

Cambridge Jan^y 21st 1816.

My dear Betsy, You were so good as to say that it would give you pleasure to receive letters from me, & as I have no reason to doubt your sincerity, I have taken the earliest opportunity to assure you that it will give me great pleasure to be reckoned on the list of your correspondents, You must not expect to receive such long or entertaining letters from me as you do from Lucy & your other friends, as I am not much given to letter writing & when I do write, it is not ^{so much} because I think my friends will receive pleasure from my letters, but for the sake of the pleasure I expect to receive from theirs, now you will think perhaps that I write purely from selfish motives, but I do not think it is exactly so, I would willingly give others double the pleasure I receive from their letters if that were possible, if it cost me as much again trouble to write them; but I am not so vain as to think that my letters are worth more than half as much as those I receive. — I was quite entertained with your account of your journey as far as Hartford, in your letter which Mary sent for us to read I could follow you all the way to ^{West} Springfield as that was the rout I went last summer when I went to Deerfield with Esther. I wish you could have performed your journey at the same season, it was at the time the trees were in blossom, & the scenery of all the country we passed through, especially on the borders of Connecticut river, was exceedingly delightful, but I was struck more than any thing with the grandeur & sublimity of the scenery on banks of the Chikopee, it seemed more like the scenes we read of in novels, than of any thing I had an idea of before, we live in such a level & smooth country that when we get up into Worcester County, as we have hardly known what a hill was before, are lost in astonishment at what we think are stupendous mountains, I suppose you could not notice these so much, as the weather was so unpleasant; & you were in a close carriage, but I dare say you felt somewhat as I did, if you went the same road by the banks of the Chikopee, it really made me shudder, sometimes to be riding on the edge of such a precipice, with the river rolling ~~but~~ many feet below it was sublime & romantic in the extreme, & if I ^{had} felt like a heroine, should probably have delighted to have met with some accident to render it more interesting, but as it was, I was very glad to be safely landed on level ground, especially as it was near night, I think I should not relish riding over such a place in the evening.

I could not help smiling at your description of the breakfast tables &c you met with at the taverns, for they were exactly such as I met with morning, noon, or night, I was often very much amused at the profusion & incongruous medley of eatables that were put on the table for the breakfast of two persons, enough in quantity for 8 or ten, but on the whole I like that manner of going about from place very well for a little, ^{while} a few days at a time, but it ^{is} pretty tedious to travel so for any length of time, it is very pleasant to see such a variety of new scenes, new faces &c —

I assure you we have talked of you very often, & thought of ^{you} much oftener & it has been a great source of satisfaction to us that you have had such an excellent protector as Mr. Farrar. I am glad to hear you have arrived safely at your journey's end, & hope we shall soon have a description of the rest of your journey, we shall expect to hear particularly from you on Mr. F.'s return. — I do not feel much in the mood of writing to night I have a violent head ache, & besides the boys having been talking so fast round me that I have made as many mistakes as I have written lines I believe. — but I hope you will excuse it. — I went into Boston to day with Henry, I wanted very much to go to Brattle St & hear him preach but I did not know any one who goes to that meeting, that I could go with, I heard Mr. Channing all day however, which in some degree compensated me for not being able to hear Henry. — Papa preached at Salem to-day, I expected to have gone with him to see Betsey Shute that was. but the travelling was so bad & the weather so uncertain, he thought it better for him to go in the stage, — Susan Thaxter is in Boston, has been there about a week, she was at meeting at Mr. Channing's, & after meeting called to see me, & would have come home with us to night if she had not been engaged I received a letter from Anna Thaxter last evening, Betsey I wish you could be acquainted with her, she is really all that Mr. Folsom represents her to be, & he does not know half her good qualities.

I received letters from Lincoln ~~ye~~ last week & the week before. he writes in very good spirits, & says his health is very much improved, that he has gained flesh, & feels better than he has before for a long time. he likes the people in Charleston very much, they are very hospitable & have been very attentive to him. — He expects to sail from Charleston in the course of a few weeks he has been detained there now so much longer than he expected when he first went away that he thinks he shall be obliged

to prolong his absence till a year from next April or May, in order
to have time to visit all the places that he wishes to & see every
thing that is worth seeing, he desires to be particularly remembered
to you, & says he still considers you^{as} one of his best friends. —
William requests me to ask you to remember him, that he may have
the pleasure of knowing that he is thought of by some body in the
great city of Philadelphia. — You know how still we live here so
that you will not expect to hear much news, & what there is Lucy
has told you & as it is late & I cannot think of any thing else
that would interest you. I hope you will excuse my leaving
so much blank paper which I assure you is quite against my
principles. I hope you will receive as much benefit as we all
wish & expect you will, from your journey, change of climate &c
be assured our best wishes are with you wherever you are in sickness
or health. I suppose we shall hear from you often, & we shall take
every opportunity that offers to write to you. I hope you will not take
this as a specimen of my best handwriting, but I had not time to write
better, & if it only gives you five minutes pleasure it is all I
expect & you may then burn it & have it out of the way. —
Remember me to Mrs. Stokes if you see her & give my suitables
to the Doctor. & take a large share to yourself of the affectionate
regard of your friend Mary C. Ware —

M. C. W.

Miss Elizabeth W Waterhouse

Philadelphia. —