

ALDOROW, 11
725 12. 11. 28
97^o 1. in answer to } London Dec^r 11^o 1828
97^o 1. dated Nov^r 1^o 1828

My Dearest Victor.

Your letter of the 1^o November reached me this morning when I was busily engaged painting. — I am thankful to you for the judgments contained though it all have alleviated my mind from many fears of long and deep import and I lose not a day in answering it. — I never thought that you could be inclined or desirous to live apart from me, it would be unnatural for a Father to entertain such an idea towards his own Son; but I have frequently suspected that the fear of not meeting with such pleasure as the world is wont to enjoy you might wish to strive for yourself, but enough to concern your money about over the principal attainment and happiness. — I think that now I understand your meaning rightly and am proud to have such a Son. — I conceive that you have also understood my meaning from the different letters I have sent you within the last 6 months and a good deal of my existing circumstances from your present answer.

Your ideas my Dear Victor respecting yours and John's coming to Europe along with your Mother are feasible and well founded, I long since wrote to your Mother to the very same effect and now concluded to have you with me until quite able to put you in a regular and honourable way of employment at once — I neither wished John to come at once but I have long and continue to do so, to have your Mother, and now follow my reason — I am certainly doing well, but fearful of accidents I have no desire that should such accidents take place you and your Mother should feel the effects of them. — I wish your Mother to come because as near as my self she is (unfortunately) unable to occupy and can assist me very considerably even at such moments — I wish her to come because she is the only friend (besides your self) to whom I can transmit my fears or my fears and that she would be effectually of support and firmness to my business, my happiness and my peace — then next after her, as I may feel stronger of pecuniary means I would wish for you and your Mother, and with the help of God and my friends I would have the hope of being my little family united and abiding together — In the warmth of your kind imaginations you suppose that the necessities of life are more readily to give happiness, but this is wrong as to believe that fortune alone can grant it. — it is money, say I support that ample means should be supposed for me to dare to engage

You all three at once to expatriate yourselves without a perfect
Supervision. — I feel that I can send your Mother comfortable and
comfortable only; I think that in one or two Years more I could
send one of my Sons equally so, and next would follow the third —
I hope you will fully comprehend my meanings, I wish to see you all
but I wish to see you happy at the same time. — The difficulties
of your Mother's coming without you are most to be desired — it would
be more agreeable to see your escort and take the care of her,
but if this cannot be done without more eminent dangers than
that of the Seas, it must be relinquish'd for the happiness of all
at a future period. — It is yet uncertain when I will go to
America to procure the Specimens that I need, although go I must.
Therefore I feel anxious to possess one of the 3 Printed I have there.
I could not spare to leave England without a Partner to look to
my business and the only Partner I will ever have and I, your
Mother, Yourself & John — I will not want drawing for 4 Years
to come and between this and that could I convince that I must live
separated from the Woman to whom my whole life has been
devoted I would end my days — you are now aware that my
Publications will last 14 Years more ~~or longer~~, and on that
and what I have said of my means must your Mother
govern herself — I wish for her to come but never will I
force her to do so — I have been now what is called a
house keeper in London for more than 6 Months, I have a
servant, I find your and all the conveniences necessary for
myself and a Wife and a Friend besides. — this is kept up
when I am absent as well as when present and to have your
Mother with us would most likely diminish the Expence. —
Now my Dear Victor read what I have said above several times
and ~~with~~ will and give your Ideas to your Mother —

I am truly thankful to your Uncle William for the kindness
he evinces toward you and your Brother, May he be blessed in
a Wife and May he feel happy his whole life — give him my
truest regards. — The success of your Uncle William's family
is the greatest and most agreeable proof of the wisdom that must
exist in his house, I always have esteem'd him highly and lov'd
his Wife as I do you and your Mother, prefer them both with
my humble good wishes for a continuation of their welfare and
happiness. — I will be glad to see the shells or any other
valuable in that way. — I will send you what I call the
first Volume of my voluminous Works in about 2 Months,
It will be bound up in supple leather and will be a monument
of my having existed — I will write often to you, do the same.
I paint all day and write a portion of the Night. I am
just finishing my last Structure for which my price is 300 Guineas

I never will sell it for less - it is 8 feet by 6. - The very stone of
light is a White Gog (quartz) that has frustrated a crew of 20 of ours
(Europeans) in a court, has fired me that is in the last agonies
of them are put to flight, and I think that such Pictures cannot
be painted except by your Master. - it will be exhibited next
Spring at St. James's Palace along with one of our Eagle pouring
on a Lamb in the dreary Top of a Scotch Mountain -
I sent to Paris 3 Months ago 500 pounds of my Work and Pictures
for which I am looking for the amount daily. -

The 10th Number of my Work is delivered and my perfect Master's
Labour at an end. - The 11th Number is nearly finished engraving.
my Engraver is so wise in satisfaction by my Work that he has
doing others of other Works. The day Mr. Paine of Liverpool
has just to have an attack on a work of flowers. -
When you receive my Work the Price of it delivered in London
will be 28 Guineas - should you be able to sell it to advantage
do so, keep the money and I will send you another Volume -

I dined Saturday week at a Meeting of all the English
Naturalists in our operation of the Great Ray. - in ward 216
at table and I got into the Duke of Somerset - since we
since I received a letter from Charles Bonaparte expressing
a desire to give me in my Publication but it is too late
the first difficulties are over and I have no doubt that with
and Industry I will see the end of it to my comfort and profit -
In England and in France I am supposed to be a wealthy man -
You would really laugh to see the extraordinary letters of introduction
that I receive from one Nobleman to another or to a Minister abroad.
I do assure you I cut up death, I drop as simply as ever, I work
like a dray horse and seldom dine out from my table for latitude
in a few acquaintances - but I pay ready money for all I purchase
and have found my money very proper that these matters. -

I reside in what is termed the West end of the Town and am
frequently visited by Persons of great Rank who come to see
my Drawings which have now been so extolled that I am pestered
at hearing them praised any more - this has not made me grow proud,
I feel still as humble and as bashful in company as ever -
Since my return from France, my Noble Acquaintance knowing that I
wanted Phrases to study from have put me plenty and I have
said of it as you can see of Catfish at the Gall. - If you
can procure a little Work called "The Minister's Weather" you will
see some of my writing in it. - entitled a Journey up the Mississippi -
It may amuse you and your Uncle's family for a few minutes, it is
almost literally taken from one of my old Journals - by the bye
I wish you could read the Journal I have written since in Europe
You would see how gradually I have proceeded so far on the ladder
Wrote to John and let me know more of you as soon as possible -
for ever your true friend - J. J. A.

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Grand
Bureau
of
Canada

~~No. 1~~ Victor Audubon
Care of
Berthoud Esq
Louisville
Kentucky



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Audubon

