' Gen. 43.30. In the 18th and 19th centuries people would often provide a room at a moment's notice to those doing God's work, as a sign of hospitality and warmth, just like the biblical figure, the Shunamite woman.
9. AMW probably means that the Lord will by the power of His spirit look after Willie while he becomes established in his medical career.
10. Both Mathew and Mark talked of the arrival of Christ at Gethsemane. 'Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.' Matt. 26. 35-37. 'And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray. And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch. And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.' Mark 14. 31-36.
11. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
12. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
13. George Erwin Palmer (1843-1909), Donald McNeill Palmer (b. 1845), Anna Whistler Palmer (b. 1848), later wife of G. Stanton, named after AMW, and Julia McNeill Palmer (1851-1902), later wife of W. S. Boardman; they were all JW's cousins.
14. 'If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed.' 1 Tim. 5. 15-17.
15. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
16. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist; he was at the time attending the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
17. On 29 March 1854, JW received two demerits for not taking a gallop at the proper pace. From his classmates' recollections of the event, it seems that he went sliding over his horse's head, causing no serious injuries. See Gordon H. Fleming, *The Young Whistler 1834-66*, London, 197, p. 101.
18. 'Where ther's a will, ther's a way,' derived from 'To him that will, waies are not wanting,' George Herbert, *Outlandish Proverbs*, London, 1640, p. 345, line 730.
19. William Sherbrooke Popham (1793-1885), merchant.
20. Jane Wann (1822-1875), née Gamble, wife of S. Wann.
21. Samuel Wann (b. 1820), merchant, brother-in-law of J. H. Gamble.
22. Jane Gamble (1790-1864), mother of J. H. Gamble.
23. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.

24. Annie Harriet Haden (1848-1937), later Mrs Charles Thynne, JW's niece, and Francis Seymour Haden (1850-1918), and Arthur Charles Haden (1852-1910), musician, JW's nephews.
25. Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer.
26. Written in another hand.

System Number: 06439

Date: 29 and 30 May 1854

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Scarsdale

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W434

Document Type: ALS

[embossed monogram:] A M W

Scarsdale

Monday morning May 29th 1854

My own dear Cadet³

I know not if George⁴ repeated his flying visit to West Point, as he told me when I breakfasted in London terrace⁵ friday - week past, he must. My circuit will have been I trust entirely satisfactory when I shall have returned to the Corner House⁶ by next Saturdays boat, a fortnight absence from Aunt Kates⁷ home, divided among scattered relatives, will enable me to resume my duties there domestic & as a church member. Mary B⁸ is quite anxious to get back to help Mrs Palmer thro her sewing, that your Aunt may see you in Camp soon after the Exam. Then dearest Jemie you & I may be lighter of heart to talk over all that makes us anxious now.

then if you wonder why Mother did not stay till after the 1st of June in Balt, I may satisfy you, I believe even Mrs Winans⁹ (the Countess!) - was convinced my health would not admit of the excitement, & the old man¹⁰ & his new wife who paid their respects to Georges mother, take the will for the deed. Julia¹¹ I think comprehends me, she was sweetly attentive, but she did not demand the effort of me, she promises herself in June to see you as she has never been at West Point, we may meet there. I know if you are not disgraced, your vanity will be gratified by shewing off your new Sister as a bride "ornamented with jewels"¹² to the corps. It will indeed [p. 2] be a holiday to George after all his toils & anxieties, if ^{you} shall have entered your fourth year to continue till of age! then to release your brother Guardian from responsibility. I reflect upon your prospect this week last year! some of your Companions in the race have passed into judgement since! how in the sight of God have you improved the year? I rise before your Reveillée to pray for you! & again anticipate your Taps to ask forgiveness for my thoughtless Sons, imploring that you may commit your soul to your Father in Heaven ere you sleep. And again at midnight I plead for my sleeping boys. I recollect my brother Charlie¹³ when a child on a journey for his malady, being reminded by the lady friend who had the care of him, to say his prayers, replied "Oh Katie¹⁴ prays for all at home" but we must each plead for a new heart & to realize the presence of Him who pleads in heaven for each one of us - What a blessed family I

visited last week. four daughters & three sons reward their father & mothers care, they have been trained for our Saviours service on earth, & to labor only for heavenly rewards.

I took Willie to Homeland with me, Mr & Mrs Perine¹⁵ having known your father & Jacks¹⁶ so intimately, have adopted their sons in their place - I was glad to hear them prefer Homeland to Alexandroffsky Villa¹⁷ because the luxury abounding in the latter might have blinded them to the natural advantages & use of high cultivation of the old family seat of my excellent & early friends. But now dear Jemie as I have written Willie this morning I must recline[,] my back & side cry out for rest. I arose at 4 1/2 oclock.

[p. 3] Tuesday 30th

We had heavy rain again last night thunder this morn has made the weather cool, it will be favorable I think for my trip to Brooklyn tomorrow, no dust I hope, my friend Margaret Hill¹⁸ is going with me to Grandma Cammans¹⁹ to stay till Saturday. We plan a day at New Brighton at Adolfes²⁰ & no doubt shall spend one morning in Greenwood Cemetery²¹. I have many dear friends to call upon in Brooklyn. Gen Swift & his family are at Mr Richards²², he will ask about you my Cadet with deep interest I know. but the issue of the Exam he must learn from public report. Jackson has greatly improved by the discipline of having to bend to the rules & obey orders at Work²³, & so I doubt not my MacNeill will. I talked with them both last friday (on my walk before breakfast, earnestly about breaking off their indulgence of segars [sic]. but a stronger argument I could have used, was Willie's remark "I'll be good for nothing without tobacco!" I asked him how he could use what poisoned his health & his poor Mother's peace. It would lead to theirs & ah I tremble that so many bright & noble ones of my family, have blighted their fair promise by yeilding to temptation, first to social companions & by degrees becoming dependent upon stimulant, as poor Willie confesses, but none need sink to the level of brutes, if they have mental force to resolve to break off, & have courage to say no! The word of God tells us it must be as cutting off the right hand²⁴! & admonishes us to taste not, touch not & to resist evil.

I have been so bowed down by grief in Willies disappointing my hopes of my "home - boy" & after striving with him months, I had decided prayer to the Almighty should henceforth be my only course, but God has awakened me to work with Him & while I have breath I shall continue to exert a Mother's authority towards the two spared me. Jemie my first born! your affection always encourages me to hope you will abide by your fathers wish - his opinions, his example, & that you will strengthen your brother, by your self denial. Oh if you could know the humiliation his & your stooping for money has inflicted, you would henceforth (as he thro mortification has been brought to resolve - refuse to accept from any but your natural & lawful guardians. Your popularity among Cadets or Collegians how dearly purchased, by the loss of the good opinion of old friends. [p. 4] & how dearly purchased is the revelry, which gossip echoes to torture the bruised spirit of a disappointed Mother.

But I meant to tell you what a fine view I had of the eclipse at Mr Eastwick's observatory. I dined at Bartram Hall²⁵, it is wonderful for much we can eke out of a few hours to gratify others. thus tho Mrs Winans, Mrs E & Mrs H²⁶ would each have liked to detain me a week, I compressed into a brief intercourse expressions of loving kindness. I could only spend one night at the Villa, I arose so early as to walk to Mrs Ducatels²⁷ & escort Willie (tin kettle in hand) & met Jacks by the way to the Works where they must be before seven. I was admitted into the Studio of Hass E²⁸ at Bartram, he is preparing by close study in Chemistry for next year in Europe with Edward²⁹, but paints in oils for recreation. Really they do credit to their parents system, & their obedience. Hass has become a member of our church from his own conviction since last year he deports himself as a man, decided to do right. I saw his improvement, but it was not he who explained

the spring of his actions it was his grateful mother. My patience & faith fail not. May the Lord³⁰ dispose your heart to keep His Commandments then you will honor & obey your widowed Mother

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
3. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
4. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother; he was the guardian of JW and William McNeill Whistler.
5. 71 London Terrace, New York was the address of George William Whistler; see Lilian M. Randall, *The Diary of George A. Lucas: An American Art Agent in Paris, 1857-1909*, Princeton, NJ, 1979, p. 29.
6. The house owned by Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer, built in 1787, situated in the corner of Main and Wall Streets.
7. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
8. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
9. Elizabeth Winans (b. 1828), née West, second wife of Ross Winans, Sr.
10. Ross Winans (1796-1877), Baltimore locomotive manufacturer, father of JW's sister-in-law.
11. Julia de Kay Whistler (1825-1875), née Winans, JW's sister-in-law.
12. Probably a reference to Julia Winans' wealth.
13. Charles Johnson McNeill (1802-1869), brother of AMW.
14. Catherine Jane Palmer.
15. Homeland, north Baltimore, was the country estate of David Maulden Perine, Sr (1796-1882), merchant, and his wife Mary Perine (1797-1861), née Glenn.
16. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
17. 'Alexandroffsky' in Baltimore was the villa owned by Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector; see AMW to JW, 15, 16 and 18 September 1848, #06363.
18. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY.
19. Maria Margareta Cammann ('Grandma C') (1774-1862), mother-in-law of William Gibbs McNeill.
20. Adolphe Rodewald (1818-1869), husband of J. C. McNeill.
21. Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, NY, commissioned in 1838. There is a memorial of AMW's husband (George Washington Whistler) in this cemetery, although he was actually buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Stonington, CT.
22. The family of General Joseph Gardner Swift (1783-1865), first graduate of USMA, West Point, NY, chief engineer of US Army, JW's father's brother-in-law, and his son-in-law Peter Richards (b. 1829), merchant.

23. Winans Locomotive Works in Baltimore owned by Ross Winans (1796-1877), Baltimore locomotive manufacturer, father of JW's sister-in-law; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 3 April 1854, #06438.

24. 'And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.' Matt. 5.30.

25. Andrew McCalla Eastwick (1810-1879), partner in Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in Harrison, Winans and Eastwick in St. Petersburg; see AMW to JW, 15 and 16 January 1852, #06409. The Solar Eclipse occurred on 26 May 1854, and was reported as follows: 'True to astronomical calculations the eclipse came down yesterday afternoon and prepared glass was in great requisition - crowds of juveniles could be seen on the corners of the streets looking at the half veiled luminary with all the interest of amateur astronomers. Some of our periodical agents done a fine speculation by the sale of prepared glass.' See *The Daily News*, Philadelphia, 27 May 1854, vol. 24, no. 126, p. 3.

26. Lydia Anne Eastwick (1810-1890), née James, wife of Andrew M. Eastwick, and Sarah Harrison (1817-1906), née Poulterer, wife of Joseph Harrison.

27. Mrs Ducatel, mother-in-law of George William Whistler.

28. Joseph Harrison ('Hass') Eastwick (1834-1917), son of L. A. and A. M. Eastwick.

29. Edward Peers Eastwick (1833-1926), son of A. M. and L. A. Eastwick.

30. 'Lord ... Mother' continues in the left margin of p. 1.

System Number: 06440

Date: 24 July 1854

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Stonington

Recipient: JW

Place: [West Point²]

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W435

Document Type: ALS

[embossed monogram:] A M W

Stonington

July 24th 54Monday evening

You cannot have an idea of the love of a mother, or your kind nature would not allow you to keep yours in suspense a month. your last date the 20th of June at W P [i.e. West Point] was so confiding & so expressive of anxiety to screen me from sorrow on your account, as if you had not forgotten our St P [i.e. Saint Petersburg] home & the one who had there lessened my griefs by sympathy, & increased my joys by promoting virtue in our children. Do you never hear your fathers³ voice fondly coming back in memories of home? "Jemie⁴ my boy" do all you can to comfort mother" as he used to write when for your health I was obliged to leave him & home!

And what are you doing to comfort your widowed mother? you know I can bear calmly all sorrows but those which result from my childrens neglect of the holy law by which you have been trained. You once wrote me last winter when you felt lonely & depressed that as the darkest hour of the 24 is that preceding daylight, you hoped a cheering letter the next mail. Perhaps tomorrow morning may bring me affectionate lines from you, but a cloud [p. 2] now obscures the sunshine of your heart towards mine. It is not unusual for me to be alone after I put the children to bed, but as my separation from my own home companions binds me the more truly to the Saviour I only lament the cause, of my depression. I cannot be indifferent to the estranged affection of my sons, I must grieve that you grieve the Holy Spirit! Mary⁵ is my sympathiser in bodily form⁶, in my Attic, we are "surrounded by interested witnesses⁷["] I know, invisible! The good Doct Uncle Palmer⁸ often asks me when I expect Jemie & Willie⁹ to visit me? I know nothing of the plans or prospects of either, tho I do not express to him the blight of my summers hopes! I came not here to cast a gloom, & I attain to uniform cheerfulness for the family circle by "spreading my [case?] before the Lord¹⁰" the promises of scripture I search out daily, they are a staff to me in passing under the rod! Debos¹¹ letters are a solace also, at least once a fortnight, she too sympathises with me. I recd in one from Cousin Kate¹² a note sealed & directed to you so I shall enclose it, tho I know not its importance to you, she has always loved my boys as a Sister, it may she remembers your birth days occur this month! I have felt each ^{July} anniversary a mockery of past home comforts. George's¹³ birth day the 9th, yours 11th Willies 22nd Kirkies¹⁴ 16th his death the 10th such is the course [p. 3] of this world! And "the judgements of God are a great deep¹⁵!" Oh my boys! does the day dream of the present obliterate, the truth, that death is the only certainly you may pity me without really feeling it! but I pity you in my heart & wish you would make to yourself the resources I do, by cheering the suffering. My usual walks are to a poor sick woman & as I impart soothing, I receive it, according to the divine promise¹⁶. But I went with Aunt Kate¹⁷ to call this afternoon upon the pretty, & amiable wife of Edmund Stanton¹⁸. As he pointed out to us her portrait I said, "Jemie would be charmed with seeing this" and all seemed interested to hear of you, but I felt it awkward to explain of your movements. Edmund is particularly friendly, he is a very excellent fellow, how blessed is his Mother¹⁹. I heard with surprise from him his having met George in an Omnibus last Wednesday! I recd a note from him mailed at Cape May²⁰ last week, but I did not reply to it, supposing he'd write me at N Y. Little Marshall Willey²¹ was released from suffering last tuesday! he "endured to the end²²". what a blessed transition from corruption to immortal joy! he loved his Saviour & put himself under the tender Shepherds care as he felt he was entering the dark valley²³! A violent thunderstorm awakened me last friday past midnight & memories kept me awake, it was the hour of Willies birth day! I thought I certainly should write him on Saturday, but claimants here, interfered. To²⁴ pray for you, I bid you good night. Oh that happy dreams might unite us! No letters this morning (Tuesday 25th) I shall not delay begging George to forward this to you now &

ever your devoted Mother

A M W

Envelope:

[Address panel:]

Mr James A Whistler

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
3. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
4. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist. 'Jemie my boy,' was a familiar phrase used by JW's father George W. Whistler to reconcile JW to self denial & obedience; see AMW to JW, 10 May 1849, #06392, 15 and 16 January 1852, #06409, and 7 April 1853, #06426.
5. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
6. The idea of a 'sympathiser in bodily form' sums up the role Jesus Christ plays in Christian theology as the person bridging the gap between humanity and God. 'It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us,' Rom. 8.34.
7. The idea of being surrounded by witnesses probably comes from Heb. 12.1, where 'so great a cloud of witnesses' describes the list of great figures from biblical history given in Heb. 11.
8. Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer.
9. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
10. It probably derives from two biblical references: 'And Hezekiah received the letter of the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up into the house of the Lord, and spread it before the Lord,' 2 Kings 19.13-15; 'And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up unto the house of the Lord, and spread it before the Lord,' Isa. 37.13-15.
11. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
12. Kate ('Cousin Kate') Livermore (1820-1907), daughter of J. D. Prince and wife of A. Livermore.
13. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
14. Kirk Boott Whistler (1838-1841), JW's brother.
15. 'Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgments are a great deep: O Lord, thou preservest man and beast.' Ps. 36.6.
16. 'According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue. Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.' 2 Pet. 1.3-4.
17. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
18. Louise Stanton, née Babcock, wife of Edmund Stanton.
19. Mrs Stanton, mother of Edmund Stanton.
20. Probably Cape May, NJ.
21. Marshall Willey (d. 1854); see AMW to JW, 3 April 1854, #06437.
22. 'But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.' Matt. 24.13.
23. 'Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.' Ps. 23.4.

24. 'To ... us' continues in the right margin; 'No ... AMW' continues in the left margin of p. 1.

System Number: 06441

Date: 27 [April¹] 1854

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Stonington

Recipient: JW

Place: West Point³

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W436

Document Type: ALS

Stonington

Thursday afternoon 27th 1854

It is an indulgence to me to come up to my snug little Attic to write to either of my own precious boys.

Yesterday I answered dear Willies⁴ - now enclosed to you dear Jemie⁵, it has cheered my heart, for his last before it required my reproof at his murmurings. I told him he had run his head into a noose & to be restive wd. [i.e. would] only bring him a tighter rein, for he was very rebellious because George⁶ had told him he could not come north again this year. I bade him earn a holiday to spend with me! ah Jemie I could not bring my heart to this tone of severity, until weeping had believed it, & prayer calmed my wounded spirit. I have not heard from George since the first week in April, then he expected to have spent Good Friday⁷ with you, but Miss Julia⁸ was in the city & we see by Wills letter, he must have gone with her to Balt[imore], tho he wrote me he should be too busy in N Y to leave it this month. I am so pleased that your flannels were in time to shield you from the storm & that you approved of my selection, the white, so soft & thin are for Summer, you know dear Jemie, your good Doct C⁹ said you might never go without. I wonder if you ever think now of your last spring¹⁰ - on the sick list - and of that Cadet you interested me in so much, who was in the room next to yours at the hospital? he taken! you spared, to acquaint yourself with God before entering on eternity. And soon it will be the anniversary of the Norwalk disaster¹¹! which George was so appalled by. And he was exposed to sudden death! You who cheer me by your presenting me the bright side of your experience may think "Mother is not doing as she'd be done by" but indeed my dear Soldier, I do look above the "clouds & darkness around"¹² & above the mercy which time after [p. 2] time has been exercised towards us, I only wish you not to abuse it. I suppose you will be if your health admits, very devoted to your preparation for the June Examination. I must not tax your time, or divert your attention, but hope it may not retard you, to write me once more. When I know more of my prospect of visiting Balt, you shall have a directed envelope to hail my welcome at Mr Perines datcha¹³. I hope Mrs Winans¹⁴ may not fancy the change in my position has induced me to prefer the hospitality of another roof to hers. I promised these friends of Anna McNeill when I spent a day with them last Oct, that my next visit to Maryland should be to them, I had not been among them since Debo¹⁵ was my little one, they had not in all these years lost interest in us! Mr P remarked that too much sorrow was revived by my return for a day merely! And Mrs P, an invalid but so warm hearted depends upon my staying long enough to talk freely. To draw Willie into this family circle will be accomplishing a very important object of my going. I certainly shall feel it an effort to be among the Winans¹⁶, tho of course I must not appear to have made a

convenience of Alexandroffsky Villa¹⁷. Most grateful was I last May for their welcome to their hospitality, & never can I forget my emotion as I saw my Willie just from St James¹⁸! coming to meet me there! But we can only be together by snatches, except on the blessed day when the shop¹⁹ is closed! I told Mary B²⁰ yesterday when she was so disconsolate, I should take her with me, but her indignation is so great! she fears to meet any linked with our breaking up. Emma²¹ has been brides maid at Norwich, Aunt Kate²² intends to keep a wee box of dreaming cake²³ to send our Cadet! I rather think you'll secure the dream by making a bonne [p. 3] bouche²⁴ of it, with your chum. I recd a delightful letter from Cousin Kate²⁵ yesterday in which she expresses her usual love for my dear boys. Willie is hoped for in Bath as my escort in Augt. Topsy²⁶ is quite a comfort now. What a contrast to the Eliza who used to make you ask shelter in Mrs Searles "Keeping room"²⁷ [.] You will I fear envy Mr James Prince²⁸ a voyage to England next month, tho it is by advice of Doctor "Doughdle" as you used to call Dr Green²⁹, in your one year old attempts.

Sis³⁰ will be right glad to chat over her youthful term with this son of good old Father Prince³¹, but ah if it were her own Jemie what a jubilee there'd be at 62³²! But I dare say your niece & nephews³³ at first would be disappointed, at such a shadow of Mr Boxalls portrait³⁴. Dont despair about your crop when you come out, my fairy wand will soon restore what your artistic taste values. And what for auld lang syne³⁵ Mother fancies whenever Willie allowed my fingers to pass thro his hair a charm attended it. I cannot express the comfort, tho often gazed at thro tears, of the St P pastile [sic] likenesses of my boys³⁶. Your father called it his, so the association is precious to me. yes I often think this, expediency will scarcely deprive me of. tho I hold even the wreck of home by an uncertain tenure. If we are permitted after the June Exam of 55 to be in the same abode long enough I shall get you to clean the glass of this pastile, My friend Miss Margaret³⁷ writes me of the Bleachers³⁸ being quite settled at the Cottage, she says, however dear they are, she could not bear to think of any tenant but her old cronie for whom it was built, were it not she hopes I may build a nest in Locust Grove³⁹ within hearing of each others voices & sight of her room window! All here are very glad to have me & very considerate to make me feel at home, & for the present I thank God that I can make myself useful in a family.

[p. 4] I have most influence in regulating the quartette harmoniously. Georgie & Donie⁴⁰ are dear boys. they rise at 5½ as I rap against the wall which divides their little room from mine. That is more than you would do at sound of your mothers voice, but I do not like to be later than I know you & Willie have to be up at the call of the duty. You must write me of your old Uncle the Col.⁴¹ & tell him if I had had a home I should have way laid him too. I wrote him when I first returned - a widow! but I attribute not his silence to want of sympathy - just the contrary - And now it is near tea time, that is part of my duty to make it & pour it out. 5½ is the hour, so you can think of the tea table chat then & kind Uncle Palmer⁴² hoped my boys might both be added to his hospitable board this Sumr. till I explained to him, your sick leave had swallowed up all other furloughs. All here including Mary join me in love & thanks for "the stolen" treats your pen sends⁴³ your loving Mother

A M W

Remember my regards at the Bartletts⁴⁴. I was glad to think of your going there, Continue to improve this old friendship, a part of your inheritance. The weather has cleared up & I can speak above my whisper again.

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to the *Perpetual Calendar Whitaker's Almanac*, and the anniversary of the Norwalk disaster on 6 May 1853 (see below).
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
4. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
5. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
6. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
7. 14 April 1854.
8. Julia de Kay Whistler (1825-1875), née Winans, JW's sister-in-law.
9. Dr George Philip Cammann (1804-1863), physician, JW's uncle.
10. In May 1853 JW suffered from an attack of rheumatism; see Robert Edward Lee's letter to AMW, 20 May 1853, #12608.
11. A fatal accident which took place at the Norwalk Bridge, at South Norwalk, CT. The Norwalk bridge was a wooden span which pivoted on a central pier to create two 60-foot openings for the passage of ships. At 10.15 on the morning of 6 May 1853, Captain Byxbie of the steamboat *Pacific* whistled for passage through the draw at South Norwalk. The bridge tender listened to make sure he heard no train coming from either direction and then opened the bridge to admit the *Pacific*. The bridge tender was just preparing to close the span after the vessel had passed through, and he was horrified to see the express train from New York to Boston sweep around the curve at an estimated speed of 25 mph and, with no more than a last minute effort to check its momentum, plunge into the stream. This train was the only one on the line not scheduled to stop at Norwalk. Most of the 40 victims perished by drowning. Some managed to save themselves by jumping. Robert B. Shaw, *A History of Railroad Accidents, Safety Precautions and Operating Practices*, New York, 1978, pp. 189-190.
12. 'it was a cloud and darkness (to them),' Exod. 14.20; 'with darkness, clouds and thick darkness,' Deut. 4.11; 'Clouds and darkness (are) round about,' Ps. 97.2.
13. David Maulden Perine, Sr (1796-1882), merchant and owner of Homeland, a country estate in Baltimore. 'Datcha,' Russ.: country house.
14. Probably, Celeste Winans (1823-1861), née Revillon, wife of Thomas De Kay Winans.
15. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
16. The family of Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector.
17. 'Alexandroffsky' in Baltimore was the villa owned by Thomas De Kay Winans; see AMW to JW, 15, 16 and 18 September 1848, #06363.
18. St James College was located near Williamsport, MD, on the upper reaches of the Potomac River; see AMW to JW, 12 September 1852, #06419.
19. Winans Locomotive Works in Baltimore owned by Ross Winans (1796-1877), Baltimore locomotive manufacturer, father of JW's sister-in-law; see AMW to JW, 16 November 1853, #06430; AMW to James H. Gamble, 3 April 1854, #06438.
20. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
21. Emma Woodbridge Palmer (1835-1912), JW's step-cousin.

22. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
23. Derives from the 'groom's cake,' which originated in England. According to legend, any female guest who placed a piece of the groom's cake under her pillow would have dreams about her future husband.
24. Fr.: *bonne-bouche*, a luscious morsel; a touthsome tit-bit; see AMW to JW, 16 December 1853, #06433.
25. Kate ('Cousin Kate') Livermore (1820-1907), daughter of J. D. Prince and wife of A. Livermore.
26. Eliza (d. 1856), a servant of Kate Livermore; see AMW to JW 27 August 1851, #06399, and AMW to JW, 16 September 1851, #06400.
27. Mrs Searles, AMW's neighbour at Pomfret, CT. In the 17th and 18th centuries, 'keeping room' was another term for 'Sitting room' descendent of the great hall of medieval Europe, where a large open space held the cooking fire, dining tables, seating for conversation, and plentiful space for jostling and entertainment. In the 19th century the multi-functioned character of the 'keeping room' changed, resulting to the creation of separate spaces such as Kitchen, living room etc. with the exception being perhaps the country farm kitchen, which functioned much like the Colonial keeping room.
28. James Prince, son of J. D. Prince.
29. Dr John O. Green, physician, of Lowell, MA; see *1836 Supplement to Lowell, Massachusetts Directory*, Boston, p. 75.
30. Deborah Delano Haden.
31. John Dyneley ('Father Prince') Prince, engraver and printer.
32. 62 Sloane Street, the London residence of Deborah D. Haden.
33. Annie Haden (1848-1937), later Mrs Charles Thynne, Francis Seymour Haden (1850-1918), and Arthur Charles Haden (1852-1910), musician; AMW's grandchildren.
34. William Boxall (1800-1879), portrait painter and director of the National Gallery. Boxall painted Deborah's portrait in 1851, *Portrait of Deborah Delano Haden* (z.229), and JW's portrait in 1848, exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1849, *Portrait of J. Whistler* (Z.76). See Eric Denker, *In Pursuit of the Butterfly*, Seattle, 1995, p. 24; see also AMW to Joseph Harrison, 25 June 1849, #07633, and AMW to JW, 25 November 1851, #06407.
35. 'Auld Lang Syne' traditional Scottish song, first penned by Robert Burns (1759-1796) in 1788, and first published in 1796.
36. Emile-Francois Dessain (1808-1882), painter and printmaker did a pastel drawing of JW and his brother, *Portrait of William McNeill Whistler and James McNeill Whistler* (z.221); see AMW to Margaret Getfield Hill and Alethea Blanchard Hill, 21 and 22 February 1853, #07640.
37. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY.
38. The family of L. Bleacher of Scarsdale, NY; see AMW to JW, March 1854, #06436.
39. Locust Grove, Scarsdale, NY.
40. George Erwin Palmer (1843-1909), and Donald McNeill Palmer (b. 1845), JW's cousins.
41. Probably Captain William Henry Swift (1800-1879), brother-in-law of JW's father.
42. Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer.

43. 'sends ... AMW' continues in the right margin; 'Remember ... inheritance' continues in the left and upper margins of p. 1; 'the ... again' continues in the right margin of p. 3.
44. The family of Professor William Holmes Chambers Bartlett (1804-1893), mathematician.

System Number: 06443

Date: 2 September [1854¹]

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Stonington

Recipient: A Fair Stranger³

Place: West Point⁴

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W438

Document Type: ALS

[embossed monogram:] A M W

Stonington

Sept 2nd

Do not let it alarm you fair stranger that the widowed mother of James Whistler⁵ ventures to advise you of his absence, & to avail of this opening to offer a few reflections, prompted by the truest regards for you. I judge not harshly of the inexperienced in worlds allurements, not doubting present amusement is blinding you to future mortifications if persisted in - It has so happened that two of your billet doux have been opened by me. the first in the twilight was supposed to be directed to myself. the W Point Postmark & a ladys caligraphy [sic] easily explains my error when I returned from a weeks excursion I gave it him, & his laughing assurance that of course his returning the compliment should end the correspondence satisfied me. My delicacy was alarmed for one of my own sex. I saw James has merely been indulging in the gratification to his vanity, his natural fondness for ladies society & you being a West Point belle explained all. I did not lecture my son, but depended upon his ready promise to end the affair - so natural in youths teens! but so imprudent & culpable if continued. Probably you have no mother! make a friend of me, for I have trained a daughter to rejoice in the restraints maternal love put upon her inexperienced years. [p. 2] I excuse the past in this flirtation of James. the temptation so irresistible at West Point. James has devoted his attentions to a Stonington belle every day, for it is his way! but in another month he will find as much facination [sic] in other bright eyes, some kindred spirit will meet him in every place, & now that he has appointed him, public duties on the U S Coast Survey⁶ he will not be able ever to visit West Point. He left here on his 2nd trip to Washington City a fortnight ago & was visiting friends in Penn when I last heard.

Consequently your last hurried note was handed me. it is sacred from other inspection. As his Guardian & anxious Mother, I pray to God to grant a blessing upon my interposition, this my sincere endeavor to screen you from observation - your delicacy - his honor are so precious. If this proof convinces, you will value the true friendship of Yours

Anna M Whistler

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to JW's appointment to a post in the drawing division of the US Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, DC (see below).
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. Unidentified.
4. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
5. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
6. On 7 November 1854 JW was appointed to a post in the drawing division of the US and Geodetic Survey, Washington DC; see Gordon H. Fleming, *The Young Whistler 1834-66*, London, 1978, pp. 109-112.

System Number: 06444

Date: 30 October [1854¹]

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: [Unknown]

Recipient: JW

Place: Alexandroffsky Villa³

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W439

Document Type: ALS

Monday morning 3 oclock Oct 30th

I cannot sleep, again & again prayer has soothed my spirit thro this restless night & tears have relieved my full heart. And now if you my own dear James⁴ will read this, it may be time well spent for us all. I judge you not, there is One who will judge you by your obedience to His law, which may not be broken without suffering. I fear you never allow yourself time now for examining your ways, alas I have reason to fear you allot no hour to prayer or reading His word by which your course of conduct is to be compared. Oh that you would remember God spared you to my prayers for time to prepare to die! when he suddenly took the companion of your happy childhood⁵ to eternity! each brother who has "gone before"⁶ you to the grave gave proof of preparation. "The little ones" "of such is the kingdom of heaven"⁷ dear Joes⁸ heart (it was testified by all who knew him) had never swerved from obedience to Gods commands, he was thought pure by all who were familiar with him, yet he had resolved to consecrate his youth to our Saviour voluntarily. & had told at Aunt Marias⁹ his wish for Confirmation, the desire was acceptable in the council of the Almighty, & he was taken to Paradise at 15. dear Henry¹⁰ his bosom companion & best loved cousin [p. 2] was the next called that year of 1840. you never knew such a boy of twelve years old. You would have admired him for he was so really a gentleman, & had advanced so far up the ladder of learning. After Joe had departed, only a Christmas holiday confined to a sick bed at dawn on New Years day his last words "Mother I am dying." & then an angelic expression was the halo of peace on that beautiful face! the morning star shone bright as I rose from my prayer beside the corpse - can you wonder I rise to see the dawn? But I was about to tell you that Joes death gave new impulse to virtue to Henry. & was succeeded by another sudden sorrow. the pet of the house, a most beautiful & gifted little Sister

of eight years Louisa MacNeill¹¹ sickened on tuesday & on Wednesday Ash Wednesday - she was taken from suffering here to Jesus whom she loved, she used to beg her dear father to go to church all day on the Lords day. And now Jemie I check my inclination to extend the chain of precious memories of others, tho I must tell you of Henrys unceasing attention to his bereaved parents & sisters & his tender care of his little brothers. he seemed bent upon supplying the vacancies death had made in both our homes, from that time he sought in his companionship with Cousin Donald¹² to learn more of serving the Lord, asked him the full meaning of Faith & spoke of his resolve to be a Christian that was his own remark. he became very devoted to improvement, & tho so suddenly taken, left every thing in perfect order! he had marked the hymn "Let worldly [p. 3] minds the world pursue, it hath no charms for me, once I admired its pleasures too, but grace has set me free."¹³ Dear Willy MacNeill certainly had attained to the same freedom. As Mary & Frederick¹⁴ testified to me the year before he was so suddenly to exchange temporal for eternal enjoyments! And now Jemie in the Providence of God the precious brother he has left, is to share our home influences. how are these to be exerted? Will you sustain Cousin Donald & me by your exertions to promote the welfare of Willie¹⁵ & Jacks¹⁶? Your example will have the greatest weight with your brother, you see how he is unsettled, he tries dissipation & it aggravates his discontent, a crisis is pending in this poor boys life, he must be checked in his folly, or he will get quite beyond a widowed mothers influences. Now you must do your part by example dear Jemie, it is pitiable when we compare Willies verging manhood of weakness mental & physical, with his career under his fathers¹⁷ firm yet affectionate control, or his dutiful consideration for his widowed mother until his 16th year, But if now he could be strengthened to breast the waves (for life is a river, deepening in its course - the struggle would soon be over, & steadily he might steer & be able to look back with gratitude & to grow. But if you are the sport of the winds yourself, how can you offer advice to Willie? Oh think of what he was! & what he is! think of him in your pillow for one night instead of reading fiction, & ask your conscience what is required of you to help your Willie. Will you both combine to break my heart? is Mary Brennan¹⁸ to be my only sympathiser? she loves you both so truly it is cruel to disappoint her of the reward she hoped for her self sacrifice in coming to Baltimore!

[p. 4] Our faithful Mary, who seeks no earthly reward, but rejoices over every symptom of tenderness of conscience in the young gentlemen, she has seen so carefully trained, she wept bitterly last evening in the next room, when my heart was too heavy with sorrow for blessed tears to flow, as they have thro the night & do now as I write, I thank God for this relief, as I do for every other. And now Jemie it occurs to me, the reflection will be better to you in the retrospect of your career, that you prefer luxury to your home. pleasure certainly has crippled you & indolence has ensnared you. On Wednesday I shall expect you with your valises to share the boys room. Today & tomorrow I prefer your remaining quiet at Alexandroffsky Villa. We are certainly under great obligations to its hospitable hosts. I hope you rise to their breakfast, or the effort nearer the sun rising will be an unpleasant contrast to you. I do not despair of you dear Jemie for I believe you love your devoted Mother. It is 5 1/2 now I shall lie down tho not to sleep

Notes:

1. This letter must date from October 1854, as in October 1853 JW would have been at the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, and in October 1855 would have been in Europe. Also dated with reference to *Perpetual Calendar Whitaker's Almanac*.

2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.

3. JW is evidently at Alexandroffsky Villa in Baltimore owned by Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector; see AMW to JW, 15, 16 and 18 September 1848, #06363.
4. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
5. William Wyatt McNeill (1833-1853), JW's cousin.
6. 'Not lost but gone before,' Mathew Henry (1662-1714), *Commentaries, Matthew ii*, Literally from Seneca, Epistola lxiii. 16; also a poem by Caroline Elizabeth Sarah (Sheridan) Norton (1808-1877).
7. 'But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.' Matt. 19.14.
8. Joseph Swift Whistler (1824-1840), JW's half-brother.
9. Maria Matilda McNeill, née Camman (d. Jan. 1852), JW's aunt, and wife of W. G. McNeill.
10. Henry McNeill (1828-1840), JW's cousin.
11. Louisa McNeill (1832-1840), JW's cousin.
12. Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin.
13. 'Let worldly minds the world pursue, It has no charms for me; Once I admired its trifles too, But grace has set me free.' Passage of a hymn called *Old Things Are Passed Away*, Hymn 59, written by John Newton (1725-1807). Newton and William Cowper (1731-1800), wrote the *Olney Hymns*, in which Newton's hymn 59 was included.
14. Mary Isabella Rodewald (1823-1867), née McNeill, JW's cousin, and her husband Johann Frederick Rodewald (b. 1808).
15. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
16. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
17. William Gibbs McNeill (1800-1853), railway engineer, JW's uncle.
18. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.

System Number: 06445
 Date: [November 1854¹]
 Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²
 Place: Baltimore
 Recipient: JW
 Place: [U S Coast Survey³]
 Repository: Glasgow University Library
 Call Number: Whistler W440
 Document Type: ALS

[embossed monogram:] A M W

176 Preston St Bolton Terrace

Monday noon

My own precious Jemie⁴

Yours of friday so welcome did not greet me till this morning. I hope you may not have to complain of my silence again. tho I may never again know the luxury of leisure. I have been called from this by Mrs Thornton⁵ our opposite neighbor of Bolton Terrace - I must tell you how I like her cordiality when you come, for now is dinner time, & the boys are to take your valise to George's⁶ house this p - m as he & T Winans Esq⁷ go to you tomorrow. I half hope you may accompany them back for your Thanksgiving, bring all your soiled articles, or send them in the little valise[.] I hope you'll find a snug & safe place to put away the doz mince pasties [p. 2] I have packed carefully in the top. I send your watch, have it in a watch makers hands, your knife you must not lose tho it has your name upon it dearest, I gave a paper box to our nice bakers this morning to have it filled with ginger snaps to send you, mind to keep the cover on, or they will get soft. I have a Gt Coat which I trust may alter for you, it is time you should wrap up, the plaid for vests too for you & Willie may be made up.

Cousin Donald⁸ thinks he may have to go to Washington after Thanksgiving, I might be tempted just to introduce you to my old friends homes. I'm glad the Dennys⁹ tea you sometimes, your nice discernment will prevent your intruding. I wonder where they [p. 3] attend church! Oh Jemie if you while trying to secure transient enjoyments, would also seek the favor of God, I should be so comforted! I awake at five to think of you, rise at six that I may secure an hours intercourse with heaven & my prayer is daily that you may be awakened by the familiar & sacred petition taught at your fathers¹⁰ knee. "Our Father in Heaven"¹¹

And now Jemie dear after dinner I close this hurried scrawl written in my dark room, so light your candle with it after extracting Mothers love from it. how thankful am I that you have no taste for lighting segars! I send you two new winter under shirts. Mary wishes to make you a new set of drawers, & for Willie¹² to have the others. Cousin¹³ & Brothers & Mary¹⁴ send you greetings, love & confide in your tender Mother

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to Thanksgiving day. Also JW would have been in Europe in November 1855, and the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY in 1853.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.

3. On 7 November 1854, JW was appointed to a post in the drawing division of the US and Geodetic Survey, Washington DC; see Gordon H. Fleming, *The Young Whistler 1834-66*, London, 1978, pp. 109-112.
4. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
5. Mrs Thornton, AMW's neighbour at Baltimore.
6. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
7. Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector.
8. Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin.
9. The family of St Clair Denny (1800-1858), army paymaster in Washington, DC.
10. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
11. 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.' Matt. 6. 9-13.
12. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
13. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin. Patrick lived with AMW in Baltimore for some time, after the loss of his parents.
14. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.

System Number: 06446

Date: 26 and 27 November 1854¹

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Baltimore

Recipient: JW

Place: U S Coast Survey³

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W441

Document Type: ALS⁴

176 Preston St Bolton Terrace⁵
Baltimore

Nov 26th

You know my own dear Jemie⁶,

I never write even on the evening of the day which we must "Remember to keep holy"⁷ in preference to reading, but so often there are promptings at my heart to use any influence I may have, to persuade you, make yourself a member of our church, & the sermon this morning was to Candidates for Confirmation that while alone this evening I yeild [sic] to my maternal inclination. Willie⁸ went to see Joe Eastwick⁹ & bring him here to tea & we should have proposed his going to Doct Johns¹⁰ with Cousins D. & his wife¹¹ - but he went to Washington - Willie saw George & Julia¹² & reported their resolve to take a pew in some church, now George's unsettled views bear upon the subject I wish you not to put off deciding about. If he had

joined the church in which he was presented for baptism, Julia would have been led by by [sic] him to the Episcopal Church. Willie says she experiences a wish to attend Mr Cox's¹³ [.]

[p. 2] How earnestly I wished for George this morning! I have so repeatedly urged him to be Confirmed, Jemie dear! what hinders you? why deprive yourself of advantages? If means of shelter against temptations to abandon your youth to sensual indulgence. If I enlarge upon the subject in its holiest motives I fear you will by comparison judge it not a convenient season, for you [sic] embrace. I trust dear Jemie you reverence all that is sacred & that you wish to be a Christian, you have no vicious propensities that I am aware of. the longer you defer, the more obstacles you will meet. satisfy this yearning of my heart over you my son. my God-son also - & let my eyes be blessed by witnessing your youthful head bent at the Altar for the "laying on of hands"¹⁴ do not think you are not good enough yet, use this motive, this means, to become acquainted with your Saviour. Then when you marry, Gods holy word will sustain your right as the "head of the wife"¹⁵ to lead her to our church.

[p. 3] If my dear George had consented when I urged him in 1842 & our Springfield Pastor¹⁶ encouraged, how happy for him to have decided! Again when Willie was confirmed (dont you wish now you had been at Pomfret¹⁷?[)] - I wrote to George whose reply was, I could not desire it more than himself but he feared disturbing Mary¹⁸! I do still pray for him in faith, but a mothers influence is smothered by worldly engagements. Jemie dear! I only wish you to secure the promise of the life that now is, & of that which is to be eternal. You have yeilded to my persuasions¹⁹ [sic] in points of lesser weight, tho linked in the chain of safety to your future, take this subject to your pillow & when you come home again, let me give in your name to my pastor. Now is the time, life here is so uncertain. "Seek first the Kingdom of God & His righteousness & all else shall be added to you"²⁰ Mrs Eastwick²¹ told me in May with tears of thankfulness to God, of Joe having been Confirmed! Why may I not rejoice of you? am I not a Christian mother? have I not trained you faithfully? When next you come to Baltimore we shall expect you to come directly home, let [p. 4] your valise be sent to 176 Preston St Bolton Terrace. W Madison St, it is a puzzle to me to get it from Hollins St.²² Willie finds it too heavy to bring & is it doing as you'd be done by to ask him to be your Porter? Let me hear from you when your heart dictates sympathy & affection to your devoted widowed Mother

AMW

Monday 27th

George sent me word he'd call today & go to you tomorrow so I have put up the Coat & your bottle of blacking dear Jemie inside. Your valise is still at Julias, if you need its contents before I see you. Advise me.

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to AMW's stay in Baltimore, JW's work in Washington DC and the *Perpetual Calander Whitaker's Almanac*; see AMW to JW, 7 December 1854, #06447.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. On 7 November 1854, JW was appointed to a post in the drawing division of the US and Geodetic Survey, Washington DC; see Gordon H. Fleming, *The Young Whistler 1834-66*, London, 1978, pp. 109-112.
4. Written on sheet with narrow mourning border.

5. AMW shared 176 Preston Street in Baltimore with her nephew Donald McNeill Fairfax (see below). Preston Street runs between Pennsylvania Avenue and Howard Street, just over a mile north-west of the Inner Harbor. The house in which she stayed is not extant any more.
6. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
7. 'Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy,' Exod. 20.8.
8. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
9. Joseph Harrison ('Hass') Eastwick (1834-1917), son of L. A. and A. M. Eastwick.
10. Probably Reverdy Johnson (1796-1876), constitutional lawyer and Whig politician; see AMW to JW, 1 January 1855, #06448.
11. Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin, and his wife Virginia Carry ('Ginnie') Fairfax, née Rayland.
12. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother, and his wife Julia de Kay Whistler (1825-1875), née Winans.
13. Presumably Cox was a clergyman.
14. 'Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment,' Heb. 6.1-2. It is unlikely that JW ever received the sacrament of confirmation; see AMW to JW, 1 August 1858, #06498.
15. 'For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body,' Eph. 5.23
16. The Whistlers lived at Springfield, MA, between 1840-1842; their pastor was Henry Washington Lee (1815-1874), clergyman; see AMW to JW, 1854, #06442.
17. The Whistlers lived at Pomfret, CT, between 1850-1852, where both JW and his brother attended the Christ Church school; Rev. Roswell Park (1807-1869), was the minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church.
18. Mary Ann Whistler (ca 1826-1852), née Ducatel, JW's sister-in-law.
19. AMW is probably referring to JW's choice of profession. As early as 1849, JW expressed his wish to follow the vocation of an artist, but was withheld from his choice; see AMW to JW, 15 February 1849, #06386.
20. 'But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.' Matt. 6.33.
21. Lydia Anne Eastwick (1810-1890), née James, wife of Andrew M. Eastwick.
22. The Alexandroffsky villa in Baltimore owned by Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector, was in Hollins Sreet, which run along the north side of Union Square, Baltimore; see AMW to JW, 15, 16 and 18 September 1848, #06363, and 26 April 1855, #06460.

System Number: 06447

Date: 7 December 1854

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Baltimore

Recipient: JW

Place: [Washington²]

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W442

Document Type: ALS

[embossed monogram:] A M W

Baltimore

Dec 7th 1854

My own dear James³

If you feel your separation from me half as much as I do from you, it must seem long since an exchange of "how - dye - do" I have been at a loss for your new address⁴ or should sooner have sent your linen, which you must want. Cousin Donald⁵ defers his trips to Washington, so I have enquired of George⁶ how by Express to forward it, & hope you will soon inform me of its safe arrival. I have added another pr [i.e. pair] of cuffs & collar, shall get linen to make you more. tho have less time for sewing than ever, I altered the drawers as well as possible, if they answer you can bring any others at Xtnas to be altered, if they do not feel comfortable get your tailor to cut you a pattern & bring it me to make you a new set. Much as I prefer attending to your washing & mending at home dear Jemie, I believe George & Cousin D judge it best for you to hire it per month, the latter when he visits you, will help you to bargain with one he has employed & liked, he says it will not be more than two dollars a month.

[p. 2] Jacks & Willie⁷ have had to come from the shop early these two afternoons, nearly frozen. poor fellows it is an iron discipline & they have been tenderly cared for till now, I feel more even than they do much as they complain - their hardships. Ah Jemie! this world looks to me & to you, so different! would that I could persuade you to build your structure upon the only sure foundation! you will have to pull down⁸ if you do not. Aunt Kate⁹ writes of you so affectionately in a very long & interesting epistle, began without date probably a month ago - & closed 3rd Dec. she writes dear Jemie would write her of his batchelor [sic] hall, with embellishments! says how you would have been in your element at Amos wedding¹⁰! finds his Amelia quite a charm at the Corner House¹¹. Then tells me of three members of our church having been taken away by death since I was there! the good old Lexton¹² most missed! Alas on the list was one not of Stonington but Pomfret friendship, my dear Mrs Park at Racine¹³. It is hard to realize one so active, so useful so precious in her sphere in the church, now remembered with the dead. Gone home it seems to me. I yearn to be ready to follow, [p. 3] & think now that my attachments are settling above¹⁴, yet I may have to suffer, ere I am purified.

Mary Brennan¹⁵ tells me she must go back to her connections in N York. this has unhinged me, for I feel unequal to parting from all my old links of home & having only to do with new. I wish you would write to her. Willies habit is rather unconciliating towards our affectionate Mary. I shall not love her less if she deserts me & shall never avoid an opp[ortunity] for proving my faithful attachment.

How suddenly the cold weather has come! Are you comfortable? have you had your coat altered, do get thick boots. It makes me so sad to hear of your having been ill in bed! & I not near to attend you. promise me dear Jemie to send for me if ever you have any of your old symptoms. You ought to live upon what is nutritious & wholesome. I hope your chum may adopt a different mess table. Let me know what I shall send you by Cousin D, all unite their love to you with that of your Mother

Thursday I send your parcel by 3 oclock Express today directed to U S. C Survey office. Write soon to Mother

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. JW was working at the drawing division of the US and Geodetic Survey, Washington DC; see AMW to JW, November 1854, #06445.
3. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
4. JW moved to Washington in November 1854, and evidently did not inform his mother of his new address. See Gordon H. Fleming, *The Young Whistler 1834-66*, London, 1978, p. 112.
5. Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin.
6. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
7. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin, and William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
8. Probably a reference to a passage by Matthew in which Jesus gives the parable of the wise man and foolish man and the contrasting foundations upon which they built their homes: 'Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not, for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell, and great was the fall of it.' Matt. 7.24-27.
9. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
10. Amos Palmer, Jr (1827-1861), JW's step-cousin, married Amelia ('Millie') Palmer, née Dyer, on 24 October 1854.
11. The house owned by Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer, built in 1787, situated in the corner of Main and Wall Streets at Stonington, CT.
12. Lexton (d. 1854), of Stonington, CT.
13. Mary Park (1815-1854), née Brewster Baldwin, wife of Rev. R. Park. In 1852, Rev. Park founded and became the first President of Racine College, at Racine, Wisconsin. Prior to this he was the rector of Christ Church at Pomfret, CT, 1843-52, and conducted the Christ Church Hall school, 1845-52, which both JW and William McNeill Whistler attended for some time.
14. Probably a reference to the role of material attachments as an obstacle to gaining spiritual freedom and a place in the Kingdom of God; 'If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.' Luke 14.26.

15. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.

System Number: 06448

Date: 1/January 1855¹

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Baltimore

Recipient: JW

Place: [Washington]³

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W0443

Document Type: ALS

176 Preston St.⁴

Jan 1st 1855

How these days dearest Jemie make us think of the absent!

You no doubt have been too much excited in your round to meet my meditations. And now I am presuming, taking it for granted you are well [,] the "No news as good news" tho you were croaking when you left home. What lovely bright weather for visiting! Cousin Donald⁵ who is the most exemplary person my list has, went first to Church, then to the house of bereaved friends (he having heard of the death of Mrs Wainwright of Maopac⁶ memory - since which he has been on the round of calls, & now while he is cheering Jinnie⁷ for his days absence I scribble, until 7 o'clock tea. Willie⁸ accompanied a very nice fellow (Hubbell⁹ of Trinity College Hartford) to spend the morning in chat at Reverdy Johnstons¹⁰ with his son, these chaps are to be off tomorrow, so since his late dinner he has gone to spend their last eve with them. [p. 2] Willie was with me the whole of yesterday as we had no public worship after the morning, till night, he listened to me read, then as twilight induced talking, I begged him to draw his seat to my reclining on the old couch, that I might hold his hand in mine, "Now tell me all you desire dear Willie, none can deserve or prize your confidence more, than the one who best loves you". We talked of his chagrin about his mistake in abandoning past advantages, & of his plans. Oh how he yearns to resume his course at College¹¹! but he knows that I am involved & George¹² is not rich. One remark he made was touching to a tender Mothers heart "When Jacks¹³ is deep in thought & I say what's the matter that you wont talk! he answers "I was inventing some machinery, or thinking how I could put an Engine together!" now observed poor Willie, I never think at all about mechanics, I do what they tell me at the shop¹⁴, but I never can get interested." I spoke of your [p. 3] fathers¹⁵ contempt of Office seekers under the Government & that if he resorted to this, my disappointment would be painful, Oh may this be averted! As George seems to be reconciled to Willies not going to the shop this winter & that he shall study at home, I propose that he go thro a course of reading aloud, for my benefit. I wish he would not go to Washington because Donald ought not to be taxed with the expence & I really cannot. But I shall not be in advance of the arrangement. Julia¹⁶ came here to call this morning & to invite all of us D. G. W.¹⁷ & self to spend Thursday sociably with her, she sat some time with me & was so affectionate, we are quite at ease & confiding as we should be. she spoke as if gratified by Willies social time with her tête à tête & at tea last Saturday. she was to dine at Alexandroffsky¹⁸. little Georgie¹⁹ was spending today with me. I dont know that any courtesie [sic] has gratified me more than that I exchanged with Bishop Whittinghame²⁰ as we left the church today, then I lingered to ask after the Rectors lady²¹ who is an invalid. This reminds me

of Eliza Flagg²²! We have not heard since Christmas, & now I begin to wish I could hear from London [p. 4] of my most precious daughter²³. Ah if you would write that loving Sister you would have your reward in your own self satisfaction. I have had no gentlemen callers, tho I took my station in the parlor & had the Xmas Cake, only a few Naval officers were received by Donalds wife, she was not in a bright mood & retired to her sanctum in the afternoon. After Georgie had left me I intended writing but in looking thro my desk I yeilded [sic] to the melancholy temptation to open some sacred envelopes. One letter dated 1848²⁴ was in response to mine describing our quarentine [sic] in Copenhagen²⁵! you remember our running up to see the sculpture²⁶ &c, & how enthusiastic you & Willie were! Your father tho thanks his dear boys over & over for their attention to their Mother. "I thank you my darling James & Willie for all you are doing to comfort your dear mother". May your widowed mother have a revival of such a subject for blessings on her boys! God grant it! Tuesday 2nd. You have your Portfolio²⁷ - sent last Saturday - Donald may go tomorrow - Put up your soiled clothes to send. Julia goes to Phila[delphia] tomorrow with her father²⁸, as she hears George is to be detained in N Y till the very end of this week. If²⁹ you could listen to Mary³⁰ how she talks of Master James & Willie! how sincerely she loves you both! she will so prize some of your sketches³¹.

