



UNIVERSITY  
OF PITTSBURGH



LIBRARY







COLLECTIONS OF  
THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
FOR THE YEAR 1939

---

THE JOHN WATTS DEPEYSTER  
PUBLICATION FUND SERIES

---

LXXII

II am  
FIG  
No

v. 2  
R 3

COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS

---

ALEXANDER J. WALL  
ARTHUR SUTHERLAND  
HENRY PARISH

# OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

---

HONORARY PRESIDENT

SAMUEL V. HOFFMAN

PRESIDENT

GEORGE A. ZABRISKIE

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT E. DOWLING

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

FENWICK BEEKMAN, M. D.

THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT

HENRY PARISH

FOURTH VICE-PRESIDENT

JAMES LENOX BANKS

FOREIGN CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

ARCHER MILTON HUNTINGTON

DOMESTIC CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

LUCIUS WILMERDING

RECORDING SECRETARY

DE WITT M. LOCKMAN

TREASURER

WILLIAM T. VAN ALSTYNE

DIRECTOR

ALEXANDER J. WALL

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

---

FIRST CLASS—FOR ONE YEAR, ENDING 1942

LEONIDAS WESTERVELT          W. WILLIS REESE  
L. GORDON HAMERSLEY

SECOND CLASS—FOR TWO YEARS, ENDING 1943

LE ROY E. KIMBALL                  LOUIS C. WILLS  
ARTHUR SUTHERLAND

THIRD CLASS—FOR THREE YEARS, ENDING 1944

ARTHUR DELANO WEEKES          JOHN V. IRWIN  
MILLARD L. ROBINSON, D.D.

FOURTH CLASS—FOR FOUR YEARS, ENDING 1945

SAMUEL V. HOFFMAN          LEWIS L. DELAFIELD  
FORSYTH WICKES





JOHN PINTARD (1759-1844)

Enlarged from a miniature painted in 1787

By JOHN RAMAGE (c. 1748-1802)

Presented to The New-York Historical Society in 1906  
by George Hancock Servoss, grandson of John Pintard

---

LETTERS FROM  
JOHN PINTARD  
TO HIS DAUGHTER

ELIZA NOEL PINTARD DAVIDSON

1816-1833

*In Four Volumes*

VOLUME III

1828-1831

NEW YORK

PRINTED FOR THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1941

---

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
BY J. J. LITTLE & IVES COMPANY, NEW YORK



LETTERS FROM JOHN PINTARD  
TO HIS DAUGHTER



# 1828

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

NEW YORK, Wed 2<sup>d</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>, 1828

All hail to the New Year. May it prove more auspicious to the unfortunate than the past, and to all of us afford peace prosperity & happiness. Yest<sup>y</sup> New Year's day, was unusually mild & pleasant. The streets were filled with gentlemen, who like myself were making their annual visits of kind greetings. I could not but feel grateful to my Maker, that my health permitted me to make my friendly calls, some of which, sh<sup>d</sup> I be spared to see another Year, may not be repeated. Our city grows so extensive and old friends live scattered so wide apart, that the exercise was overfatiguing, but thank God no inconvenience or injury ensued. . . . The joyous older fashion has declined gradually, the New Years dram & Cookey are rarely touched, even hot punch, scarcely tasted. It is well, for formerly New Years was a riotous day. Kind greetings will I hope never go out of fashion. It is right to lay the dram aside. Sisters table was really the handsomest display, that I saw. . . .

Thur<sup>y</sup> [January] 3<sup>d</sup>. A melancholy suicide took place yest<sup>y</sup>, Oliver G. Kane, a very decent young man of good family, Sec<sup>r</sup> of the National Marine C<sup>o</sup> put a period to his existence by blowing out his brains, in consequence no doubt of breach of trust, to what extent is not yet ascertained. It is said that he left a note for M<sup>r</sup> Depeyster Pres<sup>t</sup> stating that the history of his life was portrayed in the Tragedy of the Gamester. Awful avowal.

Friday [January] 4<sup>th</sup>. The commencem<sup>t</sup> of the New Year is always attended with accumulated duty. This

p. m. Bible So[ciety, tomorrow, Stand<sup>s</sup> Committee, Saturday, Fuel Saving Fund. Monday 12 o'clock, Sailors' Snug Harbour, 5 p. m. S<sup>t</sup> Thomas Scholarship S<sup>o</sup>. Wed<sup>y</sup> p. m. Savings Bank & their report. Thus you see that a person willing to lend his time & talents will not want for occupation. On Xmas day Mother sent a present of a doz. Testaments for S<sup>t</sup> Thomas Ch. Sunday School. Not to be lacking in good works on New Years day Father presented a doz. prayer Books to the same S<sup>o</sup> under the Superintendance of M<sup>rs</sup> Beverley Robinson, who gives great & unremitted attention to the school which prospers under the care of this excellent lady. . . .

Sat<sup>y</sup> [January] 5<sup>th</sup>. The Report of the defalcation of M<sup>r</sup> Kane is dreadful to the am<sup>t</sup> of \$140,000, a fatal blow to the National C<sup>o</sup> of w<sup>h</sup> my friend Fred<sup>k</sup> Depeyster is pres[iden]t & w<sup>h</sup> has hitherto gone on very successfully. He has destroyed the Cash Book Bill Book &c <sup>a</sup> & made no entries since last July, w<sup>h</sup> will reflect severely on the Pres<sup>t</sup> for want of due care. It is said M<sup>r</sup> K. has in the succession of a few years drawn 132,000 in Lotteries, & that he was a desperate gambler. He once addressed one of the Miss Douglasses, very rich & very proud, but was rejected. He married a cousin of hers, with a fair fortune w<sup>h</sup> he has never touched being settled on her & leaves her a most disconsolate young widow with an infant. This catastrophe, owing to the heavy defalcation, excites much attention.

1 o'clock. Your brother brought in, a little while past, y<sup>r</sup> letter of 15<sup>th</sup> Dec by the John & Elizabeth, w<sup>h</sup> I c<sup>d</sup> not peruse till this minute. Most heartily do I congratulate you on the Doctors appointment, a pretty Xmas box, w<sup>h</sup> as you say will enable him to educate his children & leave the profits of his other business towards liquidating the debt for your house. . . . With y<sup>r</sup>self I feel very grateful to your warm friend M<sup>r</sup> Chew for his exertions & also to Senator [Josiah Stoddard] Johns[t]on. This intelligence will be quite a treat at home. I hope that Darlings health will be so restored as to permit her to attend the great Jackson ball. The Doctor must do

as other courtiers, *hold the Candle to the Devil*, for in my guess, J. will be Pres[iden]t. Formerly a German Tinman, Baltus Dash of this city, supplied Gov<sup>r</sup> Tryons kitchen with his Ware. He did the same for Gen. Washington when in this city 1776. After the abandonment by our Troops, & the British taking possession, Dash met Gov<sup>r</sup> Tryon in the street & congratulated him on his return. Well M<sup>r</sup> D. so you supplied the Rebel General, How did he treat you (Dash was a Tory). O very well Governor, I always make it a rule "to hold the Candle to the Devil" You are welcome back Governor I am very happy to see you & hope you will not forget y<sup>r</sup> old friend Baltus Dash. The Governor used to tell this story with a great deal of glee in Dashes broken English, who was a German. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Frances.

[Stamped:] SHIP

27

---

NEW YORK, Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>, 1828

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>. Huzza for Jackson is the order with all who wish for a change a large portion, always, of the community. I must learn from the papers the festivities in this city on the occasion. I tried to get into Masonic Hall to take a peep at the decorations, but c<sup>d</sup> not get admittance.

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> . . . I send her [Eliza Davidson] Cooper's last Novel, the Red Rover, published this day at the extravagant price of \$2. Cooper receives \$5000, for the copyright. No such patronage c<sup>d</sup> be extended to works of a higher order in this country, but Novels, esp<sup>y</sup> since Waverley, have been & are so much the order of the day, that Booksellers can afford to pay well for works of imagination. This is well spoken of. I know not its

merits. Indeed my very little spare time is so much devoted to more important readings for my period, that I can afford even to Scott, very little. A chapter of the Canongate suffices, w<sup>h</sup> I take as an olive to refresh me like desert. . . .

