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ELIZA NOEL PINTARD DAVIDSON (1787-1833)

By ELIAB METCALF (1785-1834)

From the original portrait in the possession of Philip T. Meredith,
great-grandson of Mrs. Davidson

LETTERS FROM
JOHN PINTARD
TO HIS DAUGHTER

ELIZA NOEL PINTARD DAVIDSON

1816-1833

In Four Volumes

VOLUME II

1821-1827

NEW YORK

PRINTED FOR THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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LETTERS FROM JOHN PINTARD
TO HIS DAUGHTER

12-8-43 College - Ben/Ros 2

1821

To Mrs. Richard Davidson (*Eliza Noel Pintard*)
of New Orleans

NEW YORK, 6th (Tuesday) Feb^r, 1821 ¹

It is many years, with the highest sense of gratitude to God for the mercy, since my having being [*sic*] restricted by indisposition to the house, as long since as when I informed you that I suffered with a smart attack of Fever for 3 days, I think in the spring of 1810. We have been smothered almost with a dense vaporeing atmosphere on the return of milder weather and I have added one cold to another in succession, which by going to the Savings B[an]k on Sat^r ev[en]ing it was increased to a violent catarrh. Sunday was another wet day, when prudence w[oul]d have dictated my staying home, but it was Sacrament Sunday, & tho Mama & Sister c[oul]d not go I thought it proper to attend. I remained home afterwards, but at night had a smart Fever, wh[ic]h with my cold so stupified me yest^r that I c^d do little more than discharge the duties of my office, & as before remarked continued within doors, all day. The weather cleared off yest[er]day & has blown the humid clouds to the western isles & with them the seeds of my malady. If not perfectly as clear, I feel this morn^g almost as elastic as the genial westerly winds that wafted to sea yest^r a large fleet of vessels that had been a long time laiden & waiting for any oppo[rtunity] to sail.

Thur^r 8th . . . I hardly know how to communicate the following unpleasant rumor respecting a fallen Divine of eminent repute in the Presbyterian Church, the Rev. M^r Stansbury of Albany, a most eloquent preacher. He has fallen a dreadful sacrifice to the temptation of

¹ Pintard's letter of January 18, 1821 to Mrs. Davidson did not reach her. See his comment, *post*, under date of April 2, 1821.

the Devil, another signal instance of the frailty of poor humanity, a reproach to his Church & denomination, and a disgrace to Xt^y. Like the late D^r How he has defiled his marriage bed, broken his vows to God & man & blasted in this world has destroyed the peace & happiness as well the means of supporting his Family. This unfortunate character, at the last Anniv[ersar]y meeting of the Am[erican] Bible So[ciety] made one of the most eloquent speeches, delivered on the occasion. Alas! how fallen.

Friday 9th. Very mild weather. I hope before closing this to announce the arrival of Cap^t Holmes² with letters from my young correspondents. I am now engaged in preparing a plan for a Fuel Saving Fund, to be reported 21 inst., a subject of some detail. The main difficulty will be to enlist respectable characters to act as Trustees.

.

Monday [February] 12th. Dark Vapoury weather & very mild. M^r Russel³ informs me that as soon as it clears off he shall expect Cap^t Holmes. I am gratified this morn^g by receipt of a short letter from my protégé Midshipman Clinton, dated Rio De Janeiro, 25th Sept^t. He has gone out in the Macedonian for the Pacific, & by this time has I hope arrived at Chili. He will make a very fine officer sh^d his life be spared. Every letter gives evidence of his improvement & he has a sound mind & the heart of a Lion, & a well seasoned constitution to undergo the hardships of the life he has deliberately chosen & resolutely adheres to.

Wed^y 14th. Avant dejeuner, as Ma'amselle Davidson veut dire. Taking up the morn^g papers I observe that Cap^t Holmes has arrived in 15 days from N. O. He has remarkable passages. . . . I am pleased that you concur with me in the propriety of sending the boys to

² Silas Holmes (1785-1860), captain of the brig *Phoebe Ann*. In 1824 he established the "Holmes Line" of packets to New Orleans. R. G. Albion, *Square Riggers on Schedule* (1938).

³ John W. Russell, owner of the *Phoebe Ann*, and operator of the "Old Line" to New Orleans. *Ibid.*

French School this spring. . . . Six months & they will be able to converse if not accurately, tolerably easy, & this is the first, & too often insuperable difficulty, for as to reading a living language, it may do for the recluse student] but unless one speaks French fluently, the awkwardness of pronunciation forbids conversation, & thus the vocabulary of the language is soon lost. I know this from experience, for I believe that I have acquired & almost lost the French tongue, three or four times in my life, and from want of practice it is again & for the last time gradually fading away & I shall, having no cause, [n]ever be at the pains of recovering further than to serve the purpose of reading, for w^h I have but little other time than evening and my eyes begin to fail me fast.

Wedn^y 15 Feb^y. It has cleared off dry tho' are [*sic*] streets w^h were all afloat yest^y bear the aspect of winter. . . . There is little news of moment, none domestic except legislative where our Bucktails are dividing among them, at Albany, the Loaves & Fishes. All Gov^r Clintons will be displaced. Thank God I am out of the reach of party rage. The Spanish Treaty has arrived, w^h will I hope amicably adjust all our differences with that nation. The French Minister has also arrived & brings with him a settlement it is said of our commercial relations with France, w^h must benefit N. Orleans. The European world tho' uneasy is too fatigued to renew wars. Those that expect to thrive on the miseries of their fellow creatures will, for some time at least, be disappointed. . . .

NEW YORK, Sat^y 17th Feb^y, 1821

We had yest^y a most furious snow storm from the N. E. w^h fell in flakes so damp & heavy as to adhere to [t& e]ncrust the fronts of all the houses exposed to the Gale. It was a laborious task to shtut] my office front windows. The storm lasted from before day until mid-

night & you may judge of the depth when a man has been steadily employed nearly 3 hours to clear the front walk. The weather prevented the discharge of the Pheobe Ann & this morn^e I went on board & brought up the Box of pecans, as Mama & Sister were certain that following her example the letters were in it, but that was not the case. . . . Notwithstanding the storm yest^r, I performed a duty that I owed Mama & Sister viz importuning the most influential of my Directors ⁴ to assemble and to deliberate on a long contemplated project, to allow me to remove from Wall Street & grant [money] in lieu of rent. I was in treaty with M^r Rhineland, for a very fine 3 story house in [*MS torn*] Street, leading from the City Hall to the No[rth] river, on w^h Mama & Sister had set their hearts being in complete repair & every way accomodating. The proposition I endeavoured to enforce in [the] spirit of accommodation to an old & faithful servant & to afford him & family some comfort before he sh^d leave this world. But with a sang froid that w^d disgrace even our Council of Appointment, they appointed a Committee to examine this old wr[ec]k of a house, some time next summer I presume, & to direct such repairs as w^d keep it from tumbling about our ears, knowing that I was to give a prompt answer on Monday to M^r R. who stands ready to dispose of his house to another bidder. All domestic comfort was out of this view & hard as the rebuff was, to me it was anticipated, but it was a heartrending circumstance for dear Mama & Sister. . . . While my heart bleeds I bear a stoical indifference in face of my cold penurious & illiberal [directors] from whom, if death sh^d be my portion, never, never will I humble myself to ask another favour. My worthy president M^r Furman plead in vain. I thank him.

Monday 19th. . . . Your dear Mother on Sat^r afternoon when I went to the Savings Bank, with her usual masculine resolution, wrote to some of my Directors, stating her wish, on Sister's account to remove whose

⁴ Of the Mutual Insurance Company.

health suffers from being so much immured, from the dampness of our House & the excessive heat of our Chambers in Summer. But I am persuaded in vain, & I dread when I shall go up to dinner, once again to have to disappoint her expectations. She even waited on M^r Sherred between Churches, who is Chairman of the Committee to determine the subject, who promised to meet this morning. It is now half past 12 & he has not condescended to come. My president M^r Furman candidly says that they will not accord with my wishes. They will repair as suits them, but if we do not like to stay, they tacitly insinuate that I can resign, as hundreds will be glad to supply my place. Hard indeed is this alternative, w^h if in my power I w^d not hesitate to accept, & this they well know. On Sat^y we got home the B^l of Oranges, in the afternoon. As usual half rotten & so heated that it almost scalded one's hands to pull them out. About half are saved & far superior to the first parcel, w^h were universally acid. These are very fine & sweet & yesterday for the first time I partook of one. The pecans are very fresh & excellent.

Tuesday 20 Feb. To proceed with my journal. After what I had written, about 2 the Com^e called to see what repairs might be requisite. Mama showed them the premises, after w^h they returned to the office, desired me to retire, & after some consultation requested the President to communicate to me in writing, that it was not expedient to allow th^e Secretary to remove from th^e office. Not only withholding any equivalent in case I sh^d remove but absolutely] forbidding it, unless upon resignation, taking advantage of the times when so many are destitute of employment to compel my compliance with their mandate. Not recollecting that the spring of the peace when r^ents were exorbitantly high and offices in great demand that M^r Lenox then president supported by M^r Sherred, now most strenuous against me, wanted on the 15th April after every house in the City was engaged by the influx of adventurers, to turn my family out neck & heels to make room for Tom

Herring a Broker, since failed; then high in the confidence of M^r Lenox, & who offered an exorbitant price. . . .

Wedn^y 21.

In the evening I am obliged to attend the Pauperism S^o being on the Committee to report on the Fuel saving Fund, which M^r Colden has drawn up. This project will I expect be attempted & I believe will be the last that I shall attempt, and confine myself to such duties as I am compelled to discharge & which by the increasing business of my office, from w^h I cannot retire, press heavily on my advancing years. These are among the too many idle resolutions made on the renewal of every year, but necessity will compel what is refused to discretion.

Thursday 22^d Feb^y. Anniv^y of Gen. Washington's birth day, never to be forgotten by me, a black day in my Calendar, on w^h y^r dear brother Lewis with his uncle Gasherie ⁵ took his final leave of us, never to return. . . . I was obliged to attend in my place, at the Pauperism S^o on the report of the Com^e to establish a Fuel Saving Fund, to advocate its principles, for sentiments on the benefit of such projects, must always be various, plausible objections will be raised by many well meaning persons, who are almost afraid of doing good least a possible evil sh^d ensue. The Report, drawn up by Mayor Colden, was adopted, & we are now to look out for suitable characters as Trustees. I cannot attempt any agency, for in fact I have too much to do already, besides these acts of benevolence & mercy operate against me with some of my narrow minded illiberal Directors who reg[ar]d their underlings merely as Turnspit dogs to turn the wheel that roasts their masters dinner. No bad emblem of my lot. How much pride have I to swallow. . . .

There is a joyous Club in this city called the *Sour*

⁵ Gasherie Brasher, brother of Mrs. John Pintard, and young Lewis Pintard, son of John Pintard, were lost at sea in 1803.

Crout Club ⁶ w^b meets on this Anniversary about 6 miles from town, composed chiefly of the friends of M^r Clinton. Sour Crout is a German dish, prepared with vinegar & spice & in perfection a sallad for a Hog. The president of the year is installed with great solemnity, crowned with a huge Bergen Cabbage, & his officers distinguished with enormous square Hats & rusty Sabres. Sour crout w^b all must taste, is garnished with all the luxuries of the season, venison &c^a with wines of rarest quality & highest prices. Great Hilarity abounds, & at a late hour these gourmands adjourn until the next anniversary & return, such as survive the battle, as jolly as any other votaries of Bacchus. I have been repeatedly invited, but always declined, until that period has arrived when an old man, if prudent, sh^d chaunt his *nunc est abire*, for fear of making an old Fool of himself. No man turned of sixty ought to trust himself at promiscuous revelling parties. Too apt to forget his years and play the boy, he inevitably degrades himself in the eyes of youngsters. Lead us not into temptation, ought always to be uppermost in his mind who from experience is conscious, how hard it is to trust himself. Let old men associate with his compeers, & one cannot laugh at the follies of another. Put not new wine into old bottles, may be paraphrased by avoiding too youthful associations. This is strange doctrine in y^r land of frivolity, where as the good old French Lady told, French folk never grow old. I believe however that old people of this polite nation are not so licentious in conversation & certainly not so given to intemperate indulgence as the English. Polite circles, however, with us are becoming, if not more refined, at least more temperate in convivial meetings than the old school, when hospitaly consisted in who sh^d swill the most wine & lay most guests under the table; in this particular modern manners have much improved. It w^d disgrace a man to rise intoxicated not only from a private but a public table. Few are distinguished even

⁶ There is a short article on "The Krout Club" in *The New-York Historical Society Quarterly Bulletin* (July, 1938), XXII, 83-87.

among the Young as Bacchanalians, But grovelling drunkenness increases among the lower vulgar owing to the reduced prices of ardent spirits. It seems if we cannot eat that we must drink up our redundant grain, and what a kind Providence intended as the staff of life sh^d be converted into liquid poison. . . .

Friday [February] 23^d. A snow, sleet & rain yest^r, & hard rain this day prevent the Phoebe Ann from completing her lading & she will not sail until Monday, as M^r Russel informs me, as Capt. Holmes has conscientious scruples about leaving port on Sunday, a singular trait in a modern seaman. Some of the Nantucket Whalemens, Quakers, were so scrupulous in *old times* that the[y] lay by on Sundays & if they came across a drove of Whales, however numerous, they preferred losing the chance of taking them to working on the Sabbath. But such is the competition of modern times that these scruples are laid aside, & with them a great deal of the honesty & integrity of the old School. As people live more by their wits, honesty is a less marketable commodity. To get rich at any rate, is the order of the day, and the successful knave is respected for his wealth & talents, while sterling integrity content with honest gains is contemned [for a] grovellor, and his family with himself thrown into the shade. This may appear mortifying, but such has been the case ever since the world began, and the truly wise man will not repine when he sees vice triumphant & virtue obscured.

.

NEW YORK, Thurs^r 1st March, 1821

The Phoebe Ann sailed on Tuesday 27th with my last of 26 inclosed in a small package of books to the Doctor, w^h I wish safe to hand. Yest^r aft.noon the Asia Cap^t Chew arrived, on b^d of which is I presume your kind gift of the Bl. of Sugar, w^h I will not say is reluctantly accepted, but w^h I had much rather you had kept for your own use. We have still Mississippi Weather, vapourish

& humid to excess, w^h will of course retard the Asia. As I shall be obliged to attend the Am. B[ible] S[ociety] Managers meeting this afternoon, I cannot take time to call alongside the Asia for y^r letters, w^h possibly will be sent to the post office, the shortest mode of getting them.

Friday 2^d. No letters.

Sat^y 3^d. Yest^y afternoon I went to the Asia & procured the Bl. of Sugar, the head of w^h had fallen in by the sugar settling & the Cask being indifferent. There were no letters . . . Mama says the Sugar looks beautiful. The Barrel we are now using, & w^h I think you s^d was the gift of your late friend Col. Butler, & w^h came as dry & neat as a Flour barrel, is so clean & dry that we all prefer it with Tea to Havanna Sugar. . . . We have had a visit from the Rev. M^r Bayard, on his way to & from N Rochelle to make arrangements for his removal, full of hope & ardent expectation of success in his academical enterprize. He will take with him from Newark six boys & will have 6 day Scholars at N Rochelle to commence with, a good beginning. His only difficulty will be in his want of the domestic aid, that can alone ensure success, for M^{rs} B. is always complaining & out of sorts & too indolent for a poor parsons wife. He is to keep a Housekeeper on whom the care of his Boarders is to devolve. I see no other real obstacle to his success, for education is becoming so universal, that schools in the proximity of this city if well conducted, must always attract scholars, as numerous families will always prefer sending their boys abroad to keep them to torment them at home. . . .

Monday [March] 5th. A troublesome office day. On Saturday night a considerable Fire broke out at midnight in B^d way corner of Fulton, nearly opposite S^t Pauls. We shall lose about \$2000, w^h is coming out very well, but I am run down with enquiries & to ascertain policies insured. We slept tranquilly thro' the whole, without being disturbed. It is my attending month at the Savings Bank. After my return near 10, Mama had prepared a nice plate of fried Oysters of w^h I partook &

sat up later than usual & slept like a top. Yesterday was communion at Grace w^h I attended with Mama & Sister, leaving the cares of this world for the morrow. I have just rec^d a letter from Burlington advising that Doctor Boudinot had been attacked with the gout in his head w^h quite alarmed the family. He has recovered in a degree. Cousin Susan Bradford had also an attack of the Gout w^h appears to be hereditary in this family, but is convalescing. A letter from M^r Bayard mentions that M^r Stocktons Mansion House took Fire on the 2^d & was much damaged. M^r S. was absent at Trenton. The Furniture & Books were obliged to be removed. The original Mansion House, in the days of his Father on the same site, was entirely burnt down, somewhere about 1770. What fatality.

Friday [March] 9th. My progress has been very tardy with this diary. Last ev^s Sister for the first & only time this winter went to a party at her Cousins Julia Weeks. She was dressed in the counterpart of the white merino sent to you last fall, & I c^d not but figure to myself my dear daughters both attired alike. She looked very well, has a beautiful head of hair, & w^d pass for pretty, anywhere. The fashionable parties here outrage all bounds as to late hours. They go at 8 & return from Tea between 11 & 12. Sister, to her great mortification, by Mamas injunctions returned half past 10, just as the refreshments, as all the trash is called, were beginning to be distributed. This servile imitation of foreign manners little accords with our state of Society. The rich adopt & the vulgar herd tread close on their heels. We have a large proportion of mock gentry in this city, whose only ambition is to excel the older families in expense & dissipation. The cry of hard times is universal, but retrenchment is not the order of the day among such as have survived the wreck of commerce. A spirit of luxury & refinement has in the course of my days been gradually gaining ground, propelled by the rapid accumulation of wealth, during the French revolution. It is difficult to retrace & fall back to habits of early sim-

plicity. The Fathers have eaten sour grapes & the childrens teeth are set on edge. Instead of bringing up daughters to excell in domestic virtues, the varnish of modern education is substituted for the solid bullion of the old school, & girls must be constantly dressed & parading the public streets in the morning & breaking down their constitutions by Fashions unsuitable to our cold climate, & extreme late hours in the evening, in hopes of attracting a beau who is only to be caught by a golden bait, of which there is a plentiful lack as times go. This may appear like the croakings of a cynical old man & may savour of disappointed [pros]pects in life, granted, but the picture is not overcharged and is corroborated by much observation. The present generation must pass away, before a new & better order of things can take place, and I have little doubt but that a gracious Providence will bless & prosper the numerous institutions religious & benevolent that are daily arising in our country, whose influence must operate at a future day. In the mean time let us be thankful that the world is no worse than it is & use our individual efforts to make it better.

Another Mission family intended for the Missouri country, about 40 in number, left this city on Tuesday on their route to Pittsburg so as to reach their station early in the season & get settled in time to till the ground & provide for their winters support, as well as to erect their habitations thro' the summer. Last year one family went to the Arkansaw but so late as to encounter many difficulties. Many thousands attended their embarkation on board the Elizabeth town Steam boat at 3 p. m. The sight was very imposing. After wiping the falling tear from the eyes of the parting pilgrims, they were cheered as they slowly left the shore by a consolatory hymn of praise to their Heavenly Father & Redeemer whose standard they are going to plant in a heathen land. It is to be hoped that the modern measures of civilization & education going hand in hand may be successful, but it is a remarkable fact, that after all

the pains taken by the old Puritans who settled Massachusetts, whose piety & rigid morals prevented gross abuses of the natives, that after the very first generation of Instructors & converted Indians passed away, the descendants of the latter all degenerated & with the sow that was washed returned to wallowing in the mire. It seems as tho' the Indians altho' they may attain to a certain degree of civilization & improvement when herding by themselves, cannot intermix with the white settlers without degenerating & becoming worse than in their original state. It is to be proved whether their condition can be meliorated or whether like the Eastern tribes they are doomed to annihilation.

Monday [March] 12th. Mama has had a very severe attack of Fever, arising no doubt from colds & agitation of spirits. It lasted from Thurs^y till yest^y. It was subdued by repeated dozes of calomel w^h she took by her own prescription & knowledge of her constitution. . . . After even^s service I accompanied Sister to see M^{rs} Talbot who has been long confined, but is convalescing. Her health is very delicate & she is readily dispirited, but will recover. At noon I called on y^r Aunt Betsey,⁷ at M^{rs} Callendars, where she arrived on Friday even^s. . . . I believe I omitted acknowledging rec^t of the Oyster shell, a very fair specimen of the size of y^r Oysters, w^h I think are not fit for roasting being too fresh, but otherwise capable of being stewed, fried or pickled to advantage. I shall place it in the Lyceum Cabinet of Testaceous curiosities. D^r Hosack last ev^s gave a copy of his 2^d Edition of Nosology for the Doctor, just published, with additions, & w^h I will send by return of Cap^t Holmes. I sincerely wish that it were S^t Augustine instead of N. Orleans that you were settled. How short & easy w^d be the intercourse. The acquisition of Florida is an important epoch in the presidency of M^r Monroe. I find that Gen. Jackson is appointed Governor. If he accepts he will make a very energetic one. On Friday &

⁷ Mrs. John Marsden Pintard (Eliza Smith), sister of Mrs. Thomas Callender.

Sat^r we had May days, this is observed & the Spring Cattle show is to take place at Mount Vernon this day & tomorrow. The enemies of Gov^r Clinton, the great patron of the Agricultural Societies, have brought in a Bill to repeal the State bounties. Never was anything so productive of benefit in so short a period as these societies. To gratify personal animosity they are likely to be prostrated. . . . M^r Callendar said that he had called to see you. . . . M^r C. returned in the Asia w^h bro^t y^r barrel of sugar. M^{rs} C. has just your number of children, but not very robust, 3 Girls & 3 boys. Your letter of 4th Feb. is just rec^d 11 a. m. a long wate owing to the badness of the roads. Indeed, my chagrin is almost equal to the Boys on the disappointment of the toy Guns. My mind misgave me at the time, but it w^d be imprudent to trust such young children I sh^d apprehend with *Fair Guns* so early, unless under their Fathers care. Tell Pintard that Boys, at the North, are never allowed a Gun till they are 14 years old. I am very doubtful whether such a thing as a light fowling piece is to be found in this city, suitable to their strength. . . . My friend M^r Carow an extensive hardward merch^t just dropped in, I asked him whether such guns were to be procured. He says no, that they are never imported but by order, for lads of 15, & cost from 5 to 15 Guineas, that is from 25 to 75 Dollars, & he doubts if fowling pieces for boys like yours ever were imported, as parents this way think it early en^o to indulge, without imminent hazard, their children till 15, with a gun. Under these circumstances their Father may probably find French pieces in N. O. & if he thinks right can buy & equip his bucanneers, & I will remit the amount, But unless it be a la mode de pays, I must think it full early to trust them, esp^v with their comrades. I had the bad luck, when 12 years of age, to be blown up wth gunpowder at M^r Cuttings School w^h nearly cost me my life. I was 3 months confined to my room, covered with plasters before I c^d appear abroad, & after all my suffering & getting my lessons & keeping up with my class was most inhumanly scou[rg]ed, or rather flayed in

the bargain, w^h broke down my spirit in after life for sporting with a gun.

The Brig Statira is advertised by M^r Russel to sail to morrow, on b^d of w^h I will send this as it will certainly reach you sooner than by land. I will inclose it in the envelope of the Nosology. Cap^t Holmes will probably arrive by the 17th Sat^y having had fair winds. M^{rs} P. informed me that M^{rs} Griffith is expected home this spring with M^{rs} Dunbar.

[Addressed:] M^{rs} Eliza N. Davidson
 New Orleans
 By Brig Statira
 Cap^t Patten

NEW YORK, Friday 16th March, 1821
 a beautiful day

. . . . I have just despatched my usual letter to Doctor Boudinot giving him the particulars of the Managers of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] doings at their meeting yest^y afternoon. We are raising subscriptions to erect a Depository w^h will cost about \$15000. M^r Joel Post, apothecary & druggist, subscribed \$3000, & D^r Boudinot \$1000 about one fourth. We hope to bring up the sum to \$10,000 in this city & to obtain the balance in Boston, Phil^a &c. Whether we shall succeed these depressed times is dubious, but nothing like trying. . . .

Sat^y 17th. S^t Patricks a winters day with a sprinkle of snow last night, after two unusual warm days. Yesterday the splendid procession of Butchers paraded our principal streets, with the carcasses of the 52 Fat Oxen exhibited at the Cattle Show on Monday. The train was composed of as many Butchers Carts besides horsemen & bands of musick, colours flying, tag rag & bobtail accompanying and reached from Mechanic Hall to Wall Street. At night the markets were illuminated, & this morning the exhibition of Fat Beef exceeded anything ever displayed in this city, which has never been as dis-

tinguished for fine beef as Phil^a but will, if encouraged, soon be on a par, both as to meats and butter, in w^d our sister city has so long excelled. The establishment of Agricultural Societies is in a great degree owing to Gov^r Clinton, and of course has distinguished his administration. To break down his popularity, his personal & political Foes, w^d destroy, even, the State, and an attempt is now making in our radical Legislature to repeal the Law for the encouragement of Agriculture w^b may probably be too succesful. Altho all the money & bounty is necessarily spent in the counties, even all subscribed in this city, still such is the baleful effect of envy hatred & malice that every generous measure pursued to improve and elevate the State must be prostrated by vindictive factious views. The desolations occasioned by Mobs cannot be arrested at the moment by the large majority of peaceable citizens, who retire & contemplate their rage & fury and eventually suffer for their illjudged apathy. It is the same in Legislatures, where violence must run its mad career before moderate people can be roused from their lethargy. Tho' M^r Clinton may be sacrificed by a malignant faction, His administration will shine with lustre in the history of this State. He will be distinguished as the promoter of greater benefit than has fallen to the lot of any of his predecessors to accomplish, the times favouring his intelligent exertions. I cannot refrain from apostrophizing my friend, whose greatest errors have been too great obsequiousness to that desperate party who thirst to drink his blood. I met M^r Russell in the market & asked if he thought Cap^t Holmes had reached y^r city. He said he calculated that he was discharging this day. What despatch sh^d this prove true. Last ev^g Aunt Helen^s took tea with us. Mama & Sister accompanied her to select a Leghorn Hat, the first I believe she has had since their being in vogue. Departing she forgot to take it with her, Mama called her back. She observed that she was so unaccustomed to having any thing

^s Mrs. Samuel D. Craig (*née* Brasher), sister of Mrs. Pintard.

new or fashionable, that it quite escaped her recollection. I could not but sigh inwardly at her too true remark.

Monday 19 March. Your letter of 17th Feb^r advising the Doctors reappointment as Resident Physician is just rec^d and I sincerely congratulate you on the event. The emolument \$800 is very trifling, but always so much. The distinction however is flattering & the introducⁿ to more extensive practice, probably. . . .

Tuesday [March] 20th.

It pleases me to learn that Eliza goes to M. Fortiers School, which I presume will excite her emulation. . . . Are the finer branches of needlework taught in this School? too often a superficial accomplishment, but always an embellishment to those, who like yourself & dear Sister are competent to plain sewing in all its details. Indeed ornamental needlework is so fashionable and amusing that no educated female ought to be ignorant of it. The French I hope she will rapidly acquire, especially colloquially, at the period when once attained will never be forgotten, and spoken with fluency, that will secure her from that *mauvaise honte* inevitably attendant on restricted conversation. No one likes to speak a difficult tongue. The niceties of pronunciation fall distinctly on the ears of children, as is obvious in every family, where a child always instinctively catches the very words, tones of utterance & expression of parents. If vulgar, the child is vulgar, if refined these little imitative birds echo their mothers notes with every inflection of tune & harmony. How careful then ought parents to be to avoid not merely vulgar but commonplace cant phrases, w^h from their peculiarity & even ridiculousness make a strong & lasting impression. I know from sad experience the evils of vulgar association, & often blush on detecting myself in literary circles droppng, unheedingly, expressions too familiar & w^h savour of low society. Education was very circumscribed when I came on the stage, & my contemporaries, wanting the benefit of even tolerable education all speak but little above the

common herd. In a man, this is somewhat excuseable, but a Females conversation should be the index of her mind, pure chaste & unaffected. Your Mother, for an uneducated person, growing up in the midst of the revolutionary war, & deprived of all schooling, speaks with more accuracy & discrimination than any of her standing. I know not that she ever is guilty of a vulgar expression, & before we had Walker's pronouncing Dict^r for a standard of pronunciation I always appealed to her nicely attuned ear, in cases of doubtful decision. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Asia

Captain Chew

NEW YORK, Monday 26 March, 1821

. . . . Aunt Betsey dined with us on Thur^r & you were the topic of our conversation. She looks better than I ever saw her, & in excellent spirits as usual, partaking of the gaieties of our city, w^h after her seclusion afford a double relish. . . . I lately rec^d a very interesting letter from our young kinsman Sam^l Bayard Jr who went to his uncles at Savanna last fall, for the improvem^t of his health. He has visited upper Georgia, as well as lower, with much observation & discrimination of character. His letter evinces an excellent mind, and he writes with great strength & neatness. He gives every indication of eminence in his profession, the Law, the study of which he is just commencing. I take an earnest interest in my dear Sister Pattys children, for I must regard her as a sister. She is all that remain except my own little flock, of my near & dear Family. . . .

Tuesday 27th. Another, & I hope last snow for the season, w^h has been unusually backward. The navigation of the Hudson was not open to Troy above Albany until the 25th. M^r Bayard dined with us. He says that his sister Julia has gone on with her Father to Phil^a to have an operation performed for the Quinsey, with w^h she has been troubled in a light degree. Cousin Mary

Brasher din'd with us. She is a dear good girl, and very much engaged in the benevolent & charitable Societies of her Church (the Dutch) a constant superintendent of the Sunday Female School, for 4 years.] How much the Christian world is indebted to your sex for the discharge of the m[ost] interesting duties of domestic and social charity, and what elevation the Christian religion has given to their character & rank in Society. What you were in the days of heathenism is exemplified before your eyes whenever you see a poor Indian woman who is doomed to perform all the drudgery of their tribes, and to carry like beasts of burthen whilst their lordly masters look down on every thing but war & hunting with contempt. Point out this remark to your dear daughters as you walk the Levée and see the miserable Choctaws. . . .

Wed.day [March] 28th. The weather is a[s] completely winter as any we have had this season & the cold, this morning, was intense. How different from this day twelvemonth w^h was fine & mild, when I commenced the experiment to restore my hearing which totally failed. My infirmity gradually increases; & the difficulty of hearing is such, as will compel me to resign my seat in the Pauperism So[ciety] as soon as I have disposed my share of duty in the effort to establish a Fuel Saving Fund, & w^h will I hope terminate on Thur^v next. It is an experiment of doubtful issue, for poor people, like the Indians are too apt to forget Winter when warm weather returns. I shall at any rate have made the attempt, w^h if abortive, the principles will be left on record to be operated on, possibly, at some future day. It will never do to force improvements; by holding them up for public consideration the mind is prepared & when suitable they will be carried into effect, provided always that they are rational. No one therefore ought to feel disgusted at the rejection of his opinions, but yield to the will of the majority. Age & experience can alone enforce the propriety of this rule.

Thur^v 29th. My mind has received a shock this

morn^s by a sudden stroke of apoplexy w^h befell M^r Sherred, one of my Directors, last night at 1 o'clock, with no hope of recovery. At noon yest^r we were all laughing & joking together in the office, & the first news this day was the above event. In the midst of life we are in death and Be ye also ready is the solemn warning that it behoves me to lay to heart. Soberly impressed as I am, it is unpleasent to observe with what indifference many receive the account. This instant [] mentioned to one of his fellow Directors who came in & the reply was "Is it possible" then turned the conversation to the price of Stocks & lots as the only objects meriting regard. A good pious man, & respectable citizen who was in to make Insurance a little before, is the only person who uttered a moral or religious reflection. How differently we are affected.

Friday [March] 30th. Last night at 1 o'clock M^r Sherred breathed his last after an attack of only 24 hours. He dies affluent, probably worth \$200,000 or more, all the fruits of his own industry. A German by descent, he came from the country to this city, before the revolu^r war, & served his apprenticeship to the painter & glazier's trade, w^h he prosecuted till within 3 years with unparralleled industry & success, conducting his business on a very large & profitable scale. He could command a gang of hands suff^r numerous to send out to a gentlemans country seat however large, & paint the whole, outside & in, in a single day. As a mechanic he was very popular, & bore his faculties with reasonable modesty. Of good sound plain sense, he was an active & useful Director of several monied institutions & an eminently useful vestryman of Trinity, superintending gratuitously the repairs of their several Churches. Intimate with him as one of my Directors I repeatedly urged him to make some testamentary legacies to those of our benevolent Societies as he might wish to patronize, for he dies without an heir. In November last (I think) I wrote him a very solemn letter, on the subject of endowing a professorship in the Episcopal Theol[ogical]

Seminary, stating in delicate terms the benefit that w^d ensue to the Sem^y & the honour to his name, w^h w^d be perpetuated & preserved from oblivion, the uncertainty of life in our best estate, & the precariousness of his own, for he had been twice attacked with paralysis before. I concluded with these solemn words of Scripture, "Make no long tarrying, nor put not off from day to day." It was a Sunday morn^g 18th Nov. when before Church I left the letter at 8 o'clock. The 90th Psalm was one [of] the Psalms of the day, and I thought when it was read that my letter & this Psalm ought to have made a serious impression on his mind. It was some weeks before he ever alluded to it, delicacy forbade my broaching the subject. He said that he w^d take it into deliberate consideration, w^h I too much fear he put off until too late. I was likewise, since that date, urgent that he sh^d do something liberal for the Mechanic So[cie]ty of w^h he was a member, towards founding their Academy for the education of Apprentices, & w^h of course had a strong claim on him. Before closing this I shall probably be able to ascertain whether my earnest efforts have been, as I too much anticipate, in vain. We are not given to important munificence in this city, tho' much is done in the Church collections way.

Saturday [March] 31st. I have not recovered from the shock of M^r Sherreds sudden death, nor ought to restrain those feelings & reflections suitable to every well disciplined mind. . . .

It is rumoured that M^r Sherred has left a will, & that he has bestowed something to some charitable purposes. Of this possibly, I shall know more after the Funeral this afternoon at 5 o'clock. Being invited as a Pall bearer, is a proof that my friendly suggestions have not given offence. . . .

Monday 2^d April. M^r Sherreds Funeral on Sat^y aft[er]noon was one of the largest private funerals that I ever witnessed. The procession reached from the Bowling Green to Trinity. There were 13 Clergymen, the

Bishop performed the full service with great dignity & impression. Farewell my friend Jacob Sherred. In the evening I concluded my duty as attending Trustee at the Savings Bank. We were greatly thronged in anticipation of quarter day & rec^d \$9,589.25 from Depositors. To prevent oversight I had placed the quarterly \$3. for each of my dear g[ran]dchildren the preceding Sat^y even. I did not get home till ½ past 10. Our aggregate receipts ending 31 March for 1 year & 9 m^{os} since the commencement amount to \$578,943.68, all of which is funded an unexampled instance of success.]

Your letter my dearest daughter of 4th March is just rec^d. I cannot account for the miscarriage of my letter of 18th Jan^y, w^h is always carefully directed franked & put into the mail. The Doctor's p. s. is quite a favour, the Report, in bad condition, will prove interesting. I shall be particular in delivering his message to D^r Hosack respecting D^r Rogers. D^r D. ought to acknowledge the Nosology himself. M^r Pierce's Funeral discourse on the Rev. M^r Larned is also rec^d w^h I shall look over this evening. . . .

Tuesday [April] 3^d. I am all agitation respecting the result of M^r Sherreds will. After Legacies to about \$46,000, he leaves the rest to the Theological Seminary, w^h is generally presumed to be the local School, others say, that he has divided the residuum between the General & local Seminaries. But the certainty will be decided this day. I dare not hope, nor yet after all that passed between us in his lifetime can I despair. This is the election in my office, w^h keeps me busy & diverts my mind a little from the preceding subject. The perusal of the Doctors Report last evening afforded me great satisfaction.

Thursday [April] 5th. I have [had] not a moment to continue my letter till this morn^g before breakfast after calling on D^r Hosack to wait on Mama at noon & deplete her system, being much distressed with plethora. You will see in the Spectator an Article signed an Epis-

copalian ⁹ (Bishop Hobart) give the particulars of M^r Sherreds immense Legacy, originally intended for the Gen[era]l Epis[copal] Th[eological] Sem[inar]y but by construction supposed to have lapsed to the Local School. The will is signed 28 Jan^y 1820 & unequivocally bequeathed the residue of his Estate, after certain legacies amt^s to short 50000 Dollars to the Sem^y that sh^d be established in the State of N York by the Gen[eral] Convention of the U States Epis. Ch. or to a Sem^y so established by the Epis: Convention of this State. But I think, if the Gen. Convention sh^d see fit to remove their Sem^y back to N York that the Legacy must go to them. On this head legal advice will be taken & you shall hereafter hear the issue.] I know not when my mind has been so much harrassed & agitated. Without egotism I regard myself as the principal cause of directing M^r Sherreds mind to this bequest & began my importunities as early as May 1817, immed^y after the adjournment of the Epis. Convention in this City, & never ceased renewing the subject on all apt occasions. But my views extended no further than \$25,000 for the endowment of a professorship to perpetuate his name. He has gone far beyond what had I been consulted I sh^d have advised, as such overwhelming bequests to ecclesiastical Institutions, may be dangerous. Besides there are various other benevolent Societies whose relative importance are as great, & which all might have participated to their great benefit & the honour of his name. D^r Hosack stepped in on Tuesday ev^g. I gave him the Report, not having rec^d his copy. He was much tickled with the D^r remark on the Medical police & begged me to put in the Newspaper, w^h I shall sketch for the Com^l this day.¹⁰ I inscribed y^r *Roast beef*¹¹ as you will probably see in

⁹ Copied from the *Evening Post*, under date line Wednesday, April 4, in the *New-York Spectator*, April 6, 1821.

¹⁰ A short notice headed "*New Orleans*" appeared in the [N. Y.] *Commercial Advertiser*, April 5, 1821, page 2.

¹¹ An "Extract of a letter from a lady in New-Orleans, to her sister in this city," was printed in the *New-York Spectator*, of April 3, 1821, about "a superb piece of Roast Beef" transported by steamboat from Louisville, Kentucky, to New Orleans, in eight days.

the Spectator. Mama is much pleased with Brother Pierces florid exuberant eulogy on y^r late pastor & friend. It certainly indicates genius, and is excusable as the production of a youthful mind dazzled with the vivid hues of the Rainbow, a fault which years & reflection can alone correct. I shall collect & forward by the Fanny, momentarily looked for, all that I can find on Qua[ra]ntine. There has been no new law or amendment this season. A proof that the system is considered tolerably perfect & may serve as a guide for N. O. . . .

NEW YORK, Tuesday 10 April, 1821

. . . . I find by the arrival of the Fanny yest^r that the Phœbe Ann was at Plaquemine about the 22^d March, But as the river is s^d to [be] unusually high it will have impeded its passage till probably the last of the month. By this date, possibly Cap^t Holmes may be nearly ready to return & towards the end of the month we may expect y^r dear friend M^{rs} Larned & M^{rs} Chew. I shall request M^r Russell to conduct M^{rs} Larned to our house, sh^d she reach the wharf before I shall hear of it. His vessels lay very near us at Pine Street, just above Coffee Ho[use] Slip, a mere step. For you[r] sake particularly as well as for the merits of this interesting lady, Mama & Sister will give her a most hearty welcome, as well as show their kindest attentions to M^{rs} Chew for her goodness to our little Eliza, who I hope will so improve at Mons^r Le Forts School as to meet y^r fondest expectations. The oppo[rtunity] that M^{rs} Chew will afford of a favorable protection to Sister will I sincerely hope gratify you both by a visit. We shall now look forward to that pleasure if nothing sinister sh^d occur, w^h God avert, thro' the approaching summer. It is very gratifying to your Mama & myself to find that the post of Resident physician has been conferred on the Doctor, a mark of public confidence, w^h must elevate him in estimation & practice. My friend Francis promises a review of the Medical So[ciety] of N. O. in one of the Reposi-

tories. D^r H[osack] had not on Sunday ev^s last rec^d his Copy. I shall obtain I hope from these gentⁿ & from Gen. Morton such Medical documents relating to Quarantine & our B^d of Health, to forward by the Fanny, as may be useful, perhaps, to the Doctor. Duplicates can be given to his Medical S^o. By the way, what has become of the S^o of w^h the Doctor was President. I see he is only Treasurer in this new one, a trustworthy but not an office of rank. Does the S^o attempt the formation of a Library, w^h cannot be too early enterprized & w^h gives interest & character to every institution. . . .

Since my last of 5th inst. my mind by the intervention of a blessed Sabbath, has become more tranquillized on the subject of M^r Sherreds legacy, that by fortuitous circumstances has been diverted from the original intention of the Testator, to the local Th[eological] School. Whatever is, is right, and it is our duty to submit to the will of Divine Providence who superintends, directs & governs all things for the best, however inscrutable to poor human judgment. Since this event, another valuable legacy has occurred to the Orphans Assylum, of ab^t \$50,000. A M^r Philip Jacob[s], a converted Jew, had in the course of a long life acquired a handsome property. Losing an aged wife, like an old Fool, he married a young woman his housekeeper. Jealous & hated, he attempted to lock her up & thus led, no doubt, an unpleasant life for a year or two, when he followed his first, leaving his second wife pregnant. He settled on her an income of \$1200 a year during widowhood & \$1000 a year for life in case of marriage with remainder & reversion to the child,¹² w^h in case of its decease, before coming of age, is to go the Orphan Assylum. These instances will I hope operate favourably, and dispose others to give a portion of what they must leave behind to religious & benevolent Institutions.

Thurs^y [April] 12th. I have been very much engaged with the concerns of the Gen^l Theol^l Semn^y. An opinion,

¹² The child, Maria Louisa Jacobs, died on April 5, 1821. *N. Y. Spectator*, April 10, 1821.

by a very sound Civilian, has been given that on condition of its removing to this State the Legacy is clearly due to it. This has led to a correspondence with Bp. Brownell & other duties that oppress & distress me. For such is the fact, that my brother Agents have afforded me no aid, but plaudits, & I am obliged singlehanded to do all myself. I only mention, what ought not to trouble you, this fact to show how my time is engrossed & how eagerly I snatch every spare moment to converse with my beloved daughter. . . . We had a very splendid funeral yest^r, a Miss Jauncey, AE. 69, sister to W^m Jauncey Esq^r an old batchelor, of Tory stock, & great wealth, & from whom at his decease some benefactions may be expected. He lives more in the style of an English Commoner than any person, at least in our city. He enjoys, it is s^d a clear income of 10,000 Guineas all in the British funds. His establishment, tho' not gay, is handsome, his coachman & domestics being allowed their Sherry wine at their table. He had a brother John who some twenty 3 or 4 years ago, weary of life, terminated it by drowning & left an illegitimate daughter by a vulgar low actress. This child was taken home & bro't up by Miss Jauncey. She grew up handsome, dressed elegantly, but not overstocked with mind. An heiress, a match was intended with a son of Col. Barclay, another of our Tory citizens, but of excellent character & British Consul. Her uncle settled it is s^d in consequence of the certainty of the marriage \$10,000 Guineas on her. Miss however fancied a handsome genteel young man a M^r Thorn, of no great family, but a midshipman or Lieu^t in our Navy & married him, to the great mortification of M^r Jauncey & disappointment of young Barclay. The Aunt however protected her received her home & she has always lived in the same House. But M^r J. w^d never & has hitherto for many years tho' residing under the same roof, spoken to M^r Thorn. A separate table is kept for each, & you may judge of the establishment of the household by this fact. M^r Jauncey w^d never make a Will until the decease of his Sister which was on Sunday

morn^s last, since w^h it is reported that he has signed a will from w^h much is expected. His Sisters corpse, the weather being cool, was kept three days. I did not see the Funeral, being at my post at the Saving's Bank, the monthly meeting of the Trustees, when I was appointed on the Funding Committee, in the place of M^r Sherred deceased. The most important Committee in the Institution, the duties of w^h I have in fact all along attended to.

Friday [April] 13th. As this is a letter of anecdote for lack of other matter, I will relate one more w^h shows the manners & discipline of Colleges before the Revolution. Jack Jauncey was a Student in King's College, now Columbia in this city, Doctor Miles Cooper an elegant Oxonian President. As customary at that time the Senior class recited in the Presidents Chamber. While he was at breakfast, D^r C. being called out, Master Jack caught up the Tea Cannister & emptied its contents into the Teapot. On D^r C's return & pouring out a fresh dish of Tea the prank was detected, & he angrily asked what rascal had done this. A dead silence prevailed, for boys in that day were true to each other. The question being repeated Jack Jauncey avowed that it was himself that did. The President called him a scoundrel & ordered him out of the Chamber. Jauncey sent him a challenge & the discipline of the College inflicted expulsion. Whatever be the consequence, Crimes excepted of a heinous nature, never let your boys inform against their comrades, nor be tale bearers, w^h if the habit be confirmed will degrade them for life. I believe I have heretofore told you of the dreadful effects of turning Kings evidence on my college fellow George Blewer, w^h broke his heart. I have just rec^d a package from Doctor Hosack including Gen. Mortons & have renewed my applicⁿ to Francis. D^r H. delivered his in p^rerson for w^h I thanked him heartily.

Saturday [April] 14. At 7, D^r F. came running in with his packet of pamphlets, all that he c^d scrape together. Such as they are he says may be useful to the

Doctor, or serve the purposes of the Med[ical] So[ciety] in case, as they ought, they sh^d form a Library. Looking over the Library of the College of Physicians in this city, I find that they are very exact in preserving all the inaugurals not only of their own, but of other Colleges, so that when in after life a physician becomes eminent they look back to his earliest production, to trace the marks of genius. When I look at these pamphlets & consider their destination I cannot but tremble for the fate of the Resident Physician of N. Orleans & the dangers & horrors to w^h his dear family may be exposed thro' the approaching season. To what alternations of hope & fear is y^r poor father exposed.

Last week I was overwhelmed by a report that on the 18th Nov^r the bodies of several Amⁿ Naval officers & seamen had been washed ashore at Maldonado, on the N^o side of the mouth of the River Laplate. Fortunately however letters from the purser of the Constellation from Rio Janeiro of 20 Dec^r proved the safety of this Ship on b^d of w^h is my protégé Ja^s H. Clinton. I wrote to his Father instantly & hastily, for fear that the report without its contradiction might reach him. This morn^s he replies

“The commencement of your late letter about James gave me the horrors, & it was some time after the perusal of a favourable denouement before I c^d relieve myself from the original sombre impression. The interest you take in the fortunes of this boy will I hope prove as creditable to your discernment as it is to the goodness of y^r heart. He may at some future time reflect on his friend the honor w^h he now derives from his partiality.”

I have no doubt sh^d the life of this boy be spared & opp^o offer that he will signalize himself. You may, but I cannot expect to live to congratulate him on his laurels. The Governor says our canals, Laus Deo,

“will be finished in 1823, most assuredly. They are now safely anchored in the affections of the people beyond the power of failure & the reach of ordinary fatalities. When this great work is finished there will be no limits to our financial prosperity; & then the fountains of public benevolence & public spirit, will be opened & enrich all our Institutions with the copious streams of munificence.”

You see the freedom of his correspondence, w^h is very rare, with his humble friend.

Tuesday 17th Ap. A rainy day that may prevent the Fanny sailing tomorrow . . . (noon) a violent N. E. storm with sleet, w^h will retard the Phœbe Ann. Fortunately, Sam^l Bayard Jun^r arrived in 8 days from Savanna. He has improved amazingly in health, & got rid of the stiff, formal monastic air of a college. He is a very intelligent youth of discriminating observation & determined to pursue the study of the law vigorously. I hope that his health is so established as may not interfere with his application on w^h alone depends his future hopes. He has genius eno[ugh] that only requires improvement w^h study alone can give. From his account I sh^d suppose that the upper parts of Georgia presents a fair field for the exercise of professional talents with a certainty of rapid profit. But he appears not willing to go so far from home. Time & reflection however may alter this opinion. You smile perhaps at the interest I take in your Aunt Pattys children, but remember the infinite obligations I owe to the memory of her Father, which can only be retaliated by kind acts to his posterity.

Wed^r 18th. It snowed hard this morn^e & sleighs run, as in midwinter thro' the streets. Yest^r afternoon we c^d hardly [hear] anything else than the unusual noise of guns popping thro' every street & open space, & wharves, at the poor Robbins & birds impelled by the violence of the storm to seek shelter in the city by thousands. Our yard was filled almost, but alas! poor birds the elements were less adverse than civilized man, and incapable of flight they were killed by hundreds to the great delight of Cockney sportsmen & boys. The season has been extremely backward, & has all the appearance of the last of February. Our Agricultural So[ciety] had announced the 8th of May for the exhibition of Butter, for premiums, but the day must be postponed as there will be scarcely any pasture early en^o to give a chance to the Dairies. I think it was in 1803 when we removed from

Mr Arcularius' ¹³ to Duane Street that we had a Fall of snow in the beginning of May when the peach trees were in blossom, but nothing like the storm of yest^r & last night, w^h must put back Cap^t Holmes. I shall send this by the Fanny w^h was to have sailed this day but will hardly, for want of freight, go even tomorrow, but at any rate it will reach you sooner than by post. My letter will be put in the package of pamphlets for the Doctor, to whom I address a short line. . . .

NEW YORK, 20th April, 1821. Good Friday

. . . . This day is dedicated to the most solemn services of our Church & w^h will be observed by me as far as I can detach myself from my office duties. Sister goes alone to Grace, Mama being so indisposed that the day being raw, she cannot go out least she may take a worse cold that may prevent her attending the Communion on Easter. This severance from my family begins to be more & more painful, and I believe that I must relinquish my going to French Church, to w^h I retain a fond, perhaps weak, partiality. Raised by the piety of the Huguenots who fled from religious persecution, I venerate even the very walls of a building w^h their humble resources enabled them to dedicate to the worship of that God for whose holy & undefiled religion they fled from every earthly comfort to a foreign land governed by laws to w^h they were strangers, and by a nation long hostile to their own. I cannot reflect on the circumstances attending their flight & emigration without admiration of their zeal & piety that could lead them to abandon every earthly comfort to worship God agreeably to the dictates of their conscience. Happy in this consolation it sustained them thro' every difficulty & vicissitude. Their attachment to the land of their Fathers was however so strong, that the emigrants always fondly cherished the hope of returning, and the

¹³ George Arcularius, baker, and John Pintard, merchant, are both listed at 30 Cortlandt Street in the New York City Directory for 1802.

old folks enjoined it on their children to carry their remains back with them, on their return, & deposit them with the ashes of their forefathers. This is a well authenticated tradition in our family, indeed some of them enjoined it as a testamentary request. How thankful ought their descendants, generally, to be that an overruling allwise Providence ordered it otherwise. Many of the posterity of the French Protestants have filled the most prominent stations in Society and most have risen to respectability. I never recal their memories but with gratitude for having descended from a pious race of people, eminently distinguished for their character & probity. Wherever they migrated & settled they polished and benefitted mankind by the urbanity of their manners & the introduction of useful arts. I think in some former letter that I have adverted to this fact. While waiting the hour for church, I have employed a few moments in these reflections, w^h will soon expire with me, and the few anecdotes of the old French Hugonots, who were once highly respected & looked up to, esp^r by the Dutch, in this city, will soon be obliterated, and they that knew them will know them no more. . . .

Tuesday [April] 24th. On Sunday with a mind suitably disposed, I hope, my solemn duties were performed at the Altar, where I never fail to offer up my supplications for my dearest daughter & her dear family. . . . Last week on Friday, terminated the trial of Rob^t Goodwin for the murder of young Stoughton. He was acquitted, tho' certainly guilty of manslaughter, *perhaps* unintentional. It is highly creditable to our City that so little excitement has been manifested on this occasion, and that he was left to the impartial administration of Justice. The event has passed off as silently as a common action for assault & battery. Let the repenting sinner live. This day, a beautiful one, is destined for the arrival of your friend M^{rs} Larned. As this is uncertain, Mama & Sister with some ladies have gone to the great Auction of Madame Jumel, about 9 miles from town where the greatest display of elegant paintings &

French Furniture is exhibited that has ever been exhibited, perhaps in the U States. Stephen Jumel was a French merchant who came to this city at the earliest stage of the French revolution. It was said that he had been a priest. At any rate he was successful in commerce, & having a large quantity of Brandy on hand at the breaking out of the late war, quadrupled his capital. M^{rs} J. a handsome boarding house keeper, was his *chere amie*. In a fit of illness, w^h she was adroit eno[ugh] to consider her last, she c^d not die in peace until she was lawfully married. To quiet her conscience Jumel married her & Madam recovered, & made him a good wife. M^r J. at the close of the late war, wound up his concerns, taking his lady with him, returned to France. Whether the manners or licentiousness of the people did not please her or from whatever cause, she reverted in about a year, leaving M^r J. in France, & bringing over with her a collection of Paintings, s^d to have belonged to Cardinal Flesche, but w^h having been exhibited in our Academy were considered pas grandes choses. The country seat, Furniture & an income were s^d to have been settled on her. The latter now offered for sale has attracted all the Ladies, as well to look at the pictures as at their decayed mistress. Mama & Sister with M^{rs} Talbot have gone out to see what is to be seen, with little inclination & less money to buy. Lead us not into temptation, is my prayer & practice. What the eye does not see the heart does not covet. Knowing my weakness my best resource is to refrain. Mama has more discretion & resolution, but the latter sometimes gives way. I stay at home, as well per force, as not to allow y^r friend to come to a deserted castle, having every requisite to give her a hearty welcome but Mama's & Sister's presence, & they will be back to tea. Yesterday I rec^d a very affectionate letter from good Doctor Boudinot, written with trembling nerves, but expressing a hope for the blessed privilege of seeing us on Monday (7th May) preceding the Anniv^y of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] Thur^y 10th "a Festival I devoutly

wish to see." Dear good Saint, probably for the last time. Altho' I feel reconciled to the event of seeing his face for the last time still the pang of parting will be severe. He is the last member existing of my ancestral race. In the way of gossiping I might have added respecting M^r Jumel that with others of the Roman Catholics in this city, He attempted the establishment of a Monastery & College for educating young men. Your Cousin John P. Brasher was sent to this School. A Nunnery was also attempted of w^h I thought well & wished it to succeed, on account of the strict attention paid to morals, health & neatness of the pupils besides the oppo[rtunity] for the best education in all branches. But our Protestant prejudices did not allow a fair chance to these experiments. A dissolution of both took place after about 2 years, and I believe that the Nuns, from Ireland, went to your city. M^r Jumel was a benevolent man. One day at the head of a wharf, a posse was collected around a poor Carman, whose all depended on his days earnings to support a wife & children, & whose [horse] unfortunately had fallen into the Dock & perished. All were lamenting & all were expressing their unavailing sorrow as M^r Jumel drew nigh. Hearing the catastrophe, taking off his hat & laying it on the ground, "How much you sorry. I sorry one Dollar" throwing it into the hat. The example was followed, & what was wanting to replace the loss was cheerfully supplied by this benevolent French man who directed the Carman to call on him at his Compting House. . . .

Thursday [April] 26th. No Phœbe Ann yet. The wind has been quite a gale for the two past days at N. N. E. & adverse. It is still northerly. . . . Mama & Sister with M^{rs} Talbot & some other ladies went to M^{rs} Jumels great picture & furniture sale, bought nothing, but passed a very pleasant day & returned in the evening highly delighted. Their only excursion has quite renovated them both after a long winters confinement. We anxiously expect M^{rs} L.¹⁴ after w^h comes D^r Boudinot

¹⁴ Mrs. Sylvester Larned (Sarah Wyer).

& M^{rs} Bradford, who altho' they put up at the City Hotel engross all their attention. Next come Aunt Patty & her daughters, & finally the horrible tho essential purification of our old castle from garret to cellar. Poor dear Mother what an incessant slave she is to house-keeping. Her minuteness often astonishes me. This afternoon I must attend the Am. Bible S^o but always leave instructions to Andrew,¹⁵ to fly to the wharf in case of notice of M^{rs} L's arrival & attend her home, get a carriage or whatever may be required. I wish she were safe here. (12 o'clock) I have just been to M^r Russells who informs me that the Phœbe Ann is below in 12 days, & that a pilot is on board & she may be alongside at 3 o'clock. . . . (1 o'clock). The arrival of the Phœbe Ann announced. I go. (2 o'clock) Thank God y^r dear friend is under our roof, with her sister M^{rs} Weir¹⁶ & domestick. I went on board as the Brig hauled along side & congratulated y^r friends on their safe arrival. M^{rs} Chew is very thin & I think her 2^d daughter looks very much as Louise did, a pretty cherub face plump as a partridge. The baby is also very well, the son & eldest Miss C. Y^r good friend is very delicate, a mere shadow, but her Sister blooms in all the plenitude of rotundity. M^r Woolsey gave me y^r letter for Sister & he is wonderfully improved. I introduced the ladies upstairs & have ret[urne]d to my desk. Thank God they are safe & in health.

Friday, 27th April. My dearest beloved daughter I have seen you all but alive. M^{rs} Larneds fond heart told me on b^d the Brig that you had sent y^r pictures, but I tho't they were only profiles or miniatures, and altho' any resemblance w^d have been acceptable, the circumstance had escaped my mind. What with looking after the Ladies &c. our dinner was belated, and I went to the Bib[le] So[ciety] without any. Returning at dusk, I found M^{rs} Chew & Miss Duer who had called to see M^{rs} L. Your good sister, obed^t to y^r order had masked the

¹⁵ Andrew Warner.

¹⁶ Probably Mrs. William Wyer, wife of Mrs. Larned's brother.

portraits behind some chairs. Turning round I observed a gilded frame, & the pictures came to my recollection. It was the Doctor's that I first approached w^h after a glance I left to look at yours. If the overflowing of a fond fathers heart be any evidence of a perfect likeness, that evidence was bestowed in the artists favour. The resemblance is true to nature, but the sombre cast of countenance looks as if it bespoke the sad feelings of a dear beloved child for the immeasurable distance that separates her from the bosom of her family. Yes my dearest daughter your Sister shall keep the portraits for our use whilst we live, and to transmit them please God, to your children. Mama & Sister recognize the Doctor, they were more with him & more sensibly impressed with his features, but his attenuated frame did not leave the like impression on my more obdurate mind. I did not think he looked so well, nor so *handsome*. Y^r friends say it is a true likeness. Metcalf ¹⁷ I understand took them. He has done you both justice & himself credit. They are full as pleasing to us as tho' Jarvis painted them, who is one of our very best portrait painters. Metcalf has wonderfully improved. . . . Mama & Sister will be very kind to y^r dear friend & her very pleasant Sister, a fine frank openhearted young lady, whose easiness of manners are quite prepossessing. We feel no ways incommoded, with the company of such friends as are willing to partake of the best accommodations our humble roof affords. I trust they feel quite at home. Remember us aff[ectionatel]y to the Doctor. Thank him over & over again for your portraits, the contemplation of which will sooth many an hour, & I shall soon get reconciled to my dearest child's pensive looks. Kiss all y^r children. M^{rs} Chew says that her 2^d is very much like Mary, so does M^{rs} L. If so she must be very pretty. Mama & Sister will be very attentive to M^{rs} C. as I told her waiting on her home last night. Adieu.

Y^r fond father
J. P.

¹⁷ Eliab Metcalf.

NEW YORK, 30th April, 1821. Monday

My dearest daughter,

The Pacific which sailed on Saturday, will safely & speedily I hope, have conveyed my letter giving the pleasing intelligence of the safe arrival of your interesting friend M^{rs} Larned & her frank amiable sister M^{rs} Wyer, who remain with us until Wed^y when probably, weather permitting they will take passage in the Steam Boat at 6 a. m. on their route homewards. Mama & Sister have done every thing in their power to render their stay agreeable to them. They took tea Friday ev^g with Miss Center, Sat^y ev^g with M^{rs} Robinson¹⁸ where M^{rs} Chew stays, & this ev^g I believe with M^{rs} Goodhue, & dined on Sat^y with M^r Perrit,¹⁹ partner of M^r Goodhue, so that they do not want for invitations. Yesterday M^{rs} Larned went with M^{rs} Chew to Wall Street Church, in the afternoon with Miss Woolsey, to M^r Mathews',²⁰ and in the ev^g to Trinity. In the morn^g M^{rs} Wyer went with Mama & Sister to Grace, but neither went the remainder of the day. Indeed they required some repose, after the midnight hours, w^h are observed by y^r N. Orleans friends. Least the early departure of Cap^t Holmes for Wed^y sh^d prevent their writing, I mention the preceding for y^r satisfaction, & to show you that y^r friends have not been positively immured. On Sat^y aft.noon, the only hour I had leisure I waited on them to the Museum. This day Aunt Helen is to dine with us, weather permitting, for it is now quite overcast.

7 A. M. just ret^d from market. I hasten before the duties of the day begin, to commence this line. This is the last not only of the month, but of the last six months, & I shall be closely engaged in preparing to balance my books for Dividend, always a pressing period.

¹⁸ Mrs. Morris Robinson (Henrietta Elizabeth Duer), a sister of Mrs. Beverly Chew (Maria Theodora Duer).

¹⁹ Pelatiah Perit, partner of Jonathan Goodhue.

²⁰ The South Dutch Church, on Garden Street, of which Rev. James M. Mathews was pastor.

On Saturday after dinner, Mama suspended y^r portraits, w^h gives better effect to the likenesses & takes off that very *sober* air that yours first impressed. It is a faithful excellent resemblance as it ought to be natural, without an affected smirk or artificial attitude, the drapery is chaste and neat, and y^r fond father contemplates y^r picture with delight. It all but speaks. The Doctor has improved beyond my conception, & y^r friends her[e] say that both likenesses, his esp^y, are admirable. Shou[ld]d Medcalf return I shall employ him to take ours for you. You did right not to set to Jarvis, he is one of our very best artists, but a very profligate, and he c^d not have pleased me better than Medcalf has done. There is a M^r Waldo here who holds a delicate faithful pencil but his terms, like all established artists are 100 D^s a portrait without frames, and \$300 is a pretty serious sum esp^y when as good can be obtained for half the price. . . .

Tuesday 1st May. 5 P. M. It is decided that M^{rs} L. departs tomorrow. She had concluded to wait until Friday for some friend, who it appears go tomorrow which affords them a favourable escort. They dine to day with a cousin of M^{rs} L., Pierson I think. Last evening was past at M^{rs} Goodhues. Mama & Sister not visiting did not go. Yest^y the party dined home, y^r friend M^{rs} Chew was with us a very amiable lady. Excepting Sunday I have seen them but little, my time being so much occupied. I am obliged to retire at 10, & rising early breakfast at 8, so that my company is not irksome. Mama & Sister have done every thing in their power to make their short stay agreeable. By the Live Oak M^{rs} L. rec^d y^r letter w^h was very gratifying to her. She sh[ow]ed it to me & as it contains the *Table talk* of N. Orleans I was much edified, if not enchanted. On what an elevated scale you Southern move! Poor Sister will shrink I fear from encountering your gay circle. However it shall not be my fault please God if she does not go. The Phoebe Ann does not sail till Thurs^y a fortunate circumstance, as Mama will have a moment to

get y^r shoes & pack them to go by Belinda, who returns home. Better so than thro' discontent to make an elopement here. I am also pleased with the delay, for really I am worn down. This has been a very hot day, in full winter dress, fearing to change, office duty extreme, meeting & election of the Chamber of Commerce. I did not go to dinner for 15 minutes, called down to receive payments of interest, . . .

Wed^y [May 2,] 7 A. M. Your friends arose betimes and got off in good season for the Steam boat. It is a delightful morn^s & they will have a pleasant passage. They have written to go by Cap^t Holmes. Being the last even^s the ladies staid home, pretty much fatigued I apprehend with trotting about on our stone pavements. Mama & Sister on whom the weight of every thing falls, will have a little repose before the arrival of Doctor Boudinot. We expect M^r Bayard from Princeton this day, & in a fortnight, Aunt Patty on her way to N. Rochelle to see her son settled. We are likely to become the halfway house for these families. I only wish that we lived distinct from my office, for Wall Street has become so full of public offices that a Female has no liberty of egress or ingress scarcely from 10 to 3. Better this however than worse. . . . I send the Doctor the last N^o of the Repository, also a pair of very handsome Razors which I bought to encourage a very ingenious German Cutler, not wanting them & so transfer them to the Doctor. They were made in this city.

3 p. m. Just closed my urgent labours, & was so busy that I c^d not even speak to M^r Bayard, who it seems had passed thro' to N Rochelle & called en passant in great haste. I rec^d a line from D^r Boudinot & have engaged his lodgings at the City Hotel. By Divine permission he will arrive next Monday, to preside most probably for the last time on the Thursday following at the Anniv^y of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] in w^h his whole soul is engaged. . . . Mama & Sister write short lines for they have been much driven, doing all themselves w^h is humiliating & mortifying before stran-

gers, who no doubt contrast our slender menage with the more extensive households to w^h they have been accustomed. . . .

[Addressed:] M^{rs} Eliza Davidson
New Orleans
By Cap^t Holmes

NEW YORK, 4th May, 1821. Friday

. . . . Late last ev^s Aunt Patty, with her Rev[erend] son & his daughter Cornelia arrived from Newark, exposed to a disagreeable N. Easterly haze. She had a high fever all last night & is now confined to her bed, but will I hope recover by a days repose. Tomorrow they are to go to N Rochelle, the parsons goods being all embarked. M^{rs} B[ayard] jun^r & the caravan of children are to be here tomorrow. I think it probable they may remain over till Monday. What with y^r late regular friends & this succession of itinerants y^r Mother is worn out & Louise to mend the matter has taken a violent ague in her face. I confess I never saw [such high] spirited females as y^r two friends, who appeared to require no sleep. . . .

Monday 7th. We have been extremely uneasy, since the preceding, for Aunt Patty. On Saturday her fever increased, & yest^y morn^s she had every symptom of Typhus. Doc^r Stevens²¹ who married a daughter of M^r John Bayard of Millstone attended her, bled her on Sat^y & applied a blister yest^y. During the whole day she was delirious, with all the unfavourable attendants of violent pain in her head, back &c., in short her situation was so very critical in the opinion of her Physician that he wrote on for M^r Bayard who we expect this day. . . . This morning now 11 Mama tells me that y^r Aunt sat up, to have her bed made, aired & linen changed & begins to feel an appetite, & is I trust convalescing.

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²¹ Alexander Hodgdon Stevens.

Monday 14th May. . . . M^r Bayard arrived at 11 on Monday & found his dear wife better than I had anticipated but far from out of danger. On Tuesday Aunt Patty was again extremely ill. At noon M^{rs} L. Bayard & her children arrived bringing Caroline with them. They set out for N. Rochelle at 4 P. M. having dined. On the same day Doctor Boudinot arrived at the City Hotel. I had gone over the Ferry in the afternoon of Monday to meet [him], but [he] was too indisposed to set out. On Wed^y he was so weak that I despaired of his [being able to preside w^h however he did on Thur^y an elegant day, for about thalf the time when he was obliged to retire. The business of the day went off with great eclat. The impression was solemn on a large audience who seem to regard with fixed attention our venerable President in [all human] probability for the last time. A very young Divine, a M^r Somerfield²² [*MS. torn*] from London only 23, who has crossed the Atlantic for his health, made the last address, only about 5 or 7 minutes. I think I never heard a more original or more elegant speaker. The little he said, owing to the lateness of the hour, near 3 o'clock, exhibited the greatest specimen of originality & powerful oratory I ever witnessed. He had seconded the resolution of thanks to the President, who before this had retired. "When I beheld the venerable personage entering this Hall, bowed down with years & infirmities, my blood thrilled, & my heart throbbd. I thought when seated in his chair that I saw the patriarch Jacob, leaning on his staff, blessing his children." The apostrophe was beautiful & electrified the audience. A collection sermon in the French Church prevented my going to the Methodist Meeting in Duane Street yesterday. But next Sunday afternoon he is to preach I understand in the Dutch Church in Garden Street, when I will take Mama & Sister to hear him. Doctor Boudinot sustained the fatigue better than

²² Rev. John Summerfield, according to Extracts from the Minutes of the Fifth Annual Meeting of the American Bible Society, printed in that Society's Fifth Annual Report. There is an obituary of him in the *New-York Observer*, June 18, 1825, page 2.

was anticipated. He left this city on Saturday morn^e most probably to return no more. I have parted with him under this solemn impression, but possibly we may meet yet once more at Burlington next Sept^r when I expect & hope to attend William Bayards valedictory & will extend my visit to Burlington once more. Amidst all the incessant calls, my office duties pressed heavily, but thank God I was fully prepared on Sat^y to exhibit an acc^t of my Stewardship & at even reposed, as much as a sick room & incessant attention on the part of Mama & Sister c^d admit of comparative tranquillity to the whirlwind that prevailed below. I know not that I partook of a single meal till Sunday in quiet. Yesterday it rained & just before dinner I was called to the door to welcome my Shrewsbury cousin Marsden who had not visited us for 2 years. He w^d make an excellent backwoodsman, stout rough & hetarty] & a smart overgrown lad of 18. Wishes a wider range than his home, but I know not where to direct his views. Glad w^d I be to promote his interest. He staid to dinner & passed the afternoon. M^r Bayard dined abroad & returned home at 5. This morn^e I rose at half past 4 to see them off. An elegant morn. On Sat^y Lewis & his wife came down & dined & returned p. m. On Wed^y Samuel & Julia are to come & stay until their Mama shall be well enough to return. M^{rs} Boyd has kindly pressed her to go to her house out at Greenwich but she prefers, & rightly, staying in our family. What sympathy can they have for her, compared with ours. Thus you see what a tavern life of it poor Mama & Sister have led now going on 3 weeks. . . .

(Wed^y [May] 16th) Aunt Patty is so much better that weather permitting she talks of going home on Friday. . . . Aunt Helen took tea with us yest^y & is very anxious for Mama & Sister to pass a week, w^h I hope they will do. Their House is a snug little Cabin, but may do for a weeks sojourning. Our season is very backward, it is now damp & raw, with a S. Easterly

wind, too warm for fires & too cold without. My legs are quite benumbed. This afternoon I shall attend an exhibition of our Four Free Schools, of w^h I was formerly a Trustee, a compliment due to my brethren whom I left labouring in this useful vineyard. The last & the present week have been quite devoted to benevolent Societies anniv^r meetings & addresses. In this respect we are becoming an Epitome of London, where works of Benevolence & Mercy are carried on most extensively, "with an eye that never winks, and a wing that never tires." The English are an example to all the world. They have the heart & the means. Fortunes have been so long accumulating & so many of the nobility & gentry are perfectly independent, that annual benefactions are less precarious than in a society like ours w^h always fluctuating between commercial prosperity & adversity, those means that are at one period abundant, at another are entirely exhausted. Still however the disposition *to give* increases & will eventually become habitual. There are always enough who can afford to give for pleasures & sensual gratification, but when it becomes fashionable to subscribe to public institutions & charities, Vanity will do what cold heartedness forbids.

(Thurs^r [May] 17th). . . . Our markets begin to show the influence of spring. Vegetables tho' not abund[ant] are in general fine. Asparagus abounds, & being extensively cultivated is reasonable [*MS. torn*] shilling a bunch.

Yesterday afternoon] I attended the exhibition of the free] Schools in N^o 4. It was an imposing & affecting sight to behold a Church completely filled with 2800 Children decently attired & clean, the boys in the Gallery & the [girls] below. When they all rose to hear the charge of [the] Minister & to receive his benediction, the effect was solemn & impressive. My feelings are very feminine on these occasions, & it is with the utmost difficulty that I can suppress my emotions. The pretacher] was a young & popular Methodist, M^r

Moffat,²³ an Irishman, but free from the national taint. Too much action approaching to ranting, diminished the effect of but a common place address, well enough for children. It is strange however to observe how vulgar minds are enchanted with this tinsel eloquence. In large cities, & in the country indeed, where regular worship does not exist, the power of the Methodists is great & beneficial to Society. The stupid & abandoned must be roused & terrified by vociferation & gesticulations. They must have hell opened to their imaginations yawning to receive them & swallow them up in its everlasting burnings of Fire & brimstone. Like the Roman Catholics they appeal to the senses the one by words, the other by paintings & pageantry. The great mass of mankind is vulgar, & this accounts for the extension & influence of Methodism. Your husband is no reader, or I w^d recommend to him sh^d it fall in his way, Southey's recent Life of Wesley. It is a study that develops the progress of the human mind. . . .

NEW YORK, 22^d May, 1821

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 My office duties always urgent at this season have been doubled to enable me to go to New Haven tomorrow in co[mpany] with the Rev. Doctor Milnor, to attend a special meeting of the Trustees of the Gen. Theol^l Sem^y of our Church, on the subject of M^r Sherred's legacy. We have only two Trustees for this State, the Rev. M^r Wainwright, who has resigned, & M^r Isaac Lawrence, whose son having married Miss Gracie last Sat^y & is to see company on Wed^y & Thurs^y of this week, prevents his going. Tho' extremely inconvenient to myself, rather than we sh^d be unrepresented I have obtained leave of absence, to effect which, without detriment to the office, I have had to work like a beaver for 3 or 4 days, & have everything smooth. Were the season a little further ad-

²³ Rev. John N. Maffitt.

vanced I w^d take Mama & Sister, but strange to say, it is still necessary to keep a Fire morn^s & even^s & as we return Friday night, the time is too short to incur the expense, the mere passage being \$5 each way, w^d make \$30 instead of \$10, bet[sides] tavern expenses. In July I may go to the examination, when if they choose they can go & pass a week or more, or possibly proceed on to Boston to see your cousins Halls, but all this is contingent. I am happy to hear that you have provided so good a helpmate for y^r friend M^r Holliday. . . .

(Wed^y 23^d 5 A. M.) I rose a quarter after 4 & am all dressed & prepared to sett] off for the steam boat w^h departs at 6. The morning is overcast with appearance of rain] but I am provided by Mama's care with an overcoat & umbrella. . . .

Sat^y 26 May. Returned home this morn^s find all well thank God. . . .

Monday 28th. This is a whirligig life that I lead. When at New Haven, the time from 5 to 8 A. M. appeared a whole day, in this office the time from 5 to 12¹/₂ o'clock is but an hour. Such is the difference between perfect vacuity & incessant occupation. I have this letter lying at hand, since 8, and this is the first intermission to push my pen. Mama & Sister have been, are, & will be all this week engaged in cleaning. Y^r Mother will work herself notwithstanding all my remonstrances so let it pass. By the papers I perceive that a call has been given to the Rev. Hooper Cummings of Albany, to take the presidency of the College of N. Orleans, with a salary of \$3000, & an house to live in, & leave of intermission from July to Nov^r. Is this possible? M^r C. is certain a very pleasing & popular preacher, tho' he has been incorrect & very irregular in his ministry. But I never knew that he had the least pretensions to classical learning or literature. I presume that the Doctor is not a party, so much the better. It will be fortunate for the projected College sh^d he decline. He certainly has not the talents requisite for a President or to give lustre to a classical sem^y. This however *entre nous*.

He is the son of my kind friend Gen. Cummings²⁴ & certainly I ought to be the last to mar his prospects. The intelligence has excited much surprize. It may be well to give some account of my late adventure. Being only an Agent, I refrained from accepting the polite invitation of the Trustees to attend their sittings. My friend Doctor Milnor was elected Trustee in the place of the Rev. Mr Wainwright, declined. After reading & examining various & discordant legal opinions, the Trustees decided on sending a State of facts to the several Bishops requesting them to apply to Bishop White presiding Bishop, to call a special General Convention to take the subject into consideration & determine what steps may be expedient to pursue, & if no compromise can be effected with Bp. Hobart, to leave the question sh^d it be so judged best to judicial decision, to whom & the other Bishops as also to the Trustees of the local school, circulars are to be sent this week. I have little hope that Bp. Hobart will consent to a compromise even if the Gen. Sem^y shall be established here. He must have the sole direction, to w^h the Gen. Convention can never submit. Perhaps however if he sh^d think his popularity likely to be increased or affected he may change his oppugnation. But this I must first see ere I can believe. The friends of the Gen. Sem^y will have done all in their power to conciliate & harmonize all parties. The lot will be cast in the lap & we must leave the issue to that wise Providence who overrules all for the best. I confess myself agitated, & wish the Sem^y may be removed, but were it not for the legacy I w^d give a decided preference to New Haven, as a permanent site.

Tuesday [May] 29th. . . . The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church & that of the Scotch Associate reformed Church at their meeting in Phil^a last week have agreed to unite, their doctrines & discipline being the same. Thus setting a laudable example of breaking down the flimsy partition walls that have too long divided X^{tn} Churches of the same denomination. The

²⁴ John Noble Cumming.

decision was unanimous, & goes back to the several Presbyteries for confirmation & will no doubt, be ratified next year. In consequence of this Union the Scotch Theol^l Sem^y in this city will be transferred to Princeton, together with the most select & valuable Theolog^l Library in the U States. Funds exist in this local Sem^y towards the endowment of a professorship of Hebrew & Biblical Literature. Thus the Princeton Sem^y will have three professors, an important addition to their Library, indeed its very foundation, & an augmentation of Scholars, now 73, will probably in a few years exceed 100. Had your late Rev. friend M^r [L]arned, been spared I sh^d have proposed thro' you, the endowment of a scholarship for his Church, as soon as it sh^d be dis-embarrassed from the debts incurred for its erection & secure establishment of its Minister. It will be long I fear before his loss shall be supplied by as faithful, zealous and popular a successor. God's will be done. Let us submit in silence.

I hope that this example may influence the Episcopalians, that while the other predominant rival denomination is all rallying under one government, and uniting their interests in one common cause, it behoves us not to be splitting & severing our resources & then establish sickly Seminaries, without funds, & without learned professors, without which it is impossible to educate a learned & pious Ministry. From the characteristic pertinacity of my Diocesan Bp. Hobart, in favour of an adopted opinion, I confess my hopes of any compromise or union, are very slender. Be the result what it may, my efforts have not been wanting to promote the dignity, harmony and Unity of my Church. But alas! I feel my obscurity at every step. Had I even a moderate share of wealth, & were I not condemned to toil for existence, by mingling in Society, giving & receiving hospitalities my influence w^d be more extensive & usefull. Mine is but the single talent, w^h at least is not wrapped in a napkin. . . .

From grave to gay. You have been charmed with

M^r Cooper, an excellent actor, but far short of Cook. Kean who has been delighting the Atlantic States, made an unfortunate second engagement [at] Boston. Spoiled by his first visit, he felt mortified that the Theatre was less attended than during the winter. Engaged for 8 nights he performed 2, & on the 3^d even^e refused to enact Richard 3^d becau[se] the House was not full, & left Boston in dudgeon, execrated for his ingratitude. [H]ow soon are his Laurels tarnished, for this capricious air will follow him & render him unpopular wherever he goes, at least in America. He can return, rich, & execrate the Yankees [for] penuriousness & want of taste. This conduct will be a triumph to Cooper, whose friends regard him far superior to Kean. Novelty & the eclat with w^h the latter commenced his debut on the Am[erican] Boards were highly favourable to him, [b]ut good critics did not approve his style of acting w^h aimed too much at originality & did not accord with the spirit of his characters.

Wed^y [May] 30th. By the arrival of Cap^t Fosdick yest^y who spoke Cap^t Holmes off Tortugas on the 20th, I find that there has been a disastrous fire in N. Orleans. I must look [in]to some office for the plot of y^r city to know whether it was near you. This morn^e [I s]aw green peas in market from Virg^a the first at 2/6 half peck. Cheap enough butt thley c^d have no flavour. The difference of a single day is perceptible. Vegetables can only be tasted in perfection, gathered the same day. I can get asparagus, occasionally, cut the same morn^e by paying extra, 3d to 6d a bunch. Some very fine at one shilling I purchased this morn^e. When cleaning, Mama makes it a rule to give the good women she employs good dinners, it makes them grateful & always willing to come in preference whenever wanted. The same persons have cleaned for us ever since our living in Wall Street. We are in the full tide of successful experiment & the day most auspicious. Tomorrow the painters next day scrubbers & by Sat^y night I hope there will be an end

to this] labour, unusually protracted on acc^t of Aunt Pattys illness.

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NEW YORK, 1st June, 1821

My letter to my dearest daughter was despatched yest^r & I commence my usual diary the 1st of the month, a rainy day, & the first of my Dividend, w^h now near 2 has gone smoothly on leaving an interval to say that dear Mama has nearly done with cleaning, a perfect purgatory to me. My offices were cleaned yest^r the back one has not been purified for 12 years, the time of our residence. To have seen your Mother not superintending but ab|solutely labouring w^d astonish even you, & this morn^g she is as alert & busy with the painters, & tomorrow will be her straw mats as tho' it were an amusement instead of toil. She is a wonderful women. The mats that we laid down when we first came here, indeed I believe bought when at M^r Snows,²⁵ have been constantly in use & look almost as well as new. As Aunt Helen says nothing seems to wear out or waste in Sisters hands. This praise is due to the most notable housekeeper in our city. Many goodly nice housekeepers there are in this place, but few apply themselves personally, & think the act of superintending toilsome enough without extending a hand to assist. I have seriously proposed to Mama to break up housekeeping & go to lodgings w^h w^d not cost much more, being so few. She will not hear to it, on the contrary she says it w^d kill her for want of employment. I only regret that I cannot get out of this old castle, w^h however has many comforts, altho intensely hot in Summer. . . .

