

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 1814

My Dear Son,

I left you last evening with a mixture of pleasure & of pain. I felt pleasure at the idea, that the beautiful & healthy situation of Fort Warren would recover your health & spirits; and pain at the sight of your tears & troubled countenance.

There is nothing in this world that I possess that I would not give to see you once more restored to health & cheerfulness. Your affliction is my affliction, your sorrow is my sorrow—your happiness is my happiness; and your comfort & prosperity will gild my now declining years with a ray of joy; but while you misconstrue my efforts to serve you, and to benefit you, I am miserable, & gloomy. While you are asleep I am awake. While you imagine, for it is all imagination, that I am unreminded of you, of your too thoughtful state of mind, I am racking my brain to devise schemes for your advancement in life, & permanent prosperity. If I have anyone child that I am more solicitous for his happiness than another, it is you; and yet I am wounded to the soul with the thoughts that you appear to have a contrary notion.

You have only to tell me what you want,  
and if it be within the compass of my  
power, you shall have it.

I have sometimes spoken quick &  
sharp at you, as is natural to me,  
It may be I have spoken once too sharp  
and I am sorry for it — You must forget  
it, & forgive it; and you may rest assured  
that there is no young man in this  
country that has a more truly affectionate  
father than you.

Hence forth let there be an effort  
between you & me to see which will  
tread the other with the most friend-  
ship & affection. — Accept therefore  
the cordial salutation of your ever  
affectionate father  
B Waterhouse

Write word to me or your mother for  
whatever you want, and we will send  
David down. By him I shall send you paper

Ink, Wafers, &c together with  
something to eat & to drink, but least  
you may want something that we  
do not think of write you what you  
want, & direct your letters to be  
left at the Post Office in Boston,  
where we shall get them, & not to  
Cambridge, because if you do we  
cannot get out of the Boston office.

MS  
A. 17.1

the instead of the post office you  
can send your letter by the fort  
warren boat to Mr. Dorrings -

Andrew O. Waterhouse Esq  
Fort Warren