

Cambridge, February 3d. 1816.

Saturday Afternoon.

Dear John & Elizabeth,

Firstly, I wish to know how your health is, in comparison with what it was before you left home, how your side & head ache are, and I wish you to tell me precisely, and not say that you are better than you really are. If you say that you have stated your case just as it is, I shall feel easy. Now this is what I wish answered.

Yesterday morning Daniel and I went into town. I called at Mrs. Brimmer's I saw Mrs. B. and the girls, they said that Martin & George are well. They heard from Grand Mamma the day before, and she is well. I wrote to her this morning, and told her all about you. Mrs. B. said she was afraid you would be confined to the house from fatigue, and that you was much better than she feared you would be. Eliza was just finishing her feather tippet, she says she would not advise me to make one for she would not make another for all the tippets in the world. They have worked a hearth rug, since we were there. They were not a week doing it. The colours are not handsome, and therefore the rug is not, but it is done very nice, and I want to work one too. I asked Mary Ann to write to you. They were very pleasant and I felt perfectly at my ease. I called at Mrs. Winthrop's, where I saw Gen. & Dearborn, and he asked all about Betsey, and said that they expected me to make them a visit soon. Mrs. W. sent her love to <sup>you</sup> and Augusta also, she asked me to come and spend a day with her, in such a way that I thought I wd. go. I went to Dr. Hill's in their newly purchased house in Purchase Street. It is the same one that Mrs. Dana lived in, while in Boston this summer. They talked so fast, and were so kind, that I did not know what to do with myself. They insisted upon my coming to spend a few days with them next week. I saw Miss Catherine Scollay in the street, and she stopped and shook hands with me, and enquired after you. Mr. Gannett expects Eliza here week after next, and Papa is going to innoculate her little Charles. I began a letter to you last week without knowing that there was an opportunity of writing. Benjamin came home last Saturday. His school terminated the Friday before, for he had schooled up all their money. He has given very good satisfaction, and has enjoyed himself.

He got 27 dollars. I think he is improved. He wished me to get him  
some cravats, and I got two at Mrs. Badman's for 1/4 - 6 d. per yd. yd.  
and a quarter wide. I thought it was very cheap. I mean to get him  
<sup>1/4<sup>th</sup></sup> some more, and put them away, for as he has got money it is better for him to  
<sup>Sunday</sup> spend it for cloaths, than to fool it away for nothing, tho' I don't think he wd.  
<sup>Evening</sup> I don't know how much he has studied this winter, but the vacation is almost  
up, and then we shall know. I was rejoiced by your letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> which  
we received last night. I had expected to hear all the week. You say John that  
you have become Vaccinated to the U. S. I should be glad that you should  
have fifty dollars added to your purse, but I hope you will not buy it too  
dearly, I am afraid you buy the standing you hold at a dear price.  
I am glad to hear that you go to bed earlier. Do E. make him take care.  
It delights me to think what a comfort, in the true sense of the word E.  
must be to you, and if you restore her health, I will not say a word a-  
bout myself. You say you should think I might feel happy when  
I reflect that her absence will for her benefit, I do, and another motive  
influences me; that she increases the happiness of my dear brother. You say  
you intend to get married as soon as possible, E. can tell you what I think  
of it. I think you must need mending up deplorably. I think you want  
be willing to spare E. very soon. I am pleased that you introduced her  
as Elizabeth, and I always thought she looked Elizabeth, and not Betty.  
The names convey different ideas of character to my mind entirely.  
I always associate every excellence with the name of E., tho' I know  
that it is the mind that makes the woman as well as the man.  
Elizabeth, I can send the painting apparatus very conveniently. I  
thought that the tin box in which I send them would be better than  
the old shabby wooden one, or a paper box, and it holds all you  
would wish to have. The stockings I have not sent, for I thought  
there was old ones enough to last me all winter, and that they might  
be wanted more. I wish I could send them any thing that would  
be useful. Mrs. Prentiss is very well and happy, she thinks no one  
ever had such pretty men to wash & mend for as she has. She  
says she don't think any body thought more of you than she did.  
It is only 2 months before I suppose Proetta will embark on  
the wide world on her own account, so I shant have to wait  
her long; she has behaved very well. Mr. Appleton desired me  
send his love to Mr. and Mrs. Emery, and say that they are well