Write soon to

Mother

Notes:

1. This was probably not written in response to a letter from JW, nor did he reply; AMW wrote again a week later; see AMW to JW, 8 January 1855, #06449.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. JW was working at the US Coast & Geodetic Survey in Washington DC until February 1855; see Gordon H. Fleming, *The Young Whistler 1834-66*, London, 1978, pp. 114-117.
4. AMW shared this house in Baltimore with Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin; see AMW to JW, 26 and 27 November 1854, #06446.
5. Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin.
6. Mrs Wainwright (d. 1854), of Maopac, NY.
7. Virginia ('Ginnie') Carry Fairfax (d. 1878), née Ragland, wife of D. M. Fairfax.
8. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
9. Hubbell of Trinity College, Hartford, CT.
10. Reverdy Johnson (1796-1876), constitutional lawyer and Whig politician; see AMW to JW, 26 and 27 November 1854, #06446.
11. In March 1855, William McNeill Whistler resumed his studies at Trinity College, Hartford, CT, where he enrolled as a pre-medical student; see AMW to JW, 15 March 1855, #06454.
12. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother, whose first wife, Mary Ducatel, died in 1852, leaving one son, George ('Georgie') Worthen Whistler (b. 1851), JW's nephew. On 18 June 1854 he married Julia de Kay Whistler (1825-1875), née Winans, JW's sister-in-law.
13. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.

14. Winans Locomotive Works in Baltimore owned by Ross Winans (1796-1877), Baltimore locomotive manufacturer, father of JW's sister-in-law; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 3 April 1854, #06438.
15. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
16. Julia de Kay Whistler (1825-1875), née Winans, JW's sister-in-law married George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother on 20 April 1854, at Trinity Church, New York.
17. Probably D. for Donald McNeill Fairfax, G. for George William Whistler, and W. for William McNeill Whistler.
18. 'Alexandroffsky' in Baltimore was the villa owned by Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector; see AMW to JW, 15, 16 and 18 September 1848, #06363.
19. George ('Georgie') Worthen Whistler (b. 1851), JW's nephew, was the only son of George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother and his first wife, Mary Ann Whistler (ca 1826-1852), née Ducatel, JW's sister-in-law.
20. William Rollinson Whittingham[e] (1805-1879), fourth Episcopal Bishop of Maryland from 1840.
21. Hannah Whittingham, née Harrison, wife of Bishop Whittingham.
22. Eliza Flagg (1830-1855), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of Rev. E. O. Flagg.
23. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
24. There is one letter dated 9 September 1848 from George Washington Whistler to AMW (#06663), but it does not contain this phrase.
25. AMW was en route to St. Petersburg with JW and William M. Whistler.
26. Probably the major collection of sculptures by Bertel Thorvaldsen (1768/70-1840), Danish neo-classical sculptor at Thorwaldsens Museum in Copenhagen; see AMW to JW, 15, 16 and 18 September 1848, #06363, and 22 and 23 September 1848, #06364.
27. Probably a portfolio of drawings.
28. Ross Winans (1796-1877), Baltimore locomotive manufacturer, father of JW's sister-in-law.
29. 'If ... Mother' continues in the left margin of p. 1.
30. Probably Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
31. Probably sketches done while JW was in Washington, DC (M.185-207).

System Number: 06449

Date: 8 January 1855¹

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: [Baltimore]³

Recipient: JW

Place: [Washington]⁴

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W444

Document Type: ALS

Library.

Monday evening Jan 8th. 55

My own dear Jemie

Right welcome was Coz Donald home again, & most interesting to me what he could report of you. Only your cramped room gave me the heartache. Surely you will not continue in it, remember health demands means for ventilation, & your economy may not prove so in the end. As I unpacked the little valise, I admired your skill in fitting the contents, which are not yet washed, except the cuffs, collars & hkds [i.e. handkerchiefs]. Willie lends you the Parisien cravat⁵ until I can supply you with one. I hope soon to hear of your having recd. the black valise & its contents safely as despatched today 3.ocl PM[.] it went full. I think 5 shirts. 8 collars 4prs [i.e. pairs] wrist bands. 5 prs stockings 2 silk hkds 5 or 6 cambric⁶. 1 pr drawers. 1 sheet. 4 towels. bottle blacking. brush. pr shoes. mended. 3 loaves of bread & some ginger snaps⁷! [p.2] From the care you take in packing I trust you begin to think it necessary to have "a place for every thing & every thing in its place"⁸ while you were sowing your wild oats Mother could make up for all you scattered, but now my resources⁹ are so low, it becomes your duty to take care of your personal estate! if you have no other lock up, you ought to have one on your trunk. Your Xmas gift might be fancied by some "stranger" who may see it decking your "tongue of time"¹⁰[.] now you are in the hurry of visiting I fear for your eleventh hour arrangements. Take care of health dear Jemie, & do not delay coming home if you should be indisposed for office duties[.] Willie¹¹ is threatening to resume his studies for it seems settled he is not to go back to the shop¹² this winter. he reads history an hour daily to me, & is so much on the pavement he has had to buy another pr of shoes while his \$7 boots are being soled. We are all to dine with George & Julia¹³ tomorrow, then the two husbands & wives are to go to Grisi's¹⁴. [p. 3] I had a letter from Capt Swift¹⁵ today, stating that a portion of my semi annual¹⁶ is suspended by there being no dividends made by the parties. I must be submissive, faith meekly bends to adverse gales. this world which is so alluring to you in your inexperience, to me is known, as merely a school for eternity. I can say sincerely "let the Lord do what seemeth best"¹⁷. [""]The Lord will provide¹⁸" what is convenient for the widow who trusts in Him as her only security. The tenderest chords of lamentations are touched as I think of what I would delight to do for you & for dear Willie, & now have no prospect of retaining the privilege [sic], still I do not repine. I pray in faith that adversity be sanctified to us, my only yearning is that my boys may be led to confess their Saviour, to honour God before men. You are so much with your Cousins¹⁹, may I ask if they attend our church²⁰? Will you comfort me by going every sunday twice a day? I was so thankful because of Willie accompanying me to the Communion yesterday! I shall try to persuade him never again to avoid commemorating the love of Christ towards us. [p. 4] I should feel richer if you & Willie were interested as members of our church & improving your talents, than if we were independent. My dear dear boys you know not how tenderly & fondly you are cherished.

Jacks²¹ writes Willie he is to study in N Y this winter. Our good Mary²² wished she had had time to go out today to get some token of her remembrance to send Mr James. You must let me know how soon you'll want your clean clothes, then she may make you a cake perhaps. This reminds me of Lew Pophams²³ marriage on the 3rd to Miss Annie Fleming. Miss Gittie & Campbell²⁴ engaged! Good night my dearest, "sleep well". "Grieve not the Holy Spirit²⁵".

Read²⁶ & burn this hurried note of love from
Mother.

A very interesting letter from Revd R Park²⁷ offers love to you.

Notes:

1. This was written a week after her letter of 1 January (#06448), but no reply from JW had been located.

2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.

3. AMW was staying at 176 Preston Street, Baltimore, with Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin and his first wife Virginia Carry ('Ginnie') Fairfax, née Rayland; see AMW to JW, 26 and 27 November 1854, #06446.

4. JW was working at the US Coast and Geodetic Survey office in Washington; see AMW to JW, 6 and 27 November 1854, #06446.

5. The word 'cravat' derived from the word 'Croat,' as the tie apparently originated in Croatia. In Europe, in 1837 cravats, usually of black satin with a bow in the front, were worn with a white frilled shirt-front showing above the waistcoat, often over a collar. By 1840 neckwear was mostly a matter of individual taste. By 1848 the traditional cravat had gone out of fashion, its place being taken by a narrower neck tie fastened in front by a pin or tied in a small bow or knot. By 1855 the collar was generally superseded by a stiff narrow collar. See Herbert Norris and Oswald Curtis, *Costume and Fashion, The Nineteenth Century, Volume Six*, London, 1933, p. 95.

6. See AMW to JW, 3 September 1852, #06418.

7. For AMW's recipe on 'Sugar Gingerbread' see MacDonald, Margaret F., *Whistler's Mother's Cook Book*, London, 1979, p. 113.

8. 'A place for everything, and everything in its place;' the first examples appear to be those in Thomas C. Halliburton, *Nature*, 1855, I, 164; see Wolfgang Mieder (ed.), *Selected Writings on Proverbs by Archer Taylor*, Suomalainen Tiedekatemia, Helsinki 1975, pp. 129-132.

9. AMW's Rail Road shares were yielding poor dividends, hence her near bankruptcy; see AMW to JW, 21 [March 1855], #06455.

10. 'Tongue of time'; the oldest use of this quotation is found in the letters of the Rev. John Newton (1725-1807), *Time, The Tongue*, 27 January 1778, Olney, England.

11. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.

12. Winans Locomotive Works in Baltimore owned by Ross Winans (1796-1877), Baltimore locomotive manufacturer, father of JW's sister-in-law; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 3 April 1854, #06438. William McNeill Whistler resumed his studies in March 1855; see AMW to JW, 13 February 1855, #06452, and 15 March 1855, #06454.

13. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother married Julia de Kay Whistler (1825-1875), née Winans, JW's sister-in-law in 1854.
14. Carlotta Grisi (1819-1899), ballet dancer. She was on tour in the USA and gave one concert in Baltimore, with 'Signor Mario and Mr Hackett's Troupe' on 9 January 1855, at the New Assembly Rooms, corner of Hanover and Lombard Streets; see *American and Commercial Advertiser*, Baltimore, 5 January 1855, vol. 110, no. 18,204.
15. Captain William Henry Swift (1800-1879), brother-in-law of JW's father. Captain Swift was one of the executors of the will of AMW's husband, George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer. Swift was also on the board of the Western Railroad of Massachusetts, from 1851-1854. Both AMW's brother William Gibbs McNeill (1801-1853), railway engineer, and husband George, worked on the railroad. Its first line, Boston to Albany through-service, was inaugurated in December 1841.
16. A reference to AMW's semi-annual income deriving from the estate of George W. Whistler; see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 19 June 1849, #07629.
17. 'And the king said unto them, What seemeth you best I will do. And the king stood by the gate side, and all the people came out by hundreds and by thousands.' 2 Sam. 18.4.
18. 'Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together,' Gen. 22.8.
19. Probably St Clair Denny (1800-1858), army paymaster in Washington, DC and family.
20. Protestant Episcopal Church.
21. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
22. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
23. Lewis Charles ('Lew') Popham (1833-1899), son of E. C. and W. S. Popham; he married Annie Johnson Fleming on 3 January 1855. The marriage is mentioned again in AMW's letter to JW, 13 February 1855, #06452.
24. Margaret Gertrude Popham (1827-1892), married Allan Sheppard ('Shep') Campbell (1834-1876), a friend of JW of Stonington, CT on 13 January 1857; see AMW to JW, 13 July 1857, #06485.
25. 'And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.' Eph. 4. 30. 'Grieve ... Spirit' continues in the right margin.
26. 'Read ... you' continues in upper margin of p. 1.
27. Rev. Roswell Park (1807-1869), minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Principal of Christ Church school.

System Number: 06450
Date: 15 January 1855¹
Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²
Place: Baltimore
Recipient: JW
Place: Washington
Repository: Glasgow University Library
Call Number: Whistler W445
Document Type: ALS

176 Preston St Bolton terrace ³

Monday PM Jan 15th 1855

My own dear Jemie

I know my loss of dear Donalds⁴ companionship will be your advantage, make him your confidant he is so lenient & so experienced & so fond of you. he has taken four of your shirts in his trunk & as a carriage must convey it (on this his start for a Washington winter - [D]) to the depot. I tack on your little white valise, but we must not impose on his courtesy. advise with him if you had not best send the black valise filled with your soiled clothes, per Express, and be sure to have it secured by a full direction to this house. You had better hand the key (enveloped in a few lines I beg[]) - to Donald to hand me next Saturday when he promises to cheer Jinnie⁵. I have borrowed a couple of Willies⁶ collars for his brother in the visiting [ci.⁷] but he will be having sooner than you a supply from [...] wash. he is well & improving, a letter now & then from you [would] enliven him & comfort me. he took up Geometry today. do urge him on to revive his studies [in] this to him leisure season. your influence would have weight. As Donald has contributed a box of candles, I send you a few of my store, "waste not want not"⁸ is very applicable to our circumstances. I made some lemon paties [sic] for some friends of Jinnies who were to have spent the day. you profit by their not coming. I hope you showed your rolls & have them put in the oven or in front of the kitchen fire by your attentive little waiting girl. Mary⁹ thinks a piece of gingerbread¹⁰ may be wholesome when you return half starved to your miserable lodgings. I trust to Donald helping you to find an apartment further off from the idle genius whose family¹¹ jousted you out. But I am glad you are too truly a Spartan youth to feel annoyed by it. My room is so dark always I have to write on my knee to get in a line with the window. [p. 2] Donald will tell you of George & Julia¹². I must not forget to beg you to try the drawers before I narrow the legs. I altered the waist & will cheerfully any other part when you wear them once more. I have bought a yd [i.e. yard] of linen¹³ to make you some more false wrist bands & will also collars if you will send me a pattern by Donald. How much more care for your body have I evinced than for your soul, but my anxieties about you dearest are all for spiritual welfare¹⁴. let me persuade you to attend church regularly, as Willie does all day Sunday, this makes me thankful, to hear of your doing so, doubly.

Ever your devoted & fond Mother,

A M W

Mr James Whistler U. S. Coast Survey Office¹⁵ Washington City D. M Fairfax Esq.

Notes:

1. This the third letter from AMW to JW written during January 1855 (#06448, #06449). It is clear from her next surviving letter, dated 1 February 1855, #06451, that JW did not reply.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. The house which AMW shared with Donald McNeill Fairfax (see below), and his first wife Virginia Carry ('Ginnie') Fairfax, née Rayland; see AMW to JW, 26 and 27 November 1854, #06446.
4. Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin.
5. Virginia ('Ginnie') Carry Fairfax (d. 1878), née Ragland, wife of D. M. Fairfax.
6. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
7. Illegible; there is a hole in the letter where it was originally sealed.
8. 'Waste not, want not. The less we waste, the less we lack in the future,' English proverb, 18th century.
9. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
10. For AMW's gingerbread recipes see MacDonald, Margaret F., *Whistler's Mother's Cook Book*, London, 1979, pp. 110-12; also see AMW to JW, 8 January 1855, #06449.
11. Unidentified. Neither AMW nor the family concerned approved of JW and his friends (see *Connoisseurs in a Studio*, M. 186).
12. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother, and his wife Julia de Kay Whistler (1825-1875), née Winans, JW's sister-in-law.
13. See AMW to JW, 7 December 1854, #06447.
14. 'welfare ... me' written in right margin; 'persuade ... makes' continues in right margin on p. 1; 'me ... AMW' written in left margin of p. 1; 'Mr ... Esq.' written on p. 2.
15. JW resigned from the US Coast and Geodetical Survey on 12 February 1855. His pay record and the last recorded entry of hours was 12 February 1855; Information from Barbara Hess, The Office of Coast Survey of US with the help of historians from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, US Department of Commerce Library. Also see AMW's letter to JW, 1 February 1855, #06451, and Gordon H. Fleming, *The Young Whistler 1834-66*, London, 1978, p. 115.

System Number: 06462

Date: [15 January / February 1855]¹

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: [Baltimore]³

Recipient: JW

Place: [Washington]

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W457

Document Type: ALS⁴

George⁵ & I agreed on one point, viz. that Jemie would not mortify an old man⁶ who offered him the good advice of his Experience, to keep out of debt! but Julia⁷ had felt your want of respectful

attention to her father, & it is lamented that your heedless habit, left an unfavorable impress. for George is sensitive of course to all that touches her sensibilities. Not only frankly confess your fault dear Jemie, but let this be a warning to you to think[,] you have ever been too impulsive, & too eager to express your opinions. dont you remember I tried to check this propensity & so did your dear father⁸, it shocked him! he dreaded lest it might be misinterpreted, as conceit & self satisfaction. Some who admire your amiable qualities, have offered the remark, that you must have associated always with seniors, & the regret was it has induced a premature confidence in yourself. I fear some may judge you self sufficient! "A word to the wise"⁹ is sufficient" your nice discrimination I trust to & good feeling will be on your watch tower.

Jemie dear! I should have shivered in the severe frost of last week about your miserable apartment, but Cousin Donald¹⁰ happened to mention he had told you to keep his room warm, I trust you did not invite any stranger to share it with you! I am afraid as you have no one to look after your domestic affairs [p. 2] the handsome satin-lined case for silver knife[,] spoon & fork had been safer in my keeping still & also that new dressing case! bring them to satisfy me! Send your soiled clothes soon. I have only two shirts, no callers [sic] or wrist bands to induce my sending yet per Express, tho mince paties¹¹ [sic] have been ready your sending for them a week or more! I must make a fresh supply now. I have not given you yet Emma Maingays¹² love, she begs you boys not to forget the names of your Vassili¹³ friends. she wrote to report Sis¹⁴ better tho yet too feeble to write Mother. You have another little nephew¹⁵.

Trust ever the love of Willie¹⁶ & your devoted

Mother.

Have¹⁷ you written for my seal¹⁸ to be returned? it is an heirloom

Notes:

1. This letter probably comes after AMW's letter to JW, of 15 January 1855, which also mentions JW's 'miserable' rooms (#06450). JW resigned from the US Coast and Geodetical Survey on 12 February 1855, but remained in Washington for a couple of months; see Gordon H. Fleming, *The Young Whistler 1834-66*, London, 1978, p. 115, and AMW's letter to JW, 1 February 1855, #06451.

2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.

3. AMW was staying at 176 Preston Street with Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin; see AMW to JW, 26 and 27 November 1854, #06446.

4. Written on sheet with narrow mourning border.

5. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.

6. Ross Winans (1796-1877), Baltimore locomotive manufacturer, father of JW's sister-in-law.

7. Julia de Kay Whistler (1825-1875), née Winans, JW's sister-in-law.

8. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.

9. 'A word to the wise is enough' ('Verbum sapienti sat est'), Plautus, *Persa*, 1. 729.

10. Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin.

11. See AMW's recipe for mince pies in Margaret F. MacDonald, *Whistler's Mother's Cook Book*, London, 1979, pp. 96-7.

12. Emma Elizabeth Maingay (1826-1904), a friend of AMW, of St Petersburg.
13. Probably a reference to Vassili Ostroff or Island, St Petersburg, Russia. It is possible that the Maingays lived there. See John S. Maxwell, *The Tsar and His People*, London, 1848, p. 62.
14. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
15. Harry Lee Haden (1855-1877), JW's nephew; he was born on 12 January 1855.
16. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
17. 'Have ... heirloom' added in the left margin.
18. JW seems to have left AMW's seal at the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY. The seal is now in Glasgow University Library, Whistler Collection.

System Number: 09560¹

Date: February 1855²

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler³

Place: [Baltimore⁴]

Recipient: Thomas Henry Seymour⁵

Place: St Petersburg

Repository: Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, CT

Call Number: Thomas Henry Seymour Papers (64928)

Document Type: ALS

[embossed monogram:] A M W

Thro the Dept at Washington City,

Feb 1855.

To The Honble Seymour
Minister Plenipotentiary &c.
To The Court of St. Petersburg -

Honored Sir

You will not deem it intrusive in a countrywoman asking the favour in your power to grant, for you are privileged in your office to dispense benefits to the citizens of the United States in connection with their interests in His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia⁶ dominions at this present time. Allow me to introduce my claim to your notice as the widow of Major George W Whistler⁷, whose faithful & efficient services as Engineer of the St P & Moscow R R⁸ must have been reported to you. Our sojourn for nearly seven years⁹ at St Petersburg rendered us quite familiar with the peculiarities of its court &c. but tho aware of the caution needed in every negotiation of any vital importance, an unsettled claim between the Rail Road Dept & their late Engineer, his services so fresh in the minds of all, seemed to me in November 1849 only required to be presented to the Chief The Count Klien [p. 2] Michel¹⁰. The Contract in 1843 with my husband Major George W Whistler allowed the sum of Three Thousand Dollars - "Return Expences" but His Highness The Count Klienmichel argued it impolitic to admit it, & that the successor to my husband (Major Brown¹¹) might if it were granted, demand the same! So sure am I that had my petition to the Emperor been delivered (asking a testimonial of His Majesty's approval of the last work of Major Whistler) each claim so just would have been accorded the

widow & her sons, in honor of their lamented father's memory. But my respectful petition to His Majesty was set aside, & of course the other! Now I have waited patiently for more than five years, Major Brown having left the Russian service, the justice of my claim encourages me thro the Ambassador of my native land at St P to make another effort . My necessities also impelling me, while I add in sincerity & truth I ask only justice, I wish nothing more. Will you avail of an interview which a Court Circle may afford, to put the enclosed in the hand of His Majesty, or the Gd Duke Alexander the Hérétier¹², only impressing the privacy of its nature, as I desire while using "the wisdom ¹³ of the serpent" to be ever [p. 3] "harmless as the dove" I act now by the example of him whose representative I am & whose name I bear, & he was conspicuous in the amicable relation his forbearance & circumspection maintained in his official & familiar intercourse with the Count Klienmichel. I would not for the value of \$3000 offend his Highness. I do not question the policy of endeavouring to silence the claim of Major Whistlers survivors, & of course the same would be adhered to, if discussed again as it was at the R R Dept in 1849. Oblige me by simply doing my errand - without even consulting any American at St P. It seems to me justice to the Russian Govt. as to our own, that the Contract considered satisfactory mutually so, in 1849 should be mutually so now. Major Whistler asked no alteration tho he realized his disadvantages pecuniarily - his honor bound him to keep the contract. I have understood that the Count Klienmichel concluded Major Whistler a partner in the Contract at Alexandroffsky¹⁴, but his co-operation there for the benefit of the R R & for his countrymen, was entirely gratuitous, he never was mercenary, but truly self sacrificing & devoted to his duty. His memory is unsullied. God grant it may remain so! I depend upon you Honored Sir, tho personally a stranger to me to use this confidence in you with the utmost delicacy, if the enclosed cannot be delivered to one of the Imperial family return it to

Mrs Whistler

[p. 4] To The Emperor of all the Russias.
From the widow of Major George W Whistler.
with cherished memories of deep respect,
To His Majesty Nicolas the First.

Sire.

Five years have been fulfilled since I was prompted by a sense of your justice to solicit the favor for my children¹⁵ of a written testimonial at your Majestys hand of satisfaction in their lamented fathers faithful discharge of duty in his last work. I take now the liberty to enclose a copy of that letter. With it went one to the Chief of the St P & Moscow Rail road the Count Klienmichel, requesting the attention of His Highness to the closing the Contract between the Russian Government & the late Engineer of that work, but reasons were returned to me why my application was considered inconvenient, and my letter to your Majesty was set aside. Far be it from my intention to reflect any but honor to [p. 5] the faithfulness to your Majesty's service of His Highness the Count Klienmichel, who objected to the payment of "return expences"¹⁶ tho according to the contract with Major Whistler, because of the unfinished state of the work & that Major Brown might if it were granted us, demand the same.

I should not have the temerity to intrude this matter upon the attention of Your Majesty, but for the reliance I have upon the justice administered ever by Your Majesty. Three thousand dollars seem so small in comparison! and I crave no more than this the sum agreed upon in 1842¹⁷ when terms were offered my lamented husband for his leaving his own country to undertake the great work the building for Your Majesty the St Petersburg & Moscow Rail Road

When I add that your faithful Engineer realized no pecuniary benefit from his seven years devotion to the interests of this his last work, because of the expences of ill health to his family

requiring his sending them to England¹⁸ year after year, & that at his death, he left them no increase to the amount he had saved previous to the year 1842, it may excuse his widow [p. 6] to Your Majesty that her necessities impel her to seek justice. Survivors & witnesses to Major G W Whistler's contract in the City of Washington 1842 will vouch for my truth. Capt W H Swift¹⁹ at Boston his brother in law advised in 1849 my application for a settlement of the Contract and we feel assured had Your Majesty been informed, it would not have been in vain.

Let me assure your Majesty that I would ask nothing inconsistent with the high estimation formed in the mind of my husband Major Whistler of Your Majesty's noble attributes in the exercise of wisdom & justice.

Be assured the Americans who have been under the protection of Your Majesty in Russia cherish heartfelt interest in success to the cause now exhibiting to the world how vast the talents of the Czar of All the Russias!

Praying that the Ruler of the Universe may bless your cause to Evangelize the East,²⁰ I humbly take my leave of your Majesty

The widow of George W Whistler.

United States of America.

February 1855.

Notes:

1. Not to be published without the written permission of the Connecticut Historical Society, 1 Elizabeth Street, Hartford, CT 06105, USA.
2. No further correspondence on this subject has been located. This letter may have been returned by Seymour, or it may be a copy by AMW of the original. It does not seem that it was forwarded to the Tsar.
3. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
4. Although this letter is addressed as being sent through Washington, AMW was staying in Baltimore in February 1855 (see #06451-6). It is possible that she passed on the letter to Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin, who was visiting JW in Washington; see AMW to JW, 15 January 1855, #06450.
5. Thomas Henry Seymour (1807-1868), congressman, governor of Connecticut (1850-1853), and Minister to Russia (1853-1858).
6. Nicolas I (1796-1855), Tsar of Russia from 1825-1855.
7. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
8. George Washington Whistler signed a contract with the Russian government on 11 May 1842. He was to supervise the construction of the first railroad built between St Petersburg and Moscow; see Richard Mowbray Haywood, *Russia Enters the Railway Age, 1842-1855*, New York, 1998, p. 367, and Evelyn Jasiulko-Harden, 'Major George Washington Whistler, Railroad Engineer in Russia: 1842-49' in *Ex Oriente Lux, Mélanges*, vol. 1, Brussels, 1991, p. 152.
9. Major Whistler was in Russia from 1842 until his death on 7 April 1849. AMW and family arrived in September 1843 and left after the Major's death.

10. Count Peter Andreyevich Kleinmikhel (1793-1869), Minister of Public Works; he was dismissed in October 1855.

11. Major Thompson S. Brown (1807-1855), civil engineer, successor to G. W. Whistler as engineer on the St Petersburg to Moscow Railroad.

12. Grand Duke Alexander (1845-1881), Tsar of Russia from 1855-1881.

13. 'Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves,' Matt. 10.16.

14. 'Alexandroffsky Mechanical Works' was the name of the firm and house owned by Harrison, Winans and Eastwick; see AMW to JW, 15, 16 and 18 September 1848, #06363.

Alexandroffsky's main task in the 1840s was to provide the rolling stock and locomotives for the St Petersburg - Moscow Railroad. The obituary of Joseph Harrison stated that the firm signed a contract in 1843 to complete the work in five years for three million dollars. The firm not only fulfilled the contract but also obtained others of nearly equal value. Before their new contract was concluded a new one was made to maintain in running order for twelve years the rolling stock of the railway. This was concluded in 1862. Ross Winans (1796-1877) of Baltimore, an important inventor, railroad pioneer and mechanic, was invited to go to Russia, most probably through the influence of Major Whistler, but instead he sent his sons Thomas De Kay (1820-1878) and William L. Winans. It is not known if Major Whistler signed a contract which would have enabled him to earn an extra allowance for his involvement in the firm Alexandroffsky. What it is known though is that the Major was apprehensive about the Alexandroffsky firm and its work on the railroad, which was not completed until 1851. As early as 1845 Whistler wrote: '... this establishment has always been a source of great anxiety to me - for in all matters relating to it they have left me to do as I thought best - never investigating the merits of the Engines or Cars - leaving all to me - ... in the beginning the responsibility I felt here was very heavy - for where so much was doing - if it was not right - the wrong would be irreparable.' See George Washington Whistler to General Joseph Gardner Swift, 19 December 1845, Swift Papers, New York Public Library, NY.

15. AMW appears to be appealing on behalf of her own children William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother, who was still in Russia at the time of Major Whistler's death, and JW. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister had also lived in Russia.

16. In 1850 AMW wrote to the Tsar asking for the sum of two thousand dollars for travel expenses back to the US. This question involved the interpretation of the terms of Major Whistler's original contract, which stated that the Major would receive two thousand dollars for travel expenses back to the US if he left after one year in Russia, having given three months notice. Finally in July 1850 AMW was awarded the sum of one thousand dollars from the Russian government as a result of negotiations between Joseph Harrison (1810-1874), partner in the firm Eastwick, Winans and Harrison, and Peter Andreyevich Klienmichel. See Richard M. Haywood, *Russia Enters the Railway Age, 1842-1855*, New York, 1998, p. 368; Evelyn J. Harden, 'Major George Washington Whistler, Railroad Engineer in Russia: 1842-49' in *Ex Oriente Lux, Mélanges*, vol. 1, Brussels, 1991, p. 160.

17. The salary agreed in 1842 was twelve thousand dollars, and two thousand dollars for travelling expenses to Russia and travel conveniences when travelling in Russia on work related matters.

18. AMW took her two boys to England during the summers of 1847 and 1848, and JW stayed on through the winter of 1848-49.

19. Captain William Henry Swift (1800-1879), brother-in-law of JW's father.

20. Russian campaigns in the Caucasus, Afghanistan, and China, aimed at extending and securing the Russian Empire, were presented to the West as Christian crusades against the heathen East. The British army and secret service in India was deployed to limit any extension of Russian influence in Afghanistan.

System Number: 06451

Date: 1 February 1855¹

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: [Baltimore]³

Recipient: JW

Place: [Washington]⁴

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W446

Document Type: ALS

Thursday Feb 1st. 55.

My own dear Butterfly!⁵

In blissful ignorance of the doubtfulness of your continuance at the Coast Survey Office⁶ I yesterday directed a valise of mine to you there. I forgot to fasten to the key, which was strapped on, a precaution, that it is a spring lock, which at half turn must be opened & it locks without the key so be careful not to throw the key within & shut it! Your note⁷ short & sweet! I have just recd. Willie⁸ will mail this, your book enveloped with it, & then take yours to George⁹ who I hope may go to Washington this week to see about your affairs. Send by him or by Express the black valise by Saturday all your soiled clothes. our laundress [p. 2] says with surprise! you never put in your under shirt or your night shirt. I am sorry not to be able to report Cousin Ginnie¹⁰ more cheerful, tho she was out walking yesterday morning & so highly relished her nice little dinner in her own room, she has taken no meal since, neither been down stairs, she has sent now for Doct Sinclair¹¹ much to my satisfaction, & I dare say he will put her on a better system. Our love to Cousin Donald¹² & say of course as I endeavored to do all he could desire in his absence more especially - I shall spend today in his room. The kind Fultons¹³ were here last evening & Mrs Fulton will come again today to cheer Ginnie. My love to your pretty Cousins¹⁴. Do come home if you [p. 3] are not employed, it would be cheaper & more respectable for you & lessen the anxiety of your devoted & fond Mother

A M W.

Willie does much to help & cheer me, & I look thro the clouds enveloping us by faith, trusting to an answer to my earnest & daily prayers for you both. that after I have "suffered awhile God will stablish you¹⁵" in the path of obedience to His Commands¹⁶. [p. 4] Important.

Notes:

1. AMW's previous letter to JW dates from about 21 January 1855 (#06462), and a subsequent letter from 13 February (#06452), but JW's replies, if any, have not survived.

2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.

3. AMW was staying at 176 Preston Street, Baltimore with Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin (see AMW to JW, 26 and 27 November 1854, #06446).
4. JW was evidently in Washington, DC, working at the US Coast and Geodetical Survey Office.
5. It is perhaps ironic that JW's monogram after 1869 was a butterfly.
6. JW resigned from the US Coast and Geodetical Survey on 12 February 1855 (see AMW to JW, 15 January 1855, #06450).
7. Not extant.
8. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
9. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
10. Virginia ('Ginnie') Carry Fairfax (d. 1878), née Ragland, wife of D. M. Fairfax.
11. Probably Dr William Beverly Sinclair (1818-1895), physician. See L. M. Holloway, G. N. Holloway, and E. N. Feind, eds., *Medical Obituaries, American Physicians' Biographical Notices in Selected Medical Journals before 1907*, New York, 1981, p. 416.
12. Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin.
13. The family of Fulton, of Baltimore.
14. Probably the children of St Clair Denny (1800-1858), army paymaster in Washington, DC, and his wife, Caroline Denny, née Hamilton: Caroline St. Clair Denny (1837-1918); Anna ('Annie') Harding Denny (b. 1834), posed to JW for *Portrait of Anna Denny* (YMSM 4), and later married W. M. Corcoran; George Miller Brooke Denny; William Irwin Denny; James Hamilton Denny; Willoughby Morgan Denny; and Elizabeth O'Hara Denny.
15. 'But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you,' 1 Pet. 5.10.
16. 'And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the Lord; but they did not so.' Judg. 2.17.

System Number: 06452

Date: 13 February 1855¹

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: [Baltimore³]

Recipient: JW

Place: Washington

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W447

Document Type: ALS

Thursday Feb 13th. 1855

I sent you by Cousin Donald⁴ a cravat my own dearest Jemie which I hope may satisfy your taste as one exactly like it does Willies⁵. he wore his in his dressed suit on Sunday & said it was first rate! this is all the price I ask to succeed in my humble efforts to please my sons, & save expence, which is a duty now. I hear nothing from you, & Donald only says what may lessen my

anxiety, he told me your apologies had been accepted at the Coast Survey Office⁶ & that you would henceforth be punctual & faithful in attendance upon your duties there. I hope when you come home again to secure more of your time for reasoning together, I felt the injurious effect of excitement upon your mind, you cannot be aware of the marked change in your tone! You never give yourself time to reflect, you amuse your fancy till wearied nature falls into dreams in sleep, & your unsatisfied frame is hurried thro toilette & breakfast I fear without meditation or seeking the blessing from the Father of the fatherless which it may be a widowed Mothers humble but fervent & faithful supplications obtain for you. [p. 2] Thro the intercessions of our Lord Jesus Christ "Jemie my boy"⁷ I only aim at your happiness when I remind you of your early training at home! if you would but review your life & ask yourself honestly, which part of it yeilds [sic] most self satisfaction upon results. Oh if you would secure the affection & respect of all worthy of your regard, return to the path your father⁸ by example & precept & prevention kept you on. I cannot give you an idea how your foolish course is undermining my health, my heart cannot but be the repository of hopes disappointment of promises unfulfilled. At your age your fathers chiefs⁹ had confidence in his capability, his industry & honor. Oh think of him sometimes "Jemie my boy" let him from the grave admonish you, of the confidence he had in you that you would promote Mothers comfort & be her protector when absent from him! & her support if needed! It is difficult to realize that you will in a few months attain the age of 21. is it not degrading your talents that you will not make them sufficient for your respectable maintenance, instead of depending upon the earnings of those who have a right to expect perserverance & industry & improvement of the [p. 3] advantages you inherit? You must not distress me by despising your present field of employment, make yourself valuable & you will be advanced, it will be beneficial to your future career to go out on the Survey, to your health & habits a benefit you do not see as plainly as your Mother for she has the eye of faith, that blessings to you will result if only from honoring her advice to perservere till your year on the U. S. C. S. is fulfilled. it will be impossible without ruin to our little stocks¹⁰, that you go to Europe¹¹ (as you seem to cherish hopes) & that Willie return to College which he is preparing by daily hard study to do. Only give me time to recover the losses I have sustained by trying retrenchment to start Willie & then put in your claim to my self denial, that your desire may be gratified. "Have patience with me & I'll pay thee all"¹² rein in your inclinations, & discipline in the school you are in now, for acquiring habits of frugality industry & order, without these you can never flourish as an Artist. I do not lecture you, dear Jemie, I only say let us reason together & do not despise your fond Mothers Experience of life, it is a battle, our own inclinations our most obstinate foes.

Just interrupted by a call from Julia¹³, who is well. I told her of writing to you & she sends her love. When [p. 4] George¹⁴ came here to talk to me of Willies desire to resume his Collegiate Course¹⁵, he said "Oh how I wish the boys would realize the necessity to be steady." he thinks I should join you in Washington it would be my duty & my profit, he proposes if Donald & Ginnie¹⁶ leave me as seems inevitable [sic]. I shall store my furniture till I can see where I ought next to try to establish a home, & then I could be alternately with you & Willie[.] What think you? Donald's fear is I'd find Washington very uncomfortable, & that your engagements would not enable me to be much with you. Willie thinks your late hours would finish me! for he knows I'd sit up to bid good night. But it is better to wear out than to rust out. I would not for my own ease omit my duty to any of the few spared me to live for. Mary Brennan¹⁷ is so faithful & so disinterested in her service, while tears flow down her face at the sad inevitable¹⁸ [sic] of an approaching break up! she says that she is ready even to separate from me for a time, that dear Willie may not have to go longer to the shop¹⁹, he hates it so, & driving him makes him so reckless & hardened! I can only pray & relieve my burthened heart by tears in the solitude of my chamber, none but God knows what I suffer. but I rejoice in my Saviour, & remember all His followers are X bearers²⁰, spiritually not emblimatically.[sic]

Notes:

1. This letter comes between AMW's letters to JW of 1 and 28 February 1855 (#06451, #06453). No replies, if any, have survived.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. AMW was staying at 176 Preston Street with Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin; see AMW to JW, 26 and 27 November 1854, #06446
4. Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin; for cravat see AMW to JW, 8 January 1855, #06449.
5. JW resigned from the US Coast and Geodetical Survey on 12 February 1855; see AMW to JW, 15 January 1855, #06450.
6. A familiar phrase used by JW's father George W. Whistler, to 'reconcile JW to self denial & obedience.' See AMW to JW, 10 May 1849, #06392, and AMW to JW, 15 and 16 January 1852, #06409.
7. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
8. At the age of 21, George Washington Whistler was assistant teacher of drawing at the USMA (1821-22); his chiefs at the time would have been the Colonel and Chief Engineer of the Corps of Engineers, Alexander Macomb (1782-1841), and the Chief of the Topographical Bureau, Major Isaac Roberdeau (1773-1829).
9. See AMW to Joseph Harrison, 19 June 1849, #07629, and AMW to JW, 8 January 1855, #06449.
10. JW got a visa for Europe on 29 July and left on 3 September, travelling via London to Paris.
11. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
12. 'The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all,' Matt. 18.26; 'And his fellow servant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all,' Matt. 18.29.
13. Julia de Kay Whistler (1825-1875), née Winans, JW's sister-in-law.
14. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother. He married Julia de Kay Whistler (1825-1875), née Winans, JW's sister-in-law in 1854.
15. William McNeill Whistler cut his course short at Columbia College in February 1854 for employment at the locomotive engineering shop in Baltimore owned by Ross Winans. See AMW's letter to JW, 17 [September] 1854, #06442. A year later, in January 1855, William wanted to resume his studies at Trinity College, Hartford, CT; see AMW to JW, 1 January 1855, #06448. William was enrolled at the college by mid-March 1855; see AMW to JW, 15 March 1855, #06454.
16. Virginia ('Ginnie') Carry Fairfax (d. 1878), née Ragland, wife of D. M. Fairfax.
17. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
18. In December 1854 Mary Brennan told AMW that she wanted to return to her New York connections (probably family); see AMW to JW, 7 December 1854, #06447. It is possible that Brennan realized AMW's financial difficulties, hence her decision to part from AMW.

19. Winans Locomotive Works in Baltimore owned by Ross Winans (1796-1877), Baltimore locomotive manufacturer, father of JW's sister-in-law; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 3 April 1854, #06438.

20. 'And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross,' Matt. 27.32.

System Number: 06454

Date: 15 March 1855¹

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Baltimore

Recipient: JW

Place: Washington

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W0449

Document Type: ALS³

[embossed monogram:] A M W

176 Preston St. Baltimore.⁴

Thursday night March 15th. 55

My own dear Jemie.

Two letters a week may seem extravagant to you, but Mr Winans⁵ told me you were interested about Willie's⁶ standing at Trinity⁷ & I was so cheered by the report which reached me today thro Mrs Hubball⁸ [that] I gladly send it to you, her husband saw Willie on his way thro Hartford, he had passed a first rate examination & was well. The Easter Holiday is deferred until the middle of April because of one of the Proff's [sic] plans for a voyage [.] It would be very nice if (as I must move next month), Willie could join me somewhere at the north, but no step is taken yet towards Scarsdale or Stonington⁹. George & Julia¹⁰ came to see us yesterday twilight, the former talked with Donald I believe in the parlor about our breaking up, & said to me at taking leave he desired to give me his views about the two J.s. [i.e. Juniors], so I agreed the carriage should be sent for me [p. 2] & went to dine with him & Julia, but Mr T Winans begged however we would meet at his table instead, dinner was so immediately announced, then a telegraphic message to meet Mr R Winans¹¹ in Phil[adelphia] tonight - then the startling tidings of the Emperors death at St P¹². became engrossing. My table must be next time, then you shall hear. Whether George wishes to refer to your future or recommend Scarsdale I cannot surmise. certainly considering our bankruptcy¹³, the Cottage rent free offered by those to be depended on, seems providential, but I make no plans. the uncertainties of temporal affairs I have too often realized. I do hope you will exert your talent & work on your debt. Mr T Winans thought you looking better, tho you had tooth ache. Cannot you see Doct Maynard¹⁴ about them? it is such a pity they should be neglected. Tho I hate debt, if ever it is excusable it is in this case of your teeth; so, frankly explain to him that you have not the cash yet, but hope to earn it by industry, tell him I advise you to have your teeth put in complete order by him. I hope to be able to pay him for you. [p. 3] Oh Jemie dear! if you & I could have a home together it would be a mutual advantage. Donald is really suffering still. Cousin Jinie¹⁵ complains much more than he does, but I am most anxious about him. I fear he will be laid up ere he gets better. the doctor warns him each time he comes

to see him, to keep his room, but he ventures to the parlor tho of course not over the threshold of the St door this weather. Jemie when are we to receive the valise of soiled clothes? send it Saturday if you can. do not stay in Washington idle, & avoid the room - mate¹⁶! And now I am too sleepy to write more, than that I hope you may not suffer more from tooth ache, you ought to have some artificial at the side to help you chew as well as to have decay checked. Offer my affectionate & grateful regards to the Dennys¹⁷. I did venture to build a castle today as I cogitated on my lonely drive of what George might advise - about Scarsdale - to recommend the Jaffrays¹⁸ to rent Mr Carmers Castle¹⁹ & thus be our summer neighbours! then your pretty Cousins²⁰ might visit them, which would cheer Willie & you. Jacks²¹ asked me why you did not engage in architectural drawings in New York²² city. he talked sensibly of many things.

Write²³ soon to your anxious Mother

A M W.

The Emperors death probably will [warm up?] Tho Winans means. next Summer.

Notes:

1. The previous dated letter from AMW to JW was 13 February 1855, #06452, but some letters are missing. She wrote again on 21 March (#06455). JW's replies, if any, have not survived.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. Written on sheet with narrow mourning border.
4. The house she was sharing with Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin; see AMW to JW, 26 and 27 November 1854, #06446.
5. Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector.
6. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
7. Trinity College, Hartford, CT, where William McNeill Whistler was studying; see AMW to JW, 13 February 1855, #06452.
8. The mother of Hubbell of Trinity College, Hartford, CT; see AMW to JW, 1 January 1855, #06448.
9. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt, lived in Stonington, CT (see AMW to JW, 12-15 October 1855, #06468), and Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW lived in Scarsdale, NY, where AMW stayed intermittently between 1850 and 1857.
10. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother, and his wife Julia de Kay Whistler (1825-1875), née Winans.
11. Ross Winans (1796-1877), Baltimore locomotive manufacturer, father of JW's sister-in-law.
12. Nicolas I (1796-1855), Tsar of Russia from 1825-1855. He died on 2 March 1855.
13. 1855 was a particularly financially difficult year for AMW, as she received no dividends from the collapse of her railway shares; see AMW to JW, 19 June 1849, #07629, 8 January 1855, #06449, and 13 February 1855, #06452.
14. Dr Edward Maynard (1813-1891), dentist, inventor; see AMW to JW, 28 [February 1855], #06453.
15. Virginia ('Ginnie') Carry Fairfax (d. 1878), née Ragland, wife of D. M. Fairfax.

16. JW's Washington room-mate has not been identified although it is known the family disapproved of his connections with, for instance, the sons of Johnston Hellen (see M.186).
17. Probably the children of St Clair Denny (1800-1858), army paymaster in Washington, DC; see AMW to JW, 1 February 1855, #06451.
18. AMW occasionally stayed with the family of Richmond Woodruff Jaffray (1813-1862), merchant.
19. Charles Whitehead Carmer (1811-1883), merchant. AMW calls his residence 'castle' probably due to Carmer's wealth. The 1860 Scarsdale Census valued his estate at \$25,000.
20. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
21. JW was probably planning to visit his uncle's family, the Cammans, in Brooklyn, NY. JW's only recorded work there is a copy after Turner, which he had completed by July 1855 and gave to Dr George Philip Cammann (1804-1863), physician, JW's uncle (M.176).
22. 'Write ... AMW' continues in the left margin of p. 1; 'The ... means' added in the right margin of p. 1; 'next Summer' continues in the right margin of p. 2.

System Number: 06455

Date: 21 [March 1855]¹

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Baltimore³

Recipient: JW

Place: [Washington]⁴

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W450

Document Type: ALS⁵

Tuesday afternoon 21st

I closed a hurried yesterdays thanks to you for yours⁶ dearest James, before breakfast today - but the Postman has not called & you may get this as soon. "The smallest favor thankfully recd"⁷. I thought in sticking in the little broken pen knife, which reminded me to ask you to take care of the nice handle of the one which your father⁸ wore in his pocket years. I'll have blades put in it for you. As I went in Julias⁹ elegant equipage to take little Georgie¹⁰ home yesterday p - m[,] I stepped in to see the Ducatels¹¹, & was urged to stay, to meet after tea the good Uncle Amile Ducatel,¹² & the family circle, so I made the exertion, after duties fulfilled at home to walk down before 7 o'clock, little Anthony¹³ my escort, and Willies¹⁴ friend Henry Chatain¹⁵ was a very pleasant companion back, for he talked of Willie. I feel very tired & shall let Donald & his wife¹⁶ have a tête à tête beef steak, which she will be more chatty over without me, she sometimes answers my remarks addressed to her but never volunteers any to me, it affects me more than she is aware of at the heart, but I know who appoints the daily X and that He requires us to bear it¹⁷ meekly, & forgivingly toward the instrument[.] I shall lie down & no doubt feel refreshed for tea.

[p. 2] I have walked down to the Lexington Market¹⁸ to procure poultry which I cannot obtain in provision stores, then I wended my way to the Express office for your Valise to be called for - Anthony my attendant to bring home groceries from Ch[arles] St. Ah Jemie dear with what pleasure I have put you up a jar of my good butter & a brown loaf & some of the last mince

paties¹⁹ [sic] since. As I walked alone in deep meditation upon the ways of God, so faithfully performing His promise rewards or corrections, I composed a note I shall have to write George²⁰, upon changing my last dollar! & no income until June & then uncertain because of some R R Stocks²¹ making no dividends - You shall see the copy, & the response if I get one. But we need not be beggars dear! if you will put your talent to interest, oh may I hope you will make up your mind to pursue Architecture²² industriously & steadily in the City of N Y? your home, to be my home? It only needs decision to avoid the temptation to 5th Av²³ & c [.] I mean to write Cousin Abby²⁴ to ask Mr Jaffray²⁵ to look at Mr Carmers²⁶ Castle at Scarsdale, then my boys will have society in it that they like. I must put up repairing your shirts until you come home, you always defer sending them too long. Dont let the Case²⁷ of your knife, fork & spoon get soiled. I send 2 vols of the J. E. I heard last eve of a new french work the reign of Louis 17th²⁸ so interesting! I'd like to buy it, & will when I can! George mentioned a letter from Aunt Kate²⁹ to him, perhaps he is making an opening to get the Portrait³⁰, but he only told me, she had mentioned Dr Camman³¹ having been at Ston[ington] & that he said Eliza³² is in a rapid consumption! Alas poor Jacks³³! But he will be comforted by memories³⁴ of this last winter with his dearest, fondest Sister. This life is so uncertain[.] I yearn to have my boys in my home, how thankful if it may be so at Scarsdale,

Your devoted Mother

A M W.

Notes:

1. AMW dated this letter incorrectly as 'Tuesday afternoon 21st'. It dates from Tuesday 20 or Wednesday 21 March 1855, covering similar subjects to her letter of 15 March 1855 (#06454).
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. AMW was staying at 176 Preston Street with Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin; see AMW to JW, 26 and 27 November 1854, #06446.
4. JW had left the US Coast Survey and was probably working in a studio in Washington.
5. Written on sheet with narrow mourning border.
6. Neither letter has survived, AMW's previous surviving letter being dated 15 March, and the subsequent one, 17 April 1855 (#06454, #06456).
7. Possibly a version of a phrase used in formal business letters.
8. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
9. Julia de Kay Whistler (1825-1875), née Winans, JW's sister-in-law.
10. George ('Georgie') Worthen Whistler (b. 1851), JW's nephew.
11. The family of Ducatel, father-in-law of George William Whistler.
12. Amile Ducatel, a relation of Mary Ann Whistler, née Ducatel.
13. Anthony; unidentified.
14. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
15. Henry Chatain; unidentified.
16. Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin. AMW did not get on well with Virginia ('Ginnie') Carry Fairfax (d. 1878), née Ragland, wife of D. M. Fairfax.

17. 'And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.' Matt. 27.32.

18. Lexington Market, the world's largest fresh food center, was established in 1782, south of Charles Street. By mid 19th century, the market had acquired its full growth and was hailed everywhere as the largest and best market on earth. Both Commission merchants and nearby farmers, who preferred to keep the latter's profit, crammed the area with as many as 600 wagons on Saturday as payday crowds of 50,000 men, women and children went to market.

19. For AMW's 'Mince Pies' see Margaret F. MacDonald, *Whistler's Mother's Cook Book*, London, 1979, pp. 86-7.

20. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.

21. See AMW to Joseph Harrison, 19 June 1849, #07629, AMW to JW, 8 January 1855, #06449, and 13 February 1855, #06452.

22. AMW hoped that JW was about to study architecture in New York.

23. AMW sees Fifth Avenue as a source of temptation to JW. In 1834 5th Avenue was 'a near-deserted country lane running up from Washington Square to the municipal parade-ground on 23rd Street. In the early 1850s, 5th Avenue became the most fashionable part of the city, attracting many wealthy men to build ornate mansions.' See Edwin G. Burrows and Mike Wallace, *Gotham, A History of New York City to 1898*, Oxford, 1999, p. 715.

24. Abbie Snelling Jaffray (1817-1871), née Hamilton, wife of R. W. Jaffray.

25. See AMW to JW, [20 January / February 1855], #06462.

26. The family of Richmond Woodriff Jaffray (1813-1862), merchant.

27. Charles Whitehead Carmer (1811-1883), merchant; see AMW to JW, 15 March 1854, #06454.

28. There were two works by A. de (Alcide) Beauchesne close to the date of this letter that referred to the reign of Louis Charles XVII (1785-1795?), titular king of France (1793-1795): *The Bourbon Prince, The History of the Royal Dauphin, Louis XVII of France*, New York, 1853; *Louis XVII. His Life, his Suffering, his Death: the Captivity of the Royal Family in the Temple*, London, 1853.

29. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.

30. Anna ('Annie') Harding Denny (b. 1834), posed to JW for *Portrait of Anna Denny* (YMSM 4), and later married W. M. Corcoran; her portrait may be the one concerned.

31. Dr George Philip Cammann (1804-1863), physician, JW's uncle.

32. Eliza Flagg (1830-1855), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of Rev. E. O. Flagg.

33. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.

34. 'memories ... AMW' continues on p. 1.

System Number: 06453

Date: 28 [March 1855]¹

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Baltimore

Recipient: JW

Place: [Washington³]

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W0448

Document Type: ALS

176 Preston St⁴

Wednesday 28th.

My own dear James

Besides your being always on my heart, sharing my anxieties with dearest Willie, I write to advise you to avail of Doct Maynards⁵ skill & friendship. Of teeth it may be said as of all perishable blessings "tomorrow they may be beyond preservation"[.] say frankly to the kind doctor that you hope to earn enough this year to pay all you owe, & ask him if he can trust you. do not delay this. artificials are not to be compared to teeth that are set by the creator. tho it would save some of yours to have spaces filled up. directly go to Maynard

The confirmation of tidings from the Winter Palace⁶ how solemnising! I have been thinking of the Emperor⁷ who knew & prized your father⁸, all this morning! The Empress⁹ has gone thro many bereavements & trials, this last incomparably the greatest. And now the soul of this hero & ruler has gone to where there is no change, no place for repentance. Oh that the false system in the Greek & Roman churches - purgatory¹⁰ - may not have been depended upon by the Emperor, but faith in the alone merits of Jesus Christ our only righteousness! [p. 2] Delays are most lamentable in religion. Eternity of joy, on the reverse, how trifling all else in this transitory life is when not leading to a security of bliss. What have you been doing my dearest James, since you wrote me business called you from your letter¹¹. We go on under this roof as usual, not as if expecting soon to be scattered. I certainly am thankful to leave my cares to the wise councils of our Lord. When Mary¹² alludes to approaching labors so opposed to her habits of domestic order, I seem awakened from a confused dream & beg her not to disturb my repose, for I know when the time comes, hands & hearts will be disposed to help us, & we must believe all that seems against us shall work together for our good. she wishes "Mr James" might come home to spend next week, if only to have his clothes put in order, for it may be the last week we may have a laundry here! but you must be governed by your business engagements. I wrote George¹³ yesterday of my need to borrow from him, & of my being warned by prostration of strength to ask him to provide a capable man to take the weight of the packing &c off my shoulders. I told him of my having pd my current expenses up to this week & that those under my roof were [p. 3] not aware of my bankruptcy. neither would I receive from Donald¹⁴ - if he offered - more than by our first plan, his renting the house & providing fuel. Naval officers tho so honorable & liberal had nothing to bestow & that his mother would depend on none but her sons. George answered my letter in person affectionately & dutifully. he said both Julia¹⁵ & himself were in hopes that my breaking up in April would secure them a month of my staying in their home, or indeed as long as I find it for my comfort to do so it will be for theirs. then he asked me for the only ac/s I had alluded to as unsettled, McDowell¹⁶ having offered when I bought carpets &c to wait till April \$140. & the tailors for Willie¹⁷ & yours, rather more than \$100, he took these to settle for me, he then asked what I would require for current expenses, said he really had no money at

hand, but that Mr. R Winans¹⁸ would return from NY by the 1st. when he should be able to supply me. Now I wished to shew you Jemie dear, that tho George is husband to a rich mans daughter he is not independent, probably when the works revive he may as a partner, share the cash payments, but I presume the lawsuit¹⁹ at the North is very ravenous. It is said if the old gentleman gain it, he will be a rich man! but when will it be decided? lawyers must be feed [sic] in the suspense. You know I crave not any mans silver or gold, the gain of honest industry is satisfying. I trust I shall not put George in an awkward position in my straits. I have no self reproach on the score of profusion. self denying by habit, I have been frugal as far as the claims of Donald & his wife²⁰ admit. [p. 4] George says "everybody is satisfied Mother you have done your duty here, as everywhere" [.] I shall be with only my Marys [sic] for a few days, Donald hopes to see you at your room on Friday, he takes his wife to a wedding at Walnut Grange²¹ tomorrow, their visit will be till next Monday there & he means to come up to Washington to see the Sec²² on friday. I think his Countenance shews how far from recovered he is. send or bring all your soiled clothes on Saturday next, & if you cannot come write me what may be acceptable for me to send you in the valise. When you do come I want the case²³ for the knife fork & spoon.

