

Dear Girls. B. C. & M.

Phila.

June 15th Monday

Cloudy - warm - perspirations, flutterations. Books
loosets; plants, dying, wilted, withered dead: - manuscripts, scraps of
paper, with names of plants; memorandums - old pens; not a little
dust, in a kind of orderly confusion strewn the table of your
affectionate brother. The draw filled (strictly full) with papers
on various subject, Ladies notes, invitation & cards, couplets of
secrets* is half open, & my watch lays ticking on the table -
& I am sitting in an armed chair, tending over this sheet
which is to be the medium of communication between
me & my dear sisters. We have six tables in the room. One
one lays a parcel of news paper, between which, ^{are} com-
pressed, by a mighty weight of books, ^{are} my plants, obtained
by toil & fatigue. On another is a black earthen jar
with Duplicate flowers - a wash hand basin, a pitcher
a tumbler, a few fragments of soap & few dirty half
wet towels hide another stained pine Petrapode †
Three beds, two trunks, a portmanteau, three chairs.
three pair of boots, 4 pair of shoes (very old), one here
the other there & the others every where; two pair of dirty
worn out pantaloons, a flute, an ink bottle, a few dirty
Phials, snuffers, a shaving pot half full of tepid water,
a night handkerchief, carelessly pulled from the head
without being noticed, a quahog shell - one junk
bottle, & fet they have comb, two pill boxes, a pair of
green hair brushes - a music book fill our Philosophic
hall, in such kind of order as is, ^{more} much easier conceived
than described. our closets are packed all disjunction ^{are} even
without sphere of your imagination. However old coats, pantaloons

* A. Secret - a kind of lozenge rapt in paper with a couplet of rhyming
nonsense. † Petrapode †. a foot legged & footed thing.

dusty shirts, stockings, shoes, umbrellas, & everything else
book, sticking plaisters, hog's fat - a rusty knife, used
as a spatula - my harmonium - should I continue the
catalogues, I should fill the last page of this sheet, & then not
sell my way thro'. 'Tis no body's business to set things
in order, altho' 'tis every body's. There is neither im-
agination, nor invention but plain immagination -

The weather is quite unwholesome. Last night not a poplar leaf
trampled on its ~~peduncle~~ petiole, now ^{they} rustle in the weighty
wind. Who should have ever thought that I had been very
sick. If it is any satisfaction - I never felt better or looked
better than of late. Yesterday I went to Jerry with Mr Rich
& our excursion caused too round a fleep which pulls one
down like too little. Dr. Weston provokes me. Another con-
spicion. At this rate the botanical flame must be extinguished
for want of fuel. A young man from Providence college set
now with us, & tell us something about Cambridge. I
am quite deep in Botany & Entomology now & mean to attend
exclusively to them till the lectures are over & by that time my
rooms will be ready. I find a number of new plants & am
taking great care of them. - Look in to the trunk of fish & see
that they take no injury - & take out the paper, notes on
various subjects, extracts, &c. ... & send them by the next opportunity.
They will be very useful to me.

Miss Stewart has just sent for my letters. so adieu

Your affec^{ed} Brother

Miss Elizabeth Watson Waterhouse
Mill St.
Boston



HMS
C 179

Wm. Wood
of
London

Philadelphia March 18th 1812.

Dear Sisters B. M. & Caro.

This day have I been to the Museum or the Great School of Nature. The first object that attracted my attention was the huge bones of the gigantic Mammoth. There is really more bone in the thigh than in the whole man. Conceive of an animal whose head is farther from the ground than the height of two men; whose ^{bones} are large as a mans body - within whose ribs 13 have dined at once, whose tusks are twelve feet in length. I looked at these monstrous bones with astonishment the first time, but when I returned again to look my astonishment increased, I looked a third time & a fourth and they seemed larger than before. Very like the falls of Niagara the sublimity of the scene is only realized when we get habituated to the ^{terrible} roar of the impetuous cataract. We see not the grandeur of the object until we can reflect on our own comparative littleness. Underneath the ruins of this mighty ~~of this mighty~~ animal, on a column of pedestal is the ~~skeleton of a mouse~~ white & delicate skeleton of a little mouse. The birds are beautiful & very numerous & every thing in excellent order. The collection of minerals is very good. The curious workmanship of the Indians both of America & the East Indies is admirably displayed. The shells fine, but really I was disappointed, saving in the mammoth & the birds. I expected so much that really, it could not have been otherwise.

March 19th. 1813.

