

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

1883 APR 10-18

FOLDER NO.

13-23

JAMES J. HILL PAPERS

PLEASE RETAIN  
ORIGINAL ORDER

METROPOLITAN HOTEL

St. Paul, Minn. 10<sup>th</sup> April 1883

Dear Mr. Will

Thank you much in making me horse to pull my dear wife from our Cottage here to Church — she will join in thanks & I know her taste in Art makes me feel sure she will like the Water Colours I shall send you —

Thanks also for cheque in payment for 30 sets of the Letters for the Schools & for which I have since been Secretary formal receipt.

The dear good Bishop Whipple has been here <sup>going day -</sup> to see me. I Washington yet — & on to Stevens' to see me. Peter Stuyvesant — he is charmed beyond description — he says "I never saw the Great Founder until I looked on Luene, grand portrait of Shapley" —

2 P.M.

I have just rec'd a letter from the Bishop — in Luene

words —

"I am deeply grateful for the pleasure of seeing here"  
"Shapley portraits. I have seen many pictures of Washington, each bringing out some one element of his great character. These are the only portraits"  
"bringing in <sup>his religious</sup> that religious side of his nature which rounded into perfectness his noble manhood. I have always felt a sense of disappointment in his pictures. The man was so great, the likeness failed to reveal his character."  
"I felt today as I never did before that this was Washington."



18-1

I wish to say to you that I am weary & weary out-  
of calling upon people in relation to the Subs<sup>n</sup> List to the Antislavery-  
Mag. strength will not permit - & at latest I return home on 15<sup>th</sup> of  
next month - It is a duty to exhibit the pictures for a day or two  
in Cincinnati - Philadelphia & Baltimore - & I will not shrink from  
it - tho the attempt to steal the pictures has sadly unnerved me.

Your name having been mentioned by many in  
conn<sup>n</sup> with the ultimate home - I wish to be straight forward & in  
every respect open - The lowest sum we ever expected to get for the  
3 pictures was \$100,000 - a much higher estimate has universally  
been put on them - Even the Bishop yesterday said that in no distant  
future three fold that sum w<sup>d</sup> easily be got for them - I have never named  
a sum to any one - but after the sad sickening occurrence at Minneapolis  
I did in my despair say to Mr Wheelock that if you w<sup>d</sup> then & there believe me  
of my case & anxiety I w<sup>d</sup> close them at \$70,000 - Now then let me say  
I feel you to be a thorough gentleman - & I also conscientiously  
believe that you w<sup>d</sup> like us to get for them all that can be got.  
God has blessed you with great riches - & your taste & scholar ship  
will rightly understand me when I say that no riches of money  
can or ever will compare with the riches acquired in the possession  
of these three pictures - I am content to leave the matter entirely  
in your hands - I know you will look at it rightly - & remember  
that it (i.e. the pictures) are truly much our all & everything -  
That one hundred will be spent for them I have not the smallest doubt  
in the world - & that the purchaser at that will be able to realize,  
while that sum ere the end of the year, is to many equally certain.

# METROPOLITAN HOTEL

St. Paul, Minn.

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The nation is not yet deserving of them as a gift - the people are too immersed in dollars & corner lots - we wish the pictures to remain in the private home of the buyer for at least 20 years longer, & then if he thinks well to give to his country well to good - but for the time being let them sanctify his own home & hallows the will & purify the character of his children by being the light of his house -

But I want to have my mind at rest - & to hand them over to him for the owner on his side - A fortnight will do all that is needed in the cities named - I wish to attend them & will do so, but not with the responsibility of ownership - If you take them, receive possession & let your custodian accompany me & have charge & keep them every night in his bed room - I beg you not to hesitate - the price cannot stand in the way - & to show you my entire confidence I am willing to leave to your own conscience & will the payment of the amount over the \$70,000 - say until Xmas - If at that time you do not feel delight in your acquisition & find it is not at low money cost, then do not hand me the money for balance -

As to Peter Stuyvesant -

Our original price for him was a thousand pounds - we think it cheap at £750 - but if bought now either by an individual



or a few members for presentation to the St Paul, New Club  
I will accept six hundred pounds for it —