Write soon to your

Mother.

Mr & Mrs T Winans²⁴, Julia & George take tea here tomorrow with me alone.
and²⁵ send sheets pillow cases soild [sic]

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to the death of Tsar Nicolas the First (see below).
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. JW was evidently in Washington, DC, having just resigned from his post int he drawing Division in the US Coast and Geodetical Survey; see AMW to JW, 15 January 1855, #06450.
4. The house in Baltimore AMW shared with Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin; see AMW to JW, 26 and 27 November 1854, #06446.
5. Dr Edward Maynard (1813-1891), dentist, inventor; see AMW to Edward Maynard, 7 February 1846, #06356, 5 November 1848, #06371, 11 December 1848, #06375, and 15 March 1855, #06454.
6. See AMW to JW, 11 December 1848, #06375, and AMW to Thomas Henry Seymour, February 1855, #09560.
7. Nicolas I (1796-1855), Tsar of Russia from 1825-1855; he died on 2 March 1855.
8. Aleksandra Feodorovna Romanov (1798-1860), wife of Tsar Nicolas I.
9. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
10. Both the Greek Orthodox Church, the dominant church in Russia, and the Roman Catholic church, believed in purgatory. AMW belonged to the Protestant episcopal church, which rejected the concept of any intermediate destination, like Purgatory.
11. Not extant.
12. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
13. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.

14. Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin.
15. Julia de Kay Whistler (1825-1875), née Winans, JW's sister-in-law.
16. Robert McDowell, merchant of Gamble, McDowell & Co., importers & dealers in carpets and oil cloths; see *Wood's Baltimore Directory for 1858-59*, Baltimore, p. 175.
17. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
18. Ross Winans (1796-1877), Baltimore locomotive manufacturer, father of JW's sister-in-law. Winans lent money to the Whistlers on numerous occasions; see Gordon H. Fleming, *The Young Whistler 1834-66*, London, 1978, p. 118.
19. Ross Winans was connected with the invention of the coned wheel, the chilled cast-iron wheel, the eight-wheel car, and the leading truck; he claimed that the designs of these devices were stolen and used by other companies without his consent. Between 1838 and the late 1850s he was involved in what came to be known as 'The Twenty Years War against the Railroads.' Between 1852 and 1853, Winans and his attorneys sued three New York railroads, as well as three railroad car builders, for the same terms: payment for each and every such eight wheeled car that ever was, or would be, used on their lines. The lawsuit mentioned here refers to the New York Central Railroad, who hired a 19th century 'dream team' to discredit Ross's case. The lawyers interviewed old-time machine shop engineers, and assistants, examined old plans, in short, conducted a thorough investigation into the development of railroad technology in early America in all its aspects. Thorough, indeed their report was 1,300 pages long. All of it focused on one major question: was the eight-wheeled car the creation of Ross Winans, and of Ross Winans only? The answer was that Winans's version was probably the best and the most widely used, but the general concept predated him, and was too widely developed for him to lay sole claim to it. His long legal travails ended in 1859. He lost suit after suit, and finally gave up. See William H. Brown, *The History of the First Locomotives in America*, New York, 1871, pp. 102-108; John H. White Jr., *The American Passenger Railroad Car*, Baltimore, 1978, pp. 18-20.
20. Virginia ('Ginnie') Carry Fairfax (d. 1878), née Ragland, wife of D. M. Fairfax.
21. Probably Walnut Grange plantation in Beltsville, MD.
22. James Cochran Dobbin (1814-1857), congressman, and U. S. Secretary of the Navy from 1853-1857 under President Franklin Pierce.
23. See AMW to JW, [20 January / February 1855], #06462.
24. Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector and his wife Celeste Winans (1823-1861), née Revillon.
25. 'and ... soiled' continues in the left margin.

System Number: 06456
 Date: 17 April 1855
 Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹
 Place: Baltimore
 Recipient: JW
 Place: [Washington²]
 Repository: Glasgow University Library
 Call Number: Whistler W451
 Document Type: ALS

Alexandroffsky Villa³

Tuesday.
 April 17 1855.

My own dear James.

I know this date will gratify you, & to hear I am being refreshed here while I cheer Mrs W⁴. by the crib of her 1st daughter⁵, I availed of omnibusses last saturday p - m to ask after her & was welcomed by Mr W⁶ with the joyful news of his boys⁷ rejoicing over a little sister. Yesterday he sent me a note in the morning, his wife not so well. I offered to come, as my presence is not required at home the packing put off till Donald⁸ is better able to bear the loss of home comforts - he looked so feeble Sat eve I proposed we should continue quiet a week or two longer. Virginia⁹ never was amiable to me until now! I praise God for giving me the opp[ortunity] to gratify her. tear this up. I felt better yesterday than for a long time, so when Paul¹⁰ was sent for me last eve I was prepared to cheer Mrs W. The doctor says she is much better this morn. George & Julia¹¹ may be detained in N Y most of this month. Jemie dear are you working¹² hard? try to win an order order for lucrative just to pay off some of your debts. How are the tiny boots serving your vulnerable part? The valise arrived yesterday with so few but very dirty clothes! [p. 2] I will try to send it back for you to receive next Saturday. Is there anything in particular you wish? write me just to say you are well & that will always love, cherish & honor your widowed Mother.

(who thinks her boys her jewels) My love to Annie¹³.

(I feel so for Mrs Genl Totten your play fellow¹⁴, so suddenly taken! his race cut off by dissipation

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. AMW asks JW to give her love to Annie Denny, who lived in Washington, DC; so JW must be there.
3. The palatial villa in Baltimore owned by Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector; see AMW to JW, 15, 16 and 18 September 1848, #06363.
4. Celeste Winans (1823-1861), née Revillon, wife of Thomas De Kay Winans.
5. Celeste Winans (1855-1916), later Mrs Hutton, daughter of T. and C. Winans.
6. Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector.

7. George Winans, Ross Revillon Winans (1851-1912), and William George Winans (b. 1853), sons of C. and T. Winans. The Winans family appears in JW's drawing *Thomas Winans' family* (M. 195).
8. Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin.
9. Virginia ('Ginnie') Carry Fairfax (d. 1878), née Ragland, wife of D. M. Fairfax. AMW had overstayed her welcome with the Fairfaxes (she had been sharing a house with them since at least January, and her dislike of Virginia was mutual; see AMW to JW, 1 January 1855, #06448, and 21 [March 1855], #06455).
10. Paul, a servant.
11. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother, and his wife Julia de Kay Whistler (1825- 1875), née Winans.
12. JW left the US Coast Survey in February, and his job at this point is not clear. He may have been painting portraits or making copies.
13. Anna ('Annie') Harding Denny (b. 1834), posed to JW for *Portrait of Anna Denny* (YMSM 4), and later married W. M. Corcoran.
14. Catlyna Totten, née Pearson, wife of General J. G. Totten, and their son Washington Totten (d. 1854).

System Number: 06458

Date: 19 April 1855¹

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Baltimore

Recipient: JW

Place: [Washington³]

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W453

Document Type: ALS

Alexandroffsky Villa⁴

Thursday 19th

I went yesterday for a few hours dear Jemie to my room at 176⁵. & Paul⁶ returned me here last evening. for I seem a comfort to Mrs W⁷ & she likes to know I am within reach of her room. she has been very ill, but is gradually tho slowly having fever lessened. The little Miss⁸ is a model for your pencil & good as pretty. Are you working industriously Jemie dear? Oh do try to establish habits of diligence & order. I hear of George⁹ but not from him. the lawsuit¹⁰ is vexing & protracted. if it be not in favor of Winans & Co¹¹ I fear George will find it difficult to help us. Another reminder from yours & Willies¹² tailor yesterday[,] dont think your tradesmen too pressing how can they pay, if not paid? have you decided not to ask your friend here to lend you? but your industry must be your promisory note. Jemie dear I write for you to send me a well packed paper parcel (per Express tomorrow if not it will be too late - of all your soiled clothes, that I may send the valise full early next week. now dont put off. set about it promptly. I repaired the only three shirts that were not ragged yesterday. Mary¹³ had rough dried them & will do them up today. And now after breakfast I report Mrs Winans so much better I shall go home tomorrow

[p. 2] Mr Winans¹⁴ expresses great interest about the portrait¹⁵ you can invite him to judge of it when it is sufficient touched up! Mary B told me that cousin Ginnie¹⁶ talked of their starting for Alexandria next Monday, I was not well enough to dine with them & thought she would rather do the honors at the head of the table as they had a guest. I hope you have a good appetite, shall send you brown loaves & c. You¹⁷ sent no drawers, neither under shirt or night shirt. change now & send all. for our last chance.

Your own

A M W.

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to the *Perpetual Calendar Whitaker's Almanac*, and to AMW's letter to JW, 17 April 1855, #06456.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. JW was still in Washington where he was painting the portrait of Anna Harding Denny (b. 1834); *Portrait of Anna Denny* (YMSM 4).
4. The villa in Baltimore owned by Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector; see AMW to JW, 15, 16 and 18 September 1848, #06363.
5. 176 Preston Street, Baltimore, the house she was sharing with Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin; see AMW to JW, 26 and 27 November 1854, #06446.
6. Paul, a servant; see AMW to JW, 17 April 1855, #06456.
7. Celeste Winans (1823-1861), née Revillon, wife of Thomas De Kay Winans.
8. Celeste Winans (1855-1916), later Mrs Hutton, daughter of T. and C. Winans.
9. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
10. Ross Winans (1796-1877), Baltimore locomotive manufacturer, father of JW's sister-in-law; see AMW to JW, 28 February 1855, #06453.
11. The Locomotive firm of Ross Winans.
12. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
13. Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector.
14. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
15. Anna ('Annie') Harding Denny (b. 1834), posed to JW for *Portrait of Anna Denny* (YMSM 4), and later married W. M. Corcoran.
16. Virginia ('Ginnie') Carry Fairfax (d. 1878), née Ragland, wife of D. M. Fairfax.
17. 'You ... AMW' continues in the left margin of p. 1.

System Number: 06459

Date: 24 April [1855]¹Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Baltimore

Recipient: JW

Place: [Washington³]

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W454

Document Type: ALS

Alexandroffsky Villa⁴

Tuesday 24th. April

I was at 176⁵ dearest Jemie when the Express brought your valise, but for your need of the surtout it had not seemed worth while sending so few peices [sic]. Mary⁶ was to take it yesterday afternoon to the Scourer⁷ & I must try my ingenuity to repair it when I return home on Thursday. Let a few lines meet me there, to say if I shall send you the valise back later in the week. I trust you will not be elated by Mr Winans invitation⁸ for your coming here to paint & so leave Annies portrait⁹ unfinished! he asked me at dinner when I returned here after 2 days absence [p. 2] if I had heard from you. I said yes a few lines¹⁰ in your valise to request my repairing a very old Summer Coat & your bulletin of health was you were only too hungry! we then agreed you to be nearly starved out & he said he had heard from you¹¹ & had written to advise your coming to his house to exercise your talent, if you only would work! now I know he will be disappointed if you fly about Balt morn, noon & night as you have been in the habit, he may laugh but he will conclude in his own mind the opinion he formed two years ago was a sad truth "that Jemie would never maintain himself¹²!["] he hopes better of you now, because he would fain shelter you from the criticisms of his father¹³. [p. 3] Now Jemie pay every cent you owe to landlady, grocer & all but first send me your tailors¹⁴ receipt to file. dont be tempted to order a new vest & new trowsers [sic][,] till you earn them here. Tho Winans will be better satisfied if you come here in your old clothes, he is an observer, he wishes to help you, dont dash to destruction! I wish you had packed carefully in the valise which came yesterday the case of the knife &c, while you think of it now put it up, that in your hurry at last it be not forgotten or thrown carelessly in & be defaced.

I value it from association & so will you by & by. for my care of it. when I am gone. I felt so feeble thro my efforts at home, there I realize my weakness. I had a talk with dear good Don¹⁵, very satisfactory to me. [p. 4] Bills come pouring in & I am helpless, I have been tempted to talk to our host here! but I pray for more faith, knowing every trial is appointed, I depend on the Almighty Disposer of hearts to help me to prove I am not dishonest tho poverty has overtaken me. I feel my winter bonnet! I see my old gown of two summers wear, foxy & thread bare. still I know my respectability does not depend on dress, tho comfort does upon neatness. Nothing begun about packing yet. I expect to be involved in it from 1st of May. Donald & Ginnie¹⁶ will be off probably by then. he talked of going to Washington for a day. do have the Case nicely put up & walk with him to the depot with it & ask the favor of his taking it home, of course he will call at the Denny's¹⁷. My¹⁸ love to Annie. keep calm, finish her portrait, but seek no orders!

[p. 5] Tho Winans will be in N Y the first of next week. as you are to be his guest, you had best be welcomed under his roof by him personally. you might write, for an answer, this day week to arrange your vacating Mrs Kings¹⁹ room. 1st of May. You must give her notice that she may secure another lodger. Ask her to have your mattress [sic] & all that belongs to George²⁰ put up

for you securely in one package & direct it to his house in Hollins St²¹. per R[ail] R[oad] - as it went.²² I think they will all be back early next week. Thos W. is only going on for Monday to hear LaTrobe²³ winding up speech. Write him your acknowledgements and²⁴ advise with him when & how to order your papers, he has not told me of pecuniary aid.

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to the *Perpetual Calendar Whitaker's Almanac*, and AMW's relationship to her previous letters to JW of 17 and 19 April 1855 (#06456, #06458).
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. JW was still in Washington where he was painting the portrait of Anna Harding Denny (see below); see AMW to JW, 19 April 1855, #06458.
4. The Baltimore villa of Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector; see AMW to JW, 15, 16 and 18 September 1848, #06363.
5. 176 Preston Street, Baltimore was the address of Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin; see AMW to JW, 26 and 27 November 1854, #06446.
6. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
7. Alternative word for laundress or cleaner.
8. Thomas De Kay Winans invited JW to work in his studio at Alexandroffsky; see Thomas D. Winans to JW, 24 April 1855, #07077.
9. Anna ('Annie') Harding Denny (b. 1834), posed to JW for *Portrait of Anna Denny* (YMSM 4), and later married W. M. Corcoran.
10. JW's note to AMW has not survived.
11. JW's letter to Thomas De Kay Winans has not been traced.
12. See AMW to JW, 16 November 1853, #06430.
13. Ross Winans (1796-1877), Baltimore locomotive manufacturer, father of JW's sister-in-law.
14. The tailor's bill had been outstanding for some time; see AMW to JW, 28 February 1855, #06453.
15. Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin.
16. Virginia ('Ginnie') Carry Fairfax (d. 1878), née Ragland, wife of D. M. Fairfax. AMW did not get on well with Ginnie; see AMW to JW, 1 January 1855, #06448, 21 [March 1855], #06455, and 17 April 1855, #06456.
17. The family of St Clair Denny (1800-1858), army paymaster in Washington, DC.
18. 'My ... orders' continues in the right margin of p. 1.
19. Mrs King was JW's landlady in Washington.
20. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
21. The Alexandroffsky Villa was in Hollins Street, which run along the north side of Union Square, Baltimore. George William Whistler must have moved in with the Winans, after his marriage to Julia De Kay Winans in the Spring of 1854; see AMW to JW, 26 and 26 November 1854, #06446.

22. AMW sent a portable mattress to JW in October 1852; see AMW to JW, 6 October 1852, #06421.

23. John Hazlehurst Boneval Latrobe (1803-1891), lawyer, counsel for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. His argument in the case of *Ross Winans v. New York and Harlem Railroad Company* was presented in the District Court of the USA for the Southern district of New York on 1 and 2 May 1855; see John Hazlehurst Boneval Latrobe, *Argument delivered May 1 and 2 in Case of Ross Winans v. New York and Harlem Railroad Company in the District Court of the US for the Southern District of New York before a jury, Hon. Samuel R. Betts District Judge*, Baltimore, 1855.

24. 'and ... your' continues in the left margin; 'papers ... aid' continues in the right margin.

System Number: 06457

Date: [28 April 1855]¹

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Baltimore

Recipient: JW

Place: [Washington³]

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W452

Document Type: ALS

Alex[androffsky] Villa⁴

Saturday

Dear Jemie.

Get from your tailor a box such as they send clothes in, to pack your wardrobe as I shall not send your valise unless you write for it. Mr Winans⁵ has expressed his surprise at not hearing from you. a gentleman acknowledges favors! & you ought to have promptly written him gratefully. you do not know how you weaken good opinion of you by such omissions. Write at once, Mrs Ws⁶ increased illness will prevent his going to N Y. George⁷ writes me Eddie⁸ is not the right sort of person for you, but he is enquiring for an office for you in N Y. he shall expect to be there by the middle of next week.

[p. 2] Don' t forget your Shagreen case⁹ of silver instruments - the other case get your things together before hand, write Mr W & enclose a note to me[.] I shall be here till the middle of the week.

Your aft Mother

A M W

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to AMW's letter to JW, ²⁴26 April 1855, ⁰⁶⁴⁵⁹#06460. Also dated with reference to the *Perpetual Calendar Whitaker's Almanac*.

2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.

3. JW remained in Washington, DC until 1 May 1855; see AMW to JW, 26 April 1855, #06460.
4. Alexandroffsky was the Baltimore villa of Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector; see AMW to JW, 15, 16 and 18 September 1848, #06363.
5. Thomas De Kay Winans invited JW to work in his villa; see AMW to JW, 24 April 1855, #06459.
6. Celeste Winans (1823-1861), née Revillon, wife of Thomas De Kay Winans. She was recovering from the birth of her daughter; see AMW to JW, 17 April 1855, #06456.
7. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother
8. Eddie, a friend of JW in Washington, DC.
9. See AMW to JW, [20 January / February 1855], #06462, and 28 February 1855, #06453.

System Number: 06463

Date: 11 July 1855

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Scarsdale²

Recipient: JW

Place: [Baltimore³]

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W458

Document Type: ALS

Scarsdale.

Jemie's⁴ birthday. Wednesday morning. July 11th 1855

My own precious first born.

Maternal affection is not easily distanced, or your indifference to my appeals for a letter might have so wounded as to make writing too painful, faithful to your best interests I doubt not dear Jemie your heart is right towards Mother & tho your indolence is inexcusable, I upbraid you not, "hoping on, hoping ever"⁵ that you will requite me when the heyday of youth subsides. Wishes offered to you on your coming of age, would be vain indeed without prayer for blessings from above, that you may remember you are an heir of a heavenly inheritance so that you deny not Him who has purchased it for you, or forfeit your privileges [sic], which are so opposite to what votaries of worldly enjoyments seek. Jemie dear I would not be prosy or make this birthday greeting a tiresome or canting lecture. If I were in your Studio⁶ how cheerfully we'd chat yet I would press in many a sacred admonition from my own experience of the blindness of youth I would fain lead you lovingly & gently to fasten your Anchor of hope on "The Rock of Ages"⁷ for it is inevitable that you must encounter rough gales & be often threatened with destruction. Your natal [p. 2] day "Jemie my boy"⁸ what a rush of memory comes with it! The fond father⁹ whose tenderness deepened till utterance failed him to reiterate it in messages of death's adieu I pray that his earnest endeavours to lead you to choose & keep the straight path may never be slighted by you. his example, his precepts, think them over when you are alone sometimes, for it is too late to resolve on a course of conduct when temptation comes, youth follows impulse, unless principles are established. Do you not remember dear Jemie how earnestly Dynley Prince¹⁰ urged your fathers example for your consideration? that friend who delighted in you from

infancy, is associated with you gratefully, by me, as I look back upon all his proofs of friendships. Soon death may tender this sacred & solemn! Cousin Kate¹¹ in her last weeks report, startles me painful [sic] by his sudden stroke & Paralysis. as his parents¹² & Bishop Eastburn¹³ were at this table Sunday before last, he having helped all but himself, put down the knife & fork & said he would recline on the sofa not feeling well. his right side was instantly paralysed, his hearing became clearer than for years & his consciousness was unclouded, what a mercy to the anxious watchers! all hope of his recovery was over Kate adds when her beloved Mother last had written her "the brother who had recently returned from attending his suffering James¹⁴, solacing him, holding his hand & closing his eyes in death, so soon to follow him, & join the [p. 3] blessed family circle in the eternal world" Cousin Kate remarks upon Dynleys attachement for "Jamie" & is sure you will sympathise in his family bereavement.

I was shocked to hear two evenings since upon Mr Pophams¹⁵ return from the city of the sudden death of Mr Henry Rodewalde¹⁶ of Balt at Mobile, dear Jacks¹⁷ must share the sorrow of his friend Fred¹⁸, and my heart enters into that of the gentle widowed mother¹⁹. I wish to offer my sincere sympathy to Mrs R, I respect & love her character[,] will you let Jacks share this letter as I have been prevented writing him & get him to send by Fred a message to the afflicted ladies, I remember when Mr R told me of his intention of winding up his business at N Orleans never to spend another winter away from his family, I felt the uncertainty of human plans, but I hoped sincerely so benevolent a man might be spared to find his rewards in making all happy within his circle, his beautiful country seat, may now be a retreat to his mourners, that in usual quiet they may hear the voice of Him who overcame death & opens the way eternal life. I purpose going as far as Fordham tomorrow to spend a few hours with Doct Cammans²⁰ family, having heard of his being on the invalid list. Aunt Kates²¹ fortnight ends in my accompanying her that far on her way to the city, we shall go by the seven oclock train, then she will have five hours between the two Cammann neighbours²². Aunt Kate unites in love with me to you & dear Jacks, she hopes after you have practiced on other portraits you will take mine as a gift to her. Remember I claim Annie Dennys²³ as your first assay[,] if your Patron wants it & you think the Major²⁴ would not be offended, copy it for Mr T Winans²⁵, but tell him I expect him not to interfere with my claim [p. 4] to that one. her Grandmother²⁶ will be coming here to see it, so take care of it for my room. Do you look after the Picture frame²⁷ I left for repair at Barretts²⁸ in Howard St - Paul & Peter²⁹ too know the place, if you decide to have your copy of Turners³⁰ put in it B [i.e. Barretts] can pack & send it per Propelle³¹ line care of W R Palmer, NY & N H RR³² office corner of Elm & Franklin St. & write William by mail when it is sent. I heard Willie³³ yesterday, the Exam to take place the 19th. so he expects to be here in time for his birthday, 22nd. I do not allow myself to expect you yet awhile, I would not disturb you till your portraits³⁴ are finished, I dont know when I may accept Uncle Palmers³⁵ invitation, not till Augt certainly. Aunt Alicia³⁶ lately cheered me with report of Debos³⁷ benefit by her stay in Lancashire. All send you love & expect much of you now you are really applying your talent. Remember me to the Perines³⁸, it comforts me to think you spend your Sundays at Homeland. I wrote Mrs P & expect one of her delightful home reports soon. Do you go to the Glenns³⁹ country seat? When you call at the Ducatels⁴⁰ offer my love, & kisses to Georgie⁴¹, To Mrs -Th Winans & her children⁴², regards to Mr W. This is a day for your review, have you written Hunt⁴³? or to West Point⁴⁴ about my family seal⁴⁵? if not, delay no longer I beg. Aunt Kate says there could not be a happier arrangement for my recovery than that of sharing with my friends this quiet retreat. I have been free from fatigue since settling here, as we pray to pass our days sincerely, so we do thro the tender mercy of our Lord. Tell Jacks we depend upon his visiting Scarsdale when he comes North.

For a treat dear Jemie write

your Mother

Mary⁴⁶ sends you her love.

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881) née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. AMW was living in Margaret Getfield Hill's cottage in Scarsdale, NY.
3. JW is in Baltimore, working under the patronage of Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector; see AMW to JW, 24 April 1855, # 06459; Thomas D. Winans to JW, 24 April 1855, #07077.
4. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist; he was 21 years old.
5. Probably 'Let Israel hope in the Lord from henceforth and for ever.' Ps. 131.3.
6. The studio in Alexandroffsky, T. Winans's villa in Baltimore.
7. 'Rock of Ages,' hymn by Augustus Montague Toplady (1740-1778), published later in Augustus Montague Toplady, *Hymns and Sacred Poems, on a Variety of Divine Subjects, Comprising the whole of the Poetical Remains of the Rev. Augustus M. Toplady*, London, 1868, p. 163.
8. A familiar phrase used by JW's father George W. Whistler to 'reconcile JW to self denial & obedience.' See AMW to JW, 10 May 1849, #06392, and AMW to JW, 15 and 16 January 1852, #06409.
9. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
10. Dyneley Prince, of Bath, NH; see AMW to JW, 12-15 October 1855, #06468.
11. Kate ('Cousin Kate') Livermore (1820-1907), daughter of J. D. Prince and wife of A. Livermore.
12. John Dyneley ('Father Prince') Prince, engraver and printer, and his wife.
13. Rev. Manton Eastburn (1801-1872), clergyman, fourth bishop of Massachusetts.
14. James Prince, son of J. D. Prince; see #06441.
15. William Sherbrooke Popham (1793-1885), merchant.
16. Heinrich Friedrich Carl Rodewald (1796-1855), relation of Johann Frederick Rodewald.
17. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
18. Frederick Rodewald, son of H. Rodewald, of Baltimore.
19. Eliza Rodewald (d. 1859), wife of H. F. C. Rodewald.
20. Dr George Philip Cammann (1804-1863), physician, JW's uncle; he lived at Fordham, NY; see *Throw's New York City Directory*, New York, 1861, p. 136.
21. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
22. *Throw's New York City Directory*, New York, 1861, p. 136, shows that both George Philip Camman and his brother Oswald Cammann, banker, lived in Fordham, NY.
23. Anna ('Annie') Harding Denny (b. 1834), posed to JW for *Portrait of Anna Denny* (YMSM 4), and later married W. M. Corcoran; see
24. St Clair Denny (1800-1858), army paymaster in Washington, DC.

25. Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector.
26. Catherine Hamilton ('Aunt Hamilton') (1788-1874), née Whistler, JW's aunt.
27. Probably a picture frame from the time of Peter Romanov I (1672-1725), Tsar of Russia, called 'the Great'. It was probably brought in St Petersburg, where AMW lived between 1843-1849.; see AMW's letter to JW, 18 July 1855, #06461.
28. Barrett & De Beet, looking glass & frame makers, 72 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore; see *Wood's Baltimore Directory for 1858-59*, Baltimore, pp. 10 and 79.
29. The Winans's servants.
30. *Copy after Turner's 'Rockets and blue lights (close at hand) to warn steamships of shoal water'* (M.176) was probably painted in New York from a chromolithograph by Robert Carrick dated 1852, which JW's step-brother George bought in 1854 (see #06461).
31. Propeller Line, shipping line.
32. Probably William Rhodes Palmer (b. 1828), JW's step-cousin, employed at the time by New York and Harlem Railroad; see AMW to JW, 27 August 1851, #06399.
33. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
34. No other portraits are known.
35. Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer.
36. Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), JW's aunt.
37. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
38. The family of David Maulden Perine, Sr (1796-1882), merchant.
39. Elias Glenn Perine (1829-1922), stock broker.
40. The family of Mrs Ducatel, mother-in-law of George William Whistler.
41. George ('Georgie') Worthen Whistler (b. 1851), JW's nephew.
42. Celeste Winans (1823-1861), née Revillon, wife of Thomas De Kay Winans; they had three boys, George Winans; Ross Revillon Winans (1851-1912), husband of Neva Whistler; William George (b. 1853), and a daughter, Celeste Winans (1855-1916), later Mrs Hutton.
43. Frank Larned Hunt, a Washington friend of JW. Hunt wrote to JW on 3 May 1855, 18 May and 15 June 1855 (#02197, #02198, # 02199). He probably knew JW when he worked at the US Coast Survey in Washington, DC.
44. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, opened in 1802; see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
45. JW seems to have left AMW's seal at West Point. The seal is now in Glasgow University Library, Whistler Collection.
46. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant. 'Mary ... love' continues on p. 1.

System Number: 06461

Date: [18 July 1855]¹

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: [Scarsdale³]

Recipient: JW

Place: Baltimore

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W456

Document Type: ALS

I had such a pleasant letter from Homelands⁴ yesterday, you surely will go with Glenn⁵ to spend one evening in exchanging adieus there. I wish you would call at Barretts⁶ & have your W Point painting⁷ framed in the old Peter Gt frame⁸, have it re - gilded & sent by Barrett per Propelle Line⁹ to N Y. Tell him to direct the bill to me, but if you dear Jemie approve I wish to present Doct Cammann¹⁰ with that piece [sic], as under God - his skill & attendance enabled you to profit by your last year at West Point¹¹. I am sure it would gratify him as a token of your grateful remembrance of his disinterestedness[.] he has been quite ill, indeed he looked to me likely next to go! but is travelling for his health. I went to Fordham¹² one day with Aunt Kate¹³ & shall like to go with you & Willie¹⁴ to see them all. It will not be convenient for me to send Willie to meet you in N Y. he has to go tomorrow with me to buy linen for you both & to get a straw hat for himself, he has studies to attend to daily. Our love to Jacks¹⁵ & hope he may come with you. Willie & I expect to visit Aunt Kate about the middle of Augt. And Willie returns to College¹⁶ by the 1st Sept. Omit nothing you ought to attend to in winding up in Balt¹⁷ dear James.

Ever¹⁸ your devoted widowed mother

Anna M Whistler.

Notes:

1. Dated from AMW's visit to Fordham, NY on 12 July 1855 with Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt; see AMW to JW, 11 July 1855, #06463.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. AMW moved back to Scarsdale some time between May - June 1855. For AMW's thoughts on her return to the 'cottage' owned by her friends Margaret G. and Sarah Hill, see AMW to JW, 15 March 1855, #06454.
4. The home of David Maulden Perine, Sr (1796-1882), merchant.
5. Elias Glenn Perine (1829-1922), stock broker.
6. Barrett & De Beet, looking glass & frame makers, 72 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore; see *Wood's Baltimore Directory for 1858-59*, Baltimore, pp. 10 and 79.
7. Copy after Turner's 'Rockets and blue lights (close at hand) to warn steamships of shoal water' (1854, M.176) was probably painted in New York (rather than West Point) from a chromolithograph by Robert Carrick (ca.1829-1904), British genre and landscape painter. The print, dated 1852, was bought in 1854 by George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.

8. Probably a picture frame from the time of Peter Romanov I (1672-1725), Tsar of Russia, called 'the Great'. It was probably brought from St Petersburg, where AMW lived 1843-1849.
9. Propeller Line, shipping line; see AMW to JW, 11 July 1855, #06463.
10. Dr George Philip Cammann (1804-1863), physician, JW's uncle.
11. JW was discharged from the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY June 1854; see Gordon H. Fleming, *The Young Whistler 1834-66*, London, 1978, pp. 104-108.
12. AMW had been to Fordham on 12 July 1855; see AMW to JW, 11 July 1855, #06463. George P. Cammann lived in Fordham, New York; see *Throw's New York City Directory*, New York, 1861, p. 136.
13. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
14. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
15. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
16. In March 1855, William M. Whistler resumed his studies at Trinity College, Hartford, CT, where he enrolled as a pre-medical student; see AMW to JW, AMW to JW, 13 February 1855, #06452, 15 March 1855, #06454; AMW to James H. Gamble, 4 February 1856, #06471.
17. JW was staying in Baltimore with Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector.
18. 'Ever ... Whistler' continues in the left margin.

System Number: 06464

Date: 25 July 1855¹

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Scarsdale

Recipient: JW

Place: [Baltimore or Washington]³

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W459

Document Type: ALS⁴

Scarsdale Cottage

July 25th.

Wednesday afternoon.

I never doubt your affection for your Mother my own precious Jemie⁵, but while you throw the blame of neglecting me upon Procrastination I am less reconciled to such a rival. When it was our privilege [sic] to sit together in the Observatory - I shall ever cherish memories of it - you seemed amused or impressed by my Pilgrim style of adapting Scripture⁶ to your various straits or temptations, but now a text fits the subject in point "while passing thro things temporal never forget those which are eternal⁷!" A mother's claims upon a dutiful sons attention can not be set aside without its penalty of future remorse. I flatter not myself that in Paris⁸ you will find your time less taxed than in Balt, Your Sister⁹ when in health writes me once a fortnight, if you adopt her system of dividing time I may reap the comfort & you the benefit. I know a mothers love is the most imperishable of earthly affections, but when thrown back in the maternal heart, it would

be lost to the Son without faith converted it into prayer & centred its hopes in the power of Him who set the only perfect example of filial tenderness. You are in the buoyancy of youth my own dear James, you expect all you hope, but I am [p. 2] sobered by the Experience of this worlds discipline[.] I have no reasonable expectations of visiting Seyrs home¹⁰, so I rather shall depend upon your writing me once a month or oftener of all that is in your heart. Even should dear Willie¹¹ go to Europe to complete his course of study, Mother must economise by abiding in her retreat. Be sure to bring me Annies likeness¹² I have associations with it which entitle me to it. T Winans¹³ as a rich man may secure your more successful efforts: but I should not value the Art, as I do your first attempt. He shall not have that! Flowers & bright skies are always linked with my departed little ones¹⁴ & their Grandmother¹⁵. I have a yearning my own Jemie that you must indulge, to plant some rare seeds brought to the Cottage by you! Ask the Major¹⁶ to help you obtain some from the Patent Office¹⁷ & bring them to your mother. My love to your Cousins¹⁸[.] tell them when they visit 14th St¹⁹ I shall expect them at the Cottage. I had heard from "Aunt Hamilton²⁰" of their sorrow & sympathised in it with her. Oh if you would all apply such admonitions to your own liability to be taken in youth to the grave! it would not be in vain that we are bereaved. "Seek ²¹first the kingdom of God & His righteousness & all else shall be added unto you needful for this life & that which is to come" But I am aware "you must be born again²²" Pray at least "Lords Prayer" night & morning.

Notes:

1. Written after AMW's letter to JW of 18 July 1855, #06461. No reply has been located.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. AMW appears to be assuming JW is in Washington, since she alludes to the Patent Office, but she also refers to the demands on his time in Baltimore, where he had stayed with Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector; see AMW to JW, 24 April 1855, #07077.
4. Written on sheet with narrow mourning border.
5. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
6. It is possible that AMW is thinking of the writings of William Bradford (1590-1657), Colonial Governor of Plymouth, MA, and author of pilgrim writings, who used Scriptural references as his constant source for imagery, comparisons, analogies.
7. 'While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.' 2 Cor. 4.18.
8. JW obtained a visa for France on 29 July 1855 (#04325).
9. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister. Her letters to AMW have not survived.
10. Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), surgeon and etcher, JW's brother-in-law, lived at 62 Sloane Street, London.
11. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother, then studying medicine. He eventually went to London in 1865.
12. Anna ('Annie') Harding Denny (b. 1834), posed to JW for *Portrait of Anna Denny* (YMSM 4), and later married W. M. Corcoran.
13. Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector.

14. Charles Donald Whistler (1841-1843), JW's brother, died en route to Russia, and Charles Donald Whistler (1841-1843), JW's brother, was born and died in St Petersburg.
15. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
16. St Clair Denny (1800-1858), army paymaster in Washington, DC.
17. US Patent office, adjacent to the US Coast Survey where JW worked until February.
18. Probably the children of St Clair Denny (1800-1858), army paymaster in Washington, DC, and his wife, Caroline Denny, née Hamilton. They were Caroline St. Clair Denny (1837-1918); Anna Harding Denny (b. 1834), posed to JW for *Portrait of Anna Denny* (YMSM 4), and later married W. M. Corcoran; George Miller Brooke Denny; William Irwin Denny; James Hamilton Denny; Willoughby Morgan Denny; and Elizabeth O'Hara Denny.
19. 202 W. 14th Street, was the home address of Richmond Woodriff Jaffray (1813-1862), merchant; see *Rode's New York City Directory*, New York, 1852-3, p. 267.
20. Catherine Hamilton ('Aunt Hamilton') (1788-1874), née Whistler, JW's aunt.
21. 'But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you,' Matt. 6.33.
22. 'Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God,' John 33.

System Number: 06465

Date: 20 September 1855¹

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Scarsdale³

Recipient: James H. Gamble⁴

Place: [Staten Island⁵]

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W460

Document Type: ALS

Scarsdale Cottage

Sept 20th.

Thursday. 1855.

I have not dried my pen since tracing pages to Willie⁶, but kind thoughts are not exhausted & at last I may send you our dear Mr Gamble a portion of those cherished in review of our renewal at the Cottage & in response to your welcome report of your home greeting from your honored Mother & Sister⁷. Miss Sarah⁸ & I have been all in all to each other since Willie went back to College⁹ a week ago yesterday & Miss Margaret¹⁰ a week today went with Blanche¹¹ to visit wealthy connections on the beautiful Hudson, we expect them on Saturday, to recount to us their enjoyment for the delectable places they left our Happy Valley yeild [sic] much. they have refused Cantelopes for grapes, peaches, plums. But we are grateful that our Melon vines yeild [sic] us dessert & substitute Tomatoes at breakfast from the ice sugared, for Peaches. You see my dear friend thankfulness abounds & that I accept the tokens of the Lords favor in the fine weather of Sept as a type of his voyage. I spent as did Willie the last week of Augt in 14th. St¹² in his society at the home of our branch of the Jaffray house [p. 2] Mr Jaffray's eldest son¹³,

younger, but more sedate shared the State room with my voyager¹⁴, we went on board the Amazon¹⁵ on the 1st. day of Sept to be as long as possible with them, they wrote by the Pilot cheerily. Westerly winds have since prevailed here, & when I nightly look up at the night canopy covering sea & land, distance seems less desolating. With the faith of a little child I believe our heads meet daily in the name & words of Jesus. Charlies prayer¹⁶, the Lords prayer! you may be sure out of the abundance of a widowed mothers yearnings & anxieties wants that they think not of are put up in petitions before the Mercy Seat. dear friends unite with me in prayer for these precious lads, that every change to them may be sanctified. Willie read aloud the tract you sent him to us at the Cottage, but not as tho he was convinced. We can only sew the good seed¹⁷ & wait for the Lords blessing on it. Mr Popham¹⁸ has had many labours for a fortnight in the field before us, blasting of rock, ploughing & enriching it & now the seed is sown, it will be a green spot in the snow. John¹⁹ under Miss Sarahs direction & encouragement has greatly improved our acre lately, she & I spent last Saturday with friends who have fine gardens at Fordham²⁰. we came back laden with Strawberry vines, which John will be proud to exhibit to Miss M in the bed he had ready before she left. You must not be mortified that I have been reminded of you by [p. 3] Marys²¹ success in the Maryland breakfast Pone, for we have you associated with greater benefits. I shall enclose the receipt as you wished for your Cook. Mr Popham has been captured by us from the Rye field at our tea time & seemed not less glad than we to [refresh?] him. I handed him your letter to read as Mrs Maxwell²² so gratefully remembered his brother²³, he sighed & smiled over it. he & we all trust if the Lord spares us that you will come annually to Scarsdale. We all love your Mothers' James as a brother! Willie speaks of you affectionately, for his sake you will wish to repeat your visit in his holiday. the new boat²⁴ launched on the Bronx has not been as much enjoyed as was intended by Mr Drake²⁵, in consequence of a calamitous result of a colission [sic] to his carriage in which his daughters were driving their mama. it was broken & Mrs D²⁶'s arm so severely bruised, her face too, it was a merciful interposition prevented her loss of limb or eyes. I become more & more interested in conversation with her. she is such a christian mother! is so thankful her girls escaped, & they are so devoted to her! she is tho helpless yet, suffering less pain & has been patient & cheerful, thro the fortnights confinement. Miss Sarah & I are privately congratulating Aunt Margaret that she has Blanche removed from temptation to attend a party, gayer than Scarsdale has yet ventured to prepare for. The widowed mother seems perplexed to decide how, for her fair young daughters may follow fashion! It has not ever appeared to me that excitement is joy, but the ordeal is entered upon by the youthful member of our church and I can only pray the still small voice may be listened to, for we under the cottage roof may not offer advice, where parents are responsible[.] [p. 4] I have not yet had leisure to write Miss Clunie²⁷ but hope to soon, & shall not fail when in the city to pay my respects to her friend Mrs Maxwell, & to tell the dear old lady of my Sister Winstanley²⁸. Ah if you could see the contrast between a line & half of love from her paralysed hand, to the journal[,] how touched your kind heart would be!

Mr Popham speaks so lovingly of you & so does my friend Miss Margaret I will venture to express it. Miss Sarah unites her sincere regards with my love. Mine you will share with your Mother & Sister. Write to the Cottage often as you can tho I can only scrawl responses.

Anna M Whistler.

Notes:

1. Few of AMW's early letters to Gamble have survived, (see 28 September 1853, #6428, and 3 March 1854, #6438) and none of his replies.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.

3. AMW lived intermittently at Scarsdale, West Chester County, New York between c. September 1851 and November 1857 in a cottage owned by her friends Margaret G. and Sarah Hill.
4. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk; see AMW to JW, 15 December 1856, #06477.
5. James H. Gamble shared a house with his mother and sister at Staten Island, New York.
6. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
7. Jane Gamble (1790-1864), mother of J. H. Gamble, and her daughter Jane Wann (1822-1875), née Gamble, wife of S. Wann; they lived together at Staten Island, New York.
8. Sarah Stewart Hill (1800-1864), sister of M. G. Hill.
9. Trinity College, Hartford, CT; see AMW to JW, 13 February 1855, #06452, 15 March 1855, #06454, 18 July 1855, #06461, and 4 February 1856, #06471.
10. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY.
11. Alethea Blanchard Hill (1838-1908), daughter of J. and W. S. Hill.
12. 202 W. 14th Street, was the home address of Richmond Woodriff Jaffray (1813-1862), merchant; see *Rode's New York City Directory*, New York, 1852-3, p. 267.
13. John Hamilton ('Hami' or 'Hammy') Jaffray (1837-1900), son of A. S. and R. W. Jaffray, who accompanied JW to England; see JW to AMW, 10 October 1855, #06466.
14. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
15. JW travelled from New York to London on the *Amazon*, which sailed on 3 September 1855, as advertised in the *New York Daily Times*, 3 September 1855, vol. 4, no. 1235, p. 8.
16. Charles Donald Whistler (1841-1843), JW's brother.
17. 'And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude;' Gen. 32.12.
18. William Sherbrooke Popham (1793-1885), merchant.
19. John, a servant at Scarsdale, NY.
20. Dr George Philip Cammann (1804-1863), physician, JW's uncle, lived at Fordham, New York; see *Throw's New York City Directory*, New York, 1861, p. 136.
21. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
22. Probably the mother of Hugh Maxwell (1787-1873), of the NY Custom House (1849-1853), lawyer and collector.
23. William S. Popham had three brothers who had all died between the 1830s and the 1840s: Charles Wilkes (1804-1847), John (1795-1837), Richard Morris (1795-1837).
24. Unidentified.
25. Drake; unidentified.
26. Mrs Drake; unidentified.
27. Anne Clunie (b. 1793), a Scottish cousin of AMW.
28. Eliza Isabella Winstanley (1788-1857), née McNeill, JW's aunt, his mother's half-sister.

System Number: 06465
 Date: 20 September 1855¹
 Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²
 Place: Scarsdale³
 Recipient: James H. Gamble⁴
 Place: [Staten Island⁵]
 Repository: Glasgow University Library
 Call Number: Whistler W460
 Document Type: ALS

Scarsdale Cottage

Sept 20th.

Thursday. 1855.

I have not dried my pen since tracing pages to Willie⁶, but kind thoughts are not exhausted & at last I may send you our dear Mr Gamble a portion of those cherished in review of our renewal at the Cottage & in response to your welcome report of your home greeting from your honored Mother & Sister⁷. Miss Sarah⁸ & I have been all in all to each other since Willie went back to College⁹ a week ago yesterday & Miss Margaret¹⁰ a week today went with Blanche¹¹ to visit wealthy connections on the beautiful Hudson, we expect them on Saturday, to recount to us their enjoyment for the delectable places they left our Happy Valley yeild [sic] much. they have refused Cantelopes for grapes, peaches, plums. But we are grateful that our Melon vines yeild [sic] us dessert & substitute Tomatoes at breakfast from the ice sugared, for Peaches. You see my dear friend thankfulness abounds & that I accept the tokens of the Lords favor in the fine weather of Sept as a type of his voyage. I spent as did Willie the last week of Augt in 14th. St¹² in his society at the home of our branch of the Jaffray house [p. 2] Mr Jaffray's eldest son¹³, younger, but more sedate shared the State room with my voyager¹⁴, we went on board the Amazon¹⁵ on the 1st. day of Sept to be as long as possible with them, they wrote by the Pilot cheerily. Westerly winds have since prevailed here, & when I nightly look up at the night canopy covering sea & land, distance seems less desolating. With the faith of a little child I believe our heads meet daily in the name & words of Jesus. Charlies prayer¹⁶, the Lords prayer! you may be sure out of the abundance of a widowed mothers yearnings & anxieties wants that they think not of are put up in petitions before the Mercy Seat. dear friends unite with me in prayer for these precious lads, that every change to them may be sanctified. Willie read aloud the tract you sent him to us at the Cottage, but not as tho he was convinced. We can only sew the good seed¹⁷ & wait for the Lords blessing on it. Mr Popham¹⁸ has had many labours for a fortnight in the field before us, blasting of rock, ploughing & enriching it & now the seed is sown, it will be a green spot in the snow. John¹⁹ under Miss Sarahs direction & encouragement has greatly improved our acre lately, she & I spent last Saturday with friends who have fine gardens at Fordham²⁰. we came back laden with Strawberry vines, which John will be proud to exhibit to Miss M in the bed he had ready before she left. You must not be mortified that I have been reminded of you by [p. 3] Marys²¹ success in the Maryland breakfast Pone, for we have you associated with greater benefits. I shall enclose the receipt as you wished for your Cook. Mr Popham has been captured by us from the Rye field at our tea time & seemed not less glad than we to [refresh?] him. I handed him your letter to read as Mrs Maxwell²² so gratefully remembered his brother²³, he sighed & smiled over it. he & we all trust if the Lord spares us that you will come annually to

Scarsdale. We all love your Mothers' James as a brother! Willie speaks of you affectionately, for his sake you will wish to repeat your visit in his holiday. the new boat²⁴ launched on the Bronx has not been as much enjoyed as was intended by Mr Drake²⁵, in consequence of a calamitous result of a colission [sic] to his carriage in which his daughters were driving their mama. it was broken & Mrs D²⁶'s arm so severely bruised, her face too, it was a merciful interposition prevented her loss of limb or eyes. I become more & more interested in conversation with her. she is such a christian mother! is so thankful her girls escaped, & they are so devoted to her! she is tho helpless yet, suffering less pain & has been patient & cheerful, thro the fortnights confinement. Miss Sarah & I are privately congratulating Aunt Margaret that she has Blanche removed from temptation to attend a party, gayer than Scarsdale has yet ventured to prepare for. The widowed mother seems perplexed to decide how, for her fair young daughters may follow fashion! It has not ever appeared to me that excitement is joy, but the ordeal is entered upon by the youthful member of our church and I can only pray the still small voice may be listened to, for we under the cottage roof may not offer advice, where parents are responsible[.] [p. 4] I have not yet had leisure to write Miss Clunie²⁷ but hope to soon, & shall not fail when in the city to pay my respects to her friend Mrs Maxwell, & to tell the dear old lady of my Sister Winstanley²⁸. Ah if you could see the contrast between a line & half of love from her paralysed hand, to the journal[,] how touched your kind heart would be!

Mr Popham speaks so lovingly of you & so does my friend Miss Margaret I will venture to express it. Miss Sarah unites her sincere regards with my love. Mine you will share with your Mother & Sister. Write to the Cottage often as you can tho I can only scrawl responses.

Anna M Whistler.

Notes:

1. Few of AMW's early letters to Gamble have survived, (see 28 September 1853, #6428, and 3 March 1854, #6438) and none of his replies.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. AMW lived intermittently at Scarsdale, West Chester County, New York between c. September 1851 and November 1857 in a cottage owned by her friends Margaret G. and Sarah Hill.
4. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk; see AMW to JW, 15 December 1856, #06477.
5. James H. Gamble shared a house with his mother and sister at Staten Island, New York.
6. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
7. Jane Gamble (1790-1864), mother of J. H. Gamble, and her daughter Jane Wann (1822-1875), née Gamble, wife of S. Wann; they lived together at Staten Island, New York.
8. Sarah Stewart Hill (1800-1864), sister of M. G. Hill.
9. Trinity College, Hartford, CT; see AMW to JW, 13 February 1855, #06452, 15 March 1855, #06454, 18 July 1855, #06461, and 4 February 1856, #06471.
10. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY.
11. Alethea Blanchard Hill (1838-1908), daughter of J. and W. S. Hill.
12. 202 W. 14th Street, was the home address of Richmond Woodriff Jaffray (1813-1862), merchant; see *Rode's New York City Directory*, New York, 1852-3, p. 267.

13. John Hamilton ('Hami' or 'Hammy') Jaffray (1837-1900), son of A. S. and R. W. Jaffray, who accompanied JW to England; see JW to AMW, 10 October 1855, #06466.
14. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
15. JW travelled from New York to London on the *Amazon*, which sailed on 3 September 1855, as advertised in the *New York Daily Times*, 3 September 1855, vol. 4, no. 1235, p. 8.
16. Charles Donald Whistler (1841-1843), JW's brother.
17. 'And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude;' Gen. 32.12.
18. William Sherbrooke Popham (1793-1885), merchant.
19. John, a servant at Scarsdale, NY.
20. Dr George Philip Cammann (1804-1863), physician, JW's uncle, lived at Fordham, New York; see *Throw's New York City Directory*, New York, 1861, p. 136.
21. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
22. Probably the mother of Hugh Maxwell (1787-1873), of the NY Custom House (1849-1853), lawyer and collector.
23. William S. Popham had three brothers who had all died between the 1830s and the 1840s: Charles Wilkes (1804-1847), John (1795-1837), Richard Morris (1795-1837).
24. Unidentified.
25. Drake; unidentified.
26. Mrs Drake; unidentified.
27. Anne Clunie (b. 1793), a Scottish cousin of AMW.
28. Eliza Isabella Winstanley (1788-1857), née McNeill, JW's aunt, his mother's half-sister.

System Number: 06468

Date: 12-15 October 1855

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Stonington

Recipient: JW

Place: [London²]

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W463

Document Type: ALS

Stonington

Oct 12th. 55

"Angels are round the trusting soul to catch the incense of their prayer - And fly to minister good to those for whom they plead."

My own precious James³

What comfort to your mothers heart to believe this. Tokens of favor towards you on your voyage have excited hopes that such weather as brightened your native land might be extended across the Ocean, that the two I prayed for in the Amazon⁴ might enjoy the passage & land in improved health. It may be as the steamer in which Mary & Fredrick⁵ [sic] came to Boston yesterday the glad tidings of your landing are soon to turn my prayers into thanksgivings. I could not call in Fourteenth St as I wished on my way hither, so Mr Jaffray⁶ may have written to Scarsdale which I left with Aunt Kate⁷ this day week. we went directly to perform our promise to Miss Stotesbury⁸. You know how kind all are at Judge Dickersons⁹. he regretted that he was not at home while my boys were there. I must avail of some lady's muslins to send tenderly the New Port mosses to Sis¹⁰. as the kind old Auntie¹¹ supposes them received in her boudoir safely by your hand. Phil¹² would be happier if he took the right way for he has so many ingredients, but alas he is a prodigal! effeminate too in his indulgence of himself. I like him too truly not to lament over his abused talent & faine [sic] would the eyes of blind youth if warning might!