Yesterday was delightful & almost the only fair day this month has afforded. The ladies crowded the streets. I luckily fell in with four, & had almost said beautiful girls, about eleven. & we walk about & set about till two o'clock. I have made this determination that I will not avoid, but rather seek the company of the ladies, for I know well how much I want the polish they may be able to give me. Mrs Currie knows how to manage. If I do wrong she always give me a hint or something plainer. Yesterday she gave a push with her finger. I turned & thought, & found that I had, by turning in my chair, been sitting with my back to a lady, however considering who was before me I am quite excusable.

March. 22^d. on Saturday night I went to collation, & thro' Mr Currie got leave to dance, altho' 'tis against the printed rule being about the room for a stranger to dance on these evenings. Every other evening everyone goes who chooses. We had room to dance & very many pretty girls to dance with. Miss Warders. Miss Jay's Miss Egentworth &c. &c. So I had enjoyment enough without expense — on Sunday I went to Quakers meeting. where I saw all the ladies of our last evening party. I have the trouble of taking my hat off a full dozen times. & I saw _____ I went in the afternoon but the ladies seldom go in the afternoon. I walk about with Dr Middleton, — we stand, bowing to whomsoever we knew. The first I ever did such a thing, but here the ladies walk up & down market st. after meeting, & you may meet a dozen acquaintances in one walk as we did. Mrs. B. Radman ~~is~~ heard here yesterday, I have not seen Miss Radman since dining at Mr Lea's. She was in

HMS
C 17.3

Philadelphia Jan. 14th 1813.

Dear Sisters

'Tis now a whole Month since I have had any tidings of you. You would think me unfeeling should I say I have felt no anxiety from this long long delay. I have been frequently to the P. Office & have turned away saying - What does this mean? They are very formal in writing. I was sadly disappointed to day when the man at the Office shook his head, for I really had worked myself up to high expectations of hearing from my parents and particularly my Dear Sisters - I often ^{speak} of you to some of my friends, but none can take much interest in you, so the pleasure is weakened - My heart beats high when I meet a female who resembles or reminds me of my best friends - My memory is not impreg. I visited by holes in my stockings - When I got them mended, I said you see how my mother has provided against cold.

I dined with D. Bush on Monday with some others. Miss Julia is a vastly pretty girl, & a belle too - I am no gallant, so there it is. Mrs Bush and daughters are not over attentive to strangers. Altho I have met little of it, I pumped hard to converse with her, & I believe was the only one who spoke to her. I sat stiff as a buck log, all the time trying to be easy. Another sat next a fish & the others save a D. James from Pittsfield, a Practitioner. In evening I went per invitation to D. Currie's - some young ladies were there, rather dull - I was quite bright for me - tried to dance, but without music, 'tis almost as bad as without Wednesday Ladies; so we played something else - This evening I have spent an hour with Mr. Hains, very agreeably too. It snows

The Examination is on the 5th of March or about that. The first come first served. I shall be among the last. Have not yet quite finished my Disputation - January, 21st 1813

Stue at Mrs Gregg's South 6th St. B4 between Chestnut & Walnut

I seem to be in want of waistcoats. The wollen one I have is really shabby. I can't understand how it should look so bad. — washed twice & it has skinned very much. I should be glad of two — a white & a wollen one, not double breasted. I have not an handsome one when I go into company. I do not always want to wear black. I am very well pleased with my new board of Place. South 6th St. B4 between Chestnut & Walnut.

Mr Gregg you have never said any of Dr Wellington & the other menotomy rites, not knights. I got Dr Jones lecture on Nitrous oxide & thence to the Cotillions. Miss Stogden's — is Saturday 15th — Sunday January 17 shall I detail Philosophy to you? shall I tell you how Davy is continual diminishing the number of the elements, decomposing what were thought indecomposable, & approximating to a simple primary matter — or shall I tell that I went to Dr Jones Chemical lecture, on the properties of nitrous oxide gas, of the extingishing air — we laughed violently — one marched with pompous air — another danced — another jumped, pranced — fenced — banged Dr Jones over the head, ^{him} threw down; squeezed him against the railing — another fell as if dead — another fell & jumped up in a moment & actually jumped the railing, directly into his seat. Some jumped directly into their seats & struck the fundament first, bang on one board in the most gracefully manners to the ladies — They hold the nose & then inspire the gas from the bladder. Some will dance round the area holding their nose, cutting the most ridiculous pranks — one said sometimes about his Kate. From Dr Jones I went to the Cotillions per invitation of Mrs Stogden — who was there with a party — they so mutual interchanged partners that I danced with only one of them Miss J — — However I fell in with Miss Collins & danced with her — and Miss G — the — Mrs Stewart was there as Miss Simmons told me but such was the crowd that could not find her. However in my search I fell in again with Miss Collins — and engaged her as a partner & then manoeuvred so as to get into the same set with Miss G — after this I manoeuvred so well as to ride home with Mrs C — as. I went to bed a 12.00. clock & sleep very little. I was rather sick. All next week I shall be steady. No one in this house is so tight an application as I Waterhouse. Dr Boston says I improve daily — very good — Sir —

you wish why a changed my hoop my peace. They seem worse yet better. In the bands beside
Harris. Quite better. I was not for a wedding band. It was not for every thing. It was not for every thing.

