

Provyouth - Dixie.

My Very Dear Father, June 14th 1857

(You can have no idea of the pleasure your Letter and my Mother's from Athens gave us; You know I was always against the Tomatori & I remember you did not admire the idea of them so I feel the greatest comfort at your approbation of their work, for after having been out such an Expense it is certainly very pleasing to hear things are done in so superior & masterly a style. I really now do not feel to grudge them. Your Letter put Elgin into the greatest glow, he was quite charmed at your entering so heartily into his cause; Your visit would undoubtedly reanimate the Artists & make them work with fresh spirit. Elgin is going immediately to set about getting the proper Summar for Minerva's Temple, I shall write you word if it succeeds.

But now my Dearest Father prepare to hear with extasy what I am going to tell you! - The other day G. took it into his head to make Lambert ask the Favorite of the Valide Sultana, Yousof Aga, for four pieces of Papyrus - The one in the sea beyond the Seraglio point, the Top of Constantine's Sarcophagus, and the one at the Gate of the Old Seraglio which being broken

is considered as two. — The answer given led to a great deal of negotiation at the Porte, and various refusals were given, "it being quite impossible to touch any thing belonging to the Scraglio &c. &c."

Till at last Miani came bo-awing one morning with a little specimen of Porphyry which the Porte offered to give Co. if he chose it. Upon which the Great Elchy-Bey took the bit out of Meaurio's hand & without even condescending to look at the little innocent rechantillon, shucked it out of the window, saying that he would have all or none, & that since they knew how to refuse him such a trifle as a few bits of Red Stone! he would take the hint upon the many various favors they were just now asking him!!! This had the desired effect, Miani in a fright flew out of the room, I do not know whether he did not leave his Calpac behind him. But sure it is the next day Yousoof sent to say he had asked the Grand Signior's leave for the pieces of Porphyry & sure it is that Selim said it was too trifling a thing to refuse his Beloved Friend Elchy-Bey, there was a modification however from the impossibility of touching any thing from the precinct of a Mosque; therefore they could not give him the Top of the Sarcophagus, but offered in lieu of it another piece that was within the Scraglio. —

The matter now stands thus. — Captain Briggs

Commander of the Salaria Brig has got
this moment on board, one piece of Porphyry
A foot & a half long, & 3 feet & 1/2 round.

Another 5 feet long, & 3 1/2 round.

Another 7 feet & a half long, & 3 1/2 round

And another — Open Your Eyes!

Eight feet long, & Seven feet round!!!

Now turn feet, Dear Sir! —

But as no Human success is perfect, the Salaria Brig being so deep in the water, has been under the cruel necessity after many fruitless attempts with the aid of the great Stores of Arsenal, to abandon the idea of taking a fifth piece being a Column of Twelve feet long, and about two feet diameter, which is now in the Dock Yard waiting some other convenience.

What say you to this Dearest Dad?

Gibson would have said Elgin had carved or bulled Old Selim out of these bits of Red Stone.

I hope this letter will not be lost, as I shall forget the dimensions, which I wrote down on purpose to send you. But do not think I am so elated with my success as to forget your piece of Gray Granite, or a piece of the Red Oriental Granite, the latter I know not where to find but I will enquire.

Elgin is going to send off to night, I have



not time to write to my Mother, & indeed I have
nothing new to say as I sent a long letter to her
the 10th of June & directed it to the care of L. Mordaunt.
I shall do the same with this, as I think he
will take care of them.

Hamilton is going to Egypt in the Brig which
is to sail the first fair wind, the Capt. will be
a great loss for he is a smart pleasant young
Man & an admirer of Caroline.

I wish you could see Abner trudging away
by himself, he is an amazing tract, he is
growing rather passionate he can put himself
into a fury & hollow most lustily, without greeting.
Do you approve of that?

We intend to go to Belgrade tomorrow to spend
a few weeks, — Tell my Mother I have just
been writing to Governor Sp. to tell them Mr.
Hunt's news about you, & that I have sent
her letter to Lady Robert.

Edwin desires his best love he will write soon
to you but begs you will excuse him tonight
as he is most completely faged, he has been
working like a Slave for these three days past.
All is going on quite comfortably without any
Discompostures.

Your Dutiful & Most Affectionate

Daughter
M. Edgim.

June 11th
1804.
2 O'Clock in
Morning
of 15th of June

The Summers
to be along
about go in
the Summers
80 in the
Shells.

D101 v3

