

call him has seemed uncommonly happy and facetious. He never came to Henry; so often as this winter, & he always seems trying to go away. Perhaps it is that he has left society at home, which makes him find it more when he does meet it and seems to think that of his children as good as any. I am going to Boston this morning, and hope to gain you some lines from them, but I am afraid that I shall not have time to wait as long as I wish. I am going early, I hope, and I am afraid that I shall not have time to wait as long as I wish. I am going early, I hope, and I am afraid that I shall not have time to wait as long as I wish.

The hope from your last letter to Henry, dear William, that your eyes were on the recovery as you said nothing of them or your bodily estate, but your accounts and Mr. Sewall's seem very far from it. I think you ought not to follow any body's prescription unless they fully understand the case, which none can who are not professed oculists, and New York is said to have as good as any in the country. People recommend remedies from the best motives, which they may perhaps have seen used with success, but it is quite as likely as not that the disease was directly opposite, and I think the eyes are the last part we should make applications to without being sure we were right. Why cannot you consult somebody who understands it, who may expedite the efforts of nature, whom you have determined to trust? It could do no harm, and might save you a good deal of time and anxiety. I found no difficulty in deciphering your epistle by Mr. Heyward, all the trouble it gave was the thought that the writing gave you pain. I wish Mr. H. could have stopped one day with you, as assistance will be scarce the spring months, but I hope Mr. Walker will on his return, and rather believe he will as he is very obliging and considerate. He preached the sermon on prophesying smooth things at our Friday evening lecture while Henry was gone, but our folks had not taste and thought enough to appreciate it, and I felt grieved that so fine a sermon should have been spoken in vain. I heard him preach again at Thursday lecture on the imperfection of our obedience to the positive commands of religion, which was very fine. I think he goes to the root of evil and draws it up into light, more than any preacher we have, though I believe there is much

To apply to some of the knowing men about your eyes. We have not heard from them since the year in the account of his eyes and I feel afraid from not fearing that they are worse. Now if their countenance is as not better up, you must enquire from those with which you are acquainted, or if not with the affection of Mr. W.

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more real disinterested good in the world, than what he seems to allow. If we are naturally prone to good rather than evil, as we believe we are, it seems rational that good actions from right motives should be more common than bad ones, and I do not see why we should endeavor to brand them with the stamp of self interest, when none is apparent. There is sin enough for us to stigmatize and abhor, and I do not like what bears the semblance of virtue should be touched unless there is good reason for supposing it hollow and hypocritical. Elizabeth told ^{me} she would write you and I believe she did, and told you of Aunt R's sudden attack. She laid most of the time insensible, and had her reason and recollection only imperfectly and at short intervals, and suffered very little. She died the sixth day, and as suddenly to herself, I suppose as if the first moment of illness had been fatal. Though I have no faith in death bed thoughts and repentance yet it is a shocking thing to see one called from perfect health to their last account, and though we ought always to be ready, yet I should hope at least to be conscious of the change which awaited me. Friday evening - I have been reading the Pirate this afternoon, and whether it is because I have read it without interruption, and so have given way to the charm of fiction more entirely, I like it very much, though I can tell better what my opinion is a day or two after I have finished it. Henry and his folks have read it, and think it inferior to almost any, or but just before the Monastery. His descriptions seem to be given with his usual life and spirit, and he certainly makes that interesting which few could make tolerable. I have not quite finished the fifth volume. Mr. Tolson lent me for twenty four hours, and I have nearly finished it within the twelve. Have not I been expeditious? While I think of it - Mr. F. desires his love to you, and says he meant to have written you before now, though I can't see why he should, yet I promised to tell you. Have you heard that George Ingersoll has accepted a call from Burlington and is expected home every day. I have not heard any particular

less, and perhaps you may have heard of it before I did. We have heard before that he was much liked, and I suppose you will be glad that they have got a minister and he a parish. I have been in Cambridge three or four weeks I do not know which and I mean to stay a little while longer. I miss as you may suppose the endearing society of Henry's health team, here where there is none, or nearly none, but it is well sometimes to be left or cast on our own resources for support and returns, or we lose the power of doing it. I can scarcely tell why I have not written you before, I certainly have not forgotten to, but I felt as if I had nothing to say or nothing you could like to hear, for I could tell you nothing ^{of business} myself and my own throes. I suppose you have heard from Harriet and the rest since I wrote. I have only seen H. for a few minutes for some time. Mr. Allen was down last week and staid several days and preached for ~~me~~ and very well, I heard. He left all quite well I believe little boy quite restored. We have had a warm rain which carried off all the snow, and every thing has looked and felt like spring to day, so warm that it was pleasant to stand out doors and feel the air, and so wet that none would attempt the passage of the common with slight inducement. Saturday a.m. Pappe wants to know if you will send a sermon of your father's to Thom. Hazards Esq. Beckman Post in his name? He removed from New Bedford to N. Y. and is a liberal minded sensible Quaker. Jacob Barker is his son in law - whom I suppose you have heard of - as he is quite a celebrated man among merchants & Quakers. The term has commenced again at college, and almost every body has returned to their duties. Did you see Mr. G. Otis who has been on as far as Washington, he returned with Mr. Keyward, I believe. He says Mr. Sparks is much admired and listened to. Mr. Everett it is said has taken Mrs. Cragie's house, till he fixes on a spot to build. Your father's house has had one coat of paint and looks very pretty, I think, & shews the want of piasters less than I expected. Mrs. Stearns has given a ball this vacation, or a house-warming as it is called, now I suppose Mrs. W. will feel obliged in common decency to do something which shall not disgrace the example, though I should think a violin could not be thought of within the hearing of your father's study. The 'old gentlemen' as Henry's parish

Consult not one but two of your best
oculists on the case of your eyes, & do not follow
the recommendations of every kind old woman or
man on the subject. There is no complaint where
discrimination is of more importance. You may use
my name if you please in your application. B.W.

B. Waterhouse



Rev. William Ware

11 Park Place New-York



Paid

May - Dec. 10 - 1822

G. N. S. M. H.

Mr. Waterhouse's eyes are very tender, & he needs the
Astral Lamp with uniform advantages. (1822)
& so thank you for you should be very careful
of your eyes, lest you "fall into the ditch."