I mentioned the want of a single waisted waistcoat. The two white ones
are ragged about the lower parts. The woollen one has shrunk sur-
prisingly & looks ragged - I am much disappointed in it. I seldom
see a Boston paper & know not what you are about. The last
time I heard from home was thro' the Aurora. - I received on
~~Thursday~~ Monday two half Patriots, & these are all I have seen from
home since the box by N. York - that may December 12th 1812 -
It is now January 20th 1813. We have had three day oblighting
by the Lunsall powerful rays his dispelled it like the morning
Dew. The Delaware presents a grand sight say they -
a fantastic conglomeration of ice & snow.

What I wish above all to be recollected is that I have
only 25 dollars remaining - To be sure I do not owe more
than 5 or 6 a most. I wish father to be apprised of it soon
enough.

I have not seen Miss S. Rodman. She divides her time
with her sisters out of the city. Irael to Miss Sedies in the
street, whom I felt sure were Rodmans, at least I thought one
of them was Mrs Robinson, but I enquired & I suspect I was
mistaken

Do you receive a letter by a Mr Carl?
writing sometimes since?
What means! Carmen secularis manufactured

I received a letter with much pleasure this day. Father asks who Mr & Mrs
Stagden are. They are relations of Doc Coxes. There I became acquainted
with them. They are his nephews - I say to father that he had said so much
about my backwardness & I had felt so much myself on that account
that I consider going out into company once per week as matter of
discipline. He directed me to write of the acquaintances I have made.
He has accepted me to cultivate all myself & myself.
I have been out only once this fortnight - To Dr Jones lecture I went in
pursuit of knowledge - I go to ~~the~~ Dr Barton's once per week; a quoring
club once a now and then an hour in the evening to some acquant-
ances. Dr Glentworth is a Physician whom he saw there & likewise at
Boston a year since. He spoke as if he thought you did not pay all the
attention to him he expected - Austin is well, - I tell father I have read Hercules
choice - I hope thinks I might make my choice of pleasure instead of industry
he may walk into my room & look round. I have not chosen a cudgel. But
a hammer. I have never
Squares

MS
C.173

Mrs. Gregg's, South O. St. between
Chestnut & Walnut

Miss E. Waterhouse

Boston

Mrs. Gregg's -
No. 34. South O. St. between Chest. & Waln.

8 in

20

Philadelphia Feb 7 18

Dear Sisters B & M

By way of beginning to a long letter
Last night I was at Miss Marshall's (the young ^{Lady} who was
at our house with Mrs Hains & Son) party. I had the
felicity of seeing Miss S Rodman. We enjoyed ourselves
mightily. Miss R asked after you both. She is hardly
a quaker. altho' the whole company were young
friends we were amused & even delighted with their
singing. Miss M is quite famous in that line. What
would the New England people think of such Saturday
night parties. As far as I can judge there are more
parties of pleasure & public amusements on Saturday
Ev'g. than any other. Theatre - balls - cotillions -
concerts - These things must be included in our
Sunday thoughts. I do admire Philadelphia
notwithstanding the abominable character the Phil^{ans}
give of themselves as to sociability. I never see
so much attention ^{nor} & could have expected it. I really
believe that had I chose to put myself in the way of
receiving attention, had I not rather sedulously
avoided it, I could have been engaged every evening.

My time draws nigh. I must sip the cup -
I tremble to think, in doubt, whether it be sweet or
bitter. How I shall feel, when I shall be able
to lift the veil & come forward to the light - & go out
the great door - exhilarated by the draught. Say
not a single word about my trying for a degree, I
hope no one suspect that I meant to attempt coming
forward - It is of great importance, I may fail -

This has been long written return Feb 10th March 12. now four weeks
since to have gone by Mr. Hill.

The other evening I was at Miss Collins' (I would have you
to know I have not been out but twice for these
weeks), such a go, you never saw, & am sure, ~~heard~~
off and never heard of. I threatened to write a full detail
of all the proceedings to you, but that is too arduous
a task. It would require a ream of paper to do it
justice & more eloquence than fall to my share -
eloquence did I say - The faculty of Peirce would
only be adequate to the narrative.

