

Southall papers

cont.

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Folder 18

11. Clara A. Southall to George W. Southall.
19 July 1838.
12. Thomas G. Finckley to George Southall.
01 July 1838.
13. Henry Blair to George W. Southall.
05 July 1838.
14. Edward Cunningham to George Southall.
26 July 1838.
15. Richard Cook, Jr. to George W. Southall.

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[Handwritten flourish]

George W. Southall, Esq.

Williamsburg
Va.

Mail. 3

Clara W Southall
19 July 1838

Orford, July 19th, 1838.

My dear Brother,

Your kind letter of the 11th inst. came safe to hand by last Sunday's mail, and by its expression of the decided disposition of Papa, Emma, and yourself of my intended trip to Florida prevented my accompanying Mr De Bree which I had fully made up my mind to do. He arrived here Thursday morning as expected & came to see me the evening of the same day, and, finding me anxious to go with him, agreed, that I might have more time to prepare for the journey, to postpone his departure until the next Tuesday morning. I mentioned to him all the objections to my going I had heard suggested more of which appeared to have any weight with him - he seemed to think the journey a very practicable one for me to undertake, and said he would try and make it as pleasant and as little fatiguing as possible by taking it leisurely and told me, he had consulted the physicians at the North and at the South as to the risk we should run travelling through the Southern country during this month, and they had advised him there would be none at all. He told me there was every prospect of Alexander's being in port from the middle of this month until the middle of October, and seemed to think there was no probability of his returning home this fall. All this determined me to go and I need not tell you that I felt extremely happy at the thought of so soon seeing my Barbara after a separation of two years, seeming to me to embrace the time of ten. The next morning brought me your letter, after reading which I felt myself forced to yield to the opinion, sister, and counsel of those whom we number among our best friends and most able advisers. I had not give up without a struggle though, I assure you, dear George, the disappointment was a terrible one to me, and I least felt I feel grateful for the kind notes which induced you to phrase my inclination, but I cannot help feeling the deepest regret at having missed so good an opportunity of joining my Barbara and which I had set my heart on. You think me unaccountable to entertain the idea of going to Florida I think I have a great many good reasons for wishing to go. I have no duties to keep me here - all call me to Demarest, if I have the means

and opportunity of getting there. Alex is very often confined to his room from indisposition, and if I were with him I might cheer many of his lonely moments, and render him many attentions that are very soothing and acceptable from the hand of a Wife. He may obtain leave of absence to return home in the fall, but I thought if it would be more to his interest to remain in the Boston, I could as well go out to Pensacola. If he does not come in this fall, and wishes me to accompany Leroy as far as Mobile, I hope my doing so will meet with the sanction of my friends. Hundreds of ladies more delicate than I am undergo the fatigue of the journey, and a winter at the South would I am persuaded benefit my health, which, however, could not be better than it is now. I am much obliged to you for your check, my dear Brother. I have deposited it in the Bank, and will take good care of it. My friend Charles King attended to it for me — There are any quantity of Matthaponis in town arrived yesterday. they create a great sensation with us. there is a large Ball to be given at French's Hotel to-night, especially for their Benefit. Liz and myself have a bid, but dream not of accepting it this warm weather. — Alex. sent me a few curiosities by Mr De Bree, and his miniature profile, taken at Matanzas, thought to be more like you than him — not very flattering to either in my opinion. Among the curiosities were an opal, a rare and valuable precious stone larger than a hen's egg, said to be one of the most beautiful specimens ever found in the mines of Mexico, presented to Alex by Gr Burrows our consul at Vera Cruz, who sent me a yard of muslin of the finest texture manufactured by the aborigines of the Philippine Isles out of the fibrous portion of the leaves of the common pine-apple. The Commander of the Pensa. Yard sent me a vase and trinket-box made of a part of the old Constitution Frigate. — I have not heard from Alex. since I last wrote. — All here are well, and send a remembrance to you. Give my best love to Papa & Mama & all at the Palace. Mrs Louisa Wright is going up to the Old City on Saturday — perhaps I may accompany her. — I understand Matilda is off for the Springs. May she enjoy herself! I sent a bundle to Mama for her last Tuesday by Miss Baggizza. I thought some opportunity might occur of forwarding it to her. — The weather here is insupportably warm. — this must be my excuse for sending you such an ill-written letter. Adieu, dear George. Believe me yours affect.
Clara H. Southall.