We had Mr Flagg¹³ every evening in our evening social circle poor fellow! his thoughts are full of his angel wife our own lamented Eliza, he went to N Haven the same day we left to indulge his yearning to see little McNeill¹⁴. I must record here an anecdote GdMa C¹⁵ told as she had lately heard of the little one just 3 yrs old! One very warm day his Grand Father Flagg¹⁶ ceased playing with him to go to the river for a bath. Neilly begged to go too. but was told as he could neither undress or dress himself it would be a hindrance[.] [p. 2] No one noticed the little fellows running out of the parlor till he flew back naked in a few minutes. There Grandpa I can undress myself! now take me with you to bathe! How like Elizas child, she was so ready to save everyone trouble & as a "little one" bright & helpful as he now is. I understand Jared Flagg¹⁷ the artist is attempting her portrait full size, from a good Daguerotype. he usually is happy in his success. It is I believe for Mary Rodewald. how I should have enjoyed talking with her of my dear Debo & the pets¹⁸, and of her visit to Aunts & Uncle Winstanley¹⁹. but I fear Fred must hasten her to NO [i.e. New Orleans] ere I return to NY. Aunt Kate went with me to N Brighton & Cousin Isabella²⁰ gladly availed of the fine day to accompany us, being a half hour too late for the Steamer to that landing, we crossed to the quarantine²¹ where we took a Hack, it caused some mirth as it was not very extravagant fare 50cts and Aunt Kate called it her carriage! old ladies you see have their frolics, ours proved innocent tho exhilarating[.] I know it will cheer you dear Jemie that I have not moped, or ungratefully to God brooded over your voyage. When poor Mary²² has feared storms, I have cheered her by the divine promise The Lord will not always chide. He delights in shewing mercy. But my dear Jemie beware not to abuse our heavenly Fathers goodness, nor expect protection but in the path of duty. You see I was led to change your plan of embarking direct to France²³, for your benefit, as Sis remarks upon the extravagant prices of every think (sic) this season of the Exhibition²⁴, and you know how prudent we must be in our expenditure, our incomes being limited. What should I have done this last month or two had not the Lord disposed the heart of Uncle Winstanley to send me \$130 or £30 so much absolutely necessary to prepare for winter & so small a sum in the Bank for me to draw. I had made no appeal, but trusting in the Lord I was helped! just enough to keep out of debt & for the exercise of faith in God still. His wisdom infinite!

[p. 3] Monday 15th Oct.

I am charged with affectionate questions from the family circle at the Corner House²⁵ for you my own Jemie. I told Uncle P²⁶ at dinner I meant to make you wish you could have partaken his dish of Green corn the last green corn! Emma²⁷ gathers mushrooms daily too to tempt my appetite the rain has yeilded [sic] abundance. Amos followed Amelia²⁸ to Providence last friday, they probably will celebrate their first annual of their wedding on the 25th. I shall choose a quiet day if in my power to spend it with them. Weddings are interesting to you. Miss Emmelyne

Williams²⁹ will be the next on the Tapis³⁰[,] it is to be very large & this will of course charm the crowd: I have happened to meet their Mary³¹ twice in her drives with C. B. as she has not Bessie³² to set her off, she really looks as other modest girls. how very notorious la belle Bessie is in N Y I overheard remarks from Phil D.³³ & two young girls who dine with him, which really gave me pain, that so amiable a young lady should be so daring of gossip. What a rich voice Abby Day³⁴ has! but I cannot approve of praising God by proxy, we had your favourite hymn Rock of Ages³⁵ yesterday, but the tune was only for the choir. Uncle Palmer says we may expect our usual bad weather now after the three days rain & as I must go to Pomfret I shall begin the trip. inclination has urged my answering invitations of Doct & Mrs Williams³⁶ for two summers past, but you know unless duty points I do not feel it justifiable to incur the expence [sic]. quiet suits my circumstances & tastes. but now I must consult my dentist, I fear to defer & risk a winter uneasiness. Aunt Kate will go with me. she so enjoys travelling, & visiting friends. if I can return by way of Springfield & Boston I should be better satisfied to do so. Mary Brenan never hears from James³⁷ & if I could see him, she would not need to, Cousin Kate Livermore³⁸ at Lowell with her little Susan³⁹ & "black Eliza"⁴⁰ spending this month at Father Prince⁴¹'s what a mutual satisfaction if Aunt Kate & I could run up there for a day or two. Doct Green⁴² & "Aunt Mary"⁴³ despair of poor Dyneley⁴⁴ ever rising from his bed of languishing. but he was to be allowed to eat bird or fish, so it may be by degrees his strength may be restored. I have just recd a birth-day greeting from dear Aunt Alicia⁴⁵ & shall enclose this to her to forward you. If you should go to Preston dearest Jemie I beg you to extend your visit to my friends at Mr Tho Boyd⁴⁶'s in Liverpool. remember the claim of Mrs Sandland⁴⁷, who would feel hurt at your omission[.]

[p. 4] Willie⁴⁸ unites to ask any news of Jim? and Jacks⁴⁹ too in Balt will be cheered when we are by your report from Sloane St. Willies every day pants like yours now refuse repair but [I will] by a new pr. So Goney & Lent⁵⁰ are to send very stout protectors. he volunteered to keep an account of all his cash & so do I advise you to do, for your satisfaction dear Jemie! I have not heard from George⁵¹ in a month. he probably is in N Y if the old gentlemans R R suit⁵² is renewed as it was to be in Oct. he purposed visiting the cottage when again in N York. I hope he may come here, as I probably may not get back till the very end of this month. I saw Ed Stanton⁵³ today who asked after my boys with hearty kindness how long is Jemies absence in Europe to be? who can tell! he, Ed, is to remove his wife & child⁵⁴ to the city by tonights steamer. What a magnificent boat is the Plymouth Rock⁵⁵! we should have eclipsed the Crystal palace⁵⁶ if it could have been exhibited in Hyde Park! Tell Seymour⁵⁷ he must let Sis come over next spring with as many of the chicks as he can spare & he come after them! how many homes are ready to cheer them!

Embrace each other from Mother

AMW

James⁵⁸ Abbott Whistler.
62 Sloane St⁵⁹
London

Please enclose & forward.

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. JW remained in London untill late September

3. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
4. JW and John Hamilton ('Hami' or 'Hammy') Jaffray (1837-1900), travelled from New York to London on the *Amazon*, which sailed on 3 September 1855; see JW to AMW, 10 October 1855, #06466.
5. Mary Isabella Rodewald (1823-1867), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of J. F. Rodewald, and her husband Johann Frederick Rodewald (b. 1808).
6. 202 W. 14th Street was the home address of Richmond Woodruff Jaffray (1813-1862), merchant; see *Rode's New York City Directory*, New York, 1852-3, p. 267. AMW had visited the Jaffray house in July and August 1855; see AMW to JW, 25 July 1855, #06464, and AMW to James H. Gamble, 20 September, #06465.
7. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
8. Miss Stotesbury, sister-in-law of Judge Dickerson.
9. Judge Philemon Dickerson (1788-1862), governor of New Jersey.
10. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
11. Probably Aunt Susan, a relation of Judge P. Dickerson; see AMW to Deborah Delano Haden, 4 May 1860, #06509.
12. 'Phil,' probably a relation of Judge Philemon Dickerson.
13. Rev. Edward Octavius Flagg (1824-1911), husband of Eliza McNeill.
14. William McNeill Flagg (b. 1852), son of E. and Rev. E. O. Flagg.
15. Maria Margareta Cammann ('Grandma C') (1774-1862), mother-in-law of William Gibbs McNeill.
16. Henry Collins ('Grandfather Flagg') Flagg (d. 1863), father of H. C., E., and G. W. Flagg, was at one time Mayor of New Haven, CT.
17. Jared Bradley Flagg (1820-1899), younger brother of G. W. and H. C. Flagg, all painters, of New Haven, CT. He was ordained a priest in the Episcopal church in 1855 and served parishes in Brooklyn until 1861, before resuming his artistic career. His brother George studied painting under their uncle, Washington Allston, in Boston, and Jared wrote the *Life and Letters of Washington Allston*. See N. G. and L. C. S. Flagg, *Family Records of the Descendants of Gersham Flagg*, Lancaster, MA, 1903, pp. 125-6.
18. Francis Seymour Haden (1850-1918), Arthur Charles Haden (1852-1910), musician, Harry Lee Haden (1855-1877), JW's nephews, and Annie Harriet Haden (1848-1937), later Mrs Charles Thynne, JW's niece.
19. Eliza Isabella Winstanley (1788-1857), née McNeill, JW's aunt, his mother's half-sister, and her husband John Winstanley (1776-1859), merchant in Preston.
20. Possibly Isabella Hamilton (b. ca 1822), née Fairfax, AMW's niece.
21. The island in New York harbour where immigrants and ships stayed in quarantine for a specified time.
22. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
23. JW arrived at Le Havre on 2 November 1855.
24. The Paris Exposition Universelle of 1855.

25. The house owned by Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), husband of Catherine ('Kate') Palmer, built in 1787, situated in the corner of Main and Wall Streets at Stonington, CT.
26. Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer.
27. Emma Woodbridge Palmer (1835-1912), JW's step-cousin.
28. Amos Palmer, Jr (1827-1861), JW's step-cousin, and his wife Amelia Palmer, née Dyerthey; they married on 24 October 1854, at Providence, Rhode Island.
29. Miss Emmelyne Williams, of Stonington, CT.
30. Fr., carpet, a phrase used by AMW to indicate a marriage ceremony in the bride's home.
31. Mary Williams (1835-1902), of Stonington, CT, married Coddington Billings (1834-1896) on 15 November 1855; see AMW to Deborah Delano Haden, 10 December 1855, #06470.
32. Probably Bessie Williams (1833-1902), of Stonington, CT.
33. Probably Philip Day, of Stonington, CT.
34. Abigail Day, of Stonington, CT.
35. 'Rock of Ages,' hymn by Augustus Montague Toplady (1740-1778), published later in Augustus Montague Toplady, *Hymns and Sacred Poems, on a Variety of Divine Subjects, Comprising the whole of the Poetical Remains of the Rev. Augustus M. Toplady*, London, 1868, p. 163.
36. Lewis Williams (b. 1815), physician, of Pomfret, CT and his wife.
37. James Brennan, brother of M. Brennan.
38. Kate ('Cousin Kate') Livermore (1820-1907), daughter of J. D. Prince and wife of A. Livermore.
39. Susannah ('Susie') Plumridge Livermore (b. 1855), daughter of K. and A. Livermore, later wife of E. Sutton.
40. Eliza (d. 1856), a servant of Kate Livermore; see AMW to JW 27 August 1851, #06399, and AMW to JW, 16 September 1851, #06400.
41. John Dyneley ('Father Prince') Prince, engraver and printer.
42. Dr John O. Green, physician, of Lowell, MA.
43. Aunt Mary; unidentified.
44. Dyneley Prince, of Bath, NH; he had a sudden stroke and paralysis in July 1855; see AMW to JW, on 11 July 1855, #6463.
45. Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), JW's aunt, lived in Berwick, Scotland.
46. Thomas Boyd, merchant, of Liverpool.
47. Betsey Sandland of Liverpool, friend of AMW.
48. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
49. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
50. Unidentified.
51. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.

52. Ross Winans (1796-1877), Baltimore locomotive manufacturer, father of JW's sister-in-law; for Winans' law-suit see AMW to JW, 28 February 1855, #06453.

53. Edmund Stanton, of Stonington, CT.

54. Louise Stanton, née Babcock, wife of Edmund Stanton, and her child.

55. *Plymouth Rock* (1854), Commodore Vanderbilt (1607, 58 tons.). It was built for the New York and Stonington route. When she began trips on 17 October 1854, was the largest and most costly running on Long Island Sound. She was well built, luxuriously furnished and of fine speed. In 1887 she was hauled out on Nutt Island, Boston Harbour, and on the night of May 14, 1887, burned for her old metal. See Samuel Ward Stanton, *Steamboats of the River Hudson*, New Jersey, 1965, pp. 130-31.

56. The first international exhibition of the products of industry, promoted by Prince Albert, was held in 1851 in the Crystal palace in Hyde Park, London.

57. Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), surgeon and etcher, JW's brother-in-law.

58. 'James ... forward' written at right angles.

59. The Haden's house in London.

System Number: 06469

Date: 2-5 November 1855

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Pomfret and Stonington²

Recipient: JW

Place: [Paris³]

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W464

Document Type: ALS⁴

Pomfret

Nov 2nd 1855. friday.

Jemie my precious son

how it rejoiced my heart, here on your sweet Sisters⁵ birth-day, to hear of your safe arrival in London! Hami's father⁶ had directed the glad tidings to Stonington very promptly, as he always does what he may thro his office to relieve my anxieties. Probably a letter from you⁷ would have added to my thankfulness ere now had I not been detained on the hills, it is a fortnight since Aunt Kate⁸ left me to the hospitalities of kind Doctor & Mrs Williams⁹, she spent two or three delightful days under their roof & my plan was to have returned home with her, but as part of my object had been to consult my dentist here, I concluded not to defer for a winter the re-fitting my "artificials", as they had been getting more & more loose, while my obligations in others demands had made my personal comfort seem unimportant, but Uncle Winstanleys¹⁰ seasonable gift enables me to attend to what ought not to be neglected for health & respectability. I am sure my dear boys will be glad of Mothers bestowing somewhat for her renovation. I have benefitted by rest & reading, at intervals, while my sweet little hostess has attended to her routine of domestic duties so gracefully, so unobtrusively it seems truly fairy-like, she drives as well as she

sews, or makes all sorts of nice things for her table - a pr of brisk beautiful ponies, and we have thus gone the Drs rounds in his visits to patients, if Willie decides to be of his fraternity¹¹ he ought to choose such a wife, she reads "The London Lancet"¹² or any of his other medical authors with lively interest, we talk often of Seymour¹³, & I know he & Sis would respect & admire these Yankee specimens. I wished in my heart in watching an exquisite sunset with these lovers of nature¹⁴, Seymour could see just such! tho I never have except in this pure atmosphere. The places we [p.2] are familiar with in Pomfret look improved. The Church, Rectory & school house painted & the shrubbery grown & trees luxuriant. The vacancies death had made, filled up by new occupants, except Frank Wilkinsons¹⁵ home, that is closed by the sudden death of his father in Sept., sad as it must be to the orphan, it is safer for Frank, he is in Bristol with his Mothers family, under refining influences, he will have a motive for steadiness, as it is known his poor fathers profligacy wasted his property. Frank can only keep the farm by industry. It rejoices me (as his Mothers friend) to hear his wild oats were soon sown & that her sowing in tears he may now reap in joy. But the blessing depends upon his establishing his reformation.

The Grinnell¹⁶ place was desolated by the suicide & bankruptcy of Mr. G, another owner has repaired & beautified house & grounds. Your school mate Lloyd B.¹⁷ was ambitious in his ideas of farming, if his father had purchased that place & settled it on him, he would not have gone to California to farm! He writes dutifully to his parents, & perhaps may be glad to come back to work his fathers farm when he realizes how much greater his privations are in his separation from his legitimate calling. Oh how "Young America" rebels & breaks parents hearts by presumption & obstinacy. The kind old Capt¹⁸ pines for his youngest, tho he went with him last Feb to N Y & pd his passage in a Steamer to California & now his yearning for the steamers mail is equal to mine. The young Capt Bowers¹⁹ took what was Miss Abby Allens²⁰ house for his nice gentle wife who has a pet little daughter just beginning to prattle & run to Gdpapa, these cheer & amuse in the absence of the two branches. Anna²¹ stays with "Netty"²² while the papa is on his voyage to India[.] she has improved in every way & does not make her visit to Hamburg, Berlin, Rome, Paris &c too prominent in the experience she has gained, Ellen²³ is the dutiful daughter at home.

[p. 3] If you were on a visit here, the beauty of Miss Helen Eldridge²⁴ would attract you, she is talented & has profitted by advantages in the best schools. But dear Jemie I have only seen her at church, except a social tea at Capt B - s & at Mrs Searles²⁵ and neighbourly calls among the lowly members of our church, I have been sympathising with Doct & Mrs Williams in their sorrow, two letters have come from Racine last week & this startling & preparing them for deeper anxiety. Little Nelly Park²⁶ died on the 14th. of Oct. she was as sunshine in her fathers²⁷ home, at 7 years old so matured in character she was really companionable. Yesterday we heard that five days after, her infant brother died! and now Mary & little Roswald²⁸ are all spared to their sorrowing father. You know how attached I am to the memory of Mrs Park²⁹ & interested in all she loved.

Now I will only add the cordial remembrance of our neighbours here & a message from Mr Tucker³⁰, in his field he found last May, a trap³¹, with the name of James Whistler, he says tell him if he will come for it he shall have it! he laughed at the very idea, Capt B & his wife delight to talk of your capers.

Stonington.

Monday Nov 5th.

Aunt Kate regrets & so do I her having mailed the Sloane St³² letter so late in the week that it did not reach Pomfret ere I left on Saturday. Oh I hope dear Jemie some note of your own expression of affection may be united to that Sister so uniformly expresses, so I will thank you both & beg

you to continue to add your thought of Mother in her envelopes. Aunt Kate & the good Doctor³³ speak of Jemie so indulgently, their love must excite yours gratefully. I found Caroline & Minnie & little Cora³⁴ on a visit here, really Williams wife is a jewel, polished & cultivated, & has benefitted him in every way, he arrived yesterday by the Plymouth Rock³⁵ & they are all to go home by the same tonight. he saw George³⁶ in his Uncle Corts³⁷ office a day or two since, looking well & in good spirits, Wm³⁸ says George is his best friend & that now he offers his interest to promote him on the Illinois R R if he will move West, but Wm for this season prefers remaining on the N H³⁹. he will report to George my remaining here until next Monday, that he may write me here, I have not known where to direct to him, but hope he may run up to Scarsdale next week.

I wrote dear Willie⁴⁰ as soon as the glad news of your arrival reached me, promising he should immediately share the first letter from you. he writes of having resumed Mathematics & his hopes of getting on a par with his class by Xmas holiday, then, he & Jacks⁴¹ hope to meet at GdMa C-s⁴². Cousin Donald⁴³ is now at the Navy Yd on duty in Brooklyn, he found Ginnie⁴⁴ at Washington on his return from sea in affliction, so of course he could not leave her, she is at the Mansion House & he at the Navy Yd, he writes Aunt Kate that it is double duty, for he has his four hours watch to keep regularly night & day, on board the Potomac⁴⁵, & can only spend brief intervals with his lonely Ginnie, their beautiful infant "Henry McNeill"⁴⁶ he never saw, it died 7 weeks old. [p. 4] he makes a proposal in Ginnies name to come & board with Aunt Kate while he must go in the Potomac to Cuba. she thinks she should be happy & would be glad to be useful in any way. She fell in love with Aunt K & never changes! alas for her prejudice⁴⁷ against me, I will yet keep a share of my heart for dear Donalds wife when she makes overtures for it, but will not invite her to Scarsdale lest it annoy her, neither can I go to Brooklyn. I suppose Mary R⁴⁸ is on her voyage to N O [i.e. New Orleans]. I wish I could have heard her little Alice⁴⁹ prattle. she is so like Charlie⁵⁰! Cousin Julia⁵¹ now has an infant brother for her Louloo & little Adolfe⁵² to delight in with her. It will not be in my power to go to Staten Island for the winter. I shall scarcely wish to journey after making the Cottage⁵³ snug enough to read, write and quietly pursue my routine of duty, tho I may go to the City to procure what we lack for heating & lighting it. Tell dear Sis I shall be better able to answer her letter there at my old desk in the library. I have my wee portfolio on my lap now, & I am feeling all the while I ought to fulfil my promise to dear Aunt Kate to make flannels for her boys & girls. I have reserved as a *bonne bouche*⁵⁴ the cluster of delights you must have with Sis & Seymour, the darling children⁵⁵! music, drawing books & social intercourse. I think I can hear the laugh you will excite & oh how I long to hear what Seymour & Sis find in my Jemie, of the pet brother they bestowed so much affection upon! My heart is too full in its realization that we may never meet again! tears come to its relief & prayer soothes. Be advised by your gentle loving Sister & write me all that engages your time. Day by day seek your Heavenly Fathers blessing in prayer with the faith of Charlie & your Mother.

5th.⁵⁶

As I travelled alone on the 3rd. my wedding 24th. anniversary⁵⁷, memory was mingling sweet & aching bygones. Oh Jemie - dear! cheer & comfort your widowed Mother, by exercising prudence in all your absence Aunt Alicia⁵⁸'s letter closed cheerfully in the acknowledgment of an affectionate letter from Jemie. Send her this to read & to convey my love to the trio in Preston⁵⁹ daily in our Mothers prayers. I shall have to defer writing them till I redeem five weeks absence! All well & write in love to all.

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. JW's family moved to Stonington, CT, in 1837 when AMW's husband George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, was put in charge of the Providence to Stonington Railroad. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt, and her family still lived there. JW went to school in Pomfret, CT from 1849 to 1851.
3. JW arrived at Le Havre on 2 November 1855.
4. [embossed stamp:] PARIS
5. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister; her birthday was on 24 October.
6. John Hamilton ('Hami' or 'Hammy') Jaffray (1837-1900), and his father Richmond Woodriff Jaffray (1813-1862), merchant. J. H. Jaffray and JW travelled together from New York to London on the *Amazon*, which sailed on 3 September 1855; see JW to AMW, 10 October 1855, #06466.
7. When #06469 was written, JW's letter of 10 October (#06466), the first written after his arrival in London, had not arrived. JW does not seem to have replied to #06469.
8. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
9. Lewis Williams (b. 1815), physician, of Pomfret, CT and his wife; see AMW to JW, 12-15 October 1855, #06468.
10. John Winstanley (1776-1859), solicitor, JW's uncle.
11. William enrolled at Trinity College, Hartford, CT, as a pre-medical student, by mid-March 1855; see AMW to JW, 13 February 1855, #06452, 18 July 1855, #06461, and 15 March 1855, #06454.
12. The principal London medical journal, edited by Thomas Wakley.
13. Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), surgeon and etcher, JW's brother-in-law.
14. Haden stressed the importance of drawing from nature. See JW's letter to Deborah Haden in October 1858, #01912.
15. Frank Wilkinson, and his father who died in 1855 in Pomfret, CT.
16. Grinnell (d. 1855?); unidentified.
17. Lloyd Henry Bowers (1836-1886), son of Captain Perry Bowers, Sr.
18. Captain Perry Bowers, Sr (1794-1870), of Pomfret, CT.
19. Captain Perry Bowers, Jr (b. 1821), of Pomfret, CT.
20. Miss Abigail ('Abby') Allens.
21. Anna Bowers (b. 1831), daughter of Captain P. Bowers, Sr.
22. Mrs Bowers, wife of Captain P. Bowers, Jr.
23. Ellen Augusta Bowers (1834-1890), daughter of Captain P. Bowers, Sr.
24. Helen Grosvenor Eldridge (b. 1838), daughter of Hannah Eldridge.
25. Mrs Searles, AMW's neighbour at Pomfret, CT.
26. Hellen ('Nelly') Park (1848-1855), daughter of Rev. R. Park.

27. Rev. Roswell Park (1807-1869), minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Principal of Christ Church school.
28. Mary Park (b. 1839), daughter of Rev. R. Park. Roswald Park, son of Rev. Roswell Park.
29. Mary Park (1815-1854), née Brewster Baldwin, wife of Rev. R. Park.
30. Tucker, a neighbour of AMW, of Pomfret, CT.
31. Possibly a bag.
32. The house of Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), surgeon and etcher, JW's brother-in-law, in London.
33. Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer.
34. Caroline Palmer, née Cahagan, wife of W. R. Palmer, and their daughters Cora, and Minnie Palmer.
35. *Plymouth Rock* (1854), Commodore Vanderbilt (1607,58 tons.); see AMW to JW, 12-15 October 1855, #06468.
36. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
37. Courtland ('uncle Court') Palmer, Sr (1800-1874), merchant, brother of Dr G. E. Palmer.
38. William Rhodes Palmer (b. 1828), JW's step-cousin.
39. Probably New York and Harlem Railroad; see AMW to JW, 11 July 1855, #06463, and AMW to JW, 27 August 1851, #06399.
40. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
41. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
42. Maria Margareta Cammann ('Grandma C') (1774-1862), mother-in-law of William Gibbs McNeill.
43. Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin. In 1855 Fairfax was ordered to flagship Potomac, Home Squadron, Brooklyn Navy Yard and acted as her executive officer for eighteen months.
44. Virginia ('Ginnie') Carry Fairfax (d. 1878), née Ragland, wife of D. M. Fairfax.
45. William M. Lytle in *Merchant Steam Vessels of the United States, 1790-1868*, Baltimore, 1975, p. 177, has documented a number of vessels named 'Potomac.' They were all (4) built between 1820 and 1855 and they weighed between 54 and 818 tons; their first home ports were Norfolk, Va., Pittsburgh, Pa., Cincinnati, Ohio, and Cleveland, Ohio. They were built in Norfolk, Va., Beaver, pa., Kanawha, Va., and Cleveland, Ohio.
46. Henry McNeill Fairfax (d. 1855), son of V. and D. McN. Fairfax.
47. Virginia Fairfax and AMW got on badly; see AMW to JW, 21 March 1855, #06455.
48. Mary Isabella Rodewald (1823-1867), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of J. F. Rodewald.
49. Alice Rodewald (1854-1923), daughter of M. I. and J. F. Rodewald.
50. Charles Donald Whistler (1841-1843), JW's brother.
51. Julia Catherine Rodewald (1825-1897), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of A. Rodewald.
52. Frederick Rodewald, Mary Louise (Louloo) Rodewald, and Adolfe Rodewald.

53. AMW lived intermittently at Scarsdale, NY between September 1851 and November 1857 in a cottage owned by her friends Margaret G. and Sarah Hill.

54. Fr.: a luscious morsel; a toothsome tit-bit; see AMW to JW, 16 December 1853, #06433.

55. Harry Lee Haden (1855-1877), Arthur Charles Haden (1852-1910), musician, and Francis Seymour Haden (1850-1918), JW's nephews.

56. '5th ... absence' continues in left margin of p. 2; 'Aunt ... absence' continues in left margin of p. 1; 'All ... all' continues in right margin of p. 1.

57. On 3 November 1831 AMW had married George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.

58. Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), JW's aunt.

59. Eliza Isabella Winstanley (1788-1857), née McNeill, JW's aunt, his mother's half-sister, and her husband John Winstanley (1776-1859), merchant in Preston. The third person might be Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill, or Elizabeth Pickard (1800-1875), sister of John Winstanley.

System Number: 06470

Date: 10 December 1855¹

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Scarsdale

Recipient: Deborah Delano Haden³

Place: [London]

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W465

Document Type: ALS

Scarsdale

Dec 10th. 1855

I prefer sending a few lines my own dear Debo by the 2nd. Steamer since receiving yours⁴ to waiting leisure for the next. Hami Jaffrays⁵ voyage must have been a contrast to his 1st. your date was the 17th & I read it on the 27th. all you wrote of Jemie⁶ was such proof of your & dear Seymours⁷ care for him my hearted [sic] bounded towards you both in grateful affection. On the 29th the enclosed⁸ reached me it was Thanks giving day. I had been invited to meet the family in all its branches numbering 40 at Mr Pophams⁹ but my friend Margaret¹⁰ & I excused ourselves till tea time, so I wrote your bereaved Uncle¹¹, in reporting you my remark was the greatest proof of clinging love for a fond fathers memory is in the attentions of our children to their widowed mother. but Debo excels all! how usually I say as your letters sympathise so tenderly, a daughter even across the ocean is such a comfort! when I contrast your thoughtfulness in preparing surprises for me [p. 2] I lament that my ingenuity is lacking. I lamented indeed that I had nothing ready to put in my own Jemies trunk for my darling pets¹² in the home he was leaving mine for. kiss them around & say Grandmama W loves them more than her pen can tell & their letters will be the next best for seeing them. The dress you were so considerate dearest in having made for me, fits as if it had been tried on me. It is an afternoon dress at the Cottage! if I make a visit at Mr Jaffrays¹³ as they wish, tho I do not promise this winter it will be just right for Cousin Abbys¹⁴ breakfast circle[.] I forget whether I have written you since I spent several days in the

city while George & his wife & infant Julie¹⁵ were there. they have returned to Balt[imore][.] the lawsuit of old Mr Winans¹⁶ terminated unfavorably, it must have cost him \$50,000. if he had gained it, a million would have been his realization. I have been so very busy even since my return from that pleasant little visit at Mrs Holbrooke's¹⁷ (Miss Marion Marshall do you remember the Boston belle? - I allowed Mary B¹⁸ to go to Springfield for a fort [p. 3] - night, a very nice young girl helped me, but preparations for winter thronged me & I am not very strong. Mary returned last friday - this is Monday night - she says all Springfield was full of the grand wedding on the tapis¹⁹ last week. Eliza Howard²⁰ the youngest Sister of Hannah²¹ is an elegant woman. how unaccountable that she should devote herself to the Russian Ambassador they style Stoeckle²² Count now & she is dazzled no doubt by the prospect of shining in Court circles as a young Countess! It really makes me melancholy that my pleasing, intellectual countrywoman but evidently, always worldly, should be doomed to such a companion for life! Mary reported Mrs Charlie Swift²³ there looking so pretty & gay! & she heard too of Capt & Mrs Swift²⁴ at the Howards. they are to take Fanny H²⁵ to their house. We have had such a contrast to this marriage, a youthful couple from Pottsville Penn on the bridal tour. Eliza Hill²⁶ is so lovely in all her traits of character, there is an inate [sic] superiority in the tone of all this Scarsdale family. We have been regaled in a vol which I wish to send you if you have it not in your reading club list "Reed's Lectures²⁷ on English literature"[.] Doctor Carpenter the spouse of this lovely [p. 4] Eliza remarked we ought to have heard them delivered! Reeds appearance was so noble[.] he was lost in the Arctic²⁸! Aunt Kate²⁹ is so interested in his widow³⁰ since she was visiting the clergyman of our church and Stonington last Summer. Rev Mr Bronson³¹ is her brother, her sister was lost with her husband. Proff Reeds brother³² is publishing his lectures, I shall be so pleased to hear from you that you will value a copy from me. be sure you say what you wish. How much I enjoy that vol The Song of Solomon³³ sent me by dear Miss Marsh³⁴, do remember me gratefully to her & to Mama Haden³⁵ & affectionately to dear Rose³⁶. I am so wishful for Jemie to profit by the society of Emma B³⁷ in Paris. Will the Coles³⁸ remain? I liked them & hope he may. I trust to your inducing him³⁹ to write you. ah if he would to his yearning Mother! I have had only one letter from him⁴⁰ since our last embrace! At New Year I hope he will turn over a new leaf. Suppose you enclose him this as I cannot write him tonight. It is difficult to realize how near Christmas is, no snow yet! the rye field is so green in front of the cottage! But the young ladies have been collecting Xmas greens in the woods to dress our pretty church. I suppose Willie⁴¹ can scarcely be here in time to help them. he writes encouragingly, often, & proposed writing Sister & Jim. My Sister - friends⁴² are sitting by me at our bright coal fire as usual in the evenings. they love to talk with me of Debo &⁴³ wish she could visit our cottage in the summer. they remember how pleasant Jemie was! I envy this scrawl your welcome

Dear children adieu. I hope by the next steamer to write Aunt Alicia⁴⁴

Aunt Kate sends love to be expressed for Debo & Jemie with that from their Mother.

Mary Williams⁴⁵ is now Mrs Billings gone to N London for the winter -

Notes:

1. Neither D. D. Haden's previous letter to AMW, nor her reply, are extant. JW, who had stayed with the Haden's on his arrival in Europe, was in Paris.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
4. D. D. Haden's letter has not been located.

5. John Hamilton ('Hami' or 'Hammy') Jaffray (1837-1900), son of A. S. and R. W. Jaffray. J. H. Jaffray and JW travelled together from New York to London on the *Amazon*, which sailed on 3 September 1855; see JW to AMW, 10 October 1855, #06466.
6. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
7. Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), surgeon and etcher, JW's brother-in-law.
8. AMW enclosed a letter from one of Deborah's uncles announcing a death in the family (see below).
9. William Sherbrooke Popham (1793-1885), merchant.
10. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY.
11. Heinrich Friedrich Carl Rodewald (1796-1855), relation of Johann Frederick Rodewald; see AMW to JW, 11 July 1855, #06463.
12. Annie Harriet Haden (1848-1937), later Mrs Charles Thynne, JW's niece, Francis Seymour Haden (1850-1918), Arthur Charles Haden (1852-1910), musician, and Harry Lee Haden (1855-1877), JW's nephews.
13. Richmond Woodriff Jaffray (1813-1862), merchant.
14. Abbie Snelling Jaffray (1817-1871), née Hamilton, wife of R. W. Jaffray.
15. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother, his wife Julia de Kay Whistler (1825-1875), née Winans, and their daughter Julia de Kay Revillon (b. 1855), née Whistler, JW's niece.
16. Ross Winans (1796-1877), Baltimore locomotive manufacturer, father of JW's sister-in-law; for Winans' law-suit see AMW to JW, 28 February 1855, #06453.
17. Marion Holbrook, née Marshall.
18. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
19. Fr.: carpet, but meaning, in this case, a marriage ceremony.
20. Eliza Stoeckl, née Howard, wife of Count E. Stoeckl.
21. Hannah Worthington Swift (m. 1844), née Howard, wife of William H. Swift.
22. Count Eduard Stoeckl (m. 1855), Russian Ambassador to the USA.
23. Margaret Swift (b. 1832), née Howard wife of Charles Swift.
24. Captain William Henry Swift (1800-1879), brother-in-law of JW's father and his wife, Hannah W. Swift.
25. Fanny Howard, probably the sister of Eliza (Countess Stoeckl) and Hannah (Mrs Swift).
26. Eliza Adelaide Carpenter (1835-1886), née Hill.
27. Henry Hope Reed (1808-1854), lawyer, and Professor of Rhetoric and English Literature at the University of Pennsylvania. H. H. Reed, *Lectures on English Literature, from Chaucer to Tennyson*, Philadelphia, 1855, was edited by his brother, W. B. Reed, and published by Parry and McMillan, Philadelphia, with a frontispiece portrait of the author. Reed's unbounded admiration for Wordsworth resulted in an important edition of his poetry (1851). His own published lectures were very popular.

28. Steamer *Arctic* (1850), Collins Line (2,856 tons.). It sunk on September 1854, leaving only 85 survivors out of about 350 people; see AMW to JW, 3 March 1852, #6412.
29. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
30. Elizabeth White Reed (m. 1834), née Bronson, wife of H. H. Reed.
31. Rev. Bronson, brother of E. W. Reed.
32. William Bradford Reed (1806-1876), lawyer, diplomat and author.
33. Probably George Burrowes, *A Commentary on the Song of Solomon*, Philadelphia, 1853. The 'Song of Solomon' in the Old Testament is unique as a collection of love poetry. In Christian versions of the Bible, it usually appears after the Book of Ecclesiastes. In the Hebrew Bible, it is found after the Book of Job in the 'Writings,' the third part of the canon.
34. Miss Marsh; unidentified.
35. Emma Haden, née Harrison, mother of JW's brother-in-law, F. S. Haden.
36. Rosamund ('Rose') Horsley, née Haden, sister of F. S. Haden.
37. Emma Bergeron (d. 1858), née Haden, sister of F. S. Haden.
38. Cole; unidentified.
39. JW; AMW called JW 'Jim' and 'Jemie.'
40. JW's only letter from London was dated 10 October 1855, #06466.
41. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
42. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY, and her sister Sarah Stewart Hill (1800-1864).
43. 'and ... welcome' continues in the left margin of p. 1; 'dear ... Alicia' continues in the right margin of p. 1; 'Aunt ... Mother' continues in the left margin of p. 2; 'Mary ... Winter' continues in the left margin of p. 3.
44. Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), JW's aunt.
45. Mary Williams (1835-1902), of Stonington, CT, married Coddington Billings (1834-1896) on 15 November 1855; see AMW to JW, 12-15 October 1855, #06468.

System Number: 06471
Date: 4 February 1856
Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹
Place: Scarsdale
Recipient: James H. Gamble²
Place: [Staten Island³]
Repository: Glasgow University Library
Call Number: Whistler W466
Document Type: ALS

Scarsdale

Feb 4th 1856

My dear Mr Gamble

My new year greeting is quite a month later than I had hoped to have offered it. But you know how much my pr of hands have to accomplish, daily tho my thoughts are excursive among dear absentees.

My children⁴ scattered must each be written to separately & I am much interested to have ready for dear Willies Easter holidays a new stock of shirts for him, since his return to Trinity College last month he has had a check put upon his ardor to study more earnestly, a cold & fever for a week confined him to bed, but I supposing him too occupied to write often, heard it first thro his own report of convalescence. I doubt not the Lord ordered it for his more permanent benefit. How many lessons has a widow mother to "Be still & know it is the Lord⁵" that faith may be exercised. What can I do now for my Jemie but pray, believing! The Lord may draw him nearer to Himself in his absence from me! [p. 2] he benefitted by spending six weeks at his Sisters⁶ in London for her winning counsels so affectionately impressed him, & her husband⁷ as an Amateur Artist was the most capable adviser, the Sister of the latter⁸ resides in Paris & I hear of her sisterly interest being evinced to my Son, for which I can only pray the Lord to bless & over-rule. Jemie finds his stipend⁹ enough for his living in Paris so cheaply. he goes to his drawing class¹⁰ just after breakfast until two oclock. directly after tea to a modelling school¹¹, after which he discusses with Etudiants¹² you can imagine how much he is in his element. But he had also been confined to his bed by a cold! The Lord I trust made it salutary to him, he has written his brother George¹³ in Baltimore of his restoration to his usual health. I ought to be satisfied with whatever keeps me depedent on God.

But now dear Mr Gamble I will not indulge in a retrospect of the happy days you were the companion of my precious boys, on the Bronx. or with your arms so fondly thrown around them on the Cottage¹⁴ sofa, tho my heart treasures it, my pen must attempt to give you an idea of the pleasure I experienced in two calls I made at [p. 3] 88 East 18th St¹⁵. I felt immediately drawn confidingly to Mrs Maxwell¹⁶ by her talking of Miss Clunie¹⁷ as her friend & my eldest Sister familiarly. It was during a week in Oct I was staying with a friend in West 22nd St. who loving all who love the Lord, went with me the second call. we were equally interested in Mrs Aspinwall¹⁸ with whom we sat an hour, her revered mother had walked to read the scriptures in the Colored Home¹⁹ to poor old women! I was charged by Mrs A to impress upon your mind how much your going to Nyach²⁰ gratified & that they must claim you each time you are in N Y. I left town soon after but my friend Mrs Holbrook²¹ writes me she is cultivating the friendship of Mrs Maxwell & Mrs Aspinwall. We of the Happy Valley²² depend upon your visiting us but by the Lords blessing whenever business brings you North. "Have you heard from Gamble?["] is

often asked me, Miss Sarah²³ says her love of you is maternal (for that is in exercise thro 2 generations here always her tone.)] Miss Margaret²⁴ & myself feel as elder sisters & Sarah agrees that a Sisters love is very great! I must reserve till you come the recital of the panorama of real life in Scarsdale since you were here.

[p. 4] New Years day we had coffee & cake after church all day for the Sleigh cargoes. headed by the worthy Squire his little Grandsons in train. Lews infant daughter²⁵ was christened before christmas in our church. And now the shade sombre to my sketch must be an alarm we all had one afternoon two months ago that poor old Uncle Nattie²⁶ had been hurt in the woods where timber was being felled! suffice it Mrs Popham²⁷ send her Phaeton for the poor old man (you'll recollect his hurt by the depot - he is spending the winter as the honored guest at "the house" Mr P²⁸ has been his tender nurse of an evening, he has rubbed out the bruise, & now enjoys the companionship of this one of Natures Noblemen, as Miss M calls the old Mr Levinas. Bell²⁹ the old colored cook scalded her foot, & has been another interesting invalid, Mr & Mrs P gave up their own room for her for the winter! When a remark was made that in the future advancement of our church prosperity a hospital should be built, the echo was, the church has one at Mr Pophams! There has been one wedding³⁰ in the family circle & another one sur le tapis³¹. the bride & groom came from Pottsville on their wedding tour to visit her Aunt Mrs P. At Thanksgiving the family tree numbered 40 at Mrs P - s dinner. We went to tea, tho invited³² to dinner. At Christmas Willie & I were tete a tete [sic]. Mrs P had sent us a Turkey!

[p. 5] Twilight must excuse my letter growing more illegible, I must finish ere my sister occupants return from the sewing circle. We have for two months the Lady teacher of our Parish school, she is really a very interesting acquisition to our evening fire side for our reading aloud at our sewing by turn. This is the Parish arrangement for relief of expense of board. After Easter the young lady will spend two months with the next neighbour[.] My Mary³³ is faithful & successful as ever. her Buckwheats³⁴ & home made bread rie with the Pone³⁵ you like so well. But our daily prayers at 8 oclock commencing Ash Wednesday will of course make us indifferent to indulgence over the table. To judge from the enjoyment of the youth of both sexes in all exercises the snow yeilds, winter here has not been felt severely, & thro the energy of Mr P & his men in breaking snow drifts with oxen, we have not lost getting to church one Sunday, frosted feet have crippled Miss Sarah & myself as walkers, but Miss Margaret is never hindered upon her feet. Mrs P - has just returned [p. 6] from a duty visit to loving Cousins in 5th Av thinking no place like Scarsdale, she was providentially preserved when their sleigh was upset by an Omnibus in 5th Av! her health has been rather feeble all winter but now she seems stronger, she would if aware of my writing you add her affectionate regards & best wishes for a happy New Year to those of her Sisters, To your honored Mother & to Mr & Mrs Wann³⁶ offer mine & write soon of all that engages you to

your faithful & always interested friend

A. M. Whistler

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk.
3. James H. Gamble shared a house with his mother and sister at Staten Island, NY; see AMW to JW, 15 December 1856, #06477.

4. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist, and his brother William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician. JW was in Paris taking drawing lessons at this time (see below), and William was attending Trinity College, Hartford, CT; see AMW to JW, 13 February 1855, #06452, 15 March 1855, #06454, and 18 July 1855, #06461.
5. Probably derives from: 'Now therefore stand still, that I may reason with you before the Lord of all the righteous acts of the Lord, which he did to you and to your fathers,' 1 Sam. 12.7, or 'And as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he passed on), but stand thou still a while, that I may shew thee the word of God,' 1 Sam. 9.27.
6. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
7. Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), surgeon and etcher, JW's brother-in-law.
8. Emma Bergeron (d. 1858), née Haden, sister of F. S. Haden.
9. When JW reached the age of 21 on 11 July 1855, he started receiving money on his own account. Prior to this date George William Whistler was his guardian. JW gave him power of attorney on 30 July (see #06670, #07062). In addition JW received few loans in 1855 and 1856 from his first major patron Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector; see JW to Thomas Winans, 1 August 1855, #07078, and George William Whistler to JW, 8 August 1856, #06672.
10. JW enrolled for day classes at the Ecole Impériale et spéciale de dessin, de mathématiques, d'architecture et de sculpture d'ornements pour les beaux-arts dans l'industrie, on 5 November 1855 and for evening classes on 11 November (#01012, #01213). George Du Maurier, who was a fellow-student of JW in Paris, was later to call JW the 'Idle Apprentice' (see George Du Maurier, 'Trilby,' *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, serialised, begun 1 January 1894; reprinted (expunged) as *Trilby: A Novel*, New York, 1895; regular ed., London and New York, 1895). However, JW certainly gave his relatives the impression he was studying hard. Although no life-studies have survived, this was not entirely his fault, since both his mother, in April 1856, and later, his mistress, Fumette, destroyed drawings (see AMW to JW, 30 April and 4 May [1857], #06472, and M.210, M.217, M.289).
11. This is the only record of JW studying sculpture at this time. The students would have worked from models or casts. It is possible that his mother had misunderstood and that JW was attending life-drawing classes.
12. Fr.: students.
13. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
14. AMW lived intermittently at Scarsdale, NY, between September 1851 and November 1857 in a cottage owned by her friends Margaret G. and Sarah Hill.
15. 88 E. 18th, was the address of James Scott Aspinwall (1807-1874), merchant, son-in-law of Ann Maxwell; see *Doggett's New York City Directory*, 1849-50, New York, p. 31.
16. Ann Maxwell (1784-1867), née Young, wife of Robert Maxwell.
17. Anne Clunie (b. 1793), a Scottish cousin of AMW.
18. Margaret Aspinwall (d. 1881), née Maxwell, wife of J. S. Aspinwall.
19. Probably a reference to an asylum for impoverished and sick black people.
20. James S. Aspinwall had a house at Nyack, NY; see #06536.

21. Mary Baker Holbrook, née Tyler, wife of J. Holbrook.
22. AMW's familiar way of referring to the Popham vineyard at Scarsdale owned by William Sherbrooke Popham (1793-1885), merchant; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 20 September 1855, #06465.
23. Sarah Stewart Hill (1800-1864), sister of M. G. Hill.
24. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY.
25. Lewis Charles ('Lew') Popham (1833-1899), son of E. C. and W. S. Popham, and his daughter Emma Popham (b. 1855).
26. Nathan ('Uncle Nattie') Levinas (b. 1789).
27. Jane O'Neill Hill (1793-1882), sister of M. G. Hill, second wife of W. S. Popham.
28. William Sherbrooke Popham.
29. Probably Billo Johnson (b. 1815), W. S. Popham's servant.
30. Eliza Howard married Count Eduard Stoeckl, Russian Ambassador to the USA; see AMW to Deborah Delano Haden, 10 December 1855, #06470.
31. Fr.: on the carpet, a phrase used by AMW to indicate a marriage ceremony in the bride's home; see AMW to JW, 12-15 October 1855, #06468.
32. 'invited ... Turkey' continues in the left margin of p. 1; see AMW to Deborah Delano Haden, 10 December 1855, #06470.
33. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
34. Flour obtained from the edible seeds of any of several polygonaceous plants of the genus *Fagopyrum*; it was used to make bread.
35. See AMW to JW, 6 October 1851, #06403.
36. Jane Gamble (1790-1864), mother of J. H. Gamble, and her daughter and son-in-law, Jane Wann (1822-1875), née Gamble, and Samuel Wann (b. 1820), merchant.

System Number: 06473
 Date: 27 May 1856
 Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹
 Place: Scarsdale
 Recipient: James H. Gamble²
 Place: [Virginia³]
 Repository: Glasgow University Library
 Call Number: Whistler W468
 Document Type: ALS

Scarsdale

May 27th 1856

Thursday afternoon

I regaled my two Sister friends⁴ by reading your welcome letter dear Mr Gamble as the *bonne bouche*⁵ to our simple desert, just now, for they were as usual working with Irish John⁶ on the Cottage⁷ grounds, when I read it this morning. Surely you will come to look at their improvements while indulging in rustic eating. I shall take your letter to let Mr & Mrs Popham⁸ have a share in our interest & to receive your remembrance after tea. I am happy to report them both looking renovated. A blessing has been yeilded [sic] their health which then benefits the poor & sick under their roof, I doubt not in their reward from the Lord. "Uncle Nattie"⁹ is quite strong again & works with his plants & hatchet, but he continues a guest at the Squires. As the Summer occupants of their several rooms will soon come from their winter quarters, I presume Uncle Nattie will not be offended, if asked to share Jemie Moores¹⁰ room, little Johnie¹¹ you must have heard of & perhaps he had not been placed in the [half?] orphan home for education &c when you first visited our happy valley. he was so ill in the institution in the city all Winter. Miss Sarah brought him in a carriage at a crisis when it seemed he must die, but the Lord has blessed the tender nursing & Johnie again after five months, attends the Church at Scarsdale!

[p. 2] But I must not satisfy you dear Mr Gamble with all I should enjoy writing of Mr & Mrs P. you no doubt find Virginia a pleasanter climate now than W Chester Co. but we shall expect you at mid summer. I do not wonder at your not writing me after my seeming neglect to express the regret I felt at the prospect of our making your honored mothers¹² acquaintance personally, being disappointed. but I wish you had not judged me by my pen. And I should have so liked to have introduced you to my chosen friends at Homeland¹³ five miles from Balt. The acquaintance with the Winans family¹⁴ was linked with business & in a foreign land, but the Perines are congenial in taste & pursuits, a friendship formed in my youth, matured & cemented by religion. Alexandroffsky Villa¹⁵ is the centre of luxury & indulgence. I have always been hospitably entertained there, but to escape to Homeland for the Lord's day, for mutual interchange of friendly converse, I realize how preferable. Mrs Perine¹⁶ has never lost but one¹⁷ of her large family of eight, three sons & four daughters¹⁸ all intellectual & walking in wisdom's way assemble after office duties retire the fathers & sons to Homeland daily. I lament that my dear Jackson McNeill¹⁹ has not time to go often to these friends of his parents. I do not wonder that you being attracted by the Magnet of piety to desire to know Willies²⁰ pet cousin more intimately. he is an exemplary member of [p. 3] the church with the most tenacious home - feelings, (when a few years ago he was the comfort of his parents anticipating their wishes) he suddenly was left an orphan²¹ & brotherless, tho he yet has two Sisters²², to yearn to be with on Staten Island. When my Willie had to leave his studies last Feb²³ on "sick leave" he went to Balt & I willingly spared him to Jackson's bosom until April rendered it safe for him here. Jacks staid

at George's²⁴ the seven weeks, shared Willie's room &c. How I missed the companionship of my son when the 1st of May required him to rejoin his fellow students, he went entirely restored to health he writes me, that tho it is a daily struggle to rise for six oclock recitation he feels better for it he hints at a hope of graduating this year. But my conviction is so opposed to such a superficial course I shall urge his bending to the yoke a whole year more. his decision is to be an M D²⁵. Willie is improved I think in every way. My health was seriously affected by the severe frost, I could only get to church for several months & my domestic routine tho never abandoned I crept tho [sic], writing I suffered most from, hence I had to submit to appearing negligent & unsympathising. I am rather stronger but this torper of the Liver is obstinate, gradually increasing these seven years. I am desirous of trying the Sulphur Springs²⁶, but if any Heavenly Physician order it not, I shall not doubt the needs be of submission & shall value as ever the rural retreat & friendly sympathy under the Cottage roof. I am so gratified at seeing the Sisters so well, & thankful that we are all of one mind. We had as guest three months a young lady²⁷ who taught our little Parish school till the middle of April, she seemed loth to leave [p. 4] Scarsdale, even to return home, our evenings were particularly improving, no interrupt to reading aloud at the work table. But Pastor²⁸ keeps on the even tenor of his labors, the church & his school flourish. And now tho resting my back in an easy chair it aches, a book in my left hand my desk. But I must report a letter from my Sister in Preston²⁹ mentioning Miss Clunie³⁰ well, recd today. I have heard such graphic sketches of Harper's Ferry I can imagine your enjoyment. My nephew Donald Fairfax³¹ was born near there. During my last sojourn in Balt my room window had the Washington monument³² full in view. I reflected in the rosy dawn (of winter last) of the example of the truly noble hero of our country, & sigh at the degeneracy of the 19th century! I am gratified dear Mr Gamble by your visit to Mt Vernon³³ & all your remarks of Washington. When you write to Cincinnati do not omit my suitable offerings of affection & respect to your honored Mother & Sister³⁴. My Sister friends unite in offering their christian love to you with mine. Mary³⁵ is faithful to us as ever & I am thankful her health continues good. Of Jemie³⁶ I hear every fortnight thro his Sister's³⁷ correspondence which is regular with me. I pray & "hope on" that he may keep to innocency³⁸, I doubt not he loves his Mother, but he is so amused he is not aware how I yearn after my Jemie & Willie, & how lonely I feel often, missing their companionship[.] All my right side suffers while using the pen, this is a proof of the interest I always feel in your letters, to induce you to report soon again what you meet to enjoy & to retain

Ever believe me dear
Mr Gamble sensible of the
sacred bond of Xtian friendship

Anna M Whistler

I³⁹ am flattered by your remembering those you have heard me speak of in Balt & by your calling as my friend, Am glad George was home

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk.
3. James H. Gamble is evidently in Virginia.
4. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), and her sister Sarah Stewart Hill (1800-1864) of Scarsdale, NY.
5. Fr.: a luscious morsel; a toothsome tit-bit; see AMW to JW, 16 December 1853, #06433.

6. John, a servant at Scarsdale, NY.
7. The cottage in which AMW stayed in at Scarsdale, NY.
8. William Sherbrooke Popham (1793-1885), merchant, and his wife Jane O'Neill Hill (1793-1882).
9. Nathan ('Uncle Nattie') Levinas (b. 1789). He had recently been injured in an accident; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 4 February 1856, #06471.
10. James Moore (b. 1817), labourer, employed at the time by W. S. Popham.
11. John Allen (b. 1844), of Pomfret, CT.
12. Jane Gamble (1790-1864), mother of J. H. Gamble.
13. The family of David Maulden Perine, Sr (1796-1882), merchant, and owner of Homeland, the country estate.
14. The family of Ross Winans (1796-1877), Baltimore locomotive manufacturer, father of JW's sister-in-law.
15. 'Alexandroffsky' in Baltimore was the villa owned by Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector; see AMW to JW, 15, 16 and 18 September 1848, #06363.
16. Mary Glenn Perine (1822-1896), daughter of M. and D. M. Perine.
17. David Maulden Perine, Jr (1827-1847), son of M. and D. M. Perine.
18. Elias Glenn Perine (1829-1922), stock broker, William Buchanan Perine (1823-1863), Thomas Harwood Perine (1830-1861), Ann Carson Perine (1819-1919), Mary Glenn Perine (1822-1896), Susan Buchanan Perine (1820-1899), and Rebecca Young Perine (1825-1879), children of David Maulden and Anna Glenn Perine.
19. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin. He was working at the Winans Locomotive works in Baltimore; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 3 April 1854, #06438.
20. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother; he was studying at Trinity College, Hartford, CT. See AMW to JW, 15 March 1855, #06454.
21. P. T. J. McNeill lost both his father and his brother in 1853; William Gibbs McNeill (b. 1801), railway engineer, died on 16 February 1853, and William Wyatt McNeill (1833-1853).
22. Julia Catherine Rodewald (1825-1897), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of A. Rodewald, and Mary Isabella Rodewald (1823-1867), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of J. F. Rodewald.
23. AMW is not presenting James H. Gamble with the truth. William M. Whistler cut his course short at Columbia College in February 1854 for employment at the locomotive engineering shop in Baltimore owned by Ross Winans. See AMW's letter to JW, 17 [September] 1854, #06442. A year later, in January 1855, William wanted to resume his studies at Trinity College, Hartford, CT; see AMW to JW, 1 January 1855, #06448. William was enrolled at the college by mid-March 1855; see AMW to JW, 15 March 1855, #06454.
24. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
25. William McN. Whistler materialized his decision and became a Senior Physician for the London Throat Hospital (see his biography).