Bishop Whipple is charmed with your Jefferson  
he says nothing can be finer — I no money estimate put upon it —

Dear Mr Hill

respects to father, mother & sons

Yours truly  
J. F. Hill

James Walter

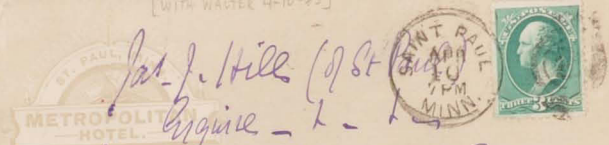
Several dealers in N.Y. have corresponded with me as to Agency when  
we sh<sup>d</sup> feel inclined to sell the Washingtons — I wish to make you  
acquainted with this fact & that I c<sup>d</sup> not pay any com<sup>ts</sup> to any or either  
of them in your case — Mr Avery is the only one I c<sup>d</sup> associate  
the pictures with — & if they can come to be offered to New York  
capitalists it will be thro Mr Avery — You must not therefore speak  
with him — or he will expect com<sup>ts</sup> from some one, & I could not pay it him  
in your case — as he has in no way or manner broken us together.

I leave him tomorrow for the Grand Pacific Hotel  
Chicago —

I remain here, until middle of next week — I go home to try & get 100  
sets of letters and for the public schools here — Bishop Whipple is most  
anxious that your example be followed every where —  
I shall work hard for it in New York — & I hope to pray that while in  
New York you will obtain me substantial gifts for the schools — Tomorrow  
I will push for the circulars — You have rich friends who at New England  
will send by one or two hundred dollars each.

[WITH WAIVER 4-10-23]

St. J. Hill (of St. Paul)  
Engine - 1 - 1  
c/o Messrs J. S. Kennealy & Co.  
63 William St  
New York City





114 112  
52  
Stephen  
10<sup>th</sup> April 1853

My dear Mr. Holt

Should be glad to have your  
advice in a matter of some importance  
to us. Requiring some money for  
expenses until harvest-time and  
do not know where, without in-  
fluence, it can be got. I under-  
stand the Banks have nothing  
to spare for outside transactions  
and farmers' paper is never  
readily taken. Otherwise I would  
have asked the First National  
for an advance. I have a small  
deposit account there but have  
no claim on them for discounts.

Our farm gave a fair  
profit last year - but 18 bushels  
per acre is not a return out  
of which much additional  
capital

Capital can be taken, and  
in horses, implements, buildings  
and wages - in order to develop  
the farm - I laid out what I  
expected the crop would make  
good and my estimate was by  
no means a high one. It fell  
short by at least \$3000, and  
it is this sum which I would  
like to borrow until Oct. To  
be really easy during summer, I  
would prefer a little more, if  
it could be got, say \$3500 to  
\$4000. This year's crop will  
be 905 acres - mostly wheat.  
Even with no better yield than  
last year's, all my obligations  
would be met. If your great influence  
can be of use to us, we shall  
be

be still more indebted to you  
for great kindness. Now Angus  
here, I would consult him, but  
would hesitate before asking  
him to add to the great benefits  
I have already received from  
him.

I would borrow on most  
easy for a short time, if ne-  
cessary, but fear I am not well  
enough known to get a loan  
in this time of hard money  
when city property naturally has  
the preference.

For your advice I shall  
be most grateful

I am  
Yours very faithfully  
J. H. Kearney

James H. Hill Esq  
St Paul



New York, Sep<sup>r</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 1853  
My Dear Dr. Will.

The Dr. & I reached  
this city safely on time Saturday  
Evening. He went at once to the  
room of his family while my  
welcome was postponed until  
the next morning, the last  
train having taken its departure.  
I am glad to say I found all  
my loved ones well & ready  
to receive me with a most  
cordial greeting.

