

Cambridge 15<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup> 1827

Madam,

I write this <sup>to</sup> you from an idea that you are at anchor, and not sailing about nobody knows where. I wrote to your husband at Hellsdale, and in a day or two after had a letter from him saying he was not there, but at Sheffield.

The speciae purpose of my writing at this time is to say, that they are alarmed at Newport Rhode Island with small <sup>pox</sup>, and that I have written there and advised them to send for Dr Fansher to vaccinate the town, as he did once before, with me & my son, but there has not been time to receive an answer. I therefore write this to notify your husband to be in readiness, provided they should conclude on employing him; for it is hardly worth while to go there at such a cold season upon an uncertainty. If they should conclude as I wish them to, and will directly write to him, provided you will inform me where to direct <sup>to</sup> him for a certainty; for I am not such a marksman as to be able to shoot flying.

If ever Congress mean to do any thing to establish the practice of vaccination, they will do it this session: for some of the most influential men in it, have promised their aid, and the President is zealous in the cause. You will understand that I only wish Dr F. to be in readiness, if the people of Newport should conclude to give him a call, for the Doctors there are very intent on doing it themselves, & have already begun to disagree.

Very respectfully yours

Benj: Waterhouse

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BOSTON  
JAN 15

Doctor Sylvanus Fansher  
(for Mr. Fansher.)  
Southbury  
Connecticut