I am sorry to hear that your old companion, head ach, stays by you, I hope that exercise will drive him away, I cant believe that you are indeed in Philadelphia, the place where you laughed when you talked of going. I often told you that you wont want this and that, because you will not go from home, and now you are 300 hundred miles from me, and I am alone. The last three months appear to me like a dream, it seems even now as impossible that my mother is gone forever, that I shall never see her more in this world, I sometimes almost rejoice that she is out of a world where she had nothing but pain and trial to expect. I dream of her and you constantly, and my dreams leave their shadow thro' the day. I mean they do not leave a perfect idea, but <sup>sort</sup> a feeling which I cant describe. I often wonder that I am no better when I have had such an example of "female excellence," and make resolutions which are broken by the first untoward circumstance. Dont ever tell me again that you cant write letters, you can such as please me exactly, which is proof of their excellence, for what pleases those who dont understand the rules of composition must be good for those rules are taken from nature. You say you feel inferior to all girls of your age. If you could only not think so, you would appear better than they, as you really are, but feeling inferior is the surest way to appear so. I made a resolution the other night to try to say what I know when I was called upon, instead of saying "I dont know," for fear that I should not be right, I know it is very foolish, and I almost always say so, when any thing is suggested a little out of the way, but I suppose that the next time I shall do just so. Now I know that I'm not equal to my friends, and it seems to me, as if I tried to make people think that I am <sup>more of</sup> a fool than I really am. I saw Sophia Webber at meeting to day, she enquired after you very affec. and said she was very glad to hear from you, and sent her love to you & brothers. I do pity her very much, and I feel as if I wanted to do her some good. Send a message to her. Poor Maria is almost gone. Her voice is almost gone, she expectorates matter, and has the hectic flush, and all the symptoms of rapid decline. She has no hope of living, but cant think that it is her turn to die, surrounded as she is with every object to endear her to life, but she cant see her little William three months older. Papa went to see her about a fortnight ago, and Ben said he should like to go and see how she does, if so, I am to accompany him.

Lucy, Mary, and many of the girls have joined the singing society, and sit in the front gallery, which much improves our Church melody. We little girls want to learn to sing too, next summer. Lucy, Mary, Henry and Harriet, read your letters, and Lucy read some to her name. I felt pleased that they should, for I had almost as lief be unhappy, as to have no one participate in my happiness. Harriet said she was very much pleased with the little note you wrote her before your departure, and she should have written a few lines in Lucy's letter, but she did not know what to say. I hope you will keep Lucy's letters. Tell me if you see any one as good as her. You say that the trio does not suffer by comparison. Oh no, it never could. Have you seen Mrs. Marton? I suppose Mrs. Atterton feels very happy. I am grieved to hear that the Poultenys are so reduced. I should think you would wish to go to see them, but you wd. feel unpleasantly, and they would be distressed, and I would not go unless I could do them any good. You say you long to receive a bundle of letters, my letters I'm sure, have made up in quantity what they lack in quality. Monday Evng. 10 o'clock. We have been this afternoon to pay the long asked for visit to Mrs. Knox. They made enquiries after you, and your message was duly delivered. The visit was pleasant, & I thought I never liked Mrs. K. more, but still it made me feel sad, as it was the first place I had been to for so long a time, and the persons I used to love to go out with were gone. Mrs. Knox had just received a work box of bird's eye maple from her sister. On the top was painted a landscape and on the sides the seasons, with a piece of poetry descriptive of each season & under neat. The box is really very handsome, it is all painted with one color brown which makes it much handsomer, than if it was of various colors, and it had a great friendly appearance which pleased me. Mr. Gannett wishes to know Mrs. K. shewed me a seal of a letter, on which was hope sitting on an anchor, and a pigeon with a letter in <sup>his</sup> mouth. In some country in Asia, a king first established posts by means of pigeons, now I thought the device was an extremely pretty one, and perhaps you might make use of it in some way. It is difficult to paint so small a bird I know, but John could help you if you could make it do for any thing. Do paint the watch paper that you promised to last winter. Prudenter a simpliciter. Now I don't know as that is right, but something like it.