Mr & Mrs Emory were here to day - they asked as you
may suppose for the family - &c - I was forced to make
excuses for not calling often on them. I said I was so
much engaged - He said ^{he} had heard of me - They are
acquainted with Mrs Elegg, who is the widow of a Dr Gregg,
one of Bartons pupils, a young woman, certainly not
30 year old -

Sunday night - I have really done business, you'll
think it strange, that I should be so bold - only now one
fortnight to the termination of the lecture. Barton gives two
lectures extra per week; Dr Parish gives two ^{per} day viz 12
a week. I set out to call all around, so as to ~~offer~~ ^{offer}
every thing to the end - Saturday afternoon I went to
Mottains; thence to Dr Cores, & some times with Mrs Loxe
(a most charming woman) spent the Evng at Miss Marshall's
This evening I have call on Miss Rodman, but she was out.
Took Dr Curries in my way & in spite of the Ladies Ground
there, I made my way out, before Mrs C. came from church -
had I not I could not have got off -

Now for a little Galvanism, chemical, Philosophy - Mr
Lavy has discovered a certain combination of hydrogen & nitrogen
making an oily substance, which detonates in very minute
portions with mighty force. He nearly blew his eye out in
the experiment - I will I think explain the theory of pulmen

making gold - 'Tis said that the French chemists have likewise discovered it but, the knowledge of it is concealed because it may be applied to war.

Shall not be sorry for the two waistcoats. My coat wants mending much, & so do my cloaths in general. Monday I have just reced letters for Mr Appleton - My letters are addressed to all & I have mentioned Aunt Rebecca's name in the address many times

Do not fail to present my best regards to all who honor me with theirs - Mr Bowdon Miss W. - Miss Catherine Gleason. & Mr Newtons good family. I dined yesterday at Mr Lea's with Mrs Robinson. Mrs S Rodman & will. R.

O you would like Phil. I hope you will get here some time. both of you. You speak of steady Quakers what think you of - Spring muslins edged with blue ribbon peccas - an unboxed jacket & silver ornament to the long strings of carnelian beads, Cofrets (Do I spell right) silk laces. Breast pins, laces - do had I trace I would describe a Ladies cloes

Miss Caroline Byrnes They cousins said this love to ~~the~~ with exceedingly to see thee. Aunt Lydia almost sheds tears when she speak of thee. She wants exceedingly to see her brother Joseph and has sent for him to come on. I hope he will not come till I am relieved of the huge pack I am trudging under. O how I do want to see thy laughing face among the rest. ~~They must~~ ^{not} fail to give my love to Ann Johnson Hill in return for theirs and please to accept that of ~~the~~ 1

Most Obedt. Humble servant

Friday. Feb 24

I was at Mr Hains' say evening among ~~the~~ and then the girls, you would not dream of Quaker if not, they did not come out by accident. I called on Mr Spring at Mr Binneys. this evening. This letter has been long written (I wrote) of most delightful weather, the ladies fill the streets

H MS
C 173

Miss Mary Waterhouse
Milk Street
BOSTON.

Philadelphia March 4th [1813]

Torres Chastissima.

The gentleman, who bears this, if you get acquainted with him, will please you much. He is very affable and no accustomed to Prudence. Could you see Mr. M^cHenry or Mr. Jones or Clarke you would suppose we were at least sons and brothers.

The ladies of Philadelphia are for the most part more free than those you have been accustomed to see yet are they more reserve at first. The freedoms here used would sometimes shock you. Few among you will even ask a gentleman, whom they have seen to call upon them again. A mother might, but young ladies would not. Here you will be pressed so that you begin to think that they mean as they say. For example a lady asked me last evening to go with her to the ball. I said I would not; it was spending too much time — killing it &c. &c. She pressed very hard. Said I must go. She then said that I should stay there till they went at last, but ~~she~~ she sealed the letter with a black seal I told her it was more powerful than her black eyes. She followed me to the door and told me that she would not ask me ever again. I shook my head, and she insisted that I should or it would be the last. — I did go — but with ^{out} saying I would. This I give as an example of the freedom in the manners of Ladies.

I cannot see the impropriety of such things; they are certainly right in themselves and I can see no evil tendency. We have been brought up differently but to a disadvantage. A lady who has been accustomed to treat all gentlemen with freedom is improving her deportments. will be ready to eat with propriety in any condition. ~~The~~ From this circumstance you will often find young ladies behaving with the propriety and ease of the elderly ones. They are rendered very interesting by this seeming forwardness. I have seen some ladies who were really so dished in company that they dare not ask even their company to be help to the dishes before her, but I have seen ladies here not over 16 & 17 friends at a table with the ease of one who has served an apprenticeship for years. I have seen a young lady from being the only one beside the lady of the house sitting on her left. Perhaps some great characters about her. Attho' this conspicuous and receiving the attention of the whole table she behaved as if they were all her brothers, without the least diffidence. This is the advantage of that freedom between the two sexes in this city.