Monday [June] 4th. A most elegant day, the old King Geo. 3^d birth day, when green peas were formerly

²⁵ In Longworth's New-York Directory, 1806, John Pintard and R[obert] Snow are both listed as residing at 11 U[pper] Reed Street (present Reade Street).

the greatest treat at the dinner given by the Colonial Governors. Indeed we have not had, but the bare appearance of them at market this backward season. At 1 o'clock the foundation of a new Episcopal Church is to be laid, near the State prison, by the Bishop agreeably to the rites & ceremonies of our Church. It is to be named S^t Lukes. The practice of naming Churches after the Evangelists, Apostles and godly persons, identifies the building, & place whenever mentioned. In Roman Catholic times some abuses might have taken place, and the Protestants of the Presbyterian Churches abstained from the practice. The consequence is that their Churches, in cities, are called after the names of the pastors, Doctor Masons Church, D^r Romeyns Church, or from the Streets, Murray Street, Cedar Street Churches, w^h is awkward.

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 I am glad to hear that the boys have commenced French & are [s]o far pleased. Having the benefit of French boys as playmates they will very soon learn to *parler*. It will be quite gratifying to you to hear them & their sister chattering French. You do right to let Eliza dine at her school thro' the hot season, another & important benefit will result, she will learn the terms, &c. Menage, & the complimentary phrases of the dinner table, only to be acquired en famille. It is prudent in you not to indulge Pintard with a fair gun. . . . The accidents that almost monthly occur this way, by the negligent careless use of guns by children is sufficient to deter parents from allowing them to go a gunning too early, & only in company with their playmates. I was myself blown up with gunpowder at 11 years of age, at M^r Cutting's School & know what the danger is.

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 (Tuesday [June] 5). Our Cousin Maria Montross came to town yest^r the first time in 4 years. Dear little woman, she looks like a child & retains all the innocence tho the faded beauty as when you knew her. Her fate

has been a hard one linked to an indolent worthless tho' good natured partner. . . .

Wed^y 6th. This morn^g Cousin Maria went home after passing yest^y with Aunt Helen, who returned with her in the even^g. Mama has kindly given her some cast clothes w^h will be useful to her children & for w^h she was very grateful. Her brothers are not kind resenting the conduct of her husband without reflecting that it falls on her. . . . You are now my dearest daughter passing once more thro' your personal trials. Hard indeed is the lot of females. How Providence however, protects your sex in a state of pregnancy from the pestilence that destroys all around. I think that I have before told you, that hectic females are spared thro' their struggle, however, [it] may entail feebleness on their progeny. What little circumspection prevails in the choice of wives & husbands. The breed of all animals, else, is a subject of peculiar care. But money, not race or constitution is the universal criterion in the choice [of] a companion, on whom depends the health & vigour of the next generation. I overlooked Elizas musical improvement. Shall I purchase a piano, for her with the \$100 for the portraits w^h I shall absolutely refund. Can you get a good second hand one at N. O. for that price & let the D[octo]r draw on me at 10 days sight. . . . It will be gratifying to have an instrument at home for Eliza to practice, to retain what she th^has learned & to acquire a facility of fingering, only to be learned by constant practice. . . .

Friday [June 8,] 10 o'clock A. M. . . . Yest^y was the first stated meeting of the Managers of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] when the annual Committees were chosen & a great deal of business done. I rose early to draft my minutes for recording, & to write my monthly epistle to good D^r Boudinot, w^h occupied, tho not so closely compacted as this, all the pages inside & out of a similar sheet, & wⁿ besides going to market & buying our *first* mess of green peas 2/6 a half peck, I completed before 9. I have now to make out about 1 doz. notices

& resolutions for Committees w^h will complete my Secretary duty for the month. . . .

[Addressed:] P^r Steamship Fulton

NEW YORK, Monday, 11th June, 1821

By the Steam Ship Rob^t Fulton w^h sailed yest^y I launched a letter to my dearest daughter. It was a delightful sight to those who viewed it, to see, at the same time, 10 A. M., six Steam boats filled with passengers in the midst of several Ships outward bound, & a number of sail boats, all off the Battery steering for Sandy Hook. . . . It being Whitsunday, agreeably to the rules of my Church, I attended the Altar, and prayed devoutly for blessings on your head and the protection of y^r dear family thro' the sickly season, now at hand.

Tuesday June 12. Your letter of 12th May by M^r Townsend is just rec^d. He will remain at Quarantine from yest^y 4 days & on Friday, probably, I shall see him. It is understood that his health has improved on the passage.

Friday [June] 15. After two oppressive sultry days, the wind changed yest^y morn^s to N. E. with rain & chilly weather. I know not when I experienced so great a degree of lassitude as on Tuesday. . . . These cool days have been favourable to Mama & Sister who not for lack of other occupation, have undertaken to cleanse that Augean Stable my bookroom, w^h by successive accumulation had become so filled as to render it almost useless, and it was easier for me to refer to a booksellers shelves than to look for the same work in my own possession. Sister, who grows a little bookish & who had been tormented with hunting up my books, at length resolved to reduce chaos to system, & by evening order will be restored, the books dusted, & accessible. I have too many for a poor man, indeed for any one not professional, but

a Library, says Montagne, is gratifying. Tho' you make little use of y^r books, it is pleasant, like the misers useless hoard to know that one possesses them. In all these operations I regard y^r never ceasing industrious Mother with astonishment. To see her laying out her work, descending into the cellar, selecting board & assisting with all the dexterity of a carpenter, in fitting up shelves, with an indefatigabi[li]ty that w^d appal many a younger person, & an intelligence that plans all her work so as to commit no mistakes, surprizes even me who have been so long accustomed to her domestic virtues. Indeed Sister is an excellent contriver & handles a hammer & saw, with no small skill. . . . On Wed^r under all the depression of extreme heat, I attended the monthly meeting of the Trustees of the Savings Bank. Our unparalleled success renders it necessary to anticipate a new loan & subscribe largely to that offered by the Canal Comm^{rs} the 25th inst. To show the necessity of a bold bid, it was necessary to give a view of the state to our Capital & the operation of its concerns since its commencem^t w^h I reduced to writing, to prevent mistakes in case of being challenged to authenticate my assertions. The result was honourable & the Trustees agreed to bid for \$200,000, altho' some came predetermined to vote against it on account of the excessive high premium 12½ p^r C^t advance, at least, for 6 p^r C^t stock. But it was manifestly proved that the peculiar advantages in favour of our mode of business, receiving 6 & paying 5 p^r C^t together with the benefit arising from intermediate deposits & drafts, without interest a premium of 25 or even 28,000 D^{rs} w^d be redeemed in 9 months. After the pains I had taken to elucidate the subject, it was gratifying to find that my labour was not in vain. This is not mentioned thro' vanity, but for y^r satisfaction to learn that tho' humble in Society, your Fathers opinions are respected. Indeed it [is] a consolation to mark the progress of this respect, & the deference that is paid to my years & experience. Above all selfish considerations, whatever I undertake stands on the broad merit of gen-

eral utility, & my associations being entirely with men wiser, better & loftier than myself, my little planet moves in an orbit enlightened & enlightening. When time with me shall be no more, may I be numbered among the benefactors of my day.

Saturday [June] 16. 9 A. M. M^r Townsend called in. He is a very shadow. Speaking of the effect of Ice water w^h he used in N. O. as a tonic by the Doctors advice, he says he immed^y felt the want of it on his passage, & by using ship water, his digestive powers became relaxed. He is in good spirits & is going to New Haven, & will probably recruit in his native air. Complimentary, probably, he speaks highly of you all & the children. Marsden he says is very independent & shrewd in his remarks. I enquired whether it were possible that the Rev. Hooper Cummings, as I wrote had been published here, sh^d have been contemplated as a President of y^r College. He told me that he had never heard of such a report, until his arrival in this city. I presume therefore it [is] only a squib thrown out by some *indiscreet* friend of M^r C. He speaks of the embarrassed state of y^r Church's finances, & that the Rev. M^r Smith is come on a mendicant tour, northward. It will I fear be a sleeveless errand, for we are perfectly run down with subscriptions, & the Presbyterians are building a new Church the upper end of Broadway, from whom alone you can look for aid. Possibly some of our Merchants in connection with y^r City may do something. You can form no idea of the incessant importunities for Churches, Missions & benevolent institutions of every character. The Am. Bible S^o has 2 Agents out, one in the Middle States, the Rev. M^r Stafford for Auxil^y Societies, & M^r Dwight has just gone to Boston to solicit subscriptions to build a Depository. \$10,000 will be raised in this city, & about \$5 or 7 thousand more is looked for elsewhere. I cite this to show you that where all the money centers every one considers himself entitled to ask relief.

Monday [June] 18th. Yest^y we all dined at Aunt

Helens. Mama & Sister went out early, that is, during morning service, to pass a *long* day, after their confinement & incessant work, ever since the arrival of y^r friend M^{rs} Larned. I attended at Grace Church, to hear or rather see, an old acquaintance the Rev. Doctor Cochran, Professor of the College of Nova Scotia. We had been fellow boarders in my short bachelor days, in this city. D^r C. is a very elegant scholar of Trinity College Dublin. He came to this country shortly after the Rev^y War, when the city lay prostrate in ashes, its citizens exhausted by a long war, our College without students, & when political rancour was still unabated. Disgusted, without making proper allowances for our peculiar situation, he went to Nova Scotia, where he has succeeded very well but frankly told me last ev^g at Doctor Hosacks, that he regretted his precipitate departure. He w^d long since have [been] president of our College to which his attainments eminently qualify him. After the resignation of Doctor Mason a few years since, I did what in me lay, to induce a call. But the fear, or some other cause, of popular jealousy against an English subject, predominated & Doctor Harris was chosen, a mild good man, but *no scholar*. Talents adapted to a Grammar School are widely short of the qualifications requisite for the Head of a College. Indeed we appear to be afraid of pre-eminent talents in this city, I mean the Episcopal portion, of w^h I am an unworthy member. I passed an agreeably [*sic*] hour with him last ev^g & revived an acquaintance of some 40 years standing. He was a very handsome man, but the effects of years & an inhospitable climate are strongly indicated.

12 o'clock. On stepping to Eastburns I was introduced to M^r Walsh of Phil^a a small man, all intellect, but unhappily like myself defective of hearing in his left ear. I have remarked that most of my acquaintance, troubled with the malady are deaf in the left ear. What can be the cause? I was invited to dine at Hosacks with a circle of literati, But my hardness of hearing disqualifies for all social intercourse, having resolutely declined all in-

vitations. My only resource is sullen perseverance, w^h I know & feel gives me the air of coldness & inhospitality. It sometimes affects my spirits, to be thus constantly retired, w^h inevitably tends to misanthropy, a dreadful fate. But there is no alternative, and I must submit. Were it not for the association kept up with the few Institutions to w^h I belong, my seclusion w^d be as great as tho I lived on the Alleghany mountains. . . .

Tuesday 19th June, ½ p. 10. I have just performed the most important civil duty that will ever fall to my lot again, giving my vote for Delegates to revise our State Convention in Aug^t next. I voted for what is called the Independent Ticket, a selection of the best men of all parties, who w^d consent to serve. The Tammany Ticket is an entire party faction, intended to democratize our Constitution, solely with the view of retaining all power. But in every thing that regards the general weal of our highly favoured land, there is a redeeming spirit that protects us from destruction. The events of the revol^r war, U States Constitution, the late war, & the dignity exhibited last year by the State of Massachusetts in reorganizing their Constitution, all prove that a superintending Providence has guided & will I trust continue to direct every thing that concerns the political happiness of the freest nation in the world, for the greatest good. I do not despair therefore but that the result of the ensuing Convention will be more favourable than is anticipated, and that the sober sound sense that will be brought into that body will set at nought the combinations & shortsighted policy of a few red hot demagogues who w^d sacrifice every thing to gratify their lust for power and office.

Thursday [June] 21st. I have just received a letter from y^r friend M^{rs} Larned, acknowledging rec^t of the portrait of M^r L. and a package from Mama. She had just returned from Pittsfield, where M^{rs} Larned Sen^r by a fall had broken her wrist. She mentions hearing from you & has I presume ans^wd. M^{rs} Wier & her Sister

M^{rs} Tracy ²⁶ are to be here the beginning of July on their way to the Springs. Mama & Sister will be attentive to them, but I presume it will not be expected that they sh^d make their stay with us. You have no conception of the fatigue y^r Mother has passed thro' during the repairs of our old Castle. The masons have yet to point the chimnies & do some other jobs, but I hope this week will terminate her labours. Luckily the weather has been very temperate. This ev^g or night rather, according to modern refinement a family party is to take tea with y^r Cousin Julia Weeks. . . .

NEW YORK, Monday 25th June, 1821

Yesterday was our first *hot* day, Thermo[*meter*] at 90°. Fortunately Mama has passed thro' the tedious operation of repairs & cleaning while the weather was temperate. Last night was the beginning of woe & restlessness. Our bedrooms are intolerable. On Thur[sda]y Mama & Sister took tea with her niece Julia Weeks, & the family party return the compliment next Thur[sda]y even[*in*]g before the extreme heat shall render visiting too uncomfortable. An approaching shower with thunder & lightning kept Mama & Sister until 11, when they returned in a hackney. . . . On Sat^r I rec^d a letter from my protegé Ja^s H. Clinton, dated Valparaiso 4th March. He writes extremely well, & I was at the pains of transcribing an extract, w^h will appear in this day Commercial & will reach you in the Spectator. His letter to his Father is much more particular & interesting, & his good advice to his brothers far transcends his years. He will make a very fine man if spared, but my Lord has been second in a Duel at Montevideo, between two Midshipmen w^h terminated without bloodshed. He is brave as Cæsar, & pretty heady, so that the next thing probably will be some personal rencontre. Our fiery youths for lack of a common Foe, must manifest their

²⁶ Mrs. Wyer's sister-in-law, Mrs. Nathaniel Tracy (Mary Wyer). *Newburyport, Mass., Vital Records, II, 485.*

mettle by killing each other, a dreadful relic of feudal barbarism. It has been well observed that if seconds were as fearful of the consequences as their principals, there would be but few Duels. Rash young men consult with as inexperienced hot bloods as themselves, who for the sake of seeing a little fun, and trying their friends spunk, risk the consequence of seeing one or both, breathless on the field of combat, rushing into eternity with all their sins & follies on their heads. By way of filling up the blank of life, & killing ennui, on their tedious passage, the young midshipmen of the Constellation published a weekly M.S. Gazette of which Master James was the Editor, & may account for his improvement in style, and his discrimination. . . .

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 Friday [June] 29th. I have just received intelligence of the death of my old friend John Gifford with an invitation to attend his funeral this afternoon. It was with sincere regret that I was obliged to make an apology in my letter of condolence to his family, as I was previously engaged at a special meeting of the Trustees of the Savings Bank at 5 o'clock, being the only acting member of the Funding Committee. We missed making a contract for \$200,000 Canal stock last Monday being overbid. An offer is to be made to one of the Albany Banks w^h took the loan, the subject is very important & the details are left to me to set forth. Sh^d the terms be too high, our progress must be arrested, as we are restricted by law only to invest in the public funds, w^h are now so exorbitantly high as not to yield an interest of 5 p^r cent the am^t of Interest stipulated to be paid to the Stockholders. Thus circumstanced I am obliged reluctantly to refrain from paying my last tribute of respect to the memory of my late good [friend], who is happily relieved I trust from his long lingering state of bodily suffering which has broken down his gigantic frame & iron constitution at last. You know how kindly he treated me while at Newark and my obligations to him of w^h I was never backward in making all due ac-

knowledgments. Thus my dearest daughter one by one my early friends are departing, and sh^d my life be spared a few short years longer, not one of those of my youthful intimates will remain. . . . What with my deafness & consequent abstraction, I cannot form new associations with any congeniality of feeling or affection. There is but little in common between youth & old age. . . . It is only with our early companions that we can cordially associate. This was experienced in the highest degree of painful satisfaction in my last interview with an early acquaintance, whom I believe I mentioned in my last the Rev. Doc^r Cochran from Nova Scotia & who is departing for Canada. When I bade him a last and long farewell never again to meet on this side of eternity, my spirits sunk within me, and his benediction as we shook hands for the last time and exchanged our parting looks & sighs made a more solemn impression, at the twilight hour, than ever I experienced on parting with one, not an immediate connection. . . .

Satur^y 30th. . . . M^{rs} Chew is really amiable. She has been some time going to Virginia. When she returns Mama will repeat her visits. Not until yest^y did she get free from the endless toil of repairs &c., and our castle is quite renovated internally, & quite wax work. Sister inherits a large portion of y^r Mothers taste w^h was beautifully displayed in the arrangement of a flower vase, on Thurs^y ev^g & w^h I absolutely took for artificial, so delicately disposed were the varieties of the season. Our cousins of the Brasher family were here & Mary, like myself, took the vase for artificial. You have with you the elegant French Vases, no doubt. This is saying everything in praise of Sisters taste, & all her chandelier & glass ornaments accord.

Monday 2^d July. Saturday night closed the 2^d year of the Savings Bank. We took in from 167 Depositors \$12,386.65. Our aggregate receipts for 2 years am^t to \$667,977.56. How far my most sanguine hopes, at the first institution of this Bank. Owing to the high price of Stocks, we have refused at least 50,000 D[ollar]s the

last 6 months. I made my usual quarterly deposit of \$3. each for y^r flock, & shall have to open another acc^t by January I presume, which I must endeavour to make equal with Larneds, otherwise it will fall too far short of the other childrens. . . .

Tuesday [July] 3^d ½ p. 2 p. m. I must push my letter to get it out of the way, tomorrow being a Jubilee. At the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce this day, a Committee was appointed to report on the expediency of erecting an Exchange, commensurate with the increase of the commerce & population of this city. I hope it will be on an extensive scale to answer every purpose for 50 years, by w^h time the growth of this emporium of the Lakes & the Ocean will be such as to require a more central site than Wall Street or its vicinity and I have little doubt that our present City Hall will be adopted for the purpose & the purchase money applied towards erecting courts of Judicature higher up. For this city is destined to become infinitely larger than London. I have lived to see wonders, but nothing compared with its future growth. N. Orleans, but for its malignant clime, w^d rival it.

Wed^y 4th July, 45th An^y of Am. Independence. After a hard rain Monday p. m. & night, it has cleared off quite cold. Therm^o at 67° at 9 in our parlour. We were obliged to keep the windows down. I never experienced so cool at 4th, w^h is very favourable to the military & the multitudes that flock in with increasing numbers annually to see *Independence*. Changing my dress, & appearing in my Sunday Suit, I sallied forth at 10, to delight my old eyes with beholding the numerous booths all round the Park, filled with every sort of eatables & drinkables, fruits of every tropic to scour the entrails of the country lads & lasses that filled every bench in rapid succession to partake of the good things of this extensive world of ours. One might literally have walked on the heads of the Sovereign people that crowded Broadway from the Battery to the City Hall, and the Park was thronged to excess with men, women & children, &

strange to tell, in all this multitude I recognized but 4 acquaintances, recalling the wonderful change that has taken place, in celebrating this national Jubilee, in this city, since 1784, the year after the peace, when about a dozen of us, *at the most*, called for a bowl of punch to drink prosperity to the U States, at the old Coffee House. I returned home with a heart elated & thankful for all the mercies with w^h we are blessed.

Thur^y 5th. Our national jubilee terminated as tranquil as usual, very much to the honour of our character and credit of our police. A few honest Irishmen who have floated over in cork jackets, leaving their neck-cloths (Halters) behind them, and who are destined in this State to enjoy unbounded liberty, were alone disposed to show their feats at boxing among the booths, & took it very hard that the constables prevented them from kicking up a row. As I walked up B^dway towards sunset, I c^d not but contemplate the dregs & scum of creation who lingered round the whiskey with disgust & contempt. To think that men unfit to associate with the menials of Civil Society sh^d be considered entitled to all the privileges of freeholders, and to answer party purposes be placed on a footing with those who are rivetted like the Oaks to the soil, and bound to abide the consequences of unbridled licentiousness. The Buck tail party has gained a decided predominance in the late election for a Convention, tho' I trust that all the visionary amendments of political enthusiasts will not take place, and that there will be a redeeming principle in the sound sense of the country members, to save us from destruction. But why distract you & myself with politics. To reach Gov^r Clinton, & exclude him for only the last year from office, an effort will be made to make the election of Governor annual.

9 o'clock. . . . We passed a retired day and drank y^r health in a glass of American Wine, *Groseille*, made by a M^r Dwyer of Providence, who cultivates 40 Acres of Currant trees & expects in a few years to make 200 Pipes a year. To render it as dry as possible gives it a sub acid

taste, partaking much of the colour & flavour of Rhenish, but not very agreeable to us. However to give it a chance I send for a bottle at 75 cents, too much to make it an object of domestic manufacture w^h must be good & cheap to succeed. Upon the whole Madeira & Claret are good enough for me. In the use of either I am extremely moderate. . . .

NEW YORK, Satur^y 7th July, 1821. 9 A. M.

My letters to you my dearest daughter are in some degree the annals of my obscure life. Stepping to the Coffee House a few minutes ago M^r Nich^s Rutgers asked me whether I had rec^d any intelligence from Newark. Replying no, He said that he was just informed that our good friend Gen. Cummings was no more, that he dropped down instantly dead in his field, yest^y. I know not when I have suffered such a shock. You know our long & mutual friendship, & how very kind he was to me in the days of my affliction while at Newark. I mentioned in my last the decease of my other kind friend John Gifford. This was an event long expected, but the sudden call of Gen. Cummings, who was in apparent perfect health, is a shock indeed. . . .

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 M^r Russell tells me that the Phœbe Ann is to [be] coppered & to sail the 10th Oct^o next when M^{rs} Chew & family will probably return. It shall not be my fault if Sister does not accompany her. . . .

½ p. 2. Before closing for the day let me inform you of the arrival of y^r friend M^{rs} Weir and her sister from Boston. They are at the Mansion House (lately M^r Edgars) in B^hway. Sister has been to see them & they are invited with M^{rs} Chew, Aunt Helen &c. to tea tomorrow ev^g. I have just arranged with Col. Varick, to cross over tomorrow to attend my good friend Gen. Cummings funeral. . . .

Monday, 9th July. By arrangement I crossed over to Powlas Hook & breakfasted with Col. Varick who has his

summer residence there, & rode with him & his lady to Newark. I went to Church with Miss Gifford, & took my dinner with her mother, as some return for not being able to attend her father's funeral. At 3 I went to Gen. Cummings, having had a written invitation. The circumstances of his decease are, on Friday about 5 p. m. he rode to see his people at hay making, where he staid not long. On returning he rode up to his farm house, & asked his farmers wife if she had any laudanum in the house to which she replied no. He dismounted put his hand to his breast, and said, "My God what is coming over me," went into the house, laid himself on the bed, & expired in 5 minutes without uttering a single word more. He was aged 70 years. His body was much bloated. Dying in full health & was kept too long. I c^d not recognize the features w^h improperly were exposed to spectators, & notwithstanding an abundance of ice, was offensive. Here was want of judgment. The funeral was large beyond even M^r Boudinots, being Sunday & all the adjacent country attended. A Funeral sermon was delivered by the Rev. D^r Richards from Ecclesiastes. In the day of prosperity rejoice, in the day of adversity consider. Well adapted no doubt to the ideas of the Presbyterians, & certainly an excellent discourse. I got home about 8 & found our parlour full. M^{rs} Wier, M^r & M^{rs} Tracy, sister & very much like M^{rs} Larned, M^{rs} Chew & Sister Miss Duer, Aunt Helen & M^r C[raig] & Davis & M^r Raplje, a friendly bucktail. Every thing was as brilliant & excellent as you c^d fondly wish, for your sake my dearest daughter. M^{rs} Weir looks very well, but says that y^r friend M^{rs} L. does not enjoy or improve in health. M^{rs} Chew says that she will go down by the Ohio, if a party can be made up, as she wishes to take her mother with her. M^{rs} C. is very thin & looks like a shade alongside y^r embonpoint sister who is as round as a Robin & conducted her ceremonials in my fond eye, with great propriety, but y^r Mother justly observes, that it destroys all sociability, these modern tea parties with 2 or 3 courses of refreshments unless where plenty of domestic

assistance abounds. All retired at 10 . . . Mrs W & sister go for the Springs this afternoon & return in about a month, when Mama may probably see them at the Steamboat Hotel, New Haven where we shall go the last Thur^y 26th inst. unless she sh^d think it best to accept Aunt Pattys urgent invitation to pass a few weeks at Princeton. The one or other will please God take place. I hope New Haven, where I w^d rather pay board for a month, than intrude so long on friends. You know my mind on this score. The Phœbe Ann is to be up this morn^s & tomorrow I suppose I shall see M^r Metcalf, when we will talk over the portraits w^h I shall be happy to present to you. . . .

Tuesday [July 10,] 4½ p. m. Before going to the Historical S^o I am happy to mention that the Boxes 5 in number were all got over safe from Brooklyn, by noon, to the great delight of Sister. The plants tho' sickly, are all alive, the Children on the passage having picked off all the leaves. She has pruned them & watered them & I trust after all your trouble will revive, as some small compensation for the plague that ill judged commission has caused. Cap^t Holmes just called to say how do do & when discharged promises to visit us. He has quite fattened at Quarantine. He says there is a rumour that the Yellow fever has appeared at Balt[im]o[re] very early a rumour w^h has excited some sensation & makes me apprehensive about y^r safety. Doctor & Mrs Hunter, from Washin[gt]on, called this morning & sat an hour but c^d not take dinner with us. Mrs H. looked very well. The sight & probably last interview with old friends is rather a melancholly pleasure. Mrs Hunter ²⁷ & sister Mrs Cuthbert are twins now 60, 2 years younger than myself. Their sister Mrs Rush & myself are of the same age.

Wed^y 11th July. . . . The bonnets are sent to be cleaned, & they shall be neatly trimmed & forwarded by

²⁷ Mrs. Andrew Hunter, Mrs. Alexander Cuthbert, and Mrs. Benjamin Rush were daughters of Richard and Annis (Boudinot) Stockton. T. C. Stockton, *The Stockton Family of New Jersey* (1911), pp. 45, 78-80.

Cap^t Holmes, by w^h time I suppose they can be worn. How dark the sun turns them with you. By the morn^g news from Balt^o a bulletin of their B[oard] of Health confirms the rumour of malignant fever having appeared the last of June in the lower parts of that city. I shall be all anxiety on y^r account esp^y the Doctors. I hope he is very prudent as to avoiding fatigue, or excessive fatigue in the discharge of his duty. It will be flattering to hear that he possesses due weight & influence at the B^d of Health, w^h his suavity is likely to secure. D^r Hosack had great & deserved merit, but his overbearing dogmatic manner gave such umbrage as to forbid his ever being re-instated. Plain folks who mean well, do not like to be treated contemptuously, and there is a mode of enforcing what is right without giving offence. I sincerely hope that in the conflict of opinions, which must arise as well in, as out of the Board, that the Doctors good sense will at least secure the general sentiment in favour of his opinions & official conduct. Do you ever coop chickens to fatten. We have been very successful this season. I think that I have before mentioned a simple mode of feeding them with Indian meal mixed with buttermilk, & a little fine sand to assist digestion, no water. We have kept young chickens, w^h are very hard to fatten, 10 days, & their meat is superlatively white & tender. Try this experiment w^h cannot fail, perhaps however buttermilk [is] not to be had with you, in w^h case plain milk, turned sour, will answer.

Thurs^y 12 July. M^r Griswold who married Miss Cumming informed, on enquiring, that it was a fact that the Rev. Hooper Cumming had rec^d a call to supply y^r Church, from Gen. Ripley, w^h he had declined on the dissuasion of his father. Very happily for both of you. He is an elegant preacher undoubtedly, but of a constitutional vivacity that w^d not have resisted the gaities of N. Orleans. I really felt rejoiced on hearing this intelligence. As to his qualifications to be at the head of a Seminary of education, I sh^d suppose them too slender

to give respect or reputation, without which a College w^d decline. Indeed the duties of a principal or president are sufficiently arduous without being blended with those of a parochial minister. . . .

Your cousin John Brasher who was to have taken Coffee with us on Sunday even^s was prevented by indisposition. . . . M^r Metcalf has [not] yet called on me, or does he wait for my calling on him? I know not where he [d]wells. When I see him w^e shall decide respecting our portraits. I wish [I] c^d with propriety employ Waldo or Jarvis, but really \$300 appears too much for such objects. . . .

NEW YORK, Friday 13 July, 1821

My letter to my beloved daughter of yest^r mentioned the indisposition of her cousin J. P. Brasher. Last even^s I called to see him, he had a violent fever, attended with great prostration & loss of appetite, his tongue was not bad, & his eye brilliant. His situation is somewhat critical but I hope not dangerous. On sending to enquire this morn^s he rested better last night. Doctor Post had visited him & approved the prescriptions of D^r Ogden, but D^r P. does not bleed, nor his pupils. Hosack is a proper drawcansir. I cannot but think it right in these higher grades of fever. This even^s I hope to find him better. Having some business at the Branch bank, I met M^{rs} Chew & family descending the steps yest^r proceeding toward Virginia. She tells me she expects to be absent 2 months w^h will bring her back about the period when she will be thinking of returning home.

2½ p. m. M^r Metcalf called at noon, but Mama & Sister were too much occupied to see him. I took him upstairs & told him, as was his due, that we were much pleased with his portraits. He asks 40 D[ollar]s to take ours, & if Mama has no objections I will get her & Sister to sit next week. Mine can be taken at more leisure, as he may require all their time before they leave town.

Sat^r 14. Sister & myself called last ev^s to see your

cousin whose fever has abated but he is very languid. I confess that I felt alarmed the evening before. This morning he is still better. My namesake is a very amiable youth, & being the only representative of his family I am much interested in his fate. He is very delicate & partakes of his poor mothers hectic constitution. Sh^d he be spared, now that he is done growing he may acquire more muscular strength, but I always contemplate him as a plant of short duration. . . .

Tuesday [July] 17th. Last evening I called, also Mama & Sister. Doctor Post pronounces John out of danger. He begins to take chicken broth, is very weak, poor boy, he has no stamina. A fatal instance of suicide occurred at the lunatic Assylum at Bloomingdale. M^{rs} Spencer who attempted this act a few weeks past at Albany, was sent down to the Assylum, where she had a parlour room & attendant at \$10 a week, very genteel & comfortable accommodations & diet. She was closely attended, every implement being withheld. On Sunday afternoon she escaped from her attendant, went up stairs, & got on the roof, the door to which is open, to allow visitors to ascend the Cupola from which there is a superb view, and she precipitated herself from over the battlements & dashed her brains out on the pavement. I think I mentioned her unfortunate case in a former letter. She was daughter in law of Chief Justice Spencer, & her malady was religious melancholly. A dreadful catastrophe. . . .

Wed^y [July] 18th. Yesterday I hope was a crisis with y^r cousin. Mama staid there last night & will continue thro' this day. In the ev^g I was there & saw John. His eye was very bad, but he was going thro' a profuse perspiration. A very amiable young friend of his D^r Ogden attends him with great fidelity. He told me that the symptoms were more favourable but that when y^r Mama was sent for he had a slight hiccough with every appearance of sinking. . . . I went up to see him, his eye is better, but he is extremely prostrated. Mama was reposing & Cousin Polly begged me to intreat her to re-

main, w^h I did & she consents. John is more tractable under her management & took his medicine regularly at her solicitation. Your good Sister is preparing some calves foot jelly to nourish him . . .

Thurs^y 19th. The state of Johns health is more favourable. . . . I saw Doctor Post last evening, who is a very cold retired character, says little & that not encouraging, but John is evidently better this morn^g. His Sister Julia Weeks returned yest^y, in great agony, for she is much attached, as she ought to be, to her only brother. . . .

On returning last evening I found the Doctors letter of 20 June, left I presume by M^r Geer, who pencilled marked, *Kensington Hotel*, w^h being 4 miles out of town unless he sh^d come in on business, I shall not be able to see & tell him about M^{rs} Wier. . . . I was relieved by the Doctor's advice of the favourable state of the public health of y^r city. . . . With the blessing of God, & an uncommon mild season hitherto we enjoy redundant health. The late alarm in Balt^o has revived the endless discussion of importation & non importation. The B^d of Health has been grossly & rudely charged by the Philadelphians with suppressing the truth of yellow fever having raged to an alarming degree in Bancker S^t last year. A fact unknown to us, & the charge originating with our *home brewed* physicians, in opposition to Doctor Hosack. These discussions are at large in the Ev^g Post, w^h reach your printers & from whom you can doubtless obtain them.

(9 o'clock) Your good mother is quite refreshed with her nights rest, and a dish of our always excellent ambrosia. In roasting & making Coffee we excell. Mama will return to her patient. I have just written a line to M^r Geer at Kensington House, giving tidings about M^{rs} Wyer & her intended return to this city, & have asked the favour of his calling on us. In my walk yest^y P. M. I met with my friend Thomas Eddy Gov^r of our Hospital and to whom the new Lunatic Assylum is principally owing. From him I learned the following circum-

stances of the fate of M^{rs} Spencer. She was so well on Saturday as to be cheerful & went into the apartment of Cap^t Gardner,²⁸ on one side of the Hall her room being opposite, and told M^{rs} Gardiner that if she pleased, she w^d make some Ice cream. The establishment being abundantly supplied, even with luxuries, M^{rs} G. to please her procured the materials, and she made & partook of an excellent cream. On Sunday morn^g she walked about the Hall, her attendant always present. She walked into the Superintendants room, & whilst there her attend^t stepped into M^{rs} Spencers Chamber. On M^{rs} S. going back to the Hall, observing no one there, she slipped upstairs. In a few minutes her attend^t went into M^{rs} Gardiners room, not seeing her, went into another room & returned & told Cap^t G. that she was missing. He immed^y went into the Court Yard in quest of her, next concluding that she had gone upstairs he went in search of her & found her hat & shoes at the foot of the stairs leading to the roof, w^h excepting the gables has a ballustrade all round. He went towards the East gable end, but she was not there. A half witted patient in the Yard called out to Cap^t G. & said that she was behind one of the chimnies towards the west end. Hearing the remark, she immed^y sprang forward & precipitated herself from this giddy height & was instantly killed by the fall. . . . She was a handsome amiable lady, & her husband L^t Spencer of the Navy a mild excellent young man. I tho't these particulars might be useful to the Doctor. I am very much gratified with your disposition of Eliza at an entire French Boarding School, where, & where alone, she will acquire domestic phrases, & I hope correct manners if the family be of the old school. What pains were taken in my childhood to teach me to take up & lay down my knife & fork, to use the latter, make no crumbs nor soil the table cloth, speak when spoken to, & make my obeissance on entering a room, approach-

²⁸ Laban Gardner, Superintendent of the Asylum. Pliny Earle, *History, Description and Statistics of The Bloomingdale Asylum for the Insane* (N. Y., 1848), p. 11.

ing & retiring from friends & all the nameless &c^{as} that distinguish civilized children from clowns. I do not mean *Kentucky men*. In all these particulars I hope she will improve to your satisfaction. The excursion & sight of y^r friends has I hope given a fillip to your spirits, my dearest daughter. Our boys too have had an excursion to the Balize, to be devoured no doubt, with musquitos, fine fun, but any thing by way of a change. I sh^d like to have seen the young travellers for the first time on a voyage without their parents. . . .

Friday [July] 20th. Your cousin thank God is out of danger. . . . The Phœbe Ann is undergoing a thorough repair & will be coppered, when she will sail faster than ever. . . .

Saturday 21st. Mama returned to dinner yest^r leaving y^r cousin much better. I called in the evening & found him sensibly improved. There will I hope be no occasion for Mama to sit up again. Going to market has prevented my call this morn^g but I shall send to enquire, after breakfast. We had a refreshing rain yest^r from 8 to 2 w^h cleared off with a fine cool northwester. Our summer has been as cool as the one 5 years ago when the low temperature was ascribed to the spots in the sun, & floating ice bergs on the coast. I could not but remark this morn^g the great abundance of fine vegetables with which our market is supplied. What used to be rare is now redundant, owing to the great exertion of our Agricultural & horticultural societies. The latter it w^d appear to me ought to be established with you. . . . On Wed^r I purpose going to New Haven to attend the first examination of the Theol^l Students, of our Gen[eral] Sem^r. A gratuitous service, but I trust not over officious on my part. . . .

NEW YORK, Friday 4th [*sic* for 3rd] Aug^t, 1821

Yesterday, my letter ²⁹ was despatched by post to my beloved daughter. Today Sister is moving about, pack-

²⁹ Pintard's letter of August 2, 1821, is missing from the Society's collection.

ing up her clothes for an excursion tomorrow, I believe to Oyster bay. . . . I have just concluded my monthly epistle to D^r Boudinot giving him informⁿ of the business of the Managers of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] at their meeting yesterday.

Sat^y 5th [*sic* for 4th]. . . . Happily a fine fresh northerly has abated the extreme heat, w^h at best was oppressive eno[ugh]. Yest^y I was so debilitated & languid towards night that I apprehended I was going to take sick. Mama gave me some peppermint & laudanum, on going to bed, w^h relieved the pain in my lower abdomen, & afforded me the first nights rest I have enjoyed for more than a week. Tonight I shall take a pill & lie by in the morn^g & hope to clear out & get well, w^h will permit Mama & Sister on Monday afternoon to go to Rockaway, the present destination, for all the outposts, in consequence of the warm weather are crowded to excess. Rob^t Weeks called yest^y & says there is no foothold at Oyster bay. Y^r Cousin John mends slowly his fever still hangs about him. Y^r sister is getting bravely but is very feeble. Country alone can brace her. Mama is the wonder of creation, no hired housekeeper w^d work as hard as she does, & she is never sick, tho sometimes borne down with fatigue. I believe industrious people feel less the effect of heat than the idle. I often wonder at the pavours & sawyers who are more exposed to the reverberation of the heat than any other people yet experience it less. Their temptation is drinking cold water, of the fatal effects of w^h several instances have occurred this week, notwithstanding to notices pasted on every public pump.

Monday [August] 6th. Yest^y Sunday. . . . I dined at D^r Hosacks in company with Gov^r Clinton, the first time in a year almost that I have spent a social hour in his company. His political foes, & deadly they are, exult that he is completely prostrated, nor shall I wonder if he be obliged to retire from public life. He has acquired perhaps, his full share of fame. When time shall have

modified the asperity of faction, His name will be associated indeed identified with the g[ran]d canal, a stupendous effort that will immortalize him. Like Fulton, Altho' not the first projector, his perseverance & success will secure the praises of a more liberal Age. I think it probable sh^d he retire to Newtown, that I shall get a small hamlet in the vicinity of my friend, and philosophize the remaining hours of our lives in pleasant intellectual intercourse. He is most pleasant in retirement, & we are much used to each others freedoms. It requires great intimacy, knowledge of character & mutual indulgence to joke freely. Fools cannot bear repartee, and apply that personally w^h is intended as general. But the play of wit, little as I can boast, has to my regret & sorrow proved oftentimes mortifying. The spark elicited will sometimes unfortunately enkindle a flame that was never intended. My increasing deafness & abstraction from society stand me in lieu of discretion, of w^h alas! my stock is very slender. My office is undergoing some very accommodating repairs. There is a time says Solomon for all things, for planting Trees & for plucking them up. The rage for setting out the Spiral Lombardy poplar has settled into a universal extirpation of that once favourite avenue tree. A sorry tree at best, & a mortifying emblem of the short lived prosperity of many of our rural squires. Those before my office were girdled & cut down, two years past, & we have been literally carbonaded thro the baking midday rays en^o to blister one. At last we are getting inside shutters & outside blinds that will keep us somewhat cooler & at any rate skreen my poor eyes from the intolerable glare that has almost ruined them. Another year, if doomed to live here I must get outside blinds to our third story, w^h will afford some relief. Why have we delayed thus long, is entirely Mama's mistaken economy.

(1 o'clock) An incident has just occurred w^h may serve for a digression. At dinner yest^r the Commencement of Columbia College was among other topics, & I exhorted Gov^r Clinton to walk in the procession, altho'

not enjoined, still a courtesy. A dinner has lately been given, possibly at my suggestion, to draw out the friends of *Belly* lettres. On remarking to D^r Hosack that I had never seen the inside of the College since its being repaired, that from the President to the Trustee the commonplace civility of an invitation had never been extended to me, & expressing myself perhaps too keenly at this cold neglect of one who had done his full share towards promoting the cause of science & literature in this city, in w^h Hosack concurred apologizing that those at the head of affairs were untrained in those courtesies characteristic of the old school. At the suggestion of D^r Hosack no doubt, President Harris sent a note of invitation to the dinner at 12¹/₄, with an admission Ticket to the Commencement tomorrow. I declined the honour of the former, & wrote a line of thanks to the Doctor, that it was doubtless owing to his suggestion, that this tardy invitation had been sent, w^h I c^d not accept, nor any *perchance* similar favours, in future. That it was mortifying to a sexagenary to see Shakespeares maxim verified "The learned pate clucks to the golden fool." So let it be, your fathers services will be gratefully remembered, when the very names of the golden pageants of the day are sunk in oblivion. But let me not be judged envious. Gold has its worth when it elevates muckworms above their insignificant level.

Tuesday [August] 7th, 12 o'clock. About 10, a message was sent to me that M^r Scudder³⁰ was dying. I left my office at 11. He was no more. I did all in my power to console his family. After seeing Mama over to Brooklyn, I shall go up to render such services as may be required. His muscular strength was such that at 8, he desired a carriage to be sent for to take a ride. He departed however, without a struggle, happily relieved from his sufferings, altho' externally cool, he was consumed by a raging inward heat. He had indulged

³⁰ John Scudder, proprietor of the American Museum. There is an article about him and his museum, by "An American," in the [N. Y.] *Commercial Advertiser*, Aug. 17, 1821.

too much in excitements to sustain him when he was busily employed, by w^h means he broke down his constitution & finally has fallen earlier than in a course of nature he ought to have done. I have no doubt however that the preparation of his great Turtle, was the primary cause of the contamination of his lungs.

Wed^y 8th. At 3 yest^y Mama & Sister sat off for Rockaway, where they arrived before sunset. It was a delightful pleasant afternoon. I have every confidence that bathing & sea air will restore Sister's health & tranquilize y^r Mother's nerves w^h have been in a constant excitement ever since April. I called on M^{rs} Scudder to see what services might be in my power to render. But I found a bevy of female gossips preparing scarves, with all the earnestness of attention & good cheer usual among this class of persons. Had I been consulted I sh^d have discountenanced the giving scarves except to the clergy & physicians But there is a vulgar pride of ostentation to be gratified of course I made no remark. At 4 this aft.noon previous to the Funeral at 6 the Will is to be opened. I can only act as an advising Executor & take no charge of or assume any responsibility as to the money concerns. I shall expect nor receive any compensation for any discharge of duty undertaken merely to protect my poor friends Scudders children. His daughter Eliza about the age of yours is very much affected. He was a too indulgent parent. His oldest son John about 14, at Grammar School is remarkably smart. After this visit I went to Cousin Polly Abeels, Mary having returned in the morning from Oyster bay leaving John so well as to talk of coming back next week, w^h will be very imprudent. . . .

Thur^y [August] 9th. A gentleman who went in the Stage with Mama & returned yest^y informed me that she had obtained a comfortable large room & was very well accommodated. Aunt Helen expects to go on Sat^y by whose return I shall hear particularly. The weather has been very temperate all this week & still continues cool. Yesterday aft.noon I attended the remains of my

poor friend Scudder. Several scientific characters paid their last mark of respect to his memory & a vast concourse of all sorts, for he was universally known. This afternoon at 4 the Executors will meet to qualify & make the needful arrangements for the protection & care of the Museum. My long acquaintance with M^r S. & his importunity induced me to befriend his family. A report is received of the decease of Bonaparte on the 6th May last. It is probable as he had been indisposed by every former intelligence. A consummation no doubt desirable to one whose race was run & who must have led a painful existence perched on the top of S^t Helena, without Hope of relief, or a prospect of the termination of his captivity except by Death. The world will be inundated with anecdotes of his last hours. It w^d be an important history, that of his own life written by himself. There will be spurious histories en^o by bookmakers to gull the public.

Our papers have lately teemed with lucubrations on the subject of the unfortunate André who was executed 2^d Oct. 1780 at Tappan, as a spy, in connection with Arnolds treasonable attempt to betray West Point to the British. His remains are to be removed to England. The British Consul Buchanan, in giving eclat to the event, has excited the overboiling patriotism of those who consider themselves the exclusive guardians of the public weal. M^r Buchanan has been indiscreet, but the invectives that have appeared disgrace the character of our nation. I have been invited to attend, next week, the disinterment. Having, as I think you have been told, prepared a dissertation in defence of Gen. Washingtons character, w^h was read before the Historical S^o in 1817, the facts of Major Andrés apprehension &c. are very familiar to me, & I wish to converse with such of the inhabitants of Tappan as may have witnessed the execution on some points relating to the objects of my essay. I believe that I shall accompany the party.

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[August, 1821]³¹

[7 or 8 lines missing] Unawed by any threat [*MS. torn*] was anxious to view the locality, to supp[ort] [*MS. torn*] our illustrious Washington, of having caused the Gibbet on w^h the unfortun[ate] André was executed to be erected, in his sight *several days*, before his execution. [I] shall however accompanied by Doctor Hosack make an excursion for th[e] purp[ose] in the course of a few days, as soon as some accouchemens that th[e] is expecting are over. Consul Buchanan,³² with the zeal & ardour of an Irishman, has probably given unnecessary excitement by an intention as is staid to have had an imposing procession in honour of Major André's memory, alth[ough] which will be very right & proper in his own country, but w^d give offence in [this.] Still however the mob that was held up in terrorem was quite unjustifiable & disgraceful. To avoid giving further umbrage, and to prevent any trick being played by removing the relics prior to this day, and then at the expense of humanity to have turned the laugh on the Consul, He went to Tappan last Thur[sda]y afternoon & on Frid[a]y

"The British Consul with several gentlemen, accompanied by the "proprietor of the ground & his labourer commenced their operations "at 11 o'clock A. M. by removing the heap of stones that had surrounded & partly covered the grave. Great caution was observed in "taking up a small peach tree, that was growing out of the grave as the "Consul stated his intention of sending it to his Majesty to be placed "in one [of] the Royal Gardens. Considerable anxiety was felt lest "the coffin sh^d not [be] foun[d], as various rumours existed of its having been removed many [years ago]. However, when at the depth of "three feet the labourer came [to it. The] lid was broken in the centre " & had partly fallen in, but was [kept up by resting on] the skull[.] "The lid being raised up the skeleton [of the brave Andre appeared "entire;] bone to bone eac[h] in its pla[ce]."³³

³¹ This letter is badly mutilated, about a quarter of each sheet being irregularly torn away from both top and bottom.

³² James Buchanan's own "Narrative of the Exhumation of the Remains of Major André," dated British Consulate, New York, August, 1833, was printed in *The [N. Y.] Albion*, Dec. 14, 1833, new series, volume I, no. 50, p. 398.

³³ The rest of this account may be found in *The New-York Evening Post*, for Monday, Aug. 13, 1821; reprinted in the *New-York Gazette & General Advertiser*, Tuesday, Aug. 14, 1821.

[17 or 18 lines of MS. missing] Tappan & the adjacent [MS. torn] were preparing [MS. torn] the ceremony. The Consul [MS. torn] reasons for his conduct to be read by M^r Lansing in Church to his [con]gregation, & w^h will appear in this Evenings Post.

[Friday] 17 Aug^t. A letter from Mama on Monday mentions that she & Sister [ar]e very well, the latter quite recruited & in good spirits. We have endured extreme heat this week yest^y the hottest this year. I am very moderate as to diet [&] exercise. I dined on mush & milk yest^y & shall again today, having no appetite for animal food. My health is quite good not experiencing any thing but the debilitating languor that always prostrates me. How much I think of my dearest daughters sufferings this very hot weather. But your nights are cooler than ours, or you c^d not endure it. Tomorrow aft.noon I shall go to Rockaway & return Monday morn^g. I hope to receive a letter by the morn^g mail to take to Mama who enquires for one. At my return I shall have something to say about the fashionables, who by the way all go to the Springs.

Sat^y [August] 18th. Yesterday at noon I rec^d an invitation from M^r Buchanan to accompany him at 1 o'clock on b^d the British packet to see the sarcophagus containing the remains of the unfortunate André, of w^h circumstance I made the following memo. on the back of the Consuls note, as soon as I returned

Aug^t 17. Attended Ja[mes] Buchannan Esq. British Consul, on b^d the B. packet a[t] 1 o'clock, with several gentlemen, except M^r Wood of Apprentices Library memory, to me unknown. The Rev^d M^r Demarest of Tappan, to whose care] the remains of Major André were intrusted, was of the party. [The sarcophagus] in the shape of a Ladies work case about 2 feet high & 1½ wide [MS. torn] designetd by] Col. Trumbull [& executed by] M^r Eggle[ts]o] [17 or 18 lines of MS. missing].

& as round as a Ro[bin] [MS. torn] she appears, I think, pretty, but this may [MS. torn] a tender heart

good girl w^b is more than beauty. [The]y are very well accommodated at a very neat house, but \$7. a week is too high as times go. Aunt Helen, Davis & M^r Craig came after dinner yest^r. They stay over only one day. Indeed Sister ³⁴ says that she is so well & agreeably situated with a fine pure air & free from neighbours, that unless to take a sea bath, she feels no necessity of going abroad. The very reverse with Mama for when I came into the city this morn^s the reverberating heat appeared like a furnace. Our house however by being kept closed is tolerably cool. The summer is at its height, & a short month will make a great change. Sister ³⁵ longs to get back, but I shall persuade them to stay at least a fortnight longer. The middle of Sept^r they will probably go to Princeton to be there a little before commencement so as to return with me after my flying visit. There is not much comp[an]y at Rockaway this season. Watering places have their fashion, the Springs for the High Ton & the steamboats afford so many diversified routes that all draw off from the once overflowing shoals that used to go to Rockaway in such numbers as to render it scarcely possible to obtain quarters for love or money. Old M^{rs} White of Wall Street, rising [80?] was my traveling companion.

[Wednesday, August] 22^d. Shortly after writing the above I rec^d your letter of 21st July & rejoice [with you] that y^r city enjoys so much health as to occasion great waiting [*MS. torn*] Doctors for lack [of] patients, w^b I hope will be made up when [*MS. torn*] return to town [with m]any maladies short of yell[ow] fever. Life to [19 or 20 lines of *MS. missing*]

Thurs^r 23^d. A cool refretshing day. The N. [E.?] winds have I hoped reached you. [*MS. torn*] heat next week & we] shall have passed the fiery] ordeal please God. [*MS. torn*] Mama & Sister are both] well. Your cousin J. P. [Bras]her is recovering fa- [*the final 10 or 11 lines of MS. missing*]

³⁴ Pintard's sister-in-law, Mrs. Craig (Helen Brasher).

³⁵ Pintard's daughter, Louise.

N YORK, Monday, 27 Aug^t, 1821. Solar Eclipse

The clouds obscured the effects of the eclipse w^h commenced about ½ past 7 & was over before 10. It was of longer duration with you. The weather has sensibly changed since 6, it being sultry yest^y & close last night. A line from Mama of yest^y evinces her solicitude to return. An overflowing house & a multitude of children annoy her greatly. On Wed^y 5th Sept^r I may expect to see her. Sister is quite fat & hearty. The milder weather has driven home the spring emigrants. Our city has never probably poured forth such numbers as this season. Whether from the sultriness of the weather, or probably that as I grow older my inclination to read lessens. I never before experienced such listlessness & incapacity of fixing my attention. Light, serious, gay or grave, poetry or prose all are equally indifferent & void of interest. I took up, yest^y Boswells Johnson, w^h I have not looked since 1798, when I lived with Cap^t Gifford in Newark.³⁶ Altho' not new, & the anecdotes quite fresh in my memory, the review of this great moralists life is quite attractive. I read 54 q^{to} pages, yest^y Sunday P. M. at a heat, with much attention & gratification. To Johnson I owe immense obligations for the little I know of polite literature. His maxims have fortified my mind & have instigated my exertions as well as reconciled me to my lot. You may possibly recollect the freedom I took in marking the sterling passages, apothegms &c: in the margin. As they recur, it makes me more attentive to them, & I am pleased to find the impression which their sterling merit made on my mind, & how familiar they recur to my memory. This Edition will be valuable to you or y^r Sister were it only for y^r father's notices. I often wonder whether y^r husband be a reader. Probably not. At any rate I hope professionally so, without which he may get along by slow experience, but not eminently. My friend Francis is an ext[raordinary] man, eccentric, volatile, excursive, irritable, but profound in his profession, as

³⁶ During Pintard's imprisonment for debt.

time will prove. He is now engaged in edited [*sic*] two works, on Midwifery, of w^b he is professor, & on the abuse of Mercury, copies of w^b he will send the Doctor, & he will find them both worthy his perusal.

Tuesday [August] 28th. Cool & pleasant, as I hope it is comparatively with you. My excursive friends M^r Mason & others have returned home, full of the wonderful progress of the Grand Canal which is to effect, when completed, a great change for the better in the commerce of this city. All say that the work already executed far exceeds their most sanguine expectations, & that there can be no doubt but that the whole will be completed by this time two years, when, if existing in health I shall endeavour to go to Albany to witness the introduction of the lake navigation with the Hudson, a stupendous undertaking w^b I had little hope of seeing accomplished in my day. The next object will be to interlock Lake Erie with the Ohio, a practicable project that will cost far short of our great improvement, the funds for which can be raised by the guarantee of this State. This when executed will afford an inland navigation between this city & yours. Whether I shall live to see it is doubtful, posterity certainly will. This will not be the only lock communication, as before many years have elapsed, another, which nature has already formed, will take place by way of the Illinois, & another when the upper country gets settled, by the way of Lake Superior. What unbounded resources are before us, & what an immense city N York is destined to become. Notwithstanding the practical benefit that already results from so much of the Canal navigation as is already in operation, It is strange yet true to tell, that the principal author of all this benefit, Gov^r Clinton, has thro' the persevering efforts of his vindictive malevolent foes, become so unpopular westward, that there is no hope of his reelection. To avail themselves of present impressions, w^b may subside before his regular term expires, next spring a year, I shall not be at all surprized if our Convention, now in session sh^d provide for a new election next spring,

in order, as the miscreants exult, to crush him forever. But tho' *ostracised*, they cannot eclipse his well earned fame, & Clinton will live when the insects, the muck-worms of the day shall be lost in their original insignificance. I confess that I feel indignant whenever this topic recurs.

Wed^y [August] 29th. Last ev^g I took tea with Aunt Helen who is very well. M^r Craig & Davis were again at Rockaway on Sunday. He says that Mama & Sister are as fat & hearty as it is possible to conceive. I did not answer my letter of Monday, least some natural expression might drop of the tedium endured in their absence w^h might precipitate their return, now fixed for this day week, so that I have but one weeks solitude to endure. It is a sorry state, only rendered tolerable by the conviction of the benefit Mama & Sister will derive from their excursion. I hope another year that quarters may be obtained nearer to me, where I can go every afternoon, w^h will do me good & render our separation less irksome. I lose all appetite or inclination for animal food. How can one eat all alone? My breakfast is my cheif meal, for at tea I take but a couple of crackers. Still thank God my health is very good, only when extreme heat occurs I am overpowered & as feeble as a child, but this is probably incident to declining years. M^r Dwight Editor of the Daily Advertiser related this instance of extreme lassitude & absolute debility, experienced by himself in early youth, about 13 & 14, w^h may be useful to the Doctor. When put to Grammar School he shot up so rapidly as to outgrow his strength, & to be rendered incapable of bodily or mental exertion. He was obliged to quit scho[o]l until he recovered this state of debility. He says that he has observed, in the course of his life, many similar instances, when thro' the ignorance of the cause, parents by urging their children have entirely broken them down. . . . An arrival yest^r from Liverpool brings intelligence to the 17 July two days prior to the Coronation w^h engrosses all minds, &

the particulars of which will next reach us. These pompous pageantries are essential to regal governments, ridiculous as they may appear to us republicans. They serve to make an impression on the minds of the great & little vulgar. We are incompetent judges of these impressions, & must not estimate them by the simplicity of our manners. You have some remains of the respect that used to be paid to the Spanish government in y^r city. Tho a government be changed the manners of people, fond of etiquette do not immediately alter. The influence of courts was perceptible even in this city in my youthful days, and I retain a partiality I must confess for the more formal courtesies of the old school. But this is a natural prejudice of age. Amid the privations w^h I endure I am very grateful for having so faithful & contented a domestic as Tamar. She never wants to go out except to Church on Sunday, when I stay home all day to indulge her. Poor thing, she has been all alone till this morning when her daughter Nancy returned from a visit to her brothers. After our jaunt to Princeton she will then take her turn for a fortnight. This indulgence renders her, as she ought to be contented. I see my dearest child that you have y^r trials & difficulties with bad servants, the most embittering of all domestic evils, esp^y to a female whose temper is always kept in a state of irritation with the perpetual vexation arising from this source. A husband can escape from them, but the Wife, if a housekeeper herself, is chained down to the constant scene of reiterated trouble & uneasiness, that keeps her in a continual fret & renders her] unhappy & unpleasant to all about her. . . .

Thurs^y [August] 30th. . . I know not whether I mentioned in my last William's disappointment at not receiving the valedictory honour, on w^h he had too much calculated. A son ³⁷ of M^{rs} Field is the orator, much to the mortification of Clermont. I regret the circum-

³⁷ Richard Stockton Field (1803-1870), son of Robert and Abigail (Stockton) Field, was graduated from the College of New Jersey (Princeton) with the class of 1821. *Dict. Amer. Biog.*, VI, 369-70.

stance, w^h must have arisen no doubt from inferiority of scholarship. I participate in the chagrin, but little can be said on such occasions. Our Convention assembled on Tuesday. Vice-President Tompkins has been appointed President by the influence of party, M^r King having only 8 votes. This is the madness of party, for owing to his misfortunes M^r Tompkins has degenerated into a degraded sot: I hope that his appointment is not ominous of a *staggering* Constitution. I yet hope that prudence & wisdom may guide the measures of the Convention. . . .

NEW YORK, Monday 3^d Sept., 1821

At ½ past 6 this morning a lad called with a letter from M^r Wyer, inclosing my dearest daughters of 14th Aug^t, luckily just as I was stepping out to market. He arrived at Quarantine last evening in 17 days & as I inform him that M^{rs} W. is at Baltimore, sh^d he get my answer in time, he will be allowed to proceed this day, as our regulations do not interfere with destinations to other places than this city. . . .

Tuesday 4th. We had a most tremendous hurricane here last ev^g between 5 & 7. Never did we experience so sudden & severe a blow. Houses Chimnies & trees have been prostrated & great damage to our wharves & vessels of w^h the paper will give an account. At Rockaway they must have been exposed to the full rake of the N. E. gale & no doubt terrified. William Bayard who has passed a few days with me set off just before the storm for Newark, & must have been exposed to its utmost violence. It rained excessively & the lower part of the city has been inundated by an unusual influx of the sea, altho' happily it was at low water, otherwise the damage w^d have been infinite. Sh^d it clear off hot, after so much rain, we shall be exposed to Fever, but if cool, as I hope, the heat of the summer will be broken & we shall remain healthy. I have just written to Mama to

protract her stay a few days until we see the issue. She was to return tomorrow.

[Addressed:] Doctor Richard Davidson

Resident Physician

New Orleans

Brig Edward

Cap^t Hallett

with a small packet

NEW YORK, Sat^r 8th Sept^r, 1821

The Brig Edward sailed 5th Wed^y with a little pretty box for my dear sweet Turtle Dove,⁸⁸ including some school books &c. for Eliza a reward for her wonderful progress in learning, all w^h I hope will come safe to hand & prove acceptable. This morn^g I rec^d my dearest daughters letter of 11th Ult^o together with the Doctors bulletin, w^h is very well drawn up, & I rejoice to find that the state of y^r Citys health & its medical police is so favourable.

You do not know how much the foolish toy gun has annoyed me, that I sh^d have wounded the manly feelings of my high spirited namesake, by treating him as a child. . . . Every week or two I have been hunting thro' all the gunsmiths shops, & importers stores for a fusil adapted to his years. By chance yest^r afternoon I came across a beautiful light piece, French, but well made, twisted barrel, & to complete it, have ordered it to be bushed with platina, the barrel browned to guard it from rust in y^r humid climate, to be put in best order, & with a leather case, the equipments of flask, shot bag & game net shall accompany it, so that our sportsman shall be fully equipped, and under his Fathers eye, will I hope treat Mama to an English snipe of his own killing. Marsden must carry the game bag until he gets a little older & bigger, when his brother can transfer him this

⁸⁸ Louise Davidson, second daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Richard Davidson.

piece & I can send him one larger & suited to his growing years. . . .

Sat. 1 P. M. Calling on M^r Russel to know when his Brig Fanny, Packard Master, was to sail, intending to put the Gun on b[oar]d, he informed me, from the 15th to 20th, but what is more said that M^{rs} Chew had written on to engage her passage in the Phœbe Ann. My heart flew in my throat & has not ceased palpitating since I begged him to mark the next best birth for y^r dear Sister. I have been upstairs to tell her to get ready & to behave manfully. She says that she will go. . . .

Monday [September] 10th. Sister is so agitated about her visit, that Mama desired me yesterday to say nothing on the subject, but to leave it until her mind shall be made up, which is proper. C^d Mama accompany her there w^d be no objection. Never having been, even on a short excursion, from under Mothers wing, Sister seems to have no confidence in herself, no self support or resolution that distinguished you. It is high time that she sh^d be weaned, but not compulsively. . . . The papers of the morning contain a bulletin of our B[oar]d of Health, of 2 Cases of *decided* Yellow fever, in the fashionable medical cant, *Malignant*. This was quite unexpected to our merchants. Our shipping will be subject to Quarantine of course. It is the exact period for the first symptoms. I had hopes that we sh^d have escaped, but the probability now is that this dreadful visitation will recur, & that we shall have, once more, to abandon our dwellings. Yest^y was oppressively hot, this day very warm, but a refreshing breeze. In case of sickness I shall persuade Mama to go out to Aunt Helens at the 2 mile stone, where, on removing our office to Chamber Street I can conveniently walk in & out. . . .

Tuesday [September] 11th. The alarm excited by, what is considered precipate, bulletin of our B^d of Health has subsided on the report of last ev^s that no new symptoms exist, much no doubt to the mortification of the homebred system. We are doomed to be agitated by the conflicting systems of foreign & domestic. "Perish all

Madrid, cried Doctor Sangrado, but let our system be supported. We have written a Book." As it was at Madrid in the days of Gil Blas, so it is in this & other seaports. We have a kind & pressing invitation to commencem^t the acceptance of w^h entirely depends on Sisters decision whether or not to visit you. . . .

Wed^y [September] 12th. We passed a pleasant even^g with y^r Cousin Julia, Her family friends, Aunt Helen & c^a. Julia is very amiable, has one son, named after her uncle John Abeel who left her about \$30,000. Her husband is in the dry good business, a shrewd industrious economical young man & will probably become wealthy. Y^r Cousin Johns health is very delicate. He ought to escape the ensuing winter. He dines with us today, in company with M^r Francis Stockton of Alamba [sic] son of M^r Samuel Stockton dec^d of Trenton. He occasionally goes to N. Orleans & hearing me speak of you said that he sh^d be happy to call on you. He is a very intelligent & enterprizing merchant, & has come on to form a commercial correspondence in this city & in Boston, observing that Philad^a being shut up during the winter, the active season of business south, that little or no intercourse exists with that place, where he was brought up & his friends & interest lie. The fact is that our city has so many advantages as to have cut off with Balt^o the once flourishing monopoly of Phil^a which chagrins them so that they can scarcely bear to speak of us with patience. These jealousies are foolish & frequently irritated by silly editors. We have advantages natural & artificial enough, without vaunting or provoking the envy of our neighbours which is illiberal.

(Thurs^y [September] 13th) The die is cast and your Sister has decided *not to go* to N. Orleans. . . . It is now concluded to go to Princeton. . . . The alarm that had been excited by the 2 cases of yellow fever, on Monday last, has subsided. The wind has shifted to N. W. it is now cool & please God no new case will recur, otherwise, living as we do in connection with a public office, it w^d never do for us all to leave home, as in case

of abandonment, it w^d be necessary to pack up our valuables, & attend to their removal. . . .

NEW YORK, 18th Sept., 1821

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 I am now preparing to make, in all probability, my *last* visit to our Jersey friends and relatives. . . .

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 Wed^y 19th Sept^r. Last evening I attend[ed] the funeral of another of my Directors, M^r Joshua Jones, who died on Sunday in his 65th year, of decay. He had been in town only a few days previous. He was respectable, tolerably liberal and has left a great estate. It is singular as Mama observed, that the two gentlemen of the Comm[itte]e who opposed our removing, M^r Sherred & M^r Jones, have since died. M^r Mason was our friend. Sic transit. At the funeral I saw M^r Robinson & enquired after M^{rs} Chew, who is daily expected. He says that he shall advise her to take passage in the steamship, w^h is to sail the 1st Oct. in order to shun the pickaroons that infest our coast to an alarming degree. I shall not see her until my return from Princeton. My mind is more satisfied under existing circumstances with your dear sisters determination. . . . Mama & Sister do not go to Princeton. I have a letter this morn^g from M^r Bayard mentioning that M^{rs} Bradford is very much indisposed & that Patty was to set out to day for Burlington. D^r Boudinot is confined to his Chamber, so that my visit, which I must perform, will be but a gloomy one. . . .

I have a letter to write to Midshipman Clinton, by the Franklin, w^h is to relieve the Constellation & may sail before my return, as also to collect newspapers to forward to my protegé. . . . I am going with D^r Francis at 3 to visit our Lunatic Assylum at Bloomingdale w^h I have not seen since it has been opened. I sh^d be ashamed not to be able to answer from personal knowledge any enquiries on subjects relating to our improve-

ments, with w^h generally I am tolerably acquainted. We are wonderfully progress[ive] notwithstanding the depression of Commerce. Building is very rife with us this summer. . . .

[Addressed by:] Brig Fanny
Packard

To Doctor Richard Davidson, of New Orleans

NEW YORK, 20th Sept., 1821

My dear Sir

I have just left with M^r Russel who promises to see the articles safely put on B^d the Brig Fanny Cap^t Packard a light fowling piece & box containing a complete equipment, for my namesake. . . .

It is pleasing to learn that y^r city was safe on the 23^d Aug^t and I sincerely hope that the precautionary measures of your B^d of Health may prove as successful as hitherto, with us. Your report has been published & applauded in the Evening Post.³⁹ We shall, this season, prove the efficacy of the Quarantine system. Two cases occurred at our wharves, but not originating within the city. The reports of Doctor Bailey⁴⁰ to our vigilant & candid B^d of Health will have reached you thro' the papers, and convince every dispassionate mind of the propriety of maintaining a strict Quarantine. Doctor Quackenbos, resid^t physician, has yielded his prejudices to the conviction of the season, a triumph for our friend D^r Hosack, who no doubt will comment on the subject, after the campaign is over, when I shall send you anything that may be published. My friend Francis is preparing a ponderous Octavo of Denmans Midwifery with 10 or 12 plates, which will be out in all [probability] next month. He will present you a copy, w^h will [be] valuable to you. His notes, some of which he has read

³⁹ A letter signed "R. Davidson, Resident Physician," dated Health Office, New Orleans, August 10, 1821, is printed in *The New-York Evening Post*, for Friday, September 14, 1821.

⁴⁰ Joseph Bayley.

to me, are extremely well drawn up. He is writing a treatise, as I informed you, on the use & abuse of mercury, which will do him credit, & no doubt benefit the public. He is one of the most extraord^y men I ever knew, and if his life be spared will tower above all his contemporaries.

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 [Addressed by:] Brig Fanny
 Capt Packard
 with a small package and Fowling piece

NEW YORK, Sat^y 29th Sept^r, 1821

Yest^y I returned from a visit to my Jersey friends highly delighted with my jaunt. A diary of my tour will best convey all I have seen & heard. On Friday 21st the day the sun crossed the line, I set off in the steamboat at 6 A. M., where we arrived at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 after a pleasant passage & a good breakfast. The distance to Bordentown 30 miles in a straight line, the first 6 miles, a pine forest & sandy road was heavy, & we were annoyed with musquitos. This is the great transit for goods between the two cities. To the mortification of the jealous Philadelphians, over whom a liberal N. Yorker ought never to exult for they possess eminent advantages, the Fancy storekeepers are obliged to come to this city to make up their assortments. We overtook several wagons load[ed] with trunks of fine goods, worth at least \$50,000. A storekeeper in the Coach that conveyed us told me that this was his 4th trip & probably he sh^d make two more and that he bought generally to the am^t of \$10,000. We talked of the advantages of a canal between Trenton & the Raritan, w^h he said w^d make N York the importers for Phil^a & ruin their merchants. This is exaggerated. Traders will always find their way to the cheapest market by land or water & only have to pay greater freights by wagons than by boats. For myself I see no obstacle in the way of a canal. A little after 2 we reached the Phil^a steamboat, on b^d which we had

an excellent dinner, & at 4, after stopping at Bristol to take in passengers in the Citizen Coach, the land line, crammed 3 on a seat, I landed at Burlington after a very pleasant ride & sail, after giving a few shillings to two pretty little sailor boys who had gone to N York, to sail in the Canton round the world, but the ship was full. They were thankful & myself gratified. On reaching M^r Boudinots I found the Doctor much improved but M^{rs} Bradford prostrate tho convalescing after a violent bilious fever. I only saw her twice, a few minutes, as she was suffering under salivation & c^d not hardly speak. She is much reduced but out of danger. Here I found the accomplished M^{rs} John Wallace, whom I had never seen, once the celebrated Miss Binney, a remarkable intellectual lady, but whose bloom has faded. To make the most of my time I called on my old friend Judge Griffith, who is broken down in body & estate, but his mind as strong as ever. You know our mutual esteem & friendship. He is excessively nervous. I c^d if not cure, at least brace him up, were I near him. Cousin Abby ⁴¹ has quite recovered since her visit to Natchez, where John & William are in excellent practice as lawyers, and Elias the youngest son, not of age, has married a young heiress of \$50,000 cotton estate. M^{rs} Cox ⁴² the eldest daughter & only one boy, is settled near her parents at Mount Holly, only 6 miles distant, her husband the son of W^m Cox Esq^r is a lawyer. The next daughter Mary I think is yet unmarried & will be provided for by her brothers. Why thus cast down my friend. To be sure he is involved, but fretting cant pay debts, & his family are off his hands. Surely there is no cause for such depression as he labours under. But this is constitutional.

Monday 1st Oct. My next calls were on Doctor Whar-
ton, & Gen. Bloomfield. The latter having lost his first
wife, married last winter a blooming elegant widow ⁴³

⁴¹ Abigail (Hetfield) Griffith, wife of Judge William Griffith.

⁴² Susan B. Griffith, who married in 1816, Richard Smith Coxe. *Dictionary of American Biography*, under Coxe.

⁴³ Mrs. John W. Macomb (Isabella Ramsay). N. Y. *Evening Post*, Ap. 11, 1804; Nov. 6, 1820.

of our city without fortune and with four children, daughters, the oldest about 10, formerly Miss Bella Ramsey, & when young a Belle indeed. A discreet match for both. The General is quite rich & Madam a very prudent accomplished lady. He engaged me to dine, w^h I declined, my visit being to Doctor Boudinot, to whom I returned, took tea, & passed the evening till near 10, when after the good patriarchs prayers & chapter, having for a moment seen Cousin Susan, I retired to rest. Repose I had none, for a wool mattrass, on two feather beds, required only a down quilt to have steamed me into eternity. All pain & fatigue however were sweated off, and I rose at dawn to cool my poor carcass. At sunrise I sallied out to visit the market, where several beautiful Quakeresses attended with their fine butter & finer peaches, some of which I bought as an excuse for chatting with one of these pretty lasses who was, tho' somewhat precise, very affable & easy. Having taken a stroll along the beautiful promenade in front of the Delaware I returned to breakfast, having in the meantime engaged to take tea with my friend Thomas Collins at 6 o'clock, & at 9 to visit the African School under his care, w^h after breakfast I did, & was much gratified. It is attended by a young lad, Cooper, brought up in our Free School. Having examined the little children 25, & given a half dollar to treat them with peaches, Gen. Bloomfield called in his carriage, to take me to M^r W^m Cox's who resides on his farm a short distance from town. You may remember that he lived in one of the beautiful Houses that fronted the Delaware. Amid the vicissitudes to w^h poor mortals are subject, M^r Cox, who when I first knew him 20 years ago possessed a princely fortune, and was in the possession of all that could render life happy, affluent & respected, in his old days his fortune has vanished by indorsing for a son in law. He has been obliged to sell his city house (purchased by M^r Binney) & to retire on his farm, acquired by his wife, where he is a scientific & successful cultivator of the soil. His industry affords him ample support, but his affairs

are unsettled. He delicately alluded to the change, but my acquaintance did not warrant those free remarks which I made to my friend Griffith when I dined with him on Sunday, and to whom without offence I c^d hold up myself as an example. But your spirits are so buoyant, you will never die until the breath is out of y^r body, was his remark, And why sh^d you give up and die before your time was mine, but there is no reasoning with the blue devils. I did all I c^d to chace them in to the red sea, & M^r G. said that he had not been so animated & cheerful for months. On return with Gen. B. after a ride all round the island on which Burlington stands, I dined at D^r Boudinots who came down to dinner & actually appeared stronger & heartier than when he was last in this city. He was cheerful, sat an hour, & retired. I waited on M^{rs} J. Wallace to the steamboat at 5, & reluctantly parted with this uncommonly fine lady after a few hours acquaintance, sufficient however to estimate her merits & to observe the cloud of anxious solicitude too repeatedly crossing her animated countenance. I could sympathize for inward but ill suppressed care. A short lived acquaintance would admit no more. M^r Wallace like my friend Griffith has experienced the sad effects of speculation in lands, in w^h [I] might have been involved [if th^e delusive prospect of golden gain was held out to me. His brilliant m^ode] of life has been obscured to the evident mortification of his high minded la^{dy}] *Sic transit* is inscribed on others fortunes as well as my own. . . . At 5 I called on my former fellow citizen Thomas Collins, who has retired satisfied with his share of worldly gains as a bookseller, to educate his children in Burlington. His wife is an amiable intelligent friend. He is very benevolent, has been extremely useful in this place where I hope he will revert for the sphere of usefulness is too restricted in Burlington. I sat till 7, when I called on Gen. Bloomfield where were assembled several of my old acquaintances. After tea M^{rs} B. performed several times on the piano, among others Auld Lang Syne, a favourite air and peculiarly appropri-

ate with great animation & effect. M^{rs} McIlvaine, the once beautiful Miss Reed, with a large family of sons & daughters grown up retains much of her youthful charm. One son ⁴⁴ is settled in Kentucky, a merchant, says he is acquainted with the Doctor & promises to call on you with my regards next spring. He is a very correct & I believe successful trader. At 9 I went up to Doctor Boudinots chamber & sat with him until midnight & c^d hardly get away. In the family was a M^{rs} Porter,⁴⁵ a lady of New Haven, whose husband, I think I told you, put a period to his existence last spring in a fit of insanity. She is a sister of the late president Dwight of Yale College, also of my friend Theodore Dwight, Editor of the Daily Gazette with whom I am intimate. She is very intelligent, interesting, and has performed wonder[s] in pulmonary cases, by her prescriptions of the Bugle weed, the process of which I will give the Doctor in some other letter. On Sunday I attended service both morn^g & evening. The organ was played by Miss M^c Ilvaine, & the chaunts sung by the young ladies of Burlington most celestially. I dined with M^r Griffith. Abby said that she had not time to call on you being merely transferred from the steam boat on board of Cap^t Don. She has quite recovered that health w^h was broken down by her husbands misfortunes, the sight of her children happily settled at Natchez, has quite restored her. I felt great delight to find them, once more, in their own house, which had been given up to his creditors during her absence, and redeemed by their Sons. How consoling such instances of filial affection. Between Churches I strolled in the Church Yard & took down the ages of M^{rs} Boudinot ⁴⁶ & M^{rs} Hatfield, the

⁴⁴ Bowes Reed McIlvaine (died 1866), of Lexington, Kentucky, and later of New York City. Cooley's *Early Settlers in Trenton*, pp. 165, 166.

⁴⁵ Mrs. Jonathan E. Porter (Fidelia Dwight). B. W. Dwight, *History of the Descendants of John Dwight* (1874), I, 140, 241.

⁴⁶ Probably Mrs. Elias Boudinot (Hannah Stockton), who died 1808, and Mrs. Mary Hetfield, who died 1801, both of whom were buried in St. Mary's Churchyard, Burlington, N. J. J. E. Stillwell, *Historical and Genealogical Miscellany* (1906), II, 135, 134.

f[o]rmer you knew, the latter you cannot remember. In the margin of my Bible are inserted notices of all my departed friends & relatives. As they recur, in the course of my annual readings, they serve to remind me that my course is nearly finished and admonish me to prepare to follow them. In the evening I took tea with M^{rs} Wallace,⁴⁷ who has lost her husband & son Joshua since our last interview. A resigned Christian she looks forward with cheerfulness to another and better world. M^{rs} Collet her daughter has one of the most beautiful boys, about 4, I ever beheld. A perfect model, with his rosy chubby cheeks & flaxen curled locks. Her husband M^r C. a manufacturer in Paterson has been also unfortunate. Alas how many instances of misfortune has this tour introduced me to. He is maternally a descendant of the eminently pious Bishop Wilson of Sodor & Man, the Apostle of the English Church. Afflicted with the gout that cramped his fingers he wrote with a pen made out of the leg bone of the Crane in possession of M^{rs} C. an heirloom, with which I wrote more legibly than this scrawl. I took an affectionate & probably last leave of this venerable lady. With the Rev. Doc^r Wharton I passed 2 hours & the rest of the ev^g till 12 with D^r Boudinot, saw M^{rs} Bradford a few moments, rec^d the benediction of my old friend most likely, even as well as he looks for the last time & retired to rest. The sequel of my adventures must be left until my next, probably by Cap^t Holmes, who is to sail on the 10th or 13th inst.

Tuesday, 2^d Oct. A letter from M^r Bayard has shocked me extremely. M^{rs} Cuthbert⁴⁸ of whom I took leave on Thur^s morn^g last, who had a party the same evening, on Friday aft.noon following called on D^r Stockton to pay a visit of condolence on the death of his daughter. She complained of illness at the stomach, was bled, fell into stupor, carried home on a couch, never

⁴⁷ Mrs. Joshua Maddox Wallace (Tace Bradford). *N. Y. Genealogical and Biographical Record*, IV, 187; Stillwell, *Historical and Genealogical Miscellany*, II, 137, 141.

⁴⁸ Mrs. Alexander Cuthbert (Susan Stockton).

awoke to sensibility, & expired next morn^g Sat^r 29th at 7 o'clock, aged I think 61, & was buried on Sunday afternoon. She was *very* well when I saw her, as I shall relate in my next.

On Friday 21 Sept. My dear good Aunt Cannon,⁴⁹ of [Nor]walk departed this life at the very advanced age of 89 years & 10 m^{os}. She had been a kind nursing mother to me in my tender [years.] How often when she combed my youngling head^d did she press me to her bosom when I raised my little lips^d to give her the usual kiss, when I always noticed the tear of affection glittering in her eye^e, little conscious that it was to the [m]emory of my dear mother.

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NEW YORK, Sat^r 6th Octo., 1821

Your letter my dearest daughter of the 8th Sept. with the very beautiful french letter of my dear g^ddaughter was rec^d yest^r. . . . Aunt Patty has been with us since Wed^r & is getting off this morning with Samuel & Cl[ar]y for N Rochelle, where their visit will be shortened on account of displeasing tidings of the state of Doctor Boudinots health, who has not been down stairs since I was at Burlington, has lost all appetite and from his advanced years may probably not recover.

.

Thursday 11th Oct^r. . . . By the papers I see the Phoebe Ann is to sail tomorrow in w^h M^{rs} Chew embarks, having left her oldest son & daughter with their g^dparents in Virginia for education. . . . M^{rs} Wyer go[es] home by the Ohio, which varies the route, & being unencumbered with children is attended with no difficulty. . . . On Sunday morn^g I rec^d a letter from M^r Bayard advising that M^r Boudinot [was ill] & on Tuesday another announcing him out of danger. Aunt Patty with

⁴⁹ Mrs. John Cannon (Esther Perry), sister-in-law of John Pintard's mother, Mary (Cannon) Pintard. [N. Y.] *Commercial Advertiser*, Oct. 2, 1821; C. M. Selleck, *Norwalk* (1896).