---

NEW YORK, Tuesd<sup>y</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>, 1828. Fine clear day

With my Church politics, happily, you have nothing to do, But my mind is exceedingly agitated on the subject. S<sup>t</sup> Thomas Church vacancy has not yet been supplied after two choices declined. 1<sup>st</sup> the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Delancey of Phil<sup>a</sup> a very High Churchman, who signalized himself in the late election of an Assis<sup>t</sup> Bishop, D<sup>r</sup> Henry U. Onderdonck, for that Diocese. The latter is still more the enemy of Bible Societies, prayer meetings & associations with Xt<sup>ns</sup> of other denominations, than Bp. Hobart. It was to reverend M<sup>r</sup> Delancey for his active oppugnation to the Low Church party in Pennsylv<sup>a</sup> that thro' the influence of Bp. H. he was elected Rector of S<sup>t</sup> Thomas, w<sup>h</sup> after deliberation, he declined. Another election was held a few weeks past. Candidates Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Eastburn & Ives. The latter is son in law of Bp. H[obart] has recently returned from Lancaster to this city & was chosen Assis<sup>t</sup> to D<sup>r</sup> Lyell of X<sup>t</sup> Church. His cheif merit is being son in law to the Bishop. The votes were even, 5 & 5, between the Candidates, neither receding. A M<sup>r</sup> Anthon of Utica was chosen, who has also declined. The vacancy stil exists & the rival Candidates, M<sup>r</sup> E & I. The former is supported by the best judges in the Vestry, Mess<sup>rs</sup> John Duer, Morris Robinson, Isaac Lawrence &c<sup>a</sup>, the latter by the devoted partisans of the Bishop. M<sup>r</sup> Eastburn is a Divine of the very first talents in our Church, a scholar & a man of zeal & Piety. The outcry ag<sup>t</sup> him that he is unsound in his Ch. politics, that is, that he is a member of the

Am. Bible Society, that he has attended some of the Auxiliaries as a Delegate, & that he associates with Ministers of other denominations & does not turn them & their people over, with Bp. H. to the uncovenanted mercy of God, the cant of the day, & believes that the Scriptures ought to be put in the hands of every body. Withal he is an Orthodox Christian & Episcopalian, & preeminent as a writer & preacher. Notwithstanding all this, He is opposed by the whole Host of Bp. H's clergy, 9/10ths of this city. I am exert[ing] myself to my utmost, because I love & esteem M<sup>r</sup> E. conceive that the choice will be for the best interests of the Church, and moreover, because I was instrumental, some years ago, in constituting him a member of the A. B. S. But I am so office locked, that I have little time to run about.

Thurs<sup>y</sup> 17<sup>th</sup>. Everything that is in my power to perform, by calling on the members of the Vestry, friendly to M<sup>r</sup> Eastburn, has been done, to explain away plausible objections raised by such as are hostile to him.

Friday, [January] 18<sup>th</sup>. The Vestry meet this ev<sup>g</sup>. M<sup>r</sup> E's friends will hand in an engagement to take pews to the Amount of \$5000, more than adequate to build Galleries w<sup>h</sup> will be wanted for their accommodation & bring in additional revenue arising from the rents. I hope that this will turn the scale in his favour, but the oppugnation of a Bishop is all powerful here. After very heavy Fogs it began to clear away yest<sup>y</sup>. On Wed<sup>y</sup> 16<sup>th</sup>, 6 p. m. a fine ship in the London line went aground off Sandy Hook, the Columbia, a very great, if not total loss is apprehended, w<sup>h</sup> will fall heavy on our offices. My good friend M<sup>r</sup> Depeyster has resigned as pres<sup>t</sup> of the National Marine Co[mpany]. A case of Forgery & felony ag<sup>t</sup> one Redmond has excited great attention. The trial lasted 3 days & you will see it in the Spectator. The plea of *Alibi* was supported & he was acquitted by the Jury in 5 minutes at 12 last night. He was a Boarding House keeper & is ruined. A very hard case.

Monday [January] 21<sup>st</sup>. Winter at last. Sat<sup>y</sup> was

a muggy, warm, intense Foggy day, cleared off at N. W. Yest<sup>y</sup> morn<sup>s</sup> cold, today, very cold. We were all at Church however, morn<sup>s</sup> & ev<sup>s</sup>. No decision had in my Vestry, who like the Cardinals of Rome sit in conclave. . . . Poor Uncle Lewis Wife, Ann, died of a short paralytic stroke on Sat<sup>y</sup> ev<sup>s</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> aged 44. She was the wild daughter of a very respectable Quaker Ebenezer Burling. They are both no more, the least said is the better.

Tuesd<sup>y</sup> [January] 22<sup>d</sup>. An incident occurred last ev<sup>s</sup> w<sup>h</sup> for lack of other matter I recite. The Recorder, M<sup>r</sup> Riker, to whom was confided the distribution of a volume printed by our Corporation of the circumstances attending the celebration of the completion of the Canals, having delayed furnishing the copy to w<sup>h</sup> as having had a considerable agency in getting up the celebration, told me that he wished to inscribe the presentation copy to me, in some official capacity. I mentioned that I was secretary of the first public meeting held in this city on the subject, & w<sup>h</sup> was analagous. To show that this was not a gratuitous assertion, I hunted up the notice published in the Daily Advertiser,

*"Canal.* At a numerous & respectable meeting of the Citizens of "N York held at the City Hotel, on Saturday evening 30th Dec. 1815 <sup>1</sup> "for the purpose of taking into consideration the measures proper to be "adopted to promote a Canal navigation between the great Western "Lakes and Tide waters of the Hudson. Wm. Bayard Esq. in the Chair, "John Pintard, Secretary."

Then follow the Resolutions. The substance of this, M<sup>r</sup> Riker will have printed on the cover of the Book. I mention this the rather, because at the epoch of the celebration, the circumstance of the of the president & Secretary of the first public meeting on the subject, were both present. My late patriotic friend Thomas Eddy, who had a very great agency in promoting this great enterprize, & whose recollection was indistinct, felt some sensation, presuming that he had acted as Secretary, & that it was transferring an honour due to him to one not entitled to it. He had forgotten. He was put on the

<sup>1</sup> This correct date 1815 was wrongly written by Pintard 1817 in his letter of September, 1825, vol. II, 175.



Committee to prepare a Memorial to the Legislature w<sup>h</sup> was done & presented. Very great opposition was made against the enterprize, politically, least it sh<sup>d</sup> give M<sup>r</sup> Clinton, then entering on his Governors career, popularity. He was called a visionary scoundrel who w<sup>d</sup> ruin the State of N York with his Dry Ditch as Gen. Root called it, to secure his popularity. Words can feebly describe the oppugnation of his adversaries or the persevering efforts of his friends. DeWitt Clinton is immortalized by the greatest achievement of the age, w<sup>h</sup> on its completion M<sup>r</sup> Jefferson remarked ought to be called the *Eighth Wonder of the World*. Altho only a very humble agent, a mere Bellows Blower to the organ, I feel gratified that from its incipient stages until the final successful accomplishment of this wonderful effort, that I tho't highly of the practicability & exerted every effort in my feeble power to promote it.

Wed<sup>r</sup> [January] 23<sup>d</sup>. Light snow, w<sup>h</sup> has tempered the atmosphere. A special meeting of the Managers of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] was held yest<sup>r</sup> to grant the Binder, the temperary use of their Room, in order to extend his work, to supply, as far as possible, the demand for Bibles & Testaments, from all quarters. It is really animating to hear read the letters from our Auxiliaries. It is not a solitary Town or County, but an extraord<sup>r</sup> unprecedented excitement throughout, almost every State, to supply the destitute with the Scriptures. Alas! Episcopalians are so taken up with internal Feuds & open hostility ag<sup>t</sup> the A. B. S. that we are absolutely sleeping & doing nothing, while every other Xt<sup>n</sup> denomination are awake & engaged in this glorious cause. It makes me blush. Awful is the responsibility on those whose influence is opposed to this work.

Thur<sup>r</sup> [January] 24. The light snow was blown away by a sharp N. Wester last ev<sup>g</sup> & it is bitter cold this day.