Wonder if you have the least  
idea how much real pleasure  
you gave us all & how much  
real physical good you did

us! I do not believe you can  
know who have benefited about 60  
much can appreciate how we  
enjoyed you very kind hospitality  
both the tracing, prescribing, in-  
vigorating influence of Minn  
and so constantly present with  
you that it is impossible you  
should know what a delight it  
has been to us poor doctors  
among which number at the  
East to revel as we did so  
many days in the open  
plains. Our pleasure  
& our comfort throughout were  
greatly increased by your un-  
ceasing kindness & I am very  
many times obliged to you for  
it all. Not by any means

He forgotten me the pleasant hours spent  
beneath your roof giving me an opportunity  
to become better acquainted with Mrs. Still &  
your children & enabling me more fully to  
appreciate what a fortunate man you  
are. I hesitate not over the meaning I  
should rather have said blessed.

Mrs. Still, understood being expected to visit  
this city sometime this fall, if this is so & you  
do come, please remember that I shall hope you  
will make as free with me as I have done with  
you, & come immediately to our home. I have  
despaired of ever getting you there alone but if  
she is with you, you cannot give the same good  
reasons. I am desirous she & Mrs. Thorne should  
know each other & will promise you shall not  
be made strangers if but be given full freedom  
to do as you would in your own house. Now  
please remember do not allow any all absorbing  
business schemes to disappoint my expectations.

Please thank Mrs. Still for her kind hospitality  
& give her each of the children my best remembrance  
& believe me with renewed expressions of appreciation

Sincerely hope Ephraim is quite well. Mrs. May truly  
himself again. I'm with much oblige  
me by giving him as well as Ephraim &  
Mrs. May my kindest regards.



THE CONTINENTAL HOTEL  
J.E. KINGSLEY & Co.  
PHILA.

Tuesday  
April 10 1883

Charles J. Hill Esq.,

Dear Sir

I am here for a few  
days and expect to  
see you most of this  
week

I think that if you  
were disposed to take  
\$500,000 of those Bonds  
you could get \$500,000  
of Stocks at \$25- or \$2  
\$125,000 = I am sure  
this is all you could  
get if you wished now  
more -

on many accounts  
I would like you  
interested - matters

with all the arrangements  
while I am here for  
regering work and  
for immediate push.  
Now Sam R. who is  
to join me here  
tomorrow -

Mrs. Resky,  
Sec. Co. Stone

We will buy 2000  
for 100 miles of R.R.  
at once - I do not  
write this because we  
need you to put in  
the but because I  
want you interested -  
It will pay all I  
told you and more  
Xcc -



STUDIO OF H.W. ROBBINS  
31 WEST 10TH STREET

April 12<sup>th</sup> 1883.

Dear Mr. Kennedy

By notice that Mr.  
J. L. Hill <sup>husb.</sup> of the "M & M"  
was in town. Having  
a pleasant recollection of  
his Country & kindness in  
mind, - and knowing his  
love of the Fine Arts -  
It occurred to me - that  
perhaps he would like  
to see Mr. Geo. E. Church's  
latest - large picture -

STUDIO OF H. W. ROBBINS

which is now in our  
Studies - and which  
will be sent directly  
to its owner - Mr.  
Parsons - of St Louis,  
on Saturday a. m.

This picture will not  
be <sup>publicly</sup> exhibited any where.

If you and Mr.  
Hill could stop in  
to day or to-morrow  
- you will receive a  
heartly welcome from

Yours Respectfully  
H. W. Robbins



WHO WILL CONTRIBUTE TOWARD PRESENTING

## THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WITH THE AUTOTYPE REPRODUCTIONS OF

### THE SHARPLES WASHINGTON PORTRAITS.

The presentation by Mr. Jas. J. Hill (President of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad), of thirty sets of the Sharples Washington Portraits to the Public Schools of St. Paul and Stillwater, an example instantly followed at Minneapolis, is fast spreading. Good and true men, lovers of their country, are coming forward in this noble work of patriotism. Every sect in religion and thought recognize this duty. The most eminent clergy of the various denominations are urging it. The earnest Bishop Whipple, of the Episcopal church, only expresses the desire of Christians and patriots universally when he says:

"I cordially hope we may see these in every public school. Oh what good would result from it! I have seen many pictures of Washington, each bringing out some one element of his great character. The Sharples are the only portraits showing the religious side of his nature and which rounded into perfectness his noble manhood. I have always felt a sense of disappointment in all other portraits; the man was so great, the likeness failed to reveal his character. As I gazed on the Sharples Portraits, I felt as I never did before that this was indeed Washington."