Caroline returned escorted by the Rev. M^r Bayard on Monday morn^g & set off immediately for home. Samuel remains a week or two with his brother. Please God that after this attack our venerable relative may regain health to survive the winter & strength to visit us once more & lay the foundation stone of the Depository of the Am. Bible Society which is to be erected in this city.

10 A. M. I have just come from alongside the Brig. Cap^t H[olmes] informs that her sailing is deferred until Sat^y which gives me a respite, in consequence of one ladys being indisposed & that M^{rs} Chew, having heard of the death of her mother in law ⁵⁰ wishes to stay over another day. Mama sends by her a doz. of silver forks, crest engraved, w^h will I know be acceptable. They are substantial & but little worse for wear. Receive them [as] the annual token of our love. . . . M^{rs} Talbot & Aunt Helen dine here to day. We intended M^{rs} Chew sh^d have been a guest had she not declined, & the recent news forbids the cold formality of a short invitation. Oh that we c^d give all y^r friends my dearest daughter those hospitable receptions w^h in our early life were so much the delight of y^r parents, & when as you know our house in King Street was a perfect lodging house all the year round. But my finances will not permit & we must not repine.

Friday [October] 12th. . . .
Mama may probably mention that I have been troubled since my return from Princeton with something of dysentery w^h was brought on by getting wet a week ago. I am however quite recovered & was not obliged to intermit office duty. To gratify Mama I shall consult with Doc^r Francis. My reason for applying to him is, that from intimacy & friendship I think he knows my constitution best. He being young & alert, can in case of emergency move quick and I have the fullest confidence in his judgment. The same indeed in D^r Hosack, but I told Francis, when I was indisposed at Albany where we were

⁵⁰ Mrs. John Chew (Ann Fox), mother of Beverly Chew. L. B. Thomas, *The Thomas Book* (1892), p. 282.

roommates, that when he set up for himself I sh^d wish him to be my personal physician. I hope that I shall have little occasion for his advice and less for his physic. Indeed y^r mother who understands me well is after all my best physician. I told you I think that this was my periodical year 63^d, my g^d climacteric as it [is] called, when according to the old school nature may expect some critical visitation. Should I pass thro' it without danger, my days may be lengthened another 7 years, according to the rule of chances.

.
 10 o'clock. My office duties for semi annual Dividend begin to press. Next week is the Episcopal Convention. I foolishly accepted a delegation from my French. I can do no good, thro defect of hearing, w^h increases with years.

To Doctor Richard Davidson

NEW YORK, 13th October, 1821

My dear Sir

By Cap^t Holmes you will receive, I hope, a Box of Starch, for Eliza, also a complimentary box for Master Marsden to put him even with the other children. In the latter package is the collection, just published of the History and every document relating to our Canals hitherto published, the sequels, if I am spared shall be sent you as they may appear. As the completion of our great western Canal, will ultimately, be intimately connected with the Mississippi by means of Ohio, the Illinois &c^a you will feel a direct interest in the subject. The introduction by Col. Haines⁵¹ will open your eyes to the immense resources of this state and the western world. Sanguine as he may *at this day* appear, I have no doubt that the result will in time, as far surpass *his*

⁵¹ Charles G. Haines, according to a note opposite the first page of the introduction to *Public Documents Relating to the New-York Canals, which are to connect the Western and Northern Lakes with the Atlantic Ocean* (N. Y., 1821).

estimates, as that of steam navigation has excelled what was once thought the ideal visionary anticipations of Fulton. "You will live to see, I trust, said he (when conversing on my observations respecting the Mississippi after my return in 1801 from y^r City) as many steam boats on the western waters as there are states in the Union." I hardly dared hope to witness the fulfilment of this prediction much less to see it so far surpassed. I may yet be spared to witness the junction of Lake Erie with the Ocean, possibly to circumnavigate this great portion of the U States. In two years more (1823) it will be completed. But I refer you to Col. Haines. Do not part with this Textbook, which is invaluable. I must send out to replace it, this copy being furnished before publication to forward to you.

D^r Francis's Denham,⁵² I think, is nearly if not quite thro' the press, and I hope to send you a copy by the next oppo[rtunity]. D^r Hosack is publishing another edition of Thomas, a copy of w^h I hope also to procure. As containing the latest improvements in the Medical Science both these works will be an acquisition. . . .

[Addressed:] Doctor Richard Davidson
Resident Physician
New Orleans

By Brig Phoebe Ann
Cap^t Holmes
with 2 small Boxes

NEW YORK, Sat^y 13 Octo^r, 1821. noon

At half past 11 this day I took leave of y^r friend M^{rs} Chew on board the Phebe Ann, which left the wharf with a fine easy wind & will make a good offing before sunset. . . .

Monday 15th. A letter this morn^g from Burlington

⁵² *Sic* for Denman: Thomas Denman (1733-1815), author of *An Introduction to the Practice of Midwifery*. (*Dictionary of National Biography*, V, 808.)

mentions that D^r Boudinot has relapsed. M^r Bayard wrote that he had returned on the 9th to Princeton & with Aunt Patty who had got home was to set off next day for Burlington, . . .

Tuesday [October] 16th. No letter from Burlington. We have had some excitement respecting 2 Cases of Fever, both young men of respectability & merchants in Pearl Street, near each other, M^r Van Vechten & Lent.⁵³ The resident & consulting physicians have decided their cases to have been bilious, & being both hitherto favourable to the doctrine of domestic origin, may be supposed to be impartial. Our city thank God enjoys good health, & we are past the crisis of danger, as I hope you are. The Quarantine is raised, so that please God business will be no longer intercepted.

Wed^y 17th. A letter from M^r Bayard of yest^r informs of the extreme low state of Doc^r Boudinot so that by tomorrows post I may expect a summons to attend. On the 14th he was so reduced that his family & friends surrounded his bed, expecting his dissolution. this was morning. In the evening he revived & sat up, he requested M^r Bayard to pray for him, but not to supplicate for his recovery, only that God would be pleased to grant him an easy departure. He expressed his perfect resignation and willingness to die. On reflecting on the course of his long life, no circumstance, he remarked, gave him so much satisfaction as having been a humble instrument in the hands of Providence to aid in the formation of the Am. Bible Society, a subject in his dying hours the nearest to his heart. It delighted him to receive my monthly epistles, which I always, for some years, have made it a rule to write the morning succeeding the managers meetings, giving a detail of their proceedings. He has been singularly gratified with the efforts now in train, for building a Depository, which

⁵³ John Van Vechten and John A. Lent both died on October 14, 1821. *Commercial Advertiser*, Oct. 15, 1821. A report of Proceedings of the Board of Health with reference to them, is printed *Ibid.*, Oct. 16, 1821, p. 2, column 5.

affords evidence, with the blessing of God on our labours, of perpetuity, and of rendering the Institution more conspicuous and flourishing. . . .

Thurs^y [October] 18th. No letter by post this morn^g. Doctor Boudinot powerful constitution struggles hard with the Tyrant Death. I am all ready to depart at short notice. Happily I have recovered from my late indisposition. The doze of Rhuba[r]b & Magnesia, prescribed by my physician Francis sickend me into death, but it effectually cleansed me, & last evening the first for many days, I took some roasted oysters at tea, with a relish, w^h has revived and strengthened me for my impending journey, w^h must be rapid, out & home. Do not suppose my dearest daughter, that the affection & solicitude I have expressed for our venerable kinsman proceed from any sinister views or expectation of being remembered in his Will. I have not the most distant idea of the most trifling legacy. The estate of D^r Boudinot will appear to have been *vastly* overrated. Should he leave in lands, the chief bulk of his property to the am^t of \$100,000, it will exceed my expectation. He has a great number of nephews & nieces, most of whom are in humble circumstances. His namesake, the son of my late friend Uncle Elisha is heir I understand to the best part of his uncles property, Rose hill, near Philadelphia, w^h has much diminished in value. I understand that Aunt Pat[ty] whom he regards as a child will, or her children each, receive a share. M^{rs} Bradford who esteems your Aunt as a sister, has made her will, providing handsomely for her with succession to her children, w^h will improve their fortunes, not great, when my good old uncles estate comes to be divided among them. So that you see, were I so unreasonable, there is no expectation, as mourning rings are out of fashion, of any thing for me, nor am I chagrined in the least.

.
 Saturday 20th. . . . I have a letter from M^r Bayard, at 12 yest^y mentioning that M^r Boudinot is so extremely low that more than probable his course is ere this fin-

ished. I shall set out at 12 o'clock in hopes of getting to Burlington tomorrow at 9, otherwise must ride in the mail Coach all night. . . .

11 o'clock. Sat^y 20. Oct. I have just taken my seat by way of So[uth] Amboy, to depart at 12, & shall be on the road till 10 or 11 to night w^h is better than going by mail. We shall reach Burlington at 9 tomorrow morn^g. God bless you. Adieu.

J.P.

[Addressed:] P^r Steamship Fulton

BURLINGTON, Thurs^y 25th Octo^r, 1821

My dearest daughter,

By the Steam Ship Fulton which sailed last Saturday I wrote you and mentioned I think the extreme illness of my venerable friend and relative Doctor Boudinot. Every sense of duty and affection prompted my visit to this place, for which I sat out last Sunday & arrived at 5 o'clock, hardly expecting, from every intelligence, to find him alive. But that was the case, altho lying in a state of total insensibility. Cousin Susan Bradford had but barely recovered, so as to sit up in her chamber, from the dangerous illness which she laboured under during my late visit. She expressed the greatest gratitude for my visit, as the best evidence in my power to afford of my respect and veneration for her excellent father. M^r & M^{rs} Bayard, M^r Rich^d Stockton & daughter Julia, M^r & M^{rs} Horace Stockton & daughters, & Elias Boudinot were all here. The last recognition of the good old saint was on the preceding Tuesday ev^g when the arrival of M^r R^d Stockton was announced & when raising his eyes & receiving his hand, he expressed his thankfulness for his attention. He closed them never to open again in this world, fell into a torpor, from whence he never awoke. He suffered little bodily pain & had taken no sustenance since Friday, & the last application of laudanum was administered on the Sat^y preceding my arrival. That he c^d hold out 24 hours was hardly probable, the

fact was otherwise. On Sunday evening I took my bed with my old friend Judge Griffith, passed all Monday at the bedside of the good Doctor, But as his departure might take place that night, and as I had agreed with M^r Bayard to attend to laying him out, I passed a sleepless night at M^{rs} Bradfords, and again spent my time at the bedside, with intervals of walking in the air. At eleven on Tuesday night, as M^r Stockton was to sit up until 1, I threw myself on a bed, with injunctions to be called up in case of change. At half past 12, Doctor Cox who staid in the room awakened me, and said that the symptoms of approaching dissolution were evident. I instantly arose & learned that my venerable friend had uttered two or three heavy groans. I held his hand & felt his pulse for 15 minutes which was gradually sinking, until $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1, when strange to say it raised and he lay breathing free & easy, quite motionless, more like a reposing convalescent than a dying man. The Doctor, M^r Stockton & Bayard retired to rest. I paced the room the whole night, & when Ma'amselle Martel, & M^{rs} Horace Stockton were overpowered with sleep I watched in silence the departing spirit of my friend and traced the strong resemblance of his features with the countenance of my revered uncle. At daylight the features began to alter. At 7 when Doctor Cox came in, the extremities were cold above the knee, still however the pulse beat strong, without any difficulty of breathing. I wrote to Mama, carried my letter to the Steam boat returned & after breakfast took my attending station. At 10 his pulse failed & the convulsive heaving of the chest commenced, in half an hour the head was also convulsed, and gradually the features totally altered. Exactly at half past eleven the spirit of the saint took its flight from the body, without a groan, without a struggle, with[out] any hiccough, nor the least clammy sweat that usually bedews the face of departing existence. Thus died Elias Boudinot in the 82^d year of his age, retaining the faculties of his mind and his activity of disposition until within a fortnight of his end. Do not pray for my re-

covery said he to M^r Bayard, but that I may be permitted to part with little bodily suffering, which prayers were heard and granted. M^{rs} Stockton, M^{rs} Field & M^{rs} Pintard arrived from Princeton at 2. I returned and took up my first quarters, & arose this morn^g quite refreshed, and after breakfast am now writing this account for your gratification, to send by this days mail, at 12 o'clock. . . .

½ p. 11. The mail closes at 12, I have little time to enlarge. Something leaks out about the will, but not much. Such particulars as may be interesting may make the subject of my next. Nothing I understand is to be paid, until after the death of M^{rs} Bradford, least she may want income. The fine house & grounds & product of the Farm with an annuity of \$3000. is settled on her for life. There is a distinction between the nephews & nieces. Elias Boudinot has Rose Hill, the most favoured, including Aunt Patty \$10,000. It will gratify you to learn that I am mentioned aff[ectionatel]y & have a legacy of some 2000 acres of land, but where or what value or when to be given time will disclose. It is at any rate a gratifying mark of recognition which I did not look for. . . .

NEW YORK, Sat^y 3^d Nov., 1821. 2 p. m.

It is time that my letter to my dearest daughter should be commenced. My last was on the 25th Ult^o from Burlington informing you of the decease of our venerable relation Doctor Boudinot, on the 24th, and as far as my time w^d permit of the particulars attending his last hours. On Friday his remains were interred in the Church Yard of Burlington along side of those of his late consort, and where a space is reserved for those of his only and beloved daughter Cousin Susan Bradford, when her earthly course shall be finished. A large concourse of friends & relations attended, and what was particularly honourable, a deputation of four gentlemen, Managers of the A[merican] B[ible]

S[ociety] came on from N York at very short notice, and arrived in season to follow the corpse to the grave. A very appropriate discourse was delivered in S^t Marys Church by the Rev. Doc^t Wharton, who will feel the loss of his aged friend more sensibly than any person in Burlington not a relation. His feelings in his study when I called on [him] were evidence of the sincerity of his heart. Indeed all who knew loved and esteemed the good Doctor. An excellent obituary has been drawn up by M^r Bayard, copy of which I will send you and preserve it. Having discharged the last offices and taken a tender leave of M^{rs} Bradford, who has behaved like an angel, and probably a final adieu of my kind Burlington friends, I returned home with the N York gentlemen on Sat^r, and arrived safe, thank God to the arms of my dearest Wife & daughter at 8 in the evening.

Tuesday [November] 6th. . . . You have known from my former correspondence the interest I have taken in the Gen. Theological Seminary of my Church & of the difference opinions respecting the pretensions to M^r Sherred's legacy. A special General Convention met on the subject, last week, in Philad^a and I am happy to say that this business has been amicably terminated by a Resolution to remove the Seminary from New Haven to this State, where it is to be permanently established, and the mutual concessions upon the whole, as favourable as c^d be expected. The Diocesans of this State will possess ample power, but the Seminary is to be under the control of the General Convention. Thus I am, for one, relieved from a weight that has long oppressed, and as the decision is in favour of the line of conduct pursued by me, uniformly, from the first, it is matter of greater joy to me, as I cannot be reproached with any thing selfish or personal. Instead of schism, I trust that unity & harmony will henceforward prevail, and altho' I cannot look for any place of trust, of w^h I am thank God unambitious, still such services as may be in my power to render, to save the institution, shall not be wanting. That I have been a humble instrument of promoting

a legacy w^h will give stability & permanency to the Sem^y is a gratification that will reward me for all my pains & anxiety.

We have had a N. Easterly storm for 3 days, w^h it is said has been very severe at sea. No arrivals of course either from Europe or your quarter. The accounts of a short crop in England has started the price of flour to 8 Dollars & given quite a spirit to speculation in bread stuffs, to the great benefit of the Farmers esp^y the Western who have languished under the long depressed market for their crops. Your bread will of course come higher, but the favourable prices will give animation to your city, & help the Doctor's patients to pay good bills with more cheerfulness. I sent him lately a recent work on the Canals, but c^d have wished him to have been present when, on Sunday even^g Gov^r Clinton was tracing on the map the progress of the works, & what remains to be accomplished. He says that the whole line will be completed in 2 years. What a singular hard fate is that of a public character. Let his services be ever so eminent & beneficial he is sacrificed to the passions of party. Such was the lot of Hamilton & such is to be that of my friend M^r Clinton. I can employ that term to a falling statesman without imputation of vanity or selfish motives. Indeed he has been my friend, in the worst of times. Black w^d be that ingratitude w^h w^d desert him when the world forsakes him. Indeed I promise myself much happiness sh^d he reside at his seat at Newtown, where I can visit him without sycophancy, and on the footing of a private gentleman. I cannot think however that such talents as M^r Clintons will be allowed to be lost to his country, after the asperity of party shall have subsided. In retirement he will have leisure to review his political career, to correct his errors, improve his mind, and sh^d he be called to act once more on the theatre of State, to reappear with all the advantages resulting from experience and reflection.

Thurs^y [November 8] 7 A. M. . . . The fact is my

office duties which were thrown back by my late visit to Burlington, press hard upon me, so that I have had scarcely a moment to receive & reciprocate the numerous congratulations of my episcopal brethren on the late happy termination of the Convention. Bishop Brownell called on me a few moments yest^r to inform me of his satisfaction. Altho' I am persuaded that the present situation of the Seminary at New Haven is highly favourable, still as it was necessary to transfer it to this State, it may ultimately be fixed at Greenwich Village,⁵⁴ where M^r Clement Moore has made a valuable donation of land, on w^h to erect the buildings that may be required. It is not probable that I shall have any concern in the management of the Institution, further than to render any personal services if required, as I informed Bp. Hobart I sh^d do if such services as were in my power were wanted. I thought it my duty to wait on him immed^y with the sincere expressions of my approbation, as some collision had occurred between us, not personal, however, only that some warm expressions of the moment had been officiously repeated to him. A magnanimous mind however never thanks these intermeddling sycophants, and tho' he is obliged to listen, despised their motives. All now is peace & harmony, and I devoutly pray that so it may always continue. A meeting of the Trustees is to take place in a month when the transfer of the Seminary, and its future regulations will be decided.

½ past 8. I have just seen M^r Russel who says that the Edward is coming up & that probably the Monroe will not be despatched until tomorrow, w^h may afford opp^o to acknowledge rec^t of any letter by her. M^r R's wife has a great foresight of arrivals & told him the Edw^d was to arrive yest^r. On returning at night & laughing at her she remarked that the Edward was below. Sure enough. He says that she is always pretty certain in

⁵⁴ Rather in the section of the city known as Chelsea. The General Theological Seminary is still located in the block bounded by Ninth and Tenth Avenues, 20th-21st Streets.

her *guesses*. 8 passengers that were to go in the Monroe stay over for the Edward, w^h is to sail next Sunday week. . . .

Friday 9th. 7 A. M. The Brig is to sail at 8. . . .
[Addressed by:] Brig Monroe

NEW YORK, Monday, 12th Nov^r, 1821

My last was by the Brig Monroe which sailed 9th inst. Your letter my dearest daughter of 6th Oct. post-mark 9th was rec^d the 10th. The Brig Edward arrived & began to discharge the same day. This morn^g bright & early I was alongside and called on M^r Hartman to send alongside your 2 Firkins butter & Barrel of Buckwheat, directed to the Doctor, to take the Bill lading and I shall pay M^r Russel the freight & primage, so that the annual present from your parents will come I hope safe to hand in season to give your bairns another treat of buckwheat cakes. . . . I regret extremely that the Doctor's finances will not permit him to extend Eliza's education to one year, when she w^d become confirmed in her attainments, but as she exemplifies such aptitude for learning, she has acquired probably, more in six months than some others would do in twelve. By undertaking to instruct her sisters she will retain what she has learned, and by studying to impart knowledge will refresh and perfect her mind and intellectual faculties. You will of course prescribe her a course of reading and with her little school and needlework her time will glide pleasantly along. Of the boys we will talk hereafter. When Pintard attains 10 years it will be time to place him at a regular Academy provided his Father concludes to give him & Marsden classical education, by which time our kinsman M^r Bayard will have tested his capacity for educating lads for Columbia College, in this city, where the requisite attainments for admission are higher than I believe, in any other college in the U. S. On this subject I shall give a candid opinion, the boys education must not be slighted, for family considerations, and we have numer-

ous academies in all directions, with excellent teachers, to give a wide range for choice. I sh^d wish to have them near me, that if my life be spared I may superintend their course of studies as well as indulge them with visits during their holidays, if they behave well, to the city. But of all this in good time.

Wed^r [November] 14th . . . Your Aunt Betsey is in town but I have not seen her, she called on Sat^r ev^s when I was at the Savings Bank, my usual resort that ev^s. She is quite displeased, & I think with some cause, that she was not remembered by D^r Boudinot who left the Miss Wallace's⁵⁵ \$100 each to provide mourning but nothing to her. . . . M^r Bayard has not yet informed us where the bequest of land lies.⁵⁶ I understand in Venango Co[unty,] Pensylv^a which lies on the Alleghany river, rough, lofty & sterile I fear, being part of Mes^{rs} Griffith & Wallaces purchase w^h the good old Doctor was obliged to take in payment for a large loan at the rate of \$1 p^r acre. It may at the outside be possibly worth 50 cents. Were half the quantity in some pleasant part of this state I sh^d be induced to pull up stakes & go and cultivate it, and call it *Boudinot*. . . .

Friday [November] 16. . . . A little box contains a set of nine pins to amuse her⁵⁷ & Larned. Another one has an assortment of German figures, which will serve for her baby house, also 3 little boxes, for herself, sister & Larned. Silly enough but will do for children. A pack of sugar plumbs, but *above all*, the prettiest assortment of childrens books that I ever saw & which will amuse & instruct, & some for all from Eliza down. What w^d I

⁵⁵ The codicil of Elias Boudinot's will left "To my dear friend Mrs. Tace Wallace and her four daughters, each, a suit of mourning . . ." *The Last Will and Testament of Elias Boudinot LL.D. and the Codicil Thereto* (Trenton, 1854), p. 24.

⁵⁶ The codicil of Elias Boudinot's will describes it: "a tract of three thousand five hundred acres of land (except a small plantation I have given to the Reverend Hezekiah May out of it) I purchased of the old Bank of the United States, through George Taylor, situate in the county of Venango, and state of Pennsylvania, about twenty miles from the town of Franklin, to and for the use, benefit and behoof of my dear and affectionate friend John Pintard . . ." *Ibid.*, p. 24.

⁵⁷ Mary Davidson.

not have thought, indeed yourself, at their age to have such a present for Christmas. You will apportion them as you may judge best not forgetting little Larneds A. B. C. book. A few silverings are added for Xmas & New Years, w^h reserve for that period. By these tokens you will see how near my heart your flock lies. I cannot have the gratification of presenting them personally, nor of reading the beautiful little nursery songs &c. w^h once delighted me. The book containing them ought to be preserved as a curiosity. I had only time to peep in it, which revived my nursling days. A pamphlet pasted up, possibly from Francis, is just thrown on my table. He told me that Denham was in binding & promised it to go by this oppo[rtunity.] He may be disappointed, in w^h case it shall, if rec^d be forwarded by the next, as I must inclose this in Marys Box. I shall not have time to expatiate, my time being so much engrossed, indeed what further have I to say. With politics, I am sick. Our Convention has risen and given in a constitution, level with the lowest dregs of democracy. Thank God, the sin is not at my door. I neither voted for a Convention nor shall I for the adoption of their misbegotten urchin. So let it pass, and be rued as it will be by the authors who after a short inglorious triumph will be hurled from power to give place to the vilest of the vile. . . .

Saturday [November] 17th. The sailing of the Edward is delayed until Wed^r. I have just rec^d your letter of 21st Oct^r, which I dare not carry upstairs as the Fowling piece is a secret between me & Pintard.

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Near 2 p. m. A rainy day. I have just come from above stairs where I have been settling with all the heirs of my friend David Coutant dec[ease]d for the rents rec^d the last 12 months. There were some little points of difference w^h have been harmoniously arranged.

Tuesday [November] 20th, 9 A. M. M^r Metcalf just called to inform me that he was to sail in the Edward

tomorrow morn^s & asked my commands. I thanked him & told him that I sh^d put my letters in the ship's bag, w^h w^d reach the Doctor sooner than by passengers.

Adieu every blessing of time and eternity be yours.

Your fond father

J. Pintard

Sister & Mama join in cordial love.

The Fanny is to arrive this, and the Phœbe Ann next week, by return of which I shall write again.

[Addressed:] By Brig Edward

Cap^t Hallett

NEW YORK, Sat^y 24th Nov^r, 1821

My dearest daughters letter of 7th inst was rec^d yest^r by the Edward 17 days after date. What a remarkable passage your friend M^{rs} Chew had, & how fortunate to have escaped the dreadful alarm of fire, from the direful effects of which M^r Chews dwelling has been so providentially rescued. . . . I concluded it best to inform Mama of the little gun, who remarked that it was injudicious. . . . With you I enjoy the happiness this present afforded my namesake & rejoice that Marsden is likewise contented with his guns and little box. . . .

The M^r Griffith who called on you is named after my worthy friend his Father, *William*. He is a remarkable fine young man. The following is the story of his migration to Natchez. His brother John married a Miss Abercrombie. After enterprizing as a lawyer in Phil^a, not succeeding he went as a trader to Natchez & failed. His brother William hearing it, & being just licensed, resolved to join his brother in practice & save him from misery. This he did, and they are both well established & successful beyond anticipation in their profession. Their Mother went to see them last winter. William became acquainted with your young friend & married, both very young & no doubt very happy. He is amiable, a great mechanical genius, & his father says, of eminent

talents. I rejoice for my good friends sake, as these boys will be their mother's support. . . .

Monday, 26. Nov, celebrated as the Anniv^r of the Evacuation of this city, on the 25th Nov^r 1783, by the British garrison, the consummation of Am. Independence. The only participation suitable to my years & inclination, will be in attending at 3 o'clock, the opening of the Mechanic's Academy, a handsome edifice that has been recently erected w^h is also to contain the Apprentices Library w^h has grown to a considerable magnitude. Having taken great interest in the success of both these institutions, I consider it a duty to pay this tribute of respect to the Mechanic Society. The day is celebrated with increasing splendor. The Militia Officers dine together & in the evening are to attend the Theatre, the whole range of Boxes being engaged by them with a large portion of the pit. The Ladies to occupy the 2^d row. The appearance of the New Theatre will be resplendant & dazzling quite à la militaire, a novelty in this city. I have had to be call[ed] off, 12 o'clock, to look at the gay militia passing thro' Wall Street. Every season adds some new corps. The Riflemen look very well, as also a company of Scotch, dressed in Tartan plaid, playing "my bonny Highland ladie." The national songs & airs of the Scotch are my delight. . . .

Dec^r 1. Yesterday we had as hard a snow storm at N. E. as midwinter. The streets are covered with snow this day. M^r Bayard is with us, since Thursday & stays on business a week or more. He says that the land bequeathed by our venerable relative is regarded as valuable. It is in Venango C^o Penns^a lying on the Alleghany river, & w^h in time may be a leading intercourse between Lake Erie & Pittsburg, indeed there is a partial navigation at present. At all events the bequest may prove valuable to you & y^r dear sister. . . .

Monday 3^d Dec^r, just before 3. A Fine day after the late snow & rain has brought an incessant run of stockholders for Dividends into my office. Almost beaten down I must jog on with this letter as the Fanny is to

sail on Wed^y & the little box for Larned must go on board. I must fill it, for lack of other notions with cookies & a box on the outside containing some articles of tin household wares for him & his dear sisters to play baby house. . . .

Tuesday 4th Dec^r. . . . A daily paper contains D^r Boudinots legacies, w^h redound greatly to his estimable character. M^r Bayard tells Mama & Sister, who are very inquisitive, that our legacy of 3000 Acres lies in Venango C^o P^a & were bought several years ago from the old B^k of the U States, on winding up its concerns at \$2 the acre, & are considered worth \$4: at present & that the other Heirs of \$10,000, after M^{rs} Bradfords decease consider this bequest as most valuable. Immediate title is to be conveyed. Venango C^o is in the N. W. of Pens^a its county town Franklin lies at the confluence of French Creek & Alleghany river, 70 miles north of Pittsburgh. In the former French Wars, these rivers were the traveling intercourse between Canada & the Ohio. The Co[unty] contains 3100 inhabitants, & Franklin is 25 miles southeast of Meadville, w^h has 150 families, & in w^h is situate Alleghany College, my friend Timothy Alden, President, so that in all probability, something beneficial to you & Sister will result. Mama talks of visiting her Manor of Boudinot. At 4 I have to attend the Historical So[ciety], at 7, the Chamber of Commerce, tomorrow ev^g 7 Pauperism S^o, 8½ sup with L^t Col. Varick & his brethren of the N. Y. Cincinnati, an annual meeting to w^h I am honoured with an invitation. Thur^y 4 P. M. Bible S^o, Friday 7 p. m. meeting of their Standing Com. & Sat^y Savings Bank. Thus my spare hours are allotted & I feel sometimes as I drag my weary limbs home at night as tho' I c^d lie down & die. But a dish of good tea & my domestic fireside & book soon revive & I retire at 10, quite composed. My bad pen has compelled me to have recourse to a *Shaking Quaker pen*, 4 of which, it put me in mind to send you. When a little blunted, by scraping the sides delicately, it will refresh

the point. Bear lightly when you write & they may serve you instead when you cannot get a better.

[Addressed by:] Brig Fanny
 Cap^t Packard
 with a box

NEW YORK, Friday 7th Dec^r, 1821

Saturday 8th. Snow & rain. Luckily towards ev^s yest^y, after attending the meeting of the Stand^s Com. of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] I had a moment to run down to the Wharf, & found Cap^t Holmes in the Cabin with y^r monstrous Basket [of oranges], the cover off. The steward told me that they had been obliged to take about $\frac{1}{3}$ that were spoiling, which is probable, but more have arrived in good condition, than all ever before rec^d put together. The box of Figs & Andrew Warners Box, I brought home with me.

Tuesday 11th Dec^r. A wet day. This morn^s the Firkin of pecans was sent home. . . .

I experienced a very disagreeable sensation yest^y ev^s when reading in the paper that a collection was made in the Ref^d Dutch Church of Phil^a towards relieving the debt of the Presbyterian Church in N. Orleans & preventing its being sold for a Theatre. . . . How different the liberality of the Rev. Doctor Masons Congregation. He has been obliged by reason of ill health, to decline his pastoral duties, and has accepted the presidency of Dickenson College in Carlile, Pens^a. He preached his farewell sermon to an overflowing auditory on Sunday the 2^d inst. The Rev. D^r Romeyn paid him the compliment, to close his own Church & with all of his Congregation attended on this occasion. It was Sacrament Sunday at Grace, or I should have gone likewise. On leaving his flock, a subscription of \$2000 was raised as a token of their affection. One gentleman presented him

with a full suit of [*MS. torn*] and 12 gentlemen had packed up 1 doz. of choice old Madeira each, w^h was sent round^d unknown to him with his effects to Phil^a. . . .

Saturd^y [December] 15th. . . . Your dear boys, Cap^t Holmes informed me, admired his Fur Cap & desired him to request Grandpa to send them each one. I had this on my mind before, & a[m sorry] that I did not anticipate their wishes by the Fanny. I shall send them by [*MS. torn*] and not to excite any heartburnings have ordered 3 beautiful seal skin caps with *gold* bands for each of the boys and 3 chinchilles with silver bands & tassels for each of the girls. They are all the ton here, are of the most elegant specimens, not slop shop w^h I c^d have got much cheaper, but made expressly by a furrier. I fear they may be too warm for y^r climate. Fashion however makes thin clothing warm at the north & furs, cool at the south. With care against moths, they will last many years. Not to enhance the favour, they cost \$32. . . . I have also just made up the usual quarterly deposit \$3. each for the Bairns. . . .

Sat^y [December] 22^d. Yest^y & this day, the rain has been such as to prevent the Brig from taking in her lading, so that it is a chance that Cap^t Holmes will not sail until the middle of next week. . . . Last Tuesday ev^g the African Epixcopal Church S^t Philips was burnt to the ground, by which my office will lose about \$7500, a sum nearly sufficient to rebuilt it with Brick. It was a very neat wooden building. Their minister M^r Williams a very correct well informed man. The prudence of this congregation in making Insurance will ensure their success in applying to the wealthy Episcopalian for aid to rebuild. On the 18th the Trustees of the Gen. Epis. Theo^l Sem^y met to organize the Institution in its new foundation. A complimentary offer was made to me by Bp. Hobart to become a Trustee, which I declined. I am unambitious of an honour attended with more duty than my time or talents can discharge. The professors 5,

are more numerous than necessary, but it was blending, for the sake of harmony, the two conflicting schools. The choice of Doctor Turner for Biblical Criticism & D^r Wilson for Systematic Divinity, are worth all the rest & will ensure the success of the Institution, which is to open next February, with probably 25 Scholars. What services if required, it may be in my power to render shall not be wanting. On the same day, the Rev. Mr Ware was ordained minister of the new Socinian Church in this city, a half way house to Infidelity, where old sinners & young may repose on velvet without having their consciences disturbed. The following anecdote is so like the Rev. D^r Mason, that if not true, is very apt to be esteemed so. A M^r Sedgwick, who left his Church to join the Socinians, meeting the Doctor in Broadway, last summer, said, Doctor, I left your congregation to join the Marble Church in Chamber Street. So I understand replied the Doctor. It appears to me, says Sedgwick, to be a safe Turnpike to heaven. You may have to pay a *Hell* of a Toll, rejoined the Doctor as he moved away. After the ordination these convivial saints, adjourned to Broadway house [*MS. torn*] among numerous toasts was the following. "The Rev. Jared Sparks (one of the Chaplains of Congress, a vain assuming conceited Socinian) A star from the East to enlighten the West" Had I been present I would have given as a volunteer "Lucifer, Star of [*MS. torn*] how art thou fallen." My dearest children, never be beguiled by the sophistry of the unbelievers. Infidelity, disguise it as thou wilt, thou art a bitter pill. The Holy Scriptures and the Divinity of our Redeemer rest on surer foundations than the wisdom of this world. The young & thoughtless will be deluded. But I think Socinianism will not thrive in the city. Most of the Congregation are Boston emigrants. Strange that the land of Puritanical fanaticism should have engendered such a serpent.

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NEW YORK, 26 Decem^r, 1821

A Happy Christmas to our dearest daughter, her good husband and large family of children, was the health drunk yesterday by your parents and Sister at their tranquil board. . . .

12 o'clock. I have just returned from an Auction Store, to examine y^r late Rev. Friend M^r Larned's library advertised for sale, tomorrow ev^g, and see whether some may not suit our Theolog^l Library. The review of his Library gave me pain, for so young a Divine, it is a handsome & valuable collection. I thought that the gilt books left, as you mentioned to his little namesake, were on the shelves, no doubt swept away among the rest by the Executors or Administrators. Poor M^r Larned, what a pang to his surviving friends, the current report, that the Church of his efforts sh^d be sold to pay the debt contracted for its building. . . .

Thursday 27th Dec^r. Cap^t Holmes sailed yest^y at 12, with a fine wind at N. W. w^h has continued ever since. He will arrive at the Balize in a fortnight. I have this inst. (10 o'clock) rec^d y^r letter by the Fulton w^h arrived yest^y, also Elizas. . . . I am really charmed with Elizas proficiency, as M. Le Fort says. . . . You adopt a right course in sending her to learn the mantua maker & milleners trades, w^h will always [be] useful, and in case of necessity, essential. . . .

I had the honour yest^y of dining in company with Bp. Hobart, at the Rev. M^r Wainwrights Rector of Grace, together with D^r Milnor of S^t George & Rev. professor Onderdonk, of Trinity. The topic was the interest of the Theol. Seminary, and I trust the information w^h my experience afforded me to give, was useful & acceptable. There is a prospect of successful exertion, and perfect harmony & unity exists. In the evening I attended as Sec^y of the Chamber of Commerce, the President, M^r Bayard,⁵⁸ together with a number of merchants, an introductory Lecture of M^r Griscom, to the

⁵⁸ William Bayard.

Merchants Apprentices and Clerks, of a course of Chemistry & experimental Philosophy. A similar course is given to the young Mechanics of this city. The meeting was full, and Tickets issued to the N^o of 155, a handsome class. There is a great excitement this season in this city, in favour of scientific education, and I flatter myself that the time has at length arrived, when we shall wipe away the reproach that the citizens of N York are fit for & think of nothing else but making money. Seven years will change the complexion of our mercantile character. By which time the uneducated fathers will be pretty much worn out, and their sons with higher endowments will take their places. More liberality will prevail, and as our Commerce extends so will the means for exercising and indulging it. My gratification consists in being somewhat instrumental in laying the foundations of institutions that will hereafter do honour to our country.

Friday [December] 28th. . . . You have rec^d my letter from Burlington & kindly wish that D^r Boudinots legacy may be of such a nature as to enable me to retire & spend the remainder of my days in quiet and preparation for my departure hence. This as you will have heard is not the case. The land will be of some value to your children & Sister. All I can expect is to pay the taxes & if possible preserve it from dilapidation. To jog on therefore in my vocation is my lot, therewith to be content, is my duty. Had I pursued a sordid rigid economy, denied my family every comfort, laid up every cent, & lived a mean despicable wretch, I might now have shrunk within my shell, inglorious & despised. As it is, having lived comfortably, tho' necessarily without hospitality, beyond my family connections, & having been liberal, perhaps beyond cool calculating prudence, in my contributions to promote public & benevolent institutions, I have been able thank God to maintain a share of consequence & respectability among my fellow citizens, far beyond what I could have hoped for from my humble sphere. My opinions are consulted & re-

spected, and my associations are of the highest order both intellectually, & in everything, but politics, from w^h I have totally withdrawn. Tho' differing in sentiment with the predominant party, still I live in good fellowship with the bitterest foes of my good friend Gov^r Clinton, not allowing private amities to be severed by political differences. We agree to differ, laugh at each other & the dupes of party leaders, and part good friends. You will think me *a la Mitchill* I fear, but I mention these alleviating circumstances in the page of my book of life, that you sh^d not deem it all with me, vanity & vexation of spirit. Few men of my period enjoy better health, better spirits & I trust few are more useful to Society, than your Father. To leave a good name behind will my dearest daughter be a source I trust of future consolation to you. To be ranked among the benefactors of mankind is a laudable ambition, which if not pursued to the injury of any one, nor from mere selfish motives of gross vanity is the impulse to every generous effort that distinguishes the noble from the ignoble mind. . . .

Sat^y [December] 29th. . . . Our good aged Aunt Hanson (86) enjoys astonishing health & is exceedingly comfortably lodged, more so than she has been for years. She wears very [well] but her memory fails. This faculty wears out sooner than those of the body.

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[Addressed:] By Brig Mexico
Cap^t Stanwood

1822

*To Mrs. Richard Davidson (Eliza Noel Pintard)
of New Orleans*

NEW YORK, Wed^y 2^d January, 1822

. . . . The old year went out and the new came in remarkably mild, and this day is equal to April. The old fashioned anniversary visits and kind greetings were observed with all usual, indeed, increasing attention, and the custom of the simple Dutch settlers is so rivetted I hope, as to resist the innovations of all interlopers. At our festive board yesterday dined Aunt Helen & family, M^r & M^{rs} Weeks, John Brasher was engaged but came to coffee, M^r & M^{rs} Searle of Madeira & their brother from Fayal who arrived yesterday morning. Mama & Sister gave a very genteel dinner with all the accompaniments. We drank with great cordiality the health of our dearest children in N. Orleans & all their friends. God bless you all. We had many friendly calls, & Mama & Sister managed it so as to receive them. This day & tomorrow, the Clergy as customary return their complimentary visits.

Tuesday 8th Jan^y. Hard rain, from early snow, w^h prevents the Fulton sailing this day, extensive cold on Friday & Sat^y prevented her departing on Sunday. I was called on by the Agent of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] at a short notice & late hour Sat^y 4 P. M. to give a line of introduction in favour of the Rev. M^r Gibson who is to sail in the Steam Ship, to visit N. Orleans & vicinity to solicit aid for the A. B. S. revive old & organize new societies. I c^d not as Sec^y decline. A plain minister will be thankful for any attention. I sent in an envelope, Gov. Clintons admirable speech, called by his Foes his Valedictory, the notes of the Dying Swan. It is much applauded as the best of all his speeches & the development of the resources of this mighty state will

astonish not only our own country but the European World. The new Constitution will undoubtedly be swallowed, a bitter pill. M^r Clinton will go into retirement but not obscurity. If his life be spared he will again resuscitate. I hope I may live to see it. On Wed^y ev^s your dear Sister went to the first private party of any distinction she ever attended, Miss Kortrights, a young daughter of M^{rs} Judge Livingston, very genteel, very numerous & brilliant. The fashionable hour is to go half past 8, & return by 2, or earlier. Sister like a good girl was home half past 12, Mama kindly sitting up for her. The evening propitiously was mild. She was attended by her cousin J. P. Brasher, quite a genteel young man, but very delicate in health, too much so for these reiterated parties. . . .

Wed^y 9th Jan^y. All hail my dearest beloved daughter, on the birth of your 7th child. The Doctors favour with the *little lock of hair*, is just rec^d announcing this happy event. . . . Your firm constitution, & the chubby face of dear little *Helen*, flatter us with the hope that you have had a good getting up. . . .

Aunt Helen takes tea this evening when her namesake will be announced. Mama I believe waited the issue before imparting your proposed compliment w^h no doubt will be acceptable.

2½ p. m. An oppo[rtunity] offers by Sea next Sunday, & as passages are shorter, at this season than the mail, I believe that I shall send this by the Brig Azores Cap^t Nicholls. Had y^r letter arrived in the storm of yest^y, I might have acknowledged it by the Fulton w^h did not sail until this morn^s detained by the weather. At any rate I wish to make some progress in case of sending it by tomorrows mail, as you will be solicitous to learn that the tidings of your accouchement have safely reached us. . . . I am pleased to learn that a brother ¹ of the Doctor is with you, the first of his family, I believe, that has ever seen you or the children, who will I hope be glad to see their paternal relation. He

¹ Abner Davidson.

must have been surprized to have witnessed so large a flock. The Doctor speaks proudly of his brother, which I hope your good opinion will confirm. It will be adding to your social circle sh^d he find it compatible with his views to settle near you. Is he a merchant adventurer, from Kanetuck, but we must speak modestly of these westerns who are one day to tyrannize over the Atlantic states. I hope to be out of their reach first. Gen. Jackson is a fair sample of the exercise of power. Fine Democrats surely! All your emigrant friends have returned, & many more. Your B^d of Health must plume themselves on the success of their restrictive system. I hope it will be pursued, tho' no doubt it may meet oppugnation from those whose opinions or interests do not accord with Quarantine laws. . . .

Thur^y 10 Jan^y. Every appearance of Snow. . . . The cold was so severe yest^y aft.noon that Aunt Helen, prudently, did not come to tea. At evening we toasted en famille, your good health & little Helen's. . . .

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We have little news. I have not time to say anything either of state politics or city affairs, all which however are promising, except the ostracism of my friend Gov. Clinton, but retirement may best promote his future usefulness. He is a great, a very great statesman. Remember us kindly to y^r friends M^{rs} Chew & M^{rs} Wyer. . . .
[Addressed:] p^r post

To Samuel Bayard, of Princeton

NEW YORK, 11th Jan^y, 1822

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I had the pleasure yest^y of viewing in the Customs H^o Store a Case of the Editions in For[eign] languages published by the Br[itish] & For[eign] B[ible] S[ociety] a splendid present to the N[ew] J[ersey] B[ible] S[ociety] to be transferred, as you told me, to y^r Seminary. This is right, & I am glad of it. Last week I went to see the Rev. D^r Masons Library, w^h made my

mouth water. It is magnificent beyond my expectations & richly worth \$10,000. It w^d be extremely difficult to accomplish so valuable a selection of high Theol^l Works for such a sum even by sending an agent to Europe expressly for the purpose. I hope that no fastidious sectarian jealousies will obstruct the contemplated union & prevent the transfer of these books to y^r Library, when it will be rich indeed.

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To Mrs. Davidson

NEW YORK, 11th Jan^r, 1822

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 Sat^r 12th. The sailing of the Brig [Azores] is deferred until Tues^r next. My beloved daughter, when at our dinner yest^r your most welcome letter of the 22^d Dec^r by the Edward, was sent up, & read by me to your dear mother & sister, as the high desert to our repast. . . . The Doctor mentioned in his letter, that the Babe was perfect & chubby. By y^r fond description, it must be beautiful. How doubly grateful are presents rec^d from dear friends to whom we are attached by reciprocal, kind interchanges. The tokens from your dear friend M^{rs} Larned proves that, tho' far removed, she has not forgotten you, and that from M^{rs} Winter marks a grateful character. Your lively friend M^r Wyer has likewise sent her offering. . . . I am glad that the butter proves so exquisite. I called, in my ev^g walk, on M^r Hartman & told him of our luck. He took great pains in the selection & packing & put up one Firken with a cover, a clean piece of linen, covered with salt, & the other with two heads in the usual way. He wishes to know w^h succeeds best, for our future government. . . .

I regret extremely that y^r dear daughter Eliza was not gratified by her Fathers attendance at her examination. The friends & parents of most [of] the other children present, she must have felt forsaken eno[ugh] to

damp her spirits. How deserted in my infancy I always regarded myself. . . .

Monday 14th Jan. . . . You mention the Doctor's brother & that you are pleased with him, as a modest agreeable young man. We are very apt in the Atlantic States, to associate somewhat rustic if not savage with Kentucky. Not so with Ohio, w^h being settled more by Jersey & Eastern emigrants, are better known. Kentucky boatmen to be sure are half horse, half alligator, but when I was at N. Orleans, it was easy to discriminate between the young adventurers to that city & their hardy watermen. Their appearance impressed me very favourably. They were intelligent, tho' not refined, far from rustic, wild enough & wofully addicted to gambling, a fault of w^h I hope y^r brother is free. Like most Americans they are composed of very malleable stuff, readily susceptible of polish, but like most half educated people, I speak of the mass, more disposed to catch the vices than the virtues of refined Society. . . .

Tuesday 15th. A southerly [wind] w^h has mitigated the extreme cold of yest^r prevents the departure of the Azores, until, perhaps, tomorrow. The Edward is to sail next Tuesday by w^h I shall write again & very possibly will arrive before this gets [to you.]

10½ o'clock. I have just ret[urne]d from giving my Vote against the new Constitution, ineffectual I know, but my duty is discharged. An election more important in its consequences than any other that has or can take place, is attended with an apathy that appals one. Fewer votes will probably be taken than at a common election for Corporation officers. The case is considered de[s]perate by those who are most concerned, they will either not vote, or many of them vote for the adoption of this, dreading a worse constitution. All power is to be given, by the right of universal suffrage, to a mass of people, esp^r in this city, which has no stake in Society. It is easier to raise a mob than to quell it, and we shall hereafter be governed by rank democracy. The agitators,

the authors of this new constitution will be among the first to rue its effects. Sorry consolation when the infatuated demagogues of the day are involved in one common ruin with the virtuous and discreet. My lease however short, will be long enough I fear to witness the truth of my gloomy forebodings. Seven years will not elapse, before those who have digged a pit for others shall have fallen into it themselves. Alas that the proud state of N York sh^d be engulfed in the abyss of ruin. . . .

[Addressed by:] Brig Azores
Cap^t Nicholls

NEW YORK, Wed. 16 Jan^r, 1822

Last afternoon I dropped a letter in the letter bag of the Azores, in expectation of her sailing this day, but the wind is unfavourable. From extreme cold the weather, coming from y^r quarter, changed suddenly to unusual temperature, & is this day very moderate. Every body complained of headachs, by the instanteous relaxation of the System w^h had braced to the freezing point. Fortunately Sister will have a mild evening to attend her Cousin Julias party. She will not I hope be exposed to the consequences of leaving overheated rooms, to the chill of midnight air, too fatal I am persuaded to the females of our city, who go clad in gossimer dresses adapted to London or Paris, whereas prudence w^d dictate dresses more consonant to a Russian climate, tho I believe that the influence of Fashion extends even to S^t Peterburgh. I know not however whether pulmonary complaints so dreadfully devastating with us are incident to the high European latitudes. In this respect you are better off, and in the winter season y^r climate is paradisaical. In former times valetudinarians were sent from the French West India islands to recruit in N. Orleans during the winter, the air being considered by the physicians of that day so salubrious. Another anecdote of N. O. in the olden time w^h possibly I have before told.

An old mans tales are new only to himself. After the explosion of the famous Mississipi infatuation, at the commencement of the last century, when the very dust of the country was all gold, N. Orleans became so unpopular with the French, that culprits, esp^r from the islands were banished there. It became the Botany bay of the mother country. Many families are derived from this source, which are now respectable for wealth & character. M^r Vauvett[?] told me that when he was infant the nurses used to quiet & restrain unruly children in France, by telling them that they sh^d be sent to N. Orleans, w^h gave him such an unfavourable impression of the country, that he always regarded it as the receptacle of the off-scouring of creation. The best blood of Louisiana has sprung from the military officers, who progresively settled there, the Marignys &c: of that class, the same as Quebeck & Canada, w^h however was settled by a class of emigrants superior to most from Europe. When discoursing on this subject in 1802, I found that the N. Orleanois, shifted their expelled malefactors to Natchez & from thence to the Missouri, holding the settlers in those places in as great abhorrence as the Europeans did the people of y^r city. But a century or more has washed away all these stains, & like many families of Maryland Virginia &c. the taint has evaporated by the process of refinement arising from successful industry.

Sat^r 19 Jan^r. The Azores still lies in port. A succession of S^o weather with your Mississippi Fogs, have prevented her departure. The Edward is up for Thur^r 24th & probably this letter by her will reach you soonest. I shall endeavour to prevail on Mama to write by her & to give you a description of 2 parties which Sister attended this week, her Cousin Julia Weeks on Thur^r & M^{rs} Delaplaines last ev^s where Mama accompanied her. Sister was much delighted with the first being a juvenile party. She was attended by M^r Searle recently from Fayal, who dined with us on [New] Year, a family relation. He is a gentleman, pure homely, but of many

attainments, speaking 7 languages, very musical, and a humourist, who kept the company alive with his songs, Duets &c. He likewise, with y^r Cousin John Brasher, waited on Mama & Sister last night. Your Sisters appearance was very favourable, chastly dressed as becomes Mama's taste, indeed her own, for she is not given to finery. Her Cousin said she was the Belle of his Sisters party, this will please you. . . .

Wed^y 23^d Jan^y. After a uncommonly long succession of S^o foggy weather, the wind changed last night to N. W. w^b will permit the sailing this day of upwards 60 vessels that have been wind bound, among the rest the Azores. . . . Your sister has been to two parties & goes this ev^g to M^{rs} Dunscombs formerly Miss Abeel. Mama attends her. On Wed^y ev^g next she returns the compliment. . . .

Yesterday 22^d our new market (Fulton) was opened. It is an elegant quadrangular structure, superior in accommodation perhaps to any thing of the kind, probably even in Europe. The abundant display of every variety of Meats, Fish & Game, exceeded any thing that I have witnessed in this city. The paper accompanying this gives a favourable record to which I refer, & particularly to the humorous account of the meeting of the Rats in the old Fly Market, drawn up with great wit & spirit by a M^r Walker of the Daily Advertiser, who conducts the printing department.

[Addressed:] By Brig Edward
Cap^t Hallett

To Doctor Richard Davidson, of New Orleans

NEW YORK, 24th Jan^y, 1822

My dear Sir

I put on board the Brig Edward yest^y afternoon, a small packet containing my dearest daughters shawl w^b had been overlooked by her Mama, in it are letters from her Mama & myself, likewise a Sermon of D^r Mason, on

taking leave of his congregation w^h has excited considerable sensation among the Socinians in this city. The Doctor is a rough hewer and not very ceremonious as to his expressions. He has treated these Traitors to their Redeemer as they deserve, they may writhe & foam, but all their sophistry and plausibility will not stand the test of sound argument.

The weather is extremely cold, after a succession of unusual mild southerly winds which had covered us with continued fogs. . . .

[Addressed by:] Brig Edward
Cap^t Hallett

To Mrs. Davidson

NEW YORK, Thur^v 31st Jan^y, 1822

. . . . I can hardly express the buoyancy of my spirits this morning in consequence of the very agreeable result of a *splendid* party given by your dear Sister last evening. You were informed that thro' the kindness of M^{rs} Livingston who invited & insisted on her attending her daughter Miss Kortrights first party has been the means of introducing her to notice, and she has accepted & attended several invitations since. Mama kindly consented to return these compliments and in a style w^h w^d have charmed you. Every thing was elegant, abundant and cheerful, the particulars Sister will give you more minutely & correctly than is in my power. The impression of the modern sylphs quite charmed me, but in my opinion tho more ease, certainly, prevails, modern manners are less dignified than those of the old school. There is a general prevailing fashion, among belles & beaux, to incline towards each other, w^h induces stooping & roundness of the shoulders, to my eye deforming their fine figures. I think your Aunt Helen, a fair example of the medium between the old & new school. Mama came on the stage before Cotillions were introduced, w^h first commenced in the time of Count de Moutier, French

Minister, when Gen. Washington was the first president of Congress, but the ladies of that day, not being instructed, rarely danced them. Aunt Helen succeeded when French dances were taught & when the too retired & stiff formality of the old School was blended with the grace of the modern, & had not degenerated into what I cannot but consider the too great familiarity of the present day. My judgment however on the *only* dancing party that I have witnessed in nearly 35 years. What changes have taken place in Society & manners in this long period. I thought your Aunt the most easy lady-like elegant dancer in person & movements of the whole assembly. It is moreover the first & only time that I ever witnessed her tripping the mazy dance. She was considered in her time not only the fairest of the fair but the most graceful dancer in this city. Mama tripped down the last dance, country dance, with great agility, but faded alas from the once aerial sylph that first beamed upon my delighted eyes. That delicate figure, the admiration of every circle, has attained the matrons rotundity with health, spirits & activity beyond any of her remaining contemporaries. I was lost in a forest of youth, not knowing, from my retired life, scarce a being in the rooms, but I leave a more perfect description to dear Sister, whose grateful heart overflows for this indulgence, Mamas kindness, & my efforts to render every thing agreeable. I must not omit to say, that M^r Searles admirable performance on the Piano, excited astonishment & unbounded applause, & greatly enhanced the pleasures of the evening. My friend Francis, who is a musical enthusiast said, that he w^d relinquish his profession to perform as well.

Friday 1st Feb^y. This foggy weather still hangs over us, with appearance of snow, of which we have only a single fall last week to admit a sleigh to run. . . . A Death last week, M^{rs} Startin has engaged some attention. She leaves a residuary legacy of about \$15,000 under the control of Bp. Hobart, to accumulate till it rounds \$50,000 when a professorship to be called after

her husband Charles Startin, is to be founded and the surplus to be applied to pious purposes. She left the Bishop \$8000. To his honour it is to be mentioned that he declined being made residuary legatee. The property of my late friend M^r Sherred was sold this week & the am^t will yield about \$55,000 to the Theol^l Sem^v. The subscriptions are in circulation in several Epis. Churches in this city. Grace Church to w^h we belong will probably endow a professorship, and Trinity, possibly, another, so that all things considered the Seminary is in a prosperous way. The new Institution opens on Tuesday 13th, when probably 20 to 25 Scholars may appear. So much for ecclesiastical affairs.

Saturday [February] 2^d. The weather cleared off last night, & we have a fine sun, for the first in many days. I saw at 9 the Edward preparing to sail with about 30 other vessels w^h were all waiting for a wind. Our harbour, now free from ice will probably continue open the remainder of the winter. What superiority we enjoy over the Chesapeake, Delaware & even Boston. The increase of our commerce is perceptible, as I notice that of N. Orleans is likewise. If on a safe secure principle without hazardous speculation, mercantile capital will increase in both cities & give life & confidence to all concerned. We are about attempting an Exchange & application is gone up to the Legislature to incorporate a company for the purpose, with a capital of \$500,000, w^h will erect an Edifice that will do honour to the city. There is considerable excitement for improvement, and a spirit prevailing that cannot fail to promote the best interests of our Emporium, an invidious distinction, w^h tho' true creates envy & jealousy. I do not think however that we exult as much as our carping sister, Philadelphia, w^h looks very obliquely at our prosperity, w^h is entirely owing to our geographical situation w^h like yours is the mart of great tributary streams, to be wonderfully extended on the completion of the G^d Canal in 1823, A few years more, & we shall interlock the Hudson with the Mississippi by the way of Ohio. What an

immense line of inland navigation lies before us, not ideal but practical & real. What an age of wonders have I lived in. Centuries before do not comprehend the magnitude of revolutions & improvements that have occurred in the course of the last 50 years! To have witnessed such scenes is no ordinary felicity.

Monday 4th Feb^y. A snowy day, to be noted this year as an ext[raordinary] event. . . . On Saturday ev^g after a more than usually early return from my duty at the Savings Bank, Bp. Hobart honoured me with a friendly call on the subject of M^{rs} Startin's bequest. Being intimately connected with the stock market I profered any intelligence in my power, so as to promote the interest of the residuary legacy, for w^h he expressed his thanks & accepted frankly & kindly. Whilst with me a very interesting young gentⁿ ² from Boston a student in the Th. Sem^y called to pay his respects. I introduced him to the Bishop. When at New Haven the affect^t manners of this kind hearted youth attracted my attention. The kindness with w^h he spoke of his mother, I believe he is an only son, & that his first absence from home, won my affections. On presenting him to Mama & Sister, I told him to consider himself at home, & that he must frequently visit, & in case of sickness or any other circumstance that he must look up to us. On taking leave, with eyes suffused with tears, he said, I did M^r P. look for a friendly welcome, but I did not expect so warm a reception to your bosom. Grateful youth. He is well educated, a graduate of Harvard, & will I dare anticipate be a faithful servant in his Divine Masters vineyard. On Thursday ev^g with some other of the pupils, he is [to] take coffee with us, so that dear Sister will be introduced to some very fine, intelligent young men.

.
 Tuesday 5th Feb^y. . . . This is post day. I did not before know that the mail for N. Orleans is made up 3

² Probably William T. Potter, a graduate of Harvard, 1820, and of the General Theological Seminary, New York City, 1823.

times a week, Tuesday, Thur^y & Saturday, so that if I miss one day, another soon occurs. . . .

To Samuel Bayard, of Princeton

NEW YORK, 18 March, 1822

My dear Sir,

Your favour of 15th was rec^d on Sat^y. Agreeably to y^r request your ac[ount] is herewith transmitted, bal[ance] \$352.15 in y^r favour. The College Dividends 1 April \$137.25. City Stock int[erest] is not paid till May.

I have but little time to reply to your letter. Altho' I rose at my summer hour 6, I have not till 10 found a moment to write & my office duties now commence. A slavish life, likely to be increased as our Clerk M^r Tylee is leaving us, at a juncture, when preparing for May, the business is oppressive & augmenting every 6 mo[nth]s in its details. It is probable that in addition to my own that I shall be expected to assume the clerks desk or resign. If my health is to be broken down I must in this case either be at the expense of clerk hire & take up with the bal[ance] of my salary, or act as discretion may dictate. Incessant confinement is worse than occupation. But resignation is my duty. Thank God it cannot last long. I did expect that you w^d have been here by the 1st to settle with Benjamin your[s]elf.

We are all well & join in affec[tionate] love to all

Y^{rs} sincerely

J Pintard

I had no idea that Samuel had been so poorly. I hope that the Spring season will restore him.

To Samuel Bayard, of Princeton

NEW YORK, 15 April, 1822. 1 p. m.

Not until this day have I been able to get out of my Shop during Bank hours to draw your Interest in the

B[an]k of the U. S., \$17.25 & on Canal Stock, \$120, credited in y^r acc^t as on the 1st. There is a certificate in the Manhattan B[an]k for \$5000, Canal Stock, w^h is probably the Stock you call in y^r letter "U. S. Stock purchased by M^r Lenox." My time pressed so hard, that I had scarcely a moment to draw the Interest, and I declined taking out the Certificate w^h remains in the Manhattan safe, until you come to town when you can investigate the subject as you will have time, w^h is no stock of mine, at command.

I believe I told you that M^r Tylee, the late Clerk of the M[utual] has left us, and as the duties devolve on me, I must get [on as] well as I can, with my very intelligent lad Andrew W[arner] who] happily is very docile & faithful.

.....
 Tuesday, 16th, 7 a. m. . . . I have read with [much] pleasure, the address of M^r Hodge, Teacher of Oriental languages at] y^r Th[eological] Sem^y. It is [a] very handsome dissertation indeed for a [young] man and reflects great honour on the Institution that turns [out] such scholars. He promises to become eminent in his profess[ion] and] an able defender of the doctrine of the Trinity.

.....
 I observe that you have suppressed another insurrection.³ The experience of more than half a century proves that these ebullitions are periodical, as the sap rises in the month of March. Might not an antidote be found, by terminating the winter session earlier, and letting loose these youthful bloodhounds by unkennelling the pack. I know by experience the difficulty of restraining young ardent minds, who for the sheer fun of it are disposed, in plain English, to raise the Devil. The more the spring is compressed the greater is its resiliency. It may be worth an experiment to try the effects of my

³ Among the students at the College of New Jersey (Princeton University).

prescription, unless the difficulty of unhinging old & long established regulations sh^d render it unadvisable. I regret always, that a new race of fools sh^d succeed the old, and feel a lively concern for the reputation of Alma Mater.

There is little foreign news. Our wiseacres at Albany, as you may have seen by the prints are attempting to tax our monied institutions, a suicidal act, w^h paralyzing the functions of the heart, will inevitably be felt at the extremities, but we hope the measure will be defeated in the Senate. If the principle sh^d be enacted, under whatever modification, I hope the constitutionality will be tried in the Sup. Co[urt] of the U. S. . . .

Another legacy of \$500 has been left to the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] by a M^r Burger dec^d of this city.

To Mrs. Davidson

NEW YORK, Tuesday 3^d Sept., 1822

My last of 30th Aug^t ⁴ was sent by the Fanny w^h I presume sailed on Sunday, 1st inst. My dearest daughters letter of 3^d Aug^t was handed to me at N. Utrecht, by M^r Roberts, one of our fellow boarders, who came out in the ev^g I having gone in the morning, to make the most of my weekly furlough. I rejoice to hear that on that day y^r city enjoyed health, owing under Providence, to your improved medical police. We are severely suffering by our more careless & relaxed vigilance. The instance of the Hornet at Norfolk, must I think prove conclusive to every candid mind, that altho' our maritime ports & great cities engender the seeds of pestilence within themselves, they cannot become active, without the introduction of a more powerful agent from abroad. We have the Gunpowder, but the spark must come from a more tropical clime. The Hornets crew arrived all in health, but the fatal contagion lurked in the bottom of

⁴ Pintard's letter of Aug. 30, 1822, and those he undoubtedly wrote to his daughter during the spring and summer of 1822, are missing from the collection owned by The New-York Historical Society.

the hold, and I have no doubt that it was breaking up the ground tier of the Havanna cargo of Sugars, which put the deleterious miasma in motion & w^h spread such fatal malignity at Rector Street Wharf & vicinity. Such is & has long been my theory of Yellow Fever, on w^h principle every means internal & external sh^d be vigour[ous]ly adopted to guard against the introduction & extension. . . .

Your letter dwells, very naturally, on the fate of your boys. M^r Bayards school is composed of children of our most respectable families, w^h is a great advantage as it keeps them from vulgar associations, and living within his Farm, with ample space & large enough for exercise, they are less exposed to contamination. His system of education is that prescribed for admission into Columbia College, w^h ranks among the foremost in point of classical learning. He has moreover an assistant for the younger classes. His terms, those of all our principal Schools, are too high, \$250, Board, washing & education. The price is complained of, altho' the genteel families wish it kept up to prevent the introduction of vulgar boys, at a cheaper rate. I might possibly bargain for a reduction. In this case, your sons might not be considered entitled to the same attention, & if apparently slightly, it might be remarked that their treatment was good eno[ugh] for a reduced pension. I do not wish them therefore to appear in *forma pauperis*, but to be on a fair footing with their mates. There are other *good* schools at Baskenridge, N. Jersey, Fairfield in Conn^t & elsewhere cheaper, where boys are well educated, the terms of which I will endeavour to obtain. They w^d not however be quite so accessible, altho' they c^d always be with me in vacation. Besides the \$250, each boy finds a cot, mattress & bedding. His clothing and books are at his parents cost, plain & neat. Many schools have a costume, some near the city very expensive. One in particular where the cost is \$500 a lad a year, the master finds clothing w^h is in the military style as they are

taught tactics & every gymnastic exercise & where if I was rich I w^d send my boys.

Wed^y 4th Sep^t. Only 3 cases yest^y & 4 each the 3 preceding days all in connection with the infected district, in w^h some are so foolhardy as yet to reside. We had a very heavy rain, the first in many weeks, on Monday aft.noon by w^h I got completely drenched on going home from the Savings B^k but changing my cloathes imm[ediately] took no harm. The weather has since been cool, & this day the wind is fresh at N. W. w^h will purify our atmosphere & I hope check the further progress of the Fever. Besides its attendant distresses, a nefarious band of robbers have infested the deserted parts of the city. Stricter day & night watches together with a water guard are at length established, by w^h means future depredations will be prevented. No accident as yet has befallen us in Wall Street.

Thurs^y 5th Sept. The fever seems confined to the infected district. 4 cases, all connected therewith yest^y. An address in last evenings paper w^h will reach you, designates the infected from the healthy part of the city. I went over to Weehawk, oppo[site] Greenwich to see M^r Eastburns family, yest^y P. M. I wish I had time to describe the romantic scenery of this part of N. Jersey. One need not wander to Niagara for greater wildness of country, delightful variegated prospects or variety of surface. Hills, dales, rocks, mountains & vallies. . . .

1823

To Samuel Bayard, of Princeton

NEW YORK, 21 Feb^y, 1823

My dear Sir,

My dear Sister your good wife returns this day, ice permitting. M^r Boyd talks of accompanying her to Brunswick to meet his lady, on a mournful visit to your brother John, whose fate I understand is very doubtful. What a series of afflictions have recently befallen your dearest family connections. Solemn warnings to surviving friends. Let us lay them to heart.

10 o'clock. M^r Boyd has just stepped in, he cannot go but will attend on Pattys crossing the ferry. The state of the river is favourable.

We have little but stale news. Taxation is the order of the day, & every means devised both by the Legislature & Corporation to lay the burthen on commerce, & monied Institutions w^h if carried into effect will paralyze the prosperity of this city, & we shall not want the Exchange that is contemplated, but w^h from the immense capital required for the bare locality, not less than \$300,000, & about \$500,000 for the Edifice may exceed all probability of rents so as to afford a reasonable interest from 5 to 6 p. c^t on the stock subscribed which will not be difficult to raise, provided the income be sure, w^h is doubtful.

Our Bible So[ciety] goes on propitiously. All opugnation tends to excite zeal, and however to be lamented is all right, or we sh^d grow indifferent & supine. I send you Bp. Hobarts address to the Epis. Convention of his diocese, with an angry report of the N. Y. Aux[iliary] B[ible] & C[ommon] Prayer Book So[ciety]. My Bishop no doubt thinks himself right. I am sure that I do the same on my part, so we are at

issue. Tho' I cannot accord in all points, it is my duty as a faithful son of our Church to reverence its head. Therefore I do not allow my difference of sentiment to interfere with the respect & courtesies due to him. . . .

My best regards to my old Chum Ch. Justice Kirkpatrick & his excellent Wife.

To Mrs. Davidson

[NEW YORK, May 24, 1823]

[*MS. torn, several lines missing*] that my daughter Eliza inherits her mothers neatness] [*MS. torn*] [virtue so innate, that she cannot take up a knife [*MS. torn*] tho]w[e]ver clean, but what it must be wiped again. No outwa]rd show, no broom clean work, but every particle of dust must be excluded, every shelf & drawer ransacked aired & reassorted, every bed, bedstead, Mattrass &c: aired & changed, and all from garret to cellar purified, and this not only under her own eye, but with her own hands. If a particle of sluttish blood runs in her childrens veins, the fault is mine & not hers. Indeed I am slovenly enough. In short Mother leaves me nothing to do, certainly not to fix my neckcloths without her aid. If Sister does it, all must be again refixed. God bless her & enable me, w^h I never shall I fear, to reward her.

Monday 26 May. The Edward arrived as the Fanny sailed, & is advertised to depart again this week. By her I will send this probably shor[t] letter, as I am devoted this week to prepare my Stock Ledger, & make up my books for paying Dividend next Monday 2^d June. We have been favoured with cool weather, since the extreme heat of last week. Whilst Philadelphia is the seat of Ecclesiastical Assemblies and Conventions, N York is overflowing with visitors from all quarters to attend the grand races at Jamaica, which commence tomorrow. On Wed^y [*sic*] the great purse of \$10,000 is to be run for between Eclipse & such other match as the Virginians on that morning shall produce. The Stakes are de-

posited in the Branch Bank. The preparations for the admission & entertainment of company are immense. Had I a friend under whose care I c^d place Mama & Sister, It w^d gratify me, but as this is impossible, we do not even talk about what engross all conversation elsewhere. At 1, the race is to take place & telegraphs are established to convey the intelligence which ever [MS. torn, several lines missing] before the Revolution, [MS. torn] we all attended, scarcely able to sleep [MS. torn] joy, & sat off on our walk of 4 miles [MS. torn] the ground to see the races at 12, with 6^d [MS. torn] to lay out in hot cross buns, & swill stale beer [MS. torn] cup. Cheap times. The betting on the present occasion will be enormous. Our boys were punished if they betted. From experience, I w^d not send my son to Jamaica Academy, unless I meant to bring him up a sportsman. All last week & this day has been devoted to shewing & training the horses. The course is near the town & these young rogues minds must necessarily be diverted from their studies. We who only had one day holliday, could think & talk of nothing else for a week before & a week after the races. Lath, was the name of the [sentence incomplete]

Tuesday 27 May. The day of the great race. Literally the city of N York that is the gay, the idle, & the curious, has poured out its population on L. Island. I went to the 2 Ferries at 6, to witness the carriages, w^h thronged the avenues to the Ferry Houses. At 10, I went again, & Fulton to Pearl Street was blocked up with coaches, stages, double & single horse wagons, stages, Barouches & Gigs, 4 & 8 abreast all filled with Ladies & Dandies, high life & low life, waiting their turns for 2 Steam Boats & 2 Horse Boats, incessantly plying across the Ferry, with row boats of all sorts & sizes, carrying over foot pads innumerable. Whether the race will take place or the forfeit paid seems to be very doubtful. If run, one o'clock is the starting hour, & by 2 probably the event will be known in the city. I confess that I feel anxious for Eclipse, because his prowess being known,

it is to be presumed that the Southern w^d not attempt to match him, unless in full confidence of success. I am writing just before 2, & have sent Andrew to the Ferry for intelligence. I almost palpitate. What an old Fool!

4 o'clock. Just down from dinner. Andrew has returned. Huzza for N York. Eclipse beat, losing the first & winning the 2 last heats. This settles the account with the ancient dominion. [*MS. torn, several lines missing*]

On Saturday the Linnean Society celebrated the birthday of Linnæus at Flushing, about 200. The day was fine & the ceremonial & festivity went off in high style, with much pleasantry. I was not present, for the best reason, not being a member nor invited, a proof of my extreme sequestered life, tho' it w^d have been an agreeable relaxation after many weeks of assiduous duty. Still on the whole it is best that I sh^d refrain from these public parties altogether. My spirits, like bottled Cham-paign are too apt to effervesce & overflow, by the excitement of company & mirth, which the phlegmatic are too apt to impute to an excess of that potation which can alone exhilarate them. This impression, not easily refuted is unfavourable, and for my soul I cannot repress [my] generous feelings nor wear the mask of hypocrisy. Had I not been a Sec^r of the Am. Bible So[ciety] I think that once for all, & on so great an occasion, I sh^d have attended the spectacle of yesterday. I am not one of those severe moralists who reprobate public amusements in the gross, Altho', to avoid offence, I partake so little of them. The hard working part of Society, must have occasional relaxations. Our Prot-estant Faith affords no religious holiday & processions like the Catholics. From the period of the Jews & Heathens down thro the Greeks & Romans, the Celts, Druids, even our Indians all had & have their religious Festivals. England retains numerous red letter days as they are called w^h afford intervals of rest, together with the Christmas, Easter & Whitsun holidays, for all the public offices Banks &c., but with us, we have only Inde-

pendence, Christmas & New Year, 3 solitary days, not enough & which causes so much breach of the Sabbath in this city, For youth pent up, Mechanics & labourers will seek fresh air & rural exercise on that day, in spite of all human laws to the contrary.

[*MS. torn, several lines missing or illegible*] to form a solid [*MS. torn*] & foot pads from Brooklyn to Jamaica, 8 miles, a spectacle of itself.

12 o'clock. On stepping to Eastburns I find that our Epis[copal] Convention has risen, without, as I hopes, any recommend[atio]n of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] which I lament. The reason may be, considering the late publications, the absence of Bp. Hobart, by sickness not to agitate a question that might disturb the prevailing harmony. The General Mission[ar]y So[ciety] w^h had been opposed by our diocese & the General Sem[inar]y are the subjects recommended to the several dioceses. We are for everything exclusive here, even against the interests of the Gen. Convention. I hope y^r box by the Fanny will arrive safe & be acceptable. Mama & Sister united in love to the Doctor & the [children.] May God preserve & bless you prays y^r affec[tionate] fond father

J. Pintard

[Addressed by:] Brig Edward
Cap^t Conover

To Samuel Bayard, of Princeton

NEW YORK, 21 Aug^t, 1823

The symptoms of my dear companion were so aggravated yest^r that I declined writing until something decisive might appear. The operation of an emetic did not relieve the stricture and oppression in the chest of which she so much complains. A profuse perspiration this morn^g early has, in D^r Hosacks opinion removed all apprehension of danger. The feebleness & languor are the result of prostration. With a collected mind and

firm tone, she disposed yest^r P. M. of her personal effects, to be equally divided between her daughters, & expressed her wishes respecting a private Funeral. You may judge how bowed down I was to listen with composure to what might prove her dying bequest. Reposing on the merits of a crucified Redeemer, our only resource, she ceased, and left me to meditate on the severest of all earthly misfortunes, the privation of the partner of a long life. Next October we shall have lived together 38 years & until this occasion never have I been called upon to sit at her sick bed. I cannot be too grateful for the manifold mercies that have been extended to us. . . .

We have no further alarm of Yellow Fever since the ill judged precipitate report of our ignorant resident physician. Should the rem^r of Aug^t prove temperate I hope our city will continue to enjoy its present unparalleled health. Indeed, unless from abroad, Yellow Fever is an idle bugbear.

.

To Samuel Bayard

N. YORK, 25th Aug^t [18]23

My dear Sir

I have received by this mail, a dft. from y^r brother A. Bayard Esq. for \$500 w^h is passed to your credit, . . . The Bills for y^r daughters¹ outfit I can reserve for a private oppo[rtunity] or give to your[s]elf. The Balance to y^r debit is \$69.64.

Since my last M^{rs} Pintard has been exceedingly prostrated, the Fever violent & incessant. This is the 9th day, and D^r H[osack] hopes that his prescription will check the return of chills & subdue the Fever. He considers her free from danger, for w^h I am all gratitude.

Our city is very healthy, and we have been favoured

¹ Juliet [Julia] Elizabeth Bayard, eldest daughter of Samuel Bayard, was married at Princeton, Oct. 7, 1823, to William Augustine Washington, of Virginia. *N. Y. Evening Post*, Oct. 8, 1823.

with cool, indeed autumnal weather. I was made happy to hear that my dear Sister returned safe, without injury from her fatiguing excursion. We have no tidings from M^{rs} Bradford.

Give my love to all the Clermont family. We wish them, esp^y the bride elect, every felicity.

God bless you all

Y^{rs} sincerely

J. Pintard

To Doctor Richard Davidson

N. Y., 4 Oct., 1823

Doc^r Richard Davidson

Res^t Physician, N. Orleans

D^r Sir

Cap^t Packard of Ship Florian has in charge a silver Goblet presented by the citizens of N York to Cap^t Johnson formerly mate of the Brig Patriot w^h so bravely repelled a piratical Schooner off Cape Antonio on Sept^r 8, 1822. At the request of my fellow citizens, I take the liberty to forward the Goblet to your care, & to ask the favour of you to enquire for Cap^t Johnson who sailed on the 2^d inst. on board the pilot Schooner Teazer for N. Orleans, and to present it to him.

Be so kind as to inform the Surgeon (name not recalled) of your Quarantine ground, who amputated the arms of the unfortunate John Cotton, that our friends Doc. Hosack, Francis & other physicians & surgeons who have examined Cotton consider the operation much to his praise & skill, esp^y as it is understood that it was his first case. Tho' an incompetent judge the appearance was very satisfactory to me.

Be pleased also to inform M^r Chew your Collector, that my fellow citizens hold him in estimation for the aid he afforded M^r Cotton. The papers will have informed you that \$550 were contributed by our Marine Insurance Offices & Citizens as a Fund towards his relief which has been deposited in our Savings Bank for his

benefit. Cotton has gone on to Philadelphia & Baltimore with ample letters of recommendation, where and at Boston it is hoped he meet with considerable contributions to be placed also in the Savings Bank for his account.

I cannot close this letter without individually acknowledging the active services of M^r William Wood (the author & founder of Apprentices & Naval Libraries, and eminently distinguished for every good work) for his indefatigable zeal in soliciting benefactions in favour of M^r Cotton. It is contemplated to associate him with some friend to carry on some kind of business that may give him occupation and preserve him from falling a victim to idleness.

The very little interest that has fallen to my share to exert in favour of this brave man has been abundantly rewarded by his modesty and gratitude.

I am My dear Sir

Yours very affec^y

J. Pintard

D^r Richard Davidson

Inscription on the Silver Cup

Presented

by the Citizens of New York
to Capt. Johnson, for his brave
defence of the Brig Patriot,
against a Pirate in Sept 1822

*To Louise H. Pintard (later Mrs. Servoss)
then in New Orleans*

N YORK, Sat^y 29 Nov., 1823. 2½ p. m.

Before closing my office duties I must snatch a moment to tell my beloved daughter Louise how happy M^r Eastburn made [me] at 6 last ev^s as I stopped in for a moment after returning from a meeting of the Standing Com^e of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety], that he had seen on the Bulletin the arrival of the Steam Ship on

the 7th inst. at Havana. . . . Your next will be very interesting of all youve heard & all youve seen on this first voyage of life. What the impressions of y^r sisters flock of cygnets, her dwelling establishment and the novelty of a French colonial city, for their manners & buildings predominate. . . .

Monday 1 Dec^r. . . . I went alone to the Communion in Grace Church yest^r. The day being raw & unfavourable Mama could not go, and occupied her time in writing to you. I prayed most fervently my beloved child for your health & spiritual happiness & that of your dear sister & family. A collection was made generally for the benefit of the Grace Church Free School recently established by D^r Wainwright, \$216 were collected & \$100 the preceding week for this charitable institution. It is proposed to make general collections every Communion Sunday and as the Sacrament is administered. It is probable \$100 a Sunday will be collected on 10 occasions, making \$1000 a year, w^h will go a great way towards maintaining the school. This measure very popular with our congregation, may not please Trinity, w^h has hitherto absorbed all the Episcopal charity school collections in this city. The Rector of Grace is right. I went in the ev^s as I had done the preceding Sunday ev^s to the Moravian Church, & heard Bp. Faber's Missionary hymn elegantly sung. My friend Francis is on the recovery, & yest^r for the first time told his attendants that he felt hopes of recovering.

.
[Addressed:] Miss Louise H. Pintard

New Orleans

Brig Jones
Cap^t Richardson

1824

To Samuel Bayard, of Princeton

N YORK, 29 Jan^r, 1824

.
I am very happy to hear of the convalescence of our invaluable Cousin Bradford, and that you all pass your time so agreeably at Clermont. The Greek cause, in w^h I have partaken, was rather intended as an expression of our sympathy in favour of a generous people struggling for life & liberty, than with the view of administering any very effectual aid, and to warn the unHoly Leaguers what they are to expect from a Free nation, that takes a concern in the fate of so distant a country as Greece, should they attempt to put their unhallowed feet on the soil of Freedom. Let old Spain fight her own battles with her colonies & reconquer them if she can. But no foreign interposition, without our interference also. Sh^d a fatal success, w^h is impossible, crown the efforts of the Legitimates, then stand by the U^d States, whose example galls them at every turn. . . .

We are all on the qui vive, with respect to the Tariff. Sh^d it pass we may inscribe *Ichabod* on our Banks &c. . . .

Drawing y^r Interest I c^d not but regard with pleasure the wonderful increase of the Funds of Alma Mater w^h does credit to the Trustees. Columbia College in this city is just the reverse, & owing to extravagant salaries & want of economy we run in debt every year. I believe she is minus \$15000 while you are plus double that sum. Bp. Hobart has so episcopalized it, as to have alienated the affections of a large portion of our respectable citizens of other denominations. So much the better for Nassau, Yale & Union & the worse for *poor* Columbia. Every effort is making in this City & State to build up the Geneva College while not a finger is moved in favour

either of the College or Epis[copal] Th[eological] Sem[inar]y. The income of the latter cannot pay the professors very humble salaries. We have only 21 scholars, an excess of *one* since its removal from N. Haven, and thus Bp. H's paramount Institution. Vide his circular of 17 Nov. in London in the Xtⁿ Journal.