Friday 25. More moderate with appearance of snow. . . . Reading an article in y<sup>r</sup> Mercantile Adv<sup>r</sup> of 30<sup>th</sup>

Dec. mentioning that on that day 24 years ago Louisiana became part of the U. S. it speaks of the immense progress of y<sup>r</sup> city, in population, Commerce &c<sup>a</sup> since that epoch. The whole character & circumstances being changed since its emancipation from the Spanish yoke "*& the thralldom of a rapacious Clergy.*" This last remark I consider extremely illiberal. However as Protestants we may not approve the Roman Catholic system, yet as far as my observations extended during my visit in 1801 when I cultivated an acquaintance & some intimacy with the Clergy of the day, I c<sup>d</sup> remark no instance of rapacity. Their revenues arose from grants of the Crown or benefactions of former times. The Cathedral was erected by funds bequeathed by some wealthy Lawyer, if not set up in his life time. The Ursulines derive their large estate, by a grant from the French Crown, of lands formerly given to the Jesuits at the earliest settlem<sup>t</sup> of N[ew] O[rleans] at whose expulsion the estates reverted to those who gave them. I heard no complaint whatever of exactions to support the Clergy. Nor do I believe that the expenses attending their maintenance, considering their celibacy, any way to be compared with our clergy. Bishop Dubois in this city has only \$800 a year with a house to live in & has 2 Clergymen inmates with him & who eat at his table. Bp. Hobart has a superb house & a salary of \$3500 a year, as much I believe as nearly all the Roman Catholic clergymen together. There are subjects enough of discordance, probably, between the old French & the new American settlers without making unnecessary reflections at this enlightened period on the Rom. Cath. Religion, of all others the most odious. In our highly favoured country no established Church, thank God, exists. Let us confine our disputes & animosities to politics, an ample field, & leave the Clergy & their flocks to seek their road to Heaven, according to their respective Creeds, & live as far as possible, in peace & harmony with each other.

. . . . .

31<sup>st</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>, Thurs<sup>y</sup>. . . . I have lost another friend & playmate of my childhood, Martin Hoffman, late Auctioneer, who died of apoplexy yest<sup>y</sup> morn<sup>g</sup>, aged 65, about 4 years younger than myself. He leaves a large family of 11 Children, the youngest 2 years. His oldest son, Murray Hoffman is a lawyer of credit & extensive practice. M<sup>r</sup> H. married early, Beulah Murray daughter of M<sup>r</sup> Robert Murray & sister of John Murray J<sup>r</sup> the philanthropist. She died early, & he next married Miss Seton, by whom he had this flock of 10 Children. He was a kind hearted man, but always unfortunate, & I believe leaves nothing. I may attend his funeral tomorrow, weather permitting, & drop a tear over the remains of my departed friend.

. . . . .  
[Addressed by:] Ship Tennessee

---

NEW YORK, Sat<sup>y</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup>, 1828

By the Azelia, to have sailed yest<sup>y</sup> my letter <sup>2</sup> of 22<sup>d</sup> was despatched, as I tho't you w<sup>d</sup> naturally feel solicitous to hear some particulars concerning my late dear friend Gov<sup>r</sup> Clinton of whose sudden death I made a mem<sup>o</sup> on the cover of y<sup>r</sup> brothers letter of 14<sup>th</sup> inst. by the Louisiana. Indeed I can scarcely yet realize this severe dispensation to his family, friends & Nation. I hope that it will be sanctified to me esp<sup>y</sup> by calling my tho'ts from this transitory world & fixing them more intently on the future. It is gratifying to me to remark the general feeling of sympathy & respect that appears in all quarters. Former political differences had nearly terminated & all appeared to be buried in his grave. A universal expression of regret & esteem flows in from all quarters & this city in particular pays every attention to his memory. For my part, I have not attended any of the So[ciety] or public meetings that have taken

<sup>2</sup> Not among the Pintard MSS. owned by The New-York Historical Society.

place, being mostly in the evenings. The inclemency of the weather & absolute impossibility of hearing, made it best for me not to go, but I have not been wanting in my suggestions to others, w<sup>h</sup> may possibly have produced more effect than any speech, were I capable of delivering one in public, c<sup>d</sup> have done. It is in contemplation to erect a suitable edifice for the Mercantile Library association to cost, ground & all \$30,000. If executed it is to be named *Clinton Hall*, no doubt at the instigation of my benevolent friend W<sup>m</sup> Wood, who you have seen, the Founder of the Institution & who must be gratified at this splendid success of his, once called romantic, efforts. But the main tribute to the services of Gov<sup>r</sup> Clinton will *not* be paid. Our Legislature will restore, simply, the am<sup>t</sup> of salary due him as Canal Comm<sup>r</sup> out of which he was shamefully turned thro' the malice & venom of his Foes. This nefarious act recoiled on his persecutors, for it excited public reprobation at the time & raised his popularity. Now, however, it is to be regretted, as diminishing the salary w<sup>h</sup> w<sup>d</sup> otherwise have been due. The most from this just debt, may am<sup>t</sup> to about \$20,000, better than nothing for his destitute minor children. A grant of \$100,000 certificate at 6 p<sup>r</sup> c<sup>t</sup> till the youngest child comes of age, w<sup>d</sup> not be commensurate to the great boon that M<sup>r</sup> Clinton has left to the State & esp<sup>r</sup> to this City, where landed property has been enhanced a hundred fold & far beyond in the upper parts of the city. This act of justice it is in vain to hope for. I feel grateful for what is doing & have not dared to write in the papers, least by suggesting too much, we might mar the whole. It is singular that at the meeting of our Senators & representatives in Congress to pass complimentary resolutions, M<sup>r</sup> Van Beuren of the former was Chairman, & M<sup>r</sup> Verplanck, Sec<sup>y</sup>, M<sup>r</sup> Clintons two most virulent political enemies in this State. The Resolutions were unanimously adopted, a proof of the total oblivion of all animosities thank God. As before remarked, Gov<sup>r</sup> C. died full of popularity & fame & has left a monument

behind, the g<sup>t</sup> western Canal, that will endure for ages. It sh<sup>d</sup> be called the *Clinton* Canal, but his name is identified with. There is I fear a lurking spirit of jealousy, that will not do this act of Justice. I have done my possible, so let it pass. Adieu my once highly esteemed friend & benefactor.

I find that I am wrong about the Washington meeting. Gen. Van Renselaer M<sup>r</sup> Clintons warmest friend was Chairman & M<sup>r</sup> Van Beuren Sec<sup>y</sup>.

Monday [February] 25<sup>th</sup> . . . I availed myself of a leisure hour yest<sup>r</sup> p. m. to discharge a duty that I owed to the memory of my deceased friend, whose loss I shall always deplore, by writing a letter of condolence to his oldest son Ch[arle]s Clinton a very promising young man, & who is happily married to one of M<sup>r</sup> John Hone's daughters, an heiress. Charles was private Sec<sup>y</sup> to his father, Salary \$500, and he is continued in the same office by L<sup>t</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> Pitcher, a sick inexperienced man, & to whom the services of a sec<sup>y</sup>, who is acquainted with all his Fathers views & intentions must be highly important. I wrote with a very heavy heart, for I was naturally muted, to recall the death of M<sup>rs</sup> Clinton & of my protegé James Henry Clinton, whom you may recollect & who was cut off in the very prime of youth, as before intimated to you. Mother read of course my letter, heartily written like all my letters to whomsoever. She did not think it one of my happiest, but what c<sup>d</sup> a poor broken hearted friend say, more than express his sincere & profound grief. I was not called to write a panegyric, nor could I if inclined, do justice to the merit of my late illustrious friend, the greatest benefactor that our state ever had, Altho his uncle Gov<sup>r</sup> George Clinton rendered most important services to our State, during the Rev[olutionar]y War. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [February] 26<sup>th</sup> [*sic for 27th*] Dear Mother has had an honour conferred on her, in her old days. At a meeting of Ladies to aid the Greeks, she was nominated one of the Committee to solicit donations. She has accepted, but it will be a difficult task to get much,

as a Committee of Females have just swept the streets in favour of the Orphan Assylum, very destitute of Funds to support this important Institution. Mother will do her best, however, & sh<sup>d</sup> [she] prove any way successful as she has done among the good plain people of New Utrecht, I shall rejoice. The nomination I attribute to my friend Wood. I cannot say that I feel obliged to him, for Mothers years & my long constant services in the cause of humanity ought to excuse her. She meant to have commenced this day, but it rains again. On Monday ev<sup>s</sup> Mother & Sister were to have taken tea with M<sup>rs</sup> Schencks musical family. A raw boisterous ev<sup>s</sup> prevented. D<sup>r</sup> Davizac was to have accompanied them. . . . Your brother expects another consignment by the Illinois of 500 bales from his friend M<sup>r</sup> Franklin w<sup>h</sup> I hope will turn to better account than the first adventure.