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Cambridge, February 18<sup>th</sup> 1818  
Sunday Afternoon -

Dear brother and sister,

Last night I waited with impatience to hear the stage horn blow. It blew, but there was no letters, or news of Mr. Farrar and I thought I must content myself till the next mail. This morning I was tying up a pudding, and saw Mrs. Dana's George pass the window, and you may be sure that if Rosetta had not stood ready, the pudding would not have been done till this time (I hope you won't judge of my attention to domestic affairs by this circumstance, for you must recollect it was the most <sup>joyful</sup> occurrence which could have happened, to me.) I was indeed delighted. Your letters Elizabeth were full & I can't tell how gratifying. I had no one to participate with ~~me~~ those pleasures which we used to take, when we heard from John, for men though they may not be less pleased than we are from hearing of the welfare of a friend, yet the little details which please us so much, are thought by them of no consequence. I know John is an exception to this rule, as he is to many others; all others of that kind, I would say.

Your letters John, as they are snatched from business, and from moments which should be devoted to strengthening your health, were very gratifying. It grieves me that you have so much to do, and gain so little by it, when Daniel is suffering for lack of employment. I hope you will on no account attend to business so closely, as to injure your health which is of so much more consequence. The pin which I suppose came from you, is invaluable. The letters I have read twice over already, and they will afford me amusement for a great while. I told them that they made me feel, ten years younger, for I visit most, and see most, people who are older than myself, and sometimes forget that I am young. I don't mean that I am more sober than I used to be, only your being gone, it is seldom that I am with young people except our own boys. I very much pleased with what you say of Mrs. Hains, she is just such a woman from the opinion I have formed of her, as I should like to be. She looks for happiness where it is to be found. I love her too, for loving John.

You don't mention what her intellectual endowments are, but from her  
corresponding with so many elegant minded people, I should <sup>think</sup> they  
were superior. I can see Reuben's wife and children. I should <sup>think</sup> they must  
be a happy family, truly. I thought you would admire Mrs. Cox, for  
John said her children were the best managed and most agreeable, of  
any he ever saw. If she brings her children up well she must be a fine  
woman, tho' I wonder that every woman does not make it her happiness  
to form the young minds of her children to what is good. I always felt  
sorry that Catherine Clark's health was so poor, because I was more pleased  
with her, than any young lady John ever described. Miss Gilman,  
Mr. Tolson says, is some of the salt of the earth, from what he hears.  
I really think the extravagance which you mention, is very reprehens-  
ible, and I hope John won't have such a wife. I never saw a woman  
yet, excepting Mrs. & Miss Ingersoll, who looked better for their extrava-  
gance; I like elegance, but not finery & dashiness. You say people look  
you, as at an Elephant. I should not like that at all, for I can't do any  
thing well, when I am looked at. You say, you long to hear from me and  
domestic concerns. What shall I tell you, that we washed, and I mend-  
ed and put away the cloathes, that I minced meat or fish, or made  
soup? One thing which of great importance to me is, that we bought  
a very nice barrel of soft soap last week. I know you wanted to  
save the soap grease to make soap yourself, but by selling the grease  
I almost paid for the soap and we could not have paid the  
money for it, & we could not do without some, and I thought if  
I tried to make some and did not succeed it would be a  
never ending subject of conversation, and that we should proba-  
bly have enough grease by the time that you come home and  
the ~~grease~~ was gone for you to try your skill. Was the son of  
Dr. Ramsay which you saw, the one to whom his mother ad-  
dressed those excellent letters? I really think it is a pity that  
the men are no brighter, I don't wonder at all that John is a  
favourite with ~~all~~ sensible ladies. Mr. Tolson, says sometimes,  
that he is a good mind to go and set up a school in Philadelphia  
and asks me if I think he would succeed, I tell him, yes, &  
that he had better go. You heard him talk so before you knew.