Friday [January] 30th 7½ o'clock. The preceding wretched scrawl was traced just before going upstairs to dine, for I assure you that unless I write at my desk, I have no oppo[rtunity] of corresponding. This day I have 3 appointments, at 1, 5 & 7. At 5, with the Stand[in]g Com[mittee] preparatory to the stated meeting of the Managers next week. The A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] is doing well, but not as well nor progressive as it ought. But Providence overrules all & let us submit.

M^{rs} Pintard desires her kind love. She is pretty well & much of a recluse. Remember me most aff[ectionatel]y to the two families of Clermont & believe me

Sincerely yours

J. Pintard

To Samuel Bayard, of Princeton

N YORK, 5 Feb., 1824

My dear Sir

Your favour of 31st Ult^o was rec^d on 3^d inst. I availed myself of a moment yest^r to collect the Dividends & Interest for your College as credited, leaving \$361.73 bal[ance] in your favour & at y^r disposal. The Newark [dividend] \$78.75 is thankfully acknowledged. The N. Y. B^k Dividend \$45. is right, there being no deductions for State Tax on Literary & Benevolent Institutions. Samuels debut is a favorable one. Love & Murder are fine topics for poetical imagery & oratorical display, the latter will draw a full court & bring him forward to notice. I have no doubt but that he will do his cause justice & move the bowels of the Jury. It is a great distinction to be hung in this quarter, and ex-

cepting Negroes mistaken philanthropy is I presume the order in Geo[rgia] so that our young friend is likely to come off with flying colours. You must resign him to providence & hope for the best. I expect to see him come up a dashing member of Congress. Sam w^d have taken the Greek side had he been in the late debate. It is best under all circumstances that it sh^d die of a euthenasia. Tho' I have been too much of a partizan to acquiesce in the sophistry of Randolph ¹ whose element is opposition, & his co-oppugners. Be it so. The subject at any rate has called forth most splendid eloquence & will read well in Eng^d where the people, like ourselves, are alive to the G[reek] cause and for a Xtⁿ nation it appears worse than a reproach that Great Britain has never extended efficient aid. But Religion & Freedom all yield to national policy. How Grecian Inde[p]endanc[e] may affect the trade of England is the question, not sympathy for suffering humanity. But all in Gods appointed time. The Hydra of civil & religious persecutions must be crushed by the next more enlightened generation. I am pleased to find that Alma Mater & y^r city is doing something. The aggregate will be sufficient to testify good will. Colemans ² wise opposition is owing to the American having heartily engaged in the cause threw the Ev[ening] Post in the background, & oppugnation was the consequence.

Friday 6 Feb^y. I left a blank page to tell something of the Managers ³ meeting yest^y p. m. A bitter cold day. But first let me say that the address at Glasgow attributed to Bp. Chase was delivered by Professor Ira Chase of Columbia College Washington. The mistake was unintentional.

Friday 6 Feb^y bitter cold

The meeting was very full, notwithstanding the severity of the weather our large room was very comforta-

¹ John Randolph of Roanoke.

² William Coleman, editor of the New York *Evening Post*.

³ Of the American Bible Society.

ble. The President of the Nassau Hall B[ible] S[ociety] & a student were present.

21 Communications, miscellaneous, were read.

The Alabama B. S. was recognised Aux[iliar]y.

A donation of 50 Bibles was granted to the Saco M^e Marine B. S.

12 German B^s & 24 Test^s to the Young Mens Western.

A Letter from D^r Sam^l Hitchcock, entreating the A. B. S. to relinquish a Legacy of ab^t \$800, left by his brother was ref^d to the Sec^y of dom[estic] cor[respondence], Treasurer & Agent. This is a nice question, whether as Trustees the So[ciety] can give up a legacy. The appeal is very warm & pathetic, D^r H and his wife being in great distress & want.

The Treasure[r] for Jan^y rec^d \$2134.30, paid \$2386.96.

In 1822 from May to Jan^y inclusive the rec^{ts} were \$25,549.

1823, same period \$26,290.

Altho' progressive, not so much as we ought to be.

1595 B[ible]s 1771 Test[ament]s were issued in Jan^y value \$1793.84

103 " 121 " for distribution value 161.45

net sales \$1632.39

The Agent presented his Annual Inventory to 31 Dec. The total value of our property, exclusive of the Societys House is \$85,098.61. This includes stereotype Plates, Paper, Bibles & Test[ament]s, in sheets and Bound. Last year, value was \$82,035.98.

Contracts for printing & Binding for 1 Year from 1st May next are made with Mess^{rs} Paul & Starr, somewhat exceeding the last. A copy of the 8vo. Bible is to be presented to every compositor remaining in the service of the So[ciety] 12 m^{os} successively.

The stereotyping of the Spanish Bible is in progress.

A stere[o]type Ed. of a pocket Bible is ordered, when in funds.

A better translation of the Gospels in the Mohawk language has been a subject of debate, & is ref^d to the Committee for general purposes.

This about the sum of yest^{rs} doings.

.

I hope when you hear from Julia, that she appears content. It is hard weaning a tender lamb. Her Mama I presume will visit her next spring. My wanderer is happy with her Sister. The season is always gay at N. O. . . .

By M^r Boyd, passing thro to Washington I sent a Report of the Br[itish] & For[eign] B[ible] S[ociety] for dear Cousin Bradford. My respects to Ma'amselle Martel.

To Samuel Bayard, of Princeton

NEW YORK, 14th April, 1824

Such are my incessant diurnal duties & confinement during office hours, from 9 to 4, that I have little time to devote to other calls. Even this (Passion) week I shall only be able to attend prayers & not the Discourse on Good Friday next. But one consolation I enjoy, I can read all the Services & Sermons, thank God, at home.

As to a visit from us, it will depend entirely how my hard working wife, debilitated with her late attack of Fever may surmount the toil of moving.⁴ The very packing up is a job of more labour than you w^d imagine. The distance is too great to carry any thing by hand, & a little breakage of handsome costly articles w^d add to the tax of moving w^h will be great eno[ugh] without. When over we shall have reason to rejoice. Wall Street is no longer a residence for females.

Tuesday 27th April

. . . . In the course of this summer I must settle all my worldly affairs. The marriage of Louise⁵ leaves it

⁴ To 504 Broadway. Longworth's New-York Directory, 1824-25.

⁵ To Thomas Lowrey Servoss, son of Jacob and Isabella (Fleming) Servoss, of Hunterdon County, New Jersey, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. See Henry Race, *Historico-Genealogical Sketch of Col. Thomas Lowrey and Esther Fleming His Wife* (Flemington, N. J., 1892); N. J. Marriage Records, 1766. in *N. J. Archives*, 1st ser., XXII, p. 148; Scoville, *Old Merchants of New York* (N. Y., 1870), II, pt. 2, pp. 179-186.

my bounden duty to render her Mother comfortable as far as in my power that in case I am called away before her she may not be dependent on her children. The disposal of the little I may have to leave will be very simple, to be equally divided after their Mothers decease between my two dear daughters. Louise does not return this year, as it w^d materially interfere with the interest of M^r Servos, pronounced Service. Bringing nothing to him she acts prudently not to injure his circumstances. I am in daily expectation to hear of their marriage an event for w^h I cannot express my gratitude to God to have allowed me to live to see her happily, I have no doubt, settled. When informed I shall write. We are advancing in our preparatory steps for moving w^h may begin on Sat^r & terminate Tuesday or Wed^r. My office for the present is to be in a back room of J. G. Warrens just above. Overwhelmed, I know not whether I shall be able to write on Friday morn^s to dear Cous. Bradford, the proceedings of the Managers. In anticipation, a very important report by brother Boyd Ch.man, will be presented & as in Com[mitte]e will I trust be unanimo[usly] adopted, to appoint the Sec^r for dom[estic] cor[respondence] a permanent officer with a salary, & to authorize the comm^e to confer with D^r Woodhull on the terms if he will accept. He is the very Atlas of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety]. He will report the accession of the 400th Aux^r. I regret that you cannot come on at the approaching anniv^r or that there sh^d be reasons for your declining. He that does much good to Society, must look for some rebuffs, but the envy or malice of men are to be overlooked. They are wisely ordered to check inordinate vanity & to wean us gradually from this world. Do all for the love of God, and we may hope for our reward thro' the merits of our Redeemer. I feel as tho' I c^d willingly resign my breath, as soon as I hear that my Louise is settled. . . .

To Fitch Hall, of Boston

NEW YORK, 29th April, 1824

My dear brother Fitch Hall,

Since my reply in 1822 to your very kind enquiry respecting the fate of my family during the Yellow Fever of that year, no epistolary intercourse to my shame be it uttered, has existed between us. But occasional visitors from Boston to this city have acquainted me of y^r welfare. Have heard nothing of your removal, I presume thro' the influence of y^r friends that you still remain a monument of Democratic sharing mercy. God forgive the Radicals for their misrule & worse deeds. My avocations are incessant & my drudgery severe owing to the multiplication of Fire offices & competition for business. I am obliged to perform the duties of Secretary & Bookkeeper, w^h with other adjunct services my whole time is actively employed from Jan^r to Decem^r without intermission, but thank God my health & spirits are good. This will account for my apparent neglect of you. We do not however think the less of *auld lang syne*, & of your dear daughters. One I presume is married & I hope well and that the other will be provided with a protector also before you are called away.

This is our unspeakable happy lot. Our dear daughter Louise, went on a visit last November to her Sister Davidson at N. Orleans, where she captivated the heart of a M^r Servoss, an American merch^t of that city, to whom with her parents approbation, she was united the 4th inst. A circumstance my dear brother, for you are very dear to me, that bows me down with gratitude to our heavenly Father. M^r Servoss is of Phila[delphia], went to the Miss[iss]ippi territory about 12 years ago & has carried on successful business in N. Orleans 10 years. He is a widower of 35, has only a little son ⁶ aged 8 at

⁶ Thomas Courtney Servoss. His mother, Eliza (Courtney) Servoss, first wife of Thomas L. Servoss, died in New York City March 3, 1817. (N. Y. *Commercial Advertiser*, Mar. 4, 1817.)

Elizabethtown for education. Please[d] with my dear at first sight, for she is at least comely, after she had been at her sisters only a fortnight, acquainted tho' not intimate, he repeated his visits until he proffered his hand. Louise a child of nature, inartificial and above disguise, frankly told him that she had nothing to expect from her father. He asked nothing, but herself, sent on for consent and please God my daughter is happy. Her establishment is splendid, far beyond her hopes, but not her merits, for she is good, virtuous & endowed with every domestic qualification that distinguish her mothers family. Well educated, but not superficially varnished, of solid strength of mind, w^h she evinced when she embarked without a protector, single handed, in the Steam Ship Fulton, last autumn for N[ew] O[rleans]. Her mother desolate & childless is almost heart broken, But this is natural, & time will reconcile her to the dreadful weaning.

We are now packing up to remove to the upper end of B^dway from this street the Focus of business & quite uneasy for a family, but I have not time to descant. As the above intelligence will be pleasing I tho't it my duty to write instantly tho pressed for time.

Old Aunt Hanson at 87, still exists tho' confined for years to her chamber. Sister Helen, M^r Craig & son are very well. We shall be nearer to them. My N. Orleans colony, 2 daughters, 2 sons, 4 g^ddaughters & 3 g^dsons, all Cygnets, are very well. . . .

To Samuel Bayard, of Princeton

NEW YORK, 7th July, 1824

My dear Sir,

Your power of attorney was duly received, and this day I have collected the Dividend on 50 shares of the United Insurance C^o for Spanish spoliations

@ 15 per C ^t		\$750
Also		
Interest for Princeton College		
U States Loan	17.25	
N York Canal Stock		
On 8000 six p ^r Cent	120	
3000 Fives	37.50	
2000 "	25.	
1000 "	12.50	
6862.11 Fives	85.78	
	<hr/>	280.78
		<hr/>
		298.03
		<hr/>
Which is to your credit		\$1048.03

My president & friend M^r Furman, having met with an accident is obliged to keep house, w^h confines me strictly to my office or I sh^d have collected the above yesterday.

Having being much afflicted with a tendency of blood to my head, after depletion w^h afforded little relief, for the first time in my life I was bled last ev^g & feel better. The ligature on my right arm renders writing inconvenient. My poor wife like cousin Bradford relapses into chills & fever on the least exertion. Bound down as I am, it is difficult to remove her to the country. Fresh air & sea bathing will I hope restore her, until a week past she has never passed the threshold of the door since our removal.

Whether we shall be able to visit you is very doubtful. I shall be glad to hear of the movement of our dear friend Cousin Bradford and of your absentees. Louise & her niece will return in October, but my partner will not leave me. . . .



To Mrs. Davidson

N YORK, Friday,

23^d Jan^y [*sic for July*] 1824

My last ⁷ was by yest^{rs} mail, 22^d. This will inclose our dear Eliza's ⁸ letter to go by the Edward tomorrow. On Sunday weather permitting, she will accompany her Aunt Craig & pass the day at Bath,⁹ to return in the evening. She is a remarkable instance of fondness for home. I attended the funeral of M^{rs} Lyell,¹⁰ last ev[enin]g, and asked her whether she w^d not like to go with M^{rs} Young & see it, taking a seat in the gallery. She shook her head & said that she w^d prefer staying at home, w^h she did. The ceremony being novel to her I thought it might excite her curiosity. She is very contented & does not want to leave g^dpa. She is a dear affectionate girl & all that you c^d wish her. As to *early* rising, she is up at 6, and with me half after. We breakfast punctually at 7, and she arranges every thing with as much precision as Aunt Louise. I always remark to her the extreme care & nicety of her g^dmama for her example. She is not the least slattern even in her dishabille, but always trim & neat. As to her conversation, it not only delights but excites my admiration both as regards language, sentiment & observation. If half she says of her brothers be true, and I cannot from her own example doubt her, I look back to my period of comparative ignorance at their years, & scarcely can believe that they are so far advanced beyond what even the first rate boys of my juvenile days were. I did not read Rollin nor Roman History until I went to College in my 14th year, and I was not a behind hand youth by any means. Attention to education was neither so great

⁷ Pintard's letter of July 22, 1824, is missing from the Society's collection, as are most of his letters to Mrs. Davidson in that year.

⁸ Eliza Davidson, Pintard's granddaughter.

⁹ In Kings County, Long Island, on Gravesend Bay (now part of Brooklyn).

¹⁰ Mrs. Julia Anna Lyell, wife of the Rev. Dr. Thomas Lyell, Rector of Christ Church, and daughter of the late Jonathan Rhea, of Trenton, died July 21, 1824. [N. Y.] *Commercial Advertiser*, July 22, 1824.

nor the facilities to be compared with the present day. Enjoying such advantages, it gratifies me that they improve them. [*MS. torn*]

In return for our dear Elizas staying with me I shall make her presents at least adequate to what her expenses w^d be at Bath. I have just bought her a beautiful copy of Sturms reflections for every day in the year w^h are very entertaining & instructive & will improve her brothers & sisters.

Sat^y [July] 24th. We had a most violent thunder burst with a torrent of tropical rain yest^y from 1 to 3. Some injury by lightening as the papers show. I got home dry, but had to go thro' a smart rain to discharge my duty at the Depository. My cherub always flies to greet me at the door. Julia & her brother went yest^y to Bath & were detained by the rain last night. This day is overcast, but will clear off I hope for the Craig party tomorrow. I cannot with propriety desert my post at the Savings B^k this ev^s where our duty will be severe as the paym^t of interest will be called for by multitudes. "He that putteth his hand to the plough must [not] look back," and if I have a solitary virtue, it is the scrupulous conscientious discharge of whatever I undertake to perform, w^h at my advanced period makes me shrink from even allowing myself to be enlisted as a *nominal* member of any new societys that are daily springing up. The Hayti Emigration S^o will be I think the last in w^h I shall engage reserving my remaining energies for the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] & Saving's Bank, indeed the latter is, as all say of me suff^t for one man. . . . M^{rs} Young is very well, very retired in a fine cool chamber & occupied with her needle. Tamar is all in tra^ptures with Eliza. She is not apt to be pleased with you^{ng} persons. The Edward will probably sail tomorrow. [*MS. torn*]

[Addressed by:] Brig Edward

To Samuel Bayard, of Princeton

N. YORK, 4th Aug^t, 1824

My dear Sir,

The rec^t of your dft. for the Newark Dividend \$78.75 is acknowledged.

Your kind favour of yest^r has relieved me from extreme solicitude on acc^t of your dear daughter Julia. Thro' M^r Boyd I had been informed of her critical state and of my dear Sisters being at Washington. Altho' the infant is taken, the Mothers life please God is spared and I hope she will shortly be restored to your arms in health. . . . My poor wife, at Bath, was fairly prostrated by the unexpected death of M^{rs} Lyell, and the painful intelligence I had to communicate respecting M^{rs} Washington. She almost augured the worst, on acc^t of the southern fevers, so malignant and in Julias situation too often, so dreadfully fatal. Thank God, your letter w^h I shall forward this p. m. will most gratefully relieve her & Louise. The latter has some hope of her partners coming on very soon, in the William, w^h must however depend on his business, w^h is extensive & lucrative. My dear g[ran]ddaughter is my housekeeper who relieves my solitude.

.
 M^r Boyd is at Albany watching the political waters. Our Legislature, determined in its opposition to the *peoples rights* will adjourn probably this day, and the Crawford vote of this State will be secured. Since the prostration of my friend Clinton, my political ardour has abated. I wish my country well, but I must serve my fellow citizens in the silent walks of charity & benevolence. I have lost my protégé James Henry Clinton, by yellow fever, in consequence of stepping ashore for half a day at Havanna. He was a gallant lad & brave as a lion, with a mind & intellect of a very superior order. His premature death afflicts me most sensibly.

To Mrs. Davidson

[August 5, 1824]

[*MS. torn*] yours [of the] 17th by the W[illiam] [*MS. torn*] y^r Sisters grievous disappointment that [her husband was] not a passenger. When to look for him, or at all, [*MS. torn*] conjecture. The Chancellor is expected hourly. The Virginia w^h takes this is to sail on Sunday. I shall put it with Eliza's inclosed, in the Bag on Sat^r morn^s as I go to the Ferry for Bath, weather & life favouring. . . . If Mama w^d follow my counsel she w^d return with y^r Sister, see how she w^d like N[ew] O[rleans] & if pleased we w^d collect our little all & go there & live with our daughters. But this is improbable, unless M^r S[ervoss] might propound something to induce the enterprize. For myself I c^d shift very well by boarding. I w^d make many sacrifices to live near you, but Mamas prejudices must be consulted. As to leaving Eliza with me it is out of the question. She has improved too well under your inspection, to jeopardize her at her approaching critical period, from under your maternal vigilance. She is indeed an uncommon fine child, of sterling properties, eminently endowed by nature & substantially improved by an education far excelling in intrinsic worth all the modern tinsel & frippery usually taught in Boarding schools. Eliza in my estimation is sufficiently educated for solid improvement at home by reading & attending to household duties. Something might be bestowed on the pianaforte, to qualify her to perform & sing an air, but no scientific performance w^h consumes an incredible portion of life, both to acquire & retain. . . . [*MS torn*]

.
 The Doctors project ¹¹ reads well on paper. No doubt it has been maturely weighed. As M^r Servoss speaks favourably of it, being a cool calculator, it appears the more feasible. I devoutly pray that it may redound to the Doctors profit and as he will have a year's start of

¹¹ Evidently for a private hospital.

any competitor it promises to become too well known, and I trust judiciously conducted to dread rivalship. Would it not be wise to get it visited by your B[oar]d of Health & Mayoralty. Their approbation, esp[eci]ally if permitted to be published, w^d establish its character & attract patients. When the river falls will be the Doctor's harvest, his nets are ready & I hope he will catch all the Fish. The reputation of the institution will be spread by every patient that has been well treated & discharged cured. Success to his enterprize.

Friday [August] 6th. 8 o'clock. Dear Eliza rose bright & early to assist M^{rs} Young in stoning the grapes. Her Aunt sent word yest^r that there was no necessity for her coming to town as M^{rs} Y & her neice c^d make the sweetmeats as well as herself. There is a fine parcel and in elegant order. . . . I never knew such a homebody in my life. We are to take tea at Aunt Helens this afternoon. Master Davis whose vacation has commenced has gone to pass a fortnight at Flatlands, near N[ew] Utrecht. There is no danger of intercourse, on either side. No. Eliza must settle near her dear mother.

.
[Addressed by Ship] Virginia

To Samuel Bayard, of Princeton

NEW YORK, 12th Aug^t, 1824

My dear Sir,

.
My wife & daughter are still at Bath, where I saw them last Sunday. M^{rs} P. remains very weak, & the least exertion induces fever.

By M^{rs} Ogden widow of the late Judge Ogden ¹² of Quebeck recently returned from England, Cousin Caty Van Dam ¹³ has desired that a monument sh^d be erected

¹² Isaac Ogden, who died in England Feb. 1, 1824. *The Gentleman's Magazine* (London), March, 1824, vol. XCIV, pt. 1, p. 283. His widow was his second wife, Sarah Hanson. W. O. Wheeler, *The Ogden Family* . . . *Elizabethtown Branch* (1907), pp. 101-102.

¹³ Daughter of Isaac and Isabella (Pintard) Van Dam.

in St Pauls to the memory of her brother Anthony,¹⁴ cost £50 St[erlin]g w^h will afford a very neat Tablet. I have undertaken to superintend the execution by a M^r Frazee, an ingenious artist. The inscription I trust is appropriate & chaste. It affords me pleasure to render this last act to the memory of a worthy relative.

Our B[ible] S[ociety] proceeds favourably. The new modelling the dom[estic] Sec[retary]s department is postponed, probably till October. 5 new Auxiliaries. Our Savings Bank has closed its 5th year, gross am^t of Receipts & Interest \$2,014,388.90, withdrawn \$800,-849.51, Bal[ance] in hand \$1,213,539.39. Accounts 9,671. Far exceeding the most sanguine anticipations. . . .

To Samuel Bayard, of Princeton

N YORK, 8th Oct^r, 1824

My dear Sir,

Your favour of 6th was rec^d yest^y. On the subject of my dear Sisters proposed visit with Julia & M^r Washington, I am extremely sorry to reply that it is entirely out of our power to accommodate our friends during their short stay in this city. We have but one spare room, w^h is occupied by our daughter & her niece. Our long & faithful domestic Tamar has left us and gone to housekeeping in the country. As a substitute we have a young servant with an infant, entirely unacquainted with our ways. M^{rs} Pintard continues very feeble and incapable of the least exertion, depressed moreover with the preparations of Louise who is to sail for N. Orleans, next Sunday week, and our house is literally upside down. Under these circumstances it is with sincere regret that we cannot receive our friends on this occasion. For myself esp^y I feel very unhappy to return this an-

¹⁴ The tablet, on the south wall of the chancel, in St. Paul's Chapel, Broadway, New York City, reads: "Sacred to the Memory of Anthony Van Dam Esq. grandson of the Honourable Rip Van Dam . . . From the year 1788, he resided in London where he died on the 23d Sept. 1808 in the 77th year of his age. This monument was erected by his affectionate surviving sister, Catherine Van Dam of London, A. D. 1824."

swer. The urgency of my duties, makes me little else than a boarder at home. I rise at 6, breakfast alone at 7, return, if to dinner at $\frac{1}{2}$ p. 3, or more frequently not until 6, take my tea & crawl to roost $\frac{1}{2}$ p. 9, but I enjoy thank God excellent health. The numerous applications for Fire Insur[anc]e Companies break down our business very much & if continued, as is most likely, will reduce the value of our Capital, w^h is for y^r consideration. We shall however divide 4 p^r c^t in Nov^r pay[able] 1st Dec^r but I cannot answer for next May.

At the meeting of the Managers ¹⁵ yest^r, numerous communications were made.

2 New Auxiliaries were recognised, Washington County, Virginia, White County, Illinois
285 Bibles & 312 Test[ament]s were granted as donations.

The Treasurer rec ^d in Sept ^r	\$4109.16
and paid	4345.49

The Agent issued from the Depository in the same month

1782 Bibles, 2147 Test ^s value	\$1940.77
For gratuitous distribution, 260 Bib ^s , 415 Test ^s , value	291.12

\$1649.65

The Report of the Comm^e on improving the mode of conducting the business was called up & discussed, until 7 o'clock, when the B^d adjourned to the 21st for the further consideration of this important subject.

The object of the Committee was to allow the Rev. D^r Woodhull adequate compensation to give his whole time to the duties of correspond^g Sec^r. This meets with so much oppugnation that D^r W. will undoubtedly resign, when some other person must be appointed, a measure which I shall regret, for I do regard him as a most efficient officer. However all I trust will be for the best, as almost every change has hitherto proved, and as I con-

¹⁵ Of the American Bible Society.

fidently trust will be the case whenever I resign my humble station. I am now in my 9th year, & unless I decay faster than I expect, & sh^d it not be incompatible with the interests of the S^o I c^d wish to complete my Decade next May twelvemonth. . . .

To Samuel Bayard, of Princeton

Wall St, 19 Oct., 1824

My dear [Sir]

It may gratify you to learn that y^r good wife my dear Sister alighted very unexpectedly at our door last ev^s at 7, traveling all the way from Brunswick for 1/, Hack here 2/ the most expensive part of her journey. Luckily a gentⁿ & his wife took the same carriage for the upper end of B^dway, w^h guided her to N^o 504, 6 or 8 doors right hand side going up, above Broome, N^o on plate on the door. Blockhead like I had omitted mentioning my N^o in my last. Your Rev^d son took Tea with us. By the unexpected arrival of M^r Servoss on the 10th, Louise departure is deferred to the beginning of Nov. for w^h I rejoice as the Yellow Fever is very fatal & desolating at N. Orleans, w^h nothing but black frost can kill. She will therefore return at a healthy period. My dear daughter Davidson & family were all well on 17th Sept. M^r & M^{rs} S. have gone to Fishkill, where he has friends to wear away his Quarantine till Thurs^r 21st when I shall look for them with the dawn. I have paid Patty \$100. She makes her purchases this day & goes to N Rochelle tomorrow. . . .

D^r Millers Essay ¹⁶ has afforded me much pleasure, & is quite consonant with my own sentiments on the necessity of Creed Articles & Confessions. In consequence of several conversations with the late D^r Osgood,¹⁷ the patriarch of the Congregationalists of Mas[sachusetts]

¹⁶ Samuel Miller, *An Introductory Lecture . . . at the opening of the Summer Session of the Theological Seminary . . . Princeton, July 2, 1824.*

¹⁷ David Osgood.

when at Medford in 1800, I took some pains to investigate a subject w^h D^r M. has condensed in a nutshell. The religious world is indebted to the labours of this learned professor. A very interesting work on the use of Evidence by Professor Verplanck ¹⁸ has just appeared, chastly, forcibly & logically written as far as I am a judge. He has sent a copy to D^r Miller, w^h possibly you can look into. The works of learned laymen in favour of the Truth of Divine Revelation are an honour to any Church. . . .

To Samuel Bayard, of Princeton

NEW YORK, 23^d Dec^r, 1824

My dear Sir,

William tells me that he expects to go home on a visit tomorrow. The Bal[ance] of \$2000 of the Stock Six per Cent, will be paid on the 1st Jan^y next. Inclosed is the form of a power of att[or]ne[y] to be executed as that before sent, to enable me to receive the bal[anc]e with interest, on the 3^d. Must I pay the principal \$2000, with the quarters int[erest] to M^r Lenox, or only the principal & credit you with the Interest. I must leave sending your ac[count] until Jan^y for really these short days & all to do myself, I have scarcely a moment from 9 to 3, & my afternoons are nothing & almost daily engaged. I scarcely dine home above twice a week. M^r Stockton will have seen a notice of the Savings Bank, that only 4 p^r C^t can be allowed after the 1st Jan^y. Should he wish to draw the deposit for his Lady the Book must be sent on with an order & the am^t with the Int[erest] at 5 p^r C^t accruing to 1st Jan^y will be paid on the 19th following. The Deposit can remain at 4 p^r C^t if he pleases. The high price of Stocks in w^h we are by law restricted to invest has caused this regulation. We cannot fund to obtain more than 4 p^r C^t. . . .

¹⁸ Gulian C. Verplanck, *Essays on the Nature and Uses of the Various Evidences of Revealed Religion*.

1825

To Samuel Bayard, of Princeton

NEW YORK, 20th Jan^y, 1825

My dear Sir

I did not see M^r Lenox until this morning who inform[s] me that he has invested the monies rec^d for Princeton College in Mechanic Bank Stock. Of course I shall not [*sic*] want a new power to receive the Dividend payable 1st Feb^y at 7 p^r C^t p^r An[num] deducting 10 per cent for the State tax.

Your favour of 15th inst. was duly rec^d, on which day I rec^d also Ch^s Lawton & C^o note dated 13th Jan^y at 8 months for \$2000 with int[erest] at 6 p^r C^t p^r an. together with a certificate for 40 shares in the Jersey Bank City of Jersey as collateral security, as Trustee for the Executors of Elias Boudinot, for w^h I gave an acknowledgment to return for a discharge of the note. I shall attend to the execution of this trust according to your order.

If you can live along without it, I sh^d think you will do well not to sell your long deferred stock in Greenwich lots. The tide of population and the rage of speculation is setting that way, and you will be reimbursed handsomely for your purchase. Greenwich Village & the city will be compact in a very few years. The Street will be probably filled up this year that unites the two. Property, Lots & Houses have considerably advanced & rents must also. Governor Clintons message works wonders & will attract migration. Every new house has its tenant & the demand increases. So good luck to you.

.
Willy is well and as one of the Athenians he wants not for amusement & I trust improvement. He is a fine Lad. I wish Samuel may find a chance for permanency at Trenton.

To Samuel Bayard, of Princeton

NEW YORK, 21 Jan^r, 1825

My dear Sir

Your favour of yest^r with its inclosure, is duly rec^d.

I have directed a policy for insurance on acc^t of Cap^t Stockton, Viz^t

\$5000 on his house @ 37½ 1 y ^r	\$18.75
Carpenters risk 3 mo[nths]..	3.12½
	<hr/>
	21.87½
500 on Barn, 1 y ^r @ 75.....	3.75
	<hr/>
\$5500 insured for 1 y ^r	\$25.62½
Policy 8109	

This I presume will meet his wishes. In case of accident from carpenters before completion of the premises, the policy w^d be invalid unless as above the risk were provided for.

Barns are proportionably higher than Dwellings. The premium is as low as if the improvements were in this city.

I will make the enquiry you request when in my power. Mentioning M^r Slades name recalls y^r former request about the Carbonaris. Nothing can be excited in their favour here. Even an attempt to purchase & fit out the Steam Ship for the Greeks was abandoned. The Washington Statue is for the present laid on the shelf. The Athenæum¹ is the order of the day. Somewhere about \$45,000 have been subscribed & it is progressive. Our Church & other Charities are likewise reasonably attended to.

D^r Milnor is convalescent.

Banks & Insurance C^{os} applications are numerous but will be more restricted to their distinctive operations

¹ The Athenæum Library, inaugurated 1824 and incorporated in 1826, which was merged in 1838 with the New York Society Library. See A. B. Keep's *History of the New York Society Library* (1908), pp. 313-62.

than heretofore. Great abuses have prevailed & nothing but a general explosion, w^h must one day come, can cure the prevailing mania.

Lot & House speculations are beyond example for many years. Your Greenwich property is rapidly improving. I write always in haste, w^h will excuse vagueness. . . .

To Samuel Bayard, of Princeton

NEW YORK, 24 March, 1825. 3½ p. m.

My dear Sir,

In reply to y[ou]rs of 19th, this has been deferred until I c^d close the issue of a very perplexing subject that has occupied much time & difference of opinion in the B[oar]d of Managers,² w^h holds its 4th meeting this mo[n]th this P. M. On Tuesday it was resolved to appoint 3 Dom[estic Corresponding] Sec^{ys} in place of the Rev. Dr. Woodhull, to subdivide the duties & perform them gratuitously. They are to be elected this afternoon.

Friday 25th [March.] At the meeting yest[erday], the Rev. D^{rs} Woodhull³ & M^cAuley & Rev. M^r Somers (Baptist) were elected Dom. Secretaries. M^r Eastburn having declined to prepare the An[nual] Report, the task will probably be executed by D^r M^cAuley, as M^r Woodhull's health forbids. Time must prove the success of this Triumvirate. The spirit of parsimony that prevails, paralyses our efforts. More efficiency is requisite to reanimate some of our Aux[iliary] dry bones. Our resources have diminished the 9th year & with them our donations, but let us never despair.

To mourn with those that mourn & rejoice with those that rejoice, is our bounden duty. I do most sincerely sympathize with my friend M^r Griffith on the approaching departure of his dear Wife Cousin Abby, who will

² Of the American Bible Society.

³ Selah Strong Woodhull, Thomas McAuley, and Charles G. Sommers.

be released from much suffering and her exchange will be for everlasting bliss, for she was always meek mild and good. Is M^{rs} Armstrong the amiable daughter of Horace Stockton who was at Burlington during the last hours of her venerable uncle.⁴ She was then the picture of health & modesty. L^t Hunter⁵ like my young friend & protégé Clinton,⁶ soon terminates his military [career,] but he has the consol[atio]n of dying in the bosom of his family. . . .

To Samuel Bayard, of Princeton

N YORK, 26th May, 1825

My dear Sir

Your favour of 24th postmark 25th is just received. Your proposition respecting the Deposit of \$750 each, on acc^t of your College & Theol^l Sem^y must be submitted to the Trustees of the Savings Bank at their monthly meeting 8th June, for decision. Restricted by Law to invest in Funds of the U. S. or this State, the high price of stocks is such as to have compelled us to diminish our Int[erest] to 4 p^r C^t as likewise to curtail the am^t of our deposits. The fact is that with all our circumspection we cannot keep down the weekly receipts. \$500 is what we deem the extent for a single deposit, altho' we regard more the character & circumstances of the Depositor than the sum, making the most liberal construction in favour of Ministers, Widows & Orphans. How far your proposition may come within the purview of our duty, is not for me to determine, altho I shall do what is in my power to support y^r application. You speak however of ulterior arrangements. You must understand

⁴ Mrs. William Jessup Armstrong (Sarah Milnor Stockton), daughter of Lucius Horatio Stockton, was a great-niece of Elias Boudinot. T. C. Stockton, *The Stockton Family* (1911), p. 130.

⁵ Richard Stockton Hunter, Lieutenant, U. S. Navy, died March 28, 1825, at Princeton. *N. Y. Evening Post*, April 8, 1825; U. S. Navy Registers.

⁶ James Henry Clinton, son of De Witt Clinton, died at sea of yellow fever in June, 1824. Hamersly's *General Navy Register*; Dorotheie Bobbé, *De Witt Clinton* (1933), p. 267.

that according to our rules, no interest accrues until after a deposit of 3 mo[nths] & none is payable but half yearly. All sums withdrawn between the 1st July & 1. Jan^r lose their interest. The result of the Trustees opinion I will communicate.

I regretted your absence at our last brilliant anniversary exceeding all former. The gloom occasioned by the decease of our worthy & esteemed presid^g V[ice] P[resident] Gen. Clarkson was confined to his immediate associates. Col Troup as you have heard is his successor. Please God another year you may be able to attend. Whether I may be here or removed to the world of spirits the great Bible cause will proceed with increasing vigour & prosperity, and I shall make room for a more efficient successor.

You w^d scarcely credit your senses to see the scenes of demolition & improvement that present themselves in every quarter of this thriving place, and it is with pleasure we hear that Phil^a & Pennsylv^a participate largely in the prevailing spirit of improvement & prosperity. The world is wide en^o for us all, nor can I conceive why any rival jealousies sh^d exist between our two cities. Phil^a is a great, an elegant & an intellectual metropolis.

.
[Addressed:] Samuel Bayard, Esq

care of

Andrew Bayard, Esq

Philadelphia

p^r post

To Eliza Ellen Davidson, of New Orleans

NEW YORK, Thurs^r 9th June, 1825

You know not what comfort it affords me to learn from your dear father & good Uncle Servoss how well you have conducted yourself, during the unfortunate confinement of y^r affectionate indulgent Mother. . . . I participate so fully in these praises that I have promised

dear Mama, in my letter by the Crawford, that I will send you some valuable token of my love & affection, by return of Uncle Servoss next fall, and she will intimate what may be appropriate & acceptable. I cannot however defer an evidence of my intentions so long, and this morning I have purchased for [you] a beautiful secretary & workstand, w^h I know you will value less for its intrinsic worth, than as coming from y^r fond g[ran]d-father. It is made of Birds-eye maple, that grew on the top of the Catskill mountains in this State, & being sawed fresh from the log while impregnated with sap, will retain its beautiful variegated hues. This wood has become recently an article of cabinet luxury, & is chiefly imported from Maine, where it is sawed into slabs, without attention to the state of the Wood. It is made by M^r Young one of our best cabinet makers, & cost \$36, ink glasses 1.50, w^h I mention to induce y^r care of it. I shall put in a portfolio with some letter paper for you. Be careful not to ink the secretary.

Sat^y 18th June. . . . I bought as I came down this morn^g 1/2 yard of oil cloth lined with baize, w^h Mama will fit as a cover to your work stand, & you can bind with ferreting, with the remnant if not otherwise applicable, you can cut out a little square to be also bound on w^h to set your lamp or candlestick to preserve the cover from being soiled. The beauty of the article will induce you to keep it in good order, and long preserve it as a token bestowed for y^r good behaviour during dear mothers illness, and an incitement to future excellence. On Monday I shall pack up & put in some paper & quills for you also the Battle of Bunkers Hill, fought yest^y 50 years ago, with the same in a newspaper, w^h having read you had better cut out the plate & attach it to the pamphlet. That the boys & other children may have something also, I shall send a few silverings w^h allway come acceptable, esp^y for Master Larned & sensitive Mary, who must not feel neglected. . . .

Wed^y 22^d June. This day last year, my darling g^ddaughter with her dear Aunt arrived at Quarantine &

at 4 o'clock when I first saw you, I will on this anniversary drink your health. . . . In the work part of the stand, is a spice box for dear Mother. You know I must not neglect her. In the writing drawer is a little paper with some peices for the children, to keep all fair & quiet. The newspapers contain the celebration of Bunker Hill, on the 17th. Andrew has sent for the Boys Washingtons Farewell adres w^h you can tack up in papas office.

Wed^y 29th. By the Florian your & dear mothers letters of 7th are just received. I find that you were invited to pass a few days when Mama c^d spare you at M^r M^cCutcheons, w^h will be of benefit to y^r health. . . . Mama asks me to procure some of Aunt's duplicate music. She has not unpacked any that I have seen. Practice what you have got & towards fall I will look out for something modern & fashionable which is every thing as the World. Old Friends, & Old Songs suit old folks, but new airs become old in their turn. We are all fond of the melodies of our youth, and I go back with delight to the Songs & Tunes of my juvenile days when I used to torment a catgut & sing "Down the bourne Davie Love," "Twas when the Seas were roaring," and "Auld Robin Grey." Music has still its charms for me & former associations revive when I hear the ballads & songs that were chaunted by female friends & acquaintances, some of whom sang exquisitely. The voice was more cultivated when there was no piano to drown it. I have picked up a Book or two to beguile the tedium of your deserted state. M^cKenzies⁷ works are those of my early days excelling in style & pathos w^h [time] will never decay. I can shed tears as I write over Julia de Roubigné & [the Story of] La Roche. . . .

[Addressed:] Miss Davidson
 New Orleans
 Ship Chancellor
 with a Box

⁷ Henry Mackenzie (1745-1831). *Dictionary of National Biography*.

To Samuel Bayard, of Princeton

N YORK, 19th July, 1825

My dear Sir

Your favour of 15th inst. was rec^d 16th. Till this morning I have not been able to make out y^r ac[ount] as requested. Bal[ance] to y^r credit 517.78. If convenient I will thank you for the Newark Div[iden]d. *Parcus et infrequens scriptor*, indeed I have little time for correspondence & less to say, except mere common place w^h does well eno[ugh] to my beloved daughter Davidson to whom as in duty bound I write weekly. Her sister M^{rs} Servoss is still in statu quo, daily hoping to be made a joyful mother of a living perfect child, of w^h happy event I shall apprise my dear sister.

My kinsfolks the Millets appear to be unfortunate in their children. Indeed every instance of mortality ought to remind us of our own, of w^h I have daily warnings & trust that I profit by them, living as tho' this year may be my last. On Scott,⁸ I repose, reading his excellent commentary morn^s & ev^s as I hope to do thro' my remaining days. To plain capacities & humble Xt^{ns} I regard Scott the most useful practical commentator that has yet appeared. He is text & sermon united, nor can I see anything in him too hard for digestion or subscription. The number of editions in Engl^d & Am^a prove how greatly his labours are appreciated. I have lately acquired an elegant Lond[on] 4to. for old eyes.

From grave to gay. I hope you had a splendid ev^s on Friday, with Gen. LaFayette & that all passed off satisfactorily. Except an inst[ant] at the Historical So[ciety] last year I have never laid eyes on the "Nations Guest" nor witnessed any of the numerous parades in this city. You see what a recluse I am grown, I hope not cynic. . . .

⁸ Rev. Dr. Thomas Scott's Commentary on the Bible.

To Fitch Hall, of Boston

NEW YORK, 22^d July, 1825

My dear Fitch,

You were fortunate in having escaped the intense heat that has prevailed generally, and to have made y^r jaunt, with less inconvenience than you w^d otherwise have experienced. We are almost carbonadod by day and calcined at night. The oldest among us do not recollect a succession of such heat. The prevailing drought tho' injurious to the country is favourable to this city.

By a letter of the 1st inst. rec^d this day from my dear daughter Davidson, she writes that she expects to embark her boys Pintard & Marsden in the Brig Creole Cap^t King to the care of M^r Harrod[?], of Boston. The Brig was hourly looked for to sail immed^y. They may be now on their passage. After staying a few days in y^r city, (I w^d not have changed the name of the good old Town of Boston for all the cities in the world) they are to proceed to Cap^t Partridge⁹ at Middletown, where I hope to embrace them the 20th Aug^t. I will thank M^r Curtis¹⁰ to hunt them out, & introduce them to their cousins that they may find something like kindred friends in a strange country. . . . We shall expect M^r Servoss about the first week of August, ere w^h I hope his partner will be safe abed. . . .

To Samuel Bayard, of Princeton

NEW YORK, 2^d August, 1825

My dear Sir

Inclosed is y^r ac[count] of this date, Bal[ance] in y^r favour \$374.25, arising from the rec^{ts} of the Mechanick

⁹ Alden Partridge (1785-1854), founder of the American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy, at Norwich, Vermont, which removed to Middletown, Conn., in 1825, returned to Norwich in 1829, and became Norwich University in 1834. Dodge and Ellis, *History of Norwich University, 1819-1911* (3 volumes); *Dictionary of American Biography*, XIV, 281-82.

¹⁰ Nathaniel Curtis, Jr., husband of Fitch Hall's daughter, Emily Matilda.

Bank, City Stock & B^k of America. The Dividends of the latter I had overlooked for Jan^r & July, 1825. This proves like most old persons I am growing forgetful, & for fear of future omissions or accidents I sh^d wish to resign my stewardship for Alma Mater, having served since Nov^r 1820, long enough.

Expecting daily to acknowledge paym^t of y^r dft. \$648.78 in favour of M^r Pearson Hunt, I have deferred mentioning that my daughter Servoss was put safe to bed on Sunday night 24th July, with a son,¹¹ who with its mother is doing very well. We expect the father on in the course of this month.

For the first time in many weeks we had a refreshing rain last night. Our vegetable market has risen exorbitantly, & is very inferior. But thank God our city is healthy. My duties during the heat of July in my office & at the Savings Bank almost prostrated me. A total loss of appetite for animal food, has reduced my energies of mind & body, but cool weather please God will restore me.

The Foundation of the Epis. Th[ological] Sem^r was laid last Thur^r, probably all that will be done this year. Festina lente, is our motto. 2 students only took their degrees as having studied 3 years. Our young men are too impatient, w^h is an injury to themselves & the character of the Instit[utio]n. . . .

To Mrs. Davidson

NEW YORK, Tuesday 30th Aug^t, 1825

I have written 8 letters¹² this mo[nth] to my beloved daughter, among others on 25th by mail announcing the safe arrival of M^r Servoss & my dear g^dsons,¹³ 26th by Brig William, 27th by mail, a postscript to y^r sons letters, 30th this day by ship William, inclosing let-

¹¹ John Pintard Servoss.

¹² None are preserved in the collection owned by The New York Historical Society.

¹³ John Pintard Davidson and Lewis Marsden Davidson.

ters from M^r S. & the boys. This is intended to go by mail on Sat^y 3^d Sept^r & I shall leave space for a short line from y^r sons. Their good behaviour, willingness to obey cheerfully & render every service required, induces me to do everything in my power to contribute to their amusement & happiness. . . .

By the papers it appears that y^r former acquaintance Judge J. B. Prevost died the 5th March last on the top of the Cordilleras Upper Peru. It is said that he retired to rest well, & died before morn^g. When last here, some years ago, he was very plethoric. You knew him well. He was vain & pompous, not active, & followed the fall of Col. Burr. Always civil to me when up in life, I treated him with respect when down.

Wed^y [August] 31st.

What a fine expressive countenance & action accompanies my dear namesake when he is animated with his subject. He speaks with uncommon precision, reflection & discrimination indicative of a solid understanding. Marsden is prompt & certainly much more precocious, & will excell his brother in off hand opinions. The disparity of years of course requires a little more maturity. He appears more taciturn & plodding than I expected. Always smiling, not playful, & neither of them mischievous, very willing to listen to & follow advice, & to assist in any thing. Intelligent beyond their years & disposed to fulfill y^r fond hopes. . . .

Thurs^y 1 Sept^r. The Boys have written hastily, as they are obliged to return home to wait on g^dma at 10. Tell y^r good friend M^{rs} Chew that her fine manly son Beverley has been very kind & attentive to them. M^{rs} C. will be charmed with her son. G^dma is quite pleased with my namesake. She says if it was only one boy, she w^d keep him home & educate him at Columbia College, but 2 are too many. Marsden is evidently Uncle Servoss' favorite. An arch shrewd lad, & sh^d he take right will make an uncommon fine man. His head is well stocked with brains & when he matures, will prove a prodigy or I am mistaken. Their reserve before me has

abated. They are playful but not mischeivous. Andrew has this morn^s presented them with an excellent magazine of mathematical instruments worth \$10, as a token of his regard. I shall get for them some hair pencils & Indian ink for drawing. When I see Cap^t Partridge I can act more understandingly as to their wants. M^r S. told me that he saw, last ev^s M^r Browder of Bayou Sara. He is to call on me this morn^s to converse respecting his 2 boys,¹⁴ & Cap^t P's Academy. They are now at Trenton.

.

To Mrs. Davidson

N YORK, Wed^y 7th Sept^r, 1825

My beloved daughters letters of 5th Aug^t by mail & 15th by Ship Chancellor, were rec^d on Monday 5th in my absence.

My last was by mail, 1st inst. As advised I proceeded with your fine Boys on Friday afternoon on the St[eam] Boat Oliver Ellsworth for Middletown where we arrived next morn^s Sat^y 10 o'clock & found the wharf lined with Cadets in uniform w^h quite dazzled the eyes of my g^dsons. Young Moss¹⁵ & Anth^y Hutchins jumped on board to welcome the boys & attend them to our lodgings, after w^h I introduced them to Capt Partridge. The Buildings¹⁶ are not quite ready, but expected to be completed next week. In the meantime the Cadets are generally billeted in the town. In the morn^s we viewed the new Academy, an elegant Building of Stone, 4 Stories, 150 ft by 50, with entries running thro' each floor & Chambers on each side to accomodate 4 Cadets. A fire place & 4 Closets in each, with 4 Births, over each other as in bar-

¹⁴ Bartlett M. Browder and John J. Browder, entered from St. Francisville, La., were cadets at Partridge's Military Academy at Middletown in 1825-26. Dodge and Ellis, *Norwich University, 1819-1911*, III, 615.

¹⁵ *Sic for Morse*: Isaac Edward Morse, of New Orleans, son of Nathan and Martha Crawford (Nichols) Morse. Dodge and Ellis, *Norwich University*, II, 182.

¹⁶ The buildings of Partridge's American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy, at Middletown, Connecticut, were deeded to the trustees of Wesleyan University in 1833. *Ibid.*, I, 66.

racks. This Edifice is intended as a wing. In the centre is another in the Style of a Church with a tower in front containing a basement for the Professor of Chemistry & experimental Philosophy, 2 stories above with entries & recitation rooms on each side, 3^d story with arched ceiling, for public examinations, Cap^t P's Lectures, & a Chapel. At some distance on the South is another stone edifice, to serve as a Mess House. Large Kitchen supplied with Aqueduct Water, root houses & domestics rooms in the basement. A long dining room, to spread 4 Tables, Stewards family rooms & offices. A range of handsome apartments to be finished in the upper story to accomodate the parents & friends of the Cadets who may be induced to visit them. The Site of the Academy is on a beautiful elevated ridge, overlooking the town with an extensive view of Connecticut river, & the country eastward. The whole scenery is very picturesque & delightful. The area comprizes 15 Acres, beyond which no Cadet is allowed to pass without a permit. Having looked at the exterior, let us now take a view of the interior of this important Institution. The great outline of Cap^t P's system is delineated in the Prospectus sent to you & w^h Pintard has by heart. Some modifications adapted to the change from Norwich to Middletown but immaterial, have been made & when published shall be sent. Cap^t P. may be regarded in the light of a President of a College, who gives lectures & superintends the professors with this advantage, that as his all is at stake, his attention & diligence is more minute & exact. The scientific department is immed[iatel]y under his direction. Mathematics in all its branches, both theoretical & practical. With M^r Williston, the classical teacher, I had a long conversation, & altho we differ as to the modes of the old and new school instruction, he is I believe very competent. On one essential point we agree that the pupils write out all their Syntax & Introduction exercises, w^h impresses them more indelibly on their minds. This I know from experience. I told him to begin with our boys, from the grammar, as tho' they had

never learned Latin, & to let them proceed no faster than they were well grounded in first principles. This is more important than people generally imagine. He extolled his own method, of w^h I told him, if my life was spared, I w^d be a scrutinizing judge, at the annual election in August next. The French Instructor was not in town. I was informed by M^r Proal the Spanish Tutor, that he was an excellent teacher. The latter, my old & long acquaintance & under some obligations to me, will I am persuaded do y^r sons justice in that language. He thinks that in 2 mo[nth]s they will be able to speak it, in the mean time he will always converse with them in French, to improve them. M^r Proal is an Episcopalian & will take my g^dsons under his charge, every Sunday to Church, & M^r Noble the minister will have an eye to them. Cap^t P. intends having service in his Chapel, a kind of general accommodation to give offence to none. I told him that I was conscientiously scrupulous about the religious instruction of my g^dsons, and that it was a sine qua non with me that they sh^d go to an Orthodox Church. He accorded with my request as also, tho' a little out of order, that young Moss, Hutchins & our boys sh^d be roommates w^h is agreeable to them all. M^r M. to be superintendant, to lie aloft, Pintard next, Hutchins next & Marsden in the trundle bed, that slips under the births in the d^{ay}time. Each birth has an excellent matrass, pillows, blankets & sheets. Each boy has a desk with a lift, 2 drawer & little book case, locks & keys. Every book & tit^{em} is registered & weekly inspected, & the rooms swept in turn. Every boy brings in wood water &c. & waits on himself. They rise with the dawn, at beating the reveillé. Roll call, drill, breakfast, study. The military exercises are interludes & the parades inspire a soldierly air, neatness & precision. In short all is military exactness & discipline. I have no doubts of the [Academy, nor fear of improvement.

Thurs^y [September] 8th. rainy day . . . I was called off at 12 yest^y to attend a meeting at the Coffee Ho[use]

on the subject of celebrating the completion of the [Erie Canal, probably 1st Oct^r next. M^r Bayard ¹⁷ was app^d chairman, myself Sec^y. In Dec^r 1817, we officiated at the first meeting in this city to petition the Legislature to undertake [the] enterprize. At that time a desperate effort, such was the state of party spirit in opposition to M^r Clinton. A respectable Com[mittee] is appointed to apply to the Corporation to co-operate. The state ought to have made provision for celebrating an event so propitious to the interests of the State at large & esp^y of this city. I trust that the order of the day will not disgrace us.

.
 I am very happy to learn from the Doctors letter to M^r Servoss that his Infirmary is doing so well. May it soon lead him to independence. Two such boys as yours challenge all his efforts to educate them. I think from my description that M^r S. will place his son Thomas under Cap^t P[artridge]. . . .

To Mrs. Davidson

NEW YORK, Thur^y 8th Sept^r, 1825

After despatching my letter of this day by mail, I opened a small memorandum Book for the Doctor to keep all the rec^{ts} & payments for our dear boys together to take home with them when their education is finished. I have credited \$400, pay[able] by M^r Russels accept^e due 24th inst. & charged \$400, paid Cap^t Partridge on the 5th having it in my power to advance this sum, without charging the Doctor discount. Just after sending my letter to the post office, I rec^d a letter post mark N[ew] O[rleans] 9th Aug^t addressed to my namesake to my care, in a neat hand writing, wh^h I shall forward to him with my letter tomorrow, by young M^r Marston.¹⁸ . . .

¹⁷ William Bayard.

¹⁸ Charles A. Marston, son of John Marston and Margaret (Winthrop) Yates Marston. Dodge & Ellis, *Norwich University*, III, 624; *Marston Genealogy* (1888), pp. 577-78.

Friday [September] 9th 11 o'clock. I have just closed my letter & sent off to the care of Master Marston my pacotille for our boys, containing the following implements, 1 awl & spare blade, 1 Brad awl, d[itt]o, 1 Punch, 1 p^r pincers, 1 Hammer, 1 Seal, letter D, peice of red tape to bind up their letters, with mem^o how to address their letters. The Articles they took with them were, 2 Prayer Books, Tytlers History, 2 pocket knives, 2 port Folios, 2 pocket Inkstands, 4 Quires letter paper, 2 d^o Foolscap, 2 d^o common, 1 doz Camel hair pencils, 2 Cakes India Ink, 2 pieces Indian Rubber, 1 p^r Shoe brushes, 1 bottle Blacking, 1 d^o Ink, all w^h is given, but set down in a little mem^o book. . . .

It was a most propitious circumstance that diverted the Boys from Boston to N Y: as it has afforded me an oppo[rtunity] of becoming acquainted with their appearance, habits & dispositions, all w^h are highly in their favour & the praise of my beloved daughter for her care & domestic discipline. Indeed they gave no trouble at home, nor none on their passage in the St[eam] Boat, playful, curious but not obtrusive. Every Cadet being billeted wherever quarters c^d be obtained, it was difficult to find accommodations, w^h were provided where their Latin Instructor lodged.

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Saturday [September] 10th. Yest^r afternoon, the Canal Comm^e met & this morn^g at 10, M^r Bayard, Colden & myself wait on the Mayor with a request to be laid before the Corporation on Monday, to appoint a joint Comm^e to devise a plan for celebrating the completion of an enterprize second only in importance to this State, to the declaration & achievement of Am. Independence. It is my wish that an Obelisk commemorative of this event sh^d be erected on the Battery, but whether it be possible to screw up our Corporation, is to be seen. At any rate every military & civic distinction will be paid. It is proposed to conduct the Canal Boat, after making its passage the whole line of the Erie Canal to the Hudson to Sandy Hook, and to mingle the Waters of Lake

Erie brought down for the purpose with the Ocean, & thus celebrate the marriage of Neptune with the Lady of the Lake. The Governor, the Father of this important enterprize will be invited to assist at the Fiancailles, and M^r Colden, to whose zeal in the Legislature in 1818, much is owing, will probably deliver an address. All this may take place about the date when you read these lines.

(11 o'clock) Just returned from the City Hall having delivered our request to the Mayor to be laid before the Common Council on Monday aft.noon. There is every hope of a favourable reception. Inclosed is an Extract from the Statesman of last ev^g that gives an idea of what is in contemplation & saves repetition. All alone & enacting the part of Father Anselmo once more, I am laying up our Winter store of Wood & Coal to get all snug ag^t our folks return. This & the G^d Canal subject serves to amuse me, happy that my yet active mind can find employ. One favourable part of Cap^t Partridges system, is constant occupation, from study to drill & exercises, Lectures, fatigue duty, no time is wasted or idle, w^h cannot but inculcate habits of industry & application that may influence the Cadets thro' life. . . .

[Addressed by:] Brig Dolphin

To Samuel Bayard, of Princeton

NEW YORK, 17th Sept^r, 1825

My dear Sir

On my way to Wall St. I met your Rev[erend] son, who had come to town for his daughter. He told me with much agitation that you had it in contemplation to advertise the place at N Rochelle for sale, on the presumption that he would transfer himself & Family to our Western Country. The momentary conversation which we had on the subject when I had the pleasure of seeing you & him, after y^r return from your Canal

tour, made a favourable impression on my mind, as to the plausibility of such a step.

He tells me however that after conferring with the Rev. D^r Lyell, who is Secretary of the Missionary So[ciety] of the Epis[copal] Church, that there is little prospect of being able to establish himself in that quarter utterly destitute of resources without the very slender miss^v aid afforded, about \$100 p^r an. to each missionary, that every good parish, with a tolerable living of \$800 a year is occupied, in short that he c^d not support himself & family.

Would it not be prudent, indeed necessary therefore to postpone the consideration of a sale until your son can look about where to settle anew. Indeed under the present state of commercial reverses, no offer worthy acceptance can be expected. Altho property has risen during the late feverish excitement, w^h is rapidly subsiding within this city & parts adjacent bought on speculation to lay out villas & country retreats, the old country seats on this island have not experienced any great demand, not even risen to their former value. I know this for a fact. My office sold a very excellent seat cost upward of \$9000, in Aug^t last, for \$5000 & the purchaser wished to back out.

This moreover is not the period of the year to offer property at Auction. About the middle of January to 1 Feb^r is the season, so that you have time for deliberation. An advertisement offering the property at this juncture, w^d most probably occasion parents to withdraw their children from a school, that is shortly to be abandoned.

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To Mrs. Davidson

Monday, 19th Sept^r, 1825. 9 A. M.

. . . I have ordered a tub of the freshest butter, packed as before, to be sent to the lighter this morn^g to

go down to the Crawford at Quarantine, Cap^t H[olmes] telling me that it is the last trip. He promises to have it put in the Store Room, also a saw & buck for Larned a present from his dear brothers. . . .

10 o'clock. . . . I am still the *solitaire*, no letter since that announcing the safe arrival of the party¹⁹ at Boston all well, & probably shall not hear until they have reached Albany. The weather is very propitious. In my exercises of yest^y, I read the 13th & 14th Chapters of Proverbs in Scotts Bible, the Commentary on w^h I thought peculiarly applicable to every parent. . . . You have Scotts Commentary. Looking into these Chapters will give you an idea of the value of this most important & useful work, that has gone thro' 10 Editions in this Country, more probably in England & is about being translated into French as the best family Expositor existing. It is my daily text book, & will be so to the end of my days.

.
1 o'clock. . . . I saw M^r Foster²⁰ who had just ret^d from Newburgh. He talks of setting off in a week with his wife & her mother for Pittsburg. The Crawford returns full of passengers. I also saw M^r Babcock²¹ who returns in the Russell 1st Octo[ber]. His eyes quite dazzle when Miss Smiths name is mentioned. If ret^d he is to take tea with our folks next Sunday. He appears to be an excellent young man. Your budget by the Florenzo is just rec^d.

Tuesday [September] 20th I must improve my time because my days are busy. Yest^y afternoon, the Canal celebration met. This day at 12, we go to the City Hall to meet the Com^e of the Corporⁿ w^h probably will not

¹⁹ Mrs. Pintard, Mr. and Mrs. Servoss, and the baby, John Pintard Servoss.

²⁰ Probably James Foster, who married in 1820 Ann Eliza Clinton, daughter of Charles and Elizabeth (Mulliner) Clinton and niece of DeWitt Clinton. *N. Y. Evening Post*, Oct. 2, 1820; *Olde Ulster* (1905), I, 55.

²¹ Henry Babcock later married Anna C. Smith, daughter of John Witherspoon Smith and Sarah Henrietta (Duer) Smith. Stephen Babcock, *Babcock Genealogy* (1903), p. 127.

co-operate, the interview being matter of courtesy. At 5 p. m. I have to attend a meeting of the Executors of M^r Scudder, respecting the concerns, & quite important, of the Museum.

Wed^y 21st. Equinoctial Rain prelude I fear to a 3 Days storm w^h is bad for our travellers, from whom I have not a line since at Boston. I have just written a long letter on the subject of the Canal Celebration.

12 o'clock. I resume my Diary. I called on M^r Marston who has returned much pleased with Cap^t P's Academy. Our Cadets were well & now lodge in their room, but diet at the Hotel, the Mess house not being completed. . . .

Thurs^y 22^d. . . . I have just rec^d a line from M^r Servoss, dated 20th Tuesday, 10 p. m. on b^d the Lady Clinton on their way down the Hudson. All well, hearty & in fine spirits. They were to stop at Newburgh 2 A. M. & cross in the morn^g to Fishkill, yest^y morn^g, stay a day or two & proceed home. . . .

Friday [September] 23^d. A letter from M^r Servoss yest^y at Fishkill, M^r Schencks Factory, where the travellers all arrived safe & met a hearty welcome & will remain over till Monday, the weather being showery all this time, but not a storm. The babe remarkably well & all in health & spirits. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Crawford

Cap^t Rathbone

To Mrs. Davidson

N YORK, Sat^y 24th Sept^r, 1825

Monday 26th. . . . 1 o'clock. Having had some Bank duty to attend to, I have now leisure to tell you what a feast I have enjoyed in reading over all the remarks of y^r dear children on the arrival of their little cousin . . . Dear dear g^dchildren, I see you all grouped about

poor lame mother talking & making observation that w^d delight me to hear. . . . Lament not the late dispensation of Providence, nor reflect on y^r physicians. To save the all important life of the Mother, the babe was possibly sacrificed. But of this, restored to health, you are no competent judge. The crisis appeared widely different at the time, from the period at w^h you look back. Bow in submission and say that all is ordered for the best. I have been writing a long letter of instructions also to our dear boys, which I shall conclude tomorrow & inclose yours, by mail. They will have the pleasure of receiving both on Thur^v probably the packet by M^r Babcock, tomorrow. Do not trouble y^rself with sending any presents w^h are inadmissible. The general rules must not be infringed. Express no regrets to them, nor set them longing after "the flesh pots of N. O." They all fare alike on wholesome substantial food & plenty. It is right that boys sh^d go from home to get weaned from the delicacies of a fond mothers table. . . . Yes dear boys, they will miss the bon bons & niceties of mothers table but it is best to learn betimes to rough it. They live like fighting cocks to what I did, clam broth & Indian Dumplins at least 5 times a week, at school, & baked mutton at Princeton 4 years, without a change, but we boarded for a Dollar a week & how was it possible to fare better. No, we must encourage the Cadets not to repine. I have no fear for Marsden, who is more easily satisfied. A belly full, is all he wants. On reflection, I am quite satisfied that we have made a good pitch. They will get under Cap^t Partridge all that is taught at other Academies, and over & above, the higher sciences & the manly exercises of military tactics, constantly practised w^h invigorates & strengthens their limbs, & corrects bad habits of body, into w^h sedentary scholars so easily glide. Conscious of their attainments, the batallion of Cadets w^d do honour to the best militia corps in this city, & I am persuaded Pintard esp^y, that our lads will not be the last of their squad. I think

you may safely recommend the Academy to your friend M^{rs} Wederstrand. . . .

Tuesday [September] 27th. Yest^y was quite a red letter day in my Calendar. The receipt of so many letters from my beloved daughter, & the arrival at 8 p. m. of our travellers in a hard rain. My little namesake as fat as a pig. . . . The Corporation at its meeting last ev^s reappointed their former Committee with full powers to celebrate the completion of the G^d Western Canal. Our join Committees are summoned, altho' a rainy day to meet for preparatory arrangements, at the Recorders office, City Hall, this day at 1 o'clock. Another Cadet ²² goes on this day to Cap^t Partridge, the son of M^r George Astor, by whom I have just closed my letter to our dear Boys with yours. . . . I am happy to find that M^r S[ervoss] sustains no injury in the Bill way, & only some loss of profit in the fall of Cotton w^h I hope has seen its lowest depression, altho' very fatal consequences must result to this city, the Carolinas, & Georgia, & probably to yours. A computation is made that Bills; under protest, will return to this country to the am^t of *Five Millions* of Dollars. Dreadful!

Wedn^y [September] 28th. I know not whether I shall not be obliged to go to Albany this aft.noon, to confer on the part of our Comm^e with that of Albany, on the preparations for celebrating the completion of the Canal. I attended a meeting of the Com^e yest^y, when after the adjustment of preliminary arrangements, I retired at ½ p. 2, when I was nominated to go to Albany at 5 this p. m., of w^h I rec^d notice, not till 8 at night. I shall endeavour to get excused & except at 9, a gentⁿ to call on me with instructions. . . . We are so destitute of aid, nobody but Tamar & the Nurse, that Mama & Sister are entirely occupied with house work. I am glad to say that M^r S[ervoss] will probably, if not dissuaded by M^r Schenck send Thomas to Middletown. He comes to

²² George P. Astor, of New York City, was a cadet at the Military Academy, in Middletown, Conn., 1825-1827. Dodge and Ellis, *Norwich University*, III, 613.

town next week, when the matter will be decided, & after the ensuing celebration, sh^d M^r S. conclude to change his school, I will endeavour to accompany him to Middletown & see the Cadets. . . .

10 o'clock. I have concluded to go, having been app[ointe]d, tho' unwittingly it is difficult to decline, & perhaps some one, less zealous, might go. This important subject shall not languish by any remissness on my part.

NEW YORK, Friday, 7th Oct^r, 1825

My last of 6th inst.²³ was by the Virginia, w^h sails to day. This is intended to go by the Chancellor 15th unless an earlier oppo[rtunity] occurs. We endured yest^r the most oppressive heat that has ever been recollected in Octo^r, indeed the 3 preceding days were uncommonly hot for the season. It is to be feared that several of the early passengers in the Crawford & Russell may fall victims on their arrival at N[ew] O[rleans] so eager are men of business to get back to their stations. Yest^r aft.noon the Bible So[ciety] & committees for celebrating the completion of the Erie Canal met at the same hour, 4 P. M. My duty exacted my attendance at the former, whereby I have escaped a reappointment as Sec^r of the Erie Com^e & shall thus save myself a great deal of trouble. Indeed I have had my full share already & am glad to escape. A great animation is excited & the processions aquatic & ashore will do our city honour. The City Hall will be splendidly illuminated as at the Peace, as also our Hotels, & places of public amusement, besides a brilliant Ball to the Ladies. Not so splendid perhaps, but more comfortable than the famous Castle Garden Fayette Ball, w^h my darling did not witness.

Tomorrow, w^h promises to be a fair day, our christening party goes to N Rochell, a place I rarely visit & never without a pang. Every association is painful & unpleasant, departed friends, all all no more, every room,

²³ Missing from the Pintard MSS. owned by The New-York Historical Society.

every spot of ground, every view recalls the embodied spirits of those once so dear [to] me, & superadded is the recollection of my beloved daughters & her 4 infant childrens transient abode in 1815. . . .

Monday [October] 10th . . . According to arrangem^t, we proceeded on Sat^r at 10 for N. Rochelle, Mother, Sister, Nurse & child, & myself in a coach, M^r Servoss & his fine son Thomas in a gig. We arrived seasonably at 1, & were most cordially welcomed by M^r & M^{rs} Bayard under the once hospitable family roof of my dear good old Uncle & father. All my departed friends with scenes of past happiness came fresh before me, a melancholly pleasure. The density of the sea fog prevented all prospect, & diminished our gratification as to scenery, But we passed our time very pleasantly indeed. On Sunday we went to the beautiful Village Church,²⁴ w^h I described I believe when it was consecrated. After the 2^d morn^g lesson, we went up to the Baptismal Font, where the service was very solemnly & impressively performed by the Rev. M^r Bayard. M^r Servoss & myself were God-fathers to both children, Sister Godmother to Thomas, & Mama to our dear g^dson. The office, & so many of us attending this holy sacrament of our Church had an imposing effect on a country congregation. It was particularly gratifying to the Rector that his kinsfolk came all the way from N York for the purpose. Thomas behaved with all due gravity & my little namesake never whimpered. He is a lovely & a good child. After an elegant dinner we left N. R. at 3, & reached home in safety at 1/2 p. 6. M^r S. complimented the Rector with a fee of \$10. each for his sons, & what with presents &c. the expense of our comfortable entertainment, was, as it ought to be amply compensated. Several buildings have arisen since my last visit, & N Rochelle after being almost stationary ever since the Revo[lutionary] War, when indeed it suffered greatly, is now like other parts of our State improving.

Tuesday [October] 11th. Uncle Servoss has con-

²⁴ Trinity Church, the edifice erected 1823-24.

cluded to go on Friday with Thomas, as most convenient for him. I have written by this days mail to the Cadets, to keep a look out for us on Saturday. M^r S. will then be able, from ocular demonstration, to give an acc^t of the Institution and of y^r sons, & answer such enquiries as any of y^r friends may make. The time approaches for his return & Sisters heart begins to grow heavy at the thought of parting with so kind a husband. While at N Rochelle I learned that Aunt Patty had set off on Friday last for Virginia with her daughters. Julia expects to be confined in December. She is very delicate & little calculated to live absent from her parents. Her husband is the most silent man I ever saw, & herself as taciturn. Sequestered on his plantation they see none but family friends who visit seldom. There is no society in the vicinity, so that the change, after the constant intercourse at home, must be great & have a depressing effect on her spirits when her mother & sister leave her. She will probably wither, droop & die. It was an imprudent, early, hasty match in my opinion. . . .

.
 Thur^y 13th Oct^r. . . . The hazy, dense atmosphere, caused by the devastations of Fire in the Forests of Maine, has at length cleared off with a beautiful prospect of fair weather for our jaunt tomorrow. Thomas took tea last ev^g with us, with the Miss Tellers of Fishkill where our folks were kindly entertained. He is in fine spirits at the idea of joining the Academy. He will be 13 next March, a little older than Pintard. His disposition is very amiable & he will make our boys a fine playmate. Above all they may by early association prove useful to each other in their future lives. I have just procured an elegant Box Flageolet for Marsden, second hand but as good as new cost \$3.50, Book 75/100. M^r Riley a music dealer & acquaintance performed on it, & assured me he c^d not sell it for \$5 if new. It has a key & for similar, little larger they asked me in other shops \$8. So that I have come off very well. . . . Not-

withstanding your Rev. pastor M^r Clapp's prejudices, I have reason to hope that the selection of Cap^t Partridges Academy has been judicious. As yet I am well satisfied, or I c^d not have consented that M^r Servoss sh^d have decided to place his very fine son there. I hope to be better informed on my approaching visit. . . . Their boarding abroad was temporary, they are not at Commons. Undoubtedly it is essential to the discipline of the Academy, that the Cadets should be under the eye of Cap^t P. Of this the acc^t of the opening of his Academy & Judge Dana's address forwarded to you, give full information. Cap^t P. has to encounter the prejudices & rival jealousies of many established schools & seminaries, but I feel great confidence in his talents & discipline, and the abilities of his professors. Had he not established the most entire confidence in the opinions of the good sober minded discreet economical people of Middletown, they never w^d have encountered so heavy a subscription as \$37,000, to erect the elegant buildings & grant the use to Cap^t P. during his life, without any consideration. This speaks volumes in his praise, for I know the character of the gentlemen concerned. Let no idle rumours therefore disquiet you, but trust confidently in my reports, w^h shall be candid & unbiassed. I had not heard of the lamented death of M^r Waller²⁵ . . . I sympathise sincerely with y^r dear friend M^{rs} Chew in this afflicting dispensation. . . . Tell M^r Chew that I shall render M^r Ludlow every counsel & aid required to procure a teacher for y^r Boys Orphan Assylum. I shall spare no efforts to accomplish the object. It is my delight as well as duty to serve benevolent Institutions wherever established. It was but last ev^g when M^r Servoss conversed with me on the eminent utility of a Savings Bank & Lancastrian School, in N[ew] O[rleans] when I expressed the fond but idle wish, that were I younger, how familiar these Institutions are to me, &

²⁵ Probably Booker Waller, brother-in-law of Beverly Chew. *The Thomas Book* (1896), pp. 282-83.

how useful I might be in promoting their establishment. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Frances

NEW YORK, Friday, 14th Oct^r, 1825

.
 I have just written a letter of advice, to my much valued friend M^r Eastburn, who again sails for England on Sunday, on an agency that must be productive of benefit. Long associated with him in many of our useful & benevolent societies, I know his worth and esteem him highly. I shall miss him for he is my intellectual friend. I think that I sent to you one of his letters w^h shows the man. There is something painful in parting with the possibility of never meeting again. I thot it easier & freer to take leave by a friendly note.

M^r Servoss contemplates sailing on the 26th in the Louisiana, leaving Sister & child comfortably provided. What may be his future decision as to permanent residence here, is doubtful. . . . I cannot but believe that transplantation will ultimately prove beneficial, & it will afford him to introduce & leave his succession to his son in a more healthy clime than N[ew] O[rleans]. Sister feels dispirited at the thought of hereafter returning to y^r city. . . .

11 o'clock. I have stepped to Cap^t Holmes, who is always obliging. M^r Russell & his clerks are the contrary. The Frances they said was to sail at 10, by w^h as the earliest ship, I sent my letter. She will not go till tomorrow & probably this by the Chancellor will first reach you. There will be no other oppo[rtunity] till the Louisiana. Of course my next will probably be by M^r Servoss.

.
 [Addressed by:] Ship Chancellor.

NEW YORK, Tuesday 18th Oct^r, 1825

My last of 14th inst. by the Frances & Chancellor, sailed 16th, informing my beloved daughter that I intended accompanying M^r Servoss to place his son at Middletown, w^b w^d afford me an oppo[rtunity] after 5 weeks residence of our boys to judge somewhat of the nature of Capt Partridges Academy, whether the practice, in any degree corresponded with the outline of his prospectus, whether it was fancy work or reality, & whether it was a mere military school, or place of useful instruction. Take the result of my observations without varnish or exaggeration. I had written by post that we expected to come on in the Saturdays Steamboat, presuming that day to be a *jour de repos*, to meet our Cadets on the Wharf. But no such day is allowed thro' fear of ill consequences. Your dear Boys on sight of the approach of the Boat, the Academy commanding a full view of the river, ran down, by permission, to welcome us, & take Thomas by the hand, & in 5 minutes at furthest ret[ur]ned back, by order. The effect of discipline struck both M^r Servoss & myself, & c^d you have seen the Cadets, Marney esp^r, it w^d like mine, have made your heart bound. The soldier boys in full uniform, looked like veterans.

Our passage was tedious, wind N. E., lowering & rain, instead of 10, as before, we did not arrive till 2. After engaging quarters & dining at the Hotel, we went up to the Academy, where I introduced M^r S. to Cap^t P[artridge]. Next we went to the Cadets room, where I was gratified to see every thing in order, before they came back from Spanish School. Pintards closet was perfectly arranged, all the implements I had sent him. placed neatly in a tape border on the inside of the door, also his thread case. In short, everything as it sh^d be, neat & clean, & muskets also. The boys were sent for, & we chatted till 4, when the beat of the Drum, summoned them to parade. A batallion of 260 Cadets in uniform made an imposing spectacle. It was to march,

without muskets, w^b occupied an hour, the musick time was at the rate of 4 miles an hour, allowing for evolutions, forming the line, wheeling &c. $\frac{1}{4}$, the exercise amounted to 3 miles in an hour, wholesome & in the open air, gave the Cadets a fine appetite for their supper. Our youngers formed of course the last platoon, & Marsden the least boy of the whole squad. As the Cadets are obliged to keep the same time, & measure the same distance, it w^d have made you laugh to see Marney stretching his little legs at full lope, to keep in line, w^b he did the whole time without intermission, exactly. M^r S. & myself visited the Mess house, before Tea. We went firstly into the kitchen where every thing is on a large scale. All hands were employed in preparing. The whole mess, Bread, Butter, Sugar, Cheese, Cups & Saucers spoons &c. are placed in a large frame, with several shelves, & hoisted up thro' a trap door into the Mess room, from whence they are distributed in neat & exact order on 8 long tables. A number of Cadets denominated carvers first enter & prepare everything for eating. The Batallion marches in from the parade, 2 abreast, & file to the right & left & occupy their places without the least disorder or confusion. All standing & in order, not a word spoken, at a tap of the drum, for all goes by beat of drum, the Cadets in a twinkling doff their caps, seat themselves & fall to like hearty soldiers, after a long days march. This exercise it is said they perform with more precision & alacrity than any other, and I believe it. When all have done, at another tap on the drum, they all rise, file off & march back to the parade, & are dismissed to study in their chambers. After this we took our leave. Sunday morn^s we went up at 9, & sat with the Boys, when several lads from y^r country came in to see M^r S. There are 15 Louisiana & Natchez Cadets, all very sociable together as hailing from the same quarter. This morn^s the Chapel was opened for the first time. A young minister, M^r Collett,²⁶ educated at Yale & Andover is appointed Chap-

²⁶ Sic for Colton, the Rev. Walter Colton, Yale, 1822.

lain. Orthodox in his creed, pious, but just ordained, somewhat precise w^h will wear off by intercourse. He is sound in the Faith of his Lord & Master Jesus Christ, whose doctrines he is resolved to inculcate, without being too abstract. I was pleased with his conversation, & upon the whole accord with the propriety of all the Cadets attending Divine Service in the Chapel, to keep them from mispending their time or abusing the Sabbath. Singing was well performed, & will be extended when the Chapel service is organized. Cap^t P. intends to embody the Cadets who perform on the Flute, Violin &c^a as a substitute for an organ, to aid the voices, & probably our musical Marney will be a performer. I took up a Flageolet for him, & on Monday he played on it, by ear, Hail Columbia, very well indeed. I asked Pintard if he wished any Instrument, but he said that he had not a musical turn. They are both fine boys, but in learning Marney takes the lead. I am happy to say, that by accommodation, Thomas will be a roommate with your sons & Anthony Hutchins, so that it will be quite a family party & I have full confidence that they will live in harmony. By permission, I took them home to dine with us, also young Morse, & had pudding, pies & sweetmeats provided for their regale. After w^h they returned to Chapel & M^r S. & myself attended the Epis. Church. We then went & passed an hour with the Cadets. Next morn^g Monday, Thomas was entered at 9, & when the Schools were opening, we took our leave, Thomas remaining under the care of Cap^t Davidson who by seniority commands the room. The Cadets in high spirits, quite content, no tears, all glee, Marney jumping the rope, & all blythe as you please. . . .

Wed^y 19th. I have omitted to mention that the diet is plentiful & excellent, the Bread, Bakers, equal to the best in this city. To cut up so many loaves, in slices, they use a cutting knife, like for straw, w^h slices the Loaves thro' with great despatch. Yankee folks are full of notions. . . . The beginning of Novem^r Cap^t P. in-

tends to march the Cadets to Hartford, stay one night, & return next day. He provides accommod^s for them in private families. The distance is 15 miles, a good stretch for our Cadets. He takes 2 or 3 wagons to relieve the little Boys & carry the arms of those, like Marney, too young to endure fatigue. This is to be the only excursion this fall. Next spring in May, he purposes to march to New Haven 35 miles, & after examination in August, he thinks he may visit N York. These marches are intended to employ the time otherwise lost in vacation. Surveys of distances, heights of mountains, mineralizing & botanical researches, amuse & afford practical instruction on the route. All the Cadets are mineralogists, & ours have gathered a variety of specimens in the neighbourhood. This branch will not be taught till next summer, as D^r Barrett,²⁷ the professor of Chemistry & Mineralogy passes the winter at West Point. He is an Englishman, of very superior attainments & celebrity. The Boys wait on themselves, make their own beds & bring in their own Water & Fuel. Each has a tin water pitcher, Basin & Cup, & a Fatigue over cover with sleeves, homespun cloth, to save their dresses. At Table there are waiters in the same frocks to attend. They learn musick & receive clothing & education in every branch for their services. They are the sons of decent poor parents, well behaved, & not allowed to be insulted. I think there are 12. Cap^t Partridge advertised his condition, & 60 offered. I shall send the only prospectus I c^d procure. A new set is to be published in November with the names & countries of all the cadets, of w^h I will forward a doz. copies for distribution among y^r enquiring friends. From all that I have seen & heard, I feel no hesitation at all in congratulating you on the selection of this Academy, w^h possesses so many advantages. The discipline is altogether military & very strict. About a month since when Cap^t Partridge had gone to Hartford, a riot oc-

²⁷ Joseph Barratt, M. D.

curred. Some low lived along shore grown lads came up to the Academy, & commenced Blackguarding the Cadets. Instead of despising them, some of the oldest began to club them & called for their comrades. The fray was resented & a gang of sailors &c. collected to fight the Cadets with bludgeons. Happily however the authority of the city interfered & peace was restored. But as the Cadets provoked the riot, 2 of them (Carolinians) were summarily dismissed. When we were there, another young man was dismissed for intoxication. He also was from Carolina, & it was not his first transgression. Cap^t Partridge says that he has a great deal of trouble with the sons of the C[arolina] planters. Brought up in idleness they submit to subordination very reluctantly. With the young Cadets, he has no trouble, they are tractable & obedient, esp^l our own. Cap^t P. is a resolute determined man, a great disciplinarian. Fatherly in his treatment, but must be obeyed. The improvements are not yet completed. When the fences are erected, & Guard houses built, now in hand, & will be finished before winter, His control will be greater & the Cadets more restricted. The capacity of the domain, 16 acres, admits of space for ample exercise without going off the premises. In the rear a large garden is to be laid out to instruct the Cadets in horticulture. I have, in some detail, given a fair description of an Institution that pleases me much, having as you know, no inducement for false colouring. I consider it a duty to Cap^t P. naught to extenuate, nor aught set down in malice. If his life be spared, the numbers will double in a few years & another wing be required. He can now accommodate about 300.

