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a manner, in anticipation; where every
thing in art was new and progressive
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past; where, in short, ~~everything~~ the
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ness piles; grey with antiquity, and
sinking to decay.

Washington Irving

The Introduction to Brackenrope Hall

WASHINGTON IRVING, portion of MS page from "The Author," *Bracebridge Hall*, c. 1821.

I have never yet grown familiar enough with the crumbling monuments of past ages, to blunt the intense interest with which I at first beheld them. Accustomed always to scenes where history was, in a manner, in anticipation; whose every thing in art was new and progressive and related to the future rather than the past; where, in short, every thing [both words deleted] the works of man gave no ideas but those of young existence and prospective improvement; there was something inexpressibly touching in these enormous piles, grey with antiquity, and sinking to decay.

Transcription from:

Kendall, Lyle H., Jr. *A Descriptive Catalogue of the W.L. Lewis Collection--Part One.*

Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1970.

AMS, 1 page. Single sheet, 14.5 x 11.1 cm.

Wove paper. Watermark (portion): G & R.

Provenance: Unknown (penciled 18⁵⁰ verso). Inserted in Vol. I of *Bracebridge Hall*, New York, 1822.

Notes 1: Tipped on to the bottom is the genuine signature Washington Irving, on another type of paper, just large enough to accommodate it.

2. The printed text in the first edition, pages 13–14, varies in both substantives and accidentals from the Lewis MS fragment.