The St. Paul *Pioneer Press* thus endorses Mr. Hill's example:

The city of St. Paul is indebted to Mr. J. J. Hill for an act of thoughtful and patriotic munificence in ordering for presentation to each of the public schools of St. Paul and its neighborhood, a set of the autotypes of the Sharples Washington portraits. It was an excellent thing to do. No more valuable endowment could have been bestowed on the schools. These portraits, undoubtedly the most life-like ever made of Washington and of his wife, cannot fail to exercise a silent but potent educative force over the minds and hearts of the thousands of children who, from generation to generation, shall gaze day by day upon the benignant features of the Father of his Country. They will thus become almost as familiar with his face and form as if he were personally present with them. The great lessons of his life and character—of his exalted patriotism, the grand simplicity, the noble integrity and disinterestedness which distinguished his public career—will thus be doubly impressed upon them. They will read in these portraits a daily lesson of far more importance in forming the minds and characters of the children of the republic than any they can learn from their text books—a lesson which is needed, too, far more than any other, to fit them for the high duties of citizenship. It is good to keep the memory and the example of Washington steadily before the youth of the rising generations as a beacon light for their guidance, and as inspiration of that unselfish patriotism and purity in politics which is the sole hope of the nation. It is to be hoped that Mr. Hill's thoughtful and beneficent gift will be imitated in other American cities, and thus at least partially realize the hope expressed by Longfellow, that these portraits might be hung up in every school house in the land.

[Ladies should present them for hanging in the parlors of the various churches. What more valuable and enduring gift?]

The St. Paul's magazine *At Home* thus treats the matter:

At the meeting of the St. Paul Board of Education the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Board of Education desires to express its grateful appreciation and acceptance of Mr. James J. Hill's graceful and appropriate gift to each of the public schools of a set of autotype reproductions of the Sharples Washington portraits, which have been pronounced by the most eminent authorities the most life-like and truest of all the portraits of Washington, and destined to be universally accepted as such.

Resolved, That the superintendent is requested to have a set of these portraits hung in some appropriate place in each of the public schools, according to the wishes of the donors, and expressing on the part of the board, concerned, through the judicious liberality and thoughtfulness of one of its citizens, Longfellow's earnestly expressed hope that these portraits should be hung on the walls of every public school in the land—a hope in which this board heartily concurs, in order that at the successive generations of children become familiar with the face of Washington, they may be impressed with the lesson of his patriotic example.

It will be a lasting satisfaction to the people of St. Paul that our educational authorities have thus handsomely placed themselves upon record in the matter of a movement which is rapidly becoming national in its dimensions. It is also a pleasant reflection that the city is favored with a public spirited citizen like Mr. James J. Hill, who recognizes the value of the great pictures in the future education of American citizens. Both the resolutions of the board and the graceful act of the presentation to the schools, are proofs that the views we have expressed relative to the Sharples portraits are shared by thinking people throughout the community. Nothing could be better fitted to inculcate the lessons of patriotism and unselfish devotion to the cause of our dear Fatherland, than the constant contemplation of these glorious faces of George Washington. Without them the study of American history lacks its best and greatest illustration. Without them it is impossible for the youth of the country to appreciate and understand the godlike character whose great heart, military genius, ability as a statesman, and self-abnegation, all rounded and sanctified in a life of beautiful and touching Christian faith and purity, accomplished more in the creation and establishment of the grand fabric of this Republic, than all the other causes and conditions bearing upon its birth and career in the family of nations. There is an apparent harmony between the life and services of Washington and the character of the man as depicted in the Sharples paintings, and this cannot be honestly said as to any other of the various pictures purporting to represent the features of the great patriot. That the Sharples are correct representations of the living original, we have the opinion of Washington himself and of Lady Washington, in letters yet extant; and if that were not enough, the evidence of the aged Dr. Van Pelt of New York who saw the full-face portrait in that city in 1854, on its former visit to this country. Dr. Van Pelt had known General Washington in life, and declared that it was a perfect picture as he remembered the General.