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Sat^r 22^d Oct . . . I shall refer the Cadets to Cap^t Partridge, who will supply all their necessary wants. Poor Boys, they begin to be pinched with the early frost. M^r Servoss will sail in the Louisiana on the 1st by w^h I shall send your Firkin of Butter & a Box with

some articles for New Year. Our preparations for the Canal celebration are active & will be splendid. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Louisiana

NEW YORK, Monday, 24th Octo^r, 1825

. . . . I have just been round to Stickler the grocer, to put up your New Year comforts, of w^h I will inclose a list, & w^h I hope will come safe to hand to afford you a regale with Uncle Servoss on New Years.

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Wed^y 26th. The day that the waters are let in the G^d Canal at Lake Erie & the navigation to commence throughout the whole line. Suitable preparations are making to celebrate this great event.

. . . . I was, for the first time that I can recollect obliged to leave my office yest^r, on account of indisposition. A violent cold with an invincible torpor. I took medicine instantly, & am thank God well this morn^g at my post. How much I am favoured with these occasional attacks, to teach me that I am mortal. I c^d not attend in the afternoon a meeting of the merchants to appoint a deputation to go to Albany next week, to meet the Canal Boats and the several Committees appointed, between Buffalo & Albany, to attend the celebration on the 4th. I learn that I am nominated & altho' I feel a great desire to go, still I am apprehensive that I cannot. My office duties press, M^r Servoss is to sail on the 1st, the B[ible] S[ociety] meet the 3^d. All are serious obstacles to my going.

Capt. Holmes informs me that the Crawford w^h sailed 23^d Sept^r was driven in a Gale on the Bahama Banks, & has gone to peices, letter bag probably & all. I wrote by her, inclosing letters from y^r dear boys, w^h are lost no doubt, also the Tub of Butter, selected & put up with great care, a parcel of Books &c., the last Waverley, I think, & above [all] Dear Larneys Buck & Saw the greatest loss of the whole, but w^h I shall replace

if one is to be had in the city, as his brothers were quite interested to send him a present. . . . It is to be hoped that the passengers are saved. M^r Elliot, who took a great fancy to Marney, was on board. The cargo was very valuable estimated about \$150,000. The am^t of Insur[anc]e in our offices in this city is \$125,000, a heavy drawback on their very low profits.

Friday, 28th. Yest^y a horrid N. E. day I was obliged to attend as a witness in court, where I sat exposed to the chilling air of a large room & draft of a door, constantly on the swing for 5 hours & have increased my cold & hoarseness very much. I have the prospect of being sent for again this day. Our folk have been quite in the gay world this week, on Tuesday ev^g, at M^{rs} Schencks, Wed^y M^{rs} Wadworth & last ev^g at Julia Weeks. I plead my privilege of old age, as M^r Servoss was here to escort the ladies, & did not go. . . .

.
 2 o'clock. I am in a most painful state of indecision about going to Albany. While all classes of our mechanic fellow citizens are exerting themselves to the utmost, to give splendor to the approaching celebration, the merchants, who originated the project, are shamefully supine, & take no more concern than if they had not the most remote interest. Even the Committee of 8, nominated to go to Albany, are declining, & myself the least, & most office bound of the whole, am importuned to leave all standing & go on Tuesday next. I must decide yea or nay on Monday morn^g. M^r Bayard Pres^t of the Chamber of Commerce, is prevented by acute indisposition, the gravel, w^h almost prostrates him. As Sec^y, I have a little, very little relative rank in the commercial community, otherwise my insignificance, w^h none can reproach me with more than I feel, ought to keep me at home, But having assisted in the first stage of this great work, when all was doubt, except to a few comprehensive, enlightened minds, I feel urged to participate in the honours of its happy completion, and to tender my personal congratulations to Gov^r Clinton, to

whose genius & perseverance we owe the greatest work of internal improvement ever exhibited in the old or new world. Were I a man unfettered by office, I c^d fly to Albany on this auspicious occasion.

Saturday 29th. We hear as yet nothing more of the loss of the Crawford, w^h no doubt is too true, but hope that the passengers were saved. The Marine Insur^e Offices in this city suffer extremely, by unprecedented losses this season. Commercial men are very gloomy. Every day almost produces failures. M^r J. W. Russell has stopped in consequence of being indorser on his brothers bills, who it is s^d must stop also. How happy I am that M^r S[ervoss] escapes, altho' probably he will be a loser by the numerous failures anticipated in y^r city. The value of the Doctors Infirmary will rise in your estimation, as tho' small the profits compared with speculation, the risks are small also. I hope it continues to be profitable. M^r S. will take for you patterns of gowns for Mother & daughters selected by Sister.

Monday 31st Oct. My cold continues so obstinate that I must forego the pleasure of proceeding to Albany, w^h w^d have afforded me the highest gratification. We have news from the Crawford, wrecked on the 1st, & whose passengers & crew were all taken off alive on the 5th by the Boston packet & arrived please God safe at N. O. by whom you will have learned the loss of y^r Butter.

Tuesday 1st Nov. A most elegant day, wind S. will not permit I apprehend, the Louisiana to sail at 12. M^r S. is all ready & will be down at that hour. The subject of our future residence is to be decided between Mama & Sister. Whatever that may be, please God it will be for the best. In case of living together Mother & myself are to be as boarders, so that the awkwardness of 2 heads & 2 mistresses will be avoided, as is just. I think we may live happy together. For myself, my own comfort will be consulted in this arrangem^t & if mother & daughter can harmonize, there can be no pos-

sible difficult[y] between M^r S. & myself. In this case it will be in my power to retire, by the time our Cadets education is completed, from my active duties, & if spared conduct them home to their parents, & make one visit to my beloved daughter Davidson & family before my race is run.

Wed^y 2^d Nov^r 8½ a. m. Delightful day, Wind west-erly, the Louisiana sails at 10. I shall meet M^r Servoss at Whitehall to take leave as he steps aboard the Nautilus. . . . As I came down B^dway I procured a nice little cheese, to regale my beloved daughter & family. By the Galaxy, to sail this p. m. or tomorrow I shall drop a line to inform of the departure of M^r S.

[Addressed by:] Ship Louisiana
with sundries

NEW YORK, Thurs^y 3^d Nov^r, 1825

Yest^y at about 11, M^r Servoss sailed in the Louisiana, with a fair & fresh wind, w^h I thought w^d have carried the Ship to Bahama, but the wind has changed to S^o & it is quite pleasant. I hope it may continue so thro' tomorrow, the G^d Canal celebration day, for w^h the greatest preparations are making ever yet exhibited in this city of public exhibitions. . . .

Sat^y 5th. A more glorious day or splendid scene, than that presented yest^y, in the city & harbour of N York, has never been exhibited or surpassed in the old or new world. Fortunately I obtained admission for our ladies on b^d the safety barge Lady Clinton, decorated as a floating Bower & filled with Ladies. She looked more like a fairy vision than reality. I have written to M^r Servoss this morn^g inclosing a paper giving a good sketch of the exhibition of the memorable 4th Nov^r the celebration of the completion of the Erie Canal. The day was superb, mild as May, & the waters calm & serene as the sky that smiled propitiously on us. Happy America, happy N York. We stand unrivalled

as a nation, & as a state and city. The influx of visitors was incredible. It is supposed by good estimation that probably 20,000 people poured in from all directions. The Corporation did honour to our city by their liberal & excellent provisions & accommod[ation]s on the occasion, probably the steamboats engaged for the guests, contained nearly 1000 Ladies & Gentlemen. Every thing was excellent & abundant. On board the Washington were 300 persons. I shall not attempt what w^d be but a feeble expression of my feelings, esp^r when I reflected that 6 mo[nth]s ago when I gave the first note of preparation, that it was scouted as impracticable. But thank God we have succeeded & that most nobly. Governor Clinton was Lord Paramount of the day, & received the congratulations of his fellow citizens of all classes with modesty & dignity. He has richly earned his laurels & will go down to posterity as the great Benefactor of the State of New York & of the U States, for our example will pervade the Union.

.....
 Tuesday [November] 8th. I find that the Ship Emulous is to sail tomorrow by w^h I will forward this, on the 15th the American is to sail. Cap^t Rathbone of the Crawford has arrived from Havana. He is to return immed^r, with a ship & take in the Cargo of the Crawford & proceed to N[ew] O[rleans], & to fit out the Crawford with Jury masts to send her back to N. Y. on account of the underwriters. The letter bag I understand was taken on by M^r Hutton. I presume y^r Butter as being last put on was cast overboard. . . .

.....
 [Addressed by:] Ship Emulous

NEW YORK, Friday 11th Nov^r, 1825. 1 P. M.

. . . Yest^r morn^g I called to pay my respects to Gov^r Clinton, whom I am always happy to greet as a friend, & the great Benefactor of our State. He is very popular at present, & very circumspect. As he is constantly

engaged at dinner & ev^s parties, I have no chance of seeing him at home. Not that he w^d think us too obscure. I know otherwise. But a political character must bow to those whose favour is essential to his career. I hope yet to see him Pres^t of the U S. He w^d signalize himself as much at the head of the Union as of our State, for his substantial talents & experience will sustain him in any station. I expect to meet him at the Free School this P. M., 4, when if I can get at him, I will ask him to take coffee with us on Sunday aft.noon w^h w^d gratify our folks highly. My *slavish* life, confined at those hours when it is proper to wait on gentlemen, combined with my increasing deafness almost entirely excludes me from social intercourse. . . . You may judge of my confinement & intense application at this juncture by the following fact. Yest^r at noon, the variety of articles brought down in the Canal Boats at the celebration, were sold at the Coffee House. A large assemblage to view & bid, Flags flying &c^a. I never knew any thing of the circumstance till I saw it in the morn^s papers altho' I sh^d like to have bo^t some little article as a remembrancer. This day, for instance I have been at my desk, till now 2½ I must break off to go home to a hasty dinner, be at the Free School at 4, at the Stand^s Com[mitte]e at 5, & trudge back at 6. There is no peace for the wicked saith the Lord! I fear I am very bad.

Sat^r [November] 12th. . . . I wish sometimes that I c^d write down the reflections w^h are poured forth in convers[atio]n. It was but this morn^s in my office that I had occasion to remark on the progressive improvement in the moral character of this city. As instances, that notwithstanding the innumerable concourse of seafaring men & strangers, Riots on our wharves very seldom occur. On the late celebration, what multitudes were collected in the Battery & thro' our Streets. Ladies & children passed uninterrupted & unoffended by any indelicate expressions. Intoxication among the very dregs of the rabble was not seen. It was remar[k]ed

by the Committees from the West, in their Address to our Corporation, w^h you will see in print, that this particular circumstance afforded them pleasure. Indeed it is astonishing even to myself who looked at the great masses of spectators, collected from all quarters, many utter strangers that it appeared more like Sunday, than a Festival day. The citizens in procession were expected to behave orderly. But the throng in the streets gazed in silent admiration as the societies marched along. Such was their number, that altho' formed 6 abreast, the Line of procession took up an hour & a half to pass the corner of Pearl Street & Wall St. by the watch of an intelligent observer. Does not this flattering circumstance do honour to our city, its Magistrates Police & benevolent Institutions. What have we not to expect from the rising generation favoured with so many advantages of education, from our Universities, Colleges, & Academies Military &c. down to our humble Free & Sunday Schools. With my good friend & once invaluable fellow citizen & philanthropist, I am confirmed in the belief that the world is growing better. I sincerely hope that you find it so at N. Orleans.

Tuesday, [November] 15th.

There was a row at the Theatre last ev^g, Keans first appearance. He was not permitted to go on, & will I hope have to abandon. It is shameful to obtrude him on the Am. Boards after his former behaviour in Boston & this city, & his licentious conduct in England. He was supported only by his countrymen & some of our wealthy citizens who are above vulgar prejudices, but who I trust will not be permitted to insult public opinion. No ladies of any note were present. I attended Professor Mores²⁸ address to the Theol^l Sem^y in Christ Church last ev^g. The streets being damp Mama & Sister c^d not go, but thro' me sent their contributions towards the relief of necessitous students. No burthensome tax

²⁸ Clement C. Moore's *A Lecture Introductory to the Course of Hebrew Instruction in the General Theological Seminary*, printed at New York, 1825.

if every Episcopalian w^d do their duty. The audience was numerous for us, composed of the middling classes. The higher are above these objects. Not a single acquaintance did I see from the lower parts of the city. . . .

Your friend M^{rs} Chew must have been delighted with the improvement & manly behaviour of Beverly. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship American

NEW YORK, Thur^y 17th Nov^r, 1825

The American has been detained by foul weather & head winds & is still in port. This is intended to go by the Ship Niagara, unless some other vessel sh^d sail before her. . . .

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 Sat^y 19th. Quite cold. The American I presume sailed yest^r, as the weather cleared off with a stout N. Wester w^h blew a gale. This being the day for the meeting of my Directors I cannot step to Cap^t Holmes to know. The exhibit of the state of my office was a fair & favourable one. But unluckily we have sustained a very heavy loss about \$11,000, the largest single loss we have ever met with. It was the House & stock in trade of a M^r Prentiss in B^dway, the most extensive perfumery store in this city. It broke out at 5 this morn^g. The family escaped out of the upper windows, the Fire breaking out in the store & all in a blaze before discovered. Nothing is saved except the Walls, not worth the taking down. As bad luck will have it, my adjutant Andrew [Warner] is obliged to attend the hanging of Reynolds this morn^g, a worse than idle military parade, as tho' the civil authority must depend on the militia for support. . . .

Monday [November] 21st. Variable March weather. The American, from some circumstance has been detained till Wed^r. M^r Schenck called to say that an acquaintance is to go in her & will take letters for M^r S[ervoss]. I shall inclose this, with a Connec^t paper

& the Ev^s Post of Sat^y, giving an acc^t of the march of the Cadets to Hartford. I presume that our Younkers were not in the Batallion, & to their grief were obliged to tarry at Middletown until their legs are grown. . . .

Tuesday [November] 22^d. I shall inclose this under cover to M^r Servoss . . . & send the Ev^s Post containing the cadets march & a pamphlet of Reynolds execution. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship American
Care of M^r Servoss
with 3 newspapers

NEW YORK, Wed^y 23^d Novem^r, 1825

By the American, intended to sail this day, I wrote to my beloved daughter a 2^d letter inclosing newspapers containing an acc^t of the Cadets march to Hartford, with their address to & answer of the Washington College students, both w^h were probably prepared by the Professors. Washington College ²⁹ is an Institution recently established, under what may be called the dissenting interest of Connec^t chiefly under Episcopal control. It is too long a story for narration, and I regret that the want of more liberality in the govern^t of Yale College, afforded pretext for setting up a rival Institution, as my decided opinion is, better have one well supported Seminary than two weak ones. Mais c'est ne pas mon affaire. I wrote to the Cadets yest^y by M^r Dwight, & shall have another oppo[rtunity] on Saturday, by M^r Irving, brother of Washington Irving, who takes up two of his sons ³⁰ to place in this flourishing attractive academy. I am resorted to very much for my opinion, as in the present instance, for w^h I can only appeal to my conduct in selecting this institution for my g^ds who have come a great way for their education. I hope to hear from them by return of M^r Dwight. . . .

²⁹ Now Trinity College.

³⁰ William and Sanders Irving, sons of Ebenezer Irving. Dodge and Ellis, *Norwich University*, II, 148; III, 559, 622.

Friday 25th Nov^r. An elegant anniversary of the evacuation of this city by the British in 1783. Never can I forget the joyful event w^h consummated our Independence. There is as usual a great military parade on the occasion. But I am tied down & cannot view it. Yest^r was Thanksgiving day, in this, & by accord, of all the Eastern States excepting Vermont. A good old N. England practice from the first settlement by the Pilgrims. The satisfaction of the day was enhanced by rec^t of my beloved daughters letter by mail of 24th Oct^r. It pleased me to hear that dear Larneys Buck & saw escaped the shipwreck, & I feel obliged to the gentleman who kindly rescued it, as being a token of his dear brothers love & attention. . . . Your good friend M^{rs} Wederstrand is very kind to y^r children. Eliza must or ought to improve very much in the society & conversation of this accomplished Lady. . . .

My man Andrew now Adjutant Warner, is on military duty this day & I have had to attend to his & my own business likewise. He is a fine youth of great abilities & promise, if I can keep him straight for a year or two. He has no bad propensities & takes great interest in the Cadets.

Monday [November] 28th. I have letters from my g^dsons & godson by w^h it appears that Cap^t P[artridge] has taken Marsden into his room w^h has admitted young Marston in his place. This no doubt is best. There are 3 other Cadets who room with the Cap^t. I shall counsult g^dmama about Pintards coming home at Christmas. If the permission sh^d not occasion any heart-burning with Marney & Thomas I sh^d like it very much, for I long to see my namesake, besides it w^d enable me [to] supply any little wants that the Cadets may fancy. . . . You will see by P's letter that Cap^t P. maintains the most rigid discipline, w^h must redound to the credit of the Institution. It is talked already to build another wing to the Academy next year, the number of applications for admittance exceeding the accommoda-

tions. I may learn from M^r Irving tomorrow his opinion w^h I anticipate will confirm my own. On marching into Hartford, Cap^t P. informed the Batallion that when the order for dressing to the right was given, that he w^d dismiss the first Cadet who sh^d cast his eye to the left. Not a head was moved & they marched thro' the city like a Veteran Corps, & all admired the effect of discipline in so short a time since the organization of the Academy. Nothing was ever seen in Hartford, where they have several uniform companies that c^d equal the movements & manoeuvres of the Cadets. I have every confidence that the academical exercises are equally exact, & that I shall return your sons elegant & accomplished young men.

Tuesday, [November] 29th, 12 o'clock. I have been all the morning writing to the Cadets, to go by M^{rs} Sebor,³¹ an aunt of Marston, by whom I send a parcel of cookies. I understand they had a grand blow out on the 24th, Thanksgiving Day, w^h was very fine. A Review & pumpkin pies in any quantity. . . . The Cadets will probably make another display on Friday or Saturday, to pay military honours to the remains of Commodore M^cDonough, who died of consumption on his passage home from the [M]editerranean. He resided in Middletown, Con^t and lost his wife ³² last summer, the daughter of M^{rs} Shaler, formerly Miss Denning the youthful companion of y^r Mother. Our Corporation in consideration of the eminent services rendered by Comm^o M^cD. in the naval action of Lake Champlain, during the last war to the U. S. in general & this State in particular, has resolved [to] show due military honour to the memory of this Naval Hero, who has prematurely died, without the least imputation to blemish his very [*word omitted in MS.*] character.

Our weather this month has been uncommonly fine. Yest^r & this day are actual May days.

³¹ Mrs. Jacob Sebor (Elizabeth Winthrop). [R. C. Winthrop, Jr.], *A Short Account of the Winthrop Family* (1887), pp. 577-78.

³² Mrs. Thomas Macdonough (Lucy Ann Shaler) was the daughter of Nathaniel and Lucretia Ann (Denning) Shaler. Rodney Macdonough, *The Macdonough-Hackstaff Ancestry* (1901), pp. 18, 88-89.

Wed^y 30th. It is showery this day & mild. I hope that rain will not interfere with the Funeral procession, w^h is to take place tomorrow & will pass our door in B^dway so that our folks will have a sight, a rare circumstance as we live above the usual line of march. No doubt this long parade from the City Hall up B^dway thro Great Jones Street is intended as a compliment to M^{rs} Clinton who resides in that St[reet].

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[Addressed by:] Ship Niagara

NEW YORK, Thurs^y 1st Dec., 1825. 3 p. m.

The dense humid foggy day will prevent the Niagara from sailing, it is also unfavourable to the ceremonial obsequies of Com[modore] M^cDonough, w^h our Corporation, much to their honour, have ordered with every honour civil & military. Had the weather been favourable, the procession, as a Funeral one, w^d probably have equalled that of Gen. Hamilton in 1804. Sic transit Gloria Mundi. Tomorrow the same rites will take place at Middletown the residence of Cap^t M, and our Cadets will appear in the military procession. . . . Inclosed will be a hasty letter from Pintard rec^d this morn^g by M^r Irving, who has left his sons, & is much pleased. This being my first Dividend day, & balancing my last months accounts, I have not had time to call on him. I have now to bite a cracker, & go to the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety]. Having to attend at the Savings Bank every Friday Sat^y & Monday I shall not be able to dine home those days throughout this month. My Secretaryships of the A. B. S. & Chamber of Commerce, I shall give up next May, if spared, & thus abridge some of my duties w^h begin to press heavy upon me. . . .

Saturday, 3^d Dec^r. . . . I am much urged with my office & Savings Bank duties this month, after w^h I shall have a little respite. Yest^y was a very hard day. I ate my cracker & apple (my dinner) walking up to the S. Bank, & returned home at 7, as alert as tho' I had passed

an ordinary day. My uptown residence has wonderfully improved my health, as exercise has restored my walking. . . . Yesterday my little namesake cut his first tooth, w^h he has done.

Wed^y 7th Dec^r. . . . Tho' the days are short, by rising early, as light, I get along very well. Mama & Sister breakfast with me, a comfort esp^y on those days that I do not dine at home. They are both regularly down at 8, w^h is very well, & I am enabled to get to my office by 9, when I keep fully occupied till 3, get home when I do go at ½ p[ast] & dine at 4, shortly after w^h it is twilight.

Friday [December] 9th . . . 2½ p. m. This being one of my Savings Bank days I take my cracker & apple at the office. M^r Marston had written to Cap^t Partridge asking a furlough for his son to come home at Xmas, in w^h case Pintard was to accompany him. But Cap^t has answered that the applications for similar favours are so numerous that he is constrained to adhere to his rules & to refuse them all. With this decision I fully acquiesce. Cap^t P. says that at the close of winter he purposes visiting this city & will bring all the New York boys with him. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship La Fayette

NEW YORK, Thur^y 15th Dec^r, 1825

My last to my beloved daughter of 12th inst. was by the Ship La Fayette w^h sailed on that day with a violent N. W^r that so totally changed the state of our season, as to bring on the severest cold on Tuesday, experienced in many years. Therm^o as low as 2 above zero in the course of that day. The weather is now more temperate. The Frances hourly expected must have been blown off the coast. The Azelia is reported below, in a short passage. This is intended for the Chancellor to sail next week. Never has poor devil been more driven than y^r Father since this month came in. . . . No sooner had I

despatched y^r packet than I began my letter to the Cadets to go with their Ax, Brushes, & parcel of New Year Cookies by Judge Irving, who was to have proceeded on Tuesday to take his son Washington to the Academy. But alas! the Steam Boat w^h had been frozen up at Hartford, did not come down, so that he was prevented and the Boys disappointed. He may go in January, as he is on the Bench, for a fortnight commencing next Monday. I wrote to them yest^r to have patience under their disappointment. By the inclosed of the 11th you will see that they are all well, & in want of some niceties poor fellow, with some articles of furniture to embellish their room, w^h I understand is the neatest in the Academy. . . . You see that Thomas knows how to wheedle his g[o]dfather, the cunning rogue. He is a noble fine boy.

Sat^r [December] 17th. After an uncommon drought, the housekeepers of our city are favoured with a powerful rain to replenish their exhausted cisterns. Your careful mothers prudence has secured ours from being drained to the last drop. It is in vain for me to depend on the carriage that plies in our street, so that I come down afoot, fair day or foul day, without injury thank God to my health.

Monday [December] 19th. The Frances has arrived with dates to 23^d Ult^o our letters (10 o'clock) are not yet delivered. As the sailing of the Chancellor is deferred to Sat[urda]y next, I will send this line by the Russell to sail tomorrow, weather permitting, w^h I hardly think probable, as it looks like an impending snow storm. The weather not being favourable yest[erda]y, I staid home, actually to get a little repose after a very hard weeks application. My hearing moreover is so bad that I have no benefit of clergy, so that as to sermons I rather am a gainer in reading the excellent Discourses in my possession. This indulgence has reinvigorated me. I feel some hope that the hearing of my right, the most imperfect ear, is somewhat improving by the persevering

application of Bear's Oil, w^h I shall continue thro' the winter to prove its efficacy. I may, please God, find partial relief, but I fear my age is too advanced to admit of effectual remedy.

2 o'clock. Obligated to attend a meeting at 12 o'clock, at the City Hall of the Trustees of the Sailors' Snug Harbour, I did not get back till this moment, when I found, as expected, a letter from M^r Servoss for y^r sister, w^h I immed[iatel]y despatched to her. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Russell

NEW YORK, Tuesday, 20th Dec^r, 1825

. . . Sh^d the La Fayette that sailed on 12th inst., with a powerful N. Wester have arrived safe, my beloved Turtle Dove will have rec^d thro' Uncle Servoss, her pretty workstand & sec[retar]y, in fulfilment of my promise. She expressed a wish to have something to remember her g^dfather & I am persuaded that this present will please her. It was delayed by the cabinetmaker beyond my expectation . . . It was made as nearly like her dear Sisters as the material, w^h is scarce, c^d be procured. At any rate my three eldest g^ddaughters will have been presented with their beautiful Bibles, thro' Uncle Servoss. . . . You also my dear daughter will for *once* on this occasion be remembered, as I desired M^r S. to send you Sisters Book case, in case he concluded to sell his furniture, w^h I see by his letter he meant to do. I can replace it, and the gift will serve to remind you of your dear Sisters transient abode in N[ew] O[rleans]. That M^r S. has escaped the disasters that have prostrated so many both in y^r city & this, is a circumstance for w^h I cannot be too grateful.

.
 The city of Philadelphia from its restricted commerce, has escaped the Cotton Fever. The only failure is one of magnitude that of M^r Thompson the great Tea merchant, attended with circumstances that implicate

his moral character. To the public prints I refer for particulars on w^h no generous mind w^d wish to dwell. There is a circumstance attended with this failure of a family concern. Young Thompson,³³ son of the former, who had gone several times to Canton as Supercargo, & had acquired a handsome fortune, was engaged to Miss Annis Stockton, & were to have been married this month, & to have passed a gay winter at Washington. As we have seen nothing announced, it is possible that the event is postponed in consequence of the Fathers failure. M^r T. Jun^r was to have increased the very pleasant family circle at Princeton, by building & residing there next year. . . .

Wed^y [December] 21st. S^t Thomas' day, the shortest of the year. Henceforward I shall progressively get a little more morning, for it is next to impossible almost to breakfast at 8, w^h esp^y when I have to market, brings me late to my office. . . .

Thur^y 22^d. With every appearance of snow at 7, it is now at 10 clearing off with a fine sunshine & mild, w^h may induce Mother & daughter to take a walk. Yest^y was devoted to mince pye making, and I thot you might be engaged in the same duty. Sister says that yours were excellent last year. Do not add to nor diminish from our family receipt w^h has been experienced for more than a century. Nothing sh^d preponderate nor fall short, as every thing depends on those exact proportions to give the proper, w^h have been the result of practice & observation.

.
 Friday 23^d. . . . The mail intelligence is that the Senate has confirmed M^r King's appointment as Minister to G. Britain without a division. Tho no Adamite I am glad, as it w^d have been ungracious to have opposed the President at the very threshold of his administration. Besides M^r King is eminently qualified to

³³ John Renshaw Thomson (later a United States Senator), married Annis Stockton, daughter of Richard and Mary (Field) Stockton. T. C. Stockton, *The Stockton Family* (1911), p. 130.

fulfil the particular objects of his embassy, to settle some disputable points between the two countries. Herewith I send a card containing the Terms & Course of Instruction of our new Female High School w^h will surprize you, in y^r dear Country. Altho' I am withdrawing from new assumptions of duty, I keep my attention alive to all the improvements going on in our rapidly increasing city. Having contributed what was in the power of my feeble talents & means, it is with pleasure that I see more efficient philanthropists appearing on the stage, to supply the vacancies caused by resignations & deaths of their older fellow citizens who have been the pioneers that have toiled to leave them a goodly heritage. By the way I hear nothing of a chance to supply a teacher for your male Assylum. The dread of your climate for constant residence, has hitherto appeared insuperable. M^r Gardiner left the documents sent to him with me some while ago, & has never called to enquire ab^t the result of my enquiries. I have done all in my power, but hitherto to no purpose. M^r Weeks has just called in to say that y^r cousin John Brasher stands this cold better than c^d be expected. I hope he may outlive this winter, in w^h case he may be induced to travel to the S^o of Europe & recover his health. Wonders have been the result to many [of] our hectic folks, & why sh^d he not benefit.

Sat^y [December] 24th. . . . M^r Thompson, of whom I spoke before, in attempting to sail for Liverpool, was arrested this week at New Castle & brought back. This circumstance aggravates his unfortunate case. How mutable are mercantile prospects, & how grateful I am, w^h I am always repeating to y^r dear sister, that M^r S[ervoss] is safe. She is quite domestic this winter as is prudent. No play, no operas that fascinate our gentry. By the way Kean has been hooted with a dreadful riot from the Boston Theatre. Thank God Vice is not everywhere triumphant.

NEW YORK, Monday 26th Dec., 1825. 10 o'clock

I came from home as early as I c^d get my breakfast at 8, in order to stop at the Savings Bank, to bring down our money rec^d Friday & Sat^y afternoons to the Mechanic Bank, which is the personal duty of every Trustee who attends on the Monthly Committee. . . .

Yest^y an approaching rain prevented Mama & Sisters going to Grace Church, to attend the Sacrament, w^h I regret. I went to S^t Esprit which is a fair weather congregation. But nearly all our few Communicants were present. . . . At Xmas, Easter, & Advent, I always endeavour to read the Meditations in the Weekly preparation both before & after Communion, from w^h I hope I derive much benefit, certainly an increase of Faith, & Xtⁿ hope & humility. My devotional feelings were particularly solemnized yest^y. I have told you that my French minister is about leaving us to return next Spring to his native Switzerland. I felt therefore as I ought on receiving the Consecrated Elements of the Lords Supper, for the last Xmas at his hands, possibly for the last Xmas of my life. I trust that the highest affections of my heart responded the Holy Act that I was performing. Indeed I felt overpowered, & had much to do to restrain myself when after the service was over, I took M. Peineveyre by the hand & most cordially wished him health & happiness. . . .

.
Tell your good friend M^{rs} Wederstrandt that it will afford me sincere pleasure to befriend her son, when he arrives. I shall be too happy to accompany him, if possible, to the Academy.
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NEW YORK, Wed^y 28th Dec., 1825. 2 p. m.

By the Eliza, Cap^t Whelden, I have this morn^g sent a line to my beloved daughter Davidson, with a parcel containing the forms for Blanc Mange, as you requested in y^r letter of 9th inst. by the Azelia, w^h was rec^d on the

26th. The Eliza hauls out in the stream this day to sail, wind permitting tomorrow. The wind is now So[uth] & it is almost a May day. We have had a very ext[raordi-
nar]y month, with little or no rain, w^h seems to be the case on both sides the Alleghany. . . . The Virginia is to sail Sat[urda]y or Sunday, by w^h I shall send this my last letter for the old year. There is something ap-
paling in the word *last*, but why sh^d an aged Xtⁿ full of Hope be appalled. The close of the year naturally in-
spires sober reflections. We look back on the rapid flight of Time, & forward to the short very short term that remains of human life, approaching the Scripture limi-
tation of existence, three score & Ten, and how few are spared to see it. . . .

.
You read, as is right, a chapter in your Bible to your dear children before you say your prayers. Dear Pin-
tard told me of this. As they now possess their own copies, will it not be best, to keep their minds from wandering, to let them follow you. This will render the daily portion of Scripture more impressive & lasting. I will thank you to desire Darling & Turtle Dove to copy in their respective Albums, the beautiful verses, begin-
ning with the 7th verse to the close, of the 13th Hymn, at the end of the Psalms of the Epis[copa]l Church, "Great God! &c^a". Inscribe it, on the Bible, copied at the re-
quest of my affect[ionate] G[ran]dfather J. P. and let them commit the same to memory, w^h will with the bless-
ing of God afford them consolation thro' life. Eliza has a Common Prayer Book. Dear little Larney, teach him to lisp them for g^dpa's sake. We have a beautiful stereo-
type edition of the pocket Bible, intended to have been published for New Year, but this has been retarded. When completed I will order a copy, neatly bound, for *all* my g[ran]d children & godson to take to Church, to look up the Lessons. You cannot imbue their tender minds too early with love & veneration for the Scrip-
tures. To express my delight & improvement in reading my Chapters daily in Scotts Commentary, is impossible.

Friday [December] 30th. After putting up & taking your parcel to Cap^t Holmes on Wed[nesday], before going home I had time to reperuse y^r letter requesting me to send you the Blanche Mange moulds, when to my surprize I found that Queens ware was intended. I felt mortified least I sh^d lose my labour & disappoint you. The day, yes[terday], portended an Easterly blow & snow. I called at a crockery store & procured such moulds as I hope will please you, & had them carefully packed in a market basket, w^h I took to Cap^t H[olmes] who promised to put it on b[oard] the Eliza, with another letter accounting for my blunder. This day is a violent N. E. gale & rain w^h impedes the Brigs sailing. This is intended for the Virginia to sail tomorrow, weather permitting, or probably Sunday. I have been fortunate in my attendance on the Savings Bank, this month, but I shall have to wade home this ev[ening]. Tomorrow is my last tour, & I shall wind up the Year with well doing. On Sunday, be the weather what it may I purpose to commence the New Year with my duty to the preserver of my life. On Monday we see our friends Aunt Craig & family & M^{rs} Talbot, and as customary talk of & remember our dear family at N[ew] O[rleans] wishing you all length of days, prosperity, health & happiness.

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Sat[urday] [December] 31st.

Adieu my beloved daughter. My last duties of the old year conclude in writing to you & attending at the Savings B[an]k, where yest[erday] I made my quarterly deposits for my g[ran]d children. Their acc[oun]ts severally exceed with interest this day \$105. Something to begin with. . . .

1826

To Mrs. Richard Davidson (*Eliza Noel Pintard*)
of New Orleans

NEW YORK, Tuesday 3^d Jan^r, 1826

Friday 6th. Judge Irving goes up tomorrow, with M^r Graham ¹ a lawyer to take their sons. Young Astor goes also. . . .

Sat^r [January] 7. Frances not to sail till Tuesday. Yest^r Philip Hone Esq. our new Mayor, gave a general invit[atio]n to his friends to wait on him, & partake of a collation. Never Mayor had so many (trencher) friends. It was supposed that between 3 & 5000 partook of his abundant cheer. He is a man of independent means & his election gives general satisfaction.

Miss Stockton was married to M^r Thompson the last of Dec^r. His father has quite blasted his name & deeply injured M^r Steele the Collector of Phila[delphia]. . . .

Monday [January] 9th. . . . When I came tripping down this foggy morn^s apprized of the arrival of the Louisiana, & enjoying in advance the happiest tidings, little did I anticipate the unpleasant intelligence of y^r brothers letter. I have done all in my power to console him & have reason from his conclusion & y^r remarks to infer that it will not be so bad as M^r Servoss apprehends. I regret exceedingly that he takes a loss so much to heart. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Frances

¹ Charles Graham, son of Charles Graham, of New York City, was a cadet at the American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy at Middletown, Connecticut, 1826-28. Dodge & Ellis, *Norwich University*, III, 620.

N YORK, Wed^y 11th Jan^y, 1825 [*sic for 1826*]

My last was yest^y by the ship Frances, whether she has sailed is doubtful. We have most ext[raordinary] weather, warm & dense fogs. The Indiana is up for Sat^y 14th by wh[ich] I shall [send] this, however short a line. Mother & Sister both wrote by the Frances in reply to M^r Servoss' too gloomy letter of 21st Ult^o by the Louisiana. I have every hope that the loss he apprehended by the failure of Crommelin & Co. will eventually prove trifling, when compared with the direful catastrophes that have overwhelmed many of the oldest & proudest houses in N[ew] O[rleans] the last season.

Thur^y [January] 12. We have at last got a clear sky & not cold. I have been afflicted with a violent cold for a few days & last night had a smart fever, but this morn[in]g thank God am better. . . . The season of looking out for a change of abode is at hand. On the 1st Feb^y we must decide, being q[uar]ter day. I c^d wish that y^r sister w^d content herself for another year to remain where we are to enable M^r Servoss to choose, as he ought his own accommodation.

Friday [January] 13. I was much indisposed when I wrote yest^y with an oppressive cold, & returned home early to take a doze of magnesia, w^h has relieved me. This is a very fine clear day & not cold. Having to attend the Savings Bank, this p. m. in place of our new Mayor M^r Hone who is engaged, I shall take my cracker, w^h will assist my depletion, the best remedy for a cold. Catarrhs have been very prevalent, even among children. On Thur^y 5th the Managers elected the Rev. Jas. C. Crane Assis^t Sec[retar]y for Dom[estic] correspondence of the Am[erican] Bible So[ciety] with a Salary of \$1000. He died yest^y morn^g of a fever arising from a violent cold. He is to be interred this aft.noon but from my state it w^d be imprudent to attend. This cir-

cumstance throws us all aback to supply a station that requires talents & character to supply. I have just rec^d a letter from M^r Bayard, who has no tidings as yet of the accouchment of Julia, whose feeble delicate frame renders her situation critical. He says that they have had a handsome wedding at Morven but not as gay as otherwise it w^d have been but for the misfortune of M^r Thompsons father, in w^h the son is no ways implicated, & is an honourable fine young man. God speed the couple. M^{rs} Bradford at Burlington was very well.

.....
 Sat^y [January] 14. The rain, w^h spoils the skating & will probably open Con[necticu]t River, prevents the ships sailing. Inclosed is a letter from Marney. He writes to his agent like an independent Planter, & very well. Do not check his freedom in displaying his wishes & wants. . . . The narrative of his march to Hartford & return to *old* Middletown are very good. I am happy that M^{rs} Sigourney² my *very great friend*, gave my g^dsons quarters. I have spoken of this elegant accomplished lady, the wife of my brother Huguenot, before. She is a very sylph, all intellect, about Eliza's size.

.....

To Samuel Bayard, of Princeton

NEW YORK, Friday 13 Jan^y, 1825 [*sic for* 1826]

.....

The Message of my friend Gov^r Clinton is a great state paper, his best, and an excellent model for similar documents. A fair exposé of our potent State, its grand improvements & resources, without any rhetorical flourishes, without travelling out of the record or meddling with the U. S. In short a plain perspicuous matter of fact communication w^h all can understand without the aid of editors or critics. We are a wonderful State, & an example to the Union.

² Lydia Howard (Huntley) Sigourney, wife of Charles Sigourney. *Dictionary of American Biography*, XVII, 155.

This paper will be very interesting to the friends of Freedom in Europe, showing the happy practical results of republican gov^{ts} when wisely administered. *Esto perpetua* be our Motto & indissoluble Union our polar star.

Our municipal affairs & benevolent institutions go on auspiciously & the child of my old age, like Jacobs of old, with suits of various colours, the Savings Bank, triumphantly. This with our g^t national B[ible] S[ociety] will command my undivided affections & service, while life & health endure.

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To Mrs. Davidson

NEW YORK, Tuesday 17th Jan^r, 1826, 2½ p. m.

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Wed^r 18th.

It charms me to read that part of your letter describing your *Blue Stocking Society* called a reading class & composed of congenial minds. Indeed it [is] "a most rational instructive method of spending an evening," and I trust all the young ladies & gentlemen too will vie to excell. . . .

.

Yest^r we were made happy by a letter from M^r Bayard, announcing the safe delivery of his daughter Julia, in Virginia, of a fine daughter, to be called after its g^dmother *Martha*, a family name also in the Washington family, as the Generals Lady was called *Martha*. . . .

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[Addressed by:] Ship Azelia

To Mrs. Davidson

NEW YORK, Friday 20th Jan^r, 1825 [*sic for 1826*]

I had scarcely made up my letters for N. O. yest^r to go by the Azelia, when I rec^d a letter from my Quaker

friend Isaac Collins at Albany, where he attends on the Legislature to support the claims of our House of Refuge for state patronage, requesting me to write an article on the subject for insertion in Noah's Advocate as the leading paper among the Democrats in our Senate & Assembly. Incapable of rendering personal, & but small pecuniary services to our benevolent institutions, my pen is put in frequent requisition to write in their favour for our public prints. I c^d not well decline a pretty importunate request, and immed^y set about performing it. Happily the subject was familiar, for I have taken great interest in an institution that will work, if properly supported, greater effects to suppress & eradicate vice as well as produce greater moral benefit among juvenil offenders, than any plan that human wisdom has hitherto devised. It is to appear tomorrow, as the Advocate was pre-occupied for this day. I know not how it will read, for I have little time or accomodation for lucubrating, being obliged to write any articles as I do y^r letters, at my desk, with almost momentary interruptions. I am sure I have been called off half a doz. times, since beginning this letter. . . .

. . . . My good old Uncles rule was to restrain boys. This was easy with me who was always rather a delicate than a hearty feeder, But y^r Uncle Marsden was always hungry & voracious. I experience the benefit of this bringing up in my old days. For instance, I only partook of a single cracker from breakfast at 8 till tea at 7 yest^y, when my good wife prepared a broiled Quail of w^h I am very fond, & it was quite sufficient. Indeed I c^d have done with less. My health is all the better for this abstemiousness.

Sat^y [January] 21st. Always a busy day & (1/2 p 2) am clearing out to go home thanking God that tomorrow is his holy Day of rest. I had a moment to cast my eye over the article in the Advocate, which reads better than I^d expect. The Ho[use] of Refuge begins to be trite, so much and so often has been said in its behalf, that it was hardly possible to present it in a new light.

I have said my say & let it go for what it is worth. I shall cut it out for y^r perusal. As my faculties decay & I cannot expect to discharge much longe[r] the active duties in w^h I have taken so much delight, I may be induced, while my mind thro' the blessing of God shall retain its strength, [to] afford the benefit of years & experience thro' the press. You can do this effectually, said my friend Griscom the other day, & amply compensate by the exercise of y^r pen for any bodily infirmities. One maxim among others w^h I hope to pursue, is, not to be weary of well doing. If I can no longer row, I may be able to steer the boat. But it has almost always been my lot after taking my trick at the helm, to rest myself with a spell at the pump. My time has been most actively employed since my youth up, & will so continue until I lay my head on my last pillow. I can speak thus plainly & freely to a beloved daughter, who knows that it does not proceed from vanity & who can hold up the example of her diligent father to his dear g[ran]dchildren.

I have had to close the week by answering friend Collins letter relating to Free Schools &c^a before the Legislature, so that I go home leaving nothing undone. I have been house enquiring also, as we must move, M^r Lawrence having given me notice that he wants the House for his new married daughter Mrs. McVickar.

Tuesday [January] 24th. I have been sorely inflicted with the Influenza that prevails extensively in this city, as it has done far worse in Phil^a & Balt[im]o[re]. On Saturday my right eye became inflamed & was almost closed on Sunday, when I remained home & my kind attentive Domestic physician, Dear Mother, bathed it with tepid water & vinegar, w^h relieved it. Yest^r my duties compelled my attendance at the office. Thank God I am almost restored & so well that altho' it has snowed, the first time this season, well cloaked & galooshed I have walked down as usual. I just indite these few lines as my official *Health Bulletin*. What thanks are due to my heavenly Father for all his goodness to me. The visita-

tions kindly sent to let me know that I am mortal, and to prepare for my last solemn summons, have always been short & mild. Often do I repeat on these occasions the 3 first verses of the 41st Psalm, as in the Common Prayer Book, "Blessed is he that considereth the poor & needy; the Lord will deliver him in the time of trouble. The Lord preserve him & keep him alive, that he may be blessed upon earth; and deliver not Thou him into the will of his enemies. The Lord comfort him when he lieth sick upon his bed; make Thou all his bed in his sickness. Amen." These beautiful verses I had printed in letters of Gold, framed & glazed & suspended in the Savings Bank, directly after its institution, as I believe that I have heretofore mentioned. Long may they there remain when I am dead & gone, & produce the same happy influence on my successor that I have myself experienced.

Wed^y [January] 25th. A right olden time winter day, clear & cold. My eye is better but the wind pierced it as I came down. Yest^y my little namesake was 6 mo[nths] old, hale & hearty, toujours riant, toujours gai. He measures 24 inches & is a remarkably good Babe, marches every ev^s to Hartford & helps sing the march like a little mocking bird. He is very elastic on his feet & plump as a partridge. How favoured has y^r sister been. I write to y^r good brother Servoss that after mature deliberation & much anxiety on my part I have this day concluded a bargain for a very fine 3 storey Brick House, Slate roof, only a year built & now well seasoned, corner of Broome & Crosby Streets, the next block below us, w^h he will recollect for \$13,000. I write the particulars to Mr. S., to w^h I refer, and devoutly pray that he may approve the measure. We have been warned by our Landlord, M^r Lawrence, who wants the house for his newly married daughter, M^{rs} M^cVickar. Compelled to move, the distracting subject has harrassed my mind. With all our researches, no house even decent can be found below us. Those above are more distant & rents as high or higher, for the tide of population sets up very

fast, the lower parts of the city becoming, with few exceptions, uncomfortable for families. The mode of doing business among merchants is totally changed & active hours are from 10 to 3, 9 is an early hour. Our principal merchants are all resorting up B^dway. My own opinion is that we have done right, & I sent word instantly to Dear Mother & sister & got a reply back that they were happy. God grant that this expression may be ominous of good & that we may be all happy indeed. I must relieve my eye.

Thur^y [*sic for Friday*] 27th. Close applicⁿ to business yest^y engrossed all my time. My eye is much better & my cold going off. This House affair has agitated my mind & excitement has made me a little feverish. The content, delight indeed, expressed by Dear Louise & Mother's perfect accordance makes me easier & induce the hope that Mr. S. will also approve. All my friends speak in approbation of the purchase. The site is the admiration of all who see it, and the premises all agree are worth the price. The arrival of the Niagara will I hope bring letters from you & M^r S[ervoss].

1 o'clock, My beloved daughter & darlings letters are rec^d. The overflow of y^r gratitude oppresses me. That you & my dear g^ddaughters are pleased with y^r New Years presents is more than compensation for any evil. I regret that Eliza's cap was too small, however she can wear Mama's fine one. I thank good Uncle for his pretty present. Above all I am overwhelmed with gratitude to our heavenly Father that you all enjoy y^r health, & that the Doctor is in so prosperous a way. I hope that he will be able to realize y^r wishes, so just & natural, as to be able to purchase a house for his dear family. Then indeed it will look like indep[en]dence & you will not bestow y^r care & labour on other peoples property. I hope he may be able to accomplish this object in the course of another year & only wish that he had y^r good brother's judgment to assist in making a bargain. It will be almost too much happiness that both my dear & only children sh^d repose in their *own houses* in one

year. As to making us any returns it is *entirely* out of the question & must not be. Keep all you have got & can get to house yourselves, after w^h in return for any kind acts to our dear boys that dear Sister may expend, a Barrel of y^r beautiful Sugar will be amply acceptable. M^r S. has just sent one, so that we shall not require any more till this time 12 mo[nth]. About the portrait I will endeavour to gratify y^r wish, in lieu of other presents. Of this more anon. The Louisiana does not sail till Monday, so that I can respire.

Sat^y [January] 28th. My late attack is going off and my eye sight improves. We have an April Day, after severe cold & threatening snow. We are going this P.M. to look about a pew in the new Church St. Thomas, a few streets above us in B^dway. I hope to dispose of mine in Grace Church so as to come out even. I was offered \$500 for my bargain yest^y, a proof that no more than a fair price, as all my friends say, has been given for the House. The adjoining, built at the same time & similar, sold yest^y for \$13,000, & at least 500 is in favour of my purchase. With what anxiety I shall await Mr. Servoss's letter in reply to mine by this oppo[rtunity]. Sh^d he disapprove, it will distress me, but I must submit & make the best of it.

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 Monday 30th Jan^y 1826. A snow storm like winter setting in. Thank God I was so much better that I attended my French Church yest^y. Tho' the weather was very damp & hazy, no relapse has ensued. I walked down this morn^g as I shall home. Enclosed is a letter from Dear Mother, who is affected, as almost every female is, with the prevailing influenza, w^h seems to pervade the Atlantic seaboard. No doubt she speaks about the recent purchase. I hope that you, my beloved daughter, will do all in y^r power, if requisite, to reconcile M^r Servoss to what after much deliberation was considered best, as well for his interest as our mutual comfort & happiness. You can readily judge how delicate I feel least it sh^d be supposed that his dear wife & her parents w^d combine to

do anything to serve their wishes at his expense. The die is cast and I must abide the issue. I know the purity of my own intentions. Altho' the weather was unfavourable, I felt it a duty to go to church, as my feelings are always tranquilized by attending to my religious Duties. Such is the state of my mind this morning. May it prove ominous of good. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Louisiana
with a package

NEW YORK, Wed^y 1st Feb^y, 1826

The Louisiana is still alongside the wharf. The high wind, extreme cold & floating ice prevented her sailing. Yest^y & also this day the weather mitigates a little, but it is really an old time winter spell.

Thurs^y 2^d. Louisiana icebound, a light snow last night has moderated the weather. Yest^y I rec^d the enclosed from Cap^t Partridge, in w^h you will see the names of your fine sons. I am happy that young Morse is not in the awful black list. This copy you can give, if you please, to y^r friend M^{rs} Wederstrandt, as there are 2 others which I will forward by the Talma, to sail the middle of the month. . . .

Tell M^r S[ervoss] that the value of the house in Broome S^t is considered very reasonable. M^r Israel told me yest^y that he c^d have obtained \$1000 more had he kept it till 31st Jan^y. The tide of migration sets so fast up B^dway & environs that every house is taken as fast as a Bill appears, rents not fallen but rather increasing, esp^y in New Buildings. Y^r Sister is wonderfully pleased with her bargain.

The House of Refuge Bill has passed triumphantly. The Legislature has granted \$13,000 toward erecting a Building for Females, and the surplus of our Marine Hospital Fees, ab^t \$10,000 a year, to support the institution.

The Free School Bill has also passed, transferring all

our Free Schools, now 7, to the Corporation of this City, making all the scholars pay, if only \$1 a year & according to their ability, to take off the repulsive distinction of Charity Scholars. This will extend the blessings of elementary education to all ranks & degrees of Society. It only remains to animate our Sunday Schools, when this city may boast that not a single child will be unprovided with the means of instruction.

The Female High School was opened on Tuesday P.M. 31st Jan^y, with a very appropriate address from Judge Irving, pres^t, to a full audience. This school is directly in sight of our hoped for new residence, 300 yards distant, so that Sister will have a fine chance for schooling her sons & *daughters*.

Adieu

You see how we prosper, & that the spirit of benevolence is not affected by the times.

[Addressed by:] Ship Louisiana

NEW YORK, Friday 3^d Feb^y, 1825 [*sic for 1826*]

The detention of the Louisiana by floating ice enabled me to add another letter to my beloved daughter, including 2 copies of Cap^t Partridge's regulations rec^d 1st inst. w^h if rec^d will serve for y^rself & y^r good friend M^{rs} Wederstrandt. Our late severe cold has gone off with dense fog. I c^d hardly see my way down to the office this morn^g. It now, 12 o'clock, begins to dissipate & I hope will clear off with a N. Wester & enable the Louisiana, so long detained, to sail tomorrow. . . .

Sat^y [February] 4th. A fair day & clear sky after the almost impenetrable fog of yest^y. The Louisiana (12 o'clock) has sailed & I hope will arrive safe with my *very important* letter to M^r Servoss. I confess my uneasiness lest unadvised & unconsulted he sh^d feel reluctant to ratify my negotiation. Alas! how easy it w^d once have been to have paid the am^t at a moment. But let me not retrospect but look forward & hope that M^r S. will concur in a measure calculated we hope for mutual

comfort. To give some idea of rents this season, the House in w^h we live at \$550 is raised to \$600 & the taxes, & the meanest 2 storey houses in the lower cross streets are set at the same rate. So that notwithstanding the late times, the influx of migration exceeds the houses to be let. Except acting for another, I feel no regret at the purchase of the Broome S^t House, and dear Sister is certain that M^r S. will approve the measure. I know that I feel too much solicitude, but this is my weak nature. We are all getting thro' the Influenza, vulgarly called the Horse Distemper. Never since I knew this city has this malady been so universally prevalent, indeed the whole length of our seaboard. I hope it may not reach you. . . . It will require no ext^y effort on my part to conduct y^r dear sons home, & if possible thro' the Ohio Canal, the long anticipated & once visionary hope. Sh^d I be spared to realize it, I shall not be deemed so wild an enthusiast as some of my saturnine friends regard me. The Talma is to sail on the 15th, being the only vessel now up. . . .

Monday [February] 6th 10 A. M. My beloved daughter's letter of 19th Jan^y is rec^d by the La Fayette, arrived yest^y. . . .

Tuesday 7th. After tracing the preceding few words, I broke off to write a friendly line to Gov^r Clinton as I had to thank him for one favour & to ask another, w^h I do as seldom as possible, but there are some unfortunate cases w^h one cannot resist. At 2 I returned home quite indisposed to take a doze of magnesia, w^h has relieved me. On Sat^y p. m. another chill attacked me. I kept at home, resisting a very friendly invitⁿ to dine with Professor Turner least the acceptance might interfere with my attendance at the Communion on Sunday, a duty always dear & cheering to me, esp^y for the first time of the New Year. Sunday was a heavy humid day. I c^d get no further than Christ Ch[urch]. After service, during w^h a slight snow had fallen, I returned home & altho' Dear Mother had a fine pair of ducks for dinner, as she always wishes to serve me something *nice* as Thomas

says on Sundays, I took a cup of chocolate, & the same yest^r. It is now raining & I shall as usual look for a plate of Soup. . . .

Wed^r [February] 8th. . . . When M^{rs} Wederstrandt's brother & son come up I shall make an effort to accompany them to Middletown, for I begin to long to see our Cadets, who will have had time to develop. I expect much & trust that I shall not be disappointed.

Thur^r [February] 9th. I cannot divest my mind of solicitude respecting our late purchase. Nor however agreeable to y^r dear Sister shall I charge her, be the result what it may, as having influenced me in the least. I fear least under existing circumstances that her partner may possibly think that it was a measure rather to accommodate the parent than the child. I confess that I am too sensitive. It was my secret hope & satisfaction that altho' I c^d not give my daughters wealth, at least that I sh^d not embarrass their husbands with providing for our support. Y^r sister feels confident of approbation, and I hardly dare lisp a sigh, w^h might & w^d distress her without availing aught. By the 21st March I hope this state of suspense will be relieved, and however I may feel in the interim I shall abide the issue with that firmness & resignation w^h have sustained me under many a bitter trial. Till then let me put my Trust in God that all will be ordered for the best and *never Despair*.

Friday [February] 10th. A warm gentle rain. With prudence my distemper abates. I almost dread to hear of fatal effects from the Influenza in y^r city. The farther South, the more violent the symptoms w^h have been very violent & fatal at Chston & in the country, esp^r among the blacks, as you may [have] seen in the papers. We are looking for the Russell & Chancellor, by w^h I hope to receive letters, tho' I fear you are severely taxed with writing so frequently. . . .

Sat^r [February] 11th. The continued rains prevent the sailing of the Niagara until Tuesday, 14th, which will make the intervals between receiving our letters ap-

pear long. Yest^y Andrew [Warner] rec^d a letter from my namesake w^h is enclosed. It is the best he has written since being at the Academy & proves that if he will only give himself a little time for reflection, he will soon compose with facility. I often wonder whether Marney's aptitude will continue. We shall soon see. He is a powerful boy & will I trust make a distinguished man. His little cousin ³ when he looks intent has much of Marney's appearance in the upper part of his countenance. It is really diverting to see him collect his strength & energies when I give him the long roll, preparatory to his March to Hartford, & when I sing the air he springs off on his feet with astonishing elasticity. He is muscular & strong as a little Lion, expresses his wants with a little grunting, but *never* cries, always good humoured & laughing, ready to come & ready to go without repugnance. I was just about making up my letters when I learned that the departure of the Niagara was deferred. The Talma will soon follow the 16th. Next week we may look for the Chancellor.

Monday [February] 13th. The delay of the Niagara affords me oppo[rtunity] to acknowledge rec^t of my beloved daughter's letter of 25th Jan^y by the Russell. . . .

NEW YORK, Monday 13th Feb^y, 1826. 2 p. m.

After despatching my letter of this date to go by the Niagara to sail tomorrow, I wrote to our Cadets in order to give them the latest news from home, rec^d in y^r letter of 25th Jan^y by the Russell this morning. Our winter at the period you wrote was uncommonly rigid all thro' the N^o & Easⁿ parts of the Continent. But our boys do not appear to complain of the cold & they have had a pretty hard seasoning. If they stand this I hope they will be more capable of encountering any severity next winter. Understanding their wants, by experience, we will supply them seasonably. It will be my wish to keep

³ John Pintard Servoss.

them as comfortable as possible, & to indulge them in every reasonable satisfaction. In return I have all confidence that they will endeavour to excell in their studies, the sole object of their being sent so far from home & at such expense for their Education. I said nothing about the Box by the Chancellor, w^h I shall take care of until the river opens w^h may be early in March, when I will send it by the very first Steam Boat, & altho' late it will prove doubly acceptable as coming from home. . . .

14th Feb^r. S^t Valentine's day, when Birds & Lovers choose their mates, better adapted to y^r climate than ours. Another dense fog detains the Niagara, w^h may not sail before the Talma. Sister hopes that y^r good brother will be able to accommodate his business so as to return in April. His presence w^d be a great relief on our Move All Day & without personal labour or fatigue. But as please God, this may be a last job & we are going into a delectable House, the toil & trouble will be lightened by the prospect & hope of comfort before us. All speak well of the House. The Street, site & construction are admirable, the Building of the best materials & appearance very genteel & sightly. It is the admiration of all who have seen it, and all say that the price is fair & reasonable. It is a piece of fancy goods, but of such quality as will always be in fashion. I fervently pray that our procedure may be approved by M^r S[ervoss], w^h will consummate my happiness. I confess my solicitude, w^h is incident to my years. But dear Sister w^d laugh at me sh^d I express [it], and why mar her anticipations of comfort. All is arranged for Madame Servoss to take command & myself to be her faithful steward. I have every confidence that we shall live in peace & harmony.

I send the 2^d N^o of the Museum,⁴ a copious, delightful & instructive periodical w^h will interest & improve Darling. Do be careful to preserve the N^{os} for binding at the close of each Vol. I will willingly remit the cost

⁴The *Museum of Foreign Literature and Science*, Feb., 1826, new series, vol. I, no. 2, contains, on pp. 156-75, a review of Charles R. Sumner's translation of Milton's Treatise on Christian Doctrine, published 1825.

of the binding, for the selections will prove invaluable for all y^r children and the Cadets at their return will be able to relish their beauties. It will constitute an elegant parlour window book. Y^r Rev^d pastor M^r Clapp will be pleased with the review of Milton, in w^h the character of the puritans is drawn with great spirit. As a critical composition it is of the first order. Royalists & High Churchmen may think the portrait too flattering, but it is very like the life. My familiarity with this period of English civil & ecclesiastical history renders this article highly interesting. It is indeed a chef d'œuvre. Eliza, by occasional reading as relaxation, will expand her mind & improve her taste with this delectable work. As we are economizing, after the next half year of the Spectator shall expire, will its continuance be important. I wish you to keep up the Observer as containing useful intelligence of what is going on in the Christian & benevolent world. This is indeed the Era of great good, throughout the whole world. I trust that our beloved country may compare in zeal & effort with any other. Not a new institution is announced or an existing one reanimated, but that my heart dilates with overflowing joy & gratitude. I likewise send a copy of Cooper's last novel,⁵ w^h I have not had time to read. It is highly commended. These & the Waverleys, with few exceptions, are all that I w^d incline to place in Darling's hands. She must be allowed to "catch the manners living as they rise", and without being a mere reader of novels, she ought to be able to converse about those of such high merit as the preceding. They are founded in history, w^h will of course interest her to understand. How much my beloved daughter do I wish all your dear children to excell.

.....
 Wed^y [February] 15th. The Fog cleared off yest^y at noon with a N. Wester. This is a fair cold winter day & the Talma will probably sail with a fine wind tomorrow. At any rate I will have my little package ready. Having

⁵ James Fenimore Cooper's *The Last of the Mohicans*.

nursed myself on Sunday, I hope that I have passed thro' my 2^d attack of Influenza, w^h has in some degree proved violent & fatal in this city. We shall be solicitous till we hear how it has fared with you in N. O. Your friend M^{rs} Foster and her mother with M^{rs} Morse have had a very tedious time of it. No doubt M^r F. has made the delay favourable to his business with the upper country. How happily has the Doctor been thro' the year past, a year so fatal to most of your principal merchants & so propitious to his practice. . . .

Thurs^y [February] 16th. Appearance of Snow, but I shall close my letters as in case of clearing away the Talma will sail very early tomorrow morn^g. The beautiful clear day yest^y led Mama & Sister to visit their down town friends, after being long housed. As Spring approaches we live in a fine part of the town for exercise & our ladies will I hope walk daily, until packing up time for removing arrives, an awful Job, but we have not happily far to go. How anxiously I shall open M^r Servoss' letter in reply to the purchase, but I must abide the issue. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Talma
with a package

NEW YORK, Thur^y 16th Feb^y, 1826. 2 p. m.

I carried my letters & package by the Talma as it commenced to snow. Sh^d it clear off she will sail early tomorrow. I seldom close one despatch before I trace the first lines of another to my beloved daughter. This is intended for the Russell next week. I may acknowledge rec^t of y^r box by the Chancellor w^h is daily looked for. It shall be taken care of & forwarded by the very first S^mboat, probably not till the first week in March. I mentioned nothing about it in my last letter of 13th inst., not to excite expectation or longing so natural to young minds.

Friday [February] 17th. A lazy Easterly wind with light snow prevents the Talma's sailing. In an evening paper I noticed a death at the Academy, Cadet Wyckoff ⁶ of Opelousa. I recollect a M^r Wyckoff in my day who married the daughter of M^r Mather. This is probably his son. He was 20 years [old], quite advanced for a scholar. Thus the hope of his parents is cut off. Since writing the above, I have rec^d a letter of 15th from Cap^t Partridge w^h I shall enclose. Y^r dear sons are to attend him on his visit the 1st March, quite near. I have seen in a Middletown paper a description of the funeral obsequies of young Wyckoff, very honourable to his memory, & the pathetic Address of the Chaplain, the Rev. M^r Collet,⁷ w^h must have made a forcible impression on the Cadets. M^r Burnham of the Ev^s Post ⁸ promises to republish it. If so, I will send you a copy. It will be very gratifying to the disconsolate parents to know that every care was extended to their promising son. Alas! what an afflicting blow to them. When at Middletown last summer & standing before the gravestone of M^r Hutchin's child, I told Col. Lewis that it appeared to me expedient to appropriate a part of the Cemetery to the Academy. His thoughtless reply was, that the Cadets did not come there to die. This melancholy incident proves it otherwise. I have suggested the idea in my offhand reply to Cap^t P. . . .

Sat^y [February] 18th. The portending storm cleared off yest^y at noon. Altho the wind is So[uth] the Talma has dropped down & may get to sea this day. The Chancellor probably will arrive today or tomorrow & I may acknowledge rec^t of a letter ere closing this to go by the La Fayette now to sail on Tuesday. Good Tamar will be *desperate* glad to see the *young men*. We shall have

⁶ Listed in the Roster of Academy Cadets as Ralph A. Wikoff. Dodge and Ellis, *Norwich University*, I, 53; III, 631.

⁷ *Sic* for Colton.

⁸ An account of the death and funeral of Cadet Ralph A. Wikoff, and the Rev. Walter Colton's address, were printed in *The New-York Evening Post* of Feb. 18, 1826.

all our g^dsons together at our house & Mama & Aunt will endeavour to regale them on *niceties*, as Thomas calls them, & make them happy, for w^h purpose Auntie will prepare a good stock of pies.

Monday [February] 20th. After a beautiful day yest^y we have snow this morn^e. Sister went to S^t Thomas', myself to the French Church. The beautiful Gothic constructed new Church of S^t Thomas is to be consecrated next Thur^y 23^d, after w^h the pews are to be sold, when I will endeavour to purchase one, if not too extravagant, that will accommodate us all & dispose of the one in Grace Church, to w^h Mama is much attached, but the distance is too great. The sailing of the La Fayette is deferred till Wed^y, possibly the Chancellor may arrive in the meantime.

Wed^y [February] 22^d. Washingtons birthday. Owing to a succession of storms & the prevalence of the Influenza, it passes off without the usual ceremonies & festivities that have hitherto marked [it]. Yest^y we had an almost deluging warm rain from 9 to 2, when it cleared off, & today it blows a gale at West, favourable to the opening of the Hudson w^h like the rising of your River, restores activity to our trade. Inclosed you will find 2 letters from Cap^t Partridge. By the last we may expect the Cadets weeks after next. It contains also the probable cause of the death of Cadet Wyckoff. You will see that our boys are all well. Cap^t P. is sparing of applause, w^h may be right. His bringing them on is evidence of their correct conduct that speaks for itself. . . . We hoped to have seen the arrival of the Chancellor ere this, always impatient to hear from & about our dear N. O. family. . . . I am now conjecturing that our letters by the Louisiana may have arrived & all alive as to the reception of their contents, apprehensive least M^r S[ervoss] may think, that availing ourselves of dear sisters disposition to make her parents comfortable, she may have been induced to sanction a purchase w^h pru-

dence cannot justify. This is not the case, but I feel all the delicacy of my situation. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship La Fayette

NEW YORK, 22^d Feb^r Wed^r, 1826

My letters by the La Fayette are just made up. Sister will be mortified that she has not written, mainly my fault, as I told her that it w^d [be] in time this ev^g. But the Ships Bag is to be taken away at 8 tomorrow morn^g, before I can get down. Indeed she has little more to say than what I have written that she & her bouncing boy are very well, but that little is always acceptable to an absent husband. Moreover I do not come down till noon tomorrow, as I propose to attend the consecration of S^t Thomas' in our neighborhood, in w^h we contemplate to purchase a pew if to be had on reasonable terms, but I expect they will sell exceedingly high. I reserve my pew in Grace Church until the event shall be ascertained. We have another Church, Christ Ch. Anthony S^t, sh^d it be adviseable to go there. At any rate it will be eligible to go to a Church not remote from our contemplated new abode.

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 Thursday [February] 23^d. An elegant April day. Consecration of S^t Thomas Ch. corner of B^dway & Houston Street. I attended Mama & Sister to the door of the Church at 10 o'clock, where they obtained comfortable seats, & then I returned to the Rev. M^r Duffy's ^o Rector, where the Bishop & his Clergy were assembled together with a number of vestry men of different Episcopal Churches invited on the occasion. After accompanying the procession to the Church at 11, I returned to my office, having read the consecration service, w^h is very solemn, before breakfast, & I sh^d have heard nothing & seen as little. This Church is built of stone in the Gothic style, with 2 Towers & a large Oriel Window in the centre of the Front facing B^dway. The Desk, pulpit,

^o Cornelius R. Duffie.

communion railings, & windows all correspond with the design of the Edifice, w^h is the only one approaching the Gothic order in this city. It has cost the Building \$45,000, Lot \$5000, & has a 3 story parsonage House, extra, in rear of the Church, which now makes 101 Houses of public worship of various denominations in this city. The Rector has great merit for collecting & forming a congregation & inspiring sufficient zeal to undertake the enterprise. Divine service will be performed next Sunday & the pews will be sold on Monday, when I hope to succeed in obtaining one that [will] please Mother & daughter. I shall be able to dispose of mine in Grace [Church] for something more than its original cost, \$300. Mr. Duffy was originally a merchant & unfortunate. He was brought up by an excellent pious mother w^h disposed him to prepare for the Ministry. He was ordained Deacon 3 years ago, when he undertook to raise the congregation now auspiciously established. He is a very modest man of respectable talents, a widower with 4 or 5 children & has been so for some years, having married a daughter of M^r James Bleecker. He is engaged, the gossips say, to a Miss Lambert, sister of M^r David R. Lambert who was murdered last summer, a middle aged lady of very amiable character. So that the parson will have a new Church, a new House & a new Wife all in one year. Sh^d we belong to his congregation, we will cultivate an intimacy. So much for S^t Thomas & its worthy Rector.

Friday [February] 24th. Another April day. The Chancellor arrived yest^r P. M. & at 9 this morn^g I rec^d our letter from you & M^r S[ervoss] of 2^d inst., w^h I immed^y sent home to dear Sister. I am obliged to you for leaving open your letter to y^r dear boys, as it enabled me to add some instructions about their approaching visit, week after next. I forward the letter by tomorrows mail, the earliest oppo[rtunity]. I shall take good care of the Box, w^h will be a most delightful present & doubly valuable coming from dear parents. Their sisters letters I write them shall remain till their visit, as the

postage w^d cost a dollar. I desire them to answer y^r letter next week, and they can reply to their dear sisters when here, to go possibly by the Chancellor. By the way, you ought to address y^r letters to "Cadets J. P. & L. M. Davidson", which is more in style than *Masters*. Marney certainly beat them all, both in originality & handwriting. He is wonderfully precocious. . . .

Your friend M^{rs} Wederstrandts conversation must be delightful. I suppose that it is quite a relief to you to hear her talk. Her remarks & diction ought to prove highly edifying to Eliza, now of an age to distinguish between refined & commonplace conversation. Mrs. Morse will be spared thank God the anguish of any academical discipline inflicted on her son, who I hope will be more prudent in future.

Sat^y [February] 25th. The delay of the La Fayette till this day has afforded me an oppo[rtunity] of sending an additional letter to M^r Servoss acknowledging rec^t yest^y of y^r letters by the Chancellor, & that all were well at home. Yest^y aft.noon I attended the funeral of M^{rs} Nicolls,¹⁰ daughter of M^r Fleming, Cashier of the Mechanics Bank, a cousin of M^r Servoss. She was married about a year ago & miscarried at 8 months. Her child died. . . . Seated in the same apartment where but a short time ago I participated of the marriage festivities, & now summoned to attend a youthful bride & mother to a premature grave, I know not when my feelings were more exercised or my sensibility more affected than at the Funeral Service in Trinity, performed by the Bishop, on beholding the agony of the Father, husband & brothers. M^r Fleming is an excellent man & much esteemed, & y^r sister promised herself an agreeable intimate acquaintance in his daughter. . . .

Monday 27th Feb^y. Rain last night & a raw easterly day. I shall have my letters ready for the Russell, to sail tomorrow. Yest^y our new Church S^t Thomas was

¹⁰ Mrs. Frederick Nichols (Ellen Matilda Fleming), daughter of John Fleming. *N. Y. Evening Post*, May 11, 1825; Feb. 23, 1826.

first opened for Divine Service. As my French Minister D^r Penneveyre is about leaving us, I consider it a duty as well as mark of respect to attend at S^t Esprit as much as possible. Of course I did not accompany Mama & Sister in the morn^g, but went with Mama in the afternoon, Sister staying home to let her nurse go to church. We sat in the Front seat, middle aisle, w^h Mama fancies, being curved & roomy at the upper end & with more open space for respiration in Summer, nearer the Stoves in winter & best adapted for my infirm hearing. In the ev^g there was a Collect[io]n sermon for the Epis. Tract Society when my young Rev^d friend Manton Eastburn delivered an elegant discourse with great animation & eloquence. Novelty led a greater number of auditors than contributors, & the Church was overflowing, the very aisles filled. Being constructed in the Gothic Style, there are no galleries. The Communion railing outside of the desk & pulpit, w^h are entered from the Vestry room. The organ loft & gallery for choristers are above the pulpit, within the Eliptic vaulted ceiling, w^h gives a fine effect to the organ & voices that are carried to the eastern extremity of the Church, & to us below appear to come from that quarter. This day the pews are to be sold at 3 o'clock, & if I can procure Mama's choice at \$450, or if she will go as high as \$500, I shall be glad. Otherwise I must recede not further than 5 pews back, else I shall be out of all hearing. But amply near eno[ugh] for Mother & Sister. For myself it makes little odds, for the voice of the preacher is to me, in almost any situation, rather an utterance of tones than words. Happy for deaf persons that Episcopalians enjoy the benefit of their sublime Liturgy & can read the lessons of the day in their Bibles. As to Sermons we can get along at our fireside. Indifferent however as hearing certainly is, it is decorous at least & setting a good example to attend Divine Service. Except in very bad weather, I always go in the morning. Having prescribed to myself a pretty full course of Divinity reading, on Sunday I generally stay home in the afternoons. My

Sabbath begins with the puritans at Sunset on Saturday & ends with the Episcopalians when I retire to rest on Sunday evening. . . . I will respond [to] my Dear Sweet Turtle Dove's pretty letter by the Chancellor, w^h is to sail the last of the week. . . .

Tuesday 28th Feb^r. After this long talk, having been obliged to attend court, thru all the rain till 12, I must refer you to what I write y^r good brother respecting the very happy purchase of the pew in S^t Thomas' Church, yest^r P. M., on w^h dear Mother & Sister had set their hearts, for \$400. I intended going as high as \$500. I hope to get the same price for my Grace C^h pew. . . .
[Addressed by:] Ship Russell

NEW YORK, Wed^r 1st March, 1826

My last of yest^rs date was to go by the Russell this day w^h is still detained by East^r rainy weather, w^h appears to be clearing off. The Chancellor, to have sailed the 3^d, will be delayed till next week, by w^h time the Virginia may arrive with another letter. Often as we are favoured with y^r Fireside chit chat, we still anxiously look for further & I hope agreeable tidings. I have again to attend court, this being the 3^d & I pray last day. It is a most irksome duty, esp^r sitting for hours in a large court room this humid weather. The worst of my Influenza has I hoped passed, but I must not halloo till I get thro' the woods. Next week, weather favouring, we shall look for the Cadets. They are to march, I understand, to New Haven, 25 miles distance. Marney will have to stretch his little legs, but as it is on the way to N. York he will be animated to keep up with his comrades. There are 2 or 3 others as small as himself, but not so compactly moulded or well timbered. A Bar Wagon accompanies them to relieve the fatigued & well supplied with Belly timber.

Thur^r 2^d March. Foggy drizzling weather retards the Russell. The Hudson will probably be free this week. The Connecticut river is open & the Steam boat

resumes its trips on the 4th. . . . Had the weather permitted I w^d have gone to Brunswick yest^y to have attended the Funeral of D^r Woodhull, professor in the Theological Sem^y of the Dutch Church & of the College in that city. He was for 5 years a zealous & efficient Sec^y for dom. correspondence of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] & with whom I was intimately associated & whom I very much esteemed & respected. In the summer of 1823 Mama, Sister & myself went to Princeton in company with the Rev. Doctors Romeyn & Woodhull, both of whom are now no more. Since my connection as Rec^s Sec^y, the following officers of the A. B. S. have died: 1 President Boudinot, 2 Vice president Gen^l Clarkson, 3 D^r Romeyn, 4 D^r Woodhull, Sec^y for dom. cor., 5 Rev. M^r Crane, sec^y elect, & M^r John E. Caldwell, Agent, a great mortality in our ranks within the first 10 years. I have before told you that it is my intention to resign my office after May next w^h will complete our 10th year. My hearing is so very defective that it makes me feel as an encumberer of the ground.

Monday [March] 6th. This the 5th day of continued mild rain, dense Fogs & Vapours, much like what you experienced at N[ew] O[rleans] last winter. The sun, this morn^g, is attempting to dissipate the clouds, but possibly we shall not have settled weather till the change of the moon on Wed^y. All the outward bound vessels have remained weather bound at Staten Island, the Russell among the rest, w^h will occasion a long interval between my letters. The Chancellor will not sail till the last of this week. With the change of wind we may look for a fleet of ships, now hovering on our coast, the Virginia among the rest, in time to receive y^r letter ere closing this.

Perhaps I ought to account for the chasm in my Diary. Thur^y 2^d was the meeting of the Managers of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety], when I had some preparatory duties to discharge. On the same day I rec^d a very neat, indeed elegant letter, an evidence of her accomplishments, from Mrs. Francis of Middletown, who is

about enterprizing, 1st April next, her Boarding School for Young Ladies, & intimating a wish that she might be permitted to use the names of Gov^r Clinton & Bp. Hobart to refer to as well as my own. M^{rs} F. has been very kind to our Cadets, who dined with her at Xmas, & in case of sickness, I had arranged with her to take charge of the invalid, w^h she kindly promised to do. Under these circumstances I regarded it a duty to requite her kindness & on applicⁿ to Bp. Hobart, he politely & cordially accorded with her request. His written note I rec^d on Friday 3^d & immed^y transcribed it in my letter to go by a friend on Sat^y in the St[eam] Boat, the navigation of Connecticut river being now open. I wrote also to the Cadets inclosing their Sisters letters. On Sat^y 4, not to do things by halves, I wrote also to my friend Gov^r Clinton to use his name. His reply I may receive this week. But usually he is so overwhelmed with business, during the session of the Legislature that he has little time for private correspondence, & I shall not be disappointed at his silence. I intimated this to M^{rs} F. to prevent chagrin. At all events I have done my best to serve a lady who has been kind to our boys. I had also to write a long letter to my young clerical friend the Rev. M^r Potter of Boston, in reply to one from him rec^d that day, and as I do not like to send a mere complimentary epistle, I gave him all the ecclesiastical news stirring in this diocese. So much for last week. I had also to write to Cap^t Partridge, who proposes delivering 4 Lectures during his visit, the profits of w^h to go to some of our public institutions. He left the decision to myself, & I replied, hastily, that it w^d be well to deliver the Lectures in the Mechanic Institution, a room that can accommodate 500 auditors, & to give the profits to their *Apprentice* Library, w^h I assisted to found, & w^h is now very flourishing. With this he has accorded. I did not know at the time that he had before done the same thing & the results of 2 Lectures by him produced \$90, w^h was laid out in valuable books. In consequence of this, I have tho't of altering the plan,

that he sh^d give the benefit of 2 Lectures to the Mec. Library, of 1 to the Mercantile Association Library, and of the 4th, intended to be a Military Lecture, to found a Military Library for the use of the Militia Officers of this city, to be supported hereafter by annual contributions. To effect all this I have been obliged to call on some of the officers of the Mechanic Institution, who I have not yet been able to see. Thus you see my beloved daughter that your Fathers energies of mind & body are not yet quite exhausted, & that he does not sleep on his post or allow his talent to rust.

Yesterday 5th, altho' the weather was exceedingly Foggy & humid, Mama & Sister attended service in S^t Thomas' Church & the Communion. At the foot of the altar I put up my prayers for the temporal & spiritual happiness of all my dear children & g^dchildren. I was pleased to find so many communicants for a beginning, about 70. . . . Mama & Sister are much pleased with the pew, it is roomy & accommodating, being directly in front there is nothing to distract attention. Next Sunday I hope to be accompanied by our Cadets. This afternoon we are to go with an upholsterer to give directions about the Cushions, kneeling benches &ca.

Tuesday [March] 7th. Mama & Sister went yest^r P. M. to S^t Thomas' & gave the Upholsterer, M^r Ritter, directions about the Cushions &ca. Many of the purchasers were there for the same purpose. All uniting that I had bought the best & cheapest pew in the Church. I have no answer yet about my Grace pew, w^h I trust will sell for \$400. This is the 9th day of our protracted easterly weather. . . .

2½ o'clock. Attended meeting of the Chamber of Commerce & praised be God, have sold my Grace Ch. pew for \$400 & rec^d payment. But as the cost was only \$300 I owe the other \$100 to Him who gave it, and paid the Rev. D^r Wainwright \$20 toward a Library he is forming for the benefit of his Sunday Scholars, reserving \$80 for the benefit of S^t Thomas. I have also paid the Treasurer of that Church \$200 on acc^t & my note at 6

mo[nths] for \$200, so that I shall gladden the hearts of dear Mother & Sister on my return home. How auspicious every thing has hitherto occurred.

Wed^y [March] 8th. Haze, rain, drizzly N. E. weather. The Virginia arrived last p. m. & I have sent for my letters. In the meantime, by Mothers desire I have called on the Treas^r of S^t Thomas & redeemed my Note, so that next Sunday we shall please God, sit in our *own* pew, a delightful thought & feeling.

Thur^y [March] 9th. Still Fog & rain. I hope that your interview with Cadet Kemmer¹¹ will have afforded you useful information respecting Cap^t Partridges discipline & system of education, as also gratifying intelligence respecting our dear boys. . . .

