Hillsdown August 8th 54.

My dear Frank

I received your letter of June 21st a few days ago, the latest by a month that I have heard from any of the family. As you are at home, this will serve as an answer to that and also to advise that not that I am alive and hard at work. I am very happy to hear that you like work yourself under any circumstances as I was somewhat afraid that you did not when paid £600 per annum is certainly not much, but when it is certain & there is a prospect of an increase, it is not to be sneezed at - in a city like New York where there are so many idle men. However I hope that your new business will prove more productive. I hope you sales are not confined to Champagne, for though even the first in France, fashion changes greatly in regard to it, and the sale of a single wine is an uncertain business. I am sorry to hear that the Wolcotts have not paid you money. What is it owing to, have they not settled up the business or was the house insolvent without means to discharge its debts. Any how my debt to Roderick is a very different affair, due to another person & you cannot ask him to discharge his brothers debt out of his own funds. I may visit to New York this fall, this as I shall pay him the interest & the amount is a great advantage to me on my place, I think I shall

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