Thur<sup>y</sup> [February] 28<sup>th</sup>. The Illinois arrived last ev<sup>s</sup> & before getting y<sup>r</sup> letter, we saw by the morn<sup>s</sup> paper, M<sup>rs</sup> Wederstrand among the passengers, child & servant. When your brother came down about 10 o'clock, he instantly went to the ship & placed Madame with her retinue & baggage in a Hack, & despatched her to Broome St. This visit, short as it may be, materially interferes with the poor Greeks. Mother & Sister were going on their mendicant tour & possibly may have left home before intelligence of M<sup>rs</sup> W's visit was sent up. . . . You are pleased with the new School for y<sup>r</sup> daughters. I hope that the favourable account you give of Miss McLeod will prove lasting & why sh<sup>d</sup> it not, the very organization of her Academy indicates her ta[s]te & capacity & I am glad to hear that our Turtle Dove [Louise Davidson] improves. But why wish to send them as Boarders. Surely your own well regulated family will not undo the lessons & instructions of Miss Mc. . . . Really Miss Proctor is a prodigy & merits all the care of a wealthy parent. . . .

Friday [February] 29<sup>th</sup>. You feel anxious to hear the impressions made by your friend M<sup>rs</sup> W[eder-

strandt]. It seldom happens that a Lady so much extolled as M<sup>rs</sup> W. comes up to the expectations anticipated of her. But really this ext[raordinary] & accomplished Female exceeds your very flattering description of her power of mind, ease & elegance of expression. Mother is charmed. For myself I c<sup>d</sup> hear but little. Altho' just arrived from sea, with Sister she went shopping in B<sup>d</sup>way before & after dinner. In the ev<sup>g</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Palmer called & she with Sister & brother waited on M<sup>rs</sup> Palmer. I admire her masculine energetic character, without any appearance of affectation or presumption. The object of her visit she keeps to herself. Brother supposes to raise a loan to stock her plantation with slaves. As she does not communicate, of course no enquiries are made. She rests to day, & sets off for Balt[im]o[re] to morrow, & says if she can accomplish her business, she w<sup>d</sup> endeavour to be back to return with the Illinois on the 15<sup>th</sup>. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Kentucky

---

NEW YORK, Sat<sup>y</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> March, 1828

. . . Dear Sister got up a Tea party, for your friend M<sup>rs</sup> Wederstrandt, last ev<sup>g</sup>, consisting of y<sup>r</sup> brothers & her friends. Every preparation was genteel & even profuse. . . . M<sup>r</sup> Davizac was with us. The Lectures being concluded he leaves this next Tuesday to visit his Mothers family in Virginia, after w<sup>h</sup> he proposes embarking at Norfolk for N. O. & attend the Infirmary next summer. He is really a very genteel, modest, unobtrusive young man. He cannot as he once intended visit our Cadets, w<sup>h</sup> I regret.

Monday 3<sup>d</sup> March. It is with pain that my pen has to record the unexpected death of M<sup>rs</sup> Furman the wife of my president. On Thurs<sup>y</sup> night she fell either getting in or out of bed. She was very corpulent having been long afflicted with dropsy, for w<sup>h</sup> every experiment was

tried in vain. . . . On Sat<sup>y</sup> M<sup>rs</sup> Wederstrandt set out for Brunswick at 11, in the Steam Boat. . . . Severe as the storm was and having prepared with more than usual solemnity to participate, I attended the Communion in my old French Church & received it at the hands of my esteemed Rev. friend M<sup>r</sup> Eastburn. My feelings were quite overpowered, but I restrained them until the solemn duties of the day were performed. . . .

(12 o'clock) M<sup>r</sup> Boyd has just called in. M<sup>rs</sup> B. has rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from her brother M<sup>r</sup> Bayard, who with my dear Sister Patty set off on Thur<sup>y</sup> last for Virginia to attend the accouchment of Julia [Washington] to take place this month. Distressing to add that Julia has lost her little girl, without much previous indisposition I presume, for the intelligence came all at once upon her parents, to the great affliction of her tender hearted Mother. They set off immediately . . .

Tuesday [March] 4<sup>th</sup>. This day the Greek Ladies report the am<sup>t</sup> of their subscriptions. With great personal exertion Dear Mother had obtained \$95, last aft.noon. To round \$100 M<sup>r</sup> Servoss agreed to pay the balance, if not rec<sup>d</sup> this morn<sup>g</sup>. Sister after tea last ev<sup>g</sup> ran to some families & procured \$8, in addition to 82 before collected. 2 Rainy days & one devoted to y<sup>r</sup> friend M<sup>rs</sup> Wederstrandt left Mother only 3 days for operation. It was too much for her to run up & down so many flights of stone steps & she was over fatigued on Sat<sup>y</sup> ev<sup>g</sup> but happily she has attained her mark & her name will not be disgraced when published. The aim of the ladies was to get \$100 each. Some have done more who were within reach of the wealthy. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [March] 5<sup>th</sup>. I attended the Funeral, as pall bearer, of M<sup>rs</sup> Furman, in his vault in S<sup>t</sup> Pauls Church Yard, penalty \$250 by law for interments south of Canal St. a barbarous act. My feelings were very solemn. M<sup>rs</sup> F. was 9 days older than myself. She died in full possession of her mind & quite easy & resigned. Afflicted with an incurable dropsy, she is happily released. I see in the morn<sup>g</sup> paper that M<sup>r</sup> Boyd, who



you may recollect lived with us at Cap<sup>t</sup> Johnsons in Newark. He & his sister lived together unmarried, at Hackensack & in comfortable circumstances. Tired of life, he put a period to his existence. Awful! The precepts of Xt<sup>y</sup> had no hold on him. . . .

Thur<sup>y</sup> [March] 6<sup>th</sup>. This day the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Upfold is instituted Rector of S<sup>t</sup> Thomas. May he prove a faithful serv<sup>t</sup> of his Lord Jesus Christ & acceptable to his congregation. His talents are moderate, but he may be not the less useful, if he be pious. High Church is the cheif merit for promotion in this Diocese, & stern opposition to the Am. Bible So[ciety]. God forgive them. Oppugnation is harmless, if not useful, as it not only stimulates its friends but teaches them circumspec<sup>n</sup>. I have just read D<sup>r</sup> Milnor's beautiful sermon on the death of Gov<sup>r</sup> Clinton of w<sup>h</sup> I will send you a copy & one for M<sup>rs</sup> Foster. . . .

[Addressed:] Favoured by Doc<sup>r</sup> Davizac  
Ship Russell

NEW YORK, Sat<sup>y</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> March, 1828

On returning home yest<sup>y</sup> p. m. I found D<sup>r</sup> Davizac, who I thot had gone to Virginia. He concluded to take passage in the Russell to sail this day. A letter rec<sup>d</sup> from Pintard yest<sup>y</sup> of 5<sup>th</sup> is inclosed in my packet. My wayward g<sup>d</sup>son & namesake wishes to abandon the pursuit of physic for the roving life of a Mariner. . . . Let us try to induce Marney, to take up his fathers profession & become a second Francis as his Uncle says. . . .

Monday [March] 10<sup>th</sup> . . . Having a cold in my head I did not go to Church for fear of aggravating it, w<sup>h</sup> I regretted as it was the first appearance of our new Rector M<sup>r</sup> Upfold, having taken part with the friends of the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Eastburn, mistaken motives might have been imputed, but not so. I rather rejoice that M<sup>r</sup> E. may be the founder of a new Church & the pastor of a united warm hearted congregation w<sup>h</sup> c<sup>d</sup> not have been

the case at S<sup>t</sup> Thomas. . . . My friend George Rapelje called to ask whether I had rec<sup>d</sup> any tidings about M<sup>r</sup> [Richard] Stockton from Princeton who was ill, & shortly announced his death, by apoplexy on Friday ev<sup>g</sup>. M<sup>r</sup> S. had attended Trenton court last week, & happily had got home to meet his sudden summons. He had grown extremely corpulent, & the mode of his death has been for some time anticipated. . . .