12 o'clock. The sun is struggling hard to dissipate the clouds. The wind has shifted to So[uth] and we may I hope before night have a clear sky once more. We do not like y^r N[ew] O[rleans] humidity, w^h is too penetrating in our higher latitude for old bones. It is probable that Cap^t P[artridge] may set off for New Haven tomorrow, as he is said not to be retarded in his arrangements by trifles. I have made all the preliminaries respecting his Lectures, & shall turn him over to the proper officers for the future measures, having done my share. The idea of establishing a Military Library takes like Wild Fire with the officers of the National Guard, to w^h my young friend Andrew [Warner] is Adjutant. I hope in my next to give you an account of the doings by Capt. P. The Virginia will be the next ship. The Chancellor is to sail on Sat[urda]y. . . .

I am obliged to your friend Col. Hamilton for his kind recognition & complimentary respects. Delicate M^{rs} Foster & her tender mother how much they must have endured on their long & tedious journey. I do not wonder that M^{rs} Clinton wishes to get back. I hope that

¹¹ Listed on the roster of Academy Cadets as W. B. Kenner, of Maryland and New Orleans. Dodge and Ellis, *Norwich University*, III, 623.

ere this she has seen your city under a more favourable aspect. With the dissolute part of its society she happily has nothing to do. I am glad that the Babe is better.

Friday [March] 10th. At last the sun has penetrated the clouds, after 11 days of N[ew] O[rleans] vapour. . . . I mentioned on the 7th that I had presented Dr Wainwright \$20 for the benefit of his Sunday School Library. He acknowledges the rec^t of a similar sum from another benevolent gentleman. See the effect of good example. . . .

1 o'clock. I have just rec^d & forwarded to M^{rs} Francis Gov^r Clintons following answer to my request on the 4th "You are extremely welcome to use my name in the way you indicate. I shall never be reluctant to appear in company with the Bishop & the Sec^r of the A. Bible So. in behalf of a Lady & the interests of education." How pleasant it is to have a favour granted so cordially. I have dispatched this agreeable intelligence to M^{rs} F. as the circumstance will be all important to the character of her Seminary. I wish I c^d transcribe the whole of Gov^r C. letter to his *worthy* friend. He concludes, in reference to my saying how comfortably we hoped to be settled in Broome St. & how happy to see him there on his next visit, "Every addition to your happiness is gratifying to me. What recollections since our first acquaintance & how rapid the progress of time. G^dfather Pintard, &ca. &ca. &ca. My cordial respects to your excellent Wife."

With no persons have I been more frank in my intercourse than with M^r C. & he knows that my undeviating friendship for him, whether in sunshine or the shade, has always been most disinterested, as his has been for me. Altho' we both hailed from opposite political parties. What terrible pens & writing.

Sat^r [March] 11th. The sun broke out yest^r with g^t heat. This morn^g the wind is very fresh at West & drying our late liquid mud. The Chancellor will go off with a leading breeze. The Lavinia did not arrive till

yest^y p. m. having been detained off the Balize by a
Fog 6 or 8 days. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Chancellor

NEW YORK, Monday 13th March, 1826

It will gratify my beloved daughter to learn that our dear Cadets are with us. Not having rec^d any letter either from them or Cap^t Partridge, I was quite at a loss to know whether, on acc^t of the late long spell of bad weather, the visit might not have been postponed 'till this week, when lo! about 7 o'clock Mama & Sister who heard the alarm, announced that the boys had arrived. I was just seated reading as usual the Bible before Tea. You may be sure that I descended the entry stair case most eagerly to embrace & welcome them. The wind being fresh at S. W. had retarded the arrival of the steamboat from New Haven later than usual. After rubbing off some of the Con[necticu]t mud, they came upstairs to see G^dmama & Aunt. Poor fellows, they marched on Friday with their Haversacks on their backs, a la militaire, from Middletown to New Haven 28 miles thro very muddy roads, did not arrive till 8 at night. Marney & Thomas stood it very well but our more delicate [Pintard] got his left foot chafed, w^h distressed him much. After a hearty tea, Toast, Sausages &ca. w^h brought about 8 o'clock, they washed their feet & G^dma applied Seneca Oil & wrapped up Pintards foot. They retired to rest & indulged till 7 on Sunday morning, when they came down quite refreshed, with clean linen & put themselves in order for Church. After prayer, they breakfasted heartily on Buckwheat Cakes & Coffee, and we all went together to S^t Thomas' Church. The appearance of the 3 Cadets in their new suits of uniform & caps attracted every eye both in the streets & in Church where their deportment was very correct. I participated a share of my beloved daughters maternal pride, as G^dmama, Aunt, the 3 Cadets followed by myself went up the middle aisle in Indian file. Quite a

novel spectacle. The Boys look exceedingly well, & behave with the utmost propriety. The discipline of Cap^t P. is perceptible at a glance. Pintard is delicate & has not worn off his N. Orleans complexion but Marney is as clear & ruddy as a Northern. Thomas is a very handsome boy & has a fine eye & imposing countenance. After Church he went & dined at his Uncle Schencks. His Aunts & Cousins were delighted to see him. They are all highly pleased with their Captain, their Academical Instruction & with their Commons. Their looks evince that they have wholesome & plentiful fare. Pintard as usual is a delicate feeder & Marney eats with greater moderation than when he first came. Thomas plays the best knife & fork, but is far from a gross feeder. Excepting Thomas & his Mother, who had to stay home & tend the nursery to let her nurse go abroad, we all went to afternoon Church. The Cadets staid home the rest of the day & Cap^t Partridge came up & took tea with us with whom I had a long conversation much to my satisfaction. he expresses himself highly pleased with our boys, But is sparing of praise to their faces.

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 30 Cadets have accompanied Cap^t P. all of whom are subject to his commands. The order of the day was to rendezvous at his head quarters, City Hotel, at 9. It showered & the Capt. dismissed them till 11. He came to see me at my office for half an hour to show some of the surveys performed by his Cadets, of Connecticut river, the navigation of which is to be improved, and of the upper country in Mass^{ts} on its borders, w^h certainly are elegant performances & w^d do credit to the Cadets of the U. S. Academy at West point. This ev^r he is to take his Cadets to the Theatre & I have provided my 3 with Tickets. They have comrades in our neighbourhood & can come home altogether. Tamar will set up cheerfully & let them in & keep up her neat kitchen fire to warm them before retiring to rest. A grand play is to be performed, or rather equestrian military spec-

tacle, The Invasion of Russia or the conflagration of Moscow, w^h will be quite captivating to the Cadets, who are all to sit together & will make no small show.

There is to be an examination in May, & April is to be devoted to reviewing their studies. They all think that they will acquit themselves like men. After examⁿ in May, the Cap^t proposes to march his whole Battallion, now 300, to New Haven, & display his Cadets before the Governor & Legislature w^h will then be in session, to display their manœuvres & no doubt to interest public opinion in favour of his Institution, w^h I cannot but think will progressively be very beneficial to the U. S.

Tuesday [March] 14th. This letter must be devoted to y^r Cadets. Yest^y when the shower cleared off Cap^t Partridge took over to the Navy Yard where they went aboard the Ohio & other vessels of War. Last ev^s they attended the Theatre from w^h they did not get back till near 1, good Tamar sitting up & after warming themselves, lighting them to bed. This morn^s I stepped into their room at 7 & found them fast asleep. Pintard however awoke & came down. Thomas & Marney lay till breakfast time, when I left them with G^dma & Aunt & to attend on Cap^t P. at 9. I presume they have gone to Governor's island altho' the wind is fresh the day is very fine. They were much entertained with what they heard & saw at the Theatre.

Wed^y [March] 15. I was exceedingly urged with business yest^y as you will judge by the above short minute, Being obliged moreover to draft an article for the Ev. Post, to attract attention towards Cap^t Partridges Military Lecture this ev^s. Yest^y being too blustering the expedⁿ to Governor's island was postponed till this morning, a fine day for the purpose of crossing & examining the works. Cap^t P. was with me just now (10 o'clock) to make some arrangements about the Ev^s Lecture w^h Andrew will attend to. The Cadets had all left the City Hotel for Whitehall Slip. At their return

he is to introduce them to the Mayor & to see the picture Gallery, Common Council Chamber & what is to be seen. Yest^r morn^s he took them all to the Museum to their great gratification. After dinner Thomas took y^r sons to pay their respects to his Aunts & Cousins, after w^h they called on their old friend Cap^t Holmes who carried them home with him. They returned to Tea & went to rest at 9.

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 I have rec^d a letter of grateful thanks from M^{rs} Francis for the services rendered her with Gov^r Clinton & Bp. Hobart, w^h certainly are important to her. I must reserve her very neat letters to show the qualifications of this Lady in cases of applications. they certainly evince a cultivated mind & do her credit. She speaks of the gratification I must experience on seeing my fine boys & marking their improvement and adds "We shall hope for the pleasure of seeing you the next August, when you must allow us to claim you as our guest while you are in town. We shall, in whatever way we may be situated, always have a room at y^r service." This is very kind & grateful.

Thurs^y [March] 16th. The Cadets were much pleased with their visit to Governors island where Pintard says he observed the platforms going to ruin. This is of a peice with our parsimonious government, w^h like the Indians who set their Wigwams on Fire in the spring & build anew when Winter returns, suffer our Fortifications to go to decay in times of peace to be repaired in the midst of war at any cost. Afterwards they were introduced to the Mayor at the City Hall, but for want of attention did not see the Picture Gallery &ca. for w^h I am sorry but another time I will take them myself. Yest^r 15th was Marneys birthday, 11 years complete. Luckily Auntie had a find pudding smoking on the board, w^h passed off in compliment to the occasion. Thomas' birthday falls on the 18th & Aunts on the 21st, within 3 days of each other. . . . They were invited by their

roommate Marston to spend the ev^g, had a supper & did not get home till 12. Several other Cadets were there. Pintard, on acc^t his heel did not go. G^dma dressed it when he went to bed and it is better this morn^g. . . . They are to be treated with Oysters today, & everything that c^d make them happy has been done. . . .

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 Friday [March] 17th. Another blustering day. The wind was so tremendous yest^y as to prevent the arrival of the Hartford St[eam] Boat at her usual hour 7 this morn^g & from the freshness of the wind at West it is likely she will not arrive in time to set off at 4. This throws us all aback. Cap^t P[artridge] was taken his squad on board the Boston Sloop of War lying in the N. river this morn^g but the wind is too high. Yest^y he took them to Peales Museum, where they saw the Egyptian Mummies, a great curiosity. In the ev^g they went to the Amphitheatre, so that they have had one round of sights, but no dissipation. I received yester^y a letter from M^{rs} Sigourney who speaks in most flattering terms of the good behaviour of y^r sons esp^y Marsden. This astonishing boy of his own head, sent her a letter of thanks. I shall inclose her beautiful letter to you for y^r gratification, after copying the verses for publication in the Daily Advertiser.

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 Saturday [March] 18th. Our Cadets were ordered to attend at 3 yest^y in case the St[eam] Boat sh^d arrive to depart at 4, w^h she did not the wind being still a tempest. They staid for further orders till ½ past 6, when they were directed to rendezvous at the City Hotel at 7 this morn^g. After tea taking leave of G^dma & Aunt they retired to rest & arose this morn^g ½ past 5 & take their last breakfast with me, good Tamar having everything in readiness. I went down with them it being Cap^t Partridge's intention to embark at 8, in the New Haven Boat, happily however, the wind fell at sunset last ev^g & the Middletown St[eam] Boat arrived & is to depart

at 4 P. M. so that they will reach home by 9 or 10 o'clock tomorrow. . . .

Tuesday [March] 21st. Equinoctial. We had a violent & unusual long Thunder squall, with vivid lightening, rain & very large hail from 7 to 9 w^h has cleared the dense haze of yest^r, that prevented the arrival of the St[eam] Boat from Hartford at her usual hour this morning nor has she yet (1½ o'clock) come in. I am very solicitous to hear about the arrival of the Cadets & shall walk down this p. m. with the hope of seeing Cap^t Havens. . . .

Wed^r [March] 22^d. Fair day. Luckily as I ret^d home to dinner I called at Fulton Slip, where I found the St[eam] Boat, & obtained the following intelligence. The Fog was so dense on Sat^r night, that the S. Boat had to make a harbour at New Haven, at 11 o'clock, & started next morn^g Sunday, at day break & arrived at Middletown 7 p. m. and landed all safe. A good dinner & Tea was provided for the Cadets, who got back to their quarters in time to answer all the enquiries about their peregrination before retiring to rest, w^h is generally about 10. . . .

Mama & Sister attend prayers at S^t Thomas' this morn^g & service Good Friday. I cannot be there, but hope to be able to go to S^t Esprit & on Easter Sunday to the Communion, probably for the last time, as hereafter I must be Mothers companion to Church. It always gave me pain to let her & sister go to Grace Ch. without [me] But I thot it a duty to worship in the Temple of my forefathers. . . .

Thurs^r [March] 23^d. The Lavinia is detained probably till Sat^r 25th for want of hands. Tomorrow being Good Friday, the Captain dont like to sail. I send a D[aily] Advertiser of this morn^g cont^g M^{rs} Sigourney's beautiful lines, w^h cut out for preservation. . . .

Good Friday 24th. A lowering day with showers. Mama & Sister go to S^t Thomas'. I shall attend, probably for the last Good Friday, Service in my French Church, as also on Easter communion. M. Penneveyre leaves us in May, and hereafter I must not separate myself from dear solitary mother. The wind is very fresh at S. E. & I hope will blow in some vessel with letters from N[ew] O[rleans].

[Addressed by:] Ship Lavinia

NEW YORK, 27th March, 1826

My beloved daughters letter of 8th inst. by the Azelia, was received yest^r. . . .

. . . . The time approaches when the troublesome job of preparation for removal is at hand, please God for the last time. You know not how much my mind is relieved that this, certainly, very favourable purchase please y^r good brother, whose letters on the subject are most tender & affectionate. God has rewarded me amply for many years of a troublous life in granting your dear sister so kind a partner & myself so respectable & affectionate a son. I have no gloomy forebodings but when settled we shall live in concord & harmony. Dear Mother's mind becomes more & more reconciled to the change from a housekeeper to an inmate. . . . The house is so accommodating that there will be room for all without running in each others way, & a place for every thing without confusion. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Enterprize

NEW YORK, 28th March, 1826]

I send herewith a pretty little work, by M. Ferry¹² the French Instructor, containing a full description of

¹² François Peyre Ferry, Professor of French at Partridge's Military Academy, 1822-28. Dodge and Ellis, *Norwich University*.

the Academy, its system of education &c^a w^b will spare my further remarks and will I am confident please you. The View of the Academy is perfectly correct, except that the So[uth] Wing is not yet built. Our boys room in the N W. corner room on the 1st Floor, w^b they will be entitled to change by right of seniority as more favourable situations offer, by Cadets going out.

Wed^y [March] 29th. . . . The late eminent Doctor Rush, an exemplary pious Christian, told me that in the course of his long practice & experience he was certain that his patients derived more benefit from his spiritual advice & consolation than from his medecine. . . .

1½ p. m. Your Father is a man of many cares & many duties. Let me snatch the fleeting moments of my remaining course. Have you a copy of the Weekly preparation for the Sacrament, my long & constant companion ever since Easter 1796, and w^b I always use preparatory to the Sacrament, the week before & the week after. If you have not one, I will send you a copy. . . . I think I sent you a copy of M^r Bayards compilation on the Lord's Supper. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Julia.

NEW YORK, Sat^y 1st April, 1826

My beloved daughter will naturally expect a letter by a regular packet, altho' having written by the Julia yest^y to sail this day, & not much of course to say, I will not disappoint you. . . .

We are now making the preliminary preparations for removal. Some uncourteousness has existed on the part of M^{rs} Pell,¹³ arising no doubt from mortification at being obliged to give up a beautiful house after the short residence of a year. Many weeks indeed months were

¹³ Alfred S. Pell is listed in Longworth's *New York Directory*, 1825-26, as living Broome corner Crosby Street. His wife was Adelia Duane, daughter (not granddaughter) of Hon. James Duane.

necessary to be employed in getting fixed. It is not every one that has suff^t strength of mind to submit to necessity. However she has shown some disposition this morning to be accommodating. The universal move all among tenants on the same day causes infinite trouble, vexation & damage to furniture, indeed losses, as one moves out, t'other comes in. M^r Bradford who succeeds us, has kindly allowed us all May day, w^h comes in on a Monday. This is great relief, & will be requited by granting the use of a room for light articles, China &c. Now if Madam Pell, who is pretty high in the instep, being the g^ddaughter of Judge Duane, a most respectable patriot of the Revolution, will only accommodate us with the use of the basement room & privilege to deposit our surplus Fire wood in the vault, it will be a great favour.

My friend M^r Boyd who is to examine the Title Deeds will I hope be able to accomplish the business on Monday 3^d so as to have the Deed dated Tuesday 4th, the anniv[ersar]y of dear Sisters marriage. A handsome marriage Gift. Wou[ld] to God it were in my power, to make each of my beloved daughters a free Gift of a comfortable House on their respective anniversaries of their marriage. But why repine or distress my dear children with idle wishes. "Wishes the constant hectic of a Fool."

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[Addressed by:] Ship Azelia

NEW YORK, Monday 3^d April, 1826

My last to my beloved daughter was by the Julia, sailed 1st & Azelia 2^d inst. This is to go by the Louisiana, on Wed^y 5th. Just as I had assumed my pen (as Marney says) to write, a M^r Stewart a young gentⁿ introduced y^r friend M^{rs} Wederstrandts son John, just arrived from Balt[im]o[re] where he has been at S^t Mary's College. M^r S. forgot to bring on with him the letter of instructions, w^h he expects in the St[eam] Boat this day.

. . . If possible I will take him on next Friday, but this depends on circumstances. . . .

.. . . . Tuesday [April] 4th. Anniv^y of dear Sisters marriage day & a beautiful day it is, the first pleasant unruffled morn^g for some weeks. Dear Mother will scarcely listen to my going to Middletown. She is such a Cassandra, that unless I can obtain her consent I shall almost *fear* to go. I hope however that she will give it on reflection. She says that I stand more in need of some one to protect me than Master Wederstrandt. He did not come up to us yest^y aft.noon as I expected and distinctly understood. Possibly he staid with M^r Stewart to go to the Theatre last ev^g. I hope that he will not fail to make our house his home during his short stay, as Sister will be very happy, by her attention to him to requite his Mothers kind civilities to her, of w^h she is very sensible.

This is the Election day for Directors of the Mutual Insur[anc]e C^o for the ensuing year. Probably, as heretofore, we shall have little or no competition. The hours are from 12 to 2, soon over. I almost hope that this may be the last year of my servitude, the 18th, a very long time to have laboured for little more than a bare subsistence. . . . I must now go—11 o'clock—to prepare punch, similar to that you were making for M^r Servoss this time two years ago & w^h you say was so much admired in N[ew] O[rleans]. Indeed I have served a long apprenticeship at punch making to know how to make it good. No beverage that I recollect is nicer to make excellent than this, as the proportions must not be exceeded. I make it now, altogether by taste.

.. . . . Wed^y [April] 5th. The stray Lamb ¹⁴ returned to our fold yest^y P. M. I found him quite at ease on my return at 6. He was detained by M^r Stewart until he c^d bring the letters from his good Uncle & one from M^r Trenan[?] of Balt^o inclosing \$200 for Cap^t Partridge. My namesake, whatever he was at home, is no longer

¹⁴ John C. Wederstrandt.

an *enfant gaté*. His air, modesty & deportment is very much like Pintards. I leave open for y^r perusal my letter to his uncle to save repetition, for I am almost exhausted with letter writing, having just despatched a line to Cap^t Partridge to let him know of our coming, & requesting him to permit my 3 g^dsons to welcome J. C. W. to Middletown. Mama gives her reluctant consent to my going, for John like a man says that he can find his way alone. . . . He is forward & skilled in his learning & will make a bright Cadet . . . I have every confidence that the change from the monastic system to S^t Mary's to the Military Academy will be in his favour. He will be braced up by its discipline & our fine northern air. I asked him what were the Commons during Lent. He replied Fish & Vegetables & appeared pleased that there were no Lenten days at the Academy. Nothing injurious will be done to his Catholic principles. There are several Rom. Catholic Cadets at the Academy. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Louisiana

NEW YORK, Sat^y 8th April, 1826

After receipt of my letter of 5th inst. by the Louisiana w^h sailed yest^y my beloved daughter will be surprized to find the commencement of the present dated in this city on this day. It was fully my intention to have attended the fine son of y^r friend M^{rs} Wederstrandt to Middletown, yest^y afternoon. It had rained hard on Thurs^y, and a cold w^h has more or less afflicted thro' the whole winter, was aggravated by the chilling N. E. storm. I left home at 8 yest^y morn^g with my protégé fully resolved to accompany him, Mama reluctantly acquiescing. On calling at the Steam Boat, Cap^t Havens assured me that there was no necessity for my going, as he w^d see Master John safely landed at Middletown & placed in the care of Cap^t Partridges Agent, who lived near the wharf with instructions to see him & his baggage safe up to the Academy. . . . Now 10½ o'clock, I presume he has been rec^d as I requested permission from Cap^t P.

by my 3 g^dsons, who are escorting him to the Academy. . . . Assure his good mother, father & uncle, that he shall be treated by me, as one of y^r children. There will be no attempt at proselyting him. With his comrades he will have [to] attend worship in the Hall of the Lyceum on Sundays, where the general principles of the Xtⁿ religion & good morals are inculcated, without violating the feelings of any denomination. There are several Roman Catholic youths at the Academy, for whom, if the[y] please, Fish is provided on Fridays. But John observed with great naiveté, "he did not mind eating Meat on Fridays." . . . My good opinion of Cap^t Partridges system of education has not abated. A Military Acad^y is getting up, under the patronage of this State, in the Western counties. There is also a recent establishment of one at Germantown near Phil^a. This shows that public opinion is strongly in favour of the modern system of miscellaneous education, a subject that in consequence of our dear boys has much engaged & exercised my mind. In August, please God, I shall attend the general examination, when I shall be better able to judge of the talents of the professors, & application of the Cadets. Notwithstanding rivalships Cap^t P's fame is so well established as to attract youths from all parts, esp^y the southern quarters of the Union, who by the way, being full grown, & subject to little or no domestic control, are very refractory. . . .

Monday [April] 10th. A snow storm & gale at N. E. What an escape I have had as my Cassandra said yest^y when it began to rain. . . .

Tuesday [April] 11th. We had as tempestuous a day yest^y as any the past winter. I walked down 1/2 p. 8 & back at 3 in a violent N. E. snow storm w^h abated & cleared off at sunset. Wind N. W. This day is complete winter. I regard it as a mercy my living so distant from my office. My health & strength have wonderfully recruited. Excepting hot weather, when I must ride, I go & come without the least perceptible fatigue. Notwithstanding the pitiless pelting storm of yest^y & snow di-

rectly in my teeth, no inconvenience nor cold ensued. This is a mercy for w^h I cannot be too grateful. I was breaking down very fast when living in Wall St. Compulsory exercise is my life. . . . Mama has begun yest^r to take up her carpets for moving. What a job she has before her & how little aid is it in my power to render. Dear Sister is as blightsome as a Lark on the occasion of moving to her own house—for a permanent abode please God.

1 p. m. I have called at the Steam Boat. Cap^t Havens says that he arrived at Middletown, on Sat^r morn^g at 8 o'clock, and landed Master John safe & sound. . . .

Wed^r [April] 12th. Winter day. Therm^o 23. Ice an inch & half thick last night.

Thur^r [April] 13th. Weather moderated. The Talma is below in 15 days. 12 o'clock. Your letter of 24th March, my beloved daughter, is rec'd.

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Friday [April] 14th . . . The Niagara is advertised to sail tomorrow. I have sent to see when her Bag will be taken away . . . Word is returned that she is not to sail till Tuesday. Thank God, for I have now time to write to M^r S[ervoss] as also Sister. I shall give an acc^t of my reluctant consent to accept of the Vice presidency of a very useful Society, "To improve the character of Domestic." I can enlarge tomorrow. This p. m. I have to attend the Stand^g Com. of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] & at ½ p. 6, the Annual Meeting of the afs^d S^o. I shall be lucky if I get home by 10½. I am quite exhausted with exertion.

Sat^r [April] 15th. I attended the Society afs^d last evening. After hearing the Report & addresses, I retired about 9, when the prizes were to be distributed, and a handsome oct^o Bible to each Domestic, who ought to have been present, but were not, for fear of giving offence. The Report ¹⁵ will I presume be published when

¹⁵ The *First Annual Report of the Society for the Encouragement of Faithful Domestic Servants in New-York* was printed at New York in 1826 by D. Fanshaw. The New-York Historical Society owns a copy.

I will send a copy. What the result of the election for officers is I know not, but presume that I may have been chosen. Not being in office I thot it no more than delicate to withdraw, this was due to self respect, of which a man ought never to lose sight. As the Niagara does not sail till Tuesday, I can go on journalizing. I am sorry to learn from what M^r S. writes to y^r Sister, that M^r Wederstrandt is obliged to give up his plantation, & is coming to settle in N[ew] O[rleans]. May better Fortune attend him. M^{rs} W. I understand is coming on to Balt^o & will probably visit her son, when I shall have the pleasure of seeing her & rendering every attention to her in my power, in return for her continued kindness to you & your children. You will lose my dearest daughter a pleasant country visit. But such is the mutability of human prospects. I see by your papers that the N. O. College is given up. Thank God y^r sons are provided with better means of education. The Rev. M^r Clapp will I presume be a loser, unless he sh^d be reestablished in one of the new schools. I sometimes think how much service my talents & experience might render y^r city, w^b appears to me to only want some active & intelligent mind to give impulse & direction to promote its literary Institutions. Cannot such a person be found who w^d devote his time & best abilities to promote education, one of the most important duties that a man can render to Society.

Monday [April] 16th. By the Talma on Friday I will write again. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Niagara

NEW YORK, Tuesday, 18th April, 1826

My last to my beloved daughter, of yest^r 17th date was by the Niagara which I presume has sailed this May morn^g. This is intended to go by the Talma on Friday. I must snatch the fleeting moments as they pass to pursue this letter. When I made up my packet yest^r I was labouring under my 4th & heavy attack of the Influenza,

a return in consequence of the winter weather of last week. I am nearly well, without other prescription than Seneca Oil to relieve tickling & irritation of the throat. Dear Mother & Sister are occupied with preparations for removing. . . . Porters are provided & this ev^g or tomorrow I shall make an engagement with 2 sober able bodied carmen. Much may be hand carried for the distance is short. With my usual providence of Fuel, we are encumbered with several cart loads of wood, w^h w^d carry us thro' the summer. This will be a troublesome job. I must get a couple of labourers to throw it out & M^r Pell, the present occupant to whom I applied says that I may have the wood vault the middle of next week. If so, I shall get it stowed & take in some coal, that in case of cold rains usual in May, we need not be chilled. . . .

Wed^y [April] 19th. On Sunday p. m. I went very injudiciously to attend worship at the House of Refuge. It had rained in the morn^g so as to prevent our folks going to Church & it was showery & damp in the aft. noon. My influenza was aggravated at my return. Dear Wife says that I am the Victim of my own imprudence. I was delighted however with my visit, at seeing the order neatness & propriety with which every department was conduct[ed]. The Room temporarily used as a Chapel contained 63 lads decently attired & 18 Girls, the latter as cleanly cloathed in blue stripped [*sic*] cotton Gowns, manufactured in the House with white cotton long aprons & vandykes, that were dazzling to the sight. The appearance & behaviour of both w^d do credit to an Orphan Assylum. A decent plain Minister, who, in turn, afforded his services, read a Chapter, made a prayer & gave an excellent sermon adapted to his audience, w^h made several of the poor young girls weep. Hymns were sung out of the Sunday School Hymn Book, with female voices that w^d have been the admiration of any Church Choir. "Lord who will show any good." Let enquirers attend the House of Refuge on the Sabbath, & see how

much is performing by the benevolent Manager of an Institution, destined I trust to redeem thousands of Brands from the burning. The occupations in the incipient stage of this House, are Shoemaking & Weaving by the boys, platting cane bottoms is to be introduced. As it is intended to keep all who are committed for petty crimes or as vagrants, 3 years at least, so as to instruct them in reading, writing & arithmetic, & give them useful occupations, w^h will enable them to be bound out apprentices to different trades. The Mechanics send a foreman to instruct them & pay each year from 1/ & upwards a day according to their capacities & proficiency. This will, if not entirely support, alleviate the burthen of their maintenance, one of the objections of those growling misanthropists that infest every society, who will do no good themselves & do all in their power to mar the efforts of others. The Girls make, mend & wash for the House & make bread. Spare time is improved in making grass bonnets, & a portion of each day morn^s & ev^s allotted to education & exercises. The sexes are kept distinct & have no communication except at worship. They have all boys & girls separate dormitories. A corresponding Building of stone is under contract to be finished by October, for the Females w^h will be walled off, distinct from the present 1st Edifice occupied by the Boys. A Chapel with appropriate seats is to be provided in the new building. The present is a great experiment for the melioration of the offcasts of Society, & hitherto has been successful beyond our most sanguine anticipations. Phil^a is pursuing our steps w^h on a smaller scale have been adopted in Boston, and will in due time be imitated by every city in the Union, yours among them. Prevention is better than cure, and with perseverance we shall save numbers of little Devils from becoming big ones.

I have heretofore mentioned that I declined being a Manager by reason of my increasing years & deafness. But I have & do often visit a place of so g^t public benefit, having been a subscriber, w^h entitles me to admission

without ceremony. Among other useful deeds, I am endeavouring to get up a Scholarship in our Theol[ogica]l Sem^y, by the congregation of S^t Thomas' Church, & hope to be successful, in w^h case I will hereafter communicate my plan. The worst is that confined so much, & fatigued with mere going & coming, I have little time to run about, & must make use of the Agency of those who promise & forget to perform. But Never Despair. As an instance of attention, after dining yest^y I had to walk down to meet the Vestry of my French Ch[urch], on the subject of presenting a Vase to our departing Minister as a token of respect & regard & I was put on the Committee. This was 5 p. m. Then I had to return up B^dway, to near Bleeker S^t to meet Professor Turner on the scholarship, so as to shape my project before committing it to paper. This brought me to past 6. Unluckily, not knowing the cause of delay, he had left home. I am to try it again this aft.noon. This morn^g my friend Collins called on me to act as a Referree on the part of the Free School So[ciety] with a Com^e of the Corporation on the subject of receding Free School N^o 1, w^h is ours by perpetual lease, while occupied as a public school, the site of w^h is wanted for public improvements in the vicinity of the City Hall. I have endeavoured to decline but as reliance is had on my knowledge of Facts & confidence in me as a special pleader, if Peter A. Jay Esq. to whom I ref^d sh^d decline, I must act. Were I not office bound, the discharge of such duties w^d be a pleasure. Better wear out than rust out. I am pretty near worn as thin as this paper. I mention these facts to show my beloved daughter how much her old father is looked up to for counsel resulting from long & active experience. The Spanish proverb says "Get a good name and you may go to sleep." I'll be hanged if there's any sleeping for me. But there will be sleep enough in the grave.

Thurs^y [April] 20th. The inclosed from our Cadets were rec^d this morn^g. John C. W. has got roomed with Morse. Poor fellow, he is homesick. . . . They have

lost their Spanish Instructor my old friend M^r Proal, who has been sometime ill. The substitute on whom I had fixed my eye, Col. Van Halen, & ex-patriot has returned to England. He is a scholar, & the most elegant accomplished modest soldier I ever saw. He will publish his life in London. He was a victim in the Inquisition from w^h he effected his escape. We shall be able I hope to obtain a competent Instructor, for there are many Spaniards in this city.

Friday [April] 21st. I have written to the Rev. M^r Bayard a letter of sympathy on the death of M^{rs} Hallett, Cornelias Sister. M^{rs} B. sent word by Tamar, who had been to N Rochelle to settle her husbands Estate, that she was the *only one* left of all her family. How appalling. The Rector has some hopes of a call to Boston. Please God they may not prove illusory. The Niagara did not sail till yest^r, so that the intervals since the Frances [*sic*] on the 5th will appear long.

Sat^r [April] 22^d. Your letter by the La Fayette is rec^d & I forward[ed] the inclosed for the Cadet . . . I rejoice to learn the success of the Am. Theatre Amateurs, in favour of the Male Orphan Assylum. It does honour to the Managers & y^r city & must be highly gratifying to the Doctor.

Tuesday [April] 25th. You may judge of my avocations & duties by the intermission of the dates of this letter. I had just taken up my pen when I was called upon by the Vestry of my French Church, to make choice of a piece of plate to be presented to our Rev. Rector D^r Penneveyre, who preaches his valedictory sermon next Sunday, on his departure for Switzerland by the way of Havre next week. He prefers a *Caffetiere* to a Vase, w^h is fixed on & will be engraven, as a Temoignage de Bienveillance & du respect, from the Church Wardens & Vestrymen Du S^t Esprit, whose names will be recited. It is a handsome article & no doubt will be preserved & transmitted to his posterity. I have been more engaged than I anticipated with the new Society w^h complimented me, (reluctantly on my part) with its V. Presi-

dency. A new Agent was advertised for, and in the course of 5 days 76 candidates offered supported by the first rate commendations. We were engaged from 7 till 10 on Sat^y ev^e last to select from the mass, some half dozen w^h were ref[erre]d to a Committee for investigation, probably tomorrow a choice will be made. After w^h nothing material will devolve on me. . . . As a small tribute of gratitude to the Giver of all good Gifts, I have constituted my new g[ran]dson Thomas [Servoss], member for life of the Am[erican] B[ible] So[ciety]. Parents, sons, daughters & gr[an]dsons, 11 of us are Members. Praised be God, for the ability & above all the inclination.

Thurs^y [April] 27th. The Talma is to sail tomorrow weather permitting. This day is drizzling & easterly. A constant succession of similar weather for the last fortnight. By the Brig Eliza, Whelden, to sail next Tuesday, I shall send you a Tub of Butter from the same Dairy & put up in the same manner as that sent last year, & hope it will reach you in the like good condition, also a kit of salmon, as my spring gift.

Friday [April] 28th. I must close with bad news for my office w^h has suffered in a tremendous Fire last night, in the Exchange Buildings,¹⁶ totally prostrate, our loss will be from 30, to 40,000 Doll[a]rs w^h has never before occurred in 17 years experience. Gods will be done. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Talma
with a parcel

NEW YORK, Sat^y 29th April, 1826. 2½ p. m.

Why are thou so troubled O my soul and why art thou so disquieted within me? *Put thy trust in God.* No circumstance relating to my office has so borne me down, as the overwhelming loss that we sustained on the

¹⁶ At William Street and Garden Street (now Exchange Place). An account of the fire may be found in the [N. Y.] *Commercial Advertiser*, April 28, 1826.

28th, in the conflagration of the Exchange Building, am^{ts} to 40,000. Far beyond any thing that has ever occurred, since we began business in 1809, 17 years. I had fondly anticipated that as the time approached when I might retire, that I sh^d leave the office on higher ground than ever it had been before. But this catastrophe has blasted all my prospects, and I confess that it fairly prostrates me, Altho' no blame nor censure attach to me, nor my president.¹⁷ Tomorrow however is the Sabbath of rest, w^h when employed as a Christian ought to do, always prove a balm to my wounded spirits. I trust I shall find it so. Altho' it will be a somewhat gloomy day to me, as my Rev. Rector, Mons^r Peneverye [*sic*] is to preach his valedictory sermon before his departure next week for his native land. . . .

[Addressed:] Brig Eliza

Whelden

with a hf Barrel [of butter]

& Kit [of salmon]

NEW YORK, Tuesday 2^d May, 1826

The long agony is over & we slept last night in Broome St. Owing to the exertions of Arthurs Father M^r Monahan all was removed by 5 p. m. to my astonishment. Tamar swept out where required every apartment from Garret to Street door & I returned the key to our accommodating successor, M^r Bradford at 6 o'clock. Everything as you may suppose lies helter skelter.

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Thurs^y [May] 4th. At my return home yest^y great progress had been made. The whitewashers are at work, & the weather most favourable. Much rubbish is cleared away, & by Sat^y a great deal will be in order. Both Sister & Mother are delighted with the House more than they anticipated. A fine S^o exposure affords a draft of

¹⁷ Gabriel Furman.

air all thro' & the Rooms will be cool in Summer and warm in Winter. . . .

Friday [May] 5th. . . . With others of our Vestry I attended my late Rev. Pastor M^r Penneveyre to the Wharf at 10, & bid him a final Adieu. . . .

Saturday [May] 6th. The La Fayette sails this day. I add a line merely to say that our folks have got thro' the hardest & roughest of their work. The whitewashing is done, & as a new House is only primed, the painters are going over the work. Instead of papering, Sister has concluded to paint the Walls Lemon colour, w^h will last at least 12 years. . . .

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[Addressed by:] Ship La Fayette

NEW YORK, Monday 8th May, 1826

My last to my beloved daughter was written in brief & extreme haste on Sat^y to go by the LaFayette, w^h probably sailed yest^y. . . . Yest^y . . . Sister accompanied me to S^t Thomas in the morn^g where prayers were offered for my late Rev^d Pastor D^r Peneveyre [*sic*], on his going to sea. . . . In the afternoon I attended at S^t Philips, the African Church, where the Bishop confirmed 120 persons old & young of both sexes. It was an interesting & inspiring spectacle to see an overflowing black congregation conducted with as much or more decorum & order as any Episcopal Church in our city. As to chanting, singing & responding they beat us out of sight. A delightful organ well performed by a brother African, conducts the choir. Indeed the latter is composed of the whole congregⁿ. I considered it a duty to comply with the request of the Rev. M^r Williams & several of his Vestry to attend on this occasion. I generally do once a year. The last time I was there was with the late Gen. Clarkson, who with myself made it a rule to go occasionally to countenance the Minister. I pray God to strengthen me in all good works. Aunt Helen called yest^y to see us & with M^r Craig is charmed

with the House. He says, as every one that knows it does, that it is a very great bargain. . . .

Tuesday [May] 9th. We have been a week in our new abode & more & more pleased with it. Mother works assiduously & will until all is in perfect order. This week, in this city, is devoted to benevolent general meetings. This aft.noon the Union Sunday School procession will take place at 4, from the Park to Castle Garden, probably 5000 scholars. I shall remain down to witness the exhibition but cannot attend the Evening services. Tomorrow 10 a. m. the 1st Ann[iversar]y of the Am. Tract So[ciety] will be held in the City Hotel. This S^o is newly organized in this city & an elegant edifice for conducting its extensive business has been erected at the upper end of Nassau S^t opposite the Park, in the course of the last 12 months. It will cost \$30,000 Lot & Building, is adapted to carry on the business of the Institution, with every facility. The printers, binders, & other offices will pay a rent adequate to the interest of the Capital @ 6 p^r C^t or \$1800, w^h will go towards the resources & income of the Society. All this money, excepting \$1000 subscribed by M^r Wilder of Boston the president, has or will be collected in this city. I feel it an honour to be connected with it. On Wed^y 10th tomorrow, 4 P. M. the Managers of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] meet to receive the delegations of the Aux[iliar]y So[cieties] & their communications, at 4 P. M. I shall be obliged to break off about an hour, at 5 o'clock, to preside at the Savings Bank, the stated meeting of the Trustees being monthly every 2^d Wed^y & no board can be held without the presence of a Presid^t or Vice p^t. M^r Bayard, our punctual pres^t is confined by indisposition, Col. Few is infirm, M^r Eddy, 2^d V. P[resident] is at Phil^a & the duty devolves on me. These duplicate duties at almost the same hour, oppress me, But I shall get thro'. On Thur^y 11th is the 10th Ann^y of the A. B. S. when I shall attend in my place. In consequence of the increasing reputation, & thank God, prosperity of the S^o we have, this year for the first time, con-

cluded to meet in a Church, for the purpose of more ample accommodation. The Dutch Church, in Nassau St, the largest in the city, has been selected. Hitherto our meetings have been in the City Hotel. But great numbers have been excluded from its want of capacity. Not to give umbrage to any sectarian feelings, Churches have been avoided. But our glorious Society is now, after 10 years of successful experiment, so well established, that we have no longer to dread scruples or fear reproach. The one are not easily to be superceded, & the other are beneath contempt. My whole soul is wrapped up in the beneficent Institu^s and my only regret is that I cannot do more to promote their important objects.

2½ p. m. I stay down to see the procession & to attend at the Depository with the Comm^e of arrang^{ts} at 5 o'clock. Andrew [Warner] has just come in to inform me that Gen. Benedict has been up at Middletown to consult with Cap^t Partridge on escorting the Cadets on their arrival, on the 4th July. The outline is, that they will be rec^d on their arrival by the Batallion of National Guards with a salute by the Artillery. How proud our Boys will feel on the occasion. As the instigator of the circumstance, I shall fully participate. . . .

Friday [May] 12th. Yest^y was the 10th An^y of our A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety]. It was a superb day. The meeting was held in the Middle Dutch Church, a numerous audience, indeed overflowing attended. The exercises of the day went off with great eclat. A M^r Maxwell¹⁸ a Lawyer from Norfolk Virg^a bore the palm, as you will see whenever the addresses shall be published & sent to you. . . . Inclosed is a letter from Pintard [Davidson] who mourns over his deceased Spanish Instructor M^r Proal who was very kind to him. I am pleased with his sensibility. Next Wed^y 17th Cap^t Partridge will march with 140 Cadets to New Haven to exhibit them to the Legislature. . . .

Sat^y [May] 13th. The Russell sails tomorrow. . . .

¹⁸ William Maxwell.

I shall put up the Museum & the Observers, w^h will show you what has taken place this week. Great animation is excited by all the various Institutions for acts of Xtⁿ benevolence w^h attract great numbers of visitors from all quarters. We are rapidly becoming the London of America, in good works as well as commerce. Buildings are rising in an unprecedented manner. Old ones prostrated & new ones rising in every street. I myself am astonished & this city is the wonder of every stranger. God grant that we may become a virtuous as well as a prosperous people.

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 [Addressed by:] Ship Russell
 Cap^t Packard
 with a packet

NEW YORK, Monday 15th May, 1826

The Russell by w^h my last of 13th is to go, is still in port waiting for a wind. Yest^y & this day the weather was & is intemperately hot. . . . Cap^t Holmes informs me that the Chancellor grounded at the mouth of the river, so that it will be sometime ere she arrives. The Lavinia is next looked for, possibly not till the close of this month. We are calculating that M^r Servoss may be embarking about this date. As he will not arrive till June, he will have to perform Quarantine.

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 [May] 17th. The gloomy impression on my mind almost broke me down yest^y. Every day this week I have taken my cracker & glass of water in the office to write of afternoons, when we are retired & expect to do so till Sat^y. We are going thro' a laborious investigation to see if we can find any thing after paying losses to make a Dividend, w^h I am persuaded we cannot, without touching our capital w^h w^d be iniquitous. This subject has distressed me the more as after toiling 17 years, since 1809, for little else but bare existence & that with the most rigid economy, as you know, I had consoled my-

self with the hope that on retiring w^h must be in a year or two, I sh^d have left the office better by some 40 or \$50,000 surplus, gained during the discharge of my duties. Providence has ordered otherwise & I must submit. The fault is not mine, nor am I or my worthy president M^r Furman reproached. Let me therefore kiss the rod. But it is a bitter blow, to my probably false pride.

Thur^y 18th May. My birth day, when I enter my 68th year.

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 As the season for despatch by sea is passed away, I shall send this scrawl by mail, least there sh^d be too great an interval between my correspondence. . . . Owing to the immensity of work & the difficulty of getting mechanics, our painting &ca. moves heavily. We hope to get in our bed chambers on Sat^y possibly the dining room, & to be in tolerable order next week. . . . The country is literally burnt up with a long drought of 20 days, & the gardens suffer.

NEW YORK, Friday 19th May, 1826

Yesterday I despatched a line by mail to my beloved daughter, as it was my birthday. We hope to get rid of the painters tomorrow, possibly, at least to have the dining room walls finished that there may be one spot in w^h to sit & take our meals in comfort. As to carpets, it will be well if they get down in a month, such is the demand for all kind of work, in the housekeeping way. Such multitudes moving together, & all wanting fixing, repairing, furnishing & embellishing at the same moment, the demand exceeds the supply of hands. This is one & a serious inconvenience of a move all on May day. But a benefit is, the greater choice of Tenements in February, & greater purifications of Houses, for those who w^d suffocate in their own filth, will not put up with that of former occupants. This tends to secure health, esp^y among the lower classes, for every change of abode

is attended with whitewashing, scalding bedbugs, of w^h even in our new House we have had our ample share. . . .

Sat^y 20th. 2 p. m. I have just time to say that the meeting of my Directors has passed smoothly, without reproach or the slightest censure on the officers. We declare no Dividend, but after paying all our losses, leave off with a surplus of \$10,000. . . .

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Wedn^y 24th. I have procured a h^f B[arre]l Shad N^o 1 w^h will be sent alongside the Chancellor tomorrow. . . . It pleases me to find that every thing relating to the House is so agreeable to M^r S[ervoss]. I am happy that he has escaped the toil of moving. He is best out of the way. As to the Back building it will be some weeks ere it is undertaken, such is the demand for Carpenters & Masons. The building altering & repairing exceeds all former years. At the rate we are going on this city will double in 15 Years from the last census of 1825.

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Friday [May] 26th. I have little to add to this long roll. Yest^y P. M. I attended as pallbearer the Funeral of M^{rs} Quackenbos,¹⁹ an aged respectable lady 81 years. My old acquaintances are gradually disappearing. . . . By this oppo[rtunity] I send for the amusement & instruction of my g[ran]ddaughters M^{rs} Barbaulds works just republished containing her poetical productions & beautiful specimens of letter writing w^h may serve as models for y^r dear children. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Chancellor

NEW YORK, Sat^y 27th May, 1826

I have just closed my letters to go by the Chancellor, w^h sails this day. By her I send a hf. B[arrel] prime Connecticut river Shad, put up by the same person as

¹⁹ Mrs. John Quackenbos (Catharine De Witt). *N. Y. Evening Post*, May 24, 1826; A. S. Quackenbush, *The Quackenbush Family* (1909), p. 89.

what I sent last year. . . . Young Ingraham who went up with the invitation of the National Guard to Cap^t Partridge to attend with his Cadets, the approaching 4th of July, told Andrew that Marney was the most promising boy in the Academy & beloved by every one. This is great praise. As Marney rooms, as they call it, with the Cap^t he has an oppo[rtunity] of being seen by every visitor. . . .

The B[arrel] of Venison was sent up yest^r & I c^d not but feel sensibly this expended instance of my dear daughters generous bounty, altho' I c^d have wished it had been more circumscribed. Let this gift suffice once for all. Altho' it is rare here to procure good venison Hams, Our Smoke Beef well cured approaches so nearly in flavour, when a little matured. I tried some at tea last ev^g, but it was too dry to judge of its flavour. After being a few days in the Vault to soften it will come to. . . .

This day makes 4 weeks since we have had the least rain. Lucky for our folks, the Cistern is capacious, & still holds out, but the want of rain occasions distress among our housekeepers, & the country suffers. Owing probably to the extreme dryness of the atmosphere, I have suffered with a violent headach, last Wed^r esp^r. The stricture across my eyes & violent pain in my temples, quite distressed me. The coolness of Thurs^r & yest^r mitigated the symptoms. I met Francis on Thurs^r ev^g & told him that I was apprehensive that I must have recourse to his lancet. He advised me to take a doze of Epsom salts first & see whether it w^d not relieve me. . . .

[Addressed by ship] Azelia

NEW YORK, Monday 29th May, 1826

My last, of 27th, was by the Chancellor, to sail that day, & by the Azelia, to sail yest^r 28th. . . . I have rec^d this morn^g darling Elizas very satisfactory letter of 8th

inst. by the Frances arrived yest^y, to which I shall send a short reply, & the new Waverley novel, Woodstock, as a reward. . . .

Tuesday 30th. We have had the most ext^y weather throughout this month that every I knew, excessively hot the forepart & as excessively cold the latter. . . .

Thur^y 1 June. I have but a moment to close as the Lavinias bag is to be taken away at 9. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Lavinia
with a small packet

NEW YORK, Sat^y 3^d June, 1826

. . . . After a months upside down house, we are at last in a situation to receive the calls of friends, w^h are very few, the 2 lower rooms being in order & look very neat, if not elegant, without much of extravagance. Nothing being added since M^r S[ervoss] was here. Mothers bedroom is in order & she told me on retiring last night that she never in her life toiled harder, than during the last 6 weeks. It made my heart ache, for I c[oul]d see her worn down frame succumbing under such incessant care & trouble. Our back building lingers & will do so I fear thro' the summer. Not until yest[er]da[y] c[oul]d I even obtain M^r Ireland²⁰ to call with me & view M^r De Rhams, in Park Place, wh[ich] is in all respects well adapted to our wants. . . .

Monday [June] 5th. After 2 days of intense heat a match for N. Orleans it is cooler this day with prospect of rain. The Louisiana being destined for Sat^y I must defer writing until I have brought up the Minutes of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] w^h I c^d not commence as usual last week owing to extreme lassitude.

Tuesday [June] 6th. A dry N Easter yest^y & today has relieved me very much & the coolness has enabled me to despatch my minutes with comfort. But the task

²⁰ Probably George Ireland, who is listed in Longworth's New York City Directory for 1826-27 as a builder. The same directory lists H. C. De Rham's residence as 22 Park Place.

becomes burthensome & I long to resign it. My time has not yet come. I intended to have mentioned in my last that I have been instrumental in laying the foundation of a scholarship in the Episcopal Theol^l Sem^r in S^t Thomas' Church. I sent a prospectus of the subject. I am happy to say, that it has met the approbation of the Congregⁿ generally. The subscripⁿ of a life member is \$25 and I subscribed for myself & my dear little g^dson making \$50, w^h was instantly paid out of the profits I rec^d on the sale of my pew in Grace Church, w^h I think I mentioned, & w^h is now nearly applied to Church purposes. It w^d appear to me almost sacrilege to have appropriated this profit (\$100) to my private behoofs. My liberality to benevolent purposes tho' humble appears so great for one in my circumstances, that I am obliged to apologize almost for my acts & deeds. This is somewhat mortifying, but it is essential as the ungenerous & unkind w^d suppose that I had hidden resources arising from my former situation w^h w^d make me a villain & a perjured man. But God knows my heart and in this particular, my perfect rectitude. Not so the World. Removing to the upper part of the city, I am of more importance than when below, where I was overshadowed by wealth & arrogance. I never c^d have been instrumental in getting up a Scholarship in Grace Church, where my insignificance, I mean in the Bank book way, w^d have rendered my exertions unavailing, and experience has taught me no longer to wear out my remaining strength by struggling ag^t the current. My experience becomes very useful & I know it, w^h makes me more willing to render my services when required or rather urged. A B^d of Managers to conduct the scholarship was chosen & contrary to my express determination I was elected the 1st Vice Pres^t the Rector being Pres^t. Being in a degree the Father of the child, I c^d not refuse to aid in rearing it. We shall succeed, tho' slowly. It ought to be the affair of one year to raise \$2500, but sorry I am to say, that my brother Episcopalians in this city are very lukewarm in everything regarding our Semin[ar]y.

Not so the Presbyterians who to their credit be it spoken, are all active & zealous in behalf of their Sem^y at Princeton. . . .

Wed^y [June] 7th. Last ev^s I attended the monthly meet^s of the Managers of the So[ciety] for promoting the improvem^t of domestics. It was with great reluctance that I yielded to the importunity of the founder of the S^o to take a share in their labours. I am now glad that I consented, as I have now an oppo[rtunity] of seeing the inside of this important Institution, w^h is conducted with great zeal & intelligence & meets liberal support. Faithless & unsteady domestics are among more than the Insect vexations that annoy the peace & happiness of domestic life, esp^y of the Mistress of the House, whose patience & temper are put to the most severe exercise. Y^r Sister is now looking out for a waiter, a coloured man, to suit the rest of our kitchen furniture. But the impositions practised in giving false characters are shameful. Yest^y a man called sent by our Agent, with a very fair recommendⁿ & every way suitable. On Sisters going down to the lower part of B^dway, a boarding house & conferring with M^{rs} Miller with whom he last lived, she depicted him the very reverse & expressed surprize that her daughter sh^d have given such a recommendⁿ to a worthless, indolent fellow. . . . These indiscriminate, indeed false characters it is our object to correct. It will require time & experience to remedy these evils, but they are not irremediable. . . .

Thurs^y [June] 8th. . . . On Sunday next Gov^r Clinton has promised to take Coffee with me, the only day he is disengaged, for he is in a constant round of public & private parties. Hosack & Francis & probably M^r Eastburn, lately from Eng^d will compose our little assocⁿ to talk over what may promote the interest of Science & Literature. What old is to be revived, what new is to be done. It is in small circles of free conversation, such as these that the first germs of the most important institu-

tions are cherished. I hope at the Governors autumnal visit to be able to invite him to dine with others who may contribute to enliven the "feast of reason & the flow of soul." I long to retaliate some of the hospitalities that I have received. The expence shall be mine. One or two such dinners thro' the season, may enable me to discharge some debts of long standing, before my departure hence.

Friday [June] 9th. Prostrating heat. I am glad to say that Sister has obtained an excellent coloured man, Robert, who had lived many years with D^r Rogers & has a superior recommendⁿ from him. He left a good boarding House @ \$12 a month to live in a small genteel family @ \$10. He is rather under size, the better, very capable & willing, & a pious good man, about 30. He came yest^r & attends our family prayers, with great appearance of interest. He reads & writes well, & will instruct Marian, Mothers servant, a daughter of N Rochelle Hannah. I have every hope that he will wear well. He certainly will find an easy place. Thus far we are favoured. I owe this domestic to M^r Patten,²¹ agent of our Domestic Society, who in a degree owes his election to me, & a most competent Agent he is. After attending the Stand^s Committe[e] at 5, I am to call at the afs^d office, & then to take my seat as one of the Comm^e for organizing Infantile Schools. The object is to rescue from vice & misery, the multitudes of poor Children, who are turned out like pigs into the streets, or locked up in cellars, with bread & water, while their parents go out to work in the morn^g, until their return, too often beastly drunken, at night. It is confidently trusted, as in London, some corrective may be found in this city, w^h I am proud to say emulates every good example. . . . I send for darlings reading Granby,²² an

²¹ David E. Paton, agent of the Society for the Encouragement of Faithful Domestic Servants in New-York.

²² *Granby* (London, 1826) was written by Thomas Henry Lister, and *Tremaine* by Robert Plumer Ward, according to Halkett & Laing's *Dictionary of Anonymous and Pseudonymous English Literature*.

approved Novel by the author of Tremain. The Museum has not yet appeared. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Louisiana
 Cap^t P. Price
 with a small packet

NEW YORK, Tuesday 13th June, 1826

My last of 9th was by the Louisiana which sailed on the 11th. This probably will go by mail & I hope to acknowledge letters by the Niagara, daily expected. . . . Last week, thro' the newspapers, I learned the decease of my dear & invaluable friend Judge Griffith.²³ He died on the 7th inst. at Burlington after a short & severe illness, in his 61st year. After sad reverses, he had rec^d last winter the Clerkship of the Supreme Court of the U States, w^h called him to Washington. Singular to reflect, when I emerged out of my difficulties, at the instigation of M^r Griffith I offered myself a candidate for this very office, w^h Chief Justice assured me I sh^d obtain. On reflection I declined it, & Elias B. Caldwell brought up in M^r Griffith's office, was appointed & held the station until his decease last year, when his old master, my friend, was appointed. It was a comfortable assylum for his old age. As I wrote M^{rs} Bradford yest^y I had fondly hoped that I might visit Washington to congratulate President Clinton, and once more meet the friend of my adversity, on this side of eternity. But he has departed before me, and I sincerely declare that I mourn his loss. His constitution was extremely debilitated, & he had suffered thro' life with a nervous headache, in an extreme degree. Friend of my early unhappy days, and constantly so thro our existence, Adieu. Cousin Abby is I believe with her son John at Natchez. She had been a twelvemonths ago, at deaths door, but had recovered so as to enable her last autumn to visit her sons. . . .

Wed^y [June] 14th. I have been obliged to submit to

²³ William Griffith (1766-June 7, 1826). *Dictionary of American Biography*, VII, 625-26.

the lancet. D^r Francis bled me this morn^g after taking magnesia & Epsom last ev^g. My blood was in a very bad state, the depletion was moderate & has relieved my distressed head. . . . Yest^r I did not return to dinner. At 3 I attended the meeting of the joint Comm^{es} of the public Schools & projected Infantile Schools, at the Governors Chamber in the City Hall, where I had to make some observations in favour, w^h excited me too much. A subcomm[itt]e of w^h I am one was app[oint]ed to confer with the Acting Com^e of the Public Schools & report. We shall get the project up. But strange to add, there are those who oppose it, thro' fear that taking care of & schooling these poor little offscourings of the city, will tend to alienate parental affection as also lessen parental care. The Free Schools, A[meri]can B[ible] S[ociety], Savings Bank, Sunday Schools, all now so preeminently flourishing, were all alike speciously opposed by some who now, thank God, are among their warmest advocates. Nothing can succeed without enterprize, & as Milton has said "No effort is lost." This meeting kept me till near 5, when I had to attend that of the Vestry of the French Church. Thro' the imprudence, I might almost say, impudence of D^r Pascalis, a French Minister ²⁴ has come from Paris, provided with every evidence of talents & qualifications. A Comm^e is app[oint]ed to investigate & report. The situation of this gentⁿ is very painful. With full confidence of becoming our pastor, if not repulsed, He must remain in a state of anxious suspense until we hear from Bordeaux, where we are officially in treaty for a Minister. Were it not for abandoning the Church of my Forefathers, I c^d wish to resign my seat as Senior Warden. This subject afflicts me & has added to the excitement of my morbid system. But I believe I mentioned it in my last, how forgetful I am becoming. I declined going on a very pleasant Steam Boat party on Monday, with

²⁴ M. de Ferney. J. A. E. Maynard, *The Huguenot Church of New York* (1938), pp. 225-26.

the Governor & several prominent characters, in conformity with my general abstraction from all public parties of pleasure. I likewise declined going to Albany yest^r, on acc^t of the Savings Bank to make an offer for the Loan of \$150,000. My president M^r Furman went & the trip will do him good. . . .

Thursday 15th June. This is post day, and not to cause too great an interval between the dates of my letters, I shall close this. In future as our intercourse must be chiefly by mail I will write every fortnight unless something special sh^d occur. The Niagara lingers, of course have nothing to acknowledge. I am happy to add that M^r Ireland called last ev^s & took the dimensions of the Back building, w^h will contain 2 Rooms upper & lower of 10 Feet by 15, the first for my closet, the latter a pretty breakfast room & when alone large eno[ugh] to dine in, thus keeping the principal dining [room] free from dust & daily use. This Room moreover will make a snug retreat for the Cadets next winter, on their visit, where they can amuse themselves without annoying Uncle Aunt & G^dmama, & sit in the parlour when called for. A portal of 9 feet by 6 will connect the build^s with the main house affording closets below & a little place for a seamstress above. In short when this shall be accomplished, I shall think myself in paradise, for I want a retreat out of the way as much as the Cadets, & where within the compass of 10 by 15, I may chaunt, "My mind is a Kingdom to me," & like Robinson Crusoe survey the wonderful extent of my empire. As my ambition is limited I may hope to realize my wishes. A M^r Rich is appointed [to] do the job, who is well recommended & will give me an estimate of the cost, w^h I hope will not exceed \$1250. But materials & work are enormously high in this extensively building city. I have just rec^d a letter of yest^r from Marney, the ready writer. All are well, but want new white pantaloons for the 4th July. When Andrew goes I will get them to send me a pattern each, to procure them. . . . The letter

was brought by their professor M^r Williston ²⁵ (of languages) who says that my g[ran]dsons improve & behave well. I have subscribed to a work he is undertaking, in order to rivet his attention to them. . . .

NEW YORK, Friday 16th June, 1826

I wrote yest^y by mail, but seeing the Brig Nimrod to sail on Sunday I shall send this by her. The Niagara arrived yest^y. . . .

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 Sister will be happy to see Miss Chew, for she can now receive company with comfort. She has a most excellent waiter. . . . I am glad that y^r friends fine son Beverley [Chew] is intended for Columbia College, where I am persuaded he will be better educated than in Virginia University, w^h is conducted upon too general & philosophical principles to please me. The Students will I fear all turn out Infidels and Sciolists. With regard to Stanhope Smith, the claims are very strong that he sh^d be a beneficiary in Nassau Hall. Not being in any wise connected with my Alma [Mater], than by good wishes for her prosperity, I know not otherwise than thro' M^r Bayard, Perhaps M^r Stockton, I could obtrude my opinion. But certainly any act in my power to promote the education of this extraord^y youth, as well for his own as his parents sake, will afford me pleasure. . . . I begin to be consulted on many subjects of importance to the welfare of Church & State, and by none am I more regarded than by my esteemed friend Gov^r Clinton. It gratified Mother & Sister that M^{rs} C. called upon them, previous to leaving town, in the most friendly manner, a proof of the Governors esteem. . . . What you remark about industrious occupation & the salutary effects of bustling about house is perfectly cor-

²⁵ Ebenezer Bancroft Williston. He edited *Five Books of the History of C. Cornelius Tacitus* (Hartford, 1826), reviewed in *The United States Literary Gazette* (Boston), for July, 1826, vol. IV. pp. 298-300. His *Eloquence of the United States*, in 5 volumes, was printed at Middletown, Conn., in 1827.

rect. Indolence induces ennui, w^h is the parent of discontent. Health can only be promoted by exercise, & Female exercise can alway be found within doors. . . . Last aft.noon I was obliged to repose for the first time in many years, in order to recruit my spirits for an interview in the ev^s with two Quaker friends, Griscom & Collins on the subject of improving the education of the children in the House of Refuge, w^h occupied 2 hours of our deliberations. It was to render my opinion, w^h took up near an hour. You cannot imagine how much I was excited by the effort. . . .

Sat^y [June] 17. After a refreshing rain yest[erda]y our weather is very cool & pleasant. . . . My darling g[ran]ddaughter has written a beautiful letter to her g[ran]dmother that has quite charmed her. As a reward I send with the Museum a new book, just fresh from the press for her improvement, the Xtⁿ Philosopher,²⁶ w^h I hope she will read attentively. . . .

[Addressed by:] Brig Nimrod
with a small packet

NEW YORK, Tuesday 20th June, 1826

My last of 17th inst. was by Brig Nimrod w^h sailed on 18th. Looking in the morn^s paper for any vessel up for N[ew] O[rleans] I find the Brig still detained by the weather. Yest^y, at 7, a Rain commenced w^h lasted thro the day. At night it rained very hard & all the cisterns are filled. The earth must be completely saturated. Vegetation will revive & we shall once more be favoured with vegetables, w^h have been very indifferent & very dear. Cap^t Partridge has arrived to make arrangem^{ts} for the 4th July. He will bring 250 of his Cadets, those I presume who are competent to duty. Ours are among them. . . .

Thurs^y [June] 22^d. A long N. E. rain, still continues w^h retards the Talm[ta] the Nimrod must be still in port.
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²⁶ Thomas Dick's *Christian Philosopher; or, Connection of Science and Philosophy with Religion.*

Friday [June] 23^d. . . . Altho' the rain has abated the weather is raw & easterly. I have had to run to & fro on business of our Savings Bank. A large sum of U States Loan is to be paid off on the 1st July. In anticipation for reinvestment, we have purchased \$150,000 of the Canal Comm^{rs} Loan, Int. @ 5 p^r c^t for w^h we pay a premium of 6 p. c^t adv^e making 159,000 payable tomorrow. To meet this an accommodⁿ has been made by the Mechanic B^k in w^h we keep our account. The Savings Bank is a delightful Institution & most prosperous. The burden of investment falls on the Funding Comm^e of w^h I do my share of duty. This month closes our 7th year & when our accounts are audited next July, I will send you the statem^t to show how far the result will have exceeded my most sanguine anticipations. You see how near this subject is to my heart, by so constantly recurring. If no other, I shall at least leave this, I hope, a monument of my useful existence. My turn on the attending Comm^e comes on in July, when will commence our 8th year.

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Monday [June] 26th. The rain still continues. It was violent last night. It fortunately held up, with every appearance of clearing off on Sat^y P. M. so as not to interfere with laying the Foundation of a new Freemasons Hall, opposite the [New York] Hospital in B^dway, with great Masonic splendor & ceremony. I was not present, owing to indisposition, brought on by over exertion in the morning attending to the business of the Savings Bank, w^h was happily executed so as to secure the purchase we had made. . . . This makes the 8th day of continued heavy rain. . . .

Tuesday [June] 27th. After a close, foggy afternoon, with some more rain, the late long storm cleared off, with heavy thunder & lightning & a torrent of rain, at 9 o'clock last ev^g. The atmosphere is purified & we enjoy a fine elastic refreshing air this morn^g. . . .

Wed^y [June] 28th. The Amelia arrived yest^y, by her I have rec^d y^r letter of 2^d & from M^r S[ervoss] of 3^d who writes that he expects to sail about the middle of the

mo[nth] in the Russell. . . . M^r Bayard from Princeton is just in town. I spoke to him about Stanhope Smith. Altho' there are no beneficiaries in Nassau Hall, yet he thinks there can be little doubt but that for the sake of his ancestors, the Trustees will grant him a gratuitous education. He will confer with M^{rs} Salomon on the subject. . . .

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NEW YORK, Friday 30th June, 1826

. . . . I am now going to the An[nual] Commencement of the [General] Episcopal Seminary. I could not attend the examination with any benefit, this mark of attention is in my power. If I cannot hear, I can see. Moreover I wish to pay my personal respects to Bp. White the venerable patriarch of our Church.

Sat^y 1st July. As purposed I paid by nominal attendance yest^y & expressed my thanks to Bp. White for his persevering regard for the Seminary, at his advanced period. I c^d hear nothing of the dissertations, that of a M^r Griffin,²⁷ on the perpetual observance of the Sabbath was highly spoken of. This morn^g has been pretty much devoted to the Savings Bank, on the part of the Funding Com^o. This day commences our 8th Year, w^h I shall lead in by courtesy. I shall have to attend 15 times this month. I made my deposits for your children, whose accounts am^t with Interest, to within a picaloon of \$114 each, w^h gives them more than \$5. a year Interest. By perseverance how the quarterly deposit of \$3 has accumulated.

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Wed^y 5th July. The great, the splendid Jubilee is over, & what with the Cadets & the fatigue of yest^y I can scarcely whet my energies to commence my brief narrative. For the order of processions & the public shows I refer to the papers sent herewith, w^h I beg you to cut out

²⁷ Edmund Dorr Griffin.

the extracts relating to the Jubilee & preserve for y^r sons perusal at a future day. I rose yest^r at ½ p. 4, dressed went to market to procure fresh fruit, breakfasted at 6, & began my fatigue duty; at 7 I was at the Steam Boat Wharf Fulton Slip, where the National Guard were paraded to receive the Cadets. They waited till 8 when they were obliged to march to the Battery to receive in Castle Garden the standard from Gov^r Clinton. I lost sight of this ceremony as I remained in anxious suspense for the arrival of the Cadets, dreading least some accident had occurred. At ½ p. 9 the Oliver Elsworth appeared her deck covered with 248 Cadets under arms with knapsacks on their backs. They were rec^d with the acclamations of a multitude of spectators, & marched thro' Pearl Street Maiden lane & Broadway to the Battery. Such was the immense throng of spectators & pressure of the crowd that I had no chance to get near my g^dsons. I took every chance to see & speak to them but in vain. It was worse in the park, where the whole militia on duty were drawn up after returning from the Battery at noon. The marching salute performed a feu de joie was fired about 1, when the officers of the National Guard conducted them to the old Bulls head in the Bowery, to partake of a collation, which they attacked like ravenous wolves. It was my intention to have filed off with my squad from the park, but there was no getting near them. So after much trouble in picking up their knapsacks, caps & Muskets, w^h had been thrown promiscuously on the floor, we made out to reach home at ½ p. 3, when the Cadets stripped off their coats, washed & partook of some cool weak sangree well covered with nutmeg to recruit them, and then went down into the basement room, to dine on an elegant round of Beek, Chicken pie, fried chicken & smoking ham, with abundant vegetables. They had lost their appetites at the collation but partook of stewed Cherries on sliced Bread, Raspberries & Whortleberries in profusion. . . . The Cadets with us are my 3 G[ran]dsons, Wederstrandt, McCutcheon, Davis,

& a M^r Bailey ²⁸ of Virginia, in all 7 well behaved correct youths as one w^d wish to see & be proud of.

Thur^y [July] 6th. . . . The[y] were reviewed yest^r morn^e after mustering in the park by the Mayor in presence of a large but not crowded concourse of citizens. I was ignorant of the intention & missed the oppo[rtu- nity] of witnessing the exercises, marchings & firings w^h gained the Batallion universal applause. The perform- ances were equal to the best disciplined troops & far sur- passing our militia Regiments, w^h are by no means defi- cient. After the exhibition, they crossed over in the steam boat to view the fortifications of Governors island, & returned about ½ p[ast] 3, when on the appearance of a N. E. storm, Cap^t P[artridge] ordered them to return at 4, not allowing the Cadets time to return to their dis- tant quarters & refresh. The consequence was that I kept my squad over, except M^r Bailey & Pintard who trotted off & embarked for Middletown. Not anticipat- ing this speedy return, Tamar very kindly took all their soiled clothes & linen to wash & I had ordered the panta- loons to be sent home in the evening w^h was accordingly done. Our 5 remaining Cadets staid within doors as it began to rain smartly. It cleared off quite cool & pleas- ant this morn^e & after breakfast I had y^r sons, Thomas [Servoss] & J. Wederstrand measured for black stock, w^h they wished for, as cooler in summer, being only 75 cts each. . . . They are to return home to dine at 2, pack up & set off at 3, to embark in the Steam boat M^cDonough at 4. In the meantime Thomas takes them round to see his Aunts Wood,²⁹ Schenck ³⁰ & Courtney & to visit Castle Garden. . . .

²⁸ Robert B. McCutcheon and Robert Davis, of New Orleans, and Richard P. Bayley of Loudoun County, Virginia, according to the *Catalogue of the Officers and Cadets . . . of the American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy, at Middletown, Connecticut*, printed at Middletown in 1826. The *Catalogue* lists Cadet Wederstrandt as James Wederstrand of New Orleans, but Pintard's letters, above, refer to him as *John*.

²⁹ His great-aunt, Mrs. Agnes (Fleming) Wood, widow of Timothy Wood, of New York.

³⁰ Mrs. Peter H. Schenck (Harriet Courtney), sister of Thomas L. Servoss's first wife.

In consequence of some services to M^r Williston, the classical professor in the Academy, he has taken my 3 g[ran]dsons under his immediate tuition, & I have desired him to extend the same favour to J. Wederstrandt. By this arrangement I hope that our youths will make greater proficiency in the languages. . . . I am more & more impressed in favour of these field exercises. The fatigue the Cadets endured on the 4th could not have been sustained by any of our town school boys. I again repeat that the carriage & deportment of the Cadets does credit to Cap^t P's system.

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 Thurs^y [*sic for* Friday, July] 7th (10 o'clock) Just as I had traced these lines I received a very handsome note from Col. Wetmore, accompanied with an elegant medal, bearing the Arms of the Corps of National Guard, w^h I have answered, instanter, returning my thanks & promising to preserve & transmit it as an Heir Loom to my eldest g^dson J. P. D., Cadet &ca. & who if spared till the Centennial Ann^y of Am. Independence 1876, will recall the incidents of the 4th July, 1826, and the kind attentions & hospitality of the Corps of N[at]ional G[uard] to the Cadets. The medal is elegantly executed on Gilt Metal, with a gold foliage border, the seal on one side, Reverse "To J. P., LL.D., from the National Guard Prosper Wetmore Colonel, 4th July 1826." Three only of these medals were struck, one for the Governor, one for the Mayor, & one for your humble father. Except by suggesting the propriety of founding a Military Library & contributing thereto, I know [not] what services c^d have merited this honourable testimony.

By the Boston papers this morn^g we learn, that old President John Adams died in his 92 year at 6 p. m. on the 4th of July, an honourable exit on the 50th Year after signing that Declaration which made us an independent nation & secured the Rights of Civil & Religious Liberty to the existing generations of that period & millions yet unborn. Sic transit Gloria mundi.

Sat^y 8th. 9 a. m. A most remarkable coincidence.

Tho^s Jefferson died also on the 4th at 1 P. M. M^r Carroll only survives.

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[Addressed by the ship] Niagara

NEW YORK, 11th July, 1826

The Niagara detained till tomorrow affords me the oppo[rtunity] of sending an add[itiona]l line, to acknowledge rec^t of y^r letters of 20th June by the Russell, also from M^r Servoss who we certainly expected by this ship.

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The Talmas destination is altered to Havre. I must therefore write hereafter by mail, as intercourse by sea is drawing to a close. I rejoice to hear that the Infirmary succeeds so well & hope that the Doctor will *silently glide* as you express [it] into his friend Doctor Randolphs best practice. How grateful we ought to be to our heavenly Father, for crowning y^r good husbands efforts with success to enable him to educate his sons who will one day I firmly believe, if spared, be your pride & boast, & repay all y^r exertions. . . . I have this inst (11 o'clock) rec^d y^r letter of 21st May by M^r Palmer. He goes on in a day or two to Connec^t & returns to this city, when I told him that Sister w^d wait on his lady. . . . M^{rs} Palmer is quite hearty after her long journey. . . .

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Tomorrow the Corporation pay a tribute of respect to the Memories of Adams & Jefferson. The military uniform corps will join the procession to the Middle Dutch Church where a sermon or address will be delivered by the Rev. D^r Rowan. What a succession of processions & parades distinguish this proud metropolis. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Niagara
11th July

NEW YORK, Friday 14 July, 1826

.....
 Riding home yest^r in comp^y with M^r Morris Robinson, He told me that Beverley Chew was dissatisfied at Jamaica, & wished to go to Middletown. He enquired whether they prepared boys for College. I gave my opinion in favour of M^r Williston, but as his parents knew that y^r boys were there, & had probably seen Cap^t Partridges prospectus & as his Uncles, esp^y M^r John Duer are competent judges, I did [not] say anything further than that my sentiments were manifested by the selection of this Academy for my g^dsons, of whose proficiency I sh^d be a better judge next August. . . .

.....
 We have now gone thro' all our processions, it is to be hoped. The funeral parade for Saints Adams & Jefferson took place on Wed^y an extreme hot day. The route was long, the march to a funeral dirge extremely tedious, & the assemblage in an overflowing Church was a complete Steam bath. I was wise enough to remain quiet in my office. It was all well enough & an appropriate tribute of respect to the memories of two of our most eminent revolutionary patriots. But for myself, the close of the half century affords a proper pause to any future exertions on my part, and sh^d I survive, except in the instance of M^r Jays decease w^h cannot be distant, & any peculiar distinction paid to him as president of the Am. Bible Societies, & for his eminent public services, I shall religiously refrain, either in getting up or participating in any public shows. I have had a full swing & performed a full share for at least 40 years, & shall now chaunt my Requiem. . . .

.....
 Tuesday [July] 18. A succession of mild rains almost daily has quite restored rapid vegetation. The effects begin to be experienced in our vegetables, w^h have been hitherto very scarce & extravagantly high. The Chancellor is hourly expected & may arrive before the Azelia. . . .

NEW YORK, Thurs^r 20th July, 1826

My last of 18th inst. was by mail. This is intended to go by the Arethusa to acknowledge rec^t of my beloved daughters letter of 29th June, rec^d this morn^g by the Chancellor. It distresses me to hear of the feeble state of my tender delicate Turtle Dove.³¹ I hope that the flexibility of her frame may be owing, as her Father thinks, to her rapid growth. . . . A friend whom I very highly esteem who has been much associated with me in charitable & benevolent Institutions, and is a real pious man, M^r John E. Hyde a Broker, has been overwhelmed by the prostration of some of the gambling Insurance Bond comp[anie]s. His intelligence & character stood high. When I called on him yest^r to express my sincere sympathy, as well as surprize at his catastrophe, He assured me that the Blow fell all at once, & that the day before he stopped he felt as secure as ever he did in his life. But he submits with Xtⁿ resignation & kisses the rod a second time in his life, once as a hardware dealer just after the late war, now as a Broker. He has an amiable wife & a large family of children, and many friends.

.
You will be surprized to hear me say, that the Back building, w^h ought to have been completed, is not yet touched. I mean now to arrest all proceedings till M^r S[ervoss] arrives. He ought to have something to say about it, possibly under existing circumstances, he may not be inclined to erect it this season. We can do without it, but my personal accommodⁿ will be abridged. My books worry me, & all useless, perhaps damaged for they have been in Boxes more than 2 years. Many of them are valuable, none trifling. So let it pass till M^r S. comes. . . .

.
Friday [July] 21st. . . . I have mentioned the great convulsion in our monied institutions. The run on the Fulton & Tradesmans B[an]ks has subsided but they are far from solvent, altho' they may redeem their notes.

³¹ Louise Pintard Davidson.

Individuals are very great sufferers, by the Bond issuing offices, some have lost their all. Whether this alarm will check applications for Incorporations remains to be seen, but a mania for speculation has pervaded the whole community. Good will grow out of evil. . . .

[Addressed by:] Brig Arethusa

NEW YORK, Monday 24th July, 1826

This day my dear little g^dson completes his *first year*. Brave & hearty, thank God, walks almost alone, but does not talk at all, tho' very significant with his exclamations & gestures, & understands everything that is addressed to him. He has cut his 8th tooth yest^r. . . .

Wed^r 26th 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ A. M. Long looked for come at last. The Azelia has arrived, & M^r Servoss' name appears among the long list of passengers on the Bulletin. . . .

Thur^r 27th. Yest^r afternoon, we all went down en famille to welcome the arrival of M^r Servoss, who looks better than I ever saw him. After passing an hour & a half, Mother & myself returned home, leaving Sister, babe & nurse at the Quarantine. It is possible that the passengers of the Azelia, all perfectly healthy, may be permitted to come to town this afternoon, otherwise tomorrow morn^g certain. The report published in your papers of 2 deaths by yellow fever, may interfere with the former indulgence. On reaching home I immed^r sent a letter for Lady Kitty Nelson,³² no doubt from one of her daughters. The servant returned with the melancholly intelligence that she was a corpse, having died on the 26th after a short illness of affection of the bowels, at present very prevalent in this city. It was on Sunday, 16th, when she was at Church, that your Mother remarked how well M^{rs} Nelson looked & how erect she walked for her age (74). She certainly appeared as tho' she might have lived to four-score. Of her it may be truly said, "few & evil have been the days of my

³² Catherine (Alexander) Duer Neilson, widow of William Duer and of William Neilson.

pilgrimage." In her youth as the daughter of L^d Stirling, she was at the very head of society. She was moreover blooming & handsome. Her father William Alexander sacrificed a splendid fortune in pursuit of an empty title, in which after all he did not succeed, so as to render him an acknowledged peer of Scotland. His claim was a fair one, but for lack of further resources, after spending an ample estate, was not prosecuted, before the House of Lords to effect, & some obscure descendant of the Alexander family received the Title, which L^d Sterling always bore thro' life, & his daughters were entitled Lady Mary Watts & Lady Kitty Duer. She was a very amiable lady dignified in her deportment & gentle in her manners.

"How loved, how honoured once avails thee not;
To whom related, or by whom begot;
A heap of dust alone remains of thee,
'Tis all thou art, and all the proud shall be."

The remains of M^{rs} N. are to be deposited in the family Tomb of the Robinsons in S^t Thomas' Cemetery, this aft.noon. Out of respect to y^r esteemed friends M^{rs} Chew & M^{rs} Smith, I shall attend the funeral. I hope that the confinement of the former will have passed safely over, so as to enable her delicate frame to sustain the shock of this unexpected bereavement. Dear Lady, while she is rejoicing probably, on the birth of a child, Her venerable parent has returned to her kindred dust. . . . Their dear Mother was a pious Xtⁿ w^h ought to prove a balm of consolation to their distressed agonizing hearts. . . .

NEW YORK, Friday, 28th July, 1826

. . . . 12 o'clock. The Azelias passengers have not come up. The delay is unpleasant. . . .

Yest^r the Rev. M^r Shedd called on me to consult about soliciting subscriptions for a Mariners Church in N[ew] O[rlans]. The period of the year is unfavourable, but he appears disposed to begin. God speed him. I shall

give him my mite. . . . Dysentery prevails & somewhat fatally, in this city. I am obliged to be very careful of my diet, to avoid irritation, & shall wear my flannel henceforward, as we have had great changes in our weather throughout this month. . . .

3 o'clock p. m. Our folks have got up & are at home by this time. Arthur goes over to Brooklyn, to get the Box of plants, which I hope to find safe at home on my return from the Savings Bank. . . .