Another reason is the two sexes are more interested in each other than are those of the same. Without a certain freedom, strictly consonant with the strictest propriety the intercourse between them will be the studied & foolishly trifling - all common place and such as will be justly ridiculed. When they are perfectly at ease, a topic may be discussed with advantage, and each will dare to introduce something better than novel, or more important than balls and the weather. When a man is talking with those of his equals whom he fears not he can discuss freely. If wrong can recant & will be corrected, convinced. The intent of discussion there alone pleases him, but how will this interest be heightened into pleasure, when the same sense comes from a source that interests him in another way. Then he enjoys the female society without thinking it so much of the precious ^{his} morning of life spent to no purpose.

I have frequently said, and it really is true that I could not endure a lady who had not the faculty of perceiving her sense, & of eliciting it from others. I admire, say I, a sensible young lady - if not so I chuse to converse with her mother, and if I find none

Phil^a. March. 29th [1813]

Dear Sisters & Brothers severally & collectively
not excepting Caroline
With a kiss fraternal I greet ye!
Congratulate your brother for his success!
He feels somewhat ligger, but his pantaloon
and waistcoat are yet sound, and have not
rust. I know not but that your Bro:
John, is not the same old six pence. How
^{ever} he does differ from an old six-pence, is as
much as, the impressions there on, are sup-
posed in a degree worn off, and the older
the six pence grows, and the more worn,
the less of the impressions appears, or rather
they disappear, while the six pence really
appears to grow older. The coming
process seems made over every day & my
impressions became stronger. So I am
the same six pence, coined many times
over.

Now I sit now. Only imagine a little
old bandy leg pabbon of a Doctor, half
sledged, sitting crossed legged, upon a 3
legged stool, before a round whirly gig

having three feet, but one leg. Books in
scholastic confusion filling the tables, chairs.
scraps of paper & haphazardly written notes,
The mantle tree filled with dirty
bottles which appear to contain med-
icine from the dirt that obscures
them. A few dried fish. a few crayon
paintings, a wash bowl & a shaving pot.
a syringe, an ink jug - a clyster pipe &
and broken shavers, a spatula & drawing
needle, a looking glass and a pin cushion.
an hearth brush & tooth pick, a walking
stick and Thomsons Seasons. Imagine
all this and you will have no kind
of idea of your brother "the Doctor" nor
his circumstandents.

March. 30. Wednesday.

For a great rarity I set out to visit.
Went to Mr Motons. Had the felicity of sitting
an half hour with Mrs Hitty, a most charming
little sensible baggage. Then in come Mess
Greene & Jones. Two of my partners. Then
went and called on Mr Collins, having a mir-
acul which I never before saw, Had a long
talk with him. He is a own right

clever fellow, He knows every thing & is
very amusing. I was hearing him and
neglecting his daughter the "belle". She is
a good natured animal, she laughs at
me because instead of sitting down
flattering her like her other beaux
I just examine the new mineral, if
that should happen to be one, over the
fire place - This is the first evening
I have spent out excepting by invitation
& at societies meetings for 4 or 5 weeks.

Poor ~~Arthur~~ Stephen Emory is almost
dead with Consumption. Well an active
5^{or 6} weeks since. Now almost motionless,
perhaps drops.

A letter for Dr David Hunt accompanied
for which pay the Postage 12½ cts.

March 30. Mr. S Emory is no better

April 1st - I have been a great galant today
fortune threw me in the way of no less than
six ladies, with whom I walked. If I am
called a he coquet, it is no matter of wonder.
I dined upon Cod fish at Neighbour Clarke's at
two - o'clock. Miss Clarke gave me a nice

silken puns from Nupia as an April fools
day present. Last evening Sever to Dr
Parish's as a visitor with Miss Marshalls
and Mr Collins to hear the reading of an
association of Ladies calling themselves a
"Reading Claps". I never saw more gratified
gratified. Dr Parish is one of the most pleasing
of men. I do not think Sever saw a man
who I should rather to like than Dr Parish.

Afternoon from Mr Clarke's — well skoot.
Mr Clarke is quiet — He hints his
paints with Madira. I have a
stolen breast pin in my bosom & a
ring on each hand — Not a word
from Mr Guaver

My brother & sister

Carrie M

Carrie M