26. AMW will spend some time in July at Sulphur Springs, Sharon; see AMW to JW, 11 July 1856, #06474. Sharon Springs was by the early 20th century an internationally renowned resort and health spa.
27. Probably Anna Wood, teacher at Scarsdale, NY.
28. Rev. William W. Olssen (b. 1827), Rector at Scarsdale, NY; he was formally installed as Rector of the Parish of Scarsdale in 1853. See Helen L. Hultz, *Scarsdale Story, A Heritage History*, New Jersey, USA, 1987, p. 576.
29. Eliza Isabella Winstanley (1788-1857), née McNeill, JW's aunt, his mother's half-sister.
30. Probably Anne Clunie, a Scottish cousin of AMW.
31. Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin.
32. Baltimore Washington Monument, the first major memorial to George Washington (1732-1799), first President of the USA. It was designed by the architect Robert Mills (1781-1855) who worked on the monument for twenty years between 1814 and 1834. The only surviving letters we have from AMW's 'last sojourn' in Baltimore are those written between January and May 1855 (#06448 - #06460, and #06462). She then stayed at 176 Preston Road, and Alexandrofsky Villa. AMW saw the Washington Monument probably from the later residence which was on Baltimore and Hollins streets. The Monument is at the north of Charles Street.
33. Probably the home and burial place of George Washington, in Fairfax county, VA, overlooking the Potomac River, south of Washington, DC.
34. Jane Wann (1822-1875), née Gamble, wife of S. Wann.
35. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
36. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
37. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
38. A familiar phrase used on numerous occasions by AMW. It originally derived from 'Be careful that you keep your innocency,' Richard Baxter, *A Christian Directory: or, A Summ of Practical Theologie, and Cases of Conscience*, London, 1678, chapter 2; see AMW to JW, 11 July 1856, #06474, and 23 September 1856, #06476.
39. 'I ... home' continues in the left margin of p. 1.

System Number: 06474
Date: 11 July 1856
Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹
Place: Sulphur Springs, Sharon²
Recipient: JW
Place: [Paris]
Repository: Glasgow University Library
Call Number: Whistler W469
Document Type: ALS

Sulphur Springs, Sharon

July 11th 56

Your birthday³ my own loved absentee,

I must try to offer cheerful greetings, tho you have not since Feb⁴ sent me a line. I must too borrow from your plume⁵, that mine may not be too tedious in detail, it is going far, an envied messenger from a fond mother & your numerous engagements might set it aside even for perusal - not to say for responding to. So I'll imitate that prized New Years letter⁶ of yours which I read over so often as to know it by heart. You skimmed my Oct circuit⁷ from Scarsdale thro Stonington & Fourteenth St.⁸ so pleasantly! I have not seen any of Cousin Abbys⁹ home circle since, but hear often thro Mr Barrow¹⁰ they are all well. Hami¹¹ being in his department in the business house. Hal¹² in Europe no doubt will tell you more than I can. neither have I been at "the Corner house"¹³ [sic] since last Oct! not any indifference of mine, but the Palmer¹⁴ family branches first in their visits, which is all right. Mrs Court¹⁵ flew from her splendid place at Dobbs Ferry to the Doctor with her dying child¹⁶, hoping Stonington air might revive it. Aunt Kate¹⁷ was a tender nurse & her hands performed the last offices of love to the precious body, softening the hearts of the bereaved parents towards her. The Lords ways are not as ours¹⁸, & I doubt not more sympathy mutually between the Sister in laws since they have drawn together by suffering & by solemn realities. Wm Palmer¹⁹ has placed his wife & two children²⁰ under his fathers roof for this month. it is gratifying that they all love the old home. I have a free ticket²¹ for "Mrs Whistler, son & niece["] for the season, so Willie & Ida²² will be glad to accompany me in Augt, when "Aunt Amos"²³'s visit at least will be thro. I must have reconciled Aunt Kate to her having to put me off so long, by writing of coming here with Cousin Isabella²⁴ to try the effects of the Sulphur waters. yearning as I have done thro months of weakness to soothe pain in the warm baths, hesitating only at the expense! but Cousin Isabel & Ida spent a week in June at the cottage, her health needing Sharon, a double motive to me to venture, having prayed that the Lord would frustrate or perfect our plan, by His own wisdom for our good. I wrote to Albany, that Eliza Van Vechten²⁵ might expect us en passant. her response was prompt & affectionate, only let her husband know the day to meet us at the boat! Mr Gamble²⁶ made his visit at the cottage while I was waiting for funds to square my ac/ Uncle Swift²⁷ in Boston was prompt in sending [p. 2] my semi annual resources²⁸. Mr Gamble was my escort in the city, saving me all bustle & did not leave me till under Mr Kings²⁹ protection. Cousin Isabella met me in N Y for a little shopping. I was three days in Brooklyn, sitting each evening in the sick rooms of Grandma C & Mary R³⁰. they had been alarmingly ill but convalescing. of course I was Cousin Isabels guest, Mr King & Ida went with us to "the New World"³¹ last Tuesday night, I am so thankful for a protector thro the herd of porters &c at any thoroughfare - dearest Jemie may your Mother cherish the hope if her term is lengthened out to your return - that you will not forget her infirmities? memory fondly enumerates your manly courtesy to her, in the Nevsky at the

Empress³²'s illumination! & on our route thro Boston to N Hampshire - I shall always cherish too Mr Van Vechten³³'s cordial welcome to me & mine each time I pass thro Albany. What a happy home Cousin Eliza has - & what an excellent husband! a group of five children, all beautiful but the eldest girl, who is graceful & intellectual & so dutiful, she is already a comfort, little Annie³⁴ I thought like Kirkie³⁵ with her large black eyes & curling hair. Aunt Hamilton³⁶ was there & we all talked of you! Wednesday was Elizas birth day 32 years she does not look it. she is in blooming health & a distinguished fine woman. it was George's³⁷ birthday also! he had breakfasted in State St the day before on his way to Boston. I should have lingered to meet him yesterday on his way back to Cunandaiqua, but a friend of Mr Kings had arranged to be our protector on the 6 1/2 oclock train - Central R R³⁸ - to Sharon. So we had early breadfast & Mr Van V took us in his nice H[ack] to the depot. (he will no doubt escort us to the boat from his house, as we promised to Eliza to go at once to them for as long as we might on our way back to N Y. I enjoyed the twelve miles in a carriage up the hills to Sharon after leaving the cars. the weather just right for a shawl & no dust from recent showers repeatedly since the 4th. At "the Pavilion"³⁹ set upon a hill, which has a charming prospect 100 miles - we drove there to ascertain from Capt Swift if he had reserved rooms for us - not there we knew how full it always is, he had written me about my coming when he & Aunt Hannah⁴⁰ were just starting from Boston to open this month at the Pavilion. so he came with us to the next best The Eldredge House⁴¹, equally respectable & nearer the Spring. Ten dollars a week suiting my purse better that [sic] Fifteen! he had reserved very nice rooms next to each other exactly alike, he did not stay to hinder our settling, but before luncheon I was so eager to try the waters, I walked to the spring, drank a tumbler [p. 3] of the cold clear beverage, not heeding its smell, then a warm bath! I could scarcely bear to get out of it, so soothing to the hurts & weakness in the limbs, the frost fixed & Summer has not thawed. Uncle & Mrs Swift came to sit with us last evening & beg us to come often to their apartments where the extensive view is so attractive. There are hundreds of people at the Pavilion & this house is nearly full. we find it well managed, quiet & orderly, the table excellent my appetite is sharpening. We were in our sulphur baths at 6 1/2, after our draught of magnesia & Sulphur. I rested before it was time to dress for 8 oclock breakfast. the coffee, corn bread & broiled chicken I wished in my heart silently, Jemie might have enjoyed with me on his birth morning[.] Cousin Isabella has just stopped in to ask a corner for her love to either of my boys - & adds best wishes for Jemie on his new year. it is like a clean page in your life today my precious first born, how it is to be filled up eternity will disclose. George told Eliza to say to me he would send me a letter he had lately from you as soon as he should hear from me where to direct to at Sharon I wrote him yesterday, they tell me how thin he looks & worn - that vexatious litigation of old Mr Winans⁴² has taxed George sadly. It will end in loss to the old man, for the suit will be decided against him Capt Swift says & adds & so it ought! for it would be unjust. How lamentable that one so rich should be so grasping! the love of money truly is the root of evil! Willies affairs as yours dear Jemie are now managed by George⁴³, my regency has ceased, but not my maternal interest or influence I hope! my home, my needle will be only as it may benefit either of you delighted in by me. I managed my ménage with frugality, but you know I have had years of practise to make the most of a little. Mr Barrow in his voluntary visit of a day or two, Mr Gamble in his week, says Mary⁴⁴ ought to have a patent for her bread! & the Scarsdale butter ought to take a premium. Oh I think if Sis & her pets⁴⁵ could visit my rural retreat I should be so engaged, so delighted & use all my skill for their benefit. Mr Gamble often wished for my dead boys⁴⁶, but I listened to his vol at my sewing. the memories of Hedley Vicars⁴⁷ who was killed in the trenches in the Crimea⁴⁸, gave me such an insight into the scenes of war as I ever should have had. how much a religious spirit may effect & how blessed the missions of a Commander who enlists his men under the banner of the Lord of hosts. Oh Jemie dear while you are so engaged in your race as an aspirant for Artistic distincion I tremble lest

you forget how uncertain is this life, in which you ought to acquaint yourself with God. You surely intend to be a christian [p. 4] if you would use the means He has provided, the bible, daily Prayer, keeping His day. God would bless you & help you & your experience would be that you would progress more surely & sturdily in your earthly calling. As I witnessed a Confirmation on the 2nd I thought of George & Jemie & wept over their danger in delaying. And now of Willie, his examination is now on the tapis⁴⁹. I will propose to him on my return to the cottage to write you of it, he will be there next thursday - a week before I can join him. I came here for a fortnights benefit & feel that I am in a fair way to realize it. I intend to go directly to Scarsdale, so anxious to lose none of dear Willies society. We came up in the evening boat & shall go down the beautiful Hudson by moonlight. I must not forget to report Major Denny⁵⁰ at his post in St. Louis, Annie⁵¹ admired & beautiful as ever, but more delicate in health than ever! "the sweetest, ever fleetest" dazzling & dying! Ginnie⁵² is in revived glee in Brooklyn expecting Donald⁵³ there this month. You surely will encourage your mother to write you of her next visit, to Stonington, by gratifying her longing for one very graphic from your easy pen. Receive my embrace of devoted affection. Oh Jemie keep innocence⁵⁴, & do all that is right to honor your name as a Christian. It is your mothers daily petition for you.

Anna M Whistler

For⁵⁵ James A Whistler. from Mother

Sis reported you well tho she had not heard from you, but of you.

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. Sharon Springs, NY, was by the early 20th century an internationally renowned resort and health spa.
3. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist; his birthday was on 11 July.
4. JW's letter has not located.
5. Fr.: feather; plume; quill, pen; nib; writer, author.
6. Not located. JW's first letter from Europe was dated 10 October 1855 (#06460) and would presumably have arrived at least a month later. Much of the later correspondence between JW and his mother is missing. Her previous surviving letter was dated 2-5 November 1855 (#06469), and the subsequent one, 23 September 1856 (#06476).
7. Probably AMW's letter to JW, 12-15 October 1855, #06468.
8. West 14th Street was the home address of Richmond W. Jaffrey (1813-1862), merchant; see *Rode's New York City Directory*, 1852-3, p. 267. Also see AMW's letter to JW, 25 July 1855, #06464.
9. Abbie Snelling Jaffray (1817-1871), née Hamilton, wife of R. W. Jaffray.
10. John W. Barrow, a merchant of New York.
11. John Hamilton ('Hami' or 'Hammy') Jaffray (1837-1900), son of A. S. and R. W. Jaffray.
12. Henry Somerville or 'Hal' Jaffray (1839-1922), son of A. S. and R. W. Jaffray.
13. The house owned by Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer, built in 1787, situated in the corner of Main and Wall Streets at Stonington, CT.

14. The Palmer family branches in New York (see below).

15. Mary Ann ('Mrs Court') Palmer (b. 1813), wife of Courtland Palmer.

16. None of the three known sons of M. A. Palmer died in 1856. There was probably an unidentified son who died at a very young age.

17. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.

18. Probably ^{a reference to} ~~it derives from~~ 'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.' Isa. 55.8.

19. William Rhodes Palmer (b. 1828), JW's step-cousin.

20. Caroline Palmer, née Cahagan, wife of William R. Palmer, JW's step and her two children.

21. Probably a Western Road 'free ticket' to Albany, mentioned before in AMW's letter to JW, 6 August 1851, #06398. The estate of George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father, left 6 per cent ~~shock~~ of the Albany City Western Railroad to AMW worth \$700,00. Probably AMW received a token or ticket of some kind as part of her shares.

22. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother, and Ida Bayard King (d. 1863). Ida married William M. Whistler in Brooklyn, on 14 November 1860.

23. Sarah Palmer (d. 1865), née Foster, wife of A. Palmer, Sr.

24. Isabella King (1805-1857), née Gibbs, cousin of AMW.

25. Eliza Van Vechten (b. ca 1824), née Hamilton, AMW's cousin.

26. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk.

27. Captain William Henry Swift (1800-1879), brother-in-law of JW's father'

28. A reference to AMW's semi-annual income deriving from the estate of George W. Whistler; see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 19 June 1849, #07629, and AMW to JW, 8 January 1855, #06449.

29. Ralph King (1801-1878), broker, father-in-law of W. M. Whistler.

30. Maria Margareta Cammann ('Grandma C') (1774-1862), mother-in-law of William Gibbs McNeill, and her grand-daughter Mary Isabella Rodewald (1823-1867), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of J. F. Rodewald.

31. Unidentified.

32. Aleksandra Feodorovna Romanov (1798-1860), wife of Tsar Nicolas I. 'Dom Ritter,' the Whistler house in St Petersburg, faced onto the river Nevsky, by which they could view firework displays.

33. Abraham Van Vechten (1819-1884), husband of E. Hamilton. Abraham and Eliza Van Vechten had five children: Hamilton Van Vechten (b. 1844); Cornelia Van Vechten (b. 1847); Ann ('Annie') Van Vechten (b. 1852); Abraham Van Vechten (b. 1854); and Estelle Van Vechten (b. 1856).

34. Ann ('Annie') Van Vechten.

35. Kirk Boott Whistler (1838-1841), JW's brother.

36. Catherine Hamilton ('Aunt Hamilton') (1788-1874), née Whistler, JW's aunt.

37. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother. His birthday was on 9 July.

38. 'New York Central Railroad Company' was a consolidation, becoming effective on 1 May 1853, of various companies having railroads between Albany and Troy and Buffalo, and was organized under a special law of the State of New York, passed on 2 April 1853. It lasted until 1869, where its collaboration with The Hudson River Railroad Company, resulted in the creation of The New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Company. See Robert L. Fry, ed., *Railroads in the Nineteenth Century*, New York, 1988, p. 282.
39. The Pavilion Hotel, built in 1836 in a Greek Revival-style; it was the largest and most elegant at the springs. It attracted prominent families like the Vanderbilts and Van Rensselaers. John Gardner, senior partner of the firm J. H. Gardner & Sons, and owner of the hotel, was also influential in building the Trinity Episcopal Church in 1850-56 in New York. See *Reflections on Sharon, 1797-1997, A Pictorial History*, ed. by Sharon Historical Society, New York, 1997, p. 25.
40. Hannah Worthington Swift (m. 1844), née Howard, wife of William H. Swift.
41. The first boarding house established near the springs in 1825 by David Eldredge. Visitors came to the healing waters by canal boat from Albany to Palatine Bridge, then took a relatively short stage coach ride to Sharon Springs. Its success as a fashionable summer resort was ensured when the Utica & Schenectady Railroad was completed in 1836. See *Reflections on Sharon, 1797-1997, A Pictorial History*, ed. by Sharon Historical Society, New York, 1997, p. 21.
42. Ross Winans (1796-1877), Baltimore locomotive manufacturer, father of JW's sister-in-law. For Winans' law-suit see AMW to JW, 28 February 1855, #06453.
43. Although George William Whistler was no longer JW's guardian he still helped supervise his affairs; see JW to George William Whistler, 8 July 1856, #06674, and 30 July 1856, #06670.
44. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
45. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister. Francis Seymour Haden (1850-1918), Arthur Charles Haden (1852-1910), musician, Harry Lee Haden (1855-1877), JW's nephews, and Annie Harriet Haden (1848-1937), later Mrs Charles Thynne, JW's niece.
46. Kirk Boot Whistler (1838-1841), and Charles Donald Whistler (1841-1843), JW's brothers.
47. Hedley Vicars (1826-1855), christian and soldier. Catherine Marsh, *Memorials of Captain Hedley Vicars, Ninety-seventh regiment*, New York, 1856.
48. Crimean War (1853-56), between Russia and the allied powers of Turkey, England, France, and Sardinia. Its pretext was a quarrel between Russia and France over guardianship of Palestinian holy places. Turkey declared war on Russia after the latter occupied Moldavia and Walachia; England, France, and Sardinia joined later. The fighting centered on Sevastopol, the heavily fortified base of the Russian fleet. After a long, bloody siege, the city fell and the war ended, thus checking Russian influence in the area.
49. Fr.: carpet, a phrase used by AMW to indicate a marriage ceremony in the bride's home.
50. St Clair Denny (1800-1858), army paymaster in Washington, DC.
51. Anna ('Annie') Harding Denny (b. 1834), posed to JW for *Portrait of Anna Denny* (YMSM 4), and later married W. M. Corcoran.
52. Virginia ('Ginnie') Carry Fairfax (d. 1878), née Ragland, wife of D. M. Fairfax.
53. Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin.

54. See AMW to James H. Gamble, 27 May 1856, #06473.

55. 'For ... Mother' continues in the left margin; 'Sis ... you' continues in the left margin of p. 1.

System Number: 06475
 Date: 21 August [1856]¹
 Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²
 Place: Stonington
 Recipient: James H. Gamble³
 Repository: Glasgow University Library
 Call Number: Whistler W470
 Document Type: ALS

Stonington

Thursday eve. Aug 21st

My dear Mr Gamble

Since our pleasant stage drive you no doubt have been enjoying every hour with your "two Muz"⁴ & to listen to you report of Henderson Home⁵ will be to Willie⁶ & his mother interesting & amusing. I shall expect to hear from you of the welcome home on Staten Island & whether it will be quite convenient that we pay our brief visit next week. We are expected at Orange & Paterson, but Willie thinks he must be back in Phila by the close of next week, he will have some arrangements to make in N Y, therefore we propose going by next tuesday nights steamer the Vanderbilt⁷ to N R [i.e. North River] Pier 2. & shall be advised by you, which invitation we shall accept, as his stay will admit of only one visit. I depend upon your preventing your Sister crowding her home circle to receive us. as you know I can go later, tho Willie cannot. You know my desire to share your dear Mother's room & bed. because I love her & she is not averse to my so doing.

I have not been selfish enough to write any of my Richfield friends, since nieces & nephews have encircled me, if you write Mrs Maxwell⁸, report me well & my wish to hear [p. 2] that she found all well in both her N R homes.

The rain on monday & a complimentary ticket for the R R⁹ decided my journeying on tuesday by the 9 o'clock train. My visit thus prolonged in Albany was really refreshing. Willie met me on board the Stonington boat, indeed my way was smoothed & hands stretched out to help me as usual thro the tender care of our Lord. I found all well here & am realizing the benefit I derive at the Springs. I went to report Mrs Cliff¹⁰ to her mother yesterday, her dear little boys clung to me when they heard I had been with their precious mama! & seemed to love me for it. But unless I close this the mail will not convey it to you tonight. So with Willies & my love to you, remember me to Mr¹¹ & Mrs Wann & embrace your Muz for her &

your sincerely attached friend.

Anna M. Whistler.

Direct to care of Doctor G E Palmer¹². Stonington Conn.

[embossed stamp:] P & S

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to the *Perpetual Calendar Whitaker's Almanac*.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk; he lived at Staten Island, NY.
4. Jane Gamble (1790-1864), mother of J. H. Gamble, and her daughter Jane Wann (1822-1875), née Gamble, wife of S. Wann.
5. The home of Harriet Cruger (1790-1872), née Douglas; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 26 March 1857, #06482.
6. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
7. Steamer *Cornelius Vanderbilt* (1847-1896), Stonington Line (1,041 tons.); see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 13 August 1849, #07637.
8. Probably Ann Maxwell (1784-1867), née Young, wife of Robert Maxwell.
9. i.e. railroad.
10. Mrs Cliff; unidentified.
11. Samuel Wann (b. 1820), merchant, brother-in-law of J. H. Gamble.
12. Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer.

System Number: 06476

Date: 23 September 1856

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Stonington

Recipient: JW

Place: [Paris]

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W471

Document Type: ALS

Stonington

Sept 23rd. 56

Probably dear Jemie you can dispense with written reports after having talked with George² of all you care about in your native land. So this is to indulge a Mother's yearnings, an extra to be enclosed for Sisters³ forwarding. in hers recd this morning dated the 3rd she tells me of one of mine to you having been lost & found again in Seyrs⁴ pocketbook! so may/-be it has surprised you. day after tomorrow will be a week since I started from the cottage at dutys call, to poor Eliza. The Black Topsy⁵ - she has been nearly a year a sufferer & since Febry placed entirely helpless in the very nicest asylum ever supported by any community. I drank a tumbler of milk, more like cream - at the poor invalids desire, each day I went this last week to refresh her with devotional exercises. on friday Cousin Kate⁶ & Aunt Kate⁷ went with me at the especial invite of Mrs Nelson⁸ the matron of the "Poor house"⁹ to take tea in her parlor. our dinner having been purposely early & frugal that we might gratify her by partaking hungrily of her varieties of tea

cake, custards, stewed fruit & rich cream. The poors farm well managed by Mr Nelson yeilds [sic] abundantly. 9 cows a fine dairy.

Eliza tho stretched on her mattress helpless felt [p. 2] gratified that her ladies were entertained as if by her. surely for her sake the interest the matron extends. you saw Eliza at Bath¹⁰ as Cousin Kates maid of all works, but now tho her heart is ever stirring with pure heavenly desires, she is wasted away to a shadow, I will not send you the painful sketch of gradual decay. it was a mutual comfort to poor Eliza & her "dearest mistress" as she called me, to listen to each others voices. probably we shall not meet again on earth. I wish you could see Cousin Kate & Arthur¹¹ with their bright tiny Susie¹². "Papa" she screams & "where is my daughter Susanna" her voice is like a flageolet, her complexion fair & delicate are her proportions, but she is so much in the bracing mountain air she is perfectly healthy & not likely to be spoiled as Cousin Kate never loses sight of her or sound, tho you know how well she superintends her table & larder. We talked of you often Jemie dear. Heber¹³ desires me to say to you he hopes to meet you at "the brick Castle"¹⁴ after you & he have acquired wisdom at least far away! he is more interesting than ever, since his severe illness & consequent lameness. he walks with a cane now, he was in the train of R R¹⁵ Cars of Tom O Sullivans¹⁶ party when he was killed a year ago you may have heard it was at the opening of one of the roads at the West. poor Heber [p. 3] was ill at St Louis three months then had to go to Florida for climate to recruit, now he is about to try St Louis as a lumber merchant, he loves the mountain streams of N Hampshire but its breezes are too bracing. I persuaded Aunt Kate to go with me to Bath in dear Willie¹⁷'s stead. she was charmed by the scenery & we enjoyed Sunday at Father Princes¹⁸ what a perfect model of a home is theirs.

CCF Robt¹⁹ only sharing it, Fred²⁰ on a visit to Bath, to return home & re-enter the Works²¹ 1st Oct, While the dear old couple are spared to each other so sympathisingly! they will be cheerful for each others sake. I had enquired of Johnie Prince²² at Bath how his grandfather was. Oh he is J [as] droll as ever! good morning lords & peacocks²³ often his good morning to us. So Jemie dear he entered into your sketches of a students life in "The Latin Quarter" as if one of your jovial fellows, he declared it was better than any novel as he wiped the moisture from his eyes.

Dyneley tho looking handsome & well, is not equal to attend to his business, so Father Prince & Robt do for him, they are neither of them in the Works now tho they have the home the Camp²⁴ built for them. Aunt Mary²⁵ said she had often wished to write you. I encouraged her to do so & I'd forward a thin sheet. Stonington is very calm now after the summer's excitements. I must not ask questions of you for they scarce will be answered, but I wonder if you have stumbled upon the Williams²⁶! I cant write you a sketch of his rudeness at me for I never have personal intercourse with him, but I hope you may never seek him tho he & Bessie & Georgie B²⁷ are from Stonington

[p. 4] A sad warning of the evil effects of smoking I could tell you, but I forbear[,] you know my Son how I have tried to impress my boys to avoid every leading to vice or debauch. My daily prayer is that you may "keep to innocency"²⁸

I hope to hear from dear Willie (at Hartford[]]) when I return to the cottage by tomorrows boat. Aunt Kate greatly enjoys your old letters²⁹ to me. I have no news from Jemie for my friends. All unite in love to you. Will you offer mine to Madme Bergeron³⁰ & say how pleased I am at her invitation to you. I hope to hear of your proffitting [sic] by it. it is so good to be in the country, its clear firmament & atmosphere & natural beauties with time & quiet for meditation so salutary. Tomorrow is the wedding day of Henry Whitehouse³¹, so the cards tell us, but I shall only go to Cousin Isabellas³² & to Gdma Cs. Now receive my blessing. I am amended in health & equal to answering any of your questions.

Your
devoted widowed Mother.
Sis forward to Jemie without delay.

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
3. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister; her letter does not survive.
4. Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), surgeon and etcher, JW's brother-in-law.
5. Eliza (d. 1856), a servant of Kate Livermore; see AMW to JW 27 August 1851, #06399, and AMW to JW, 16 September 1851, #06400. 'Topsy' was an orphan slave girl in Mrs H. E. Beecher Stowe's famous anti-slavery novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin, published in the National Era in 1851-52 and in book form in 1852.
6. Kate ('Cousin Kate') Livermore (1820-1907), daughter of J. D. Prince and wife of A. Livermore.
7. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
8. Mrs Nelson, matron of a hospice in Stonington, CT.
9. Its original name was 'Town Farm,' an asylum for the poor on Wheeler Road, Stonington, CT. Information from Mary Thatcher, Stonington Historical Society, Stonington, CT.
10. This was Bath, NH, where JW as a child had visited the Livermores.
11. Arthur Livermore (b. 1811), lawyer.
12. Susannah ('Susie') Plumridge Livermore (b. 1855), daughter of K. and A. Livermore, later wife of E. Sutton.
13. Heber, probably a relation of J. D. Prince.
14. Probably the Smithsonian Institution, nick-named 'The Castle,' for its red brick, parapets, and high-flying flags; it was designed in 1849 by James Renwick, Jr and completed in 1855.
15. i.e. Railroad.
16. Thomas O'Sullivan (d. 1855), engineer. AMW refers to the Pacific Railroad train disaster. Hundreds of citizens of St Louis prepared for the excursion marking the opening of the Pacific Railroad from St Louis to Jefferson City, Missouri on 1 November 1855. In addition to the people killed, about 100 were injured when the Gasconade Bridge trestle collapsed as the 15 wooden railway cars reached the first pier. Nine of the cars sank at the edge of the Gasconade River and dragged three other cars off the track. Washington King, mayor of St Louis, was among those injured. The president of the St Louis city council and O'Sullivan, the chief engineer were killed. The Pacific Railroad was founded to build the first rail line west of the Mississippi River. In 1872 the line was reorganized as the Missouri Pacific Railway; see *Pacific Railroad*, report of the committee appointed by the directors of the Pacific railroad to investigate the cause of the accident at Gasconade bridge, St Louis, 1855; Robert B. Shaw, *A History of Railroad Accidents, Safety Precautions and Operating Practices*, New York, 1978, pp. 51-52.
17. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.

18. John Dyneley ('Father Prince') Prince, engraver and printer.
19. Robert Prince.
20. Frederick ('Fred') Prince.
21. Probaby the Winans Locomotive Works in Baltimore owned by Ross Winans (1796-1877), Baltimore locomotive manufacturer, father of JW's sister-in-law; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 3 April 1854, #06438.
22. John ('Johnie') Dyneley Prince, Jr.
23. Phrase traced back to George III (1760-1820), King of England, famous for addressing an assembly as 'My lords and peacocks;' see *Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable*, revised edition by Ivor H. Evans, London, 1981, p. 842.
24. Unidentified.
25. Probably Mary Prince, wife of J. D. Prince.
26. Probably Charles P. Williams, an early patron of JW, an early patron of JW. JW could not afford to take his mother's advice. Williams commissioned a portrait of himself (YMSM 10) and several copies of paintings in the Louvre, including a *Copy after Schnetz's 'Les Adieux du consul Boetus à sa famille* (YMSM 13; see also YMSM 15, 16, 17).
27. Bessie Williams (1833-1902), of Stonington, CT, and Georgie B.; unidentified.
28. See AMW to James H. Gamble, 27 May 1856, #06473.
29. JW's letters to his mother were exceedingly rare. The previous recorded letter was on 10 October 1855 (#06466).
30. Emma Bergeron (d. 1858), née Haden, sister of F. S. Haden.
31. James Henry Whitehouse (1833-1924), banker. He was married on 25 September 1856 to Mary Schenck, daughter of Elizabeth and John Schenck. See Alvak P. French, *The History of Westchester County*, New York, 1925, vol. 4, pp. 17-18.
32. Isabella King (1805-1857), née Gibbs, cousin of AMW.

System Number: 06477
Date: 15 December 1856
Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹
Place: Scarsdale
Recipient: JW
Place: [Paris]
Repository: Glasgow University Library
Call Number: Whistler W472
Document Type: ALS

Scarsdale,
Monday evening, Dec 15th, 56.

Really my own Jemie

the preoccupied state this may find you in makes your Mother fear it may be less eagerly read than she would welcome one of your letters², but at the close of the year her yearning is not to be over ruled by prudence. At a leisure hour then extract the love which prompts these lines. you are so bouyant dear youth I must not associate dull care with a Mothers greeting. You are often alluded to at the Cottage, always with a smile mentioned by Miss S & M.³ you having promoted their ready wit and cheerfulness. As I read a few lines from Sis⁴ one evening last week referring to a letter⁵ she had recently recd from Jemie, I said "if he does not soon send me a report of his doings I must e'en as the widow to her hour glass read over his one letter in a year to me. "Come friend I'll turn thee up again⁶". Mrs Barnes⁷ wrote me on her return from Europe last month of the much she would have to say to me of Jemie! she had seen him several times! he was matured & improved! Of course I am grateful that tho you are a delinquent in filial interest, you are not an enemy to yourself, for Oh how much more tenderly I feel for your welfare than for my own selfish gratification, tho the deprivation of affectionate communication between us is keenly felt. I have no worldly ambitions you know dear Jemie, it will not compensate me, even if you win fame & wealth. May the preserving grace I daily ask for you keep you in innocency! Tho an active routine is mine every morning, that by frugality I may provide for hospitality and maintain the respectable caste, bequeathed me. I have solitary musings while resting on the old sofa in the library, sewing, & memory is very faithful. again Jemie is presented, our readings to amuse his convalescence at Dom Ritter⁸, or his sketching at the Isle of Wight⁹ on the Camp stool, or he is my protector journeying in our native land! or yielding to his mothers reasonings his wild schemes, kissing her hand fondly& dutifully! [p. 2] the last month we were together! You Jemie dearest if you had set aside my comfort while you were under the roof with me, as you have done during our years separation, how bitter my memories now! I recd a response from Jacks¹⁰ to mine of the 3rd of Nov early this month. so creditable to his heart I sent it to Willie¹¹ to read. and now I am arranging my claims to devote myself to Willie during his holidays, he wrote me to expect him by tea time day after tomorrow. I have succeeded in some apple & mince pies¹² today, as part of my economy for frugal meat dinners, not to feast upon yet not to fast upon. Mrs Popham¹³ generously supplies the Cottage with apples, that would decay if uncooked, tho some of the finest I select & take especial care of for Willie's enjoyment, these are secondary, only proofs of affections fore thought. Mary B¹⁴ wrote her brother James¹⁵ yesterday - alas she does not profit as I do by our Church being so close by that even a rainy Sunday I am not debarred the benefit - that he may hope for her spending the winter in Springfield. this argues that I am to go South, for she would not desert me - our frost has not yet set in, we had one snow, & ice firm enough for skating here, but the old Indian token the springs not being filled, rain has repeatedly

been sent lately & by the New Year the icy look may be [fastened?]. I feel so well whenever the frost yields, that altho I would not run away from "the crinkling snow" merely to save myself discomforts, the benefit to my health will be undoubted, if the path of duty for me this season be at the South. My Mothers Cousin in S. C. & my own in Georgia¹⁶ write urging me. Poor Elizas¹⁷ hope that I might visit Florida & be a missionary (as her dear old Mistress¹⁸ was while we were in Russia) makes my desire great to be my brothers¹⁹ helper in the work of Christianizing his people & if after all mine & Willies ac/ are ballanced [sic] at N Y, I find enough left for my travelling expenses. & if I hear of some friend, who is to visit her native South, I shall see the smiling Providence, as I did when I went to Sharon Springs²⁰, so peculiarly favored [sic] was I, by hands stretched out all the way & hearts even of strangers to help me. Involuntarily at the close of the year, I express to you my grateful sense of the watchful care of our heavenly father, His dependant, lonely ones trust in Him! [p. 3] What a dream this world appears to me! how blind I have been not to see the pilgrimage by the light of eternity. Jemie dear do you ever think of Willy & Eliza McNeill²¹ those loving & beloved companions of yours? where are they gone? Eternity how solemn do not banish this thought, when Willy was so suddenly taken how much more you were on the brink of the grave! Oh if you would but read your bible & meditate upon the truth & walk in the path of Gods commandments, should we never in this world meet, we should have the hopes of embracing in the heavenly home where most of ours are I trust awaiting us. you would then have the blessing requisite to success, to enjoyment improving the talent given, you to cultivate. do not I beseech my own dear first born, put off seeking your imperishable portion, religion is not gloomy. I find when I have sought God most, I am most cheered. I have had one report from Cousin Isabella²² in Savannah, her health is brightening tho slowly by change of climate. Ida²³ will be all the more blooming after recovering from her sea sickness, & the sadness her mothers²⁴ alarming attack on the lungs caused her in Brooklyn. Cousin Ralph²⁵ is well, he has rented the house furnished & occupies a room & a seat at the table & fire side. Grandma C²⁶ & Aunty, Nurse & Sarah²⁷ are well & no doubt preparing for Xmas, when Jacks is expected. Julia R²⁸ & and family are to spend the holidays there, no doubt to make less the vacancy death of Eliza & little McNeill²⁹ has so deeply impressed. Mr Flagg³⁰ is travelling in England for health. I suppose tho you have talked with Ch Camman³¹ & have been introduced to the bride of Henry Whitehouse³². I hope when sister³³ sees them she will explain to them why they ought not to visit Preston, even to call at the once hospitable old home would distress.

Sometimes young Will is at Scarsdale, the Proff³⁴ became lame from rheumatism last winter, went to Sharon for his cure in Summer, but probably could not stay long enough. I never hear from any one at West Point now. I wonder Aunt Hamilton³⁵ has not fulfilled her promise of visiting me. I went to see her in 14th Street twice. Cousin Abby³⁶ has a lovely little sister for her pretty Clara³⁷ now, it looks so like my babies I dare say the grandmama finds it difficult to leave it. I have not seen Hamie³⁸ since he left you. both he & Hal³⁹ are in the business of their father in the Dept Mr Barrows⁴⁰ presides over. Mr B never wearies of offers to me to serve me & I often avail of them for he is sincere. he is very highly appreciated by the Jaffreys [p. 4] Our friend Gamble⁴¹ continues his friendly letters. & begs to be remembered to Jemie. he is in business in NY. his mother & sister⁴² reside with him on Staten Island. they invite me with Willie to spend the holidays at their house. of course it must be deferred till Summer. A delightful letter came to me last week from Alfred Brewer⁴³, now Revd. he will come to see me when he can, he is in the Church of Epiphany NY. he surprised me by mentioning Mary Park⁴⁴ at school in Brooklyn. I have written inviting her to spend Xmas at the Cottage, rather would I be inconvenienced than to omit kindness to the daughter of my deceased friend⁴⁵, but I may be too late in inviting the dear girl. your friend Bob P⁴⁶ staid [sic] at Scarsdale today to join the party of young ladies & school boys with our Pastor⁴⁷ in gathering greens in the woods to [dress?] the church, next week no

doubt the evening circles will be at the Pastors school house to make wreaths &c I am excused from joining in these Parish festivities - We all feel grateful for such mild weather & bright skies during shortening days. whenever a frosty change comes I feel every thing an exertion tho I am stronger than for some years past. writing or using my right hand a few hours, excites pain all thro that side.

And now how I envy my scrawl & how I hope for a New Year to send one from my Jemie. My best wishes to Mrs Bergeron⁴⁸.

Your⁴⁹ fond Mother blesses you do you forget her?

For James from

Mother.

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. JW's replies, if any, to his mother's previous letter of 23 September 1856 or subsequent letter, of 29 January 1857, have not survived (see #06476, and #06480).
3. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY, and her sister Sarah Stewart Hill (1800-1864); they owned the cottage in Scarsdale where AMW lived intermittently at Scarsdale, NY between ca September 1851 and November 1857.
4. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
5. Not located. The first extant letter from JW to his sister ~~was~~ dated October 1858 (#01912).
6. Probably 'Because thy rage against me, and thy tumult, is come up into mine ears, therefore will I put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest,' Isa. 37.29.
7. Charlotte A. Barnes (b. 1811), née Sanford, wife of James Barnes.
8. AMW's residence in St Petersburg, Russia. JW's last illness in St Petersburg was pneumonia, and occurred in the Spring of 1848. As a result JW moved to Portishead, England, in the summer of the same year; see AMW to GWW, 8 June 1848, #06358, and AMW to JW, 9 September 1848, #06359.
9. In July 1848 AMW took her two sons to stay in Shanklin on the Isle of Wight, England. JW sent a sketch to his father, *The Isle of Wight* (M.20); see AMW's 'St Petersburg Diary,' 1843-1848, *James McNeill Whistler Papers*, New York Public Library, and G. W. Whistler's letter to JW, 8 August 1848, #06662.
10. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
11. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
12. Meat, rather than sweet, was used in these pies. Her recipe is given in Margaret F. MacDonald, *Whistler's Mother's Cook Book*, London, 1979, pp. 86-87.
13. Jane O'Neill Hill (1793-1882), sister of M. G. Hill, second wife of W. S. Popham.
14. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
15. James Brennan, brother of M. Brennan.

16. Probably Anna Johnstone (1787-1870), cousin of Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW, and Mary Corbett (b. 1804), cousin of AMW; see AMW to Margaret G. Hill, July/October 1867, #08180.
17. Eliza (d. 1856), a servant of Kate Livermore; see AMW to JW 27 August 1851, #06399, and AMW to JW, 16 September 1851, #06400.
18. Kate ('Cousin Kate') Livermore (1820-1907), daughter of J. D. Prince and wife of A. Livermore.
19. Charles Johnson McNeill (1802-1869), brother of AMW. C. D. McNeill lived at Reddie Point, on the St John's River, Florida.
20. AMW spent some time in July at Sharon Springs, NY, internationally renowned resort and health spa. See AMW to JW, 11 July 1856, #06474.
21. William Wyatt McNeill (1833-1853), JW's cousin, and his sister Eliza Flagg (1830-1855), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of Rev. E. O. Flagg.
22. Isabella King (1805-1857), née Gibbs, cousin of AMW.
23. Ida Bayard Whistler, née King (d. 1863), JW's sister-in-law.
24. Isabella King (1805-1857), née Gibbs, cousin of AMW.
25. Ralph King (1801-1878), broker, father-in-law of W. M. Whistler.
26. Maria Margareta Cammann ('Grandma C') (1774-1862), mother-in-law of William Gibbs McNeill.
27. Sarah Cammann, a relation of Dr G. P. Cammann.
28. Julia Catherine Rodewald (1825-1897), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of A. Rodewald
29. Eliza Flagg (1830-1855), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of Rev. E. O. Flagg, and her son William McNeill Flagg (b. 1852).
30. Rev. Edward Octavius Flagg (1824-1911), husband of Eliza McNeill.
31. Probably Charles ('Charlie') Cammann, JW's uncle.
32. James Henry Whitehouse (1833-1924), banker. His bride has not been identified; see AMW to JW, 23 September 1856, #06476.
33. Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), JW's aunt.
34. William Chambers Bartlett (1839-1908), soldier, and his father Professor William Holmes Chambers Bartlett (1804-1893), mathematician.
35. Catherine Hamilton ('Aunt Hamilton') (1788-1874), née Whistler, JW's aunt.
36. Abbie Snelling Jaffray (1817-1871), née Hamilton, wife of R. W. Jaffray.
37. Clara Jaffray (1847-1898), daughter of A. S. and R. W. Jaffray.
38. John Hamilton ('Hami' or 'Hammy') Jaffray (1837-1900), son of A. S. and R. W. Jaffray. He travelled to Europe with JW; see JW to AMW, 10 October 1855, #06466.
39. Henry Somerville or 'Hal' Jaffray (1839-1922), son of A. S. and R. W. Jaffray.
40. John W. Barrow, a merchant of New York
41. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk.

42. Jane Gamble (1790-1864), mother of J. H. Gamble, and her daughter Jane Wann (1822-1875), née Gamble, wife of S. Wann.
43. Rev. Alfred Lee Brewer (1831-1899), Curate at the Church of Epiphany in New York (1856-1857), founder and Rector of St. Mathews School, San Mateo (1864-1899); see AMW to Margaret G. Hill, 20 and 21 September 1850, #07631.
44. Mary Park (b. 1839), daughter of Rev. R. Park.
45. Mary Park (1815-1854), née Brewster Baldwin, wife of Rev. R. Park.
46. Robert Park.
47. Rev. William W. Olssen (b. 1827), Rector at Scarsdale, NY; see AMW to Margaret G. Hill, 24 December 1852, #07639, and AMW to James H. Gamble, 28 September and 1 October 1853, #06428.
48. Emma Bergeron (d. 1858), née Haden, sister of F. S. Haden.
49. 'Your ... Mother' continues in the left margin.

System Number: 06479

Date: 13 January 1857

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Scarsdale

Recipient: James H. Gamble²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W474

Document Type: ALS

Scarsdale

Tues Jan 13th 57

My dear Mr Gamble

In the prospect of visiting³ our Southern States at the N Year, I have been obliged to devote more attention than usual to my work table after release from household labors, thus engaged my thoughts have cherished those whose kind greetings by mail I could not answer. The question is not yet decided as to when I may join Mrs King⁴ in Georgia, but I hold myself in readiness in case of an opening. (how it admonishes me to be prepared for the final summons) My health is comparatively [sic] to last winter, good, tho the severe frost cripples me, cuts my fingers & makes sewing awkward. But how grateful after suffering! for relief from piercing N Westers! Willie⁵ was two weeks at Xmas at the Cottage⁶ & we were tete à tete in the snuggest corner we could make as he read aloud to me, while I repaired his tatters! he gave two days to Jackson McNeill⁷ at his Grandmamas⁸ 148 Jerolamon St Brooklyn, but he had to be at Trinity College Hartford⁹ on the 1st to enter upon the winter term. dear Willie how I miss his companionship, he looks delicate but reports himself well & interested in his study.

[p. 2] We should have enjoyed if in our power, availing of your proffered hospitality on Staten Island. I have not since last May been to the home of a dearly loved niece at N Brighton¹⁰, but hope in Summer to pay my respects in person to your honored & dear Mother¹¹. Will you offer now my respectful & cordial regards at the fire side circle of your Sister & Mr Wann¹². Our little

hamlet is subject to change as all the world tho we seem separated from the fashionables, our ladies sewing circle cheered by its results, tho humble, the Parish school increasing under the warmer roof of Mr Popham¹³.

A wedding & family circle there today invited me to their hospitality, but I only went to Church to witness the grouping around Miss Gertrude¹⁴ of fond parents, brothers - sisters, with blooming little branches, & fond friends, while our good Pastor¹⁵ so solemnly united her to Mr Campbell¹⁶, how perfect is the marriage service of our Prayer book! it touches a sacred chord in my memory, so I sent my love & best wishes to Gertrude by [p. 3] Aunt Margaret¹⁷, for I have been to no wedding feast since that in Preston, when Jemie¹⁸ & Willie darling lads fluttered around their only Sisters bridal¹⁹ & their father²⁰ & I were sympathisers. I hear of my student in Paris²¹ well & doing well & of the arrival of George Whistler wife & child²² at St. Petersburg. You recollect the colored girl²³, who for the last years from decease was removed from the home of my N Hampshire friends, to an asylum for the poor & sick. When we are tete à tete dear Mr Gamble I can tell you of that child of God, a member of Christ! an inheritor of His Kingdom, she was released from suffering last Novr. 26th. I acknowledge the goodness of the Lord in ordering my spending a week at her bed side last Sept. her tones of affection echo sweetly on my heart. she loved me much. but her Saviour supremely & prayed to die to this life that she might go to Him. The tears I shed at the tidings of her death were a grateful shower. Poor Annas²⁴ when I describe Elizas state to her, she says "And isn't it just like me? I want to go too! she has been suffering in bed some months, on Xmas day she invited me to meet our Pastor & Mrs O²⁵ & Miss Gertrude to partake of the Communion with her. but I could not walk so far, thro the frost.

[p. 4] I am glad to report that under the roof of our patriarch (as Miss Margaret says Mr P is - there are no invalids this winter, they appear remarkably well. The Hill Side Cottage for the winter is vacant. Mrs Hill²⁶ has an infant Grand daughter²⁷ to attract her to the city, she intends with her youngest daughter Mary²⁸ to visit Phila so we have Willie as his Aunt Sarahs²⁹ pet under the cottage roof, as he is happiest in Scarsdale & at Mr Olssens school. That is prospering. And now wishing you a happy New Year I will close my twilight scrawl. I do not express the wish for you see our valley in its garb of pure white. the Cottage guest chamber is freezing, but we cherish & speak of your summer visits, your last so propitious to cheer & help me on my way to Sharon³⁰. May it be so again next July if the Lord will! You enquire after the health of my Cousin Mrs King, it is yet precarious, she is at her Sisters country seat, in Georgia, if you ever have time to step in at Mr Kings³¹ office 59 Beaver St he will be glad to see you. Do you ever call at Mr Aspinwalls³² & if so please remember me to the dear friends there. No news lately from my sisters³³ or of Miss Clunie³⁴. My Sister Mrs Winstanley becomes more helpless from paralysis, she cannot write even her name. Think of me

always affectionately Yr friend

Anna M Whistler

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk; he lived at Staten Island, NY.
3. AMW visited her cousin Mary Corbett in South Bay, Charleston, SC and her brother Charles Johnson McNeill in St John's River, E. Florida in January - May 1858. See AMW to Mrs Gamble, 23 January 1858, #06493; AMW to James H. Gamble, 4 February 1858, #06494; AMW to JW, 23 March 1858, #06495, and 7 May 1858, #06496.

4. Isabella King (1805-1857), née Gibbs, cousin of AMW.
5. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
6. The cottage in which AMW lived intermittently at Scarsdale, NY between ca September 1851 and November 1857; it was owned by her friends Margaret G. and Sarah S. Hill.
7. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
8. Maria Margaretha Cammann ('Grandma C') (1774-1862), mother-in-law of William Gibbs McNeill; her address was 148 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, New York. See *Brooklyn City Directory, 1861*, New York, p. 59.
9. Trinity College, Hartford, founded in May of 1823 as Washington College (the name was changed in 1845); see AMW to JW, 13 February 1855, #06452, and 18 July 1855, #06461
10. Julia Catherine Rodewald (1825-1897), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of A. Rodewald.
11. Jane Gamble (1790-1864), mother of J. H. Gamble.
12. Jane Wann (1822-1875), née Gamble, and her husband Samuel Wann (b. 1820), merchant.
13. William Sherbrooke Popham (1793-1885), merchant.
14. Margaret Gertrude Campbell (1830-1892), née Popham, wife of A. S. Campbell.
15. Rev. William W. Olssen (b. 1827), Rector at Scarsdale, NY.
16. Allan Sheppard ('Shep') Campbell (1834-1876), a friend of JW of Stonington, CT; see AMW to JW, 29 January 1857, #06480.
17. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY.
18. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
19. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister. The wedding took place on 10 October 1847 at Preston.
20. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
21. JW was studying at the École Impériale et Spéciale de Dessin, the state school of art, design, mathematics and architecture; see École Impériale to JW, 20 November 1855, #01013, and AMW to James H. Gamble, 4 February 1856, #06471.
22. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother, his wife Julia de Kay Whistler (1825-1875), née Winans, and their daughter Julia de Kay Revillon (b. 1855), née Whistler.
23. Eliza (d. 1856), a servant of Kate Livermore; see AMW to JW, 27 August 1851, #06399, and 16 September 1851, #06400, 16 November 1853, #06430, 18 November 1853, #06431, and 23 September 1856, #06476.
24. Probably Anna Wood, of Scarsdale, NY.
25. Louisa Olssen (b. 1828), wife of Rev. W. S. Olssen.
26. Jane Hill (1802-1872), née Clarkson, wife of W. S. Hill.
27. Alethea Blanche Bleecker (1856-1936), daughter of J. C. and J. Bleecker.
28. Mary Clarkson Hill (1840-1913), daughter of J. and W. S. Hill.
29. Sarah Stewart Hill (1800-1864), sister of M. G. Hill.

30. AMW visited the Baths at Sharon Springs, NY, in July 1856; see AMW to JW, 11 July 1856, #06474.
31. Ralph King (1801-1878), broker, father-in-law of W. M. Whistler; his business address was 59 Beaver Street, and his home address was 189 Henry Street, NY; see *Brooklyn City Directory, 1861*, New York, p. 237.
32. James Scott Aspinwall (1807-1874), merchant.
33. AMW's sisters in Britain, Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), and Eliza Isabella Winstanley (1788-1857), née McNeill.
34. Anne Clunie (b. 1793), a Scottish cousin of AMW.

System Number: 06480

Date: 29 January 1857

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Scarsdale

Recipient: JW

Place: Paris

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W475

Document Type: ALS

Scarsdale Cottage,

Thursday Jan 29

For Jemie

Willie² enclosed me your Paris date of New Years day³ my precious Jemie & his report of health with you made my heart rejoice & I did not forget to bend my knee in thanksgiving, with blessed tears testifying a grateful softening. Ah my darling boy it is worth your sacrifice of an hour, thus to revive the spirit of a widowed mother! it is hard dear Jemie for the wounded spirit to dictate cheerfully & affectionately, as I wish my tone towards you ever to be! You promise to write oftener to me, it is a good opening to this year. It was yesterday Willies daily welcome letter reached me, an overture from dear Sis⁴ to him is mentioned, I rejoice at this, & tho I am not going South this winter, I hope their correspondence may be maintained, it will bring Willie out, for he is as sensitive & affectionate, you ask how he gets on, really the dear fellow is redeeming time, & shaking off his indifference, he is realizing how nearly he is of age & puts off childish whims & assumes responsibility, not self conceit tho, he has none of that in fine, he has improved as much as you can imagine, & his visits to me yield mutual confidence & comfort, he writes very pleasantly tho he has scarcely any time except for study, this being his most difficult term, he expects to graduate in July when he will be 21. he would prefer studying medicine in London but fears he is too poor to pay adequately. I mentioned to Sis what relief to my anxieties it would be if Seymour⁵ were willing to take Will as one of the blessed family circle in his home, his advice, example & companionship would be invaluable. N Y is such a vortex of dissipation, Willie could only in a home there be safe. the interruption to R R travel thro the winter puts Scarsdale out of the question & my means too limited to admit of our boarding for the winter as we did one season. The frost has been this year certainly extra 28 deg below zero⁶ last Saturday in Hartford! Willie says he has ached & could not get warm all last week! if my health were not

so restored (by Sharon where I hope to go again to get rid of lurking disorders of the liver) I should have been forlorn when every thing around me was freezing one of the coldest nights, last friday & the north wind blew a gale, it was of no use to try to keep my fire in, it was blown back in smoke! then how thankful I was for my old friend the Russian Shube⁷ on my bed! & without it I could not attend church. I am provided too with Wisconsin Buffalo gaiters fur within & a pr of carpet mockasins Gdmother⁸ made for me at Pomfret - as overshoes to keep me from slipping down our icy slopes. the house gloves of her knitting Mary⁹ has renovated for me as the frost gashed my flesh, hand & feet, so you see I am forced to take care of myself, I wear a wadded sack over my usual morning wrapper, when the frost is very intense. have had no cold to settle on my lungs, neither to blow my nose incessantly! as you complain. Miss Margarets¹⁰ forethought induced me to send for my air tight stove which I had sent Hill Side cottage when I went to Balt to live & I had not deprived Mrs Hill¹¹, but she is spending this winter in Phila her home vacated. "Your room is cold Greenlands icy mountains¹² Annie dear! do not dispense with a fire for healths sake" does it not seem like my friend M G H? she & Miss Sarah¹³ would have managed if I had left them to keep house upon the most economical & snug scale, so I adopt the same, we have shut up the parlor, as the snow drifts barricade [sic] our furnaces & none visit us who may not be invited to their room or mine.