Tuesday [March] 11<sup>th</sup>. . . . M<sup>r</sup> Bayard being from home I can learn no particulars about M<sup>r</sup> Stocktons death, only that it was not so sudden as reported. His son Richard had he existed was to have inherited the Mansion & its ample domains. Robert, in the U. S. Navy, is at the south, surveying the Florida coast. He married a Georgia heiress. His 3 married daughters have not been lucky. M<sup>rs</sup> Harrisons husband a bankrupt & a sot, his next daughter the handsomest, married a M<sup>r</sup> Roach <sup>3</sup> a Wet Quaker of Bristol [County] Mass<sup>ts</sup> whose father a most respectable Friend is extensively concerned in the whale fishery, the son a partner, is a bon vivant & debauchee. Thompson <sup>4</sup> son of the famous Tea Thompson, thot to be a fortune is a beggar, in consequence of his fathers failure. He went on with L<sup>t</sup> Stockton to take charge, as agent & overseer of his father in laws estate in Georgia. Thus these matrimonial monied speculations have all failed. M<sup>r</sup> S. you know was exceedingly proud & haughty w<sup>h</sup> rendered him very unpopular, tho' his high talents commanded respect, but not esteem. Very selfish & not benevolent. He condemned his Uncle Boudinot for his munificence. I shall not be surprized if, with his aristocratic notions, he sh<sup>d</sup> have left Robert Lord of the Manor & principal heir, with moderate legacies to his 2 other sons & 4 daughters. Robert is a fine frank good hearted seaman, partaking of his mothers side of the house. What I have s<sup>d</sup> is

<sup>3</sup> Caroline Stockton married William R. Rotch, son of William Rotch (Jr.). T. C. Stockton, *The Stockton Family* (1911), p. 128; L. B. Ellis, *History of New Bedford* (1892), pt. II, p. 4.

<sup>4</sup> John Renshaw Thomson (1800-1862) who married Annis Stockton, sister of Robert Field Stockton. *Stockton Family*, p. 130.

mere conjecture. It is 4 years since I last saw M<sup>r</sup> S. during w<sup>h</sup> time he had grown exceedingly corpulent, of w<sup>h</sup> he did not like to be told. At M<sup>r</sup> Boudinots funeral, I inadvertently expressed my surprize at his obesity. One of his daughters overheard me. I s<sup>d</sup> nothing rude. She foolishly repeated, perhaps aggravated my innocent remark, at w<sup>h</sup> he expressed a sensation, w<sup>h</sup> was weak in him. I always resolved that he sh<sup>d</sup> not ever be offended on that score again. D<sup>r</sup> Romaine carried off the freedom of such remarks with great good humour. My God Doctor how fat you grow. Yes, more so than I c<sup>d</sup> wish, & there it ended. . . .

Thur<sup>y</sup> [March] 13<sup>th</sup> . . . On Monday af.noon, I met my new Rector M<sup>r</sup> Upfold, for the first time. It was at the meeting of the Trustees of S<sup>t</sup> Thomas Ch. Scholarship. The Rector is president of the board ex officio, as Senior V[ice] Pres<sup>t</sup> I presided since the decease of M<sup>r</sup> Duffy. We received him with all due form & respect, & on introducing him to the chair by request, I gave him a brief sketch of the rise & progress of the Institution, w<sup>h</sup> I did with such reference to the memory of his predecessor as was just, & with such remarks as might warm his heart & enlist his feelings to promote the object, w<sup>h</sup> I have so much at heart. You know my zeal on the occasion, & altho' very backward in speaking even before a very small audience, w<sup>h</sup> I can never attempt without embarrassing diffidence, I believe that I acquitted myself tolerably well. At least M<sup>r</sup> U. avowed, that the foundation of a scholarship was a favourite object with him & that he w<sup>d</sup> promote it to the best of his power. He was presented with a certificate of Life Membership, subscribed (\$25) by some ladies of his congregation, for w<sup>h</sup> he expressed his grateful thanks. Mama & Sister led the subscription, as usual, \$1. each, a mere trifle when all combine. I inclose for you a copy & one for M<sup>r</sup> Gordon of the 9<sup>th</sup> Report of our Savings Bank, by w<sup>h</sup> you will see its won-

derful progress & prosperity. By the way the scholarship Fund of \$2500 am<sup>ts</sup> to 1049 at In<sup>t</sup> at 6 p<sup>r</sup> C<sup>t</sup>. I considered it as founded, if only the Interest be added to the principal annually, it will require by this slow process 15 years 8 m<sup>o</sup> & 19 days to accumulate to \$2500. I have said all I could to excite zeal, but we Episcopalians are at best a torpid set. The Presbyterians w<sup>d</sup> accomplish it in a single year, & painful to add, from Trinity down, not a single Episcopal Church in the city or state follows our example. The avenue to the purse is thro' the heart, & we must change our hearts of stone to hearts of flesh before much can be expected or hoped for.

. . . . .

---

NEW YORK, 15<sup>th</sup> March, Sat<sup>y</sup>, 1828

. . . My gratification on always hearing y<sup>r</sup> good brother expressing himself in such high terms of my beloved daughter & the Doctor. As I was taking my breakfast, alone, at 8 to come down early to my office, we discoursed about y<sup>r</sup> sons, that as Pintard seems bent on the Navy, the propriety of bringing up Marney as a physician. . . . It was discoursing on this subject that led me to enquire the estimation in which the Doctor was held. He told me that M<sup>r</sup> Linton, particularly, regarded him as a person of powerful mind & talents, & that his character as a physician stood very high in y<sup>r</sup> city. That he was temperate in his habits, & a favourite with his female patients. Above all, that you had a mutual respect for each others counsels, a proof of my beloved daughters discretion & of the judgment of her good man. . . .

. . . . .  
Wed<sup>y</sup> [March] 19<sup>th</sup>. This is our Thomas' Birthday, now 15 years, the first he ever spent with his parents. He is a kind hearted youth & very attentive to me. He is reserved with his Father, who probably justly, thinks

that boys ought to be kept under the strictest discipline & thinks me but a poor manager. . . .

Friday [March] 21<sup>st</sup>. I have been just thanking my friend M<sup>r</sup> Depeyster for communicating to me a letter from the Rev. D<sup>r</sup> Jarvis, who was in London last Jan<sup>y</sup>, sojourning at present in France educating his children. He draws a most flattering picture of the friendship & hospitality of the English gentry & ecclesiastics to whom he was introduced. . . . The independent fortunes, high education, refined minds & polished manners of the Nobility & gentry of Eng<sup>d</sup> must have rendered the intercourse of such a person, as the Rev. D<sup>r</sup> Jarvis most delightful. He is himself an accomplished esp<sup>y</sup> Theological, Scholar, a gentleman in manners & competent to sustain his part & character in the most intellectual circles. In my estimation D<sup>r</sup> J. is the highest scholar of the Epis. Church in the U. States, & not very inferior to the eminent Divines of the countries he visits. . . . I congratulate y<sup>r</sup> good friend M<sup>rs</sup> Chew on the honourable election of M<sup>r</sup> C. as president of the Branch B<sup>k</sup> w<sup>h</sup> I hope will add to his comfort & happiness of a family so associated with yours as to be very dear to me, also M<sup>rs</sup> Smith & family, not forgetting Miss Frances. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Frances

---

NEW YORK, Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 1828

. . . The papers will have imparted the scandalous conduct of our Legislature respect<sup>s</sup> the family of Gov<sup>r</sup> Clinton, \$10,000 being the extent of their mean bounty, & numbers opposed even to that. Indeed we may well say that Republics are ungrateful. Congress likewise are passing by the claims of the old Rev[olutionar]y officers, of whom, had I been one I sh<sup>d</sup> have ranked among the youngest. Almost all, in this State, have turned 70, & the last hope of several to comfort & sup-

port their short remaining years, depended on this act of Justice to their toils & sufferings. It is impossible to estimate what they endured, esp<sup>y</sup> during the 3 first years of the Rev<sup>y</sup> War, almost without necessary clothing, blankets, shoes or linen, & often living on the shortest allowance. Their pay, depreciated money, a whole year of w<sup>h</sup> was inadequate to purchase a new suit of plain regimentals. When I recur to facts, within my personal knowledge, I execrate the cold blooded statesmen who can look with indifference on the claims of these war worn veterans, & turn a deaf ear to their supplications. . . . G. Britain, at the close of our Revolution remunerated all those whose estates were confiscated for their loyalty, & gave all the Refugee officers half pay for life w<sup>h</sup> they are receiving to this day, Whilst America, w<sup>h</sup> won the day, & acquire[d] such immense resources in land, refuse a loaf of bread to those who began & served thro' the whole course of the war. . . . I do not repine at the due generosity of Congress to Gen. La Fayette, but this act of national justice ought not to swallow up our poor fellow citizens claims. The shameful ingratitude of our State, to the destitute family of its greatest Benefactor has called up reflections so often repeated as to become irksome I fear. . . .

