

Birmingham Jan<sup>y</sup> 4 1787

how could you be so mistaken my Dear Pety's  
to think that I should reproach you with neglect & ingratitude  
no! far be it from my thoughts - I can much more easily  
imagine your diffidence has been the cause of my being so  
long deprived of your favors, for such I esteem your letters,  
and hope that this said diffidence will never stop in to deprive  
me of a correspondence that will always afford me pleasure -  
and tho' I did not express my wishes, I can assure you that I  
was not without them; and I feel a secret satisfaction  
in having them granted by you - but I cannot help smil-  
ing my dear! at your motive, why truly that of receiving  
my very instructive letters; and I should heartily pity  
you, did I not think you possest of a mind so philosophical  
that you are able to bear with patience the greatest of  
disappointments —

you say, my dear! that you are quite  
unhappy at the thoughts of parting! with so kind and affection-  
et a mother - you also lament this cruel war, which has  
deprived you of the protection of your Grandfather - but  
you have one consolation left, and that is, of corresponding  
with him now. if you can adopt his maxim, you will  
— another, and that is to think whatever happens  
to you is for the best - and tho' your name is at Middle-  
borough, and you in Boston perhaps you may have it in  
your power to have her always with you, and I dare to  
say, that will compensate for all your past troubles; and  
I am sure that every mark of your affection and duty  
towards

her will add to her felicity.

I am glad that your Brother has got a good place, and I hope that I shall live to hear that he is well settled in business for himself - perhaps he may in the way of trade take a trip and see us - pray can you tell me who his Master married.

you thank me for the workbag; you are welcome. I now send you a pair of buffels as a specimen of my own work, but you must remember that if they meet with your approbation, it is all the recompence that I wish - when you wash them it is best not to iron them but pull them untill they are dry, and then pull ~~them~~ <sup>it</sup> will ~~work~~ <sup>work</sup> picking out with a ~~needle~~ <sup>needle</sup> - your Grandpapa also send you a piece of calicoe and a piece of musling ~~both~~ <sup>both</sup> each of which will make you a gown and petticoat, which are worn here without aprons - let your gown sleeves cover your elbows - small buffels, large double handkerchiefs, a hatt of some kind, without a cap, seems to be the present taste of dress - as simple and plain as you please, no flounces, but 3 or 4 tucks in your petticoat - washing gowns are thought much more genteel than silk - so much for fashion.

your Uncle and Cousins & I love to you, and are glad that you are pleased with the picture.

now for your P. S. - you desire me to explain to your Grandpapa the diffidence that we girls

feel in writing to the ~~the~~ te sex-how shall I begin?  
what shall I say? I dont know, is it that we think  
them so much our superiours, as to sett us into such a  
flutter, that we do not know what we are about?  
or is it because we think they can see our failings  
sooner, or that they will be severer in their criticisms  
than our own sex? or is it because we wish to excell  
even the lords of the creation? or is it because we  
wish to be admired and adored by them? or is it because  
our future happiness depends upon their love and  
friendship? I think it must be owing to some of  
those causes, but I dont know which - for it is so long  
since I was a girl, that I have forgot all about  
it, but your grandpapa says that he is of no sex  
so you may write to him as freely as you please.

well my dear! do you not  
feel yourself vastly improved? no think I see you  
almost a head taller than when you began to read  
this sheet; therefore I think its best to stop - least  
you should not be able to find a door in the house  
high enough for you to go in and out at.

So, with wishing you health  
and happiness concludes  
your affectionately  
Jane Clarke

Miss Betty Oliver

in

Boston

Birmingham July 10 1788

My Dear Betsy!

I have your last letter now before me but it is not in my power to refer to the date or place from whence it came, as it has not informed me of either; therefore I imagine, at the time that you wrote it, you was deep in the study of philosophy, and by this time I suppose that you are a perfect mistress of it—tell me now, am I not right in my conjectures? I certainly am, but take care my dear! That you do not get too absent; for now, if your candle should want snuffing and you should take me? W fingers instead of a pair of snuffers and make use of them for that purpose, I question whether he would like it very well, unless you can at the same time convince him that there is no such thing as pain; now if you can do that, all will be well, and I shall set you down for the greatest philosopher of the age—

I think it is high time now to thank you for your last favor, and to assure you that I did not find the least trouble in reading it, as it consisted of good

sence, good writing, and good Spelling, ~~these~~ are ingredients that  
always give pleasure to the receiver; and, without flattery, I  
can say, that the oftener you favor me the happier I shall  
be; and for the future, I wish that you would improve every  
opportunity that offers - and I should be glad if your Brother  
would take a hint, and write to his grandpapa, I can assure  
him that he would reap great advantage, from it, besides  
pleasing one that has his wellfare much at heart - give my  
love to him -

I am sorry to find, by your letter to uncle,  
that your Nance has been ill; but I hope before this time  
she has quite recovered - please to give my love to her and  
tell her I felt myself not a little disappointed in not having  
a letter from her, but I hope it will not be long before I  
shall have that pleasure -