[p. 2] Marys always neat kitchen is as convenient to breakfast & dine in because of the china closet connecting it with our Salle à manger. she gives us the best of buckwheat hot & hot from the griddle[,] ah if you could only join us in praising them & the excellent W Chester butter¹⁴, of which I had a firkin put down in one of the nicest quaker dairies. but I establish the rule moderation in all things, our system is very thrifty, tho all we had is good in quality. And thanks be to religion we are all of one mind in the cottage! we have Willie Hill¹⁵ as a pet to Aunt Sarah while his home is deserted. his mother a poorer widow than I am is so grateful & he is one of the right gentlemanly sort of boys. his Aunts said to me aside, they could not agree to my gratifying them at an additional expense to me, I slipped out of the proffer of compensation by saying they might settle the point with his mother! then I expected to go south, & such kind entreaties from my cousins in Charleston¹⁶ came! it tries me to resist, but tho they write me "come & we will settle all" the widow of one who was so nice in his ideas of propriety cannot disgrace his name! It is not pride in me dearest Jemie, & they are too refined to let me feel pecuniary obligations, I am really happier since suspense is over, to look forward to spending next winter in my southern homes. to be within Willies reach while he at Hartford, & to have him with me in the Easter holidays, perhaps we may meet at the Barnes¹⁷ in Springfield! in the prospect of going south I have put my wardrobe in uncommonly neat array, old things remoddled (sic) but their St P¹⁸ dates will not affect their keeping to wear on occasions. I did not go to Mr Pophams¹⁹ from the church the day of the flocking in of their relatives & friends to wish Miss Gertrude²⁰ as the bride of Campbell²¹! joy it was the 13th of this month. I preferred writing Willie the surprise! tho the engagement was expected, it would not have so suddenly been a wedding, had not his old Grandma Fish²² who is not likely ever to leave her sick room, urged him to bring a wife to her home, in Albion Place 4th St[.] the musical sympathy is ominous of harmony, especially as it is sacred music. Campbell is very handsome & they both looked delighted! they went a little tour thro snows into Penn & now are settled in N Y. I shall send Willie the slice of wedding cake in a parcel Mary expects to hand him at the Hartford depot on her way to Springfield next week, she begs me to remember her to Mr James! & laughingly added tell him to bring me the silk gown he engaged to! I read her your letter my third perusal of it yesterday! for I could not resist letting my sister friends enter into my joy at the N years souvenir! they appreciate you so truly. Marys remarks were pleasant, so natural! "yes, indeed he might surely smoke his paper cigar on the Piazza, you'd be too glad ma'am to let me light it! & about the old invalid Soldier - "Ah isn't it just as Mr James always was, interesting himself for the poor & forlorn[.]" I wrote a note to

Lou²³ last eve & if he does not answer it in time for this I shall be too glad to write you as soon as I can send the [due?], to the Dervety housekeeper²⁴. I wonder Ch Cammann²⁵ with Henry Whitehouse²⁶ should have passed Paris by en route to Italy; but on their return you'll see them. Edwd Eastwick²⁷ has not reported himself. I am glad poor Mr Flagg²⁸ found you. he went without letting me know, his health & spirits so shattered by little McNeills²⁹ death! Debo will I am sure be kind to him for Elizas³⁰ sake. I dont know whether Jacks has returned to Ross Winans³¹, who does not compensate him! I shall write him your love & direct to Brooklyn. Aunt Kate & the Doct³² will be so glad of your remembrance. Were you not exercising upon the copies for Capt W³³, I should have rather you had had no dealings with such an upstart, he was so ungentlemanly in speaking of your mothers first & only request for a favor; meeting Aunt Kate in the St he remarked he had sent me a pass over the Sto road³⁴ tho not usual to grant unless to mendicants! I forgive him, tho you know I warned you that I thought intimacy in his house not likely to improve youth. You do not mention your course of instruction at the Academies³⁵. I hope you do more than copy³⁶. Are you to be a competitor among the 500 for preferment in the A. Fine Arts³⁷? Always write of your fellow students dear Jemie to me. they interest me. And so you are sometimes mal au lit³⁸ your mothers prayers must come there to your heart. May you retain the faith of a little child! I fear to make this too weighty, shall divide the sheet between you & Sis. at her discretion how much to direct to you. I envy my scrawl.

Ever confide in the faithfulness of your true friend & fond Mother

A M W

I'll write your love to Balt tho I have not had a line from the villa³⁹. It is Xtian to circulate kindness. I do not hear from George⁴⁰ but shall write him my wish for his happiness. thankful for his protecting Jemie from cold!

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother. She had written to JW on 15 December 1856, #06477.
2. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
3. Not located. It presumably reached AMW shortly before 29 January, and this reply would have reached Paris at the beginning of March. No reply from JW has survived. AMW's next surviving letter, dating from 27 April 1857, implies she wrote again in March (#06483).
4. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
5. Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), surgeon and etcher, JW's brother-in-law.
6. Connecticut inhabitants could not recall the equal of the cold weather of January 1857. At Watertown the temperature went down to seventy two degrees below the freezing point. The bad weather affected the transportation of mail, which was subsequently delayed, and harbour navigation was at times completely shut up. See 'Mercury Frozen - 40 Degrees Below Zero,' *Hartford Weekly Times*, CT, 24 January 1857, vol. 41, no. 2092.
7. A fur coat; see AMW to JW, 11 December 1848, #06375.
8. Martha McNeill (1775-1852), née Kingsley, mother of AMW.
9. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
10. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY.
11. Jane Hill (1802-1872), née Clarkson, wife of W. S. Hill.

12. Reginald Heber (1783-1826), Bishop of Calcutta from 1823 wrote the well-known hymn *From Greenlands Icy Mountains*, 1821.
13. Sarah Stewart Hill (1800-1864), sister of M. G. Hill.
14. Butter from the Quaker community in West Chester, west of Philadelphia, PA (passages quoted in Margaret F. MacDonald, *Whistler's Mother's Cook Book*, London, 1979, pp. 24-25).
15. Probably William Hill (1842-1869), son of J. and W. S. Hill.
16. Probably Mary Corbett (b. 1804), cousin of AMW; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 13 January 1857, #06379.
17. The family of Charlotte A. Barnes (b. 1811), née Sanford, and her husband James Barnes (1806-1869), soldier and civil engineer.
18. St Petersburg, Russia, where she had lived from September 1843 until her husband's death in April 1849.
19. William Sherbrooke Popham (1793-1885), merchant.
20. Margaret Gertrude Campbell (1830-1892), née Popham, wife of A. S. Campbell.
21. Allan Sheppard ('Shep') Campbell (1834-1876), a friend of JW of Stonington, CT.
22. Mrs Fish, grandmother A. S. Campbell.
23. Probably a relation of Charles Cammann (see below).
24. Probably the housekeeper of the Cammann family in New York.
25. Probably Charles ('Charlie') Cammann, JW's uncle.
26. James Henry Whitehouse (1833-1924), banker. Whitehouse had recently been married to Mary Schenck, daughter of E. and J. Schenck; see AMW to JW, 15 December 1856, #06477.
27. Edward Peers Eastwick (1833-1926), son of A. M. and L. A. Eastwick.
28. Rev. Edward Octavius Flagg (1824-1911), husband of Eliza McNeill.
29. Rev. Flagg lost both his son William McNeill Flagg (b. 1852), and his wife Eliza (see below), within a short space of time.
30. Eliza Flagg (1830-1855), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of Rev. E. O. Flagg.
31. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin. Both Patrick T. Jackson McNeill and William McNeill Whistler worked in the locomotive engineering shop in Baltimore owned by Ross Winans (1796-1877), Baltimore locomotive manufacturer, father of JW's sister-in-law; see AMW to JW, 16 November 1853, #06430; AMW to James H. Gamble, 3 April 1854, #06438.
32. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt, and her husband Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician.
33. Probably Charles P. Williams, an early patron of JW; see AMW to JW, 23 September 1856, #06476.
34. Providence to Stonington Rail Road. In 1837 George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father, was put in charge of its construction; see AMW to JW, 2-5 November 1855, #06469.

35. JW had joined Gleyre's academy, and was probably still attending life classes at the Ecole Impériale et Spéciale de Dessin in Paris; see École Impériale et Spéciale de Dessin to JW, 5 November 1855, #01012, and 20 November 1855, #01013; and Andrew McLaren Young, Margaret F. MacDonald, Robin Spencer and Hamish Miles, *The Paintings of James McNeill Whistler*, New Haven and London, 1980, p. lviii.

36. After 17 June 1856, when he got permission to study in the Musées Impériaux, JW started copying paintings in the Louvre; see Alfred Emilioen O'Hara, Comte de Nieuwerkerke to JW, 17 June 1856, #04523.

37. Académie des Beaux-Arts.

38. Fr.: sick in bed.

39. 'Alexandroffsky', the luxurious Baltimore villa of Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector; see AMW to JW, 15, 16 and 18 September 1848, #06363.

40. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.

System Number: 06481

Date: 24 March [1857¹]

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Philadelphia

Recipient: James H. Gamble³

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W476

Document Type: ALS

433 Arch St Philadelphia⁴

24th March

My dear Mr Gamble

So scattered are my friends - tho so concentrated in my interest - I try to see as many as possible en passant. I am devoting a few days under this roof to this purpose, expecting to have the same advantage at No 202 West 14th St⁵ by arriving there next Friday evening. I propose by the 10 oclock steamboat line to start upon my return to N York friday morning, under the protecting Providence of my Lord. My stay at Mr Jaffrays in 14th St can only be till Monday 30th[,] direct me a line there or to the business house 56 Park Place thro which I send this, to advise me whether you can call to see me friday evening or Saturday & at what hour, that I may arrange my calls on other friends. I regret time will not admit of my crossing either to Brooklyn or Staten [p. 2] Island, tho my measure of strength is so increased, I feel the injury to health in hurrying to gratify my yearnings to meet friends. Will you say to your honored Mother⁶ how sincerely I regret to defer going to her, offer my affectionate greetings to herself & to Mrs Wann⁷. I trust to hearing particularly of your home circle when you & I meet face to face at No 202 West 14th St Believe me

always your attached friend

Anna M Whistler

Now it just strikes me Mr Gamble may meet me Pier No 1 Battery on the arrival of the 10 oclock line Friday! as his Staten Island ferry is so close by! but do not, unless you have leisure to wait. I shall send my small traveling box by city Express to Mr Jaffrays home & follow by a 14th St omnibus - very comfortably

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to the *Perpetual Calander Whitaker's Almanac*, and AMW's visit to New York on 30 March 1857; see AMW to JW, 27 April 1857, #06483.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk.
4. Unidentified; 268 Arch Street, was the home address of William Darrach, physician, and relation of James Darrach (1828-1889), physician in Philadelphia, and friend of AMW; the latter lived at 347 Filbert Street, and later moved to 1120 Arch Street. See *McElroy's Philadelphia City Directory for 1857*, Philadelphia, 1857, p. 149; *McElroy's Philadelphia City Directory for 1861*, Philadelphia, p. 215.
5. 202 West 14th Street, New York, was the home address of Richmond Woodriff Jaffray (1813-1862), merchant; see *Rode's New York City Directory, for 1852-3*, New York, p. 267.
6. Jane Gamble (1790-1864), mother of J. H. Gamble.
7. Jane Wann (1822-1875), née Gamble, wife of S. Wann.

System Number: 06482

Date: 26 [March 1857]¹

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: New Brighton

Recipient: James H. Gamble³

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W477

Document Type: ALS

New Brighton⁴

Thursday 26th

Dear Mr Gamble

I think of you always inseparably with your revered Mother & Sister⁵. It is a severe disappointment to me that I cannot visit them & your sweet home. I wonder if the drive⁶ will be exceeding your leisure after dinner Monday that we meet at Mr Rodewald's⁷ here! to talk of Henderson Home⁸ & Scarsdale.

I reached my dear nieces home today, & shall get Mr King⁹ to hand you this tomorrow as I have business to transact at his office. Saturday I must devote to my South Bay relatives at Port Richmond¹⁰, the invalid has recently had another attack & I have not seen them yet. Sunday Willie & Jackson¹¹ are to spend with us. Tuesday I expect to start with Willie for Phila by 2 ocl

Amboy Line. Let me hear how you all are, thro the office of Adolfe Rodewald Esq 40 Exchange Place¹². In haste, but truly & affectionately

Your friend

Anna M Whistler

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to the *Perpetual Calander Whitaker's Almanac*, and AMW's visit to New York on 30 March 1857; see AMW to JW, 27 April 1857, #06483.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk.
4. AMW's niece Julia Catherine Rodewald (1825-1897), née McNeill, lived at New Brighton, Staten Island, NY. New Brighton was established in 1834, as one of the earliest planned suburban developments in New York City.
5. Jane Gamble (1790-1864), mother of J. H. Gamble, and her daughter Jane Wann (1822-1875), née Gamble.
6. New Brighton is located along Staten Island's North Shore. James H. Gamble probably lived in the South Shore of the island.
7. Adolphe Rodewald (1818-1869), husband of J. C. McNeill; see AMW to JW, 29 and 30 May 1854, #06439.
8. 'Henderson Home' known also as Gelston Castle, and Crugar Mansion, situated at the Mohawk Valley, Herkimer County, New York. Its name 'Henderson' was taken from Dr James Henderson, a London surgeon who was granted many acres in the Mohawk Valley by the English monarch. His great granddaughter Harriet Douglas (1790-1872) built the limestone property, between 1834-36, after her marriage to Henry Cruger.
9. Ralph King (1801-1878), broker, father-in-law of W. M. Whistler.
10. Mary Corbett (b. 1804), cousin of AMW, and Anna Johnstone (1788-1870), AMW's maternal cousin; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 13 January 1857, #06379. Port Richmond is in New York City.
11. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother, and Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
12. According to *The City Register, Corporation of the City, 1860*, New York, p. 729, 88 Exchange Place was the business address of Adolphe Rodewald. It is possible that either A. Rodewald moved offices, or AMW made a mistake.

System Number: 06483
Date: 27 April 1857
Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹
Place: Baltimore
Recipient: JW
Place: [Paris]
Repository: Glasgow University Library
Call Number: Whistler W478
Document Type: AL

Alexandroffsky Villa²

April 27. 57.

As I wrote you last month day³ my dear Jemie⁴ at Mrs Harrisons⁵ & now as the guest of Mrs Winans⁶ you may fancy me according to your wish no doubt amusing myself but this is only a mothers brief interval from domestic exertions & then visits sort & promote health.

At the end of six days Mr Harrison⁷ sent his nephew to escort to me back to N Y, as I was engaged to meet Willie⁸ at Hartford that we might visit Mrs Barnes⁹ together. I had written Mr Gamble¹⁰ I should stay at Mrs Jaffrays¹¹ from friday till monday last of March. he surprised me by meeting me at Jersey City in a Carriage to take me to 14th¹². Was it not like our grateful friend Gamble he is in business like his Sisters husband in N Y & their home is now Staten Island where I have been invited repeatedly to make a visit to his honored Mother¹³. he wished to ask about your health & studies & Willies [p. 2] & to secure a chat, escorted me to Cousin Abbys, where I was most kindly treated; her equipage enabling me to call on several friends, who observing the improvement Sharon had made, several hope to go there with me in July. I met providentially (for I had not time to go to Brooklyn,) Genl Swift¹⁴ in an Astor House Car¹⁵ on his way to meet Capt Swift¹⁶ at Mary Ironsides¹⁷ in 5th Av. so I went with him to her exquisite mansion & spent half an hour before their dinner time in their family gathering, for Charlie S¹⁸ was there too. they all asked about you, but I have to confess I hear more frequently of you thru Sis¹⁹ than from you. Capt Swift invited Willie & I to visit him this month, but my visit to Springfield is yet in prospect. Do not attribute to Scarsdale hinderances [sic] & trials I found awaiting my return. letters caused me to decide that Willie had best spend his Easter recess at the Cottage. [p. 3] he is not an ugly looking lad! tho he impoverishes his frame by the indulgence so baneful to his strength, tobacco! so I have to cater fresh eggs & creamy milk & late breakfast to reconcile him to my embargo on its fumes. he always feels his tattered & torn condition until my skill in repairs renovates his garments, so even after aunt Julia²⁰ came the week after his arrival at the Cottage, to relieve me of cooking, I was as busy as a bee until I came away from Scarsdale last thursday. but dear Willie took away his trunks in nice order on tuesday by the 7 oclock train. And Jacks²¹ most unexpectedly presented his phiz²² at our piazza door at noon that day! you may imagine if he could have overtaken Will, he would have gone after him to Hartford, & poor Willie would not have started if we had expected Jacks! but it is probable as Tho Winans²³ sent him as my escort hither he may send him back with me the end of this week to NY & then Jacks can wait a few days for my getting ready to go to Springfield & Willie can way lay him at the Hartford depot.

Mary B²⁴ is anxiously wishing to see me at Mrs Barnes [p. 4] where I hope she may secure a home till I can see my way clearer. Your friends here each ask after you as if really interested in your welfare & success. I will not scold you for not writing your patron²⁵, because I do not suppose he writes you, & he has an Artist now as his guest at the Villa, who quite fills up his

time. Mr Ames²⁶ has been here long enough to take a striking portrait of "the old gentleman"²⁷ full size, and is now progressing on one of Tho W & Mrs Winans. also a fancy painting for Mr W. The grounds are so extended & cleared of stables, poultry &c as to afford a Studio, quite a stroll from the villa. Tho Winans is also pursuing with ardor his own branch of the fine arts statuary. he looks remarkably well & so does she, which she attributes to their drive to their Country Seat. by the magic of wealth it will be quite furnished & completed to receive them by June, she expresses the wish I could spend the summer with her at "The Crimea"²⁸ & I know she is sincere, but these few days are all I can spend in Balt, I have not seen Aunt Kate²⁹ since Sept. from Springfield I hope to go to the Corner house & have a pleasant time, ere Aunt Kate must devote herself to Cousin Jinnie³⁰, who [p. 5] is to board with Aunt Kate from early in June. she always has said she delighted in this Aunt, & I must not be an alloy, so I'll make my visit early! Donald³¹ has gone to Aspinwall in the Warbash, he wrote me affectionately, but could not get to Scarsdale. Jacks is a most exemplary fellow, he is in the shop again his own desire, to complete the practical knowledge of machinery. he feels quite domesticated at Mrs Ducatels³². I went there to see little Georgie³³ the morning after my arrival here, two years of blight have crippled & deformed the once so beautiful first borne [sic] of George³⁴. he remembered his Gdma W affectionately. I had written Mrs Perine I was coming so Glenn³⁵ came here for me on Saturday eve & I spent yesterday at Homeland. he has more forbearance toward your neglect to answering his long letter than I think he should be exercised, he was sorry it may not have reached you as it was directed simply to Kings, write him at once Jemie, I cannot be reconciled to your neglect of your fathers³⁶ friends. tho you do not respond to your Mothers letters, it will solace her to hear you write where she is ever welcomed! And now I must go to Mrs Winans.

Adieu till later.

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. The Baltimore villa of Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector; see AMW to JW, 15, 16 and 18 September 1848, #06363.
3. 30 March 1857; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 24 March 1857, #06481.
4. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
5. Sarah Harrison (1817-1906), née Poulterer, wife of Joseph Harrison; she lived at Philadelphia.
6. Celeste Winans (1823-1861), née Revillon, wife of Thomas De Kay Winans; she lived in Baltimore.
7. Joseph Harrison (1810-1874), partner in the firm of Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in the firm of Harrison, Winans and Eastwick.
8. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother; he was studying at Trinity College, Hartford, CT; see AMW to JW, 13 February 1855, #06452, and 18 July 1855, #06461.
9. Charlotte A. Barnes (b. 1811), née Sanford, wife of James Barnes.
10. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk.
11. Abbie Snelling Jaffray (1817-1871), née Hamilton, wife of R. W. Jaffray.
12. 202 West 14th Street, New York, was the Jaffray home address; see *Rode's New York City Directory, for 1852-3*, New York, p. 267.

13. Jane Gamble (1790-1864), mother of J. H. Gamble.
14. General Joseph Gardner Swift (1783-1865), first graduate of USMA, West Point, NY, chief engineer of US Army, JW's father's brother-in-law.
15. A horse-drawn street-car that went down Broadway past the hotel known as the Astor House. The hotel was erected in the early 1830s by John Jacob Astor (1763-1848), merchant and property developer (he chartered the American Fur Company in 1808); see AMW to JW, 23 August 1849, #06393.
16. Captain William Henry Swift (1800-1879), brother-in-law of JW's father.
17. Mary Ironsides (1826-1884), née Swift, JW's cousin.
18. Charles Swift (b. 1828), son of William Henry Swift.
19. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
20. Julia Catherine Rodewald (1825-1897), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of A. Rodewald.
21. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin. He was working in the Winans Locomotive Works, owned by Ross Winans (1796-1877), Baltimore locomotive manufacturer, father of JW's sister-in-law; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 3 April 1854, #06438.
22. Slang: physiognomy.
23. Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector.
24. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
25. Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector. He had commissioned paintings and advanced money to enable JW to study art in Europe (see #09570, #07077, #07078).
26. Joseph Alexander Ames (1816-1872), portrait and genre painter; *Portrait of Ross Winans* (z.236).
27. Ross Winans (1796-1877), Baltimore locomotive manufacturer, father of JW's sister-in-law; the portrait was shown in the New York annual exhibition of 1872, its whereabouts unknown.
28. The 'Crimea' was Winans' country house, outside Baltimore, overlooking Franklinton Rd. from Leakin Park; it was built shortly before the Civil War.
29. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt, who lived at the Corner House, Stonington, CT.
30. Virginia ('Ginnie') Carry Fairfax (d. 1878), née Ragland, wife of D. M. Fairfax. She did not get on well with AMW; see AMW to JW, 21 March 1855, #06455.
31. Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin.
32. Mrs Ducatel, mother-in-law of George William Whistler.
33. George ('Georgie') Worthen Whistler (b. 1851), JW's nephew.
34. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
35. Mary Perine (1797-1861), née Glenn, wife of D. M. Perine, Sr, and her son Elias Glenn Perine (1829-1922), stock broker. Homeland was their country estate north of Baltimore.
36. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.

System Number: 06472

Date: 30 April and 4 May [1857]¹

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Scarsdale

Recipient: JW

Place: [Paris]

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W467

Document Type: ALS

Thursday 30th.

I spent Sunday at Homeland, Glenn Perine³ my charioteer so in our tete à tete [sic] we discussed Jemie. he is so charitable as to attribute no answer to his long letter⁴ to you to its miscarriage. Write him at once frankly that you were glad to hear from him. And now Jemie dear I hope on my visit to go to Mr Latrobes⁵ country house with Mrs P & her four young ladies⁶. I can only add all beg to be remembered to you. & that I [illegible] expect to be going on to Phil[adelphia] under Tho Winans⁷ [care?]. we spend that night in Arch St & he takes us to the Scarsdale depot the next day. I have this morning heard from dear Willie⁸ at Hartford he has begun a course of study preparatory to his entering upon medical study. After I have seen him on my way to Springfield as I hope to next Tuesday. I will write you all he says. he is quite well & the lingerings wintry weather have yeilded to spring at last! Oh of those sketches of your choosing for Willie, I recd them in Phil[adelphia] from Ed Eastwick⁹ & their impure train I thought it best to purify by fire! they [may] have been Artistic but they disgusted me. human imagination need not such proptings to familiarity with the snares of the pervading evil of cities, to caricature the fallen is revolting to me. I brought one or two to hand Willie as specimens & the songs with your explanations, one was the Masque colored¹⁰. I forget the other, but these were not indecent. Willie only fears you will be mortified, but my own dear Jemie knows his mother has always done her best to lead her boys "to keep to innocency"¹¹ if you laugh as you generally do at such sketches, let it be en passant, cultivate a purer taste dear Jemie & dont send to Willie any again. Mrs Winans¹² asked me if you will be offended by her sending you by Mr Latrobe some tokens of her friendship. I consented gratefully to her having a doz shirts made for you but when she hinted timidly lest she might mortify me - to sending you a trifle to spend in furniture or to better your accomodation, I did not encourage that, but she will write you.

May 4th.

And now returned to the cottage¹³ I have Sisters¹⁴ Paris report of you my dear Jemie, what a benefit her visit must have been to you. I avail of Mr Tho Winans being at the St Nicholas, to send for you by him to Balt a pr of new black cloth trowsers [sic], if they do not quite fit you can have them altered dear. Mrs Winans offered to add anything I might wish to send you, to her parcel. Ah if I could only keep you in repair as I do Willie! Write soonthro Sis to your loving Mother

A M W

[p. 2] I came to N Y under Tho Winans care, he was very polite & kind. Mr Ames¹⁵ the artist came on too & returns on the night of the 5th. to Balt with him to finish the three portraits. Dont you wish you could sit at your easel in the Studio¹⁶ a new one in the fairy garden[.] I hope you mean to practise in your native land your art now being acquired. Both Mr Winans & Harrison¹⁷ are patrons of painting! you must write each of them without delay, & do not neglect to thank

Mrs W when you get her parcel. Oh Jemie how my heart yearns over you! how I pray for God to restrain you from evil & lead you to happiness!

Receive my blessing & be a blessing to your widowed Mother

A M W

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to the *Perpetual Calendar Whitaker's Almanac*, and the execution of the Winans' portraits by Joseph A. Ames; see AMW to JW, 27 April 1857, #06483.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. The home of David Maulden Perine, Sr (1796-1882), merchant, and his son Elias Glenn Perine (1829-1922), stock broker.
4. Letter not extant; only two letters from JW to Elias G. Perine survive; see May x July 1855, #09367 and #09368.
5. John Hazlehurst Boneval Latrobe (1803-1891), lawyer, counsel for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.
6. Mary Perine (1797-1861), née Glenn, wife of David Maulden Perine, is the only known contact of AMW in Baltimore who had four daughters: Ann Carson Perine (1819-1919), Susan Buchanan Perine (1820-1899), Mary Glenn Perine (1822-1896), and Rebecca Young Perine (1825-1879).
7. Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector.
8. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
9. Edward Peers Eastwick (1833-1926), son of A. M. and L. A. Eastwick.
10. *The Masque* (M.217) has not survived, but AMW may have objected to such subjects as *Scene from Bohemian Life* (M. 213).
11. See AMW to James H. Gamble, 27 May 1856, #06473.
12. Celeste Winans (1823-1861), née Revillon, wife of Thomas De Kay Winans.
13. The cottage at Scarsdale owned by Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY.
14. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
15. Joseph Alexander Ames (1816-1872), portrait and genre painter. J. A. Ames was working on the portraits of Ross Winans, Thomas de Kay Winans, and his wife Celeste Winans; see AMW to JW, 27 April 1857, #06483.
16. In 1855 JW had worked in the studio at 'Alexandroffsky' in Baltimore; see AMW to JW, 24 April 1855, #06459; Thomas D. Winans to JW, 24 April 1855, #07077.
17. Joseph Harrison (1810-1874), partner in the firm of Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in the firm of Harrison, Winans and Eastwick; he was an important art collector (see his biography).

System Number: 06484
 Date: 10 June 1857
 Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹
 Place: Stonington
 Recipient: James H. Gamble²
 Repository: Glasgow University Library
 Call Number: Whistler W479
 Document Type: ALS

Stonington
 June 10th 1857

Dear Mr Gamble

Since your proof of valuing conversation with me, in the trouble you put yourself in meeting me at Jersey City, you may have wondered at my making no communication. But you are too charitable to suspect me of being a willing defaulter. During two months after my return to the Cottage³, there was a greater demand on my strength than was easy to meet. The suspense about my dear Willie⁴ was not relieved til a fortnight since, when he availed of a smiling Providence for entering upon his course of medical study in the office & under the roof of a most exemplary friend Dr James Darrach⁵ in Phila. I have two reports since then very encouraging, one came today dated Monday. It will be much more satisfactory to talk than to write of my boys, if I may spend an evening or two at Mr Wanns⁶ en route to Scarsdale, I have [p. 2] always valued the overtures from your home circle & shall not be satisfied til I have seen your honored Mother⁷. My time is very limited, health requiring me to go to Richfield, Herkimer Co for the healing waters of the Sulph Springs⁸, rooms being engaged there for you & my revered friend Mrs Maxwell⁹, to occupy from 7th July, with me. Oh if you could take your Mother with us! the country I am told is beautiful, board is easily obtained in private families. A very nice Mrs Bailey¹⁰ is to accommodate us, for five dollars a week, she thinks she may have other rooms, in case our friends apply, her house within five minutes walk of the Springs. If you should see Mr Aspinwall¹¹ please ask him to assure Mrs M I think of our prospect of being companions, as doubling my benefit. On my return to N Y shall write her how we shall proceed.

The day after Willie went to Phila, I went to visit friends in Springfield¹² Massetts who had wished to talk [p. 3] with me of Jemie¹³, since their return from Paris. I enjoyed a week in their home, the scenery so very beautiful for walking, but it was under a threatening of sorrow soon darkening their bright home, ^{I 14 alluded to the loss of Col Bainbridge¹⁵ now alas confirmed, I wrote my sympathy today to the bereaved circle in Springfield} I left it last wednesday to go to friends in Pomfret, which is quite easy of access from Porchester. I had a double motive for going there, to visit friends & my dentist, but concluded to come to my Sister¹⁶ last saturday, to secure a quiet visit to her, & to return to Doct Williams¹⁷ about the 22nd if the Lord smooth my way as He has done hitherto! disposing hearts to help the solitary widow & hands to be extended. I shall only come back here to take the boat to N Y, that would land me conveniently at the battery, & provided Mrs Wann expects no other guests it would be very pleasant to me to be escorted by you home in the afternoon at your usual hour of crossing. I could leave my box on board the Plymouth Rock¹⁸ til then at Pier No 2 N R. as I must hasten over [p. 4] to Brooklyn to see my Cousin Mrs King¹⁹ first, we have not met since her spending the winter in Georgia, her health not benefitted by it, I hope she will not feel hurt at my not as usual giving all my time to her, under her roof. I have written her that I will see her first, & again the day I leave for Scarsdale. But if my arrangement in the least interfere with your Sisters, be frank & write me here to care of Dr George E Palmer²⁰.

Ever truly your friend

Anna M Whistler

It²¹ will be verging upon July ere I can return to N Y.

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk.
3. AMW lived intermittently at Scarsdale, NY between ca September 1851 and November 1857 in a cottage owned by her friend Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881).
4. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
5. James Darrach (1828-1869), physician in Philadelphia. Dr Darrach became William McNeill Whistler's preceptor in Philadelphia; see AMW to JW, 13 - 15 July 1857, #06485.
6. Samuel Wann (b. 1820), merchant, brother-in-law of J. H. Gamble.
7. Jane Gamble (1790-1864), mother of J. H. Gamble.
8. AMW visited the Richfield Sulphur Springs in July 1857; see AMW to JW, 13-15 July 1857, #06485, and AMW to Jane Wann, 15-16 July 1857, #06486.
9. Mrs Maxwell, probably the wife of J. S. Maxwelll.
10. Mrs Bailey, landlady of a boarding house at Richfield Sulphur Springs, NY.
11. James Scott Aspinwall (1807-1874), merchant.
12. The family of Charlotte A. Barnes (b. 1811), née Sanford, wife of James Barnes; see AMW to JW, 13-15 July 1857, #06485.
13. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
14. 'I ... Springfield' added and cross-written in the left margin of p. 1, in reference to this point of letter.
15. Colonel Henry Bainbridge (1803-1857), soldier. Bainbridge was one of the victims of the explosion of the Steamer *Louisiana*; see AMW to JW, 13 - 15 July 1857, #06485.
16. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
17. Lewis Williams (b. 1815), physician, of Pomfret, CT.
18. Steamer *Plymouth Rock* (1854), Commodore Vanderbilt (1,607 tons.); see AMW to JW, 12-15 October 1855, #06468.
19. Isabella King (1805-1857), née Gibbs, cousin of AMW; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 13 January 1857, #06479.
20. Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer.
21. It ... N. Y.' continues in the upper margin of p. 1.

System Number: 06485
Date: 13 - 15 July [1857¹]
Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²
Place: Richfield Sulphur Springs³
Recipient: JW
Place: [Paris]
Repository: Glasgow University Library
Call Number: Whistler W480
Document Type: ALS

Richfield Sulphur Springs

July 13th

How much Mother daily thinks, of her precious first born, the searcher of hearts only sees! how peculiarly on your birth day dear Jemie, fain would I have stated to you on the 11th. but I was on my route for health, in a stage coach last Saturday mounting the hills, slowly thro great heat for the horses, for Summer suddenly is ushered in & Richfield is at an elevation of 1.800 feet above the Hudson river, the scenery so varied & beautiful four hours staging 13 miles was quite endurable, tho youthful travellers from N Orleans &c expressed impatience. we were seven ladies outside. the two gentlemen on the box with the driver, who proved to be Mr Bailey the husband of our kind landlady⁴, so Mrs Maxwell⁵ & myself were first cared for by him at Herkimer & had the best seats. It is unusual for me you know dear Jemie to avail of such favors, but my suffering limbs became selfish. I sought refreshment in a warm Sulphur bath the hour I arrived, of course fasting, & was obliged to lie down til [sic] tea time on my taking possession of my room, instead of writing to you at the close of your birth day. I wonder if you finished your letter to Mother then? Sisters⁶ last recd, told me you had begun one to me while she was in Paris! what a treat when I can read it! And now for some account of myself to awaken interest for Mother in your filial memories. When Willie⁷ left Scarsdale the middle of May for entering upon his course of Medical study in Phila, I went to visit Mrs Barnes⁸ for a week, her sister Mrs Col Bainbridge⁹ united in the cordial welcome to me she would ornament our Country in any land, for elegance so truly feminine & graceful, the finish religion gives had added a charm during trials she had encountered in Camp in the wilds of Texas since I had last met her in Springfield, & when she read aloud at the breakfast table to us one morning a letter from her gallant husband, his furlogh [sic] of a few months in his pocket exciting in her the hope of seeing him by the middle of June, the alloy to me seemed that she was to return to his Camp in Texas in the Autumn! for her health had been so impaired there three years ago. he had brought her to her Sisters in Springfield. But she was a faithful & fond wife, she shewed me his handsome 'dagpe¹⁰'. Do you ever read our papers dear Jemie? if so you must have seen the account of the explosion of the Steamer Louisiana¹¹ & that among the victims was Col Bainbridge¹²! yes the Sunday I went to church with her she was unconsciously a desolate widow! alas her spirit was depressed at about that time & she know not why. [p. 2] The day I left the hospitable home of Mrs Barnes after my benefitting a week there, a telegraph from N Y alarmed her & Mr B¹³. I felt grieved to leave them under such a cloud - the suspense lasted some days and then Emilie Barnes¹⁴ my sweet young God-daughter wrote me of the overwhelming certainty & her dear Aunts agony! I was at Stonington then, & expressed my sympathy as only a widow may. You may suppose dear Jemie all that Mrs Barnes told me of her joyful intercourse with you in Paris made our tete à tetes [sic] peculiarly interesting. she assured me you were not indifferent as your silence appears, & that you listened to her pleadings in behalf of my claim as your good Mother, she described to me you & your boot maker, as among your jokes! Of course rescue from

drowning¹⁵ awakened in me a solemn train of reflection, & oh that you dearest Jemie may be influenced by the mercy which has prolonged your term to preparing you for Eternity, twice now has God spared you to give you time to seek & know Jesus. Why do you delay? how many of your early companions have gone! [Geardon Amy?] on the 26th of June, followed young Hyde¹⁶ whom he had nursed thro fever & closed his eyes in death a year ago. I would not send you a melancholy letter to read my beloved son, but your interests impress my maternal duty irresistibly to excite you to read your bible & to pray daily. Tell me do you kneel in child-like faith ere you sleep & when you awake to the claims of this world - & ask God as our Father in Heaven to protect & bless you? Answer me this question, to cheer me & encourage me, for it is the daily petition I offer for you & that you may keep to innocency & resist temptation! God help & bless you my dear, dear Jemie. I hope your friends the Winans¹⁷ may induce you to make the most of your opportunities abroad for acquiring your Art & to return to your native land ere the openings to Artists are occupied. What a boon to me if I might have a home in Phila. with my two dear boys! I hope Jemie you will not avail of any more such orders as Capt Williams¹⁸. Certainly it is humiliating to me that his paltry hundred dollars should have enticed you from the regular Course of instruction¹⁹ you had with so much more lasting profit pursued. I do not hesitate to express my regret when any of those he would deceive by boasting of his patronage of Major Whistler²⁰'s son! tell me of Capt Ws "order" to my son. with the expectation no doubt of my grateful acknowledgment! Aunt Kate²¹ saw Dick Palmer²² in Union Place, he values the copy²³ you made for him & talks in a friendly strain of Jemie. Mr Flagg²⁴ was in Brooklyn in restored health & spirits, but only for a day til he should visit his mother²⁵ in N Haven he probably did not hear of my being in Sidney Place, for I was devoted to Cousin Isabellas²⁶ sickroom, but auntie told me of his talk of Jemie whom he is fond of & of his indignation against Capt Williams. If you would not mortify your Mother have no more dealings with that man, who is beneath our notice. I forgive his insult to me.

[p. 3] I recd while at Stonington an invitation to the wedding of Rittie Bartlett²⁷, which took place Wednesday 16th of June. J. M. Schofield, U. S. A. perhaps you know him. I have been so confined in the darkened sick room of Cousin Isabella for more than a fortnight as not yet to have written my dear friends at West Point, how I should rejoice to hear of another bridal at the church of the Holy Innocents²⁸! I shall write Mrs. B this week of the undiminished friendship I feel in her family circle. as our day boat stopped at West Point last friday how I thought of the happy hours of intercourse I had had with Jemie in the Bartlett²⁹ home! A lady & gent in an omnibus for Cozens hotel³⁰ no doubt, recognized me on board the steamer, I knew the white teeth of Gertrude Popham³¹ & the black whiskers of Shep Campbell! they are a happy young couple I believe. on landing at Albany Abm. Van Vechten³² met me as I had written Cousin Eliza I was coming, but as their house was undergoing painting it decided me to proceed by the Central R R³³ train to Herkimer. Availing of Mr. Vans attending us & luggage to the six oclock train. Mrs. Maxwell & myself refreshed at the Delavan hotel³⁴ tea table first however. We slept at Herkimer. Do not fancy this old lady, is one our St P. associations, she is one of Aunt Eliza Winstanleys³⁵ contemporaries & tho 20 years my senior has all her gifts natural & by cultivation preserved, I feel it to be a benefit that we are as Mother & daughter congenial in opinions & practise, she even goes with me to take her bath at six every morning, which is my chosen hour we write, or read, & walk with equal enjoyment. My winter of toil after letting Mary³⁶ go to Springfield, the chilly Spring so prostrated me that if Cousin Sophie³⁷ had not come on to take my place in her Sister's sick room last thursday, I doubtless should have suffered from. I thanked God for His token of a Blessing that I might come without neglecting others & I shall prolong my benefit until dear Willie writes me he is to have a recess from study to fit him for the winters term which begins 1st. Sept. then Scarsdale must be our place for retrenchment & refitting. I suppose by the middle of Augt. Willie must have his recess, he writes me frequently of how

much he likes Doctor James Darrach³⁸ as a companion & as a preceptor. it was to him quite a triumph that he preserved his composure at the first operation he aided in, but he remarked, they kept him so busy cleaning & handing instruments he had no time to faint, tho Doct D said few novices could escape fainting at first sight of so much blood, it was the cutting out of a Cancer. Willie goes occasionally to the Eastwicks³⁹ with either of the four brothers who are every day but Sunday in town, they are very friendly to him at Bartram Hall⁴⁰! Willie wrote a rather laughable account of having dined at Mr. Harrisons⁴¹ by invitation, Annie⁴² is yet very strange, she escaped from the drawing room (after dinner) by one door as Willie & her father entered another & did not return to do the civilities for her mama⁴³, who was on the invalid list, Mr. H said "As we have no grounds to stroll in - in town - & as I smoke no segars [sic] so have none to offer - we will talk["]", but soon he began to nap, one of his children awakened him to receive Willies parting compliments. I have not heard of Henry Harrison⁴⁴'s return, but he will be no advantage, for he is so eccentric. I feel that I must be with Willie for my own comfort & I hope for his during the winter season, tho I would not remove from the Cottage this year, my interests are not at Scarsdale, I feel that I can have no home til my boys decide where it shall be. Willie writes of his preference for Phila. over N Y. God grant he may settle me there, he finds some College friends in homes there & visits their families. Mary is cheering herself with the hope that [p. 4] Willie may induce me to keep house for him in Phila. & that she may be our fag again! never to leave our home! Tho the trial has been mutual to Mary & us I am sure it was right[.] Willie is economical, but his board, clothing & suits take all his 350 per annum. I must help him thro lectures. Every season I practise more & more frugality, "practise makes perfect" you know dear boys, & I get so expert & neat in refitting Willies suits, & in making & remodding [sic] so fashionably for myself. Oh if you both were but under my care how comfortably I'd attend to your respectability. In your plans for the future dear Jemie, let Mothers comfort have your consideration God will prosper you in proportion. The Jaffreys⁴⁵ invite Willie & me to Grange. I hope we may in melon season. And now envying my scrawl I beseech you son to write your widowed

Mother

15th July

For dearest Jemie

send it soon Sis⁴⁶ dear for I am impatient for a response from him, he must not delay! he ought not thus forget his promises

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to AMW's visit to Richfield Springs; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 10 June 1857, #06484.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. Richfield Springs, NY came to prominence in 1820 when the Great White Sulphur Springs, now in the centre of the village, became popular. See Workers of the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration for the State of New York, *New York, A Guide to the Empire State, American Guide Series*, New York, 1940, p. 420.
4. Bailey, landlord of a boarding house at Richfield Sulphur Springs, and his wife.
5. Mrs Maxwell, probably the wife of J. S. Maxwelll.
6. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.

7. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
8. Charlotte A. Barnes (b. 1811), née Sanford, wife of James Barnes; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 10 June 1857, #06484.
9. Mary Bainbridge, née Sanford, wife of Col. Bainbridge and sister of C. Barnes.
10. The steamer *Louisiana* was burnt on 31 May 1857 in Galveston bay, with great loss of life. It was reported in *The New York Daily Times*, 3 June 1857, vol. 6, no. 1,780: 'The steamship Louisiana, running between New Orleans and Galveston, was burnt in the harbour of the latter place on Saturday morning last. Eleven persons are known to have perished, and Col. Bainbridge, USA, and 31 others, are reported to be missing' (see below).
11. Colonel Henry Bainbridge (1803-1857), soldier; see his biography.
12. Daguerreotype, untraced; see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 11 June 1849, #07627.
13. James Barnes (1806-1869), soldier and civil engineer.
14. Emily J. Barnes (b. 1843), daughter of James Barnes, AMW's god-daughter.
15. There is no other reference to this accident, but in 1862, JW was to have another narrow escape from drowning; see Baptiste Fagonde to JW, 28 December 1862, #02398, and AMW to James H. Gamble, 3 April 1854, #06438.
16. Probably William Hyde (1836-1856), son of Dr W. Hyde of Stonington, CT.
17. The family of Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector.
18. Captain Seth Williams, of Stonington, CT, an early patron of JW; see AMW to JW, 23 September 1856, #06476.
19. JW may still have been attending Gleyre's academy, and life-classes in the Ecole Impériale et Spéciale de Dessin (see #01012, #01013).
20. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
21. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
22. W. Richard ('Dick') Palmer, JW's patron and step-cousin.
23. Probably one of the following: *Copy after Ingres's 'Roger délivrant Angélique'* (YMSM 11), *Copy after Mignard's 'La Vierge à la grappe'* (YMSM 12), and *Copy after Turner's 'Rockets and blue lights (close at hand) to warn steam-boats of shoal water'* (M.176).
24. Rev. Edward Octavius Flagg (1824-1911), husband of Eliza McNeill. He had just returned from nine months' travel in Europe; see AMW to JW, 29 January 1857, #06480.
25. Martha Flagg (1792-1875), née Whiting, mother of E. O. Flagg.
26. Isabella King (1805-1857), née Gibbs, cousin of AMW; her address was 8 Sidney Place; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 19 November 1857, #06491.
27. Harriet ('Rittie') Bartlett, daughter of Prof. W. H. C. Bartlett, later wife of J. M. Schofield.
28. Church of the Holy Innocents, 112 Main Street, Highland Falls, NY; it was built ca 1846.
29. Professor William Holmes Chambers Bartlett (1804-1893), mathematician.
30. Cozzens Hotel, West Point, NY; see AMW to JW, 6 August 1851, #06398.
31. Margaret Gertrude Campbell (1830-1892), née Popham, wife of A. S. Campbell.

32. Abraham Van Vechten (1819-1884), lawyer, and his wife Eliza Van Vechten (b. ca 1824), née Hamilton, AMW's cousin.
33. New York Central Railroad; see AMW to JW, 11 July 1856, #06474.
34. Delavan House Hotel, William A. Delavan, 8 Union Square. See *Citizen and Stranger's Pictorial and Business Directory*, New York, 1853, p. 180.
35. Eliza Isabella Winstanley (1788-1857), née McNeill, JW's aunt, his mother's half-sister.
36. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
37. Sophia Clinch, née Gibbs, widow of Brig. Gen. Duncan Lamont Clinch (1787-1849), congressman and army officer.
38. James Darrach (1828-1869), physician in Philadelphia.
39. Andrew McCalla Eastwick (1810-1879), partner in Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in Harrison, Winans and Eastwick in St. Petersburg, and family.
40. Bartram Hall, the residence of A. M. Eastwick and his family in Philadelphia; see AMW to JW, 15 and 16 January 1852, #06409.
41. Joseph Harrison (1810-1874), partner in the firm of Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in the firm of Harrison, Winans and Eastwick.
42. Annie Harrison (1839-1915), daughter of S. and J. Harrison.
43. Sarah Harrison (1817-1906), née Poulterer, wife of Joseph Harrison.
44. William Henry Harrison (b. 1837), son of S. and J. Harrison; he had probably visited JW in Paris, although there is no record of his visit.
45. Abbie Snelling Jaffray (1817-1871), née Hamilton, wife of R. W. Jaffray, and family.
46. Letters were habitually sent via JW's family in London, or friends and family visiting Paris.

System Number: 06486
Date: 15 and 16 July 1857
Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹
Place: New York
Recipient: Jane Wann²
Repository: Glasgow University Library
Call Number: Whistler W481
Document Type: ALS

Richfield Springs³. Otsego Co. N York

July 15th 1857

My dear Mrs Wann

I heard from Mr Bleacher⁴ at Scarsdale of your dear brother having called at the Popham office⁵ to enquire after us at the Cottage⁶, & so my friend & daily companion now, his favorite & venerated Mrs Maxwell⁷ has shewn me his card, as having been discovered under the front door of the hospitable abode in 18th St⁸ with greetings to her. Oh how we wish for him here & that your dear mother would accompany her son, if quiet is a restorative to her as I always find "rural quiet" we have it here in perfection. tho these Springs are resorted to by numbers, the private families in which the visitors are distributed must promote domestic retirement. Mrs Maxwell & myself find at Mrs Bailleys⁹ all we want, a cool retreat from the heat, neat apartments excellent table, we discourage superfluities, but have the best of homemade bread, home churned butter & home laid eggs. Goblets of fresh milk at every meal, Do you [p. 2] not think dear Mrs Wann your husband¹⁰ could spare your brother to us this month? to read to us some of his favorite vols, to walk with us! Mrs Bailey has plenty of room & the walks are so surrounded by the rural beauties of nature. Mrs Maxwell just looked in to ask me if it is not time to take our evening stroll & get our drink at the Spring, I told her to whom I was writing Mr Gambles sister, she exclaimed "dear fellow! I wish he'd come here, away from the heat of N York I am sure he would enjoy being with us & we would do all in our power to make it pleasant to him."

Thursday 16th

It is a week this afternoon since I put myself under Mr Aspinwalls¹¹ protection to join Mrs Maxwell in his Nyack home for a night. I regretted as they did my stay could be no longer, but we felt the need of improving the brief bathing season. we came by the day boat last friday & continued our route by the Central R R¹² train 6 oclock that we (after the refreshment of tea at the Delavan¹³ in Albany) we slept at the hotel in Herkimer. [p. 3] the attentive landlord Mr Spooner¹⁴ there relieving us of care of luggage the moment the train stopped. But perhaps your brother might choose the night boat on the beautiful Hudson, he would then rest & get to Herkimers by the half past six train A M, in as good time as we did for staging hither. the elevation being 1400 feet above the Mohawk river yields breezes to refresh thro the 13 miles up hill, which is at a slow rate, in mercy to the horses! these invigorating breezes circulate around us at Richfield tho the hills encompass us on every side. As dear Mrs Maxwell (who already says she has derived benefit from the Sulph Springs, & I strolled after her bath at eleven oclock this morning admiring the verdure & varied richness of the scenery, Oh how earnestly & sincerely we wished for our dear Mr Gamble! do beg him to come away from the bustle & heat to gratify us. I might arrange for my Willie to join his beloved Mr Gamble at Richfield, how pleasant & profitable for my dear boy. The Lord grant it may be realized.

[p. 4] With sincere & affectionate remembrance of your circle in your home which some day I hope to visit,

I am unalterably your friend

Anna M Whistler

All well at Scarsdale. We are at Mrs Bailleys, her husband the proprietor of the Stages¹⁵ from Herkimer.

I¹⁶ recd your second letter only.

[embossed stamp:] PARIS PAPER

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. Jane Wann (1822-1875), née Gamble, wife of S. Wann; she resided in Staten Island; see AMW to JW, 15 December 1856, #06477.
3. Richfield Springs, NY; see AMW to JW, 13 and 15 July 1857, #06485.
4. Probably Augustus Bleecker (b. 1812), merchant; he was the husband of Alethea Hill Popham (1824-1919). Bleecker worked with W. S. Popham for some time. It is possible that AMW misspelled Bleecker's surname.
5. The office of William Sherbrooke Popham (1793-1885), merchant in 702 Broadway, New York; see Helen Lorraine Hultz, *Scarsdale Story, A Heritage History*, New Jersey, 1987, p. 829.
6. The cottage in which AMW lived intermittently at Scarsdale, NY between ca September 1851 and November 1857; it was owned by her friends Margaret G. and Sarah S. Hill.
7. Ann Maxwell (1784-1867), née Young, wife of Robert Maxwell.
8. 88 E. 18th Street was the home address of James Scott Aspinwall (1807-1874), merchant; see *Doggett's New York City Directory, 1849-50*, New York, p. 31.
9. Mrs Bailey, landlady of a boarding house at Richfield Sulphur Springs, NY.
10. Samuel Wann (b. 1820), merchant, brother-in-law of J. H. Gamble.
11. James Scott Aspinwall (1807-1874), merchant.
12. New York Central Railroad; see AMW to JW, 11 July 1856, #06474.
13. Delavan House Hotel, William A. Delavan, 8 Union Square, New York; see AMW to JW, 13 and 15 July 1857, #06485.
14. Spooner, landlord of a hotel at Herkimer, NY.
15. Bailey, landlord of a boarding house at Richfield Sulphur Springs; he presumably owned the Stages at Herkimer, NY.
16. 'I ... only' continues in the left upper margin of p. 1.

System Number: 06487

Date: 17 August and 16 September 1857

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Albany

Recipient: JW

Place: [Paris]

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W482

Document Type: ALS

180 State St., Albany

Monday Augt 17th 1857

My own dear first born²,

tho I have no home on earth, many are open to welcome me on my pilgrimage. I am revived by the affection in them extended to me. How benefitted I have been in health and spirits by rest the Sulpher Springs during the five weeks at Richfield³, which terminated last Saturday.