It is well that the Father of his country should be remembered by the millions whom his achievements have made the possessors of the priceless boon of civil liberty; and it is well that the children of the Nation should have his bright example continually held before them for imitation. The mind cannot conceive of a nobler object lesson in the study of our country's history, in the study of the evolution of government by the people, than these very portraits hanging on the walls of every school house in the land. It was Longfellow's ardent wish that they might be so possessed, and he earnestly longed, to the end of his great and useful life, that the original pictures might find a final home in the hero's own land.





Return after ten days to  
KNIGHT & LEONARD,  
PRINTERS.  
106, 107 & 109 Madison Street,  
CHICAGO.



Intermediate

[4-13-93]  
If Mr Hill has left N. York - Mr<sup>m</sup> Kennedy  
will please forward to him -

for J. Hill - Eugene

President - St Paul - M. & Manitoba Railway

c/o Mr<sup>m</sup> Kennedy & Co -  
63 William St

New York

TERRITORY OF DAKOTA,

Executive Office.

*Private*

Bankton, April 13<sup>th</sup> 1883

J. J. Hill Esq  
Pres. D. M. & M. Ry

Dear Sir:

I have your favor of the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. and for which please accept thanks. Mr. Palmer and some friends of General Fessenden as you are aware have made large investments at Devils Lake City and I trust you will protect their interests.

In regard to the Nelson County matter I will do what I can to advise you. But when BaMours undertook to place the organization of the Counties in the hands of the first hundred voters by repealing the present law, Mr. George P. Harvey member from Walsh County who was an old friend of mine, secured the aid of Speaker Williams of Bismarck. Tomner caused a law others and broke the combination. If it can be arranged so that



[4-13-87]

TERRITORY OF DAKOTA,

Executive Office.

Sioux Falls, \_\_\_\_\_ 1888

2.

Harvey can join forces with your friends Howard and Daus. I shall be glad to oblige both. Mr. Harvey was never hostile to any railroad interest, although he introduced a bill and held it in his control until the end of the session.

This was done to keep the bill out of hostile hands.

I am holding the location of County seats on the line of your road subject to the location of your terms and in order to accomplish what regard for the best interests of the people as the new commissioners held until the fall of 1884. They and their friends must be protected when the railroad terms are determined upon.

I will try to be in St. Paul for a day with Surveyor General Fessenden from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> and will advise you

TERRITORY OF DAKOTA,

Executive Office.

[4-13-83]

3

Bankton, \_\_\_\_\_ 1883

by telegraph a day before I reach there.  
I think it important that you should  
have a conference with him before  
you fix the boundaries of your Ramsey  
County town, as Mr. Wood, the Register at  
the new land office is a special friend  
of General Dequander and I think we  
can place the office at the most desirable  
point.

Respectfully  
W. S. Holway



Form No. 1.

**THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.**

This Company TRANSMITS and DELIVERS messages only on conditions limiting its liability, which have been assumed to by the sender of the following messages. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of Unrepeated Messages, beyond the amount of tolls paid thereon, nor in any case where the chain is not unbroken, inoperative which may cause after sending the message.

This is an UNREPEATED MESSAGE, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

THOS. T. ECKERT, General Manager.

NORVIN GREEN, President.

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY	CHECK
3413	WJ		35 Sh Pass

Received at 3 West 23rd Street.

Apr 14 1883.

Dated St Paul Minn 14  
 To Jas J Vice Albemarle Mo  
 Nothing unusual at house to  
 report baby is better today  
 The rest I were out driving  
 This morning will report any  
 change. General manager is up

CABLE OFFICE.

3 West 23rd Street.

ALWAYS OPEN.

THIS TELEGRAM HAS JUST BEEN RECEIVED AT THE OFFICE IN

Form No. 1.

**THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.**

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This is an UNREPEATED MESSAGE, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

THOS. T. ECKERT, General Manager.

NORVIN GREEN, President.

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY	CHECK
B473			

Received at 3 West 23rd Street.

2

Apr 14 1888.

Dated

To

The road you will receive  
message from his office today  
which explains situation  
A. H. Bode.

THIS TELEGRAM HAS JUST BEEN RECEIVED AT THE OFFICE IN

CABLE OFFICE.

3 West 23rd Street.

ALWAYS OPEN.





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