

As soon as he reached London he wrote a letter to "The club"—a communication full of interest then, and none the less so, I will venture to say, at even this distance of time. I shall re-produce it:

London, Dec., 1829.

My Dear Boys,—What would I not give to be with you for as long a time as it will take me to write this letter, or you to read it. Forgive the tears by which the paper is stained; they are genuine, true hearted drops of sorrow at the reflection that the great noisy, ungovernable Atlantic is rolling between us,—and that while you are still enabled to enjoy the pleasures of friendly converse, I am, though in the midst of a crowded city, more like a banished man than a fortunate soldier, called home by the voice of his King. But—bah! why should I make you sad with my sorrow.

Pray write to me by every chance, and let me know what is doing in America, more particularly what is doing in Halifax, and most particularly what is doing in the club. I get the papers regularly, but can find no trace of it in them; surely you have not abandoned the country to its fate, and withdrawn from the management of its affairs. Now that I have quit the corner, should you quit the club, the town will run riot for want of proper censorship. Charles*—told me the other day that somebody tied a crape round the old gun the morning after I sailed, but split me if I believe him.

It is not yet determined whether I go to Russia or India; I have had several flattering interviews with the Duke, and have given him my opinion freely on the details submitted to my consideration. I find Sir James is a great favorite, but, as you may suppose, I frankly dropped a shot into his pocket, respecting the old affair. Before you hear next from me, I may be traversing the steps of Isim, or coasting along the shores of the Caspian, or it is not improbable that my next epistle may be dated at Constantinople; for you must know, but breathe it not even in The Club, that since the conquest of Tur-

*A reference, no doubt, to the Hon. Charles R. Fairbanks then in London.