not courage to tell him but she said I might tell him at his sisters, I chose  
the latter. I hear from Lucy and Harriet every few days, and I am  
now  
Now you must not expect to receive but very little pleasure  
from my letters, for I see nothing new excepting that my sphere  
of enjoyment lessens, as I journey on. Domestic occurrences are  
the same one week, and the next. Many times have I wept  
in anguish of mind, and many times have I smiled, but I  
am cheerful all day, I believe, and in the loneliness of night  
discharge my cares in tears, or receive comfort from the reflection  
I am not disregarded by a merciful heavenly parent, tho' my  
dearest earthly guide is gone. I think sometimes perhaps she  
looks down and smiles on her once beloved child, & if it  
is possible there is a comfort in the thought, and it is an excite-  
ment to duty, and perseverance in whatever good you prac-  
tise. Papa has received another letter, or rather order to Genl. Ripley  
ordering him to be located in Boston and rather wondering  
at Genl. E. for not rightly understanding the previous order.  
Dr. Lowell has gone off to Kentucky, as he considers the 2<sup>d</sup>. de-  
partement as a good case for him. Genl. Brown too has sent an  
order for Papa to have a furlough for six months, if he chuses.  
I went to Boston a little while when Daniel went to carry the  
letters to go by Gray, which I hope before this you have received.  
Our friends were all well. Went to Mrs. Dearborn's, and she  
charged me to tell you to write to her, and not wait for a  
private conveyance, for she should be very glad to pay  
the postage. She said Genl. Chandler was staying there with  
his daughter, and as soon as they were gone should depend  
upon the pleasure of a visit from me. I really am afraid  
to go, for I don't see how I can give them any pleasure by  
my conversation or otherwise, but if she says the time when  
I shall go. I really like Genl. D. very much, as much as  
I disliked him before, he talks to me as if he had always  
known me. Mrs. D. is very much delighted with Henry's  
preaching, she it took a great while for her to recount his  
various excellencies, and she told me to tell him that she  
heard the Genl. heard him every Sunday, and were very  
much pleased. He came here Thursday Evng. but I had

Mr. Stone and I after first occurring to write a note to each other  
saying few days. I gave for the occasion which pleased her very much  
indeed. The card, she wrote in a hurry to you and entirely forgot  
to thank you for it. I have asked me to make her excuse. I am  
proud I was not because she was not pleased for the reason.  
Mr. Gannett concurred that Mr. Farmer had said so - just  
March 9th. I have written in a letter which is at home after  
Mr. Farmer but it will be two weeks the old before we  
get it in answer. Second. Next is going in about  
days when I shall send what you wish

Wapa does not know of this opportunity. He was here  
yesterday, and very well. Augusta Wirthrop sends her  
love. I like her very much. Jane has grown quite  
pretty. Ann, the same little thing we always liked  
she I was very much pleased your letters indeed  
by Mr. Farmer. and with your letters John. I like  
the Quakers better than any other people in many  
things, there is so much nonsense among the  
staidish people, that it shocks my wisdom.  
I scratched out what you said of Henry before  
I sent the letters to Lucy for I thought he might  
read them. Do you hope he will be settled in  
Wattle street? Every body admires him, which  
I suppose you will not be surprised to hear  
Daniel tells me that we had one of our old  
theological disquisitions at our house which  
is the first one since you have been gone.  
The folks are all talking so you must excuse  
my writing. Mrs Dearborn was much  
pleased with your letter, intends to write  
very soon. I write a quire for she is so busy  
and so pleased with all my heart, your affection  
I do hate to leave off it is so long since I have talked

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