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Title: Letter from William Wilkins to Matilda WilkinsDate: October 11, 1834Location: I-Friends-1982-11

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- spin St. Pitasburgh in help the sen for Saturday wining . My dia Matilda, Ort-11# 1834 I wrote to you from two york & by He return of the pilot - from here port - from Dourasta - Loudon - Hambuyte - Laberte and Them i mande - and I how have the satisfaction of tilling you that I come here in safety and in excellent health . My journy through mit has with burn attended by any accedent is unpleasant recurrence - of yet I cannot say that when when the water I was hall any comportable fulings - not very sick - but always oblyed to keep ung quiet, & somethy to recline - The journy from London to this place quite a hifling the gean will be prestrined in eight days. a very different affair from what I have anticipatice ! From London to Hambugh He Steen buch perfier in hop than three days - then one day in a slow, dull and lager fun-an waach to Frenchisse Lubick. and from Thence to this place we performed

in hip than four days, without any roughness of the water of with a favourable hage - In much for our timors of the Battin sice and the gulph of Fridance . We sailed from the mouth of the Trave the way I back work to you fal three colortis in the continent of tuskay and disenter kid here this making. We might have turner about the say an zesting. had be with the other to lie at night of Growstart (12 miles below) & there has remain There tion on three hours in the morning for the exclusion of the huggar and Trafiperts of the prafilinger, When the amone of the book at the Caybit Lung lunce with a long row of brantiful durling hours of splin dick captures) I found Mr. Clay in waiting for the with a carrier - the canned the to lig 2000, where I now all g shall arman for a few day, with I foundly chispere of suggest After dinner I was jourde by my two Aristanate fellow travelley, g. accompaning by Wellow, we walked through thang of the Thanks - This is Truly a magnificant coly - the

struly prise to be you in time - now of handiful buildings - of factor - un miting ho by del looking, love or agly house of any danifition -Every thing is have and and curring - I to ever just aturno, after dark : Takin any tra - and the kappen tile is saide to be the bush in Earope - much home returning to my back, fatyent in I nin, I far for in the dury of tilling you and my dear children of the safety - Embran them over tore your for the - but you takente trang to there any un fungine of they affichere for theme . I hope they are all very ford going didink - Tile Charles how doubly dear her is to me, and that I hope he is an excellent boy - atten. - two to his school of mindful of you . I know hat allaria I my pet will be jow. After May I shall with the the Childher. I hope you will receive the lette articly I such in a boy to the care of lot. Swart. . wont, new york - and the hacelets swon he the care of lot. Hayne who sailed from London on the 1 oct-When I shall bear from my holder for

my knows ! The perchash bliping that at this Anound could light when my head would he have that you are all will ! My pursue to introfinge will, at all events, be attender will me port assuch, the kunshing of how dear of meeting to my haf find, are my family of my home . I know that an the score of letter, I shall be dipatisfin & unhappy - because my unplant deste continually to hear caund to gastified. Make the dulder smithle to the Till Charles he much often toute to the - and till me way they about home - buck gon nont all these from the way thing like bad unos - Remander sur with preach affreher to Mr. Biddle & Tawanin - Thy will sandy with to so - What is thanky Enny Labourk? Tell here to sund the the hun, the electichat of the secondal of the town . I always which my hope to some hack your mother is well son - try love to be . No wenter home get . The Company & Confamp an abund . Jood hight . and theaven Why in Mm Withins

St. Petersburgh, Saturday evening, Oct. 11th, 1834

My dear Matilda,

I wrote to you from New York, & by the return of the pilot, from Liverpool, from Doncaster, London, Hamburgh, Lubeck, and [Travimi.indi], and I now have the satisfaction of telling you that I am here in safety and in excellent health. My journey throughout has not been attended by any accident or unpleasant occurrance, & yet I cannot say that when upon the water I ever had any comfortable feelings, not very sick, but always obliged to keep very quiet & generally to recline. The journey from London to this place is quite a trifling one & can well be performed in eight days, a very different affair from what I had anticipated! From London to Hamburgh the Steam boat passes in less than three days, then one day in a slow, dull and lazy german coach to [Travimiindi] Lubeck. and from thence to this place we performed in less than four days, without any roughness of the water & with a favourable breeze. So much for our terrors of the Baltic sea and the Gulph of Finland! We sailed from the mouth of the [Travi] (the day I last wrote to you) at three o'clock in the afternoon of tuesday and disembarked here this morning. We might have terminated the voyage yesterday, had we not been obliged to lie at night off Cronstadt (12 miles below) & then to remain there two or three hours in the morning for the examination of the luggage and passports of the passengers.

Upon the arrival of the boat at the English Quay (lined with a long row of beautiful dwelling houses & splendid edifices) I found Mr. Clay in waiting for me with a carriage. He carried me to his rooms, where I now am, & shall remain for a few days, until I finally dispose of myself.

After dinner I was joined by my two Aristocratic fellow travellers, &, accompanied by Mr. Clay, we walked through many of the streets. This is truly a magnificent city, the streets present to you continued rows of beautiful buildings, of palaces, uninterrupted by old looking, low or ugly house of any description. Every thing is novel and curious. I have just returned, after dark, taken my tea, and the Russian tea is said to be the best in Europe, and before retiring to my bed, fatigued as I am, I perform the duty of telling you and my dear children of my safety. Embrace them over & over again for me, but you cannot convey to them any impression of my affection for them. I hope they are all very good and very obedient. Tell Charles how doubly dear he is to me, and that I hope he is an excellent boy, attentive to his school & mindful of you. I know that Maria and my Pet will be good. After this I shall write to the children. I hope that you will recieve the little articles I sent in a box to the care of Col. Swartwout, New York, and the bracelets given to the care of Col. Hayne who sailed from London on the 1 oct.

When I shall hear from my home God only knows! The greatest blessing that at this moment could light upon my head would be to hear that you are all well! My present enterprize will, at all events, be attended with one good result, the knowledge of how dear & necessary to my happiness are my family & my home. I know that on the score of letters I shall be dissatisfied and unhappy, because my incessant desire continually to hear cannot be gratified. Make the children scribble to me. Tell Charles he must often write to me, and tell me every thing about home, but you must all keep from me every thing like bad news. Remember me with great affection to Mr. Biddle & Trevanian. They will surely write to me. What is Charles [Emert] about? Tell him to send me the news, the chit-chat & the scandal of the town. I always [impart] my hope to you that your mother is with you, my love to her. No winter here yet. The Emperor & Empress are absent. Good night, and Heaven bless you.

W^m Wilkins