Satur^y 29th. I had the pleasure of finding your amiable friend Miss Chew, on my return home last ev^g. She is all that you describe her & expressed herself in the highest & warmest terms of my dear N. Orleans family. She will I hope be very intimate with us. Beverley accompanied her. A fine manly youth, & exceedingly improved by his visit home. He is at an excellent Academy, but c^d have wished to have been with our Cadets. . . . The Cape Jessamy arrived safe in high order, as fresh & healthy probably as when shipped. Sister will get a handsome Tub for it & I hope it will be preserved for you to see whenever you may be able to visit Sister. The Slips did not succeed. M^r Servoss is quite pleased with the house, & approves of the intended Back building w^h is to be commenced next week.

.
[Addressed by:] Brig Arethusa
N. Y. 29th July

NEW YORK, Tuesday 1st Aug^t 1826

I wrote by the Arethusa on the 29th & by mail on the 27th July to advise the safe arrival of M^r Servoss. . . .

.
M^r S. informs me that the Doctor contemplates purchasing the House in which you live, the price \$3500, if agreed upon, must be very reasonable, as the Lot is large, & the Building tho' old, is by Sisters representation very accommodating & comfortable. . . . If the House be old & not modern, it may with care last many years, & the

estimate of the Carpenter that \$500 will make it comfortable, is quite moderate. . . . Miss Chew gives a delightful description of your society, of w^h she says you are the life & soul, respected & beloved. . . .

Wed^r 2^d. We are favoured with remarkable pleasant weather. Last afternoon, after many delays, a contract was made for the Back building, to be finished by the 1st Oct^r cost \$1133, it will come to \$1200 all told. . . . Tell M^{rs} Chew that Beverley called in after morn^g service last Sunday. He c^d not stay to dinner being engaged. I presented him with a Jubilee Medal, w^h he promises to take care of, as he witnessed our splendid celebration. I will present one also to Stanhope Smith when I may have the pleasure of seeing him. It cannot be expected that the Louisianians sh^d take so lively an Interest in commemorating our national birthday, as the citizens of the original states, esp^r N York, w^h suffered so severely & so long. It was this time, exactly 50 years when I acted the soldier boy, a truant from Nassa[u] Hall. What a contrast between that period & the present, the former all desertion & prostration, the latter all enterprize & prosperity.

[Addressed by:] Ship La Fayette

To Doctor Richard Davidson

NEW YORK, Monday 7th Aug^t 1827 [*sic for 1826*]

My dear Son,

Your letter by mail of 8th July, announcing the birth of another daughter has this day come to hand. . . .

As a small tribute of thanks to Almighty God for his mercy to my daughter, Dear Mother must contribute \$25 to the S^t Thomas Church Scholarship, of which we had talked, but this propitious event decides my intention.

Tuesday 6th. This day your sweet little infant is a month old. . . .

I think that there is every prospect of our two families living happily together. Sister has accommodated Mama with the best bedroom in the house, southern aspect, with a convenient sized room & window in it, between the front & back bedrooms for father in summer, where I have my wardrobe, washing stand & all my little equipage arranged by y^r careful mother so as to find every thing I want without trouble. We have a handsome French glazed earthenware stove, w^h must soon be put up for winter so that y^r mother, when disposed can retire like a boarder, without ceremony. . . .

To Mrs. Davidson

NEW YORK, Wed^y 9th Aug^t, 1826

My dear Son's letter of 8th & beloved child of 20th July announcing the birth of a daughter & the safety of its mother, were rec^d on the 7th inst, w^h I acknowledged yest^y by mail. The delay of the La Fayette until this day, affords an oppo[rtunity] of sending this add[itiona]l line.

.
 The naming of the dear babe must be a family affair. *Julia* w^h Eliza has favoured is a beautiful name & quite familiar in the Stockton family. . . . On Monday the Back building, after much procrastination, was commenced & is to be finished by 1st Oct^r. I was rather pleased that M^r Servoss sh^d see the plan, w^h he approves. The work will go on with all rapidity & as the plastering in modern times is composed of plaster of paris, it dries very quick. . . . I leave Uncle who comes down every day, to speak of his own affairs. He is in fine health & cheerful. Next week he is to take Sister & babe on a visit to his sister M^{rs} Rose, living on the Delaware below Phil^a a few miles. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship La Fayette
 9th August

NEW YORK, Thurs^r 10th Aug^t, 1826

. . . . The naming of your dear babe is to be a subject of deliberation this day when the determination shall be communicated. I concur with Darling that *Julia* is a beautiful name, & appropriate as several of our Family & kindred bear it. Your cousin Julia Hall Weeks was named after Aunt Hall, who was called after her g^dmother Brasher Judith, w^h being too antiquated & scriptural, she desired that any child named in compliment to her might be called *Julia*. In the Stockton & Boudinot Families are several of that name, called after M^{rs} Rush of Phil^a widow of D^r R. Julia Bayard, now Washington. The Rev. M^r Bayard has a Julia, very beautiful. So that this name you see is quite familiar. Mama says I choose it because Darling did. Be it so. We shall see what is to be the result of our domestic conclave on this important occasion. A good name is certainly desirable, as it is to attach thro' life. Some very pretty names have become so hacknied and familiar, & have descended to all the domestics of society, that it is difficult to select one altogether unexceptionable. It occurred to me however that the compliment is due to y^r husbands family, if his sisters are distinguished by any that w^d be pleasing. Altho' he may be indifferent, still as the Father he might like to transmit a name of his own family. Think of this.

Friday [August] 11th. Yest^r M^r S[ervoss] rec^d the Doctors letter of 12th July w^h he will answer by mail tomorrow & inform you that *Julia* bears the palm. Sister named Matilda, M^r S. Isabella, I thought of Caroline, but changed my mind for the reasons above stated in favour of Julia, in w^h Mother concurs. . . . I received a letter from Cap^t Partridge yest^r informing that the examination is to commence on Monday 28th inst. & continue a fortnight. I shall endeavour so to arrange my business as to attend at the opening. . . .

.
Monday [August] 14th. Darlings & Mothers letter of 16th July by mail was rec^d this morn^g. You judged

rightly, how happy it makes y^r father esp^r to read under y^r own hand writing of y^r health & safety & that of y^r dear *Julias*. She certainly indicates a fine lively intelligent mind. Why will it not do to call her *Julia Servoss*, as you are fond of double names, thus complimenting y^r good brother, for he is really good. Tomorrow at 6, the party is to embark in the early Steam Boat for Brunswick, to rest at Trenton & proceed next day to Phil^a & after the visit to M^{rs} Rose take Princeton on their way back, where probably they may meet M^{rs} Bradford.

Tuesday [August] 15. This morning a q^r past 5, the party left home to take the 6 o'clock Steamboat for Brunswick. They will arrive at Trenton at 12 o'clock & if not fatigued may proceed direct for Philad^a, to arrive at 6 p. m., otherwise remain at Trenton until tomorrow 6, & reach M^r Roses place 12 miles below Phil^a about 2 p. m. The day is fair, after a fine rain last night to lay the dust of the roads. . . . For a few days past I have been looking into Gordons Hist^y of the Am. Revolⁿ, Gen^l Washingtons letters, & Marshalls Life of Washington, to refresh my memory concerning the events of the disastrous campaign of 1776. I have made out a chronological table of dates w^h with an introducⁿ will appear in the Daily Advertiser. I will cut out a copy when published to send to you. Having participated in a very small degree, for I was a small boy in that eventful campaign, my feelings are strongly attracted to the incidents of that period. To collect these dates has cost me some reading & care to verify them. By publication they may be useful to others. It is singular, but no doubt in the usual course of revolving years, that the days & dates of 76 & 1826 coincide. One obvious reflection makes my very heart thrill. The difficulties & immense labour that Gen. Washington & h^{is} army had to undergo. A motley concourse of half armed uⁿdisciplined troops, inferior in number & extending over a difficult space of country seperated by intervening rivers, to encounter the corps elite of the whole British nation, aided by Foreign troops of Hessians & Waldeckers, well appointed, equipped & clothed & the

whole centered at the Battle of Long island. Our army almost surrounded by invading foes & betrayed by treacherous Tories. The miracle is, not that we were defeated, but that the retreat from L. I. to this city was not completely cut off, & almost our whole army, with its Com^r in Cheif & general officers were not all captured at a single stroke. That this was not the case, can only be ascribed to an overruling providence, by whose will nations rise & fall, and whose interpositions were wonderfully evident in numerous instances during our Revolutionary War. Ought we not to be a grateful people, & individually a righteous people. God grant it, as far as me & mine are concerned. Had I leasure, how many useful retrospects & lucubrations might I not promulge for the amusement & benefit, at least of the rising generation. My mind is well stored with long & multifarious readings. I have only to unlock the cabinet, look for & digest its abundant resources. The task w^d be delightful, but I have not leisure, & sh^d I have, inclination may be wanting. . . .

NEW YORK, Thurs^y 17th Aug^t, 1826

. . . . This is intended to go by the Chancellor to sail next week. . . . Anthony Hutchings called. His year is up at the Academy, & he is going to finish his education at Princeton. I gave him a Jubilee Medal to remember me, & sent with a line of Introduction another to Stanhope Smith. I have written to Pintard to acquaint me with the course of the examination, that I may be present when he, his brother, cousin & Wederstrandt are examined. . . .

. . . .
 Monday 21st. Rain with a succession of showers almost every day, w^h greatly impedes the progress of our building. The heat has been very oppressive for 2 or 3 days. I was prostrated so much in Church in the morn^g that I did not go in the afternoon. At 5, D^r Carmichael

called to see us. . . . He looks very well, has been to the Springs, & came round by the way of Middletown, to see some of his young countrymen. Marney was the first to recognize him & to introduce him to his Captain. A M^r Fox from Pinckneyville, a familiar name, preached at S^t Thomas' in the morn^g, a plain, sensible preacher, who says that there are 4 Episcopal congregations in y^r quarter. I have a letter from M^r Servoss of 18th rec^d this morn^g. All well & delighted sister says with her new sister who gave her a most welcome reception. They set off for Princeton tomorrow, stop a day, & are to be home probably on Thur^y p. m. after w^h Mother is to go to Bath or Rockaway, to brace up by a little sea air, which she much requires. As to myself tho' relaxed I enjoy thank God wonderful health. In June on account of the heat I left off my light flannel for cotton & a weakness in my bowels ensuing, & that malady prevailing to a great indeed fatal degree, I resumed my flannel undershirt w^h restored me quite. But I was in a steam bath Sat^y & Sunday. However as it is better to sweat than to cough, I submit, feeling consequently less sensibly our sudden alternations from hot to cold. My president³³ & friend takes a furlough of 8 or 10 days to the spring³⁴ on acc^t of weak health. This will interfere with my visit till the 1st of Sept^r as one of us must stick to the office.

.
 [Addressed by:] Ship Chancelor [sic]
 with a packet

NEW YORK, 23^d August, 1826, Wed^y

My letter of yest^y was despatched by the Chancellor, w^h has I presumed sailed, the wind being at N. W. & has tempered the extreme sultry heats of a few days past. I sent a packet containing a few articles to amuse you,

³³ Gabriel Furman, president of the Mutual Insurance Company.

³⁴ Schooley's Mountain Springs, in New Jersey. There is an article about that resort, by Joseph Warren Greene, Jr., in the *Proceedings of The New Jersey Historical Society*, April, 1933, vol. 51, pp. 176-190.

among the rest a paper containing the events of 1776 to the 28th Aug^t the battle of L. Island.³⁵ I have concluded the sequel, till the brilliant affair of Trenton, w^h re-animated the spirits of our country, at that gloomy period of our affairs when Hope was sinking in Despair. I shall cut it out to forward by a future occasion for darling to put among her memorabilia. Had I known what I was undertaking I sh^d hardly have assumed the task. What is reduced to a moments reading has cost me days of research. One principle object was to revive attention to the events of that disastrous year and thereby to call up, if possible, the gratitude our country owes to the soldiers of the revolution. The members of Congress who are now fretting their hour on the theatre of the nation, owe all their ephemeral importance to the Heroes of "the Times that tried men's souls." Where w^d Congress, where w^d our Independence, but for those brave men that endured hardships & faced dangers in the most appalling times and yet that Congress w^h owes its very existence to the glorious achievements of these very men, hesitate to award what is due to the survivors of our Revolut^y army. I found great difficulty to compress with[in] the moderate space that a daily paper can spare for historical recollections, events that ought to have been more copiously illustrated, one benefit however I have derived, the refreshing my memory with scenes, the more interesting & impressive as I am intimately acquainted with every foot of ground occupied by the contending armies. The campaign of 1776 always hangs over my mind like an almost impenetrable cloud of Egyptian darkness. The present generation know not their obligations to their predecessors. Altho' my share was very small, it was enough to show me the dangers to be subdued, and the dreadful materials Gen. Washington had to oppose to a proud contemptuous well appointed foe. . . .

Friday [August] 25th. Our folks got home yest^r at 6

³⁵ An anonymous communication listing events in "1776 Campaign of New-York and Long Island" appeared in the *New-York Daily Advertiser*, Tuesday morning, Aug. 22, 1826, on page 2.

o'clock, Sister highly pleased with her visit to & reception by M^{rs} Rose, & M^r Servoss gratified with the Bayard family, where they arrived on Monday ev^s & passed Tuesd^y & Wed^y. Little Walky ³⁶ behaved manfully & is much improved by his travels. He threw himself into my arms at the carriage door, & recognized all at home. I wrote yest^y to our Cadets that I c^d not leave town until the 1st Sept. Mama talks of accompanying me w^h w^d make my visit more pleasant. The difficulty is where to find quarters for the 2 Inns, are one execrable, the other not much better. M^{rs} Francis where I staid before keeps a boarding school for young ladies w^h w^d make it perhaps unpleasant for Mother, However I shall consult with her this afternoon, & as she may decide write to M^r F. or not. I mentioned to Capt. Partridge that good accommodations were essential for the parents & friends of the Cadets. Unsuccessful in a former experiment to establish a genteel Hotel, the inhabitants do not like to venture on another.

Saturday [August] 26th. . . . Mama concludes not to go, as she may not be pleasantly situated & be lonesome when I am attending the examinations. She will probably go to Bath or Rockaway for the benefit of sea air & bathing. My president M^r Furman, is to return on Monday from Schooley's Mountain, so that there will be nothing to interfere with my contemplated visit. My young friend Andrew Warner, with 3 or 4 officers of the National Guard propose attending the Review of Cadets on Monday & Tuesday 10th & 11th Sept^r & return home with me next day. The Cadets will be glad to see Andrew. You don't know how much interest I take in their education. As yet I have all confidence in Cap^t P's system, the experiment of a year must prove whether it be a rational one. He has promised to take the young Cadets after examination on an excursion to Northampton about 50 miles above Middletown on Connecticut river. I presume to afford them some practical lessons in surveying as well as diversion after their hard studies. . . . (Mon-

³⁶ John Pintard Servoss.

day 28th). . . . This morn^g the examination begins, & I suppose our Cadets are all anxiety to acquit themselves well. . . . Judge [*blank in MS.*] proposes to attend, & mentioned at Princeton that he w^d give D^r Davidson his opinion of the Academy. I shall be glad if he does, as he may correct any partialities I may have contracted in favour of Cap^t Partridges system w^h encounters a great deal of oppugnation from the older establishments, altho' several improvements are adopting, esp^v as to gymnastic exercises, in several. The idea of disqualifying boys for the pursuits of industry, by tainting their minds for a fondness for military life, is unwarranted by experience.

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MIDDLETOWN, Thur^v 7th Sep., 1826

. . . . I am very much satisfied with the performances of our Cadets, to whom I have faithfully discharged my duty. M^r Williston their classical Instructor understands his profession, has taken the boys directly in his charge & begun with them in grammar in w^h they were very deficient. Their examination in Latin was very good, the ensuing quarter they will advance rapidly. Their progress in arithmetic is very satisfactory, having advanced to vulgar fractions & well acquainted with all the rules. Their next step will be algebra. They read Spanish very correctly, & will make good progress the next quarter as they have become familiar with Señor Pizarro's method.

.

12¹/₂ o'clock. I have just returned from an examination of descriptive geometry as it is called here, giving the outlines of canaling &ca. with demonstrations in Hydraulics, also M^r Willistons large class on Sallust. Greek this aft.noon. Marney is to give me a display of his talents in fencing. . . .

.

6 p. m. . . . After attending the Greek class Cap^t P. gave another lecture on geography, on rivers, exhalations

&c. Yest^y was on mountains. . . . Young Davis is very modest & a good lad, studious & performs well, tell his mother sh^d you have an oppo[rtunity]. Young McNeil,³⁷ a new comer from N[ew] O[rleans] rooms with them, a likely smart boy. . . . This is certainly a salubrious situation. Notwithstanding all my fatigue & out much in the heat of the day, I have not experienced the least headach, that afflicts me so much at home, altho' I wear my white beaver hat, w^h I cannot endure in town.

. . .

NEW YORK, Sat^y 9th Sept., 1826

. . . . I am perfectly satisfied in every respect both with Cap^t Partridge, the professors & Cadets, and am persuaded that your sons will profit as much or more at this Academy as at another not strictly professional. It was my intention to have visited Hartford, and I had packed up my trunk, having again called on the Cadets to take leave, & to have taken the steamboat at 10, But the ceremony of laying the foundation of the monument at Groton opposite N. London where Col. Ledyard & his brave men were massacred in Arnolds expedition 1781 attracted a large concourse of the circumjacent country, & a party of 180 from Hartford occupied the Steam Boat McDonnough, & that interfered with her regular trips. As I c^d not go north, I took my seat in the Mail Stage at 11 for New Haven, where I dined, or rather paid half a dollar for looking on, strolled about the town, viewed its solemn extensive cemetery, new canal in preparation & colleges, called on my old acquaintance M^{rs} Blage,³⁸ aged 82 & at 8 proceeded to the Steam boat, w^h did not sail till 10, & arrived safe home between 6 & 7 this morn^g & found all well. M^{rs} Bradford dined with the family on

³⁷ Stephen D. McNeil, according to the *Catalogue of the Officers and Cadets . . . of the American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy* (1826).

³⁸ Mrs. John Blagge (Rebecca Drake). D. L. Jacobus, *Families of Ancient New Haven* (1923), I, 212; *Vital Records of New Haven, 1649-1860* (1924), pt. II, p. 654.

Thur^y, much pleased with our habitation. She is on a visit to M^{rs} Collet at Paterson, where she was to return this day. She staid with M^{rs} W^m Ogden, 3 miles out of town. . . .

Monday 11th. Elegant day. My President M^r Furman goes up this afternoon to Middletown, where he may arrive in time tomorrow for the review. His son in law & daughter Judge & M^{rs} Irving ³⁹ are there. . . . I have said that the Cadets are quite weaned from home, one advantage of education abroad. They have not lost their love & affection for their family, But appear as men of the world, who are to work their own way through it relying on their own strength & resources. If spared, they will be fitter to turn out adventurers on the worlds wide common at 15, than I was at 21. The old school kept boys too much under the thumb, w^h I knew & experienced as a detriment. Had my good Uncle have allowed me to have gone into the army in 76 I am confident that I w^d not have disgraced my Uncle Sam. But I was restricted in my career. I ought not to have returned when I ran away from College. It was confessed that I behaved with more spirit than most, if not all of our squad. I was very light timbered, w^h made ag^t me, but I was proud, w^h made me hold up my head & push forward when others, who afterwards turned out brave men shrunk. I cannot to this day but lament my inglorious life, that it was not my fault is my only but sorrowful consolation. My recollections of the campaign of 76 bring me back to a subject that I cannot forget.

Tuesday [September] 12th.

I c^d have wished to have gone to Paterson today, to have seen M^{rs} Bradford who is at M^{rs} Collets, formerly Wallace. An Episcopal Church is to be consecrated tomorrow, to the ceremony I was kindly invited, but M^r Furmans absence does not permit. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Virginia

³⁹ John Treat and Abbey Spicer (Furman) Irving.

NEW YORK, Thur^y 14th Sept^r, 1826

Andrew [Warner] has just come in (1 o'clock). He is highly delighted with his excursion & speaks in rapture of the review, that the military exercises exceed anything ever exhibited in this city. Our Cadets are very well, & were very happy to see him. They are to go to Northampton where Thomas [Servoss] was at school last year at an Academy ⁴⁰ much encouraged by the Boston Unitarians. . . .

NEW YORK, Monday 18th Sept^r, 1826

Yesterday P. M. Sunday 17th my little namesake walked for the first time alone without fear or apprehension, 1 week less than 14 months old. . . .

Tues^y 19th Sep^t. While Death is making his usual ravages in your ill fated country, He has been seeking his victims also in ours. During my late short absence I lost 4 friends & acquaintances, & yesterday at 8 p. m. died at his country seat Eastchester W^m Bayard Esq^r in his 65th year. He had been for a year suffering the most excruciating torture from an inflammation of the prostate gland in the urinary passage. He endured all that poor humanity c^d suffer. He was the representative of one of our oldest & most respectable families, & one of our most eminent merchants. He was President of the Chamber of Commerce, & of our Bank for Savings, the duties of the latter he performed with the most scrupulous fidelity. I have been long associated with him in the above corporations & know and appreciate his worth and loss to the community towards w^h he rendered his best services and exercised his beneficence. After the late General Clarkson I do not know a character more highly respected or lamented. I have just performed my last services to him by drawing & sending to the papers the

⁴⁰ Round Hill School. See *Outline of the System of Education at the Round Hill School, with a List of the Present Instructors and of the Pupils from its commencement until this time June, 1831* (Boston, 1831).

invitations of the above Corporations to his funeral from N^o 6 State Street, tomorrow 5 p. m. He died AE 65. I am now released from any obligation to serve as Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, the duties of w^h I promised to fulfil as long as he was president, & w^h are times very oppressive for the paltry salary of \$100 per an. I sh^d have resigned long ago, but for M^r Bayards impor-
tunity.

Wed^y 20th. . . . The Fame & success of Cap^t Partridge's Academy is exciting attention & probable rivalship in every quarter. A similar Institution is on the Tapis in this city, as announced in a last Evenings paper. There is room for one or more in every state, for the miscellaneous System of Cap^t P. is eminently adapted to our state of society, and thousands of Boys may be educated at home who w^d not be sent abroad. . . .

Thur^y [September] 21st. An elegant day. We shall see hereafter whether this day be an emblem of January. I have just seen your tub of butter nicely packed in a half barrel of salt. It will be sent aboard the Lavinia this morn^g, I hope in time to go in the run. Stickler says that it comes from one of the best dairies in Orange Co[unty] & equal in quality to what he sent us this morn^g w^h was a nosegay. We have 2 small covered tubs holding 6 lbs each, one of w^h is rec^d every Thursday morn^g & the empty one returned. The butter comes from M^r Ellison's dairy near Newburgh & is superior in quality. Thus the trouble of tasting & rejecting in the market is saved & it comes cheaper by 3 d. a lb. It astonishes one to see the immense quantity of butter that comes weekly to this city from Orange, Dutchess & Westchester Counties, besides all Long island. Butter is the great staple article for breakfast & tea among all clas[s]es. The idea of restraining children from a liberal use of good fresh butter is exploded, & they almost live upon bread & butter in this city.

There was a meeting of the Am. Board of Comm^{rs} for Foreign Missions, in Middletown, on Thur^y 14th inst.

at w^h 100 Clergymen were present. After the close of their business they were escorted by the Cadets to the Academy, where Cap^t Partridge delivered an Address, recommending such of the Cadets who were of proper age, & duly prepared to attend the Communion in their respective Churches. That he himself altho' firmly convinced of the truth of Divine Revelation & Christianity had not, as yet, for want of due preparation attended. The Rev. Doc^r Spring of this City & D^r Proudfit of Salem in this State, addressed the Cadets, in a very impressive manner. His institution & system met with the highest approbation of the Clergy who attended on this occasion. I know that it will afford you gratification as it does me to understand that the reproach of Infidelity charged against Cap^t P. is thus wiped away, & that your dear boys are entrusted to the care of those who respect our Holy Religion. This circumstance cannot but give elevation in public opinion to the Academy, & it has highly pleased every one who has heard of it. I have it direct & correct from my friend M^r Dwight, whose daughter has just returned from Middletown & mentioned the satisfaction w^h the declaration of Cap^t P. has afforded the good people of that place. . . .

Friday [September] 22^d. . . .

It affords me the highest gratification that M^r S[ervoss] appears to be the very man with whom I c^d be an inmate. He is retired, domestic, not fond of company & unobtrusive. He is my agreeable companion in our afternoon walks. We do not interfere in the least of evenings, when Mother & Sister chat or play chess & I read my books. . . .

Tuesday [September] 26th. . . . Miss Chew called last aft.noon to take leave on her departure for Virginia. She has been to the Springs, Lebanon &c. almost all the summer. . . . I feel very uneasy by the reports of the new fatal disease, the Cold plague having visited y^r city.

What a constant succession of maladies you are exposed to. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Lavinia
with a Half Barrel
and parcel

NEW YORK, Wed^y 27th Sept^r, 1826

. . . . After a chilling tho' not violent N. E. Rain, the wind has chopped round to the So[uth] & we are sweltering with heat, being clad in almost winter attire. The sun has appeared to dry up our humid atmosphere & streets. Broadway, repaving, is a continued line of fluid mud, a mortar bed. The good folks of Princeton have at last a fair day for commencement, an important anniversary in that place. It comes so late in Sept^r as generally to coincide with the autumnal equinox. . . .

Thurs^y 28th.

I am just making up my deposits in the Savings Bank, for my dear g^dchildren, & shall open an acc^t for dear little Julia Servoss, by a deposit of \$25, to be repeated as I can until I bring her even with her sisters & brothers. God bless the Babe & all of them.

2 p. m. The Niagara has arrived after encountering a severe gale for 4 days, & injured in her masts & rigging.

. . . .
Friday [September] 29th.

I see by the papers that Cap^t Partridge set out last Tuesday 26th with a detachment of his Cadets on a visit to Springfield, possibly Northampton, where Thomas was formerly at School & where he has a cousin Courtney Schenck. . . . I am made quite crop-sick by the intelligence, for the first time, this morning at breakfast that M^r Servoss intends returning to N[ew] O[rleans] this fall. I thought him permanently fixed & promised myself much happiness in his domestic company the coming winter. I am just becoming acquainted with his habits & to feel quite at home with him. . . . Sister is weaning her fine boy, who roars stoutly at the loss he is sustaining.

. . . Last evening died M^r Edmund Seaman AE 82, the father of M^{rs} Brockholst Livingston ⁴¹ who you know is a family relation. He leaves a handsome estate acquired by his own industry. Few men have seen so much poignant misery as M^r S. About 20 years ago, or more, a son settled on a farm in N. Jersey, put a period to his own existence & that of his wife & 2 or 3 young children. Not very long before this bloody catastrophe, a beautiful daughter, & only sister of M^{rs} L, then M^{rs} Kortright, drowned herself in the cistern of the family house in Wall Street. About 4 years since his eldest son by a first wife, John Seaman, a man of fine mind & excellent character, a bachelor, to whom his father afforded a handsome support, chagrined by commercial losses, w^h were very great, living by himself in the upper part of the city, dismissed his man servant at night, locked himself up & cut his throat in the most shocking manner, & was not discovered until the 3^d day. What a tissue of awful acts of suicide in the descendants of the same person, & what inward misery M^r S. must have endured. He was remarkably neat in his attire & courteous in his manners, & tho' advanced in years & [*sic*] uncommon good looking man. But he was devoid of Xtⁿ principles, of course without the only consolations that can support a poor creature thro' such a vale of misery as has been his unfortunate lot.

Sat^y [September] 30th. The Lavinia sailed with a fine N[orth] W[este]r yesterday. The Azelia is delayed till Tuesday. . . . M^r Seamans funeral is to take place this p. m. 5 o'clock. M^r Servoss & myself invited as relations. Mother & Sister will call & attend at M^{rs} Livingstons. An urgent meeting of the Vestry of S^t Esprit takes place at the same hour. I shall endeavour to have it adjourned as I sh^d give exceptions were I to absent myself from the Funeral. Our old families are very sensitive on this head. This being settling day in my office I shall postpone anything further till Monday. Last ev^g we had

⁴¹ Mrs. (Henry) Brockholst Livingston (Catherine Seaman) married as her first husband, John Kortright, a cousin of Mrs. John Pintard.

a preparatory service in St Thomas'. It is usual in our Episcopal Churches to have prayers on Wed^y & Friday Morn^{gs} w^h none but Females, & they but few can attend. My age & character justify me to communicate my sentiments freely but respectfully to my Rector M^r Duffy. I spoke to him on this head, & likewise on the propriety of administering the Sacrament on the 1st Sunday of every month excepting the interference of Christmas & Easter, with both these suggestions he has concurred, and I am certain his people will, with myself, be benefitted. As it was the first occasion there was quite a numerous congregⁿ. All of us attended. I must look into M^r Clapps Sermon on the deaths of Adams & Jefferson as I can catch a moment.

Monday, 2^d Oct^o. An elegant day. Yest^y I read with great satisfaction the Rev. M^r Clapps Sermon on the deaths of Adams & Jefferson. He has, in my opinion, acquitted himself very handsomely. It was a difficult subject for a young Divine to leave the usual paths of Divinity & to treat of the political characters of these late eminent statesmen. He has given a fair view of the excellence of our form of government and with him, as he beautifully expresses himself, "I love & venerate the soil of our happy country," and cherish the memory of our patriots, civil & military, who acheived our glorious Revolution. Your sons my beloved daughter are taught to estimate the blessings we enjoy, and will I am confident in their day, emulate the virtues of their predecessors. The sun, in his diurnal course, illumines no portion of the globe whose inhabitants enjoy so much positive happiness, civil & religious, as those of the U. States. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Azelia.

N YORK, Wed^y 5th [*sic for 4th*] Oct^r, 1826

Elegant day. The sportsmen will rejoice, for this is the period for the Races at Jamaica, to improve the breed

of horses.⁴² As very respectable gentlemen belong to the Club, Gambling the usual concomitant of race grounds are suppressed. The race of these useful animals is very much improved, not only in this but other states. It is too late in life for me to partake of this diversion, w^h in my boyhood I thought surpassed every other. . . .

Thur^y 6th [*sic* for October 5th]. Halcyon day. Meeting of the Managers of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] this p. m. always a delightful duty to me, to hear the numerous communications from our Aux[iliar]y So[ciety]s uniting their efforts, thro' all quarters of the Union, to diffuse the Holy Scriptures. Altho' their gleanings are small yet the aggregate contributions constitute the fund from which the supplies of the parent Institution flow.

Sat^y [October] 7th. I have just been on board the Illinois, w^h a few years ago w^d have vied with the proudest ships in the Liverpool trade. She is by far the first packet between this port & yours in point of size & accomodations, & will be well worth y^r inspection after she arrives. She will sail probably the 12th. Yest^y the job of sodding our grass plot was accomplished with more ease than was anticipated. Our work is drawing to a close, & our rooms will be, sh^d the present dry weather continue fit to sit in this day week. A small space of our *arable* land is to be appropriated for a vineyard. I shall get plants next week. Sister has a spot for a Fig tree, w^h probably will be best planted next spring & if successful she has the prospect of sitting, please God, under her own Vine & Fig tree & none to make her afraid. On a Lot of 100 feet by 25, there is a 3 story House, 2 story Back building, out office, cistern, a piece of upland meadow ground, a tract of arable land in different parcels, woodland & coal mine, also trees, flowering shrubs & exotics. Can you equal all this in N[ew] O[rleans].

Monday [October] 9th. Your letter of 9th Sep^t by

⁴²The New York Association for the Improvement of the Breed of Horses announced in *The New-York Evening Post*, of Sept. 19, 1826, that the Fall races would be run at Union Course, Long Island, Oct. 3, 4, and 5, 1826.

mail is just rec^d. What are my sensations on the escape of our darling Eliza. . . . What must her doting parents have suffered during the crisis of her fever. . . .

Tuesday 10th. Wall S^t is swarming with spectators to observe the elevating the columns of the New Exchange.⁴³ The shafts are 27 feet in height, the bases about 6 feet, by computation each shaft weighs 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ tons, the 4, 65 Tons. The bases & plinths about 18 Tons, total 83 Tons. As this is the first experiment on so large a scale, in this city, perhaps in the U States, I have paid attention to the subject. 2 columns are now erecting, the whole will be up tomorrow, I hope without accident.

Wed^y [October] 11th. . . . I have just despatched . . . a letter to Cap^t Partridge relating to measures adopting here to set up an Academy similar to his, on an extensive scale, either on this island or on Long island opposite the city. He, liberally, offered any information in his power to promote his favourite system of education. I had an interview with a M^r Carpenter a respectable enterprizing Instructor in this city who projects the plan, w^h will meet with great support & have recommended that he sh^d visit Middletown & see Theory reduced to practice, w^h he purposes to do. This new Institution is a compliment to Cap^t P. & will not interfere with his interests, for the increasing thirst for more extended education affords ample pupils. Many desire to have their children near & many more to educate them distant from home. Cap^t P's fame is so well established & circulates so widely, that the Southernns espec^y will resort to him. . . . I have full confidence in the system, & since taking up my pen, on application, I have just recommended a Gentleman to send his 2 sons to the Academy, w^h he will do. . . .

Friday 13th Oct^r. . . . I send a little package containing 1 lb. Cedar apples, with printed directions, and sincerely pray that the remedy may prove efficacious to my dear Turtle Dove. There is plenty I presume to admin-

⁴³ The Merchants' Exchange, on Wall Street between William and Hanover Streets.

ister a doze to any of your friends children. . . . By her Uncle Servoss something shall be sent to reward her [Eliza] for her kind attention to y^r friend M^{rs} Wederstrandt, to whom be pleased to give my congratulations on her recovery.

.
 [Addressed by:] Ship Illinois
 with a small parcel

NEW YORK, Sat^y 14th Oct^o, 1826

. . . . This is the birth day of y^r brother Servoss. I know not, as he did not mention, how old. He said that he remarked to y^r Sister that he never experienced so unfortunate a year as the past, in all his life. I am glad that it was not his marriage year, as he might omen that he had wedded bad luck. . . . M^r S. has been peculiarly circumspect, his losses, of w^h I know little, are nothing to be compared with the reverses that have prostrated the best establishments, not only in y^r city, but throughout the U States. Say nothing of these remarks. The constitution of y^r friend is naturally, if not desponding, at times gloomy. I take no notice of his silence, at least, not inquisitively I hope. . . .

Monday [October] 16th. We had an elegant day yest^r till 4 P. M., when it became overcast. We were all at Church. In the afternoon Bp. Hobart confirmed about 26 young persons mostly all Females. It being the first confirmation in S^t Thomas' Church, it was very crowded. This service was very solemn. I was so much affected, that when it was over, when I went to shake hands with the Bishop, I c^d scarcely utter. I meant to have expressed the wish that his health & life might be spared long to discharge these important duties to his Church. The Bishop preached. He is probably the first pulpit Orator in the U States, since the decease of D^r Smith, who stood at the head & was eminently distinguished for his eloquence. The Doctor had the advantage of person, countenance & eye, over any of his contemporaries. His

sermons were chaste & his delivery elegant. He read a psalm & Chapter, to my taste, superior to every other minister of what ever denomination. You recollect him well. . . .

Tuesday [October] 17th. . . . Last ev^s I met the Com^e of S^t Thomas' Ch[urch] Scholarship, of w^h you have been informed. As the Episcopal Convention meets this day, at w^h every Rector is bound to report the state of his Church, and this being the first Report by our Rector M^r Duffie some exertion was made to procure subscript[ion]s. The whole sum is \$2500 Dollars, to raise w^h I have given in my own mind 5 years, or \$500 a year, happily the am^t paid, & this day at interest was \$625, ¼th of the whole; this considering that we are a new & the youngest Epis. Ch[urch] in the city is very creditable to the zeal of our congregation w^h has many things to do. The example moreover set by us, in this city, w^h I trust will be followed, has thus far succeeded, & I hope to be spare[d] to see the complete foundation of this scholarship.

Wed^y [October] 18th. M^r S[ervoss] has been treating your sister to several articles of House Furniture, such as Blue Damask for 3 Window Curtains for the front parlour, & a superb pier Table. I have just been with him to Geibs, to look at the exact counter part to the piano Forte w^h he presented to her at N. Orleans, & w^h he obtained with a stool & green cover for \$250, & ordered home. Sister & Mother had been looking at one yest^y, a very pretty one, in an auction store for 200 but Geib warrants this for a year, & will keep it in tune gratis for that period. . . . Last ev^s who sh^d come in but W^m Bayard from Palmyra, not in the desert of Asia Minor, but a Delegate from an Episcopal Church in that flourishing [town] to our Convention in this city. Wonders will never cease. His Father will think him far gone in Original Sin to have followed his other son from the Presbyt[eria]n flock. To my door was laid the corrup-

tion of the Rector,⁴⁴ But I am free either of the praise or censure of Williams defection. To be serious I was astounded when he told me that he was a delegate to the Convention. I thot he meant some political meeting in this city to support or oppose Gov. Clintons election. William is much pleased with the choice he has made of a residence and is rising in practice. He has been in Palmyra but a short year, & has outstripped a prior Att[orne]y. He is made of the right stuff for persev[er]ance, & of materials to become eminent in his profession. He is destined to be the hope & stay of his family. A parson can never get rich, encumbered with a large family & small salary. Samuel as a political Editor, can plume himself that thro' the instrumentality of his paper, the N Jersey Patriot, the elec[tio]n of the friends of the Administ[ratio]n has been carried all hollow. What is to be his reward time must disclose. I cannot feel cordial towards an apostate from Federalism.

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[Addressed by:] Ship Russell

NEW YORK, Monday 23^d Oct^r, 1826

. . . . A Trial of nearly 4 weeks ag^t Henry Eckford & others for conspiracy to defraud certain monied Institutions in this city terminated this morn^g By the Jury being dismissed having been 3 days without deciding. 7 it is said for conviction & 5 for acquittal. But public opinion is decidedly ag^t the parties. . . . Circumspection in granting Charters by the Legislature, & greater integrity in the administration of duty will however prove a happy result.

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Wed^y [October] 25th. . . . The Chancellor arrived below on Monday, the wind was to[o] fresh ahead yest^y to permit her coming up, nor has the Letter bag been rec^d. . . . The Frances is to sail 28th. By her I propose to send

⁴⁴ Lewis Pintard Bayard, son of Samuel and Martha (Pintard) Bayard.

this & next with y^r butter on the 1st by the Louisiana. As I shall have frequent oppo[rtunitie]s now the packets are running almost weekly, my letters will be shorter. . . .

Thur^y [October] 26. . . . Mother is getting up a French China stove in her bedroom, w^h will make it very comfortable as well as of neat appearance w^h is every-thing to Mother. . . . The last little finishings are closing this day, and we only wait for the walls to dry to sit in the snug back parlour, the so[uth] eastern expo-sure of which will make it warm with a very [small] con-sumption of coal. My last load of small Hickory, for the stoves, to be taken in this day, will round off our Winter stock, w^h I trust will be ample. But I shall know our gauge better next May. The Fuel department is very snug & compact, all under cover.

[Addressed by:] Ship Frances

NEW YORK, 28th Oct^r, 1826. Sat^y noon

Having closed my letter of this date to go by the Frances, weather permitting, to sail tomorrow, I have called at Sticklers who has put y^r articles on b^d the Louisi-ana, to go next Wed^y Viz^t 1 Firkin Butter, ½ Bb. Buck-wheat, 2 Boxes Herrings strapped together, & 1 Box con-taining ½ doz. Cherry, d^o Respberry, d^o best Gin[ger] 12 lb. Currants, 3 lb. Citron, for Xmas, & a Cheese. There are no fresh Raisins in the city. M^r S[ervoss] says that you have them direct from Malaga & in season I hope for y^r pies. . . .

Congratulate me on taking our first meal & offering our first prayer in our new room this morn^g. It is rather contracted, but it occupies as much space as c^d be spared, Only consider what we have done within the compass of 25 feet by 100, the main house 25 by 60, Backbuilding & portal 20 by 9. It is very compact & handsome & looks well from Crosby St, being on a corner lot, facing the

East & open to the So[uth] in part, light & air cannot be obstructed by any neighbours improvement of their premises. . . .

.....
 Tuesday [October] 31st. . . . Last ev^g young Mess^{rs} Chew & Smith called to see us. They are both fine very fine lads. Beverly has a very aff[ectiona]te heart, S. S. feels more strange. He has a fine person & very intelligent countenance, a remarkable fine eye, very much of the expression of his g^dfather D^r Smith, indeed traits of his noble features, with every indication of genius. Please to tell y^r inestimable friend M^{rs} Chew, that she as well as her sister have as much reason to be proud of their sons as you have of yours. . . . It will be every thing for young Smith to receive an education in the College over w^h his great g^dfather & g^dfather ⁴⁵ so illustriously presided.

.....
 [Addressed by:] Ship Louisiana

NEW YORK, Wed^y 1st Nov., 1826, 2 p. m.

A N. E. rain will detain the Louisiana, by w^h I wrote & sent y^r Butter &c^a. The Frances did not sail till yest^y. . . . My semiannual making up of my acc^{ts} begin this day. Our business has been very dull, but having met with but trifling losses the last 6 m^{os} I hope that we shall declare the usual Dividend of 4 p^r c^t w^h will relieve my spirits. . . .

.....
 Monday [November] 6th 2 p. m. . . . I have been so office beleaguered that I c^d not attend D^r Hosacks inaugural address on opening the *Rutgers Medical College* this day at 12 o'clock. This is a rival College to the one ⁴⁶ existing in this city, the professors of w^h threw up their

⁴⁵ Samuel Stanhope Smith was a grandson of Dr. Samuel Stanhope Smith (1750-1819), and a great-grandson of Dr. John Witherspoon, both early presidents of Princeton University (College of New Jersey).

⁴⁶ The College of Physicians and Surgeons.

appointments at the close of the sessions last winter. Not being reappointed and their rivals succeeding to the Chairs, Hosack, Francis &c. set up a new College & in order to confer degrees, it was taken under the patronage of Rutgers's (formerly Queen's) College, Brunswick, N. Jersey. This measure, altho' not unconstitutional, is viewed as entrenching on the prerogatives of this State. However to accomplish his object Hosack is not apt to stick at trifles. So a College it is, & opens its career this day. No doubt D^r H's address will be published when I will send D^r D. a copy, w^h will develop the subject better than I can at present. Yest^r Mother & Sister accompanied me to the Lord's Table. How happy I feel in my declining days that my dear Wife & daughter are in unity with me on this important subject. . . . Sister is about giving a party to her friends on Thur^r next, w^h I hope will go off favourably. . . .

Thur^r [November] 9th. Sisters party day & an elegant day it is, mild & moonlight ev^g. . . . Cap^t Partridge called on me yest^r, having marched with a squad of his elder Cadets on a visit to West Point. . . . Cap^t P. c^d not tell me what may be the expense attending the proposed visit, in December, to Washington, w^h if not too great, & the Cadets are willing to go, I shall treat them to a trip, as it is my wish that they sh^d see every thing they can during their stay at the north. . . .

Friday [November] 10th. An elegant day, as was yest^r morn^g but a fresh so[uth]wester obscured the sky in the afternoon & eclipsed the moon at night, & went off at 12 o'clock with Thunder & lightning & a heavy rain that detained some of sisters company till past 1. The party went off very handsomely indeed. The Rooms well lit up showed quite in style. The Curtains front & rear, with their drapery being very tasty without being tawdry. They were much admired. Tea & Coffee, followed by Cakes & Sweetmeats,—without nuts, almonds or Raisins, w^h are exploded—Ice Cream & Syllabub, pickled Oysters, sliced Ham & tongues, placed on a central Table in the dining Room, the gentlemen serving the

ladies, in the parlour. Lemonade & Wine, handed round, & concluding with bottled porter, were the order of the evening. Cotillions were danced, some young ladies, the Miss Schencks performing on the Piano. I cannot enumerate the company, w^h sister may do & give to M^r S[ervoss] for y^r information. Everything was very genteel but as I do not visit on these occasions I can judge nothing by comparison. The attendance was in excellent order, & our little back room admirably accommodating for making the Tea &ca. Dear Mother remarked this more. What climbing up & down stairs was my lot thro life. Modern buildings are wonderfully adapted for domestic convenience. . . .

Next Wed^y is the absolute sailing day. The arrangement of the New Lines of packets is to sail punctually the 1st & 15th of every month. This will render intercourse between our 2 cities very regular, something, on a small scale, like the Liverpool packets. This is Cap^t Holmes' line, probably M^r Russels will adopt a similar plan, in w^h case we shall have regular weekly packets, to & fro. I have got my business under my thumb. We shall resume our semi-annual Dividends of 4 p^r C^t w^h quite revives my spirits. Our business tho' small has equalled former summer months and we have not lost 100 D^{rs} in 6 m^{os}, w^h makes up, in a degree, for the disasters of last winter. . . .

Sat^y [November] 11th. Mama is to go shopping for you, this elegant day. What with party, fatigue & the probable signs of the times Sister keeps at home. . . . I am happy for sisters sake & my own, that an excellent physician, Doctor Rogers,⁴⁷ lives within a few doors of us, readily called for if wanted by day or night. I was worried beyond measure during Sisters first pregnancy on acc^t of our distance from D^r Hosack. Please God dear Girl that she may be as much favoured on the present as on the former occasion. . . .

⁴⁷ John Smyth Rogers, M.D., listed in Longworth's Directory for 1826-27 at 417 Broome Street. The Pintard-Servoss residence was No. 429 Broome Street.

Monday [November] 13th. . . . I believe I told you, for I am apt to forget what I write, that I picked up at an Auction store the exact counterpart of the handsome copper Tea Kettle, that was among the articles in the box thrown overboard in '23. Mother has selected some beautiful silks for you & darling, of the latest patterns. She will put them up in M^r S[ervoss]'s Trunk. I leave her to tell all about them. The Teakettle contains ½ doz papers of powder for cleaning Brass. . . .

Tuesday 14th Nov. Appearance of a snow. All things are put on B^d the Talma out in the stream & Fair or Foul day your good brother M^r Servoss embarks in the Steam Boat tomorrow, with the prospect of lying wind bound at Staten island for 1 or more days. . . .

We are much agitated about M^r Clintons election—*if at all* he will be elected by a very shameful scant majority. I cannot enlarge on this ungrateful topic, w^h has quite overwhelmed me.

.
[Addressed:] Favoured by M^r Servoss
ship Talma

NEW YORK, Thur^y [*sic for Wednesday*] 15th Nov., 1826
a beautiful day

This morn^s at 10 your brother Servoss left the wharf in the steam boat to embark on b^d the Talma, w^h sailed at 11 o'clock with a fair & fresh wind.

Thur^y 16th. The Talma got to sea ½ p. 1 when the pilot left her with a staggering wind, w^h probably will last her 3 or 4 days in w^h case I hope y^r good brother may arrive by the 1st Dec^r as Cap^t Holmes thinks he will. . . . I found dear active mother busily engaged in setting the Vaults & cellars in order for winter. We took in the only remaining load of Hickory wood wanting for the 2 French Stoves in the bed room, which was split up & piled away by 7 o'clock. . . . I have just rec^d a letter from M^r Servoss by the pilot for sister. . . .

I have just rec^d another letter dated yest^y from my

attentive correspondent Marney. Living with Cap^t Partridge he of course knows every oppo[rtunity] that offers for N Y. He writes that 60 Cadets are going to Washington & if possible to visit M^r Carroll, the last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence. Col. Brown one of the proprietors of the N. Y. Theatre in the Bowery has given the Captain an invitation to visit it with his Cadets when they come to town. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Adeline

NEW YORK, Sat^y 18th Nov., 1826
67 y^{rs} 6 m^o old

. . . . This day my Directors meet I hope to declare a Dividend. (2 p. m.) a Dividend of 3½ p^r C^t was declared, after leaving a surplus of \$11,384, to provide for future losses, w^h is doing very well after our disasters of last winter. As soon as I got thro' with my Directors I had to attend a special meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on a proposⁿ of the Post Master Gen^l to alter the hour of closing the great southern mail at 10 a. m. instead of 2 p. m. w^h w^d materially interfere with the commercial accommodⁿ of this city & was objected against & a Committee app^d to confer with our Post Master on the subject. My secretary duties sometimes materially interfere with my office concerns. I shall back out of the Ch. of Commerce next May.

Friday [November] 24th. Yest^y we had a fall of snow, a complete winters day, "Stern Winter comes to rule the varied Year." This day is raw & comfortless. Thank God we are well provided at home, little wanting but these Articles, Butter, Flour, Indian & Buckwheat, all bespoken & to be sent home next week. Dear Mother spread her winter carpet in her bedroom yest^y w^h Sister is to do this day. . . .

I shall look for the Cadets, somewhat, tomorrow, as Cap^t Partridge told me that he sh^d send them home in squads. . . . Thomas is to go to Fishkill, so that we shall not be over annoyed by their company. Sister however

will arrange the nursery, a comfortable basement room, for their accommodⁿ where with books, Backgammon table & checquers, they may beguile their time & play their anticks without fear of being overheard. Never mind, we shall make out very well with them. It w^d gratify me sh^d they arrive tomorrow to witness the military parade on the anniv^y of the Evacuation of this city by the British in 1783, a day w^h I helped to bring into notice & a glorious day it was to our impoverished exiles. . . .

Sat^y 25th. . . . I have just rec^d a letter from Cap^t Partridge that he is to come to town with them next week. He writes that the expence of the visit to Washington will be \$50 to \$60 each. I have replied that they must be content not to go this season. He likewise says that the Rev. M^r Noble⁴⁸ will take some Cadets to board & instruct during the recess. I have replied desiring to know the branches & terms & will consult our Cadets inclinations when they come. . . .

Thur^y [November] 30. Elegant mild day. Just as [we] were sitting down to breakfast the Cadets arrived, except Pintard who c^d not get ready till tomorrow. They look very well. J. Wederstrandt goes on this morn^g, at 11, for Balt[im]o[re] with Cadet Rigger,⁴⁹ with whom he is to return. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Chancellor
Cap^t Baker

NEW YORK, Sat^y 9th Dec^r, 1826
mild hard rain

. . . . In future I think it will be best as well as most accommodating to you, to confine y^r correspondence to

⁴⁸ Rev. B. G. Noble, Professor of Intellectual Philosophy and History at the American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy at Middletown, Conn. *Catalogue of the Officers and Cadets* (1826).

⁴⁹ James H. Rigger, of Baltimore, Md. *Catalogue of the Officers and Cadets . . . of the American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy* (1826).

Cap^t Holmes & Co. regular line of packets every fortnight. . . . Our Cadets will I apprehend be disappointed about skating, as the weather has grown daily more temperate since they went to Fishkill. . . . Aunt Helen & M^r Craig dined with us on Thur^y 7th Thanksgiving day. Sister & myself attended Church in the morn^g, in the afternoon at 3, I had to go to the meeting of the Managers of the Am. B[ible] S. so that I had little time to spend with our friends, who went home before my return at 6 o'clock, to avoid the night air as Sister Craig has been for some time affected by Fever w^h has made her very thin & weak. . . .

Monday [December] 11th noon. I had just closed my introductory paragraphs of this date to go by the Azelia, when my beloved daughters letter of 23^d Nov^r by the Illinois was delivered. You ask the price of postage for sea letters, only 6 cents, if the packet contains ever so many letters. I am fearful that the charge is higher with you, from a paragraph I lately saw in one of our papers, that the letters are sent up by the post office boat & charged with the regular postage w^h must have thrown a heavy tax on you, unwittingly on my part, for I had understood from M^r Servoss that sea letters were alike regulated in both ports. I shall study in future to write only single letters to you & to send any other letters in a package to the care of the Captain not to be put in the letter bag. I w^d most cheerfully repay y^r postage, w^h if you will intimate he will pay & charge to me. I have ever felt disquietude on this head, & w^d confine my correspondence to the regular mails were it not for the great difference in time, in w^h case I c^d always frank my letters. . . .

Present my congratulations to M^r & M^{rs} Babcock on the birth of a fine daughter & so favourably, likewise to the *venerable* g[ran]dparents.⁵⁰ . . . Papa Babcock must feel quite proud at being made a sire so soon. Much joy to all concerned. I tho't that the news might be acceptable to their family friends & I stepped to M^r Robinsons, with a short note announcing the event. How much the

⁵⁰ Mr. and Mrs. John Witherspoon Smith.

families of Chew & Smith are associated with my beloved daughters & what a source of consolation it is to me that you live together as dear sisters. . . .

Wed^y [December] 13th. I have just closed my letter to M^r Servoss, by the Azelia. This morn^g M^r Schenk bro't me a very pretty letter from Pintard, who with his brother are at M^{rs} Tellers,⁵¹ Thomas [Servoss] at M^r Ab. Schencks, but they are together all day. M^r S. has permitted them to stay over another week, as they have had no skating as yet, our season being so mild, after the first cold weather early in the month, the Hudson being again navigable to Albany & the Canal partially. Sister & Mother were at a large party given by M^{rs} Beers last ev[enin]g or night rather. . . .

Thurs^y [December] 14th. . . . Sister no doubt [will] give a sketch of M^{rs} Beers splendid party Tuesday ev^g, probably as sumptuous as any ever given in this city. M^r B. is one of our successful Brokers, very clever, and M^{rs} B. & daughter very friendly indeed. Of the propriety of such extravagant entertainments, I have my doubts. The more independent a person may be in his circumstances the better example he ought to set. All who return these civilities endeavour to emulate, without the ability, the dazzling lustre of these costly exhibitions. . . .

[Addressed by ship:] Lavinia

NEW YORK, Sat^y 16th Dec^r, 1826
a May day

Most ext^y mild weather. Our Cadets, instead of skating, might almost go a swimming. We shall look for them next Tuesday. This little excursion will be quite a treat to them. . . . The inclosed was sent from M^{rs} Talbot, contents unknown. Poor lady, she is always complaining

⁵¹ Mrs. Isaac De Peyster Teller (Alice Schenck), sister of Abraham H. Schenck, lived in the Brett-Teller house at Matteawan (now Beacon), N. Y., which is still standing. P. L. Schenck, *Memoir of Johannes Schenk* (Flatbush, 1876); Alice Crary Sutcliffe, *The Homestead of a Colonial Dame* (Poughkeepsie, 1909).

& fears that she is attacked with a liver complaint. She has more or less been a patient almost her life, but her spirits when she visits us are cheerful as when you knew her. . . .

Today Sister prepares her mince meat. "Shall auld acquaintance be forgot." Keep up my beloved daughter these little anniversary memorials of the olden times, w^h serve to revive family customs & the memory of departed friends, and moreover prove that we are not of yest^r and that we had hospitable good livers before us. When every thing was cheap & plenty, & less glitter & more substance, good cheer was the universal order of the day, & all vied, not so much in the redundant variety as in the superior excellence of the dishes. Every female was instructed in the art of cooking preserves, & pastry, as well as the more ordinary duties of house keeping, and so notable were the mistresses & grown up daughters, that no visit was made unaccompanied by the knitting needle, stitching wristbands & hemming cambric Ruffles or aprons. It w^d have proved a stigma to a young lady, to have spent hours, as at present, unoccupied. Music was confined to the voice accompanied, now & then by the Flute. No whole hours, days, weeks & years, wasted in fingering a harpsichord. Perhaps there were not a dozen before 1776, in this city. Dinner hour was genteel & late at 2, tea visits at 4 & home just after candle light except on ext[raordinary] occasions. Some old ladies & gentlemen played at Quadrille, the fashionable polite game from the days of Pope until the Revolution, when it was banished by whist. I possess the Madames⁵² Quadrille table, w^h I preserve as a family relic. M^r Vallade & Madame & her Mother Madame Desleau came from S^t Domingo. They brought with them some beautiful mahogany of the species called *mouch[e]tée*, Flyblown, w^h was rare & elegant, the plain mahogany ground covered with dark spots. Aunt Patty has one of the armoires & Polly Coutant the other. The furniture was made by M^r Dela-

⁵² Madame Marie E. (Desleau) Vallade, widow of Pierre Vallade, was the second wife of Lewis Pintard (1732-1818).

plaine, a french descendant, & a Quaker, who was too conscientiously scrupulous, & who refused to make the Quadrille table, w^h was accordingly made by another. He was the best workman in the city & w^d have declined the whole work, rather than have violated his conscience. Such were the characters & virtues of the old school. Whoever may inherit this Table I c^d wish to know & transmit this anecdote. Your dear Sister is determined to be a notable housekeeper. This week she has put up a handsome shoat of 170 lbs. so that we shall have plenty of sausages, head cheese & roasting pieces to treat the younkens. . . .

(Monday [December] 18). . . . The unusual mild weather is evinced by Sisters monthly rose bushes being in full bud & blossom in our parterre, of 4 feet square, for every part & parcel of our domain, from the Mansion House to the Out Office, are dignified with lofty names, as no doubt you have smiled at being already informed. Our cadets have of course missed their skating, But this mildness is favourable to all classes to the poor & esp^r to Masons. Buildings are going on as tho it were March instead of December. . . .

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Wed^r [December] 20th. Stern winter has come at last & the Cadets, not yet returned, must enjoy themselves with skating, for it froze very hard last night. At length I have got my books home from the Depository of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] where they have been stored ever since our removal from Wall St. in May 1824, 2 years & 7 months, so that I have had but a barren use of them. . . .

Thur^r [December] 21. M^r Schenck informs me this morn^s that the Cadets are so delighted with their excursion, that they will pass Xmas day at Fishkill & return with his brother on Tuesday. . . .

Friday [December] 22^d. Anniv^r of the landing of the N England pilgrims at Plymouth. A beautiful clear day & cool. I have to attend as pallbearer, the funeral of an

old Friend, Major Wilcocks,⁵³ an intrepid soldier of the Revolution and a decided Federalist, distinguished for his writings ag^t the French measures under Genet, during their bloody Revolution. He died on the 20th aged 76, thus diminishing the number of Revol^r Officers from whom Congress most ungratefully withhold the tribute of comfort due to their services.

Sat^y [December] 23^d. In consequence of attending Major Wilcocks' funeral last ev^g I c^d not wait on Sister to the Concert for the Orphan Assylum, & she was disappointed as I write M^r S[ervoss]. The sale of Tickets will yield, it is said, from 10 to \$1200. The attraction of the Garcia⁵⁴ together with the object completely filled the Church, to the exclusion of many. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Russell

NEW YORK, 26th Dec^r, 1826. Snow

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Our Cadets are to leave Fishkill this ev^g under the care of M^r Abram Schenck, & will reach home by daylight tomorrow morn^g. . . .

Wed^y [December] 27th.

This morn^g when I came down stairs I found Thomas arrived & to my surprize not his cousins. He says that Marney was poorly, & that Pintard stays with him. This I infer to be *sham Abram*, for they are delighted with their visit, go a riding with one or tother of the Miss Tellers every day, who are glad to have such smart young beaus, & who wish them to remain. They have enjoyed fine skating & sleighing & poor boys have more elbow room than pent up in Broome St. So let it be. I am content, but I hope to see M^r Ab^m Schenck who may inform me more particularly. On Friday ev^g Sister &

⁵³ William Willcocks.

⁵⁴ Maria Felicita Garcia (Mme. Malibran) sang at the Grand Concert of Sacred Music for the benefit of the Orphan Asylum Society, given in Grace Church, Friday evening, Dec. 22, 1826. *New-York American*, Dec. 22, 1826; G. C. D. Odell, *Annals of the New York Stage*, III, 291-92.

Mother go to a full blown party of M^{rs} Schencks, similar to M^{rs} Beers. I am glad that Thomas has come to gallant them. . . .

.
[Addressed by:] Ship Illinois
with a small package

1827

To Mrs. Richard Davidson (*Eliza Noel Pintard*)
of New Orleans

NEW YORK, 2^d January, 1827

All health & happiness to my beloved children & g^dchildren at New Orleans. Much very much did I think of you all yest^y. Our little festive board was spread yest^y as usual, but few were the guests. M^r Craig was laid up with a severe cold, & Aunt Helen c^d not come. They were represented by Davis. M^{rs} Talbot, to whom we pay the respect of an invitation to dine with us, was prevented by indisposition. She is almost always ailing & physicking & the day was obscured raw & cold. What diminished the happiness we sh^d otherwise have enjoyed, was the necessity y^r father was under of keeping his chamber, indeed bed, throughout the day. I arose with a violent head ach having passed a restless & almost delirious night with a smart fever. . . .

.
Wed^y 3^d. Thro' the mercy of God I am able to attend to my duty, my feelings better than yest^y without any return of chill or fever tho' a little weak. My walks do me service, for I am well clo[a]ked, fur capped & guarded about the feet to keep me from slipping on our icy footwalks w^h get so trampled as the snow falls & freezing at night as to render it impossible to keep them from ice. More retired where we live Robert has been able to comply with the law & to set a good example to the neighbourhood. . . .

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Sat^y [January] 6th. The cold has be[en] so severe & so much ice made as to block up the Narrows. . . .

Monday 8th. Weather moderating. I was obliged to keep home yest^y. Am pretty well this day, but I have had a severe cold. None but Thomas went to Church

yest^y. We had a large meet^s on Sat^y ev^s & a numerous respectable meeting to solicit in favour of the Greeks. I c^d not be present & so escaped being placed on the Committee. I trust that a liberal sum will be raised & more prudently disbursed than on the former occasion.

Tuesday [January] 9th. I had just written so far yest^y when I answered a very friendly letter of 1st inst. from my eccentric friend W^m Wood who stays with his widowed sister M^{rs} Gorham at Canandaigua. . . .

Wed^y [January] 10th. Haze & Sleet. The Trustees of the Savings Bank meet this afternoon, the weather is too inclement for me to go home to dinner. The Rev. M^r Bayard took a bed with us last night with his 2 sons Lewis & William. Poor man, he is now going to Canandaigua a handsome town on the Canal, with a pretty Church w^h is vacant, to know whether he may be called. M^{rs} Bayard with her infant & William proceed this very unpleasant day for Princeton & M^r B. on the west side of the river with his son Lewis for Albany, where he purposes to [*MS. torn*] with his Uncle M^r Hallett until he gets settled somewhere. You know not how his fate distresses me tho' Mother chides me, I cannot help feeling most sorely for him & his numerous family.

Thur^y 11th. A considerable Fire last night in Water S^t from w^h thank God my office escaped. . . .

Friday [January] 12th. No Talma. Rain & moderate. The Message of the King of G[reat] B[ritain] of 11th Nov. to Parliament of his intention to support his ancient Ally Portugal against a threatned invasion of Spain, w^h step is unanimously approved by the Ho[use] of Commons, & w^h may lead to a war, has this morn^g been rec^d by a packet that sailed the 16th. As is natural, this sudden & unexpected intelligence has excited some agitation. But unless G. B. sh^d attempt to conquer Cuba, America will be totally aloof, & will as heretofore be benefitted by the convulsion of the old world. . . .
[Addressed by:] Ship Louisiana

NEW YORK, Tuesday 16th Jan^y, 1827

. . . . Last ev^s our Cadets arrived before 6, from Fish-kill, all the way in a sleigh. They left that place at 8 & were very comfortable on the road. They are delighted with the Teller family, who rec^d them as Visitors, not as boarders, as you will see by Miss Tellers very affect[ionate] letter. . . .

Wed^y 17th ¼ p. 9. I have just left our Cadets under weigh for New Haven in the fine Steam Boat Hudson, under a careful Captain, w^h place they will reach at 6 & proceed immed^y for Middletown in sleigh where may arrive between 9 & 10. There about a dozen of Cadets to stand by each other. Ours went off with good spirits, promising to attend to their studies & to write to you on Sunday. They went to the La Fayette Theatre last ev^s & got home ½ p. 10, so that they had a good nights rest, were up at 6, breakfasted at 7, & embarked with their baggage in a Hack. I accompanied them, & saw them comfortably seated around a warm fire with their companions. . . .

Thur^y 18th. Intensely cold. How I regarded the movement of the hour & minute hands of my Watch last evening, as tho' they c^d regulate the motions of my dear g^dsons last ev^s. The Captain assured me that there was no danger to be apprehended from the Ice in New Haven bay as he was strong enough to force his passage to the wharf. As the Boat returns this day, I will call at the Wharf as I come down tomorrow for tidings.

Friday [January] 19th. A letter from Thomas dated yest^y 18th at New Haven informs me of the safe arrival of the Cadets, after encountering some difficulty from the Ice in the Harbour. . . .

Monday 22^d. The weather has somewhat moderated, altho' the cold is still intense, having got into our houses, it is more severely felt. But I hope that a change is at hand as the destitute must suffer for want of Fuel. The navigation is so impeded, that nothing can come in or go out, intercourse with Jersey is very difficult & hazardous.

Our Cadets got off at the only & last Steamboat passage that has since offered. A passage by land all the way, w^d at this season have been dreadful. Indeed I had all but engaged their seats. . . .

Tuesday [January] 23^d. Weather moderated with appearance of snow. I have just been answering a letter from Cap^t P[artridge] on the subject of the Cadets studies & expenses. He thinks that your sons had better keep up their French in private & apply their time to Latin & Spanish with their arithmetic &ca. Thomas lays aside Latin, & if he can only apply to one living language I have desired that it may be French, & esp^y to attend to Arithmetic & Algebra. On the score of expenses, shoes & what may be absolutely necessary to be supplied, y^r boys to have new suits next spring. Thomas had one when in town for visiting. All extra wants they are to write to me for approbation. The Captain says that he hopes that at the end of 3 years, the average expenses will not exceed his prospectus, w^h I think will be reasonable. The event will prove the result. . . .

[January] 24th. . . . I have been driven to the top of my speed, being obliged to attend at the City Hall the Trustees of the Sailors Snug Harbour. . . .

Thurs^y [January] 25th. Bitter cold. M^r Bayard who had gone on to Washington to offer himself as a candidate for the Clerkship of the Supreme Court of the U States in place of my once excellent friend M^r Griffith dec^d is disappointed, as I see by the morning papers that a M^r Carroll ¹ has been appointed. The office w^d have pleased Aunt Patty, as a removal to Washington w^d have brought her nearer to Julia, But thank God she has a comfortable home at Princeton.

Sat^y [January] 27. Quite moderate & thawing. We have had light falls but very little snow, so that the streets will soon be bare again. . . . There is to take place another grand Greek Ball in favour of the Greeks on the 22^d Feb^y Washingtons Birth day & no doubt will be fully

¹The appointment of William Thomas Carroll was noted in the N. Y. *Commercial Advertiser*, Jan. 25, 1827.

attended at the Park Theatre. There is no doing anything in this city, without *eating & dancing*. . . .

Monday [January] 29th. No Chancellor. On Sat^r p. m. I met Cadet Morse, as I was going to the Savings Bank. He told me that John Wederstrandt had sailed for N[ew] O[rleans] and is probably at home ere this. The intelligence so far relieves my mind, as I had been looking for his arrival daily. The cause of his return I am ignorant. He appeared to be well pleased with the Academy. If he is intended for the Navy, it may be right for him to enter the service early. . . . Mother sends by this oppo[rtunity] Pintards & Marsdens profiles w^h will please you esp^y the latter w^h is very handsomely executed. Write 1826 on the Back, the year they were taken. . . . D^r Hosack sends the Doctor an elegant copy of his address as Pres^t on opening the Rutgers Medical College, w^h will please. The Doctor advanced the Fund \$20,000 to erect the Building w^h is very convenient & handsome. The Faculty is composed of the first rate talents, the school consists of 150 Students.

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31 Jan^r, 1827

Our Waiter Robert's Wife had a fine daughter yest^r at 9 A. M. She formerly lived with M^{rs} Ellery at N[ew] O[rleans] & says that she tended Marsden. She is a very fine woman & sews occas[ionally] for our folks. Tell M^r S[ervoss] that Robert behaves remarkably well as he ought to do for he is in excellent quarters. He is very handy & my little namesake is very fond of Wobert as he calls him.

[Addressed by:] Ship Talma

NEW YORK, 1st Feb^r, 1827, Thur^r

After wading down yest^r thro one of the most unpleasant storms of Rain & Sleet, I made up my letters to go by the Talma, w^h sails this day with a fair wind. Cap^t Holmes packets have, hitherto, been very fortunate in keeping their fixed time for departure. . . . I find by

my register that I have only written twice last month to my beloved daughter. Cap^t Holmes is the only one of the many ship owners of vessels for N[ew] O[rleans] on whom I can depend for accuracy of sailing days. All the rest without exception, say tomorrow w^h means a week or 10 days.

Monday [February] 5th. This interval in my Diary shows that I have been much engaged. Indeed recording the Minutes of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] has occupied all my spare time till this inst. (11½ o'clock). Sat^r rain. Yest^r fair, when Sister accompanied me to the Communion. . . . After ev^g service I called & passed a half hour with Bishop Chase, who is at present in this city soliciting subscriptions for Kenyon College Ohio. He obtained \$3000 in Philad[elphi]a & hopes to get \$7000 in this city & eastward. He is the most indefatigable persevering successful mendicant I ever knew. He has procured \$2000, in this city & has a conditional promise of \$1000 from a *Presbyterian* of this city to found a professorship provided he can raise \$9000, w^h I have every hope he will do. You may have heard of my Bp. Hobarts violent oppugnation to him when in England where notwithstanding \$30,000 were subscribed, now at interest to be applied, not in building, but in educating young men for the ministry. He has selected an elegant site, and I told him that I hope to introduce y^r sons to him on their way home, w^h w^d gratify me much, as well as to Governor Worthington sh^d he be living. . . .

Tuesday [February] 6th. Still hazy & humid, very unpalatable weather. I have been distressed with hoarseness ever since my short indisposition on New Years day. I have been writing as I c^d catch a moment, to M^r Bayard who is happy at home after dissipating at Washington, w^h is all well en^o for a visit, but must be exceedingly irksome to those who settled there, live during the sessions of Congress in a continued round of expensive civilities, without hospitality, intercourse without friendship, for what are the ephemeral acquaintances of a day? I

have no doubt that his disappointment will ultimately be regarded by him as a blessing. Few are so well situated as M^r Bayard, at the head of society, surrounded by sociable family friends, and a literary intercourse with the professors of College & Theological Seminary. An excellent house & garden & snug compact well cultivated farm.

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[Addressed by:] Ship Tuscalosa

NEW YORK, Thur^y 15th Feb^y, 1827.

. . . . My time has been & is much engrossed. Yest^y at 1 o'clock, Chamber of Commerce, at 4½ Savings Bank, this morn^s to assist with memorial from the former to Congress, from the latter to the Legislature, at 4 p. m., meeting of the Managers of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] on the subject of reducing the debt incurred for erecting the Depository, & tomorrow 5 p. m., Standing Committee. Thus you see I am not idle.

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Monday [February] 19th. . . . Yest^y Sunday was a delightful day. . . . I attended a meeting at M^r Buchanans, British Consul, with several respectable gentlemen to form a new Society for the relief of the destitute of this city, without distinction of nation, colour or religion, & who do not fall within the protection of any of our benevolent Societies or of the Corporation. The subject is called up by reason of the extreme suffering of many during the late rigorous season. The plan is plausible & when matured I will send a copy. Altho' I have protested against assuming any new Society duties, still I was politely & aff^y invited to give counsel & the result of much experience. My feelings got interested by the association of many old benevolent friends & I have consented to become one of the 13 Managers, not for the honour, but because I believe I may be useful, as the furnishing Fuel, at cost, is not on my part an untried experiment. Nothing but my deafness makes me shrink

from rendering every service in my power to Society. But in the way of counsel experience will control visionary projects. We have a number of young men coming on the stage of life, eminently qualified & happily disposed to render efficient services. It affords me happiness to do all in my power to stimulate their exertions, & gratification to find that the Lord is raising up labourers in his vineyard to carry on the great works of Xtⁿ duties & benevolence, with greater intelligence, & activity than their predecessors when we are dead & gone. . . .

Tuesday [February] 20th. . . . On the 1st March 7 p. m. the friends of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] are to meet on the subject of wiping off if possible the Bal[ance] of debt \$9000 remaining for the purchase of the Lots & erecting the Societys House. The slow operation of a sinking Fund will pay off this debt in about 8 years. But it is desireable if possible to expunge it at once, when the profits of rents will add to the resources of the Society. For myself I ardently wish to see it extinguished before my official connection with the Society ceases. I trust we may raise by subscription \$5000 w^h will be a great deal, considering how much the liberal & benevolent of this city are taxed by pious & charitable contributions. The habit of giving is much in our favour & will I hope extend, as our population increases and the rising generation it is to be hoped will from their superior advantages excell their predecessors in all good Works.

Thur^y [February] 22^d. Washingtons Birth day, an elegant day for the Ball, the profits of which are anticipated at \$2000. There is also a Bachelors Ball to take place 5th March. It is estimated that this City & environs will raise \$20,000 for the Greeks. . . . I see by the papers that Rich^d Stockton,² Att^y Gen^l of Mississipi, died in y^r city on the 5th inst, but of what cause is not mentioned. As this is not the season of fevers, as he

² Son of Richard and Mary (Field) Stockton. T. C. Stockton, *The Stockton Family of New Jersey* (1911), pp. 77, 109.

was one of y^r high minded men, it makes me apprehensive that he may have fallen in a duel. You know I presume that from irregular gambling habits he left his home with a resolution, I understand, not to return until his Fathers dead, [*sic*] unless he sh^d have acquired a fortune by his profession. His talents were very respectable. His brother Robert ³ of the Navy who married a Georgia heiress, is now heir apparent of Morven. Cap^t Stockton, as he is called, is a very correct, high spirited officer, & when the parents of M^{rs} S. die, will be possessed of an ample fortune. He has built a very fine House near M^r Bayard, with grounds handsomely improved. I have not been at Princeton since its being erected. I learn by a letter [from] Thomas, that the Academy is to be brilliantly illuminated this even^e. Fine fun for the Cadets.

Friday [February], 23^d. Your letter by the Illinois. I have written to M^r Bayard the particulars imparted by y^r brother of the unhappy fate of M^r Stockton. In error as he was, it is a consolation that he did not thirst for the blood of his antagonist. His catastrophe will be a sore affliction to his mother, of whose race he strongly partook, as you may know. Her brother Field was wild, & dissipated a comfortable estate.

Monday [February] 26th. A Mississippi Fog is clearing off with a fine warm sun. We have had quite an Infirmary at home the last week. . . . The approaching mild weather will I trust restore all to health. For myself, altho exposed daily since my attack on New Years day, I have been most mercifully favoured. This compulsory turning out all weathers, quite hardens me to all changes. While others, as they ought, are attending splendid Balls, Concerts, & Oratorios, I am engaged in doing all the good I can before my final departure. It is among my consolations that I began early & have now continued long an active member of Society. Soon after

³ Robert Field Stockton (1795-1866), who married in 1823, Harriet Maria Potter. *Ibid.*, 77, 111-28.

the evacuation of this city by the British in 1783, I was the youngest member of the Whig Society composed of the surviving exiles, whose object was to devise measures to improve our desolated city. We had everything to do & little to do with. From that time to this, I have been more or less engaged with many benevolent institutions w^h do honour to N. Y. The So[ciety] for the relief of the Destitute of this City, is a child of the British Consul Buchanan who takes a lively interest in doing good. We had another meeting yest^r 3 p. m. & shall meet again next Sunday at 5, when our Constitution & By laws will be ready to go to press with the names of officers & Managers. I feel some confidence that the plan for affording Fuel, to be paid for, at cost will prove effectual. This is the 4th attempt. 3 have failed & we shall endeavour to profit by the errors committed. It was to afford the benefit of my experience that I have united with this truly patriotic & benevolent institution, w^h must be the last, & for the first year. It is extremely difficult to resist the importunities of respectable fellow citizens. . . .

Tuesday [February] 27. A rainy day. Poor Mother is still confined to her bed, to which she never takes but from absolute necessity. When D^r Rogers left us last ev^g he thought that nothing more was required but nourishment, to recruit her. She passed however a feverish, restless night, & was reposing when I left home. . . .

Wed^y [February] 28. Another dense Fog, the 3^d day. D^r Hosack bled Mother again yest^r & applied a blister to her right side last ev^g w^h he says will relieve her. She rested better last night, & speaks with more energy this morn^g. . . . I told M^r Robinson on Sunday of y^r young friend M^r Babcocks appointment as Director of the Louisiana Bank, which pleased him to hear.

Thurs^y 1st March. Still overcast, fog & showers. I have the happiness to say that dear Mother is convalescing. The blister drew favourably. . . . D^r Hosack says that she is doing well. . . . It is estimated that \$50,000,

in all parts will be raised for the Greeks. The last ev^t was unfavourable for the Oratorio.

[Addressed by:] Ship Lavinia

NEW YORK, Thur^y 1st March, 1827

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 I stopped in at the Swords' Booksellers the Episcopal headquarters to hear the result of the Oratorio. It is said to have been the most splendid & sublime exhibition of the kind that has ever taken place in this city. The Garcia was divine, and notwithstanding the unfavourable weather, the audience was crowded to excess. It is presumed that \$1000 will result to the Greek fund. Dear Louise laments the loss both of the Ball & Oratorio.

While at the Bookstore I observed a number of Sunday School Class books which I was told were preparing for the use of S^t Thomas' Church, where a Sunday School is organizing by our worthy zealous Rector M^r Duffie to be opened next Sunday, & was informed that M^{rs} Beverley Robinson has undertaken the superintendence of the Female department. This is certainly very much to the credit of that excellent Lady, & setting a laudable example to others of her sex, Members of S^t Thomas' Church. . . .

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 Sat^y [March] 3^d. . . . Yest^y the Rev. M^r Bayard returned after a long absence & went to Princeton this morn^g. He has a prospect of a call next July to Canadagua, a hard & not sonorous Indian name, but I like this preservation of aboriginal distinction of places, of w^h great numbers are preserved in our State. The southern names are more mellifluous, many of them beautiful, not so guttural & full of harsh consonants as our northern.

.
 Monday [March] 5th. Dear mother has been so copiously bled, as to reduce her very much. She still keeps her bed for fear of over exertion. Oyster & porter sangree will I hope recruit her. . . .

Tuesday [March] 6th. . . . Judge Bayard has just come to town & called & has given the particulars of M^r Stockton's fatal duel. He was grossly in the wrong. His parents, I presume, are more reconciled to the event, for his conduct, unreclaimable, has given them, his mother particularly, great anxiety & anguish for many years. William Stockton is going to marry Miss Dale daughter of Commodore Dale dec^d. She has \$20,000 in her own right, with a handsome reversion at the death of her mother. His father has given him a fine farm, opposite Morven, on which he means to build & live. He is a correct young man. No talents for the learned professions, but an excellent sportsman, as well as his mate Samuel.

Thurs^d [March] 8th. . . . M^r S[tockton] has given his son [William] a fine farm directly opposite to his own place, next to M^{rs} Hunters that was, so that M^{rs} S. has the happiness of another of her children settling under the parental wing. No common felicity. M^{rs} Harrison's choice has been the most inauspicious. M^r H. gets along, but can never resuscitate. He gave way to intemperance from w^h he has I believe recovered, but lives obscure. She calls now & then, but rarely, to see Sister.

Friday, Parson Bayard took tea & bed with us on his way to N Rochelle, to make arrangements for removing in April to Candaigua, where he will get \$800 a year & live in genteel society, & very cheap living. Beef 3 cts. a fine Turkey 25, Fowls 12½ & Bread stuffs in proportion. If prudent he may rear up & settle his daughters advantageously. He is oppressed poor man with a heavy family & a sickly breeding wife, but his parents are very kind to him.

Friday [March] 9th. An unfortunate accident occurred yesterday at the Fire of a 4 story building in Maiden lane. 3 active Firemen were on a very tall ladder, guiding the Hose pipe into the upper window, the fire raging in the garret, bursting thro' the roof, the gutter & cornice fell, knocked them all to the ground, & 2

of the Firemen died from the injury. They are to be buried tomorrow, attended by the Fire department a numerous Corps about 1500. . . .

Sat^y [March] 10th. . . . M^r Bayard dined & passed the afternoon with us. Theodore Dwight Jun^r son of my friend M^r Dwight of the Daily Advertiser is going to marry a daughter of Sam^l Boyd, M^r Bayard's brother in law, next month. Caroline is to be a Bridesmaid, & probably Aunt Patty may accompany her, & pass a few days with us, w^h will give us much pleasure. M^r Dunbar is going to marry his late wifes sister, Miss Field. M^r Binney the eminent & successful Lawyer of Phil^a has presented his Sister, M^{rs} John Wallace, with the House & beautiful garden formerly belonging to M^r Cox, on the bank of the Delaware in Burlington, a generous act which will be a great comfort to his once very elegant & accomplished sister. She is a remarkable intellectual Lady & has pas[s]ed the winter with M^{rs} Bradford. We shall hope to see the latter next August. Yest^y M^r Williston y^r sons Latin professor called on me. He says that both are making every progress that he c^d desire in their studies. . . .

Monday [March] 12th. Dear Mother, prudently, has not gone out of her chamber. She is so much better, as to recall Miss Herriman, to finish some work in hand before she was taken ill. Yest^y I attended the ordination as Deacon, of one of our Theolog^l Students, M^r R. Whittingham,⁴ who, if his life & health be spared will become eminent in our Church. It was in S^t John's Church w^h has been beautifully improved, and is now as elegant in the interior as S^t Paul's. I staid to join the Communion. At my period, an aged believing Christian, ought never to turn his back on the Lords Table. The Communicants were very numerous, probably 200, which with the Ordination kept the Church in till 2 o'clock. . . .

