

Cambridge 11th Nov. 1810.

Dear Elizabeth,

It seems neither Daniel nor Mary exactly knew your wish respecting the time of your return. I hardly think it worth while for Mary to visit Ipswich. If you have bought no yarn, you can judge whether it be needful when I tell you that I bought $3/4$ of a pound the other day of some of fine quality of a market woman for 4 cents a knot— Your Aunt Becky has bought for me a pound tolerably coarse, and is knitting me draws; and she has more than a pound of the Merino wool yarn just brought home from Canton, yet if you find good yarn & cheap, it never comes amiss. I want to have a competent number of stockings, and of draws, & of woollen waistcoats, & every other article proper for me, and in good order. Few people have been better buyers of these articles than you & father for 3, or 4 years past. I suppose that you & Mary would wish to have all my things in proper order, before they pass from your care to the care of another. I must have more shirts in the course of the winter. Shall we not want sheets also? I propose getting a wollen carpet for the front parlour. Do we not need some articles of English china? and of knives? I wish you would make a list of what you think we stand in absolute need of; but nothing needless.

As you intend visiting your Grand mother this winter, I wish to say a word to you on that head. I am satisfied that neither you nor Mary will have any sordid motives for your attention to her, in her old age; your motives are more laudible. It is however not amiss to remark that your Grand mother is worth between two & three thousand dollars. Should she die without making a Will, it will of course be divided equally between my children, or she may give it all to you & Mary, which I should be far from regretting, as the boys have had their share in education, Daniel alone excepted. I mention this thing on two accounts, 1st that your attention to your Grand mother may be an anticipated gratitude; and 2^{dly}, that the prospect of being benefitted by her, will compensate for the apparent, but not real deprivation of certain articles remaining in the hands of another. I presume that bedding, table linen, & the furniture belonging to your Grand mother will come exclusively to her two Grand daughters; and this idea should have its proper effect on you & Mary's mind.

The contemplated change in my family has been the result of deep & serious thought, and not without advice. My own happiness has been my primary object, and the happiness of my two daughters the secondary one; and the more I contemplate the connection, the more I am convinced that if you two sisters are not reasonably happy, it will be your own faults. It is a

a great comfort to me that ^{the character of} the person who is, in due time, to
be my companion was so well known, & so much esteemed
by your own mother, & grandmother. It is not like bringing
into the family an entire stranger; but one who gave strong
evidence of an attachment to us all more than 18 months
ago. Did not this person stand so strong in point of
character, I might say more. Your mother's idea was, that
having passed the crucible of affliction, she came out fit
like gold seven times purified. It is adversity that tries the
character & disposition of men & women. That you & Mary
will meet the diffidence of this worthy Lady with a
generous confidence I have no manner of doubt. I
have ventured to promise it, before I could overcome
reluctance arising from the best of principles. — These
second connexions are never agreeable to grown up daughters,
and they are naturally prone to find fault, & too often pleased at
discovering them. Nine times in ten the fault is in the children;
for it is much more natural for a step mother to be kind &
indulgent to her husband's daughters, than for them to treat her
with fairness & candour. Where there is one Mrs. Ware there
are ten Mrs. Muth Stiles Gannett, and Mrs. Lanes, now Mrs. Wells.
As the matter to which I now refer ^{until since you have been at Ipswich} has never been concluded on
owing to the fears & diffidence of the Lady, and is now settled, which
nothing but death can alter, I think it right to give you early
information of it, & am your affectionate father
Benj. Waterhouse

12. No letters from Philadelphia since Mary's last. Mary has read thy letters
and she has had a long talk with her, & to my great satisfaction — she can
not find a person who she will give the price of the one who may come here
before New Year's day? —

Miss Elizabeth W. Waterhouse
To the care of John Andrews Esq
Griswick
Neh —

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