I hope my dear! before you receive  
this you will have had the pleasure of hearing that your  
grandpapa has recovered from his late indisposition. I assure  
you that it is almost like raising one from the dead - oh  
my dear! where was my fortitude at that time? what, when  
I was most in need of it I found that I had none; but I hope  
th

that I shall be enabled to be more resigned to the will of heaven  
for the future, and not sink under the trials that may be inflicted  
upon me - at this time I am restored to my usual ~~weakness~~ <sup>firmness</sup> and  
desire to return my sincere thanks to the Almighty disposer of  
all things for his peculiar kindness to me -

~~Wales~~ your Uncle and Cousins are in  
Wales - we hear from them often, they are all well, and did  
they know that I was writing to you, they would desire to be  
remember'd to you and your Mama and Brother -

I shall inclose a letter to  
your care for Mr Greenleaf - Mr Brimmer was so kind as to  
convey the last to him for me - tell him I am much obliged to  
him, and if it is not too much trouble I should be glad if he will  
do the same by you, please to give my love to Mrs Brimmer and  
your cousin Betty when you see her, and accept the same -

From your affectionate Cousin  
Anne Clarke

Miss Betsy Oliver

114

Roxbury

HMS  
C173

HMS  
C173



Birmingham Feb: 23 1792

My Dear M<sup>rs</sup> Waterhouse

At last I have received your kind letter dated December but not untill I had quite given it over for lost which you will find by one that I have wrote to your mother. indeed it gave ~~it~~ me great pleasure to hear from you once more and not a little sorrow to think that I had lost ~~one~~ one that used to partake so sincerely with me in every thing that added to my happiness or my dear what comfort is there in this world to be conpaired with a true friend that one can fly to and relate all ~~our~~ joys and troubles and be assured that they will bare a part with us and as much as is in there power alleviate the one and increase the other Such a one my dear have I had in your Grandfather, and my Uncle, for more then 20 years but alas I have lost him and I feel <sup>that</sup> the wound is very deep and I donot think any of his friends can miss him more if so much and I fancy that you will be of my mind when you reflect that he

has been my protector and guardian before you  
was born and when he was in health he never  
wanted any where that <sup>he</sup> could possible help with-  
out me and for the last two years and an half  
we have been constant companions and altho for  
a long time before he died he could neither read  
much himself nor even hear others yet he was  
generally very pleasant in conversation and if  
at any time saw my spirits flag he would try  
all that was in his power to raise them and  
altho I often a nights thought he could  
not live untill morning yet at the same  
time seeing him so resigned helped me generally  
to appear chearfull and more especially as it seemed  
to do him so much good now I would not have you  
think that we never conversed upon serious subjects  
for we often did and he often used to say that  
he was not tired of life and still could enjoy his friends  
yet he was quite ready when his master called and so  
it <sup>seem'd</sup> for he departed without a sigh or a groan and I think  
I never saw a more composed countenance he appear'd to be  
in a sweet sleep I hope I shall not be blamed ~~if~~ if I  
say that I have pass'd through the hardest trial that  
I ever did in my life but stop let me reflect upon his

precepts and example and endeavour to follow them  
for I am sure that they were worthy of any body's imita-  
tion you say my dear that they will ever rest upon your  
mind I hope they will and upon mine also he never allow  
himself to sink under adversity nor be too much elevated  
with prosperity but always remembered whose hands he  
was in and cheerfully submitted to the will of heaven  
may you and I my dear be enabled to do the same and may  
our last end be like his I remember when Aunt died he  
said that the Lord gave and the Lord had  
taken away and blessed be the name of  
the Lord —

you give such a fine account of your children that it  
makes me long to see them da tell Master Andrews that  
I say that he must not pull over your side when you are  
going to write to me for if he does he will leave his  
grate brother John Spottengill to do the same and  
then I shall never get any letters. I would have you  
love your children and make much of them but don't  
spoil them and let them hinder you from writing to a  
friend as much as twice a year now you will say this  
comes from an old Maid. the Dress here for little Boys  
is commonly from thire being born untill they leave of  
pettycoats a drawn body: frock sleeves only to the elbows

four or five tucks in the skirt or broad ribbon tied  
round the waist they seldom change this dress untill  
they are five years old and then they have three waist  
coat and trousers made all in one I forgot to tell you  
that the frocks are generally white and those that  
can afford it make them of Muslin -

I hope that your Brother met  
you on the day that you expected him and was in good  
health and spirits please to give my love to him and  
tell him that his Grandpapa and I were much disap-  
pointed that we could not see him the  
the last time that he was in England I  
should like to know how he likes Rushey -

I am very glad to find that your mother and the rest of  
your connections are well. I am much pleased that  
Mrs Russell is so attentive and friendly to you and  
I hope that it will be as lasting as life I assure you  
that I have a very great regard for her and her kind-  
ness to you has not lessened it - The Doctor has wrote to  
her and your mother and Mrs Brimmer and yourself -  
and says every thing of consequence - at present I am  
with him and his son Peter but it is very uncertain  
how long we shall stay in Birmingham - Peter desires  
his love to you and your Brother please to accept the same  
from your affectionate Cousin  
Mrs The little ones for me  
Jane Clarke

HMS  
C173