. . . . .  
 Thur<sup>y</sup> [March] 27<sup>th</sup> . . . I send herewith a little public<sup>n</sup> Cook on the efficacy of White Mustard, w<sup>h</sup> is all in vogue here, also a pound of the seed, w<sup>h</sup> possibly may be beneficial to Darling. The Doctor will of course examine it. As far as I can judge, no harm can arise from taking it. Sister uses it, some ladies conceit possibly, think they have derived great benefit from it. At all events you can, if useless as medecine, convert the mustard, by grinding it with a bottle to table purposes, w<sup>h</sup> after all is the best way of preparing it tho' not quite so pleasing to the eye it is more pungent. Give it a trial.

. . . . .

Sat<sup>y</sup> [March] 29<sup>th</sup>. . . . My successive letters have pretty nearly shown the state of my afflicted mind w<sup>h</sup> will not be relieved until after the meeting of the Directors the latter of May, when, if all losses by *fraud*, to be thrown up[on] me, it will sweep away the little of my hard earnings thro life. I endeavour to avoid brooding on it not to enfeeble my mental powers, w<sup>h</sup> at best are bad eno[ugh], till then a truce to reflections . . .

Monday [March] 31<sup>st</sup>. . . . .

Mother answers y<sup>r</sup> letter by this conveyance. I apprehend that she has wrong impressions about the Female High School, established in a new part of the city. It may not, as yet, be the resort of children of the higher ranks, however, the case is altering daily, & those of several respectable families now go to it. 2 young ladies, Miss McIntyres our next door neighbours, among others, who strangers at first, to all around them, are now better reconciled. They are about Louise's age. I am convinced that the system of education & proficiency of the scholars are superior to that of any other female seminary in the city.

. . . . .  
1 P. M. Your brother has brought me y<sup>r</sup> letter of 15<sup>th</sup> by the John Linton. It is a pleasure to hear, or rather for Sister, of the gaieties of y<sup>r</sup> city & friends. Really M<sup>r</sup> Dicks party exceeded any thing I imagine ever exhibited in this city, even by D<sup>r</sup> Hosack, who with Philip Hone rank foremost in splendid entertainments. I rejoice more to hear of the Doctors success in his establishment. . . .

---

NEW YORK, 4<sup>th</sup> April, 1828  
A N East Snow Storm

. . . . .  
Yest<sup>y</sup> at the meeting of the Managers of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] I had the gratification of hearing read a letter from y<sup>r</sup> B. S. resolving to supply the destitute families of y<sup>r</sup> city with the Scriptures. Col. Varick

was elected unanimously president of the A. B. S. in place of M<sup>r</sup> Jay resigned. He has presided at our meetings since the decease of Gen. Clarkson & has been one of our most liberal benefactors. It was resolved not to publish the Spanish Bible with the Apocrypha, w<sup>h</sup> will interfere with sending the Scriptures to Spanish America. But the Young Men's Bible S<sup>o</sup> of Phil<sup>a</sup> are undertaking the circulation, not being restricted, w<sup>h</sup> will answer the same purpose. Our business increases so, that we are obliged to provide other accommodations for conducting the printing. We are about purchasing a lot & erecting a Brick Building thereon, nearly opposite the Depository, the whole expense of which will be about \$4000, for w<sup>h</sup> the printer will allow us an Interest of 7 p<sup>r</sup> Cent. Heaven smiles on our labours.

Sat<sup>y</sup> [April] 5<sup>th</sup>. . . . M<sup>r</sup> Bayard in a letter of 31<sup>st</sup> March mentions, that M<sup>r</sup> Stockton has left the Mansion & premises, after the decease of M<sup>rs</sup> Stockton, to Robert charged with \$10,000 payable to his 2 brothers Samuel & William, Tusculum & several town lots to Samuel, the old Stockton farm near the Seminary to William. The residue of his Estate estimated from \$60 to \$80,000 is left in trust to Robert & M<sup>r</sup> Bayard, the interest to be paid to the widow & daughters, during life. M<sup>rs</sup> Stockton Robert & M<sup>r</sup> Bayard Executors. I think the daughters have hard measure, but I always thot that M<sup>r</sup> S's aristocratic notions w<sup>d</sup> give all to his oldest & 2 other sons. The Mansion & lands are very valuable. Cap<sup>t</sup> Stockton you know married an heiress, & has an elegant house near M<sup>r</sup> Bayards. I have never been at Princeton since it was built.

I have just heard of the death of the Rev. Cave Jones, Chaplain of the Navy Yard, Brooklyn after 5 days illness. He was an excellent man & pious, a worthy & useful member of the Am[erican] Bible So[ciety] & constant attendant at the Managers. He had a violent contest, with Bp. Hobart, some years ago, & was obliged to leave Trinity Church, with a grant of \$10,000. He leaves a wife & 2 daughters, comfortably provided, re-



markably well educated ladies & will no doubt make good matches. I respected M<sup>r</sup> J. who I considered persecuted. But he has gone to his rest.

(2 p. m.) A friend has just called to tell me that the report of M<sup>r</sup> Jones' death is *not true*, that he was better this morn<sup>g</sup>. Thank God. I pray that he may recover. The office of Chaplain is probably worth \$1000 p<sup>r</sup> an. & the chance of succession has given circulation to the rumour. The family of M<sup>r</sup> J. is very amiable, & I have always been respectful to them, tho' contrary to the opinions of our B[isho]p men. Strange world of antipathies we live in. More ab<sup>t</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Jones. A friend who called at his home last ev<sup>g</sup>. He was so low, that it was not supposed that he c<sup>d</sup> live thro' the night, easier at 12, but worse this morn<sup>g</sup>. Complaint, inflammation of the liver & his case extremely critical. I feel interested in his fate.

Monday [April] 7<sup>th</sup>. M<sup>r</sup> Jones was better yest<sup>r</sup>. It being Easter Sunday, we all attended the Communion, a circumstance most grateful to me that all our household are of one mind on this important duty. . . . To Bp. Taylors Worthy Communicant, I acknowledge my obligations in my late preparation. It is an old work, now out of print, or I w<sup>d</sup> send you a copy. It is very spiritual, in the style of his Holy Living & Dying. I read my favourite Sermon, D<sup>r</sup> Barrow, on the Resurrection, nearly 11 Folio close printed pages, in the aft.noon, when I staid home on purpose. All the rest went to Church, altho the day was raw, & so cold last night, that we had a sharp frost. . . . Order of the day with me. To attend at 12, [the meeting of the Trustees of the Sailors Snug Harbour. We have the pro[s]pect of obtaining an act to alter the location of the Hospittal] the object of my long pursuit & wishes. But we can do nothing until the suit ag<sup>t</sup> the Trustees shall be determined, w<sup>h</sup> will be delayed in the Supreme Court of the U States until next winter. At 5 p. m. I have to attend the Domestic Soc[ie]ty] meeting, preparatory to the Anniv<sup>r</sup>. I am endeavouring to rid myself of this S<sup>o</sup> in

consequence of my deafness. At 1, the election of Ch[urch] Wardens & Vestry Du S<sup>t</sup> Esprit, from w<sup>h</sup> I c<sup>d</sup> wish to withdraw also, but must continue a little longer till our new minister shall be settled, & probably, if we erect a new Church, to render my services on the occasion, w<sup>h</sup> will not be until another Year, & may afford me at least innocent occupation, if spared. I almost dread a total unoccupied life, least I sh<sup>d</sup> fall into the too often, old mans vice, intemperance to kill time, w<sup>h</sup> God forbid, but I have seen too many fatal instances, that make me shudder. Wed<sup>y</sup> p. m. Savings Bank, Friday p. m. A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] Standing Comm<sup>e</sup>. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship DeWitt Clinton

