

Cambridge June 23. 1806.

My dear children

Never did a letter convey more comfort to a mother than your's of this. for I had suffered my mind to be unusually depressed by a dream that you were sick. It is foolish to give way to such superstition, but I mention it as another instance of the many you have observed that dreams should never be thought of or repeated (far less) to make any serious impression on the mind.

I am very glad that the Eclipse was observed with so much attention by you; never again will you behold so grand beautiful, and at the same time so awfull a spectacle. I do not wonder that your "blood ran cold;" every one that could had the same sensation - and yet was it more extraordinary than what we behold every day? the rising and setting of the sun, moon and stars, the return of seasons - are they not as wonderful? and do they not proclaim the power of the great originator of all things? - Look at the smallest stone or blade of grass what human hand can form any thing comparable to them? - behold yourselves. who formed you, who gave you life and health and above all endowed you with reason? who preservest you by day and by night? - and recollect at all times that you were formed pure and spotless

and dare not pollute the last and noblest work of God.

Your father has been quite sick since you left us but is now much better - I did not wish to give you anxiety by informing you of it until he was well enough to write himself, and yet you ought to prepare yourselves for adversity as well as prosperity - you know young as you are that oftentimes when you expect most <sup>pleasure you experience most</sup> pain, the winter vacation was an instance of it, you had promised yourselves much pleasure but the sickness and death of Mr. Adams cast a damp over all your enjoyments and the time that you expected to have passed the most pleasant was perhaps the most anxious of your lives - But you then saw an instance of how much more valuable pure morals and an unblemished life are than all that fortune could bestow.

There is nothing in life that reflects so much honour & heart felt satisfaction to parents as the rectitude of their childrens conduct. Yours my dear children has heretofore given that pleasure which nothing else could, and so long as you conduct yourselves well you confer that happiness which adversity in <sup>other</sup> concerns in life cannot take away -

One worthless child destroys the peace of an otherwise virtuous and of course happy family -

The things you wish are sent - the shoes you must get mended when they need it - Is there any thing of cloathing that

you need? Your Grand Mamma & all your Brothers & sisters  
send love to you. For my part I feel your absence more <sup>more</sup> and  
every day & long for the time of your return - Remember  
me to the good folks you live with, & dont let the young folks  
forget to come to commencement - Write when you have  
leisure & ~~then~~ you will have your letters ready with small  
additions when opportunities offer - I shall expect some profiles  
and a drawing of the academy, and perhaps, some views from  
it, as you have time - but by no means let amusement  
interfere with your studies - Conduct yourselves <sup>well</sup> and you  
will be happy and so will your ever affectionate Mother

Eliza Waterhouse.

Andrew & John Waterhouse.

Andover.