Brooklyn Sept 16 Cousin Eliza⁴

Cousin Eliza Van Vechtens trio of children were so fond of Aunt Anna. I could not write you of them the Monday I was there. She talked of you and of Sis⁵ wishing she could see you both again. Aunt Hamilton⁶ was there and spoke of Jemie fondly and hopefully. It was a healthful and loving family group. Cousin E grows plump and is improved in appearance, her home in State St built by her exemplary husband⁷ is very nice and convenient, he urged my staying til Tuesday and gave me a free ticket on the Hudson River R R⁸ as one of his family and escorted me to the cars, steady rain all Mon, this made the journey very pleasant. I called at Mr Jaffrays⁹ princely business house in Park Place to report all well in Albany. he invited me to go home with him to Grange very pressing, but I was too eager to join Willie, I forget dear Jemie whether I wrote you of having been sent by Doctor Darrach¹⁰ to the sea breezes from the heat of Phila early in July & I was kept in suspense a fortnight having written Willie¹¹ to join me at Richfield Springs, ignorant of his being under Dr Palmers¹² medical treatment, I expect him by the Stage each afternoon for a fortnight, At the end of it Aunt Kate¹³ wrote me of his having had an attack of erratic rheumatism, the pain on the heart the Dr attributed to rapid growth, prohibited smoking & bathing so Willie was nourished & petted not only at the Corner House¹⁴ but at "Walnut Grove¹⁵" Mrs Day¹⁶ often sent her carriage for him to spend the day, for fatigue was against the doctors orders to him, Aunt Kate wrote me he was no longer the pale blue lad he had been & this was the first idea of his having been an invalid Dr D having merely recommended to me Willie should have a recess this July to brace him for a winter of severe application to study. So I found the dear fellow after his months happy sojourn at Stonington in excellent spirits & tho thin, rosy & handsome, he had ingratiated himself into Cousin Ginnies¹⁷ favor, she said she had never known Willie before, such a charming companion! so full of anecdote & wit. The Days continued to write him to take [drives?] & for Picnics or sailing parties. Abby & Helen¹⁸ calling him Willie while the little children dignified him by "Doctor Whistler" he had rather taken a prejudice as a lad against Mr Day¹⁹, but now likes him so much! several nice young ladies were guests at Walnut Grove & tho I knew dear Willie must soon leave me to return to Phila. I sacrificed my own yearning for his companionship, no wonder he felt homesick and had the blues on the way to N Y, for he had left the merry dance at Helen [p. 2] Days juvenile party to join me on board the Plymouth Rock²⁰. However Jacks²¹ soon joined him at Gdmas C's²² where

Sarah²³ & nurse waited upon them. I of course in attendance upon dear Cousin Isabella Kings²⁴ sick room, tho I came to Sidney Place²⁵ only to enquire about the dear invalid - I usually went to 148 Joralemon²⁶ at about nine every morning to see Jacks & Willie at their breakfast. Mr Flagg²⁷ was there too & all he could tell us of Jemie was interesting. Charlie Camman[n]²⁸ was there one day at breakfast & lamented not having found you in Paris, he tried & so did Hen[ry] Whitehouse²⁹, the latter is now settled at house keeping with his youthful wife & infant son, in a few doors below Gdma C. Willie & Jacks went to Union Place purposely to see the painting Jemie had done for Dick Palmer³⁰, they expressed approval of your progress in painting. Mrs Tho Winans³¹ wrote me a month ago for Jemies direction in Paris as her husband wished it. I hoped Mr Flagg could have enlightened me, but he could only describe your new lodgings as greatly preferable to 11 Rue Poupee³² so I had to wait til Dick P returned to his country house in N Y. his father³³ has lately established, him as an importer of silks, Jacks found him reclining on a sofa smoking! while fifteen of his clerks were busy in executing Dicks orders, your direction was at length obtained & enclosed in my letter to Balt, whether it is the precursor of an order from Mr Winans or merely to send you a parcel, time will show. I will not reproach you for neglecting to write your Mother, since the New Year & the new abode. Mr Flagg speaks fondly of you, tells me you are popular & improved he thinks in every way, Your greater personal care he remarked upon & thought the visit of Sis had induced it - tho I had not induced his remark by any question. My heart always aches silently at the neglect of Jemie to contribute to my comfort by responding to love letters, prayer is my only solace. Mr Flagg says your dissipation is more of the head than heart & he thinks Jemies principles will at length prevail over temptation. Charlie Cammann is greatly improved in appearance & tone, he spoke of Paris as a perilous place to religion, The Lords day so like other days! but he told of the Rev Mr Kirks³⁴ eloquence at the American chapel & also of his edification while in Rome in listening to another of our clergymen as tho his resorting to public worship had not been interrupted abroad. You will hear of Charlie & his beautiful bride³⁵, after [he] is established as his father's partner in Wall St. I saw him at one of the desks among the clerks when Willie & I called at Cammanns & Co³⁶. by advice from George³⁷ to deposit with those broker the Bonds on Wabash & Erie R R³⁸ now yielding no income. the bankruptcy of that Co. involves ruin to many. Adolfe Rodewaldes³⁹ failure is attributed to his speculations in that stock. dear Julie⁴⁰ shines under this cloud, she has occupied an enviable home on Staten Island this Summer, a most complete mansion enclosed by acres under cultivation, but she told me the other day it must all be sold soon! I had crossed in the half past eight N Brighton boat to avoid the heat & spent the day with herself & her fond sweet children. she sent then a driver to take me back to the ferry, but said she could not bear to be seen in her carriage now, offered for sale!

[p. 3] Jacks went to spend Sunday at Jules⁴¹ yesterday, I am writing you in the interval between attendance at church, as I can be better spared from the sick chamber, this day of rest to Mr King⁴², he is devoted to his sick patient Isabella[,] dear Ida⁴³ is hovering around the bed, realizing at last she may soon be motherless, her Aunt Mrs Genl Clinche⁴⁴ of Georgia came to take my place here last July when I went for my health to Richfield. she is so tenderly devoted & so experienced as a nurse I know my absence will scarcely be felt, if I go to Stonington this week, Jacks procured me a free ticket in case I may go, it will be very trying to leave my dear Cousin when any hour may be her last, but I have an engagement at Pomfret with my dentist & am suffering meanwhile, my health is better for the Sulphur Springs, but the disorder having been not entirely cured, my right eye is the weak point now, however I hope it is not to continue so for I have much sewing to accomplish for Willie & self. he reports his recommencement of medical study under Dr Darrach & tho he laments their pleasant bachelor lodging is broken up, he will find the family circle of the Dr friends of the Darrachs. Willie is sorry she [sic] has not a vacant apartment, in case I may winter in Phila⁴⁵, but tho I earnestly hope I may be in that city it

may be necessary for me to occupy my room at the cottage, til another tenant offers to take the cottage. How thankful I feel to George for arranging the Warbash interests thru Cammann & Co to be paid by them while no dividends are made, how sadly perplexed I should have been if dear Willies prospects had been interfered with for lack of income. George wrote me in July very kindly, tho he deplored your silence - as I do, write as soon what you are engaged in & how is your health. Mr King desires to be remembered to you & says when he is able to send you an order it will be to copy "The burial of Atala"⁴⁶ in the Louvre gallery. he once owned a copy of it a large fine picture three feet square, from association with his dear Isabella as her selection when they were in Paris, he very naturally wishes to have it to contemplate again. You called Ida "the Countess" she is very tiny yet but prettier than ever! The Countess sends love to Jemie as she always does in my letters to Willie. I [sic] will be a week tomorrow since he left Brooklyn, not expecting to leave Phila again this year. When I have the rare treat of a letter from Paris he will enjoy it as much as Mother will. Jacks does not expect to return to Balt, as Ross Winans⁴⁷ works are not yielding income. I wish employment may offer in N Y for Jacks, tho he hopes George may send for him to join him at Alexandroffsky⁴⁸. Julius Adams⁴⁹ has come to settle in Brooklyn with his family, his son Jule enters West Point⁵⁰ immediately. Mr Gamble⁵¹ desired love to Jemie. all friends do ask when I have heard from you

Ever your devoted Mother

A M W

[p. 4] Jemie

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
3. See AMW to JW, 13 and 15 July 1857, #06485.
4. Eliza Van Vechten (b. ca 1824), née Hamilton, AMW's cousin. By 1857 Eliza had given birth to five children, Hamilton Van Vechten (b. 1844), Cornelia Van Vechten (b. 1847), Ann ('Annie') Van Vechten (b. 1852), Abraham Van Vechten (b. 1854) and Estelle Van Vechten (b. 1856). It seems that only three survived.
5. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
6. Catherine Hamilton ('Aunt Hamilton') (1788-1874), née Whistler, JW's aunt.
7. Abraham Van Vechten (1819-1884), husband of E. Hamilton.
8. Hudson River Railroad; see AMW to JW, 27 August 1851, #06399.
9. Probably the family of Richmond Woodruff Jaffray (1813-1862), merchant.
10. James Darrach (1828-1869), physician in Philadelphia.
11. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
12. Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer.
13. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
14. The house owned by Dr G. E. Palmer; it was built in 1787, situated in the corner of Main and Wall Streets at Stonington, CT.
15. Probably the residence of the Day family.

16. Mrs Day; unidentified.
17. Virginia ('Ginnie') Carry Fairfax (d. 1878), née Ragland, wife of D. M. Fairfax.
18. Abby and Helen Day, sisters.
19. Probably Philip Day, of Stonington, CT, father of Aby and Helen Day.
20. *Plymouth Rock* (1854), Commodore Vanderbilt (1607,58 tons.); see AMW to JW, 12-15 October 1855, #06468.
21. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
22. Maria Margareta Cammann ('Grandma C') (1774-1862), mother-in-law of William Gibbs McNeill.
23. Probably Sarah Lewis, wife of P. T. J. McNeill.
24. Isabella King (1805-1857), née Gibbs, cousin of AMW. She died on 9 September. Her death was announced in the *New York Herald*, 10 September 1857, no. 7679.
25. 8 Sidney Place was the home address of Isabella King; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 9 November 1857, #06491.
26. 148 Joralemon Street, New York, was the home address of Grandmother Cammann; see *Brooklyn City Directory*, New York, 1861, p. 59.
27. Eliza Flagg (1830-1855), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of Rev. E. O. Flagg.
28. Charles ('Charlie') Cammann, JW's uncle; he had visited Paris with Henry Whitehouse (see below); see AMW to JW, 29 January 1857, #06480.
29. James Henry Whitehouse (1833-1924), banker, and his wife. AMW did not approve of Mrs H. Whitehouse; see AMW to JW, 15 December 1856, #06477.
30. W. Richard ('Dick') Palmer, JW's patron and step-cousin. See AMW to JW, 13 - 15 July 1857, #06485.
31. Celeste Winans (1823-1861), née Revillon, wife of Thomas De Kay Winans.
32. JW gave this address when he registered at the Musées Impériaux on 7 April 1857 (#09214).
33. Probably Courtland ('uncle Court') Palmer, Sr (1800-1874), merchant, brother of Dr G. E. Palmer.
34. Rev. Francis Kirk, Roman catholic priest of the church of St Peter and St Edward, Pimlico.
35. Mrs Charles Louis Cammann.
36. JW was connected to the banking firm of Camman and Co. on his mother's side. Maria Camman had married William Gibbs McNeill (1800-1853), railway engineer, JW's uncle.
37. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
38. Part of the Toledo, Wabash and Western Railroad which was formed in 1856 out of two companies: The Toledo and Illinois Railroad Company and the Lake Erie, Wabash and St Louis Railroad. Much of JW and his mothers' income depended on dividends from the Warbash and Erie Rail Road. Speculation on both railroads and canals made this a high risk area of investment. Bitter legal and literal battles resulted in the collapse of many major businesses.
39. Adolfe Rodewald (b. 1853), son of J. C. and A. Rodewald.
40. Julia Catherine Rodewald (1825-1897), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of A. Rodewald.

41. Jules, possibly one of the Rodewald family.
42. Ralph King (1801-1878), broker, father-in-law of W. M. Whistler.
43. Ida Bayard Whistler, née King (d. 1863), JW's sister-in-law.
44. Sophia Clinch, née Gibbs, widow of Brig. Gen. Duncan Lamont Clinch (1787-1849), congressman and army officer.
45. AMW spent most of the winter of 1857-58 at South Bay, Charlestown; see #06493 - #06496. She visited Philadelphia twice, on 2 December 1857, and then again on 29 June 1858 (#06492, and #06497).
46. A. L. Girodet, *The Entombment of Atala* (z.181). It is not known whether JW ever made a copy of the painting, as nothing as such survives.
47. Ross Winans (1796-1877), Baltimore locomotive manufacturer, father of JW's sister-in-law.
48. 'Alexandroffsky Mechanical Works,' railway works established in Russia by the firm of Harrison, Winans, Eastwick; see AMW to JW, 15, 16 and 18 September 1848, #06363, and AMW to Thomas Henry Seymour, February 1855, #09560. George William Whistler, his wife and son had arrived in St Petersburg by January 1857; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 13 January 1857, #06479.
49. Julius Walker Adams, Sr (1812-1899), civil engineer and soldier.
50. Julius Walker Adams, Jr (1840-1865), graduate of West Point. He must have been admitted as cadet on 5 September 1857. He graduated on 24 June 1861. For the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, see AMW to JW, 10 June 1851, #06396.
51. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk.

System Number: 06488

Date: 17 September 1857

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Pomfret

Recipient: James H. Gamble²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W483

Document Type: ALS³

Pomfret

Thursday Sept 17th 1857

My dear friend

I thought whilst so refreshed last friday evening under the roof of my beloved neice⁴ [sic], you had been the angel who had conducted us on our way. the sweetness of the influences imparting comfort dispelled the alloy of regret for having taxed your kindness, & prayer for blessings on you, with thankfulness to the Spirit of mercy filled my heart. My neice [sic], her good husband (& their sweet children next morn) were so glad to have us & would fain have kept us if we could have staid days instead of hours. They walked with us to the N R⁵ ferry by two oclock. We joined the mourners in Sidney Place⁶ before noon & had a smooth passage to Stonington that

night. I promised my sister⁷ at bidding her family circle adieu on tuesday by the 8 oclock morning boat to Norwich I would not write any, except to let her know of my welcome under this friendly roof, which I did by the [p. 2] yesterdays mail. I resisted the desire to send you a few lines of enclosure to cousin Anne Clunies⁸ to me, & made some friendly calls instead. but today it rains & my eye feels better, perhaps for a small blister Dr Williams⁹ put upon the temple last night[.] I am to persevere in this to divert the inflammation. how much more than ever I shall value the blessing of sight, if mine is restored to me freely to use! it is a peculiar trial to me, to resist the claims upon me, but I recognise Our Fathers heavenly discipline. the needs be to humble & to prove & to test my faith. Will you remember me affectionately to all in your sweet home & write our dear friend Mrs Maxwell¹⁰ for me, tell her my Sister Eliza¹¹ tho such an invalid when my Richfield report was read at Preston evinced a lively interest in our friendship & companionship. as she had thro life cherished fond memories of "Anne Young of Cold Stream¹²" and her tenderness for me was maternal, tho she called me her Twin Sister as our birthday (eighteen years between) is one, the 27th of Sept. Can we call the christians release from [p. 3] disease, & suffering, death? My Sister Elizas redeemed spirit departed in full faith in Jesus on the 19th of Augt (That was the day I reached Stonington from Albany[.]). I thought of her then as being more & more prostrated by paralysis! her mental faculties revived tho freedom of speech was denied her, love beamed from her face upon the devoted Sister who watched unweariedly, who had ever been most dutiful to her & especially the two years past. the aged husband¹³ now so bereaved, thro all her sickness was the chief source of comfort. Of the thronging of relatives & old friends to the dear old home in Preston my surviving Sister Alicia¹⁴ gives me interesting particulars. but the heavenly impress on the face of the departed stamps the sweetest association on my sisterly affection. I sorrow not as those without hope in the Saviour, some of the most pious lessons taught me are those of this departed, eldest Sister. I must write my sympathy to the two survivors in the loved old home, this day. My hope is that Dr Williams may get thro dental operations that I may return to Stonington by next Saturday P. M. [p. 4] Where I shall spend next week in my Sisters home probably stay over my birthday, not to celebrate it but to have the comfort of worshipping with her two Sundays, & be at Scarsdale by the end of this month. after seasonable arrangements there, hope weather may be favorable for yours & Mrs Maxwells visit tho I realize how curtailed [are] the enjoyments at the Cottage for you who will miss my boys. Of James¹⁵, his Sister¹⁶ writes, his earnings have secured him benefit to health at the seaside Dieppe¹⁷, his first holiday in two years. Willie¹⁸ writes of his resuming his medical course of study, & that he experiences kindness under Mr Hooper¹⁹ room [sic] where he wishes there was a room for me. he is well. I must not scrawl more, except to express to your dear Sister²⁰ my sincere regret at not being free to profit by her invitation this season. It is only tantalizing to think how much I should have enjoyed & benefitted by it.

Believe me ever your affectionate Sister in the Lord,
Your grateful & sympathising friend

Anna M Whistler

Notes:

1. Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), JW's aunt.
2. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk.
3. [embossed stamp:] PARIS
4. Probably Eliza Van Vechten (b. ca 1824), née Hamilton, AMW's cousin, her husband Abraham Van Vechten (1819-1884), and their children, Hamilton Van Vechten (b. 1844),

Cornelia Van Vechten (b. 1847), Ann ('Annie') Van Vechten (b. 1852), Abraham Van Vechten (b. 1854), and Estelle Van Vechten (b. 1856); they lived in Albany, NY.

5. North River; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 21 August [1856], #06475.

6. 8 Sidney Place, NY, was the home address of Isabella King (1805-1857), née Gibbs, cousin of AMW; she died on 9 September. Her death was announced in the *New York Herald*, 10 September 1857, no. 7679. AMW looked after Isabella in July 1857; see AMW to JW, 13 - 15 July 1857, #06485.

7. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.

8. Anne Clunie (b. 1793), a Scottish cousin of AMW.

9. Lewis Williams (b. 1815), physician, of Pomfret, CT.

10. Ann Maxwell (1784-1867), née Young, wife of Robert Maxwell.

11. Eliza Isabella Winstanley (1788-1857), née McNeill, JW's aunt, his mother's half-sister.

12. Ann Maxwell was from Colstream, Berwick, Scotland; see Genealogical Society of Utah, *Patron sheets, 1969-1991*, Salt Lake City, UT, film no. 0884509. Maxwell and Ann Clunie both grew up at Berwick. Eliza Winstanley was a first cousin of Ann Clunie.

13. John Winstanley (1776-1859), solicitor, JW's uncle.

14. Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), JW's aunt.

15. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist. JW must have made some money from copies he made in the Louvre; see AMW to JW, 29 January 1857, #06480.

16. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.

17. JW made several sketches on his holiday including *Bains à Dieppe* (M.220) and *Les Cotes à Dieppe* (M.222). He was probably en route to the *Exhibition of the Art Treasures of the United Kingdom*, Manchester, 1857.

18. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.

19. Hooper, of Philadelphia.

20. Jane Wann (1822-1875), née Gamble, wife of S. Wann.

System Number: 06489
Date: 8 October 1857
Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹
Place: Scarsdale
Recipient: James H. Gamble²
Repository: Glasgow University Library
Call Number: Whistler W484
Document Type: ALS

Scarsdale

8 October 1857

My dear Mr Gamble

This evening fulfils the first week since my welcome back by Miss Margaret³, but inviting tho the weather had been I have for two reasons resisted the desire to write you & our beloved friend Mrs Maxwell⁴ to remind you each of your engagement to visit the cottage⁵. My eye⁶ is yet so weak I cannot read or sew, & tho I scribble with its lid closed, it evidently suffers in writing. Mrs Popham & Miss Sarah⁷ have been at New Port a fortnight, of course we wish them to be at home to help do the honors to Mrs Maxwell. Will you write the dear old lady & explain my inability & ascertain about what time may suit her to visit us. Our Pastor & his lady⁸ closed their house this morning to take a fortnights [p. 2] rest from their labors with his parents in the city, this month is their school vacation. I should regret their absence when Mrs M is here. but must expect alloys in all our enjoyments. my being yet one of good Doctor Palmers⁹ patients will make no sensible difference, my cure will be tedious[.] The Lord's hand is not depressing me in anger I trust & I bow in resignation to His purpose of good. I make no plan for the winter, believing all will be wisely ordered to promote my eternal benefit, if I may go to Phila what an indulgence! & be permitted then to use my eye for Willie¹⁰ how favored I shall feel. we cannot value sight too much. Tell your dear mother¹¹ how often I wish for her to stroll about the lanes & cottage grounds with me. You will find "Uncle Nattie"¹² occupying Johns¹³ wing, how snug it will be for the old christian & the ladies mutually [p. 3] that he is here for the winter. it was arranged ere my return. Willie Hill¹⁴ too is to board with his Aunts as he did last winter while his mothers cottage will be closed. they will not lose by my absence if I too may go! I shall arrange all for their housekeeping, & now it just occurs to me what a help it would be if Mr Wann¹⁵ when ordering his supply of potatoes¹⁶ from Ireland, would order for me. I should judge the same quantity as for his winters store. They are not to be bought here. One bushl¹⁷ is all I can coax [from] the farmer who supplied us abundantly last winter, to sell me. Doctor Palmer also hopes it may not be too great a liberty for me to ask the same benefit for my Sisters¹⁸ family at Stonington. but I depend upon your discretion, you know I would not infringe delicacy, so withhold [sic] or deliver my request as your judgement dictates. Offer my heartfelt regards aroud [sic] your fire - side.

[p. 4] Whenever you can come you know a cordial & sincere welcome awaits you at the Cottage then we can talk of my dear boys, recent reports of their health & well doing cheer their mother.

Your affectionate friend

A M Whistler

Recd¹⁹ and answered Oct 10th 1857 with the promises to go to Scarsdale on 26th inst.

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk.
3. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY.
4. Ann Maxwell (1784-1867), née Young, wife of Robert Maxwell.
5. AMW lived intermittently at Scarsdale, NY between ca September 1851 and November 1857 in a cottage owned by her friend Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881).
6. AMW had chronic problems with her eyes; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 17 September 1857, #06488.
7. Jane O'Neill Hill (1793-1882), sister of M. G. Hill, second wife of W. S. Popham, and her sister Sarah Stewart Hill (1800-1864).
8. Rev. William W. Olssen (b. 1827), Rector at Scarsdale, NY, and his wife Louisa Olssen (b. 1828); see AMW to James H. Gamble, 28 September and 1 October 1853, #06428.
9. Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer.
10. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
11. Jane Gamble (1790-1864), mother of J. H. Gamble.
12. Nathan ('Uncle Nattie') Levinas (b. 1789); see AMW to James H. Gamble, 4 February 1856, #06471.
13. Probably John, a servant at Scarsdale, NY; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 20 September 1855, #06465.
14. Probably William Hill (1842-1869), son of J. and W. S. Hill. He was the nephew of Margaret G. Hill, and he stayed with her in the winter of 1857; see AMW to JW, 29 January 1857, #06480.
15. Samuel Wann (b. 1820), merchant, brother-in-law of J. H. Gamble.
16. Irish life and economy recovered after the end of the Great Famine (1845-1850). In the early 1840s, a large amount of people were dependant on potatoes as their main food source, and when this was destroyed by a fatal fungus, they died or emigrated in enormous numbers. Food was Ireland's main export, and it seems that despite Famine's disastrous effects, by 1857 the situation was restored. See K. Theodore Hoppen, *Elections, Politics, and Society in Ireland, 1832-1885*, Oxford, 1984, pp. 436-440.
17. Bushel, a unit of capacity in the American Customary and British Imperial systems of measurement; see AMW to JW, 15 October 1851, #06404.
18. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
19. 'Recd ... inst.' written at the top of p. 1, probably by James H. Gamble .

System Number: 06490
Date: 4 November [1857¹]
Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²
Place: Scarsdale
Recipient: James H. Gamble³
Repository: Glasgow University Library
Call Number: Whistler W485
Document Type: ALS⁴

Scarsdale

Wednes. night Nov 4th

It is against my rules for self-restraint to write by night, but time is so limited & I know not what might interfere tomorrow. This morning directly after church I made ready for a long walk with Miss Margaret⁵ (who has just said to me give my love to friend Gamble) and mine share with your Mother & Sister⁶ inseparable with you my dear friend - On my return at noon I found Mrs Aspinwall & her son Dick⁷ at the cottage, they had arrived by mail train & were escorted to the Rectory by Mrs Popham⁸ who left them to Mr & Mrs Olssen⁹, the impression is favorable for this school, but Mrs A is devoting this week to visiting several schools & then will decide. she finds this distance most [p. 2] convenient. May the Lord dispose her heart to a decision He may bless to her boy. here he would be sheltered & Mr Popham¹⁰ would feel his claim upon the attention of his family. dear Mrs Maxwell enjoys the retrospect of last week. you both came dear friends to bring sunshine to our cottage parlor. I shall be glad to hear you found all well on the Island.

And now I will venture to ask you if [it is] in your power to help me secure a firkin of good butter. 50 lbs, not more, of such orange co[lor] as you told me you could procure at 25 cts a pound. I fear to delay till I get to town & then must have taxed you to go with me to buy it. I promise to be in Sidney Place¹¹ thursday 13th by the blessing of the Lord, that will be only a week [p. 3] before Thanksgiving & you know how commodities will rise in price by then.

Please let me hear if not in your power to attend to this Commission for me. you know I would not interfere with business. I was so disappointed at hearing from Pomfret my order there was after all that dairy had been engaged, & too late for other dairies! I wish so earnestly to set my house in order & supply it for the winter ere Miss Sarah¹² comes to take her turn in its management. We have not heard from her, no doubt she is enjoying every hour among the charms of High Cliff¹³. Miss M will join me in Brooklyn, but not go with me. she is to be guest at Mrs Cammanns¹⁴. Goodnight dear friend. I am doing as I'd be done by, tho I always regret taxing the attention of gentlemen.

Ever your attached friend

A M Whistler

[p. 4] If good butter is even 26 or 7 cents - I'll send you a check immediately you can inform me the amount dear Mr Gamble. You have been a helper to me so often words cannot express my value of your friendship.

Your obliged & grateful

A M Whistler.

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to the *Perpetual Calendar Whitaker's Almanac*.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk; see AMW to JW, 15 December 1856, #06477.
4. [embossed stamp:] PARIS PAPER
5. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY.
6. Jane Gamble (1790-1864), mother of J. H. Gamble, and her daughter Jane Wann (1822-1875), née Gamble, wife of S. Wann.
7. Margaret Aspinwall (d. 1881), née Maxwell, wife of J. S. Aspinwall, and her son Richard ('Dick') Aspinwall.
8. Jane O'Neill Hill (1793-1882), sister of M. G. Hill, second wife of W. S. Popham.
9. Rev. William W. Olssen (b. 1827), Rector at Scarsdale, NY, and his wife Louisa Olssen (b. 1828).
10. William Sherbrooke Popham (1793-1885), merchant.
11. 8 Sidney Place, New York was the home address of Ida Bayard Whistler, née King (d. 1863), JW's sister-in-law; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 9 November 1857, #06491.
12. Sarah Stewart Hill (1800-1864), sister of M. G. Hill.
13. Probably Palisades Ridge, a flat-topped, 150-foot high cliff and siderock formation on the west shore of Piermont Marsh, Hudson River, NY; see AMW to James H. Gamble, #06491.
14. Probably Catherine Cammann (b. 1810), wife of Dr G. P. Cammann.

System Number: 06491
Date: 9 November [1857¹]
Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²
Place: Scarsdale
Recipient: James H. Gamble³
Repository: Glasgow University Library
Call Number: Whistler W486
Document Type: ALS⁴

Scarsdale

Monday eve Nov 9th

Dear Mr Gamble

The tub of butter⁵ was put in our cellar this morning & then came your kind note. I cannot help feeling very much obliged by your attending to it so pleasantly. And now enclose a Check of Bank of New York for the amount of bill you so kindly settled for me. \$12.42 cts.

How grateful is my heart to your dear Sister⁶ too for her offer to aid me in the making of my Willies⁷ shirts. thank her for me & say I shall not resist her offer. I heard from my Sister⁸ today that she would meet me at 8 Sidney Place⁹ by the blessing of the Lord thursday 13th. she does not say to spend her few days with me, but you will run over perhaps, or we shall hear [p. 2] from each other & if my Sister must leave me next week, I shall wish not to delay going to make my too short visit to yours. Willie & I yearn to be together & my relatives in Charleston¹⁰ write me that my room is ready & they urge me to hasten on.

Mrs Tho Winans¹¹ writes me she is to be at the Metropolitan¹² on thursday, to spend a week & expects to see me often there. she invites me to visit Baltimore soon as I can. Our friends all remember you very affectionately & unite with me in love to you Miss Sarah¹³ has returned from her visit this evening, has been for a fortnight in a paradise on the Hudson! I have been hard at work all the morning arranging all for my succession in housekeeping &c[.] this afternoon I walked to bid adieu to poor [p. 3] Anise¹⁴, who is suffering & feeble. I read to her & she talked with me of our meeting in a heavenly home. I must now step in to sit an hour with my pastor & Mrs O¹⁵. tho I am so tired bodily! and am to be too busy to rest the two next days. Adieu with love to your dear Mother¹⁶ & Sister

You know I am unalterably
Your sincere friend

Anna M Whistler.

Oh how refreshing it will be to look on upon the sewing machine working while I rest. thank your Sister! And I thank God for disposing hearts to help me in my need as He ever does. You are always & are one of my true friends. heaven bless & reward you.

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to AMW's trip to Charleston in December of the same year, Sarah Hill's stay in a leisure resort, and the *Perpetual Calendar Whitaker's Almanac*; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 4 November 1857, #06490.

2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.

3. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk; see AMW to JW, 15 December 1856, #06477.
4. [embossed stamp:] PARIS PAPER
5. See AMW to James H. Gamble, 4 November 1857, #06490.
6. Jane Wann (1822-1875), née Gamble, wife of S. Wann.
7. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
8. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
9. 8 Sidney Place, New York was the home address of Ida Bayard Whistler, née King (d. 1863), JW's sister-in-law. Her mother, Isabella King, had recently died; see AMW to JW, 17 September 1857, #06488.
10. Probably Mary Corbett (b. 1804), cousin of AMW; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 13 January 1857, #06379
11. Celeste Winans (1823-1861), née Revillon, wife of Thomas De Kay Winans.
12. Probably the Metropolitan Hotel, 580 Broadway, New York; see *Pictorial and Business Directory, New York*, 1853, p. 181.
13. Sarah Stewart Hill (1800-1864), sister of M. G. Hill. She had been in Palisades Ridge, a flat-topped, 150-foot high cliff and siderock formation on the west shore of Piermont Marsh, Hudson River, NY; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 4 November 1857, #06490.
14. Probably Anna Wood, of Scarsdale, NY.
15. Rev. William W. Olssen (b. 1827), Rector at Scarsdale, NY, and his wife Louisa Olssen (b. 1828).
16. Jane Gamble (1790-1864), mother of J. H. Gamble.

System Number: 06492

Date: 2 December [1857¹]

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Bartram Hall

Recipient: James H. Gamble³

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W487

Document Type: ALS

Bartram Hall⁴

2 December
Wednes evening

Mr dear friends

For in directing a few lines to you dear Mr Gamble, the traits in each to awaken my grateful memories around your fireside unite[.] I had a most comfortable journey last friday, tell dear Mrs Maxwell⁵, our sail across in comfort & pleasantness seems to me a token of the smoothing of my way, as ever ordered by the Lord.

Jackson⁶ went with me to Jersey city & put me in the 11 oclock train & at 3 1/2 I was hailed at Walnut St⁷ landing by one of the Eastwick youths their carriage in waiting, nor was the welcome in this home, less hearty & sincere. I have been reconciling my pen to restraint [p. 2] until I could tell dear Mrs Wann⁸ of the completion of the Shirts. The machine is a very superior one in this house & a nice English girl glad to be hired for a few days by Mrs E⁹ & myself. I do not think she rivals Mrs Allen¹⁰, who I hope may be prospered. My dear Willie¹¹ had quite too serious a sore throat to venture to meet me at the boat, but when he accompanied the young Eastwicks home Saturday eve he soon forgot his swelled tonsils & on Sunday was well & happy. he is much interested in his course of study & gets more & more fond of young Doctor Darrach¹².

[p. 3] I have written Mrs Winans¹³ who invited Willie & his mother to her Christmas tree, of his regret that he is to have only that one day holiday so I shall of course wish to be with him. but I cannot be excused going to Balt, & conclude while this mild weather lasts will be best for my journey. I expect to take fridays train & to be welcomed at Alexandroffsky Villa¹⁴ by five p - m. It will be a duty & comfort to see little Georgie Whistler¹⁵ to report him to his father in my next. My prospect is by the divine blessing on my return friday 11th, to occupy a snug apartment in a christian family nearby Willie, from whence I may write in less haste than tonight. now it is almost eleven oclock. I enclose a note to Jackson in one to Mr King¹⁶ with this. Adieu [p. 4] It is comfort to think we meet each day at the mercy seat,

Your grateful attached friend¹⁷

A M Whistler

Your prayers I crave.

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to the *Perpetual Calendar Whitaker's Almanack*. 2 December was a Wednesday in 1857.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk; see AMW to JW, 15 December 1856, #06477.
4. Bartram Hall, the residence of Andrew McCalla Eastwick (1810-1879), partner in Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in Harrison, Winans and Eastwick in St. Petersburg; see AMW to JW, 15 and 16 January 1852, #06409.
5. Mrs Maxwell, probably the wife of J. S. Maxwelll.
6. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
7. 1304 Walnut Steet, was the home address of John Constable, a friend of AMW; see *McElroy's Philadelphia City Directory*, 1861, p. 182.
8. Jane Wann (1822-1875), née Gamble, wife of S. Wann; she had offered to help AMW in the making of William McNeill Whistler's shirts; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 9 November 1857, #06491.
9. Lydia Anne Eastwick (1810-1890), née James, wife of Andrew M. Eastwick.
10. Mrs Allen, a seamstress.
11. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.

12. James Darrach (1828-1869), physician in Philadelphia; William McNeill Whistler was studying medicine with him.
13. Celeste Winans (1823-1861), née Revillon, wife of Thomas De Kay Winans.
14. 'Alexandroffsky' in Baltimore was the villa owned by Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector; see AMW to JW, 15, 16 and 18 September 1848, #06363.
15. George ('Georgie') Worthen Whistler (b. 1851), JW's nephew. His father, George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother, was in Russia with his new wife; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 13 January 1857, #06479.
16. Ralph King (1801-1878), broker, father-in-law of W. M. Whistler.
17. "friend ... crave" continues in the upper left margin of p. 1.

System Number: 06497

Date: 29 June 1858

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Philadelphia

Recipient: James H. Gamble²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W492

Document Type: ALS

1205 Arch St³ Philadelphia

Tuesday June 29th 58.

My beloved friend

Tho I promised my oculist this morning as he gave the first touch of the blue stone⁴ to the original disordered eye - I would not write, how can I restrain an attempt to express my lamentation that your sweet Sister⁵ should have rung in vain for admission at my door! Do not I beg you all, be discouraged, it may not happen again!

I suppose we had all gone from church our first Sunday, to the hospitalities at Mr & Mrs Constables⁶ 1304 Walnut St. At the time I suppose Mr⁷ & Mrs Wann passing thro this city we were immersed in the toils of unpacking! I shall reserve all details, til we can talk it over. it is not to be that we shall meet at Henderson Home⁸ so dear Mrs M⁹ informs me! What a blank we shall all feel there in the absence & unavailing wishes for your mother¹⁰ & her Lord!

[p. 2] If it were not a duty to devote most of my term of absence, to the healing waters, how much I should benefit & enjoy visiting the homes open to me in the vicinity of your city. It seems my part to serve where I fain would rest & be solaced.

Tell dear Mr & Mrs Wann how refreshed I was in their home that sabbath I spent with her mother, & how the eggs I took to Brooklyn were enjoyed at my two last breakfasts there. But I will not write with one eye shut, more than to tell you how I miss Willie¹¹ dear, tho I cannot wish him melting in the city heat as I do[,] he is enjoying intercourse at Hartford¹² this week, left last saturday at 6 in the morning (as I expect to do on the 10th please the Lord! He attended a Commencement¹³ on the 1st after which goes thro Springfield to see Mary¹⁴ en route to

Stonington. No lectures here to attend. Dr J Darrach¹⁵ quite approves [p. 3] his recruiting between now & latter part of Augt when we must return to recommence duty here.

I am encouraged by finding Willie so in earnest, really he talks understandingly & feelingly of a Doctors aim, his knowledge of the eye astonishes me & gives me confidence in his preceptor, who is prescribing for mine[,] he is convinced tho there is local disease, it is so dependent on the state of my system, he is as anxious as I am, to speed me to the mountain air & springs.

Business detains me til next week. I am obliged to remain in town til next Saturday as I cannot sew. I am to have some one in the house to do it for me, or Mr Harrisons¹⁶ carriage would have taken me (with Julia¹⁷) tomorrow to his country seat¹⁸ 30 miles up the Delaware, but I look forward to the rest of the Sabbath there & the escape from the din of Monday. then to return refreshed for doing my part of the house. I was evidently benefited by my visit at Bartram Hall¹⁹ from Saturday to yesterday afternoon. I really enjoyed a little reading in the afternoon, but today suffer & have lost the elasticity I gained.

[p. 4] Dr. Darrach is cautious & mild in his treatment, he says as the left eye is affected by sympathy only, he hopes he need only touch the right. I had thought dear Mr Gamble if you could have a fortnights rest, how glad it would make Willie to meet you in the city & travel to Henderson with you, but Mr Wann is going to England & you will not leave your dear Sister. If you direct here in a few days, I will promise not to write again. If Julia & me are prospered on our voyage to N York Saturday 10th there will be ample time for me to have my trunk put on board Steamer for Stonington, the two lines so close together then to take Julia to Mr Pophams²⁰ office & for me to return to North River Pier without hurry. I look forward to the welcome in my Sisters²¹ home early before breakfast & the sabbath there as my reward. Mrs Aspinwall²² invites me to bring Ida King²³ for as many days as we can linger en route to Richfield so I cannot spend a week at Stonington till my return in Augt [.] Mr King²⁴ is to start thursday for Niagara with his daughter a weeks holiday a rare indulgence to him.

Share my affectionate & grateful remembrance with your revered Mother & sweet Sister. Every day it comforts me that we meet at the Mercy seat & that you put up a petition for me & my boys.

Unchangeably your friend

Anna M Whistler.

I have lost & forgotten Mr J Maxwells²⁵ No & also Mr Wanns business firm. How packing & unpacking disturb order. But I gratefully record the reliefs the Lord has provided me.

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk; see AMW to JW, 15 December 1856, #06477.
3. According to *McElroy's Philadelphia City Directory, 1861*, p. 215, 1205 Arch Street was the home address of Dr James Darrach.
4. Probably a reference to a mercury based medication, similar to the blue pill often used by AMW; see AMW to Margaret Getfield Hill, 15 April 1852, #09559.
5. Jane Wann (1822-1875), née Gamble, wife of S. Wann.
6. John Constable and his wife, AMW's friends; 1304 Walnut Street was his home address; see *McElroy's Philadelphia City Directory, 1861*, p. 182.

7. Samuel Wann (b. 1820), merchant, brother-in-law of J. H. Gamble.
8. 'Henderson Home' in Herkimer County, NY, owned by Harriet Cruger (1790-1872), née Douglas; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 26 March 1857, #06482.
9. Probably Ann Maxwell (1784-1867), née Young, wife of Robert Maxwell.
10. Jane Gamble (1790-1864), mother of J. H. Gamble.
11. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother; he was studying medicine with Dr James Darrach.
12. William McNeill Whistler attended the Trinity College, Hartford, CT.
13. Graduation ceremony.
14. Probably Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant; see AMW to JW, 7 May 1858, #06496.
15. James Darrach (1828-1869), physician in Philadelphia.
16. Joseph Harrison (1810-1874), partner in the firm of Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in the firm of Harrison, Winans and Eastwick.
17. Julia, probably a relation of James Darrach.
18. Riversdale, Joseph Harrison's summer residence on the banks of Delaware River (see #06506).
19. Bartram Hall, the residence of Andrew McCalla Eastwick (1810-1879), partner in Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in Harrison, Winans and Eastwick in St. Petersburg; see AMW to JW, 15 and 16 January 1852, #06409.
20. William Sherbrooke Popham (1793-1885), merchant.
21. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
22. Margaret Aspinwall (d. 1881), née Maxwell, wife of J. S. Aspinwall.
23. Ida Bayard Whistler, née King (d. 1863), JW's sister-in-law.
24. Ralph King (1801-1878), broker, father-in-law of W. M. Whistler.
25. Probably John S. Maxwell, secretary of the American Legation in St Petersburg in 1842.

System Number: 06498
Date: 1 August 1858
Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹
Place: Richfield Springs
Recipient: JW
Place: [Paris]
Repository: Glasgow University Library
Call Number: Whistler W493
Document Type: ALS

Richfield Springs.

Augt 1st 1858. Sunday

I cannot see to read, but may pen a few thoughts by instinct to my dear absent ones, tho I am aware even this indulgence tries my weak eyes, You my beloved Jemie² have at random spoken to cause me pain for you must know it is not true that "no one cares for Jemie" oh how made my heart ache when Aunt Kate³ read to me Genl Swifts⁴ report from Capt Swifts letter⁵ to him, of his intercourse with the merry Artist in Paris. It sounded so reproachfully [sic]! in contrast to the clinging affection of his sons to their Parents. All were kind to me at the Corner house⁶ & Willie⁷ there to welcome my coming[.] I left [him] enjoying his holiday. he expected Jacks⁸ to join him for a week this month, & he will spend a week at Gdma C - s⁹ with Jacks ere he takes me back to Phila to get in readiness for his course¹⁰ of Lectures first of Sept. I have been here a week[.] the same revered old lady¹¹ who accompanied me last summer hither is with me again. And "the Countess" entrusted to my care. If you could see how pretty your Cousin Ida¹² is, "her love to Jemie" might be [p. 2] indeed a pleasant message. tomorrow will be her birthday 19. she is so exquisitely proportioned & has such freshness she seems only 16. I am glad there are nice intellectual young people at our lodgings to walk with them to the Lake where they row & take the breezes, for my elasticity is not as it was, tho I gratefully realize benefit from the weeks bathing & drinking the waters, my eyes are in a measure better. I expect to remain here til the 18th then hope to spend a few days in Albany. Cousin Eliza Van Vechten¹³ always enjoys a talk about Debo¹⁴ & Jemie & wishes Willie with me, her children¹⁵ & Aunt Anna¹⁶ very cozy together. Then I must divide a week between Scarsdale & Staten Island¹⁷, I shall report to Sis from Julias¹⁸. Oh I wish you could see the Portrait there of our dear Eliza Flagg¹⁹, painted from memory & a daguerotype²⁰ by the Revd. Jared Flagg²¹, once the Artist. It portrays Eliza in the loveliness of her full bloom. Jemie she loved you tenderly, do you not wish to meet her again? are you in the straight path she trod. Have you the love & faith of a little [p. 3] child she cherished. We have a nice Church here, yesterday I thought of your saying no one cared for you, as I wished you among the 14 who were Confirmed, reflecting I should deserve your reproach if I neglected to urge your [sic] more earnestly than I had deemed wise in Pomfret²² seven years ago! You & I must keep our thread straight or how can we cross the Dark River²³. God has taken you to its brink several times, will He again spare you time for amendment of life.

Oh how I yearn over you & Willie. my only ambition is that you may honor & serve the Lord. Keeping Innocency [sic] is so secure of happiness. But I must not omit a kind offer of Mrs Maxwell to give you a note of introduction to an especial favorite of his among the distinguished Artists in Paris now[.] the dear old lady read me a letter from her friend Mrs Faniani²⁴ recd a few day since here. I hope it may lead to much enjoyment to you in visits to the Studio & home of F²⁵. You may recollect him if you went to his Studio in N York as Willie did while little Georgie Whistlers portrait & his Mothers²⁶ were in progress. Now do not neglect delivering the letter

from [p. 4] Mrs Maxwell, leave your card if he is not in, & let me hear of intercourse between you. Jemie dear shall you not spend next winter in Italy²⁷? Three years already gone! alas how can you loiter so! Ames²⁸ the Artist at Mr Harrisons²⁹ says while you have a Mother, do your best to return to her. Have pity on me & write me soon to cheer your devoted & most faithful & fond

A M W

How difficult to realize you 24 Willie 22. you seem to me yet dear boys. but it is time you let me lean on you. I trust I may have comfort with Willie. Oh that you too were to be with us!

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. JW.
3. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
4. General Joseph Gardner Swift (1783-1865), first graduate of USMA, West Point, NY, chief engineer of US Army, JW's father's brother-in-law.
5. Captain William Henry Swift (1800-1879), brother-in-law of JW's father. Letter untraced.
6. The house owned by Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), husband of Kate Palmer, built in 1787, situated in the corner of Main and Wall Streets at Stonington, CT.
7. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
8. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
9. Maria Margareta Cammann ('Grandma C') (1774-1862), mother-in-law of William Gibbs McNeill.
10. William McNeill Whistler was about to begin two years of medical study at Pennsylvania Medical School, Philadelphia. He graduated in 1860.
11. Mrs Maxwell, probably the wife of J. S. Maxwelll. AMW had previously visited the Richfield Springs in July 1857, see #06485, #06486.
12. Ida Bayard Whistler, née King (d. 1863), JW's sister-in-law. JW called her also 'countess' (see #06487).
13. Eliza Van Vechten (b. ca 1824), née Hamilton, AMW's cousin.
14. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
15. By 1857 Eliza Van Vechten had given birth to five children, Hamilton (b. 1844), Cornelia (b. 1847), Ann ('Annie') (b. 1852), Abraham (b. 1854) and Estelle (b. 1856). It seems that only three survived; see AMW to JW, 17 August and 16 September 1857, #06487.
16. Probably Catherine Ann Anderson (b. 1814), née Hamiton, AMW's cousin.
17. AMW lived intermittently at Scarsdale, NY between ca September 1851 and November 1857 in a cottage owned by her friends Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881) and Sarah Stewart Hill (1800-1864). Jane Gamble (1790-1864), mother of J. H. Gamble, her daughter Jane Wann (1822-1875), née Gamble, and Samuel Wann (b. 1820), merchant resided at Staten Island, NY.
18. Probably Julia Catherine Rodewald (1825-1897), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of A. Rodewald.

19. Eliza Flagg (1830-1855), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of Rev. E. O. Flagg. The portrait is untraced.
20. Daguerreotype, untraced; see AMW to Joseph Harrison, 11 June 1849, #07627.
21. Jared Bradley Flagg (1820-1899), younger brother of G. W. and H. C. Flagg, all painters, of New Haven, CT; he was ordained Episcopalian priest in 1855 and incumbent in Brooklyn, NY, until 1863, taking up painting again in New Haven and New York City.
22. The town in Connecticut where JW lived with his mother and brother from 1850-52.
23. 'Dark River,' a symbol of death, and possibly a reference to Edward Monro, *The Dark River, An Allegory*, London, 1847, 2nd ed; see AMW to JW, 8 and 9 January 1849, #06381.
24. This could be a misspelling (or perhaps a phonetic spelling) of Fagnani and thus a reference to the wife of the artist Giuseppe Fagnani (1819-1873), portrait and figure painter, sculptor. Fagnani worked in New York City from 1852-57 and in Europe until 1865. He worked in Paris from 1842-44 and may also have been there in 1858. Fagnani painted the portraits of Courtland ('uncle Court') Palmer, Sr (1800-1874), merchant, brother of Dr G. E. Palmer, and his wife Mary Ann Palmer (b. 1813); these are now in the Stonington Historical Society, Stonington, CT.
25. Probably G. Fagnani.
26. George ('Georgie') Worthen Whistler (b. 1851), JW's nephew, and his mother Mary Ann Whistler (ca 1826-1852), née Ducatel, JW's sister-in-law. Their portrait has not been located.
27. JW did not go to Italy. However, JW did receive a letter from H. French, American consul at Aix-la-Chapelle in November 1858 urging him to go (#01604).
28. Joseph Alexander Ames (1816-1872), portrait and genre painter. Ames had probably painted portraits of the children of Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector, and his wife Celeste Winans (1823-1861), née Revillon; see AMW to JW, 7 May 1858, #06496.
29. Joseph Harrison (1810-1874), partner in the firm of Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in the firm of Harrison, Winans and Eastwick.

System Number: 06478

Date: [October 1858¹]

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: [Philadelphia³]

Recipient: [James H. Gamble⁴]

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W473

Document Type: ALS⁵

I must scrawl a bit more, trusting to your descyphering [sic] what I cannot read. Willie⁶ & I recd wedding cards for a reception to his friend Joe Eastwicks bridal⁷, & I went to gratify Willie & the Mama Eastwick⁸ & felt happier for it. we were invited from seven til ten, that was so moderate. The Grandma Eastwick⁹ at 83 so bright set me a christian pattern as I am 30 years her junior. Mr & Mrs Winans¹⁰ were there & particularly attentive to me. They came from Balt also to be present at the marriage of Mr Harrisons daughter¹¹ we also were there, but did not remain to breakfast. The splendor of the array, in the furniture, of tapestry, paintings, mirrors &c, by gas

light, soft music preceding the bridal train, the solemn rite so impressively read by the same Rev^d English clergyman who had united the youthful brides parents & christened her, made me feel it a privilege to be present. I shall be glad to introduce you to their gallery of pictures¹² when you can spend a day or two under this small roof. Willie would have liked to have remained as [sic] the numerous circle of his companions, but he doffed his dress suit & attended a lecture at noon.

[p. 2] And now with love all around you & to all our mutual friends, such as Mrs Cruger & dear Mrs Aspinwall¹³ & her home circle,

Think of me as ever your gratefully attached

Anna Whistler.

You have interested mein your bereaved friends in this city.

Notes:

1. Dated with reference to Annie Harrison's wedding on 14 October 1858 (see below); see AMW to JW, 18 November 1858, #06501.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. Bartram Hall in Philadelphia was the residence of the Eastwicks; see AMW to JW, 15 and 16 January 1852, #06409.
4. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk; see AMW to JW, 15 December 1856, #06477.
5. This is a fragment of a letter, with no date or location.
6. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
7. Joseph Harrison ('Hass') Eastwick (1834-1917), son of L. A. and A. M. Eastwick, married Catherine Trimble (b. 1830).
8. Lydia Anne Eastwick (1810-1890), née James, wife of Andrew M. Eastwick.
9. Margaret Eastwick (b. ca 1774), née McCalla, mother of A. M. Eastwick.
10. Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector, and his wife Celeste Winans (1823-1861), née Revillon.
11. Annie Harrison (1839-1915), daughter of S. and J. Harrison, married Lewellyn-Fite Barry (1826-1914) on 14 October 1858; see AMW to JW, 18 November 1858, #06501.
12. Joseph Harrison was a great art collector and active in promoting public interest in art. For fifteen years, from 1854-1870, he was on the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and was chairman of the Fine Arts Committee of the 1864 Great Central Fair in Philadelphia. Benjamin West's (1738-1820), *Christ Rejected* (z.237), and John Vanderlyn's *Ariadne Asleep on the Island on Naxos* (z.238), were his property. See 'Collectors of American Painting, 1813-1913' by M. Backelard, in *American Literature Review*, November - December 1976, pp. 128-132.
13. Harriet Cruger (1790-1872), née Douglas, a friend of AMW, and Margaret Aspinwall (d. 1881), née Maxwell, wife of J. S. Aspinwall.

System Number: 06499
Date: 17 October [1858]¹
Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²
Place: Philadelphia
Recipient: James H. Gamble³
Repository: Glasgow University Library
Call Number: Whistler W494
Document Type: ALS

1205 Arch St.
Sunday P.M. Oct 17th

My Dear Friend

I pray Willie⁴ were as he usually is on Sunday at my side, he would be my eyes to me in devotional reading[.] I attempt to use my pen because alone & unable yet to read, perhaps I was unwise in being on the side of the Eastwicks⁵ in their call to take my dear Willie to their rural home last evening to open the Sabbath, for certainly I wished in listening as I did this morning to a very graphic sketch of the power of religion, sweetening the toils & vexations of Pilgrims drawn from the text of the waters of Marah⁶. I felt the force of the arguments as in my daily experience. Willie could not have but been interested by so eloquent & learned a preacher. But the medical course⁷ of lectures & study keep Willie so confined, country air & among so exemplary companions of his own age, he needs to relax his mind & invigorate his frame. [p. 2] he was sorry at leaving me all alone to be gone two nights! he reads to me always before saying good night. I tell him I am reconciled to the suspension of eye sight that he may thus unite with me in "daily steps towards heaven"⁸ & the searching the Scriptures in connection with that well arranged Church accompaniment. Sometimes I cannot do without Willie's eyes even at our family worship in the Scarsdale book⁹ which I ought to know by heart. I know dear Mr Gamble both you & your pious mother¹⁰ pray for me & my boys, for I think of you both daily when I beseech God to hear & to bless His people who so remember me & mine. My poor Jemie has lately been tenderly affected by the death of Madame [Bergeron¹¹] in Paris. She was as a Sister to him, he spent his Sundays at her house & sometimes went at her entreaty with her to Chapel, the English ch. she ministered to him in his illness. Her funeral was in my daughter's¹² home in London, as her request was to be buried in her native land. He needs your earnest prayer, & I know you love the thoughtless but affectionate Jemie¹³.

[p. 3] Willie has lately heard from Jackson¹⁴ that he has to go to St Louis to engage in an enterprise there even without a parting embrace! Will sadly says such is the course of this world! he is learning, he read your letter with lively interest & we rejoice you & your dear sister met so many relatives so congenial, how religious elevation enhances the joy of intercourse in friendly or family meetings. I always feel that lack when so kindly welcomed where every other desire is so lavishly indulged. I would fain lead these to Jesus but I can only pray the Holy Spirit to do so. Oh what a satisfaction I enjoy when I go to the home of my friends the Perines¹⁵. I thank you dear friends for extending your hospitality to my God Son. Oh if you could but visit his Mother, how she would bless you for it. She was in a glow of gratitude that Harwood¹⁶ could mingle with such true christians as Mrs Maxwell¹⁷, Homeland is like Scarsdale, I mean our part of that church circle. The Church¹⁸ is free, built thro the unwearied efforts of the Perines. When you have a week for holiday oh that it might be about June, & I'll introduce you at Homeland. My blessing to Harwood when you meet him, if you choose that dear Mrs Maxwell share this scrawl to [sic].