---

NEW YORK, Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April, 1828

. . . This day the City Hotel in B<sup>d</sup>way, the largest establishment in this City, was sold at the Merchants Exchange, & purchased by John Jacob Astor for \$121,000. The Building cost more money & the ground 100 ft on B<sup>d</sup>way by 175 in depth is worth more. An immense bargain. This location belonged to Cap<sup>t</sup> Delancey of Ma[ma]roneck & in 1790 or 91, in the days of my ephemeral prosperity I was concerned in the purchase as Trustee for Tammany So[ciety] for \$15,000. The Buildings on it were not worth the cost of taking down. In consequence of the catastrophe of the times, the Society c<sup>d</sup> not prosecute their design of erecting their Hall &c. & sold it for \$18,000 to an association who undertook to build the present Hotel by Subscription. Before it was completed however, they got set for want of Funds, & were obliged to borrow a large sum, about \$25,000 from the Bank of N York, w<sup>h</sup> enabled them to finish it. But the speculation not yielding an Interest, the Bank was compelled to foreclose their mortgage. Ezra Weeks, an enterprising master builder from the interior of Massachusetts, had the spirit to grapple

with it, in company with M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Tom, a successful merch<sup>t</sup>. A considerable expense was incurred to put it in the order it now is & the investment became profitable, as it [is] a place of the first resort. Some difference between Weeks & a son of the late M<sup>r</sup> Emmet who married Tom's daughter<sup>5</sup> has led, I understand, to the sale. How Weeks has let it slip thro' his hands is probably owing to a large investment in a ship Railway that probably demands all his resources. Such is the History of this piece of property & such the worth of ground in B<sup>d</sup>way. Alas! the Delancey family, what a loss they sustained by their Loyalty. The land in this city, called Delanceys ground, was confiscated & the family rec<sup>d</sup> a compensation from the Crown of £80,000 Sterling, less than \$400,000. This property now covered with Houses, exceeds probably in value, *Five millions* of Dollars. They had great possessions also on this island & in Westchester County. How the City Tavern as it was then called escaped I know not. It was originally the City Dwelling of L<sup>t</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> Delancey, a very lofty proud man. This family is sprung from the Huguenots. Their Ancestor a shrewd intelligent calculator possessed of some money, laid it all out in lands & probably purchased the whole of the above ground, at the beginning of the last century for less than \$10,000. But of this I speak without authority.

. . . . .  
 Thur<sup>s</sup> [April] 10. The Presbyterian Congregations of D<sup>r</sup> Spring & D<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Auleys Church having become too numerous for comfortable accommodation, agreed to erect an other place of worship, the expense of w<sup>h</sup> & lot is estimated at \$20,000. It was agreed to open a subscription, for w<sup>h</sup> purpose a number of persons met one ev<sup>g</sup> of this week, no subscriber to give more than \$100. \$22,500 were instantly subscribed in single shares except M<sup>r</sup> Arthur Tappan who subscribed 10 shares, or

<sup>5</sup> It was *John Tom's* daughter, Anna Riker Tom, who married Thomas Addis Emmet, Jr., in 1823. T. A. Emmet, *The Emmet Family* (1898), p. 321; *N. Y. Evening Post*, April 5, 1823.

\$1000, the usual subscriptions & donations of this benevolent man. This is another instance of the active piety of the Presbyterians in this city. We have nothing like it in my Church. I send a copy of a letter to a Unitarian Clergyman, w<sup>h</sup> is republished in last weeks Observer,<sup>6</sup> written by M<sup>r</sup> Tappans brother Lewis now in partnership with him. The pamphlet may be of use to some of those who with you possible, belong to this Infidel self called Christians who deny their Lord & Master. May they like the Writer Repent & be converted. Unitarianism is going down in Boston, & in Germany many of its learned professors are returning to the True Faith. This heresy however has its sway, with those who wish to be learned above what is written & to soar above vulgar prejudices.

Saturday [April] 12<sup>th</sup> 2 p. m. I called last p. m. to sympathize with M<sup>r</sup> John Slidell of this city, on the loss of his fine son,<sup>7</sup> a Midshipman who with two others was drowned in the Chesapeake on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst. by a flaw of wind oversetting the Boat in w<sup>h</sup> they were sailing. The particulars are in the Observer of this date, under the head of "Melancholly Accident." Melancholly indeed. Young Hunter<sup>8</sup> who alone survived, is I believe the son of M<sup>rs</sup> H. M<sup>r</sup> Stocktons Sister. He owed his preservation it is said, to a large overcoat from w<sup>h</sup> he c<sup>d</sup> not extricate himself & which served to buoy him up & to protect him from the chilling effects of the cold weather & water. . . .

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April. A complete N. E. snowstorm. The snow melts as it falls but whitens the Roofs on the north side of the Houses. It began yest<sup>r</sup> morn<sup>g</sup> lightly, w<sup>h</sup> prevented Mother & Sister from going to Church. I went in the morn<sup>g</sup> but staid home p. m. The inclemency of the weather will prevent my attendance, for the last time, at the anniv<sup>r</sup> meeting of the humble but useful

<sup>6</sup> The "Letter from a Gentleman in Boston, To a Unitarian Clergyman of that City" was printed in the *New-York Observer*, for Saturday, April 5, 1828.

<sup>7</sup> William J. Slidell. *N. Y. Observer*, Ap. 12, 1828.

<sup>8</sup> Bushrod W. Hunter. *Ibid.*

So[ciety] for the Improvement of Domestic, w<sup>h</sup> is becoming very beneficial. My increasing deafness compelled me to decline an election as president. May it, with every other useful Institution prosper. This is a wonderful period for benevolent & religious exertions, all tending to meliorate the condition of Society & to extend the diffusion of the Scriptures & conversion of the Heathen. These signs of the Times indicate the fulfilment of the prophecies & the downfall of the Turkish Empire. Wonderful is the extension of kind feelings for the poor Greeks & the contributions now receiving will exceed the former. How grateful to the feelings of the kind hearted females who have taken an interest on behalf of their sex in Greece & esp<sup>y</sup> those of my friend Wood, to whom the first effort was entirely owing as also the present excitement. I must one day commit to writing all I know ab<sup>t</sup> this ext[raordinary] eccentric, mode[s]t benevolent man. The more than Man of Ross of our age. The Committee on the subject of contributing to the relief of Gov<sup>r</sup> Clintons Heirs have made an elegant pathetic Report & the appeal I trust will make a powerful impression on the minds of our fellow citizens. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Tennessee

---

NEW YORK, 15<sup>th</sup> April, 1828. Tuesday

. . . . .  
 This day the ceremony of laying the foundation of the Ch[urch] of the Ascension, by Bp. Hobart is to take place at 4 p. m. Happily the weather has cleared off so as to permit the assemblage of clergymen & others usual on these occasions. Altho' it w<sup>d</sup> gratify me much, as the friend of the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Eastburn to be present yet I cannot leave my office till too late. See what a slave I am. M<sup>r</sup> E. is no favourite at the Episcopal Palace, on acct of his being a zealous member of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] as I have before mentioned. A vindictive

spirit of proscription prevails in this Diocese, ag<sup>t</sup> all who do not bow the knee to High Church. I am sorry for it. I hardly dare open my lips, thro' fear of giving offence, & refrain as much as possible from collision, wishing to descend to the grave in peace. But our High folks do not or will not understand the signs of the Times. The Evangelical corps is increasing, & will in a few years predominate. . . .

Wed<sup>r</sup> [April] 16<sup>th</sup>. Fine day. No Louisiana, now out 27 days. I hope our dear Louise is not aboard. Last ev<sup>s</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Olivier from Terre au Boeuf, took tea with us, as he has done twice before. He is a genteel unobtrusive young man. Without apology I read my book while he converses with the ladies & y<sup>r</sup> brother. Last ev<sup>s</sup> the party went to see the process of making artificial Figures with Glass, w<sup>h</sup> is very nice & curious. I staid at home, as usual, with Thomas studying his lessons. His father has taken him from Jamaica & put him with a M<sup>r</sup> Foster, a teacher of celebrity. Thomas will make, under his fathers eye, an excellent Merchant. He begins to write like copper plate & is quite familiar with figures. He is very correct, reads his Testament, Tracts &c<sup>a</sup> & quiet as one c<sup>d</sup> wish. I hope that our lively Pintard may in time take after him.

. . . . .  
[Addressed by:] Ship John Linton

---

NEW YORK, Wed<sup>r</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> April, 1828

. . . . .  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup>. . . . .  
When M<sup>r</sup> Clinton, who was nominated Major General of the So[uthern] district of this state at the commencem<sup>t</sup> of the late water [*sic for war*], an appointment frowned down at Washington & did not take place, He offered me any station in his family that might be agreeable. I told him, that of military sec<sup>r</sup> with an understanding that I sh<sup>d</sup> attend him in the field, to w<sup>h</sup> he accorded with the rank of Colonel. He asked me

how I thot I w<sup>d</sup> behave. I replied that I knew how I ought to & that having faced danger I thought I could screw my courage up to the sticking place & not disgrace him. He laughed heartily & candidly confessed, that it was a lesson that he had to learn. The Clintons are naturally brave, & he had the fame of his father & uncle to instigate him, whilst I sh<sup>d</sup> have relied solely on myself, altho' Uncle Cap<sup>t</sup> Pintard w<sup>d</sup> always have been before my eyes. The chance was never afforded, & this anecdote w<sup>h</sup> I may have before repeated, has been reserved within my own bosom, except that for a few days I was dubbed Colonel, by some of M<sup>r</sup> C's immediate friends w<sup>h</sup> shows that he had intimated his intentions. I am wandering, but anything better than brooding over sorrow. At the meeting of the Managers of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] Col Troup remarked to me how rapidly we were descending to the grave. He is my elder by 2 or 3 years. I replied Colonel that march which has lasted 3 score years & 10 cannot be called rapid. He smiled at the justness of my observation but s<sup>d</sup> that our sun appeared to be setting very fast. The Colonel enjoys every thing but sound health, being asthmatical. . . .