(Tuesday [March] 13). . . . A M. De Ferney who

⁴ William Rollinson Whittingham (1805-1879), later Bishop of Maryland. *Dictionary of American Biography*, XX, 176.

has gone to your city as a missionary, may possibly call on the Doctor as being acquainted with me. There are no reasons why any attention sh^d be shown to him on my account, which must suffice without entering into any particulars. Sh^d he be introduced thro' M^r Clapp, possibly, you can say that having no letter of introduction, he has of course no claim on your civilities.

Wed^y 14th March. . . . On Saturday I have allotted that Doctor Francis shall apply his lancet, as I begin to be giddy. Col. Troup, older than myself and squarer built & more corpulent, told me the other day that he has been regularly bled twice a year, in April & October, for 15 years, to w^h he ascribes under Providence the prolongation of his life. This is my Savings Bank day where it is possible I may be called to preside, as no meeting of the Trustees can be held without the presence of a President or Vice President. This indispensable duty will prevent my attending the Funeral of Anthony Bleecker Esq who died yest^r aged 57, not having been long confined. He was a Lawyer & very elegant poet, whose early effusions once graced the columns of the Ev^s Post. He was an efficient Trustee of our City Library, and a Member of our Historical Society. I regret that I cannot in common with the Bar & our Society pay my respect to his memory. M^r B. was a constant at our French Church. But a confirmed Sceptic, until happily during his late illness he renounced his Errors, not from fear, as he attested but a full conviction of the truth of Divine Revelation. His last words were those of St. Stephen, "Lord Jesus receive my Spirit." He expressed his desire that his friends & acquaintances should be informed that he died in the Christian Faith. A Bachelor, he lead a modest and virtuous life. His malady was an ossification of the digestive organs as appeared on being dissected. Should it appear proper in the opinion of my physicians, that my poor remains should be opened, it is my earnest desire that my dear wife & children should grant permission. That I may be useful to So-

ciety while I live & of service after death, is my earnest wish.

Perhaps I ought to write to your good friend M^{rs} Wedderstrandt a line of thanks for her present of a Bb. of Sugar, w^h has been rec^d in good order, and as enjoined, no doubt, without cost of freight. As however I shall soon have the pleasure of welcoming her very promising son once more on his way to the Academy, I postpone my intended letter until I can announce to her this pleasing event. . . .

A meeting was held last ev^g at the National Hotel of the Friends of Prison discipline, where a M^r Dwight,⁵ the Howard of our country, and who has made the tour for 2 years past of all the public prisons in this quarter of the U States, made a most interesting Report, of the scenes of Villainy & Abominations existing in State prisons on the present plan of promiscuous intercourse, where little Devils are instructed to become great ones, & at the expiration of their terms turn out accomplished Villains. The System of infernal education is complete, they have a jargon of their own derived from England, with the depredators of w^h country an intimate intercourse is kept up with those of this. Solitary confinement is the only & sure remedy, w^h Mass^{ts} & Connec^t are adopting. Our Auburn prison is the model, & our great State University at Sing Sing, on the inexhaustible Marble Quarries in that quarter about 30 miles up the Hudson, are building on this plan, which Pennsylv^a has also adopted. But our House of Refuge is becoming a preventive in the fullest & best sense for Juvenile offences. How much good is going on in almost every quarter of the Union. I did not attend on account of my deafness & shunning being out at night. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Illinois

⁵ Rev. Louis Dwight, of Boston, secretary of the Prison Discipline Society of Massachusetts. [N. Y.] *Commercial Advertiser*, March 15, 1827.

NEW YORK, Friday, 16th March, 1827.

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 Last ev^s was the meeting of the friends of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] which was decently attended. A subscription was opened to reduce the remaining debt for the Societys House, not far from \$10,000. \$4030 were subscribed on the occasion & committees appointed to call on those invited who did not attend. We shall undoubtedly raise \$5000, w^h will leave as much due, and another generous effort will I hope raise it all. This exceeds my fondest hope w^h dared venture to reach 3000. Poor Father could only give his \$30, w^h he did with hearty good will not repining at his inability to go higher. The day before I subscribed the like sum to the Fuel Fund Society, w^h I trust will succeed. After all this city has nothing to boast of its exertions in the Bible cause. Considering its wealth & population we fall far short of even many villages, nor has your city much to boast. But time alone with the persevering efforts of the pious & benevolent, under the auspices of Divine Providence, can cleanse your Augean Stable. I am happy to learn from your brother that your Rev. Pastor ⁶ is becoming popular, by relaxing a little no doubt his rigid principles, w^h can be done without relinquishing his Xtⁿ duties. . . . I likewise rejoice that the Episcopal Church is more flourishing on w^h I congratulate the Rev. M^r Hull.

.
 Saturday [March] 17th. A beautiful S^t Patricks day. I shall go home at noon to take a touch of my friend Francis' lancet. My head is so dizzy & vertiginous that I am obliged to walk circumspectly to avoid staggering in the streets. Indeed rising suddenly from my seat, my head swims. Altho' it was not till May last year that I was bled, it is best to anticipate this season before warmer weather approaches. . . .

Monday [March] 19th. As proposed D^r Francis bled me (not too) copiously on Saturday, w^h I much required. He handles his lancet very adroitly, the puncture scarcely

⁶ Theodore Clapp.

perceptible. He uses the same sort that I sent to the Doctor.

. . . Your Mother compliments her Rector the Rev. Mr Duffie with a certificate of membership of the Am. Bible So. by virtue of my subscription. This is done with his understanding, for he belongs to the High Church side. He is a pious excellent Minister. This tribute of respect will be as pleasing to him I hope as to dear Mother, and something like an offering to God on her restoration to health.

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[Addressed by:] Ship Georges

NEW YORK, 22^d March, 1827. Thur^y

Dear Sisters birthday & a beautiful day it is. . . .
My silver pen is terrible & gray goose Quill worse. . . .

Last ev^s I attended a meeting of the Managers of the Society for improving the condition of domestics in this city, to decide on upwards of 100 applications for premiums.⁷ Our Tamar will get \$20 premium a Bible & certificate and \$5.53 being 1 per c^t on her Saving Bank Book. Mary Ann will get \$5 and a Bible. She has no Bank Book. It was very gratifying to hear the certificates in favour of faithful domestics. This Society is rendering great services to reform the character of servants of both sexes and if continued to be supported, will continue as it has already become a resort for domestics whose characters can be relied on. Our annual meeting is to take place in April, when probably I may be reelected v[ice] pres^t. I wished to decline. But wear out, not rust out, is my Motto. . . .

Were my time exclusively my own, I c^d devote it profitably for Society in promoting & exciting the zeal of our many benevolent institutions. Younger & more active persons often express their surprize & approbation of

⁷ The awarding of premiums to Tamar Felmenter and Mary Ann Pell, servants of Mr. John Pintard, is recorded in the *Second Annual Report of the Managers of the Society for the Encouragement of Faithful Domestic Servants in New-York* (N. Y., 1827), pp. 16, 17.

the energy of my mind & animation of my words & remarks. Whenever I have an oppo[rtunity] I never fail to inculcate that faith in Divine Revelation as well as good works are essential to the Christians Hope. Really M^r P. said a young man to me this morn^g, it does one good to see & hear an old respectable man, finishing his career of life, doing so much good and setting such an example of Faith, Hope & Charity. This was sincerely said & I repeat it not from vanity, but that I know it will please my beloved daughter. . . .

Friday [March] 23^d. After an April day yest^r, we have another blustering one this day. The navigation to Albany is not yet free. Sister took a long walk yest^r to visit her friends M^{rs} Schenck, Beers & Livingston. She passed thro' the Arcade in Maiden lane on her return, w^h my curiosity led me to view this morn^g. It is beautiful. The shops on each side amply lighted by a range of skylights & it must look like Fairy land when lit up with Gas at night. The Ladies can do all their shopping under cover. The rents will no doubt give a handsome benefit to the enterprizing proprietors. It is very difficult in this city to obtain ground of suff^t capacity to build an Arcade on an extensive scale, but this is a very handsome miniature & will lead to others. Boarding Houses on a very extensive scale are the order of the day, & from the influx of travellers & traders throughout the summer season are very crowded & productive. The preparations for building are as extensive as ever. House rents in every part have risen, esp^r in our neighbourhood. The opposite corner to us occupied by M^r Eddy,⁸ a 2 Story Brick building, let 1st year, 500, 2^d 550, 3^d 600, & this year 700 D^{rs}. M^r S[ervoss] knows the House. Nothing to be compared in extent or accommodations, finish &c^a with ours, not even a wood vault in front. We are cheaply as well as comfortably housed. Thank God & your good brother.

⁸ Thomas Eddy is listed in Longworth's New-York City Directory of 1826-27 at 427 Broome Street corner of Crosby.

Sat^y [March] 24. The immense body of snow that fell last winter & still covers the earth in the interior, renders the air quite keen & chilly. Last night was absolutely winter cold. . . . The first Steam Boat left Albany yest^y, 22^d [sic] arrived this morn^g. The Hudson has been long closed this season.

Monday [March] 26. Yest^y as I was going at 3 p. m. to aft.noon Church, Andrew bro't all your letters by the Talma of 8th & Lafayette 10th inst. Unluckily the John Adams grounded at the Bar, but will I hope arrive with the Bb. Sugar w^h I will instantly forward to Miss Teller, whose kindness deserves this mark of attention, for she was very kind & what is more the example of her excellent family will I trust effect a lasting impression on y^r sons.

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 Tuesday [March] 27. M^r Bayard of Princeton has come to town, to give a Deed for my dear venerable Uncles place at N Rochelle, to a M^r Platt for \$600 [sic]. I am too far advanced to grapple with it & dear Sister regrets that M^r S. had not a chance. It w^d not do to wait.

11 o'clock. M^r Bayard has completed the sale of N Rochelle place for \$6000 payable in Stocks, at his selection at Cash prices & this without the woodland. He returns home at noon quite elated. There was a period when this transfer from the family w^d have caused me a deep sigh, But all sublunary hopes & prospects, happily lose their attachments as I approach the confines of eternity. Adieu dear N Rochelle Beau sejour, where I have passed so many happy mirthful hours with your poor Uncle Marsden, the recollection of which only serve to embitter my thoughts. . . .

Wed^y [March] 28th. Thank God the John Adams has arrived. I shall send to enquire about the Bb. Sugar & hope to put it on board a Fishkill Sloop this day or tomorrow in time to go up on Friday. I have just inclosed your letter for Miss Teller, to go by M^r Ab. Schenk this p. m. I shall pay the freight up. Tell M^r S[ervoss] that

M^{rs} Manning presented her mother M^{rs} Schenck ⁹ with a fine chopping boy this morning.

Thurs^y [March] 29th. I have been excessively urged with the business of a special meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on 27th preparing a Memorial to the Legislature &ca. &ca. & bringing up the Minutes w^h engrossed my time all yest^y & part of this morn^g. In May I shall decline a reelection having filled the office 10 years, with a very trifling salary of \$100 for 8 years, a totally inadequate consideration for my services. . . . A dreadful accident occurred on b^d the Oliver El[1]sworth Steam Boat coming from Middletown on Friday ev^g the particulars of w^h you will receive by the Spectator, w^h contains a full & interesting account of the Rev. Dr. Springs providential escape,¹⁰ but the death of a valuable friend M^r Lockwood of his Church, who attended the ordin[atio]n of D^r S's brother at Hartford. . . .

Friday [March] 30. . . . This is my day for depositing for my dear g^dchildren in the Savings Bank. Their am^t this day is \$125.76 each, except dear sweet Julia, whose account is \$75. Her Cousin J. P. Servoss is 96 by myself & as much more by his Father. I must get these younglings off my hand to make room for the expected newcomer in May, when I shall have 10 g^dchildren please God to provide for. I also deposit Tamars premium &c. 25.53, Mary Ann's premium 5 & for Margaret Murray \$10, an excellent young woman. Sister engaged yest^y a new waiter with excellent recommendations, who I hope will prove faithful. He comes thro' our office & will get accustomed to our ways before Sisters confinement.

Sat^y 31st March. A raw unpleasant day. I brought down with [me] a Box from M^{rs} Talbot containing I believe an India toilet Box for Eliza one of poor Uncle Marsdens gifts to her, w^h keep as a remembrance & let

⁹ Mrs. John Augustus Manning (Sarah Ann Schenck) was daughter of Peter H. and Harriet (Courtney) Schenck. P. L. Schenck, *Memoir of Johannes Schenk* (Flatbush, 1876), p. 75.

¹⁰ See also *Personal Reminiscences of the Life and Times of Gardiner Spring* (N. Y., 1866), I, 210-211.

Eliza acknowledge it in a pretty [letter] & do address this forlorn lady for y^r dear Uncles sake, "Dear Aunt," Dear Madam is very cold. I am the more attentive to her, on his account, for I sincerely feel for her solitary situation, & have promised sh^d I survive, to render her the last offices w^h I shall faithfully perform. She has provided for paying the expenses. Her letter is in the Box, with the Observer & Museum. . . . Cap^t Holmes has launched a fine new ship, the Tennessee, to take place of the unfortunate Chancellor, w^h had to put back in distress with the Greek cargo. . . .

[Addressed by ship:] Louisiana

NEW YORK, 2^d April, 1827 Monday

The Louisiana sailed yest^r I presume. The tedious John Adams has not yet got a birth to discharge, but will I hope this afternoon. . . . Another disappointment about the waiter who had engaged to come this morn^g when he sent word that he c^d not being afflicted with rheumatism, a pretext probably. . . .

Wed^r [April] 4th. Hazy & raw. You may judge of the backwardness of the spring north, by mentioning that the Flower borders were not prepared till yest^r. Fortunately, William the waiter who had engaged last week, called to prove that his Rheumatism was not fictitious. Sister has agreed to delay a fortnight in hopes of his recovery, as he appears to be staid, honest, & willing. He is about 35. We are well off with Tamar & Mary Ann & wish to avoid a troublesome waiter in the kitchen department. Sister has a most excellent nursery maid, Margaret. . . .

½ p. 12. I have just ret^d from viewing one of the completest best finished large accommodating Houses, in this city, probably in the U States. There are undoubtedly larger, but I presume few or none where domestic comfort as well as splendour are so combined. It belongs to M^r Stephen Whitney, situate at the corner of State

Street, opposite the Bowling Green & the side windows commanding a full view of the Battery, Bay & Narrows. It contains about 20 Rooms from basement to garret with pantries, closets &c^a innumerable. It was built by M^r George Ireland one of my directors, entirely planned & executed by himself in the most faithful manner & of the very best materials, M^r W. supplying the funds as required without limitation, & probably the whole cost, in proportion to the work, cheaper than the proprietor c^d have executed the work himself. M^r W. came to this city some 30 years ago, with nothing save his industry. He began as clerk in a grocery store & has risen by successful application of his time & abilities to become one of our richest merchants. I understand that he made a rapid fortune at the close of the last war, when he held a large quantity of cotton in N[ew] O[rleans] w^h had been bought very low, & yielded him 100 per c^t at the peace, so that he ought to be a Jacksonian. After all for a private gentlemans house I feel quite satisfied with y^r good brothers & was telling your sister last ev^s that I saw very few more snug, convenient & fewer still so delightfully situated. I cannot but contrast our situation with this time last year, & while thankful to M^r S[ervoss] am all gratitude to God for all his mercies. M^r Jay Pres^t of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] is said to be in a dangerous state. He fell, a few days ago, & being very aged & infirm his recovery is doubtful.

Thur^v [April] 5. We have been somewhat alarmed by the sudden indisposition of Governor Jay, Pres^t of the A. B. S. but by accounts this morning he is recovering. With the cessation of his duty as president, by death or resignation, it is my intention, sh^d I survive, to withdraw from the office I hold as Rec^s Sec^{ry} of the Society. M^r Woolsey our Treasurer resigns next May. It will be difficult to find a successor, for he has discharged his duty most faithfully & intelligently. . . .

Sat^v [April] 7th. . . . When I returned home yest^r at 3, instead of languor & exhaustion, I was all alertness, & having to attend the Vestry of my French Church, I

walked down after dinner quite refreshed, & home again at half p. 6. I am induced to serve as Senior Warden another year, until we have settled our new expected Minister Mons^r Varennes,¹¹ of whom we have a favourable character. . . .

Thurs^y [April] 12th. . . . The Philistines are on poor Samson again, the season of meetings of the benevolent Societies are at hand. Yest^y p. m. Savings Bank. This aft.noon at 5, to attend the Fuel Committee of the new Society for the relief of the destitute. Tomorrow 5 p. m., the Stand[in]g Com[mitte]e of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] & at 7 o'clock, the Anniver[sar]y meeting of the Domestic Society,¹² where I shall be detained till 11. On Saturday will be a Jour de repos after 3 p. m. But all next week, I shall be engaged, & at a time when my office duties oppress me. . . .

Good Friday 13th. 1 p. m. I have just ret[urne]d from Church where Mother accompanied us. This being her first attendance since her illness, she was quite overpowered by the beautiful pathetic Hymn for the day, w^h you will find at the end of the Psalms in the Com[mon] Prayer Book. . . .

Sat^y 14th. April. . . . Last ev^g was the 2^d Anniv[er]sar]y of the Domestic So[ciety] w^h was pretty well attended at the City Hotel. I had to move a resolution of thanks to our late Sec[retar]y M^r Jon[atha]n D. Steel, w^h he well merited as the Founder & persevering patron of the Institution, whose success thus far has mainly depended on his zeal & unremitting attention. This simple duty I most reluctantly assumed, as it was necessary to support the motion by a short address. Nothing but a high sense of gratitude to M^r S. c^d have induced me to turn orator in my old days. My performance tho' bad enough, was kindly complimented by a partial audience. The Society has done & if patronised will continue to do a great deal of good. I was re-elected V. President having

¹¹ Antoine François Verren.

¹² The Society for the Encouragement of Faithful Domestic Servants.

declined to mount higher, owing to my deafness. I will discharge my duty faithfully another year.

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[Addressed by:] Ship Talma

NEW YORK, Monday, 16th April, 1827

A cold N. E. rain, will prevent the sailing of the Talma this day with my letter of Sat^y 14th. A portending storm prevent[ed] Mother from going to Church yest^y, Sister however accompanied me to the Lords Table. . . . I have just returned from the French Church, where an election for Officers was held. No contest with us, there being only 8 voters. We have granted the use of our Church, until our new Minister comes to my young friend the Rev. M^r Eastburn,¹³ who being disengaged, is endeavouring to form a new congregation. He is decidedly the first Episcopal Clergyman, for his years, in this diocese, & will compare with any in the U States. He is an eminent scholar, elegant writer & eloquent speaker. His person & figure are commanding. His voice rather feeble in some of our over large churches. Liberal in his principles, he is not high toned enough for his Bishop, but he is orthodox & pious. I take great interest in his success, and were I younger I sh^d be a most zealous friend to get him established. But I am done with almost all new enterprizes & am well off to be so well fixed in S^t Thomas' Church. As to hearing it is out of the question entirely, so that all preaching is to me alike. The manner I can yet see, & that is generally improving.

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Wed^y [April] 18th. Yest^y our friend the Rev. M^r Bayard took a bed with us, on his abandoning N Rochelle, to w^h he was much attached. He was quite overwhelmed, w^h truly affected me greatly. But there was no alternative. He hopes to get settled at Canadaigua, & stops at Geneva for a time, to assist in the Church & College. M^{rs} Bayard & infant stay at her Uncle Rutgers &

¹³ Manton Eastburn, first rector of the Church of the Ascension.

the children at his late brother in law, D^r Lyle.¹⁴ Sister is in the midst of her cleaning, w^h prevents her asking M^{rs} B. to stay with her. It is really melancholly to see so young a Minister, with a wife & 7 Children, seeking a new abode. I trust that this remove may prove permanent. The place to w^h he is going is situate on the Erie Canal, where every article of living is very cheap. They are a couple little adapted to be economical. Cornelia you know was the pet of her father whose hospitality was unbounded. . . .

Thurs^y [April] 19th. . . . The Rev. M^r Bayard with 3 of his children stay with us. They go on Sat^y afternoon by the Tow Boat line with their family effects for Albany @ \$1 a head, where the whole will embark in a Canal Boat for Geneva. . . .

Sat^y [April] 21st. A rainy day, w^h will not I hope prevent the Rev. M^r Bayard taking his passage for Albany this p. m. as all his effects have gone on & his presence is necessary to see them safely stowed in the Canal boat. M^{rs} B. & her whole flock 7 were with us to dine. The babe, Caroline Frances, is pretty & very hearty, fine complexion & dark eye, looks very much like Aunt Patty. Cornelia really deserves great credit for her efforts. M^r B. was languishing at N Rochelle, no place to rear a brood of children, or chance of their settlement. 5 Girls, what a host. . . .

Wed^y [April] 25th. After a violent Rain & Storm, w^h I had to encounter out & home yest^y afternoon, it has cleared off with a raw N. Wester. . . . It is apprehended that much injury will be done by late frosts to the Fruit trees, last season being so overabundant, a scarcity may be expected this. . . .

Thur^y [April] 26th. The ship Belle w^h sailed on Mon-

¹⁴ Rev. Thomas Lyell, rector of Christ Church, who married in 1823, in Trenton, Julia Ann Rhea, daughter of Jonathan and Mary (Rutgers) Rhea, and sister of Mrs. Lewis Pintard Bayard (*née* Rhea). Mrs. Lyell died July 21, 1824. H. Schuyler, *A History of St. Michael's Church, Trenton* (1926), pp. 211, 405; *N. Y. Evening Post*, July 22, 1824.

day last, by w^h I wrote to your brother, dragged her anchors in the Gale of Tuesday p. m. & went ashore at Sandy Hook, but not much injured. This delay will make a long interval in my correspondence. In s^d letter was one for you from Miss Teller.

Friday [April] 27th. 11½ p. m. I have just completed my minutes of an adjourned meeting of the Managers of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] yest^r P. M. with preparatory papers for our Anniv^r Thur^r 10th May, for I must anticipate pressing office duties to close the present 6 m^{os} & prepare for our semi-annual meeting the next. This aft. noon ½ p. 4, I am to attend the Executive Committee of the Sailors Snug Harbour & at 5 the Stand^e Com^e of the A. B. S. I mention this to show how incessantly my time is occupied, not to complain w^h w^d be folly, if not impious. On Tuesday I shall lay down my Secretaryship of the Chamber of Commerce & probably next Jan^r that of the Am. Bible S^o. Next spring sh^d I be spared I hope to withdraw from the Mut[ual] Ins[urance] Office, preparatory to my projected visit to you my beloved child. . . . Caroline Bayard who came to town to attend Miss Boyds wedding called yest^r p. m. & is to dine with us all on Tuesday. She says that M^{rs} Harrison is breaking up housekeeping & returning to her Father at Princeton, a tacit separation from M^r H. A venal match, a sacrifice to ideal wealth, w^h soon terminated in indifference & misery. M^r H. had neither mind nor education, inflated as a bladder in the days of commercial prosperity, & incapable of sustaining himself in adversity. Intemperance his resource, to w^h he is falling a martyr. M^{rs} H. c^d not elevate a man in society, below her rank & attainments, her mortification has long been extreme. She has called to see Sister w^h was returned, but it was impossible, nor c^d she wish it to keep up a social intercourse. Her other sisters except one, single, are married very well.

Having some leisure Sat^r 28th 1 p. m. after dining & sending off a letter for y^r good brother by the John & Elizabeth, w^h was to sail tomorrow, but may be detained

in consequence of another heavy N. E. blow & rain this day. I have just rec^d his letter by the Azelia, conveying the agreeable tidings of the Doctor having succeeded in the purchase of the House, but qualified with the information that M^r Bennet will give you trouble in gaining possession. I hope however that difficulties may be removed without the expence & delay of an ejectment and that you will gain possession so as to be settled before M^r S[ervoss] leaves N[ew] O[rleans] w^h I find will not take place as soon as he expected. . . . It is surprizing to remark the tide of emigration from the lower to the upper parts of the city. The loaded carts made a continued line of procession up B^dway yest^r being a fine day. . . . With dear Mother, cleanliness & industry are inherent. She washed down, herself, the painted walls of her chamber, w^h shine that you may see y^r shadow in them, because she c^d not bear to be idle while others were working. I asked Margaret, Sisters excellent nurse, whether she ever saw a lady work so, She said never in all her life. Happily Mother got thro' on Thur^v & moved down to her room yest^r where she sits with her needle always agoing & settled before May day, backward & unfavourable as the weather has been. Sister prudently was desirous to be in readiness for her approaching confinement. If a right guess after the middle of May, about the time that you will receive this letter, w^h I shall inclose in the packet with the Museum to save postage, for the post office has set up another rule, to tax all letters that come by sea, where the ships sail on steam boat rivers, and as there is a packet boat between y^r city & the Balize, letters are charged, tho' put in the ships bag at N[ew] O[rleans] with the postage of 96 miles down the river, an egregious imposition. Instead of 3½ cents I had to pay 50 cents on y^r brothers letter by the Azelia this day, so that I shall only inclose sisters letter to him, & you must have patience till the Tennessee gets up to receive this. I fear my beloved child that I have, unint[ent]ionally frequently overloaded the Doctor with postage for my almost worthless letters.

Monday 30th April.
 Mother & Sister have written & I shall inclose their letters with this under cover to Mess^{rs} Foster & Hutton, by Cap^t Holmes consent, who says by inclosing yours for us, under cover to him, Cap^t Holmes, he will see them to me, thus sparing 12½ C^{ts} post^{ge} on each letter, the new & I think arbitrary order of the post master General. So we must endeavour to evade the imposition.

[Addressed by:] Ship Tennessee
 with a half barrel
 Box & small packet

NEW YORK, Sat^y 5th May, 1827. 2½ p. m.

. . . . On Tuesday 1st inst. at the annual election for officers of the Chamber of Commerce, I declined a reelection as Secretary, w^h office I had filled 10 years, & for my services rec^d a very inadequate salary \$100—compensation it was not—for the drudgery at time was excessive. I had resolved to withdraw after the decease of M^r Bayard, late pres^t & have done so. A very complimentary Resolution of thanks for my useful & faithful services was passed & w^h I trust was merited. The business of the Am. Bible S^o preparatory to its An[nual] Meeting is quite laborious. I shall resign as Sec^y immed^y after the decease of Presid^t Jay who is very aged, above 80, & infirm, & thus by degrees take up my freedom.

.
 Tuesday [May] 8th. Fair & cool, fires comfortable. . . . I have just been (1 o'clock) to Stickler to order another Tub of Butter, w^h will be put up on Friday & sent on b^d the Lavinia. . . . This aft.noon I am going to attend the Union School, w^h assembles to the am^t of 4000 probably in the park at 3, & proceed to Castle Garden at 4, for exercises & exhibition. I think it my duty to appear on these occasions, & altho' a Life Member, to throw my mite into the Annual Collection. A Dollar is my rule for these demands are so repeated that there must be

some limit to my charity. Last week I gave \$10 to our Mariners Church. I mention this not vauntingly, but to show to what incessant demands benevolence is subject, & alas how restricted the means to gratify my wishes.

.
 [Addressed by:] Ship Lavinia
 with a small packet
 and half barrel

NEW YORK, 16th May, 1827

My last to my beloved daughter went yest^r with another Tub of elegant Butter, by the Lavinia, also a small parcel containing the last Museum, Observers, & documents of our Savings Bank for M^r Gordon, w^h I procured & forwarded immed^y after receiving the request of M^r Servoss, But w^h possibly will be too late, as in y^r good brothers letter of 26th Ap. by the Frances rec^d just now I find that the B[an]k has gone into operation. The deposits he says were few, but they must not be discouraged. We took in between 2 & 3000 D^{rs} the first day. I had only aspired to \$1000. Since w^h we have gone on so successfully & have accumulated such a capital that with the restrictions on the mode of our Funding, we meet this day to deliberate on closing the accounts of a great number of our heavy depositors, w^h is contrary to my judgment, but I shall I fear be overruled. Many of my brother Trustees are timid, & dread the responsibility in case a War may arise or commotions to reduce the public stocks below par. This is declining to do positive good for fear of eventual evil. I confess I have no such dread.

.
 Thurs^y [May] 17th. This day closes my 68th year, the retrospect of w^h is very consolatory, & calls forth all my gratitude to Almighty God, for his continued mercies to me, & esp^y for having restored the health of my long companion, who becomes dearer & more necessary to my comfort & happiness every hour that we live together. Mother is most kind & attentive. She has indulged a

Wed^r [May] 23^d.
 On Sunday M^{rs} Schenck was put safe abed with a daughter but suffered, as usual, a great deal, an inflammation was dreaded, but she escaped without fever, & is bravely this morn^g. Yest^r I rec^d a letter from the Rev^d M^r Bayard, dated Geneva 18th inst. His family had a most dreadful passage up, at the imminent risk of their lives on the Mohawk river, w^h reminded me of y^r jeopardy on removing from Pinckneyville to N[ew] O[rleans] but like you they reached their place of destination in safety. He has a pleasant retired House & garden, a pretty Church, good congregation & agreeable society. He is opening a school for young ladies. God speed him. I have just rec^d a letter from Uncle Hall by the Miss Osgoods, daughters of my late venerable friend the Rev. M^r Osgood who indulged me with his Society the winter I resided in Medford many years gone by. I shall wait on them this afternoon, as they express a wish to see me. They were young misses at that period, well educated & sensible. Mother I hope will call on them, Sister cannot. Miss McCutcheon & C^o called Monday P. M. . . .

.
 Friday [May] 25. By the Illinois, I shall send a journal of the Cadets tour to Washington last winter. It is exceed[ing]ly well written. The Introduction is a philosophical essay on education, with w^h I concur, excepting the abandonment of Greek. I cannot give up my classical predilections from w^h I have derived so much pleasure & profit, in other respects the performance is highly creditable to Cap^t Partridge or whoever wrote it. . . . The late cold chilly rains are to be succeeded by sultry weather. All however is arranged in Broome S^t from garret to cellar & I am now preparing to lock in our winter Fuel w^h as far as wood is concerned, ought to have been done in April, but that worthless ungrateful Robert left us at the juncture when the vault was to be cleared out. All now is ready, & I am only waiting for the fall of price w^h is always high in May, when so many are unsupplied by reason of changing abodes. We

have thus far, an excellent quiet waiter, Francis, & all is harmony in the kitchen. . . . Marian her maid just suits mother, who brings up, quietly, her breakfast & tea, when she is disinclined to come down. This with my retired habits, will leave the young folks to themselves, with[out] being constantly annoyed with Father & Mother. Our little back parlour, w^h was a greenhouse in winter, is now a cool retreat in summer, & to me delightful.

.
[Addressed by:] Ship Frances

N. Y., Saturday 26th May, 1827

.
This aft.noon I have allotted to visit professor Turner, at the Theological Sem[inar]y 2½ miles distant. I shall ride in the Greenwich Stage at 3. I have hunted up a neat clean eating shop, to refresh, & where I shall if pleased, take a luncheon 3 times a week for the 2 ensuing months June & July, when I am to attend at the Savings Bank, for M^r Eastburn absent in Eng[lan]d & myself. Our institution is too flourishing, & we shall be obliged to close or curtail all acc[oun]ts above \$1000 owing as well to the difficulty of funding our deposits, as apprehensions of some of our timid Trustees who tremble for their responsibility. . . .

Monday [May] 28th. . . . Yest^r I called on the Misses Osgood, fine sensible women, who I regret to say, have swerved from their forefathers orthodox Faith. Of my Medford friends but 4 exist, old M^{rs} Hall,¹⁶ 91; Richard Hall, the Uncle, 90, his brother Ebenezer, 87. M^{rs} Fitch,¹⁷ y^r uncles sister lives with the old lady & is very well. Your Cousin M^{rs} Curtis of Boston has as yet only 2 fine children & her sister¹⁸ & father live with her. M^r H. just of my age, is more infirm than myself.

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¹⁶ Widow of Benjamin Hall. *Medford, Mass., Vital Records*, p. 389.

¹⁷ Mrs. John Brown Fitch (Hepzibah Hall), sister of Fitch Hall (1759-1841). D. B. Hall, *The Halls of New England* (1883), pp. 319 ff.

¹⁸ Helen Louise Hall (who married in 1832 S. D. Leavens). *Ibid.*, pp. 322-23.

Tuesday [May] 29th. . . . This week, Friday 1st commences my tour at the Savings B^k 3 times a week for 2 months, the hottest & most disagreeable of the whole year, but it so falls out. On Saturday ev^e next will commence our new Institution the Fuel Saving Fund, which I fondly hope will prosper, as we have improved upon the mistakes of former attempts. Poor people, indeed most people, are like the Indians, who think when Spring comes that there will be no more winter, & are improvident until the cold pinches w^h awakens their sensibility when too late—to counteract this natural propensity, is the object of our association, & I do not despair of success. . . . I shall have to prepare some few weekly notices to call public attention to our enterprize w^h sh^d they prove but partially successful, as those in behalf of our Savings Bank, 8 years ago, will render some service to my humble fellow citizens.

Wed^y [May] 30th. . . . I am taking in our Schuylkill coal this morn^g to be ready for wood as soon as the price falls. When this job shall be off my hands I shall feel at rest, being always accustomed to lay up my Fuel early. . . . I put up . . . a copy of Coopers Prairie for Darling in w^h the Doctor will find a portrait of his countrymen, who like the parent stock Virginia, think that no blood can compare with Kentuck. . . .

Thur^y [May] 31st. Sister begins to think that she has miscalculated. With Mother she went out yest^y to make some calls on our new neighbours, with whom we ought to live friendly. In the aft.noon she intended to have ridden out to Aunt Helen's w^h I disapproved. Luckily every Hackney was engaged at the L. Island rack. I dreaded an accident. It is astonishing to see what an influx of strangers throng our streets, w^h at best at certain hours, B^dway esp^y are hardly passable. And the monstrous new Hats of the Ladies take up so much space, that wide as the footwalks are, hardly 3 can walk abreast. To look up & down they appear like flocks of Sea Gulls with expanded wings sweeping along the surface of creation. Positively it requires some management for them

to introduce themselves hats & all into a Coach. I have just made up (1 o'clock) my little package & left it to the care of the Cap^t of the Illinois. I have also paid for the 3 last Vol. of Am. Biography for Pintard to be forwarded hereafter. This closes the work, 9 Vol. @ \$5, is 45 Dollars. I hope he will take care of them for the giver's sake. The Museums you promise to bind. They will serve y^r children in succession. Besides it [is] a work of pleasing recurrence, w^h in your warm climate may beguile lassitude. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Illinois
with a small packet

NEW YORK, Monday 4th June, 1827

I have the happiness to inform you my beloved daughter of your Sisters safe delivery of a noble bouncing *Boy* at a quarter before 1 this morn^g. . . . Thank God & rejoice with me that this event is so far auspiciously over. At 6 this morn^g I drew my checks to constitute *Elias Boudinot Servoss* a member for life of the Am[erican] Bible So[ciety] & the same of the Society of S^t Thomas Church for founding a Scholarship of our The[olog^l Sem^y. May the illustrious name & the deeds be sanctified to my infant g^dson. . . .

NEW YORK, Wed^y 6th June, 1827

I wrote to you by mail on Monday, 4th inst. to inform you that your dear Sister was happily delivered of a fine son. . . .

Monday [June] 11th. . . . I am happy to hear that the Doctors aged parents¹⁹ were still alive & enjoying

¹⁹ John and Ellenor (Ewing) Davidson, of Kentucky. Data in a MS. "Plan of a Register" among Pintard-Brasher MSS. acquired by The New-York Historical Society in 1937.

health at 72 years & that you have had the pleasure of a visit from y^r brother.²⁰

.....
 Tuesday [June] 12th. . . . I put up with the Museum Hornes Abridgment on the Study of the Scriptures a most excellent Manual w^h you & her father may read to advantage & w^h I hope she [Eliza] will *study* so as to be able to give a reason for her Faith, but avoid idle disputation, foolish in men but pedantic & ofttimes disgusting in women. Father Clement a Rom[an] Cath[oli]c story, is beautiful & gives a fair view of the difference between the R. C^s & Protest[an]ts w^h in y^r country it is well to understand. . . .

Thurs^y [June] 14th. Business for the Savings B[an]k interrupted me yest^y. We have purchased \$100,000 of the Ohio Canal 6 p^r C^t stock. To ascertain the credit & security of the State, I had purposed to call on Gov Worthington²¹ now in this city, but this good man is on a sick bed, from which it is said that he will not arise.

.....

NEW YORK, Sat^y 16th June, 1827

My last was by the Louisiana w^h sailed yest^y & by w^h I sent the Museum &c^a. This is intended to go by the Talma on 2^d July, the 1st falling on Sunday, w^h is no sailing day with Cap^t Holmes. The regular lines are now making their last trips, when our summer intercourse must be by mail. . . .

.....
 Monday [June] 18th. Remarkably cool. Yest^y dear sister came down to dine once more at the head of her table. She also took tea & joined in our family worship, when we returned our grateful thanks for her safety & that of her babe who grows finely. For the first time I passed some tranquil hours between Churches in my delightful peasants nest, w^h dear Mother has beautifully

²⁰ Samuel Davidson.

²¹ Thomas Worthington, of Ohio, died in New York City, June 20, 1827. *Dictionary of American Biography*.

arranged. The Escritoire, our family dining table, converted into a centre table, both above a century old, find a place in my room. Also the Madames Quadrille table. I have no place for my old Rev^y Congress writing desk, w^h with some Congress Chairs that grace the parlour, I hope to transmit among my g^dchildren. . . .

Tuesday [June] 19th. . . . Cap^t Davis . . . arrived with M^{rs} Morse from Phil^a last ev^g. . . .

Wed^y [June] 20th. I waited on M^{rs} Morse yest^y. She appears to be somewhat agitated about her son. I said what I considered proper in palliation of an eccentricities of a pretty ardent spirit, & in favour of his talents w^h are certainly respectable. An only child it is very natural that she sh^d be much interested, & alive to his waywardness. You may rest assured that the unfavourable reports that have reached you, have been greatly exaggerated. None of our N York friends & parents feel anything but good will to Capt. P[artridge]'s Institution. I think M^{rs} Morse said that the Rev. M^r Hulls son ²² was coming with M^r Servoss to join the Academy. . . .

Thur^y [June] 21st. . . . Yest^y I rec^d a letter from Judge Bayard mentioning that my old friend Major M^c-Machen died last Sunday, he was the oldest inhabitant of Princeton. When I left my studies in 1776, to go & fight the British, as we used to call it, Andrew M^c-Machen helped fit me out, to run balls & make cartridges & to arrange my knapsack & blanket. I look back at this frosty period of life with some astonishment on the ardour & enterprize of youthful days. Void alike of all forethought & prudence, I ought to have stuck to it, but I had neither money nor friends to support & countenance me. I know that my pride w^d have sustained me in danger, until if spared, habit w^d have rendered it familiar. I behaved better on the expedition than many who afterwards turned out brave soldiers. But all is

²² James Hull, of New Orleans, a cadet at the Academy at Middletown, 1827-28. Dodge and Ellis, *Norwich University*, III, 622.

right & altho too late to regret, I always feel indignant at the chance I lost to distinguish myself. . . .

Sat^y [June] 23^d. Remarkably cold for the season. An unfounded report of the sudden death of Gov. Clinton excited anxiety yest^r. It arose from his having been indisposed, but he has perfectly recovered. . . .

[Addressed by:] Brig Dolphin

NEW YORK, Monday 25th June, 1827.

Wed^y [June] 27th. Rainy & cool. I have just discharged a debt that I owed the "Infant School Society," establishing in this city, by drawing up an article to attract public notice to this praiseworthy association. It required but the effort, & it is probably happily executed & will appear tomorrow. The So[ciety] is to meet in the aft.noon & as a member for life (\$15) I propose to attend, perhaps it may be in my power to suggest some useful hint, w^h is all I can do except contributing my mite. A similar institution is going forward in Phil^a upon the plan of those already in successful operation in England, so that it is not a doubtful experiment. It affords me pleasure to be an instrument of good in any way, but really I abhor writing except to my beloved daughter. . . . I look back with satisfaction on the services that I rendered, this time 7 years ago, in writing up, as I have been often complimented, the Savings Bank. For 6 months, weekly, I threw off a paragraph, & it required some ingenuity to preach for such a length of time from one text, without repetition & with an air of originality.

Thur^y [June] 28th. . . . Tomorrow I shall attend the 5th An[nual] Commencement of our Theol^y Seminary. I shall do so from a high sense of duty, altho greatly to my discomfort, to be obliged to set in a pew 4 or 5 hours without hearing a single word that is said. Were this a Presbyterian Insti-

tution, S^t John's Church w^d be overflowing. But Episcopalians in this city, I regret to say, take very little interest in these exhibitions, much to the mortification of the students, who are sensible of this cold neglect.

Sat^y 30th June. No Tennessee. This is the first instance of the failure of the packet line from N[ew] O[rleans]. . . . Yest^y I attended as allotted the Epis. Sem^y Commencem^t & was gratified to see so large an auditory, principally females, as usual in this busy city. I did not join the procession, but took my seat in the side aisle to retreat without notice, when I sh^d get tired. I staid about 2 hours, long enough for a deaf man, not hearing a single word. The performances appeared very lifeless, for our young men are devoid of all animation & read their exercises. This may be right but it appears otherwise to me. Bp. White of Phil^a presided. He sets a very laudable example to his juniors in coming at his advanced age (above 80) on these occasions. . . . I regarded his venerable figure in Church with some emotion, probably for the last time, for he is very feeble. . . .

Monday, 2^d July.

Yest^y Sister went to Church & joined in the Communion. We had Bp. Hobart, who ordained 5 of the students of the Sem^y who commenced on Friday. It was quite a solemn service. On Sat^y I had the heaviest day in our Savings Bank that we ever had. We took in from 293 Depositors, \$26,226.47 & paid to 48, \$2531.7 this was serving 341 Customers in 3½ hours. I did not leave the Bank till 8 p. m., from 4. It was intemperately hot & the Room crowded the whole time to excess. You may judge of the wonderful adroitness & despatch of our officers, when we served so many persons in less than a minute each on an average. . . .

N YORK, Sat^y 7th July, 1827

. . . . I sent a letter today, to gratify the Rev. M^r Hull with the pleasing intelligence of his sons safe arrival at Quarantine, on the ev^g of the 4th & at our house

yest[erda]y. He is really a very modest amiable youth of pure mind & morals, & like all your southerners of keen observation & justness of remark. . . .

Monday [July] 9th. . . . It rained all day yest[erda]y. James [Hull] accompanied me to Church to return thanks for his safe arrival, but he staid home to write his father in the aft.noon. Arthur attended him to see the sights on Sat[urda]y & tomorrow I will put him safe on b[oar]d the St[eam]boat for Middletown . . .

Wed^y [July] 11th. Yest^y Master James embarked at 5 p. m. & is by this hour (11) chatting with his young friends who no doubt greeted him on landing. . . .

Friday 12th [*sic for July 13th*]. Fine day. Our folks are all on the way to Bath. Mother Sister, M^{rs} Shrieves & children in the Hack, Mary Ann & luggage go in the Stage. I saw them safe ab[oar]d the Ferry boat. The change of air is essential for Pintard, & will be beneficial to all. . . . Mother is so accustomed to N. Utretcht sea air, & so accomodating an inmate that M^{rs} Brown ²³ is always delighted to see her & to render her stay agreeable, so that with respect to quarters everything is delightful & ought to be for \$6 a week. . . .

[Addressed:] Pr post, via Mobile

NEW YORK, Friday 20th July, 1827

My letter of this date by the Tennessee was hastily [written] in consequence of being obliged to write to Mother at the same inst. to go by the 10 o'clock stage. I c^d just say that I had the pleasure of seeing M^{rs} Babcock & Sister ²⁴ yest^y aft.noon at M^{rs} Palmers. M^{rs} B.

²³ Wife of William Brown, proprietor of the "Bath House L. Island," whose advertisements for it appear in the (N. Y.) *Commercial Advertiser*, June 27, 1826, and June 16, 1827.

²⁴ Mrs. Henry Babcock (Anna Smith), and her sister Frances Smith, daughters of John Witherspoon and Sarah Henrietta (Duer) Smith. Mrs. William R. Palmer (Nancy Bell Babcock), of New York City, was Henry Babcock's sister. Mrs. J. K. Van Rensselaer, *New Yorkers of the XIX Century* (1897), p. 16; Stephen Babcock, *Babcock Genealogy* (1903), p. 127.

is a delicate pretty lady, thin but not emaciated by nursing her stout babe, w^h is very fat & hearty. Miss Frances is handsome a fine eye w^h they inherit from their g[ran]dfather ²⁵ & have much of the Smith in their countenance. They have been careful of their complexions on the pas[s]age w^h are as fair as any of our northern ladies. . . . M^{rs} Schenck goes over to Bath to see whether she can get accommod[ation]s for a week or two w^h will make quite a family party for sister. M^r Schenck will attend the arrival of M^r Servoss, w^h I am incapable of doing being absolutely chained to my office, as my pres[iden]t M^r Furman has gone to Lebanon for all next week so that with my duty in Wall S^t & attendance at the Savings Bank my hours are all engaged without the possibility of being absent for even 3 hours, much less a day. . . .

Friday [July] 27th. What with writing to M^r Servoss to meet him at Quarantine & to Mother at Bath, my time was filled up yest^r. I am thinking to defer despatching this letter until 1st Aug^t in hopes to announce the arrival of y^r brother. At his request, I called on M^r Babcock yest^r p. m. to inform him of the critical state of young John Smith, But the whole party has gone to Stonington, to pass no doubt the warm weather. I also wrote yest^r to the Cadets by Cap^t Partridge who called on me. He says that the Academy is very tranquil, nothing of disturbance having occurred since the *Row* last winter. He says that Pintard studies very hard, not being so prompt in acquiring his lessons as his brother, that young Hull is very far & well advanced in the classics & is applying diligently to the Mathematics, & that he rooms with his cousin. The examination is to take place on Monday 13th Aug^t & to continue a fortnight. . . . M^r Parker of [Perth] Amboy had a very fine son ²⁶ older than our youths with Cap^t P[artridge] 4 Years, who is now an

²⁵ Samuel Stanhope Smith (1750-1819) of Princeton.

²⁶ William Parker (1807-1868), son of James Parker, was a student at Partridge's Military Academy, 1822-1825. Dodge and Ellis, *Norwich University*, II, 188.

Engineer on the Morris Canal. Instead of being unqualified by his military tactics for civil pursuits, M^r Parker observed that in point of regularity & strict behaviour he was as well qualified for the ministry as an Engineer.

Monday 30th July. Thank God the Illinois has at length arrived, a favourable passage of 21 d[ays] all things considered. M^r Schenck has gone down & may possibly return with y^r letters before closing this. . . . I hope that M^r Schenck may come back before closing this, a little before 2. If not I shall despatch it as you will be happy to hear as soon as possible of y^r brothers safe arrival. His cotton will meet a profit as far as I can understand, w^h will compensate him for his long absence. On Saturday I rec^d a very kind invitation from M^r Sigourney to attend the Commencement of Washington College, at Hartford on Thur^v next, to w^h I was obliged to return a reluctant negative. . . . My friend M^r Furman has returned & I shall arrange with him my leave of absence. He has been to Lebanon Springs & speaks highly of the comfort he has enjoyed, but an absence of only one week has not been of much benefit to his health. . . .

[Addressed:] P^r post via Mobile

NEW YORK, Wed^y 1st Aug^t 1827. 9 a. m.

My last of 30th by mail, informed you of the safe arrival of the Illinois that morn^g. M^r S[ervoss] with his baggage went from the Quarantine & reached Bath at 4 p. m. This day at 12, he is privileged to come to the City. He is now waiting at Brooklyn for the purpose.

Friday 3^d Aug^t. Thank you my beloved daughter for your letter of 16th July by the Frances rec^d this minute, 9 a. m. Amidst all your cares & fatigue preparatory to moving, to spare time to write to y^r good brother & father is a proof were any wanting of your love & affec-

tion. What a *Rus in Urbe*, what a beautiful paradise your kind partner has procured for you, in w^h by this time I hope you are comfortably settled, & what a change you will experience between your Beau sejour & the Chateau des Rats in which you have so long resided, where so many of y^r dear children first saw the light, & where you have passed many happy days, & where your dear sister was united to her excellent husband. . . .

.
 We enjoy a full share of your steaming weather, so necess^y to ripening Indian corn, a great staple, esp^y of our eastern country. What are we to do when all the interior country along the course of the canals, arising in every quarter, shall be cultivated & the wilderness turned into arable land. The establishment of manufactures will give employment to redundant hands & afford consumption for the crops of the husbandmen as well as demand for wool & raw materials. My mind is pretty well made up, that a moderated Tariff is essential to the prosperity of our country. I see not how surplus capital can otherwise be employed. As to taxing the South for the benefit of the North, it is all nonsense. The same outcry was made against protecting cotton manufacturers, w^h now [*sentence unfinished*]

Sat^y 4th 2 o'clock. . . . My little man ²⁷ has been restored by the use of Blackberry Jelly, w^h y^r Sister luckily prepared last year, & is considered & proved to be an invaluable remedy for bowel complaints in children. M^r S[ervoss] says that it [is] also in general use with you. He made a favourable sale of his whole cargo of Cotton & Tobacco yest^y so that this is off of his mind. . . .

.
 Friday [August] 10th. Your brother staid in town last ev^g & I have fixed the locality of Beausejour, 54 feet front, 170 feet deep, a noble lot, & near y^r friends M^{rs} Smith & M^{rs} Linton, & nearer to M^{rs} Chew. That God may bless & prosper you & grant you many years of comfort in y^r new residence is my fervent prayer.

²⁷ His grandson, John Pintard Servoss.

N YORK, Friday 10th Aug^t 1827 11½ p. m.

. . . I propose crossing over to Bath this aft.noon & staying till Monday morn^g. M^r Servoss has just called to say that the Louisiana has arrived & Arthur has gone to Cap^t Holmes for letters. None, neither at post office nor Capt. H^s. 2 passengers have died on the voyage & the Cap^t is sick. M^r S. says that M^r Holley,²⁸ formerly pres^t of Transylv^a College had died in y^r city. Lord have mercy on him. N[ew] O[rleans] is favoured by the de-
 cease of this avowed Infidel. . . .

Monday [August] 13th. After a delightful visit I have returned from Bath, where I left dear mother much recruited. . . . Except Mother, the whole party returns next Friday after 5 weeks absence. . . . M^r S[ervoss] & ship baggage come home this aft.noon, when I shall be absent, to attend the Funeral of an old family friend, M^r James H. Maxwell, who died on Sat^y aged 71 years. He led a singularly inert life for a length of time, lying abed till near noon, taking an evening loiter occasionally, tho not intemperate, indulging in brandy & water, reading novels & sitting up late at night. A dull unvaried routine. Strictly moral, but never frequented Church. His father²⁹ was my most excellent friend and mentor, a strong minded intelligent man, by whose conversations I benefitted much, but thank God, escaped the powerful influence of his scepticism. Men of vigorous intellect are too prone to disregard Religion because they dislike what they consider cant & too frequently Hypocrisy. I look back with gratitude to my Maker, for having escaped the contagion of evil associations. I mean as to Religion, for altho' too convivial, I never was prone to vice. I owe much very much to my excellent friend Judge Boudinot, altho his piety was tinged with bigotry & severity. Yet still it was sincere & he made every allowance for my waywardness, till finally like the Bæreans

²⁸ Rev. Horace Holley died on board the *Louisiana* at sea. (N. Y.) *Commercial Advertiser*, Aug. 10, 1827; *Dictionary of American Biography*, IX, 149.

²⁹ William Maxwell. Wm. M. MacBean, *Biographical Register of Saint Andrew's Society of the State of New York* (1922), I, 138, 176-77.

searching the Scriptures to see if "these things were so" I became, much to his gratification, a sincere avowed believer, tho' I c^d not subscribe to Presbyterianism. He wanted a little more liberality, but he was truly a devout Xtⁿ & I respect & revere his memory.

.
[Addressed:] P^r mail via Mobile

NEW YORK, Wed^y 22^d Aug^t, 1827

. . . This I expected w^d have been commenced at Middletown. My visit had been delayed in consequence of indisposition. . . . My intention to have gone yest^y p. m. was frustrated by one of those sudden melancholy events, w^h befall us at every stage of existence. My much esteemed Rector the Rev. M^r Duffie died 20th inst. after an illness of 9 days of bilious fever, in his 38th year. He was buried yest^y aft. noon & being among the eldest of his congregⁿ I thot it a duty to attend, w^h interfered with my leaving home & the St[eam] Boat does not go again until tomorrow. . . . M^r S[ervoss] mentioned that he had y^r order to purchase a grate for the new House. I have selected a very handsome fashionable pattern w^h will I hope please you. It is to be boxed this day, with a fender, dust pan, Brass Tongs, Shovel & poker to match, & I have ordered I doz. Fire brick, for placing in the back of the grate where the Fire reaches & w^h if judiciously set in will last for years. There will also be added rotten stone for cleaning. . . .

Thurs^y [August] 23^d. I am preparing to go at 5 in the McDonough & have put a large basket of melons & peaches on b^d & shall take another with your 2 pots of sweetmeats & 1 for Thomas to make me welcome.

Middletown, Sat^y 25th Aug. 9 a. m. I arrived here safe yest^y ½ p. 9 a. m. & took up my quarter at the Mansion House, just opened. On the wharf I found our 3 Cadets, with Davis & Hull, to welcome me & their baskets ashore. After securing a room we went up to the Academy, where I attended a mathematical examination, and in the

afternoon the Spanish, in w^h y^r sons acquitted themselves very well. . . . A Squad of 80 to 100 Cadets are to march to Niagara on the 3^d or 4th Sept^r. They proceed by Steam from this to N York & Albany & from thence by the Canal, diverging to visit the towns in the vicinity. The trip will take from 3 to 4 weeks, depending on the weather. Pintard Hull & Davis go on the expedition. Marney is too small to stretch his short legs with the larger Cadets, altho' in most respects he is as big as the biggest in mind & improvement. This is to be the only vacation for the year. Marney is to go to Miss Tellers by his own desire. Thomas takes his leave of the Academy. They both will come home with the expedition. . . . The Cadets give a Ball next Tuesday ev^s Subscription \$3, dance & supper. I have consented that ours shall go, as I find by the list that the principal young gentlemen are subscribers. . . .

.
I believe that I have not mentioned that there is to be great doings here on Monday & Tuesday. There is a new Infantry comp^y in N York called the Tompkins blues, w^h is to come up [for] the review. It has adopted a similar uniform to the Cadets. Of course they will contribute much to the splendor of the day. . . .

[Addressed:] per post
Via Mobile

NEW YORK, Tuesday 28th Aug^t, 1827

. . . . I overlooked in my last to mention that M^r Babcock the elder informed me on going up that M^{rs} B. (Smith) had lost her fine babe at Stonington & was overwhelmed with grief. She & her sister Frances were to return to this city on Friday & are I presume at M^{rs} Palmers. . . .

.
Thur^y [August] 30th. Thomas & Marney arrived this morn^g in the same S^t[eam] Boat with the Tompkins Blues & Miss Louisa Teller from Weathersfield on her

visit home. M^r S[ervoss] proposes going to Fishkill next week when he will take the boys who are desirous to remain until the Cadets pass thro' on their Western expedition. . . .

Friday 31st Aug^t. The month must not conclude without closing this letter altho' I am somewhat urged. Nameless are the duties regular & extra. Cap^t Stockton & Sam^l Bayard have just been with me on a deputation from Princeton to solicit subscrip^s for building an *Episcopal* Church in that Borough!!! w^h must be deferred till October. . . . Mother still remains at Bath, laying in a stock of health for next winter . . . Mother amuses herself with gleanings collections from the Boarders for the benefit of the N. Utrecht Miss[ionar]y Tract & Bible So[ciety]. She has gathered by her address & perseverance rising \$30. There is no situation but in w^h a person so disposed may be doing good. . . .

[Addressed:] p^r post
via Mobile

NEW YORK, Monday 3^d Sept^r, 1827

. . . . On Sat^r I crossed to Brooklyn with Marney & Thomas to see them on board the Bath Stage to visit their g^dmama, when behold she returned unexpectedly, to my satisfaction & their disappointment. . . . Tomorrow the Niagara Cadets are to be in town on their way up the Hudson. They are to be received by a Military escort of the 3^d Reg^t Tompkins Blues &ca. . . .

Tuesday [September] 4th. The Cadets were received by a very honourable military escort this morn^g. I met them as I was coming down to my office at ½ p. 8 marching up B^dway, a corps of Horse, Artillery, Tompkins Blues, N. Y. Cadets, 3^d Reg^t Uniform companies, Artillery, Cap^t Partridges Cadets, Field Officers. The whole a very handsome show & the Cadets appeared quite en militaire with packs on backs. . . . The Cadets do not appear fatigued probably they prudently stay

home, to be refreshed for attending the grand Fireworks this ev^g. I have just procured for Pintard "The Northern Traveller countaining the Routes to Niagara, Quebec and Springs, with the Tour of N. Eng^d" illustrated with Maps, & Views, in order that he may travel more intelligently. Tho' young he is capable of observation & I hope that this expedition will make a lasting impression on his mind & afford him a fine field for conversation & description on his return home. What advantages do my g^dchildren possess over my confined homekeeping days. I send for darling to amuse her solitary hours, Reuben Apsley, by the Author³⁰ of Brambletye House, just out of the press. Do preserve these parlour window books for y^r children in succession. I send no novels but such as are worth keeping. . . . I have written to Miss Teller inclosing \$15 to pay Marneys board. She promised me that she w^d receive the Cadets as boarders, without w^h I told her that I c^d not let them go. This is better than the weight of obligation. . . .

Wed^r [September] 5th 9 a. m. I left the Cadets parading in the Park to go to the Steam boat at 10. Marney & Thomas go as far as Newburgh, from whence they cross over to Fishkill & will be at Miss Tellers to tea. They were highly delighted with the Fireworks. Hull, Davis & McNeil came home with Pintard after having visited Governor's island, & dined ½ p. 4, when they joined their comrades at Masonic Hall, to go to Castle Garden. They bivouaced at the Hall, to keep together. Marney & Thomas left home at 6 & after putting their bundles in the Steam boat office, went to breakfast with M^{rs} Schenck, as the distance was shorter to join the Cadets. . . .

[Addressed by:] Brig Trent
with a packet & Box

³⁰ Horace Smith.

NEW YORK, Wed^y 5th Sept^r, 1825

Wed^y [September] 12th. . . . Last Friday I met Aunt Betsey & her sister M^{rs} Brackenridge ³¹ in the street, the latter looks very well & hearty, but her complexion has faded. She was in deep mourning. M^r Callender is at Princeton, far gone in a dropsy from w^h it is presumed he cannot recover. Should he die, all four of Doctor Smiths daughters will be widows, somewhat singular, in one family.

[Addressed:] p^r post Via Mobile

NEW YORK, Wed^y 19th Sept^r, 1827. 1 p. m.

. . . Yest^y the Equinoctial set in, pretty violent. The wind & rain are more moderate this day. . . .

Friday 21st. The first account about the Cadets is mentioned in the morning papers. . . . Thomas is to wait on his cousins 2 Miss Schencks who are to return this day, leaving Marney behind him, to stay as long as possible. . . . According to sisters instructions I answered M^{rs} Bradford, to come to dinner next Wed^y & to have the Christening on Thur^y ev^g. She will invite the Schenck Family, M^r & M^{rs} Wadsworth & Miss Fleming, relations of M^r S[ervoss], M^r & M^{rs} Cruger (Kortright that was) & M^{rs} Livingston & M^r & M^{rs} Hamilton (Knox) our neighbours, in all 14 besides the Rev. M^r Eastburn & his lady, if in town, & my French Minister M. Verren. I forgot M^{rs} Bradford & Miss Martel, w^h will make 18, our own folk 5, 23, a roomfull. After the ceremony, Tea, Coffee & refreshments. I do not like this intermixing a solemn religious sacrament with social festivity, but there is no help as we have no minister to perform the service in Church. However the party are

³¹ Mrs. Joseph Cabell Breckinridge (Mary Clay Smith), daughter of Samuel Stanhope Smith. (Alexander Brown, *The Cabells and Their Kin* (Richmond, Va., 1939), p. 534.) She was a sister of Mrs. John Marsden Pintard (Betsey Smith), and of Mrs. Thomas Callender.

all related on either side, so that it will not be a pompous parade. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Azelia

NEW YORK, Monday 22^d Oct., 1827

. . . Yest^y after morn^e Church Miss Chew & M^{rs} Morse called. I was in Mothers room, retired to pursue my Sunday readings w^h are systematic with me. I was not called down w^h I regret. It was kind in M^{rs} Morse not to have stood on ceremony. She has never been in company with y^r Mother before, but had seen her in the Street, & says she knew her from your Eliza's resemblance of her g^dmother. But this remark may have proceeded from her courtesy to flatter an old lady. Eliza will be handsome indeed if she is as handsome as her g^dmother was at her age, for she was the Belle of N York. . . .

.
Wed^y [October] 24. Yest^y the Frances sailed with a fair wind, w^h is very fresh this day, M^r & M^{rs} Morse & son passengers. I am not sorry that the latter has left the Academy, he was no example for our Cadets, being too presumptuous, partaking of his father, but this to ourselves. M^{rs} Morse is a very tender mother & I said all that c^d be said to palliate his irregularities. . . .

Friday [October] 26th. On enquiring yest^y of your brother whether he had rec^d the order w^h you mentioned that you w^d wish him to execute, as you observed in your last that you were about preparing to lay your carpet, he said that he presumed you wanted a set of mahogany chairs to be all of a piece with your new house. Delicacy may have withheld my beloved daughter from intimating her desire. I begged y^r brother to be so kind as to go to the best cabinet makers & purchase a dozen fashionable mahogany Chairs, black horse hair bottoms, w^h he has done this morn^e from M^r Young who made your sisters furniture, & whose shop turns

out the best work in the city. I have been to look at them, just as they were preparing to box them to be sent on board the Talma tomorrow morning & I have called at Cap^t Holmes to have them stowed in a dry part of the ship. The chairs are of the very best quality & I think they will please. price \$9, \$108, 2 Boxes \$4, make \$112, the set, freight & insurance I shall pay besides, and I hope they will get safe to hand. It is best to insure in case of accident, altho at this season, there is very little hazard. . . .

Sat^r morn^e, 27th. M^r Young has brought me the inclosed Bill lading the freight \$10.13 I shall pay, taking rec^t therefor, so that, except cartage to y^r door, you will receive this unexpected present free of charges. . . . Last ev^e Sister gave a family party to M^{rs} Ab^m Schenck of Mattawan, when I say family I mean all of that family. Y^r friends M^r & M^{rs} Palmer, after several former invitations, were present. M^{rs} P. is a very retired delicate lady & M^r P. from his breath must be unsound, w^h must be detrimental to his Wife.

Monday [October] 29th. I have got entangled as a Witness in a vexatious law suit set up by the pretended legal heirs of Robert R. Randall, who devised his estate to Trustees by the name of the Sailors Snug harbour, to provide for the support of 50 superannuated seamen, whenever the income shall be sufficient to defray the expense. A property of about 16 acres at the head of Broadway, has risen & is rising into great value, in consequence of the extension of the city, whereby the means of providing for 50 pensioners will soon be at command, except arising from legal subtilties & technicalities. The claimants, in my opinion, have no righteous pretensions, but the Law must determine. . . .

Tuesday [October] 30th. . . . I am still suspended on the Tenter hooks, waiting every moment to be summoned to court, but it is better being in my office than in Court, the Lawyers granting an old man the indulgence of waiting until he is sent for. The Vestry of

my Church meet this afternoon. We are in a dilemma about M. Varren, who by a canon of the Gen. Convention cannot be admitted to orders, until after a years residence in the Diocese where he is to settle. Hopes were entertained that a dispensation might have been obtained from the Bishops convened at Phil^a last week, but they had no such power. The object now is that M. Varren sh^d go to Paris, where there is a Scotch Bishop, who on the recommendation of Bp. Hobart will ordain him. The expediency of this proposition is the purport of our meeting. Mother & Sister rode out yest^r to see Aunt Helen, who has just recovered from an intermittent fever. M^r Craig & Davis have both also been ill. All the vicinage where they live has been afflicted with fever this autumn, owing to the excessive rains. Our weather is again mild but very variable.

Wed^r [October] 31st. Fine day. I have just given a line of introduction to Francis Tillyou Esq. a lawyer of this city, who goes to N[ew] O[rleans] by way of Pittsburgh for the benefit of his health. He may require advice w^h the Doctor will give to him as my friend, being a descendant of our old Huguenot families. . . . The Rectorship of St. Thomas has been given to M^r Delancey ³² of Phil^a son of Cap^t Delancey of Ma[ma]ronneck, his chief merit is being a topping high Churchman, his talents it is said are but plain, he is however very respectable as to family. . . .

NEW YORK, Friday 9th Nov., 1827

. . . . I sent off my letter ³³ of this date hastily just as I was going to attend court, not knowing of the Elizth & Johns ³⁴ sailing till I came down to the office. It was forwarded that you might know the worst, in case of any rumour that Jeremiah Thompson's failure w^d affect y^r brother. I showed him what I had written w^h he ap-

³² William Heathcote Delancey, who declined the call.

³³ The letter mentioned is not included in the collection owned by the New York Historical Society.

³⁴ Ship *John and Elizabeth*.

proved. I forgot to request you not to mention the am^t for w^h he is implicated. Altho' the suspension of payment, still the loss I trust will not be total. It may curtail M^r S[ervoss]'s operations but will not I hope interfere with his com^s business. . . . Dear Sister acts with great prudence, sensible of the possible total loss, without affected levity or indifference. . . . For myself, tho' not heart broken, I am apparently more distressed in mind than M^r S., least the little gleam of sunshine that promised to gild the close of Mothers & my life, sh^d be at last obscured. . . .

.
 Thurs^y [November] 15th. We had a most tremendous gale, yest^y, at N. W which has done much damage to vessels along the north side of the city. In court yest^y about 2½ o'clock, the eminent Tho^s Addis Emmet one of the counsel for the Trustees of the Sailors Snug Harbour, was struck with apoplexy without any previous intimation, being in conversation with a gentleman but a few moments before, he leaned his head on his hand, & when spoken to was speechless. The Court adjourned till 10 this morn^g. Medical aid was instantly afforded. He died at 11 o'clock last ev^g. M^r E. was one of the Irish patriots & one of the most eminent lawyers in this city or the U. S. I was well acquainted [with] him. He was a gentleman in the highest sense of the word & universally esteemed. He gave elevation to the character of the Bar of N York. He spoke with great exertion & energy on Monday in the Circuit Court in the case of John Jac. Astor ag^t this State for a large Tract of land in Putnam County as Counsel for M^r A. His ext^y exertion may have induced this last attack. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Tennessee
 with a small packet

NEW YORK, Wed^y 21st Nov., 1827

. . . The great Sailors' Snug harbour cause will probably go to the Jury this day. As the points at issue are

altogether legal, it is difficult to say how it will terminate. All I know is that the Testator Robert Randall intended a bona fide Devise.

Thur^y [November] 22^d. Winter has prematurely set in, the Gutters all ice, & weather as cold as at Xmas. High winds & excessively dusty, a match for y^r city. The Canal navigation closed last week, a fortnight earlier than usual to the great injury of the country trade. From the quantity of rain thro' the last season, there is every indication of a severe winter. Thank God all our Fuel was laid in seasonably. . . . The 2^d cause of the Sailor's Snug Harbour that went to the Jury yest^y was found in favour of the Trustees. A 3^d Trial is coming on & I shall have to attend court again w^h is much against me for I have not quite recovered of my cold. By the new packet ship John Linton to sail this day, your brother was so kind as to write to you . . .

.
Sat^y [November] 24 2 p. m. Thank God I hope that I have at last got rid of the Circuit Court after 3 weeks daily attendance, except the intermission of 2 days on acc^t of M^r Emmets death & funeral. . . .

Monday [November] 26th. The celebration of the evacuation, as the 25th fell on Sunday. A beautiful day, but none except the survivors of those who took part in that day, 1783, can enter into the joy & feelings of our exiled citizens on that auspicious occasion, an event that consummated the Am. Revolution. Never can I forget the tears of joy that I shed as we paraded thro' the city from the Bowery to the old Fort, & saw the last of the British forces leaving the shore. I have before told you that when a very early & young member of our Corporation, it was at my instance that the day was celebrated as being peculiarly appropriate to the city. For a few years past it has been intermitted, but is again revived, I hope never to be overlooked again. Forgotten it cannot be, for it is part of our national history. How much did this state & city especially suffer during the revolution. One day, if spared, I will trace true & in-

teresting anecdotes respecting our exiles. I think that I could write a tolerable Waverley, out of these events, for certainly there were many romantic circumstances attending the revolution as well as deeds of chivalrous emprise.

But let us chat about our own concerns. Dear g^dmother sends by this oppo[rtunity] a beautiful pocket Bible, for each of her N[ew] O[rleans] g^dchildren, inscribed with her name, w^h I hope they will severally keep as a testimony of her love. The copies are of the 1st Edition of the pocket Bible printed by the A[meri- can] B[ible] S[ociety]. I had a dozen reserved in sheets all last year so as to bear being compactly bound. No pains have been spared to make them elegant & for their better preservation I have just ordered morocco cases, in w^h they can be kept when not used. . . . The beautiful octavo Bibles heretofore are invaluable, as being the most correct standard copy of the Scriptures printed in Engl[ish], great pains having been taken to render them perfect & exact copies of the earliest authorized version in the days of James 1st. They ought therefore to [be] choicely used & preserved.

.
 Tuesday [November] 27, 1 p. m. I have obtained the Atlantic Souvenir for Darling & Taylors Holy Living & Dying, my souvenir for dear Mother. This inestimable work has been a Manual of Devotion in England, for nearly a century & a half, and my good old Uncle was much gratified with the copy I sent for him. My copy larger, is the 17th Ed[itio]n. This sent you is a new one, w^h shows how much regard is paid to this inestimable work, w^h I recommend *earnestly* to my beloved daughters attentive *study* not perusal. . . .

Wed^r [November] 28th . . . I find that your young apprentice studies with D^r Hosack. I sh^d prefer Francis with whom sh^d Pintard persevere I wish him to study, as he takes infinite pains with his pupils & will do more for my sake. Remember this, sh^d I not be here. I have

a first letter this morn^e from Thomas. He does not like Jamaica & complains of his commons. . . .

Thur^y [November] 29th. . . . M^r Bayard from Princeton is in town & dines with us today. He left Aunt Patty & Caroline well. He tells us that M^r William Griffith, who married your young friend, is dead, the hope & stay of his good mother Cousin Abby who is with her daughter Mrs Cox[e] at Washington. . . .

Friday [November] 30th. . . . I have just got the price of the Bibles, \$3. each, & cases 75/100, \$3.75. Formerly English & Scotch pocket Bibles not to compare in elegance, cost at least \$5. I think that I sent Eliza a beautiful small Diamond type pocket Bible, some years ago w^h cost \$7. So that however costly these Bibles are much cheaper than c^d be imported. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Louisiana
with a Firkin [of butter]
& package

NEW YORK, Sat^y 1st Dec., 1827

Tuesd^y 4th. . . . I am very happy to find, that you have such good domestic help, a comfort that sweetens every trial, while bad servants alloy every other comfort. Your sister also is favoured in this particular. She has an excellent nursery maid, a buxom Yankey lass, Pamela, who is fond of the children, & who took Pintard last Sunday aft.noon to a Methodist Church, for the first time, & he behaved like a little man. Our faithful Tamar who really saves her wages in the economy of the Kitchen, both as to food & fuel, Robert a coloured pious man, who asked me yest^y to procure for him, Cotterels prayers, w^h he knew not where to purchase, a copy of w^h I presented him this morn^e, Mary Ann Mothers maid, daughter of Hannah, of N Rochelle, a smart, tidy & every way useful girl, sews, makes pastry &c. as good as

Sister. What excellent help, & with the prospect of continuance. Robert is inestimable, modest, always busy, never idle, nor begrudging to turn his hand to any thing. He reads very well, & beguiles a vacant ev^e hour by reading Tracts to his fellow servants, so that we have an orderly house below. . . .

[Addressed:] By Azelia

NEW YORK, Monday 10th Dec^r, 1827

Thurs^y 13th. Yest^y Wed^y 12th was a Day of Thanksgiving appointed by the Governor, an excellent practice in the N. England states from their first settlement, But arbitrary here, as no provision is made either by Constitution or Law to be thankful to our Heavenly Father for all his infinite mercies, & great cause as a State & people have we to be grateful. . . . I sincerely hope that Eliza has perfectly recovered & that she will be able to attend the great Jackson Ball in her new dress. It is to be got up no doubt in great splendor, & will probably be the most extravagant one that has ever taken place in y^r extravagant city. Preparations are making I see by the papers for the accommodation of the great military Chieftain, whose planet here, is in the ascendant. But thank God, among its miseries, age has its privileges, exemption if wise, from political cabals & intrigues. The old Federalists, few in number, owe M^r Adams no good will for his apostacy, w^h has been rewarded, & his enmity to Gen. Hamilton. Nor is Jackson a favourite. My guess, however, is, that he will succeed. . . .

I send for Darling the last Waverley, Tales of the Conongate, in the preface to which Scott avows himself the Author. The present work does not detract from the character of this wonderful prolix Genius. His stores [of] invention & mind appear inexhaustible. To me these works are most delectable, & always beguile after fatigue of dry reading & restore the tone & vigour of

my mind. Old people in many particulars resemble young, that of novel reading is one. Scotts are instructive as well as pleasing. They serve to relax & beguile the cares as well as the ennui of existence. Do not throw them away, after perusal, at a future day, they will become new again, & they [will] serve to amuse a visiting friend when Mother & daughter are busied with domestic duties. . . . I dwell on this subject a little, because Mothers do not incline to see their daughters fascinated with novel reading. But Scotts dramatic Historical novels are an exception & transcend all praise. You think me an Enthusiast, possibly in plain English a dotard, perhaps a Fool. So be it. May I never do worse than read the standard English novels of the last & present age, but I am not indiscriminate in my reading, rather fastidious, than otherwise. But wearied & worn down, these works are greater restorative & more wholesome & innocent than a bottle or cards. There must be something to fill up the blank of life, & happy they who with their Bible & Books never want companions. . . .

Friday [December] 14th. Indian summer, mild as April. Dense Fog & hoar frost this morn^e. Your brother is engaged in fixing a Fire Range to burn Schuylkill Coal in the Kitchen, after being successfully introduced in some families. It is very economical & prevents smoke. . . . I send you 8 copies of our new cheap Sunday School Test[amen]t @ 12½ C^{ts}, \$1, w^h has been published at the lowest possible rate. The demand exceeds the power of supply at present, but we shall get ahead in the Winter, as also with Bibles. It is quite animating to hear read the correspondence of our Auxiliaries, who are engaging in the glorious work of supplying all the destitute of their respective counties with the Scriptures. . . .

[Addressed by ship:] Kentucky

NEW YORK, Monday, 17th Dec^r, 1827

. . . . I commence this letter with gratitude to God for the glorious news, rec^d from Greece of the total annihilation of the Turkish & Egyptian Fleets, by those of the Allied powers of Eng^d France & Russia. At length Christendom is aroused & I hope that the Sword will not be sheathed until the Freedom & Independence of Greece be placed on a permanent basis. The blood of the enslaved Greeks has long cried aloud for vengeance, w^h tho' tardily has been signally inflicted. The Lord be praised. The friends of Greece throughout the world will rejoice. May that long oppressed & barbarously afflicted nation be endowed with wisdom from Above, to choose a sober well organized form of government. Here is the difficulty, as is proved in the instance of Spanish America. How soon did the U States settle down, after its struggle for Independence, in the present wise efficient government. But the British Colonies had been long instructed & prepared for self government, a hard lesson for young nations. May Greece look up to & profit from our example. I cannot express how my whole soul has been engaged in the cause of now please God, emancipated Greece. I had & have great confidence in their final delivery, for the Scriptures must be fulfilled, & the downfall of the Turkish empire & expulsion from Europe, is part of the fulfilment of prophecy in which I firmly believe, as likewise in the Reformation of the Rom. Catholic Religion. The wide spreading scripture, Missionaries, Sunday Schools with all the great movements of the moral & Religious world, all tend to demonstrate the truth of Divine Revelation, and y^r children my beloved daughter may live to see the knowledge of the Scriptures diffused over all quarters of the Globe.

Tuesday [December] 18th. . . . It requires something more of Dutch habits than are generally prevalent with you, to enter into the spirit & observance of S^t Claus day, but do you keep it to the joy of y^r bantlings. Soft

waffles are a treat for the grown up, w^h Sister occasionally affords us. I think she says that you regale y^r friends with them also. This is a true N York treat, derived from our Dutch forefathers, w^h however was universal before the Revolution, that with the decay of the old customs broke down many of our antient usages, all of w^h were of the festive kind. New Year was a most boisterous, & when manners were simpler & this city but an overgrown Village, began at Midnight, Drums beating Firing of Guns, huzzas, & calling at friendly doors, to congratulate the family & get a New Years dram & cookey. Visits still kept up were made after Church, but cookies begin to disappear, & altho the dram & hot punch appear on the sideboard, it is more for parade than use for few partake. Indeed since staggering thro' the streets on New Years day is out of fashion, it is impossible to drink drams at every house as of old. Children were universally sent to visit the family relations, w^h served to keep up acquaintance with kindred branches. The remotest, were all Uncles, Aunts & Cousins on that jovial day. Well do I recollect coming home loaded with sixpences (a great sum) & honey cookies, enough to last for months. Grace, my female servant whom my Mother left me, used to a pillow-bier, on these occasions, w^h by the time our rounds were performed, was as much as she could tug. . . .

Wed^y [December] 19th. Fair weather, thank God, it has cleared off mild, after a long spell of incessant rain. A very unusual Winter thus far. Violent catarhs & sore throats prevail. My own, with Mothers attentive care is better. We are attempting to instigate subscriptions for the relief of the distressed Greek females & children, as last year, but I fear that the unparralled victory of Navar[i]no instead of enlivening will chill sympathy. Let us hope for the best. The glorious result of the engagement, w^h it is trusted will annihilate the naval power of the Turks, will not mitigate the extreme necessities of the poor Greeks, whose miserable state has been rend-

ered extreme by the recent barbarities of Ibrahim pasha. May he & his army be captured in the Morea. Indeed I do not see how they are to escape, except by capitulation. You may reasonably suppose that this subject is very near my heart, one w^h I have watched with almost parental feeling, from its birth. May I be spared to learn its final happy consummation. I will send herewith the Daily Adver[tise]r of this day, containing a Diagram of the Bay, w^h will illustrate the action. It is remarkable that the news of the Battle fought on the 20 Octo^r reached us on the 16th inst in the short space of 57 days. The Winds of Heaven favoured the rapid transmission of this glorious event. Miserable Austria, how crestfallen for being the only Xtⁿ power that lent its aid to Barbarians ag^t oppressed fellow Christians. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Russell

N YORK, Sat^y 22^d Dec^r 1827. 2 p. m.

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 Monday [December] 24th. . . . Doctor Hosack called between Churches. Some angry words that had passed between him & D^r Watts, rivals from days of old, called for an explanation, which D^r W. satisfactorily gave retracting what he uttered in an unguarded moment of excitement. This was honourable & so the anticipated calling out, w^h made some noise, ended. Doctors are an irritable race, & my friend D^r H. is not the most guarded in his remarks. By the way, the Doctors pupil has never called as invited, since presenting his letter of introduction. He studies with D^r Hosack. The Rutgers College is getting into some difficulty, since passing the late budget of Laws, w^h infringes the right of conferring degrees. The Law will be contested as post facto & unconstitutional. It keeps the College in hot water. It must be a powerful Law that Hosack cannot creep through.

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Wed^y 26th Dec^r. We had a mild day yest^y for Christmas, w^h permitted Sister & Mother to attend the Communion at S^t Thomas' Ch[urch]. A collection was made for the benefit of our Sunday School. Besides our usual contributions, Mother presented a doz[en] Testaments such as those sent you, as her Xmas gift. She has likewise given to the 2 daughters & son of the late M^r Duffie, a pocket Bible, elegantly bound, but not quite as high finished as those sent for our g[ran]dchild[re]n. . . . We had S^t Claas in high snuff yest^y. Pintard [Servoss] entered quite into the spirit of the day. Among other Bon bons were sugar Turnips, Carrots, &ca.

Monday [December] 31st. 9 A. M. The Talma has arrived & I look for letters. I find by M^r Servoss' letters from his correspondents that much solicitude has been expressed in N[ew] O[rleans] with some aggravation of his loss by the failure of Jer[emia]h Thomson. He finds warm hearted friends & confidence in M^r Wright, M^r Oakey & Sheldon. Prosperity makes friends, adversity tries them. The envious rejoice the sincere sympathize. Thank God altho' the loss \$20,000 sh^d prove total, it will not derange your good brothers business nor prospects. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Illinois