[p. 4] My sister¹⁹ in Perthshire mentions on the 27th of Sept her Cousin Anne Clunie²⁰ at Berwick. if you write to this favorite of ours, as you must wish to[,] of your meeting her brother in Canada, do send my love. I am expecting my Sister²¹ from Stonington next tuesday. Dr Palmer²² brings her, but he can stay only a day. I had hoped my servant Mary²³ would come with my sister, but it seems uncertain whether she can this year. We have the same faithful Spinster who came in July to take care of the house, she is valuable, but I am the active leader to whom when she comes, respectfully attending to all my directions. I do all my house keeping errands, I am sure you would be glad to see Willie with a large market basket on his arm before seven o'clock on market days going with me. Usually I take your mother's Richfield basket & another as ladylike & go by myself. But now you will like to hear of the Hills²⁴ [on] 16th St. It is a short run after tea for Willie & me. We saw both the Mrs Hills & their Wills & their Robie & Miss Alithen lately together, the two lads are in the same store growing finely & in Wisdoms way. Miss A & her brother Will are together on Sunday, he the librarian, she a teacher in a school where they have 500 scholars. She says it is her day of greatest labor in the week. She is very kind & attentive to me, found me a seamstress lately a pious Prot[estant] Irish Elizabeth²⁵. Dr. Darrach[s]²⁶ three daughters come across the St sociably, cheerfully spending an evening in my dark parlour. [... text incomplete]

Notes:

1. Dated from AMW's address, and with reference to the *Perpetual Calendar Whitaker's Almanac*. AMW lived at 1205 Arch St, Philadelphia from ca June 1858 to about the spring of 1860.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk.
4. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
5. The family associated with the firm of Harrison, Winans and Eastwick, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia.
6. 'So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water. And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah.' Exod. 15.22-23.
7. William McNeill Whistler attended the Pennsylvania Medical School, Philadelphia between 1858 and 1860, the year of his graduation.
8. Probably a later edition of A. H. Dyke Acland's, *Daily Steps towards Heaven; or, Practical Thoughts on the Gospel History*, London, 1852, fourth edition.
9. This probably relates to the period between ca September 1851 and November 1857 during which AMW lived intermittently at Scarsdale, NY in a cottage owned by her friends Margaret Getfied and Sarah Stewart Hill.
10. Jane Gamble (1790-1864), mother of J. H. Gamble.
11. Emma Bergeron (d. 1858), née Haden, sister of F. S. Haden.
12. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
13. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.

14. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
15. The family of David Maulden Perine, Sr (1796-1882), merchant; he was the owner of a country estate called Homeland in North Baltimore.
16. Thomas Harwood Perine (1830-1861), godson of AMW.
17. Probably Ann Maxwell (1784-1867), née Young, wife of Robert Maxwell.
18. On 10 September 1856, as a site for the building of the Episcopal 'Church of the Redeemer,' David Maulden Perine gave about one and one-half acres of land on the east side of the Charles street near Melrose avenue, and presented the stone for its erection from a quarry on Homeland at the southwest corner of Charles Street and Belvedere Avenues. The church was erected in 1858, and the parsonage was completed in 1864. About 1855 he bought and remodelled a frame dwelling house on the west side of Bellona Avenue, adjoining Homeland, to loan to the 'Church of the Redeemer' as a temporary parsonage until they could acquire one. See Mathew Page Andrews, *Tercentenary History of Maryland*, Chicago, 1925, vol. 4, p. 68.
19. Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), JW's aunt.
20. Anne Clunie (b. 1793), a Scottish cousin of AMW, and her brother.
21. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
22. Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer. Married Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt in 1840.
23. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
24. Jane Hill (1802-1872), née Clarkson, wife of W. S. Hill, and her son William Hill (1842-1869). Susan Hill (1806-1872), née Clarkson, wife of Robert Carmer Hill, and her children William Hill, librarian, Robert C. Hill (b. ca 1840), and Alithen Carmer Hill (1832-1891), teacher.
25. Elizabeth, a seamstress.
26. James Darrach (1828-1869), physician in Philadelphia.

System Number: 06500
Date: 11 November [1858¹]
Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²
Place: Philadelphia
Recipient: James H. Gamble³
Repository: Glasgow University Library
Call Number: Whistler W495
Document Type: ALS⁴

1205 Arch St

Nov 11th

My dear friend

You never defer a kindness, for as the follower of our Divine Master you delight in doing good. Thanks for your note & the excellent butter which came so promptly. I wished to have offered more directly than thro Mr King⁵, but my dear Sister⁶ was just on the start & I had to answer a business letter to him so merely requested him to hand you the amount of \$14.14 you had advanced for the butter. this I knew would satisfy you that it had come safely. We opened the fruit yesterday, its quality is first rate. I have not offered to share it with Mrs Hill⁷ as she no doubt has her regular supply & I doubt not its keeping well. [p. 2] The Mary⁸ I have was a farmers [sic] daughter in the north of Ireland & is very careful. You will be glad to have helped me to economize. I have for a fortnight been paying 40cts a lb for butter in market, some dairies get 50cts. Willie⁹ gets up at once when I ask him shall I or will he go to market. Indeed dear Mr Gamble your prayers are being answered. I am sure your dear Mother¹⁰ does not forget me & my boys when I always think of your home circle. Willie is my chaplain, how we miss his Aunt Kate! We three went to Communion at St Marks last Sunday morning, we sat in the pew of Mrs Reed¹¹ the widow of Proff [sic] Wm R. who was among the victims in the steamer Arctic¹². My sister & herself became friends, during her Summer sojourn in Stonington, when her brother¹³ [p. 3] was pastor there. A letter from the Cottage gladdens me that Mr Olssens¹⁴ school is being increased. Dear Mrs Maxwell¹⁵ will be glad that Stephen Holbrook¹⁶ is to be placed there & the widow ladys son who was to have enquired of Mrs Aspinwall¹⁷ her opinion of the school last Novr. Will you at your next call 88 East 18th offer my love. I know how it must cheer our revered Mrs Maxwell to see you & hear you! oh how I should enjoy a visit there! & from you together here! I am feeling stronger these few days but find I must be very moderate in exercise, therefore I have not made a search for the ST P Journal¹⁸, it shall go to you dear friends for I know you'll not criticize what has not never been revised & corrected. Dont be sorry at putting me to trouble &c[.] I shall not hurry. The truth is I have put off unpacking several trunks & by degrees I ought to restore order. My eyes are decidedly better. Dr James Darrach¹⁹ has my utmost confidence & being under the [p. 4] same roof. I am daily under his care. It is a great advantage to Willie too. I can read my friends letters now. tho I do not waste eye sight in reading mine to them. Love to you all.

Unalterably & faithfully your friend

A M Whistler

Notes:

1. Dated from AMW's address, and with reference to the *Perpetual Calendar Whitaker's Almanac*. AMW lived at 1205 Arch Street, Philadelphia from ca June 1858 to about the spring of 1860.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk.
4. [embossed stamp:] PARIS
5. Ralph King (1801-1878), broker, father-in-law of W. M. Whistler.
6. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
7. Probably Susan Hill (1806-1872), née Clarkson, wife of Robert Carmer Hill, or her sister Jane Hill (1802-1872), née Clarkson, wife of William Stewart Hill of Scarsdale.
8. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
9. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
10. Jane Gamble (1790-1864), mother of J. H. Gamble.
11. Elizabeth White Reed, née Bronson, was the wife of Henry Hope Reed (1808-1854), lawyer, and Professor of Rhetoric and English Literature at the University of Pennsylvania. AMW made a mistake by referring to her as the wife of her brother-in-law William Bradford Reed (1806-1876), lawyer, diplomat and author, who edited the lectures of his brother (Henry Hope); see AMW to Deborah Delano Haden, 10 December 1855, #06470.
12. Steamer *Arctic* (1850), Collins Line (2,856 tons.); see AMW to JW, 3 March 1852, #06412.
13. Rev. Bronson, brother of E. W. Reed.
14. Rev. William W. Olssen (b. 1827), Rector at Scarsdale, NY.
15. Ann Maxwell (1784-1867), née Young, wife of Robert Maxwell.
16. Stephen Holbrook; unidentified.
17. Margaret Aspinwall (d. 1881), née Maxwell, wife of J. S. Aspinwall; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 4 November 1857, #06490.
18. The journal written by AMW in St Petersburg between 1842 and 1848 (#06348, #06349, #6350, #06351, #12743).
19. James Darrach (1828-1869), physician in Philadelphia. Mentor to William McNeill Whistler; see AMW to JW, 13 - 15 July 1857, #06485.

System Number: 06501
Date: 18 November 1858
Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹
Place: Philadelphia
Recipient: JW
Repository: Glasgow University Library
Call Number: Whistler W496
Document Type: ALS²

1205 Arch St. Phila

Nov 18th 1858

For Jemie³

It seems to your mother a long time since she wrote her first born! But as you dearest Jemie indulge in only an annual expression of filial tenderness, perhaps you do not feel her silence as her Uncle Swift⁴[,] "no one cares what I do" painfully echoes as if mocking of daily, hourly yearning over you. Since the return of that kind relative to Boston he has written me of the intercourse which was mutually interesting to you & his party during their sojourn in Paris. They have always testified a peculiar fondness for you, tho it does not blind them to your defects. Capt Swift was disappointed in you having nothing to shew him of your work. he tries to comfort me by adding he believes you free from vicious pursuits or inclinations. Tho Winans⁵ in Balt, George⁶ at St P⁷, a loving circle in your native land, besides dear Sis & Seymour⁸ share the anxiety of your fond Mother, that you should redeem the time from the waste of misapplied talent. How can you think Jemie it is a matter of indifference to me what you do, or what you neglect to do!

[p. 2] One of the most attractive extracts of foreign news in our last week's Church Journal⁹ was of the American Episcopal Chapel in Paris, and that Bishop Davis¹⁰, who left South Carolina for his health last spring, had held a confirmation there! Oh how the wish that you had been one among the number enrolled! Why not dear Jemie? surely you must sometime reflect that God spared you from death last winter to give you time to prepare for it. Since then He has taken one who would probably have tried to persuade you no longer to delay going into the Ark of Safety. dear Mrs Bergeron¹¹, I love her memory & how much more must you! to whom she was as a Sister. I often feel now that our own precious Willie¹² has renewed his early vows to God at the communion in the Church, if Jemie had only decided to use the means he might have been [restrained?], and when he became a man, his vows would have released him from the silken fetters of folly. Willie's conscience talks to him now so earnestly his remorse is reproaching him constantly. This no doubt is safe, he is spurred on to redeem his time. Dr J Darrach¹³ tells me how encouraged he is that Willie begins now to think for himself & to apply his own mental endowments. the dear fellow is so considerate for me now he is eyes to me & feet, however tired he may feel from the yesterdays race of six lectures, taking notes at them; then the dissecting room after tea till ten oclock. I have only to say Willie I must go to market if you are too tired! he springs out of bed & soon is off basket on his arm, & is so fearful of wasting money he is really more easily satisfied that I should be for him. he is my chaplain in our morning family prayers & [p. 3] comes to my room (adjoining his) after his chat with Dr J D on his return from the Dissecting room, regularly to read the Bible to me. I persuaded him yesterday afternoon to accept Charlie Eastwick's¹⁴ invite to spend Thanksgiving at Bartram Hall¹⁵, he deplored leaving me alone, but I said truthfully I should enjoy his being in the country among youthful companions in the country more than even having him all day with me, I said too I should write

to you & to Sis, so his love was left to be enclosed. The weather is bright & clear, we have had jack frost a few days since, then a flurry of snow which cleared off into "just cold enough to be pleasant." Joe Eastwick¹⁶ has a nice Kate¹⁷ for a wife to be at Bartram till the spring when they talk of going to housekeeping. Magie & Marian¹⁸ & [sic] pretty & talented girls, at boarding school, conveniently distanced for visiting their home. At Joes wedding & Annie Harrison¹⁹ too we saw them there. Bartram is so much brighter when they are at hand that I urged Willie to join them[.] I met Alicia Harrison²⁰ at Church this morning in their pew she is not a very attentive God daughter to me! her little brother²¹ whispered as we went out the door "Mama has come from Balt & brought Annie to make a visit home, Mr Barry²² is coming friday." Henry²³ is an oddity! didn't you find him so in Paris? I seldom meet any of the family, the distance is too far for me to walk to Ritten house Square often & they have such a rich, fashionable circle now of course they do not invite me. Dr J D picked up a note directed to Willie in our front door entry Wednesday morning, it was not dated, but a general invitation to Willie for every tuesday evening. Henry Harrison's "At Home"[.] his father²⁴ tries all sorts of expedients to give him domestic habits, a billiard room lately added to the Lordly suite of Saloons! [p. 4] The Picture Gallery²⁵ is the most attractive to most guests. When may there be one of your pieces Jemie? Write me soon and let me know what you are about. Willie fears you will not come home til you are 28 years old! how difficult to realize you in your 25th.

This day week will be Conn Thanksgiving, Uncle Palmer²⁶ wishes I could be at the Corner House²⁷, but Willie does not talk of his ann[ual] visit there in Summer. He seems to think he cannot have a holiday til he takes his diploma in 1830 [sic]. Jacks²⁸ writes cheerfully from Missouri, he is industrious & conscientious. Aunt Kate²⁹ enjoyed three weeks with Willie & me, she was much caressed in our circle, the Darrach family she found so congenial. The Harrisons did not call or invite her tho he came by the day after she left to regret Mrs P had not given them time, Annie's wedding &c had so engaged them! You must not suppose that I am hurt by the indifference of the rich in my circle. I have enough to visit who are equal. Dont let me forget Kate's last pleasant tidings. Donald Fairfax³⁰ is a Papa again! A son born on the 6th. His post is Brooklyn Navy Yard. His home with Ginie & baby not far from Gdma Cammanns³¹. Oh Jemie dear if you could give me the hope of your industry aiming at coming home to establish yourself! In the mean time if I could think you as well taken care of as Willie is! I should be less sad under my deprivation of your companionship. Mary Brennan³² asks what news of dear Mr James! She is at her brother James in Springfield for the winter. I have an elderly Mary in her stead as trustworthy as she is slow. But now that fires add to the daily care Dr J D & I have hired a very good colored John³³, to attend to that department & to the door[.] boots &c. Excuse blots made by my pen rolling out of my fingers. My eyes are better but I scarcely use them. Bestow a letter soon on

your widowed mother.

A M W

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. [embossed paper mark:] SUPERFINE / SATIN / CREAM LAID
3. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist. 'For Jemie,' written at right-angles to main text in top left-hand margin.

4. General Joseph Gardner Swift (1783-1865), first graduate of USMA, West Point, NY, chief engineer of US Army, JW's father's brother-in-law. AMW is quoting from an earlier letter; see AMW to JW, 1 August 1858, #06498.
5. Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector.
6. George William Whistler (1822-1869), engineer, JW's half-brother.
7. St Petersburg, where George Washington Whistler worked for the firm of Harrison, Winans and Eastwick from 1856-1869; see AMW to JW, 23 March 1858, #06495.
8. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister, and her husband Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), surgeon and etcher, JW's brother-in-law.
9. Unidentified.
10. Bishop Thomas Frederick Davis (1804-1871), clergyman.
11. Emma Bergeron (d. 1858), née Haden, sister of F. S. Haden.
12. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
13. James Darrach (1828-1869), physician in Philadelphia; also referred to as 'Dr J D,' taught William McNeill Whistler for a year in Philadelphia, beginning in May 1857.
14. Charles James Eastwick (1836-1908), son of A. M. and L. A. Eastwick.
15. Bartram Hall was the residence of Andrew McCalla Eastwick (1810-1879), partner in Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in Harrison, Winans and Eastwick in St. Petersburg; see AMW to JW, 15 and 16 January 1852, #06409.
16. Joseph Harrison ('Hass') Eastwick (1834-1917), son of L. A. and A. M. Eastwick.
17. Catherine ('Kate') Eastwick (m. 1858), née Trimble, wife of Joseph H. Eastwick.
18. Margaret Eastwick (1840-1862), and Maria James Eastwick (1842-1926), daughters of A. M. and L. A. Eastwick.
19. Maria James Eastwick (1842-1926), daughter of L. A. and A. M. Eastwick.
20. Annie Harrison (1839-1915), daughter of S. and J. Harrison.
21. Alicia McNeill Harrison (b. 1845), daughter of S. and J. Harrison.
22. Probably Theodore Leland Harrison (b. 1849), son of S. and J. Harrison.
23. Lewellyn-Fite Barry (1826-1914), husband of Annie Harrison.
24. William Henry Harrison (b. 1837), son of S. and J. Harrison.
25. Joseph Harrison (1810-1874), partner in the firm of Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in the firm of Harrison, Winans and Eastwick
26. Joseph Harrison was a great art collector and active in promoting public interest in art; see AMW to James H. Gamble, October 1858, #06478.
27. Dr George E. Palmer (1803-1868), physician, husband of C. J. Palmer.
28. The house owned by Dr George E. Palmer, built in 1787, situated in the corner of Main and Wall Streets at Stonington, CT.
29. Patrick T. Jackson ('Jacks') McNeill (1835-1898), accountant, JW's cousin.
30. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.

31. Donald McNeill Fairfax (1821-1894), naval officer, JW's cousin. On 6 October 1858, Donald's wife, Virginia Carry ('Ginnie') Fairfax, née Rayland, gave birth to William McNeill Fairfax.

32. Maria Margareta Cammann ('Grandma C') (1774-1862), mother-in-law of William Gibbs McNeill.

33. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant, and her brother James Brennan.

34. John, servant at Philadelphia.

System Number: 06502

Date: 5 December [1858¹]

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Philadelphia

Recipient: James H. Gamble³

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W497

Document Type: ALS

1205 Arch St

friday morning Dec 5th

My dear friend

By Adams Express⁴ today is sent my first St P journal⁵, hoping it may not be too late for our beloved & revered Mrs Maxwells⁶ visit as I know you will read to her with real Scotch expression the journal of my departed Sister Eliza⁷ whom she knew personally as a wee bit girlie. I have been waiting to send this in hopes of my other St P J turning up, thinking to kill two birds with one stone. For I put off bustle & fatigue now. I hope the package may be delivered at your country house tomorrow safely. I ventured to slip in a book to hand in at the office of Braggiotti & Duclos⁸ near yours, for my Cousin⁹ at Pt Richmond. Yesterday having heard of letters being advertised for Mrs Whistler, Willie¹⁰ went to the General P O. I was so glad one proved from our dear Mrs Maxwell, as I had been thinking sadly of her inability to write thro pain of rheumatism. Her last date in it was 24th Nov. She had recovered [p. 2] & hoped soon to spend some days with my dear friends¹¹ & hers at Vanderbilt, S. I. I shall write her when less hurried than today. My love to Mrs M & all your fireside circle. Willie would unite his with mine, as we are united in all that is essential thanks be to God. but he is as usual at the University, his improvement in every way all speaking of, his Preceptor¹² especially is encouraged & his mother more gratefully than any interested in him. On Saturday I was so delighted to get a letter from Jemie¹³ dated Sloane St¹⁴ Nov 14th where he says he expects to be all winter. His sister & brother¹⁵ write me they are exerting all their energies to make him prefer London for works, to Paris. Will you ask dear Mrs Maxwell to write our Nyach [sic] Mrs M¹⁶ of the desire Deborah expresses that I shall interest our friends to become subscribers to a set of etching views¹⁷ of France & Germany, Jemies first complete works of the kind! twelve single sheets (Mr Haden who has superior Artistic judgement & taste thinks them of rare beauty) [p. 3] at two guineas a set, to be bounded as a drawing room Album or framed as separate pictures, as subscribers may prefer. You must know the dear fellow during a pedestrian tour¹⁸ thro parts of France & Germany this Autumn was inspired by the beauty of nature, to sketch, then on his

return to Paris to impress on copper plates the etchings¹⁹ (Mr Haden happened to go to Paris, sought Jemie after he had attended to whatever took him there, was surprised at the beauty of his work, pained too to see him not taking care of his health & coaxed him to consenting into spend the winter in their home & realizing a competency from sale of his work. You may imagine my trembling anxiety. my earnest prayers that God may bless the endeavors of my pious daughter & her good husband, to settle Jemie's versatile genius at this crisis. Mr Haden warrants him 25 subscribers at two guineas each in London & depends upon my interesting 25 in Jemie's native land to subscribe. Debo urges me to circulate this project [p. 4] among 'old & new friends.' I have written several & think John S Maxwell²⁰ might like to encourage the son of his friend Major Whistler²¹ if our Mrs M will write his mother of it. What can be done must be promptly communicated by me to Sloane St. Jemie writes enthusiastically of his expectations too from the exhibition in Paris²². But his dear fond Sister [writes] calmly, that to succeed he must obtain 50 subscribers. Mr Haden will forward safely to subscribers everywhere. In my haste to let you know I have sent the St P Journal, I must close this begging you not to criticize. My health is better & my eyes consequently stronger. Praise the Lord & bless His holy name for all His tender mercies towards the widow & the fatherless. My love to your revered Mother & sweet Sister²³. Respects to Mr Wann²⁴.

Always affectionately
your friend

A M W

The butter is excellent!

Notes:

1. '1858' inscribed at beginning of letter at a later date, possibly by another hand. This date is confirmed by reference to the publication of JW's etchings (see below).
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk.
4. Express company originated by Alvin Adams of Norwich in 1840, and by William F. Harnden (1812-1845), a conductor on the Boston and Worcester Railroad in 1839. Adams and Harnden consolidated and formed the Adams Express Company in 1854. See Workers of the Federal Writer's Project of the Works Progress Administration for the State of Connecticut, *Connecticut*, 1938, p. 274.
5. The journal written by AMW in St Petersburg between 1843 and 1848, now in *James McNeill Whistler Papers*, New York Public Library.
6. Ann Maxwell (1784-1867), née Young, wife of Robert Maxwell.
7. Eliza Isabella Winstanley (1788-1857), née McNeill, JW's aunt, his mother's half-sister.
8. There was no such partnership listed in the *New York City Directory for 1858*. In a later edition the names Braggiotti and Duclos were listed as follows: George M. Braggiotti, merchant, 60 Beaver, h. 80 East 29th Street, and Polydore Duclos, merchant, 41st Street; see *New York City Directory for 1861*, p. 99 and p. 101.
9. Probably Mary Corbett (b. 1804), cousin of AMW; she must have been staying at her daughter's Elizabeth Duclos, née Corbett.

10. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother; he was studying medicine at the Pennsylvania Medical School, Philadelphia, from which he graduated in 1860.
11. The family of James H. Gamble.
12. James Darrach (1828-1869), physician in Philadelphia; William McNeill Whistler studied with him (see #06485).
13. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
14. The London home of D. D. and F. S. Haden (see below).
15. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister and Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), surgeon and etcher, JW's brother-in-law.
16. Probably Mrs Maxwell, probably the wife of J. S. Maxwell.
17. *Twelve Etchings from Nature*, 1858 (the 'French Set,' K.9-11, 13-17, 19, 21, 22, 24). The set was proofed by Auguste Delâtre (1822-1907), printer, in Paris, and published in London with the help of F. S. Haden to whom the set was dedicated. It was well received in both countries.
18. In the Autumn of 1858 JW went on an etching tour of the Rhineland and Northern France with his friend Ernest Delannoy, art student.
19. JW worked on some plates for the *Twelve Etchings from Nature*, 1858 (the 'French Set', K.9-11, 13-17, 19, 21, 22, 24). He also etched some on his return from drawings made on his trip (see M.229-281).
20. John S. Maxwell, secretary of the American Legation in St Petersburg in 1842.
21. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
22. Probably the *Universal Exhibition*, Paris, 1859; JW exhibited two etchings there from May to August 1859. 'Portrait de femme' (cat. no. 3673), may have been *Mère Gérard* (K.11), *Fumette* (K.13), or *La Rétameuse* (K.14). The other exhibit (cat. no. 3674) was *La Marchande de Moutarde* (K.22a).
23. Jane Gamble (1790-1864), mother of J. H. Gamble and Jane Wann (1822-1875), née Gamble, wife of S. Wann.
24. Samuel Wann (b. 1820), merchant, brother-in-law of J. H. Gamble.

System Number: 06503
 Date: 9 [December 1858]¹
 Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²
 Place: Philadelphia
 Recipient: [James H. Gamble³]
 Repository: Glasgow University Library
 Call Number: Whistler W498
 Document Type: ALS

1205 Arch St

Thursday eve 9th Decr 1858

Thanks for yours my dear friend recd today and for the perusal of Cousin A. - C -⁴ which I now return you, I think it is right to circulate thru christian sympathy & therefore send for you to enjoy with your dear Mother & Sister⁵ (hoping Mrs Maxwell⁶ may be at your fireside)[.] a letter from Harwood Perine's⁷ honored Mother⁸ aware of her anxiety for him I had sent her your kind mention of him & that you propose introducing him in your home, that she might know you - of whom she had often heard me speak - I sent her your letter written upon your return from Montreal. As I had a private opp for sending her some books of questions from the infants class at Sunday school which my sister Mrs Palmer⁹ had volunteered me to offer me from theirs. her Pastors wife Mrs Weston¹⁰ at Stonington the author. When you & Mrs Maxwell have read Mrs P - s letter, I must send it to my sister. Mrs Perine is so true a Christian she wishes her fond views to be evangelical. I am glad he¹¹ goes oftener to 18th St. He is consciencious [sic] & pious minded & by intercourse with Xtians not confined to the Episcopal worship, yet honoring it, he will benefit[.] Thanks dear Mr Gamble for your encouragement to Jemie¹², but indeed, I think you have too many urgent claims at this season to devote to him what might save the perishing: does not your honored Mother agree in [p. 2] this view? You whose heart must be so continually touched, for it is open to Charity. I knew you would rejoice at his being at work & under home influences. I write uneasily. My right eye¹³ has daily again the blue stone¹⁴ applied, how sensitive it is! Willie¹⁵ read your letter and unites in love. Heaven bless you dear friends. Remember in your prayers the sons of your widowed friend.

In the truest affection yours

A M W

Notes:

1. 'Decr 1858' inscribed at later date by another hand. This date is confirmed from AMW's address, and with reference to the *Perpetual Calendar Whitaker's Almanac*. AMW lived at 1205 Arch Street, Philadelphia from ca June 1858 to about the spring of 1860.
2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk.
4. Anne Clunie (b. 1793), a Scottish cousin of AMW.
5. Jane Gamble (1790-1864), mother of J. H. Gamble, and her daughter Jane Wann (1822-1875), née Gamble, wife of S. Wann.
6. Mrs Maxwell, probably the wife of J. S. Maxwelll.

7. Thomas Harwood Perine (1830-1861), godson of AMW.
8. Mary Perine (1797-1861), née Glenn, wife of D. M. Perine, Sr.
9. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt; she lived at Stonington, CT.
10. Mary A. Weston, née Sprague, and her husband Daniel C. Weston (b. 1815), pastor of Cavalry Episcopal Church, Stonington, CT. Mary A. Weston wrote the Cavalry Sunday School book. Information from Mary Thacher, Stonington Historical Society, CT.
11. Probably Thomas Harwood Perine.
12. James H. Gamble encouraged the efforts of James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist, and collected his etchings; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 22 November 1868, #06540.
13. AMW suffered from chronic eye problems; see AMW to JW, 17 August and 16 September 1857, #06487.
14. Probably a reference to a mercury based medication, similar to the blue pill often used by AMW; see #06497, #09559.
15. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.

System Number: 06504

Date: 21 December 1858

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Philadelphia

Recipient: James H. Gamble and Jane Gamble²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W499

Document Type: ALS

1205 Arch St

Tuesday 21st Dec 1858

My beloved friends

Soon as I read your welcome report this morning dear Mr Gamble of the circle in your blessed home, Faith, Hope Charity! they seem to me. I went up for one more look in my lumber room to find the half written & never corrected last St P Journal³, which I hope may reach you tomorrow morning as it goes before noon hence by Adams Express⁴. In love and haste, I will add no more, tho dear Mrs M⁵ must not fear to hurt my eyes⁶, they are better this week. The weather & bodily fatigue with distracting anxiety affected my frame [p. 2] my eyes being the sensitive organ just now nearly closed their lids from weakness of the nerves. It is all right we all [sic], as it binds me more lovingly to our Lord. You must all pray for an increase to my faith that I may not sink in the troubled sea "Trust in the Lord & do good"⁷ and such of His words continually sustain my fainting spirit. Heaven bless you all the coming Xmas. Thanks to Mr & Mrs M⁸ of Nyach [sic] & our dear Mrs M from

A M W

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk and his mother.
3. The journal written by AMW in St Petersburg between 1843 and 1848, now in *James McNeill Whistler Papers*, New York Public Library; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 5 December 1858, #06502.
4. Express company; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 5 December 1858, #06502.
5. Ann Maxwell (1784-1867), née Young, wife of Robert Maxwell.
6. AMW suffered from chronic eye problems; see AMW to JW, 17 August and 16 September 1857, #06487.
7. 'Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed,' Ps. 37.3.
8. John S. Maxwell, secretary of the American Legation in St Petersburg in 1842, and his wife; they lived at Nyack, NY; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 5 September 1858, #06502.

System Number: 06505

Date: 30 December 1858

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Philadelphia

Recipient: James H. Gamble²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W500

Document Type: ALS

1205 Arch St.,

Thursday Decr 30th 1858,

My dear friend

In answering a business letter to Mr King³ I enclose my grateful return for your consoling lines which greeted me Xmas morning. All your pious thoughts were echoes of that Comforters [sic] voice sounding ever thro my depression. I asked you to pray for faith for me that I sink not in the rough waters. Physical debility has rendered the daily X [i.e. Cross] fretting, notwithstanding I can ever say Thy will be done. When we meet face to face I will explain what else tries my faith. Pray for me that it fail not. It comforts me to know yourself & Mother⁴ [p. 2] pray for me. Now I have promised my Florida nephew⁵ a sleigh ride en omnibus to 3rd St[.] I must not keep him waiting later in the afternoon. But offered Mrs Eastwick⁶ when she was here just now, asking me where she could get good butter I would refer the question to a friend in N Y. If it will not tax your time & you can get such a tub as you were so attentive in selecting for me, she will be so glad to have it sent Express to her sons⁷ [sic] office in this city, Eastwick Brothers 221 Vine St - Sugar Refinery - for Mrs Eastwick. Bartram Hall⁸.

[p. 3] Dont you think your Sister⁹ looks like Hope the christian? And your Mother is Charity exemplified. Love to both. Happy New Year

Your affectionate friend

A M Whistler

Bill sent to Eastwick Mrs
221 Vine St Sugar Refinery

Jany 11. 1859

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk.
3. Ralph King (1801-1878), broker, father-in-law of W. M. Whistler.
4. Jane Gamble (1790-1864), mother of J. H. Gamble.
5. Probably Charles W. McNeill (b. 1847), JW's cousin; see AMW to Charles W. McNeill, 11, 12 and 14 February 1878, #06563.
6. Lydia Anne Eastwick (1810-1890), née James, married Andrew McColla Eastwick.
7. '221 Vine street Sugar Refinery' was the address of the sugar refiners, Charles James Eastwick (1836-1908), and Joseph Harrison (Hass) Eastwick (1834-1917), sons of Andrew M. and Lydia A. Eastwick; see *McElroy's Philadelphia City Directory for 1861*, Philadelphia.
8. Bartram Hall, the residence of Andrew McColla Eastwick (1810-1879), partner in Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in Harrison, Winans and Eastwick in St. Petersburg; see AMW to JW, 15 and 16 January 1852, #06409.
9. Jane Wann (1822-1875), née Gamble, wife of S. Wann. 'Hope' and 'Charity' were biblical characters; 'And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.' 1 Cor. 13.1.

System Number: 06506

Date: 24/28 [June 1859]¹

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler²

Place: Philadelphia

Recipient: Jane Gamble, Jane and Samuel Wann³

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W501

Document Type: ALS

1205 Arch St.

friday afternoon 24th

My dear friends

Willie⁴ has read me your letter for I cannot read even my own scrawls. You need not my words of sympathy in your sorrow, but I must assure you distressing tho it was to witness, I had a sad satisfaction in your beloved James⁵ coming to me, as he said he felt sure I would not consider anything I could do for him a trouble. We know our Heavenly Father arranges all the alleviatives

for us in our trials & that in all our afflictions He who bore the Cross for us, is afflicted with us. The Worldling is more deranged in His sight than your poor James for his chief anxiety is to win hearts to love the Lord. I was relieved by a message from Miss McHenry⁶, Monday P M to hear of his making no objection to being left at that beautiful place the private Asylum, where I know the system is so mild & judicious. Visitors who go there describe the grounds as most salubrious & lovely, its influences all so soothing. Thank God he is there, his associations will not be as heretofore revolting against an insane hospital.

[p. 2] Tuesday 28th.

On Saturday last was the first I could say (gratefully) I felt better & being able to go out attended to business, yesterday I had a seamstress, but before I leave the city this afternoon to stay til saturday at Mr Harrison's⁷ country seat, I wish to send this off. I trust I may gather strength there to enable me to pay some calls, among them to Miss McHenry, as no doubt she can tell me of your dear James, how continually he is on my mind! As I listened on Sunday morning to one of the best discourses of our talented Pastor Dr Alex Vinton⁸ "Whom having not seen, ye love⁹." I felt it a portraiture of dear Mr Gambles supreme affection for our Lord, & thought had he been in our pew (as he was the Sunday afternoon before) he might have been too much excited. Let us rejoice he is not exposed to the heat & glare of the city. The lawn where he may exercise is so verdant & extensive, with shady places, surely the Lord provides for His people. I shall be thankful to get from the dust of our St every open window admitting it. Riversdale Mr H - s summer residence has sloping ground on the Delaware, the trip by the steamboat is an hour. My Willie takes me by the 6 o'clock boat this evening & the four days I shall stay, he is to come at the same hour every eve & to be thus renovated, in pure air & regaled with fresh fruits from their garden for breakfast & tea. Friday before last Mr Gamble went with my nephew Donald McNeill¹⁰ to market, as a check upon my order for meat, he said so pleasantly. Cannot we be satisfied with the fruits of the earth, do we not pray "Preserve to¹¹ our use the kindly [p. 3] fruits of the earth so that we may in due time enjoy them.["]

I look forward dear friends to seeing you after my visit to Nyach¹², tho I shall not be able to spend many hours with you in my haste to get back to my Willie, who is to have no release from the heat of Phila until he accompanies me in Augt to the Crimea¹³. The alloy to my enjoyment at Stonington¹⁴ will be that he is not there! and I shall think of him exhausted by exposure to the closeness of attendance on poor patients, in their low hovels & in the Infirmary. How often beloved Mrs Gamble have I wished my Willie, as your James, with leisure & willingness to send & in every wish of a Mother to comply. but behold your cup is mixed as mine! All shall work together for eternal release from suffering! For we can say by faith "it is the Lord¹⁵ let Him do what seemeth Him good" I have written my Sister that if the Lord bless my arrangement, I shall go with my nephew Donald to Stonington about the 8th or 9th of July. I shall write our Nyach friends from there & hope it may be agreeable to persuade my Sister to accompany me to Mrs Maxwells¹⁶. I feel so reluctant to separating [sic] from the few family ties. My Dr hopes sea air may benefit me. My direction will be here till the 8th.

Believe me your attached friend

Anna M Whistler

Notes:

1. '1859' was inscribed at a later date, possibly in another hand, at the beginning of the letter. This date is confirmed from references to AMW's travel plans (see below). Also dated with reference to the *Perpetual Calendar Whitaker's Almanac*.

2. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
3. Jane Gamble (1790-1864), mother of J. H. Gamble, her daughter Jane Wann (1822-1875), née Gamble, wife of S. Wann, and her husband Samuel Wann (b. 1820), merchant.
4. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
5. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk, had presumably been committed to a private lunatic asylum.
6. Miss McHenry; unidentified, friend of the Gambles.
7. Joseph Harrison (1810-1874), partner in the firm of Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in the firm of Harrison, Winans and Eastwick; his country seat was 'Riversdale.'
8. Alexander Hamilton Vinton (1807-1881), clergyman.
9. 'Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory,' 1 Pet. 1.8.
10. Donald C. McNeill (1844-1876), JW's cousin; see AMW to Charles W. McNeill, 10/12 October 1877, #06561.
11. 'We beseech thee to hear us good Lord. That it may please thee to give and preserve to our use the kindly fruits of the earth, so as in due time we may enjoy them.' 'The Litany,' *The Book of Common Prayer*, 1559.
12. Mrs Maxwell lived at Nyack, NY (see below); see AMW to James H. Gamble, 5 December 1858, #06502.
13. The 'Crimea' was the country house owned by Thomas De Kay Winans (1820-1878), locomotive engineer and collector; see AMW to JW, 27 April 1857, #06483.
14. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt, lived at Stonington, CT.
15. 'And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It is the Lord: let him do what seemeth him good,' 1 Sam. 3.18
16. Mrs Maxwell, probably the wife of J. S. Maxwelll.

System Number: 06507
Date: 22 November 1859
Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹
Place: Philadelphia
Recipient: James H. Gamble²
Repository: Glasgow University Library
Call Number: Whistler W502
Document Type: ALS

1205 Arch St
Phila,
Nov 22nd 59

My dear Mr Gamble

Since receiving your letter I have been suffering³ so severely, that I dared not answer it though my heart prompted a friendly response. Today I must write to report my having received the tub of butter from N Y per Adams Express⁴ (perhaps in a business way I ought to add I pd Express 75cts - and if you will hand Mr Ralph King⁵ the bill for the firkin⁶ butter by the 1st Decr. he will have money of mine in his hand, not due til then. Tho I am sure he will advance the amt if preferred). I shall not need to open the butter til New Year I hope, no doubt it will be pronounced first rate! My old steady Mary McLaughlin⁷ put down a large jar of golden Oct butter, which we are enjoying now, you will be sorry my own faithfully attached Mary cannot leave Springfield to be with me, before next Spring. She writes me affectionately & our trial is mutual in the separation, but it is duty! So the other Mary⁸ is provided with a quiet home for another winter and I have a nice Protestant Irish Jane⁹ to help her two days every week & John¹⁰ who served us last winter has just returned to us. So harmony prevails. Donald¹¹ is improving [p. 2] at school & at home, he is a comfort & aid to me. Willie¹² is quite well and engrossed in his medical course, he would offer his love with his mine were he aware of my writing you. The Express came after he went to Lecture and I wish to mail this (at our lamp post) before 1 ocl as then the city Postman makes one of his daily rounds.

I was so pleased to receive a beautiful letter dated at your Homeland a few days ago. If our dear Mrs Maxwell¹³ is yet there, will you thank her with my love. I should only transgress her rules were I to write her while my eyes are so weak and painful. My love to your dear Mother and Sister¹⁴. I have twice called upon your friends Mrs & Miss McHenry¹⁵, the last time, they were not at home & I scrawled on my card "all well at Homeland" they seemed so to wish to hear from Mrs Wann¹⁶, they expect a visit from her I believe. When able to write my Jemie¹⁷ I shall be sure to send your greeting of affection to him. In haste as Donie says it is one o'clock

yours as ever in the truest friendship & love

Anna M Whistler

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk.
3. AMW suffered from chronic eye problems; see AMW to JW, 17 August and 16 September 1857, #06487.

4. Express company; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 5 December 1858, #06502.
5. Ralph King (1801-1878), broker, father-in-law of W. M. Whistler and of the firm of R. King & Co, New York. He seems to have taken care of AMW's and JW's financial affairs in America.
6. A small wooden barrel capable of taking about nine gallons.
7. Mary McLaughlin, AMW's servant in Philadelphia.
8. Probably Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
9. Jane, AMW's servant in Philadelphia.
10. John, AMW's servant in Philadelphia.
11. Donald C. McNeill (1844-1876), JW's cousin; see AMW to Charles W. McNeill, 10/12 October 1877, #06561.
12. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother; he was studying medicine at the Pennsylvania Medical School in Philadelphia.
13. Probably Ann Maxwell (1784-1867), née Young, wife of Robert Maxwell.
14. Jane Gamble (1790-1864), mother of J. H. Gamble, and her daughter Jane Wann (1822-1875), née Gamble, wife of S. Wann.
15. Mrs McHenry; unidentified, and her daughter, friends of the Gambles.
16. Jane Wann (1822-1875), née Gamble, wife of S. Wann.
17. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist; he was then in London.

System Number: 06508

Date: 27 March 1860

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: Philadelphia

Recipient: James H. Gamble²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W503

Document Type: ALS

1205 Arch St,
March 27, 1860,

My dear Mr Gamble

Your kind letter was read to me, my eyes³ are improving & it is among my first efforts, to enclose a note for our bereaved & revered Mrs Maxwell⁴, in my greetings to you, Willie⁵ intended calling to tell you of my inability to write, soon after he went to visit Mr King's⁶ family. I dare say ere now he has had a chat with you & may have told you of my prospect of spending the Summer in England⁷, as his well doing [sic] does not depend now on my keeping house for him, but will take him from my home, to reside in the Hospital, as is usual for medical students⁸ soon as they graduate. So now I feel Jemies⁹ [sic] claim, tho I should not have had the resolution to take so distant a voyage but for his promise to return to his native land in Autumn. his dear Sisters¹⁰ [sic] letter at the same time expressing a hope I would visit her again. This seems the set

time, the Dr having urged me all winter to go away from fatigues, so when he last repeated his wish that I should take a voyage, I said [p. 2] I had the night before suddenly thought I should go to England! In which event as N. York would be my port to sail from I hope to see your dear Mother & Sister¹¹ it will be so much more satisfactory to talk over the interval since I was on Staten Island than to write of the prostration of the winter. I know you will judge from such scribbling I ought now to cease. You ask if the butter¹² proved good, yes indeed too good to last till now! it was excellent thro out. I have not been able to make any calls, since in Autumn for a brief space I was in hopes a brief amendment might continue. I went then to call upon Mrs & Miss McHenry¹³. I could not have enjoyed it even if they had returned my two calls upon them. With love to your dear Mother & Sister.

Believe me as ever your faithful friend.

Anna M Whistler

I have been much stronger the last three weeks, my eyes directly shew it, the Doctor calls them the flag of my health. I hope as soon as I get rid of a severe cold, to begin again taking the tonics which benefit my eyes. [p. 3] Old Mary¹⁴ is yet with me & will be til she gets a place, when my own Mary Brenan¹⁵ proposes to come to help me arrange about moving. You may be sure I defer thoughts of bustle, gathering up all the strength in quietness now needful to meet what I shrink from. God disposes hearts to offer to help me. At Bartram Hall¹⁶ I may have room to store all my valuables. My dear Sisters friends¹⁷ at offer to spare me their good Julia¹⁸ from the Cottage if I need her at the moving time. I shall hope to report when I am decidedly to go. I must vacate this house by [the] end of April - But I must rest my eyes now.

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk.
3. AMW suffered from chronic eye problems; see AMW to JW, 17 August and 16 September 1857, #06487.
4. Ann Maxwell (1784-1867), née Young, wife of Robert Maxwell.
5. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
6. Ralph King (1801-1878), broker, father-in-law of W. M. Whistler.
7. AMW left for England on the steamer *Africa* in May 1860.
8. William McNeill Whistler was about to complete his studies at the Pennsylvania Medical School, Philadelphia.
9. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
10. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
11. Jane Gamble (1790-1864), mother of J. H. Gamble, and her daughter Jane Wann (1822-1875), née Gamble, wife of S. Wann.
12. James H. Gamble helped AMW to obtain some supplies of butter; AMW to James H. Gamble, 22 November 1859, #06507.
13. Mrs McHenry; unidentified and Miss McHenry; unidentified, friends of the Gambles.

14. Probably Mary McLaughlin, AMW's servant in Philadelphia; see AMW to James H. Gamble, 22 November 1859, #06507.

15. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.

16. Bartram Hall, the residence of Andrew McCalla Eastwick (1810-1879), partner in Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in Harrison, Winans and Eastwick in St. Petersburg; see AMW to JW, 15 and 16 January 1852, #06409.

17. AMW probably means Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), and her sister Sarah Stewart Hill (1800-1864), of Scarsdale, NY; they owned the cottage in which AMW lived in between ca September 1851 and November 1857.

18. Julia, servant at Scarsdale, NY.

System Number: 06509

Date: 4 May 1860

Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹

Place: New Brighton

Recipient: Deborah Delano Haden²

Repository: Glasgow University Library

Call Number: Whistler W504

Document Type: ALS

New Brighton

friday May 4th 60

My own dear Debo,

While Auntie & Aunt Kate³ are talking with dear Julie R⁴ over her fine healthy infant & little prattling Julie⁵ at her happy mothers knee, I prepare this for tomorrows [sic] steamer, that you may anticipate my arrival by the same steamer I last went to England in, the Africa⁶. Capt Shannon⁷ I am not personally acquainted with but his fame has long been extolled as a Seaman. Adolfe⁸ secured me a berth yesterday to occupy next Wednesday. I arrived last evening at Gdma C - s⁹ as invited to stay there & meet Aunt K & my friend Miss Margaret Hill¹⁰. It was hard to bid adieu to dear Willie¹¹, tho he was well. he is so like your father¹², I know how desolate he will feel to be without a home & tender sympathiser tho only for a few months. He said "if Jim¹³ disappoints my hopes of bringing you back in the Fall Mother I shall think him indeed unkind!["] dear Willie must be devoted to hospital attendance¹⁴[.] I know, he may not even refresh himself by a visit to Brooklyn. he wishes Ida¹⁵ could accompany me to England to benefit her health & she would gladly do so - of course this is not my proposal tho I could not refuse to take her under my wing if her father should be persuaded to consent, he said last eve he could not spare her, much as he might wish to gratify her & he knew it would do her good & that he felt sure mine would be a tender mothers [sic] care of her. Of course, I dare not assume the responsibility of persuading him to yield to Willie's wish for her to go with me. [p. 2] At Grandma C - s I close this dear Debo at sunset. Dear Julie R sends much love to all. She was much pleased with Annie's¹⁶ letter to me. But now I must not be away from dear Grandmama C as Aunt K & I go a trip to Newark tomorrow, time will not admit of my going to Paterson, which I lament as I promised Phil¹⁷ I should. I must write Aunt Susan. I send with this a few lines of notice to Eliza

Boyd¹⁸ at Liverpool hoping Mr B¹⁹ will meet me as before, tho I say to Eliza years have filled her house with branches & as Aunt A²⁰ informed me in her last, John Sandland²¹ as an invalid occupied the guest chamber, of course I should expect to go to a hotel only desiring to be under his escort. Aunt A seemed to dread taxing her landlady & of course I have no wish to go to Preston except to gratify my Sister. Shall wait my reaching LPool ere I write her, as it might only excite uneasiness should she know of my being expected in the Africa. It will not be necessary my darling Debo that you take any preliminary measures, you know I must be a few days in Liverpool if the Boyds seem to expect it & for getting clean clothes & c after the voyage. I do not know anyone personally in the Africa but have always made friends. I heard in Phila from a young friend of an Aunt of hers going, who had already crossed the Atlantic twenty six times! I should not object to her in my Stateroom as I know at this crowded season I must for the first time share it with a stranger, but dear Debo I never anticipate discomfort & I have in this trip to visit you many tokens of the favor of our heavenly Father. So many things done to smooth my way. Mary Brenan's²² [sic] being with me during the breaking up housekeeping was a great relief. I do not think I could have gone thro it without her, then the Eastwicks²³ making room for the furniture to save boxing it saved expense & labor. But if it be the will of [p. 3] God that we mend in health how many talks we shall have of all I leave. Of dear Willie especially! I wish dear Jemie would not delay writing him til my arrival he needs cheering, & we shall be in too great excitement for Jemie to fulfill his promise soon to write if he delays. The weather which has been stormy & cold for a fortnight has cleared off finely. The fruit trees are in bloom. How lovely the verdure of England will be to me in contrast to the sea! I have the remains of a severe cold & cough my eyes suffering from it. So with love to all. adieu[.] Heaven bless you dear Debo, Jemie, Seymour & all yours²⁴ as I pray daily. Oh how grateful to God we shall be if permitted to meet in health in your home, how favored! Then shall we go to the house of prayer to worship Him & renew our vows there. Jemie must never be too late to go there with his & your devoted Mother

Anna M Whistler

[p. 4] If you have Eliza Boyd's address in Liverpool do write her of my having simply directed to Liverpool to the Boyds as I know not their residence or his office.

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. Deborah ('Debo' or 'Sis') Delano Haden (1825-1908), née Whistler, JW's half-sister.
3. Catherine Julia Cammann, JW's aunt; Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
4. Julia Catherine Rodewald (1825-1897), née McNeill, JW's cousin, wife of A. Rodewald.
5. Anna Rodewald (b. 1860), and her sister Julia Rodewald (b. 1857), daughters of J. C. and A. Rodewald.
6. Steamer *Africa* (1850-1868), Cunard Line (2,226 tons.); see AMW to JW, 13 November 1851, #06406.
7. Neil Shannon (1814-1865), sea-captain.
8. Adolphe Rodewald (1818-1869), husband of J. C. McNeill.

9. Maria Margareta Cammann ('Grandma C') (1774-1862), mother-in-law of William Gibbs McNeill.
10. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY.
11. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
12. George Washington Whistler (1800-1849), engineer, JW's father.
13. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
14. William McNeill Whistler had recently qualified as a doctor from the Pennsylvania Medical School, Philadelphia.
15. Ida Bayard Whistler, née King (d. 1863), JW's sister-in-law; she married William McNeill Whistler in November 1860.
16. Annie Harriet Haden (1848-1937), later Mrs Charles Thynne, JW's niece.
17. 'Phil' and Aunt Susan, probably relations of Judge Philemon Dickerson; see AMW to JW, 12-15 October 1855, #06468.
18. Eliza Sandland (b. 1821), wife of Thomas Boyd.
19. Thomas Boyd, merchant, of Liverpool.
20. Alicia Margaret Caroline McNeill (1786-1863), JW's aunt. Also referred to as 'Sister.'
21. John Sandland, a relation of the Sandland family at Liverpool.
22. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
23. The family of Andrew McCalla Eastwick (1810-1879), partner in Eastwick and Harrison, locomotive manufacturers in Philadelphia, and later in Harrison, Winans and Eastwick in St. Petersburg.
24. Deborah Delano Haden's husband Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), surgeon and etcher, JW's brother-in-law and their children Annie Harriet Haden (1848-1937), later Mrs Charles Thynne, Francis Seymour Haden (1850-1918), and Arthur Charles Haden (1852-1910), musician.

System Number: 06510
 Date: 7 May 1860
 Author: Anna Matilda Whistler¹
 Place: New York
 Recipient: James H. Gamble²
 Repository: Glasgow University Library
 Call Number: Whistler W505
 Document Type: ALS³

148 Joralemon St Brooklyn

May 7th 1860

Dear Mr Gamble

It is a great disappointment that a very severe cold has obliged me to keep my bed instead of availing of this fine weather to cross over to Homeland. Tomorrow being my last day for packing, I shall not be able then to make calls of adieu. Having many to write this afternoon, obliged to keep my bed til noon, I must close this with love to your dear Mother & Sister⁴, regretting more than my pen can express not to see them, may I hope to be remembered in your mothers prayers. perhaps you will be on board the Africa⁵ as several other friends promise to see us off.

My dear Willie⁶ is resident Physician in the Howard Hospital⁷ Phila & quite well. I had heard twice from London since their expecting me, Jemie⁸ all impatience to exhibit to me his work. Mary Brennan⁹ visited me to aid me in moving. I felt her to be indispensable. The other Mary¹⁰ now in the nursery of the Revd Mr Wadsworth¹¹ whom you know doubtless as the star in your branch of the church in Phil. in Arch St.

[p. 2] Donald McNeill¹² is under the roof of (my Scarsdale neighbor) Mrs Hill in North 16th¹³ in Phila he could not be more advantageously placed, continuing at school he was confirmed the Sunday before last & loves his Pastor & sunday school. I have so many tokens of the favor of the Lord in the kind overtures of friends to smooth my way, that I think I am in the path of duty & hope the divine blessing upon my visit to my children, Sister & friends. I do not expect to go to Scotland much as I should like to but may. I must try to go to call upon Mrs Maxwell¹⁴ tomorrow as I must also see my Charleston relatives¹⁵ just arrived in N Y, so disappointed not to see all in my circle. Miss Margaret¹⁶ from Scarsdale Cottage awaited my coming here last Thursday & hoped I & my Sister Mrs Palmer¹⁷ would have gone home with her to spend the Sabbath, but I was too unwell for exertions & she remains with me here.

Offer my friendly regards to Mr Wann¹⁸ & believe me always dear Mr Gamble
 your attached friend

Anna M Whistler.

Notes:

1. Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), née McNeill, JW's mother.
2. James H. Gamble (b. 1820), clerk.
3. [embossed paper mark:] QUADRILLE HB

4. Jane Gamble (1790-1864), mother of J. H. Gamble, and her daughter Jane Wann (1822-1875), née Gamble, wife of S. Wann.
5. Steamer *Africa* (1850-1868), Cunard Line (2,226 tons.); see AMW to JW, 13 November 1851, #06406.
6. William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900), physician, JW's brother.
7. 'Howard Hospital and Infirmary of Incurables,' was located at 1812 Lombard Street, Philadelphia; see *McElroy's Philadelphia City Directory for 1861*, Philadelphia, p. 1317.
8. James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) artist.
9. Mary Brennan (b. 1825), AMW's servant.
10. Mary McLaughlin, AMW's servant in Philadelphia.
11. Rev. Wadsworth, clergyman at Philadelphia.
12. Donald C. McNeill (1844-1876), JW's cousin; see AMW to Jane Gamble, Jane and Samuel Wann, 24/28 June 1859, #06506, and AMW to Charles W. McNeill, 10/12 October 1877, #06561.
13. 32 North 16th Street, was the home address of William Hill, librarian, son of Susan Hill (1806-1872), née Clarkson, wife of Robert Carmer Hill; see *McElroy's Philadelphia City Directory for 1861*, Philadelphia, p. 441.
14. Probably Ann Maxwell (1784-1867), née Young, wife of Robert Maxwell.
15. Probably the families of Philip Johnston Porcher, Sr (1806-1871), AMW's cousin, and Mary Corbett (b. 1804), cousin of AMW; see AMW to JW, 15 October 1851, #06404.
16. Margaret Getfield Hill (1802-1881), a friend of AMW, of Scarsdale, NY; she was the owner of the cottage at Scarsdale, NY in which AMW lived in intermittently between ca 1852 and 1857.
17. Catherine ('Kate') Jane Palmer (ca 1812-1877), née McNeill, JW's aunt.
18. Samuel Wann (b. 1820), merchant, brother-in-law of J. H. Gamble.