

Park Hill; 13th December 1842 51m13

My dear Alice
We were, indeed, very agreeably surprised by the receipt of
your kind letter of 1st Nov. which came to hand on the 7th instant, and
with a view to encourage you to write to us more frequently I send back
the very earliest convenient opportunity of acknowledging this instance
of your kind attention. It gives us great pleasure to hear that you
are all in pretty good health and we beg you also, but particularly
the happy pair, to accept our kindest congratulations on the mar-
riage of your brother Alfred; we sincerely wish them a very, very
long lease of matrimonial happiness, that they may "flower
"long in tender bliss and rear a numerous offspring, loving,
"as themselves, a virtuous, the grace of all the country round."

It is a pleasure to me to hear that you get my letters so quickly
which is because I now always "forecast," as we English say, to
send my letters by the steam vessels, which in summer sail
from April till Sept. sail from Liverpool on the 4th and on the
18th or 19th of each month - and on the 1st of each of the winter
months. Of course I pay 4d. extra for each letter that is under 100
weight (as this sheet will be) but I think the extra speed well worth
this 4d. I think the steamers sail from Boston on the 1st on 15th of each

of the summer months and on the 1st then in winter
and if my brother & friends in America will
not think much at the extra postage and will
address all their letters (especially in summer)
to come "via Boston, by Royal Mail Steamer"

it is probable that in most cases I should get your letter in
about half the time that they are now in coming - but please
always to allow about 10 days for the transit from N.Y.
to Boston which, I believe, is about the time required. At
present there is no regular & sure conveyance for letters by
steam vessels from New York to England nor am I aware
that I have in any one instance had a letter from any of
you that came by the Great Western. I have sent your
letter to the Trent Bridge for our friends there to read and one
one it will give them, as it has us great pleasure in doing.
There is however one omission which I am sure you will forgive
me for noticing - may two which struck me as rather singular -
only that you were rather circumcised for soon, the sheet being
a small one - and neither of them. I dare say were intended
the first is that you have neither mentioned nor alluded to your
dear grandfather - whom we shall be glad to see mentioned in every
letter, since, in the course of nature, it is not probable that he will sur-
vive many years, and as increasing infirmities in a measure im-
-pacitate him from writing to us himself it seems due to him
in every respect that his children and grandchildren should with
dutiful and affectionate regard endeavour to keep up for him