. . . . .  
 Sat<sup>y</sup> [April] 26<sup>th</sup>. Another N. E. cold raw rainy day. I have just concluded & sent to the post office my letter of this date via Mobile, w<sup>h</sup> may possible reach you before this, to inform you of the safe arrival of my dear Turtle Dove,<sup>9</sup> & also my congratulation on that of another g[ran]ddaughter [Lucy Ann] on the 7th inst. to supply her place at N[ew] O[rleans]. Dear Mother & Sister relieved me from much solicitude by keeping the matter secret, w<sup>h</sup> had been communicated by M<sup>rs</sup> Wederstrandt.

. . . . .  
 I have to answer a business letter to M<sup>r</sup> Bayards who informs me that Julia has presented her husband with

<sup>9</sup> Louise Davidson. The arrival of Miss L. Davidson, with Mr. B. D. Green and lady, in the Ship *Kentucky*, Capt. Rathbone, from New Orleans, was noted in the [N. Y.] *Commercial Advertiser*, April 26, 1828.

a son, to his great joy, as likely to perpetuate the name of Washington, a more than natural desire. Mother & child doing well. Aunt Patty to return the last of May. Caroline is to visit Sister the beginning of week after next, to be here on the 12<sup>th</sup> Anniv<sup>y</sup> of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety]. I shall plume myself in presenting my graceful g<sup>d</sup>daughter to her, whose person very much resembles Julias, but Caroline is a squab. She is however of accomplished mind.

Monday [April] 28<sup>th</sup>. . . . As Thomas has left Jamaica, I contemplate placing Marney at an excellent new Institution at Flus[h]ing, under the sup.intendance of the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Muhlenbergh, as Episcopal Clergyman, easy in circumstances, of high classical attainments & devotedly attached to education. I shall endeavour to get a prospectus for you. The principles of the Xt<sup>n</sup> Religion are to be taught, but more will be imparted after an interview with D<sup>r</sup> Milnor. G<sup>d</sup>ma & Sister take Louise this morn<sup>g</sup> to visit the High School. Mother is prejudiced ag<sup>t</sup> it. I hope with me, that after inspec[tio]n she may approve. . . .

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April. Mother & Sister visited the Female High School, the latter highly pleased. A number of genteel young ladies attend it. Miss Starr enquired of Loui[se] the progress of her studies, & that that she might join at once the upper class. She is to commence on Thur<sup>y</sup> 1 May. Two young Misses McIntyres our next door neighbours go there & as the school is within sight 2 or 300 yards distant, she will be indulged to run home at 12, to take a snack, instead of taking any thing to school, w<sup>h</sup> does not come out till 3. No afternoon school, w<sup>h</sup> is allotted to private study. On Thur<sup>y</sup> 1/2 p. 8 Aunt will introduce her. She informed Miss Starr, the reason, on acc<sup>t</sup> of delicate health & fevers, that had retarded her education. But I have no doubt that her genius & ambition will stimulate her to keep pace with her class mates. The embellishments, such as fine needle work & drawing had better be postponed till the fall quarter in Sept<sup>r</sup>. There is a vacation



in August, w<sup>h</sup> is favourable. But you have the card, I think & the terms are very reasonable. Other Female Instructors ask \$20 a quarter for the plain branches & \$5 for every other, French, Music &c<sup>a</sup> & bring up their prices to \$40 a quarter, instead of \$22, w<sup>h</sup> includes every thing at the H. S. Dear Turtle Dove appears pleased with the prospect before her. With Mother & Aunt she called on M<sup>rs</sup> Green yest<sup>y</sup> a. m. who expressed herself in very affect. terms about Louise's behaviour & cheerfulness on the passage & is so much pleased with her, that in case of a visit to Paterson to day, she claimed her as a traveling companion. But the day is obscure, after a fine sunshine & warmth yest<sup>y</sup> w<sup>h</sup> may prevent. I told Louise that the Hotel to w<sup>h</sup> they w<sup>d</sup> probably go, had been a Boarding school, at which you had rec<sup>d</sup> part of y<sup>r</sup> education. Dear me, what a distance to look back. Dear Mother whose praise is in all the Churches, for her exertions in favour of the Greeks, subscribed her mite towards fitting out the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> King as a Missionary to Greece. He has been on the same errand to Palestine. She was invited by M<sup>rs</sup> Tappan to meet M<sup>r</sup> K. at her house, with the other Grecian Ladies, 16, yest<sup>y</sup> at 5. She went & returned highly gratified with the solemnity of the interview & M<sup>r</sup> K's interesting account of the Eastern World. Also his fervent prayer to bless the efforts of these excellent Ladies. \$1000 or \$1200 is what they hope to raise. Mother wished to go on another mendicant tour, but I think she has, for her period of life, done her share. Indeed I doubt a little whether Greece is fair Missionary ground, whatever we may, they think that the Greek is the True Church. What sh<sup>d</sup> we say, if these warm hearted Greek Ladies, in return for our bounty, sh<sup>d</sup> send over a number of Friars to convert us Heretics to the True Faith. "Silver & Gold have we none, but such as we have send we." It is a delicate matter to interfere with religious prejudices. All reformations from the errors & corruptions of the Church of Rome began with the Natives, Luther, Calvin, Wycliffe, Cranmer &c. in their respective coun-

tries. May God speed them however. Mother was warmly excited.

. . . . .  
[Addressed by:] Ship Louisiana

---

NEW YORK, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> [May] 1828

. . . . .  
We had a great day at the Ann[iversar]y meeting of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] yest<sup>r</sup> the finest we ever have had. Mother, Sister & Turtle Dove attended but the two last had to retreat on acc<sup>t</sup> of the heat. Mother staid it out from 1/2 p. 9 to 1/2 p. 2, 5 hours, & was delighted. The addresses were superior, part[icu- larl]y the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Bedells of Phil<sup>a</sup> but they will not be published in time to send by this convey[ance].

. . . . .  
Tues<sup>y</sup> [May] 13<sup>th</sup>. Thank God, the Cadets got home 1/2 p. 7 this morn<sup>g</sup>, never having rec<sup>d</sup> my letter till 1 o'clock Sat<sup>y</sup>. . . . Pintard, indeed both, look extremely well. Cap<sup>t</sup> Rathbone & his mate both promise M<sup>r</sup> Servoss to give him every practical instruction in navigation, & he promises to keep a regular nautical Journal of his voyage, w<sup>h</sup> I hope will please you. Do all you can to dissuade him from his romantic notion. I shall say nothing but recommend him to follow implicitly his parents advice. I dread the sea as a profession. A navy officer, in his best estate, is but a splendid beggar for life. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [May] 14<sup>th</sup>. . . . The prospect of Marneys going to Flushing quite tranquillizes & cheers me. It is a place of easy access, twice a day by Steam Boats & Stages to & fro, a beautiful village, healthy & fine fruit. Altho' within 15 miles of this city I have never seen it. M<sup>r</sup> S[ervoss] talks of taking him on Sat<sup>y</sup> p. m. to return on Sunday, when he can best leave home. I am so office bound that I *cannot* go, but hope to do so hereafter. I shall write to M<sup>r</sup> Muhlenbergh to put him immed[edi-

ately into Greek & hope that at Xmas he will be able to read me a Chapter in the Testament, for w<sup>h</sup> I shall promise him a reward. He has read the 12 Books of Virgils Aeneid, & 4 orations of Cicero. His new preceptor must examine his proficiency & place him where he is qualified to appear.

. . . . .

---

N YORK, Thur<sup>y</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> May, 1828. A rainy day

. . . . .  
 Friday 16, 4 p. m. Pintard sailed yest<sup>y</sup> 2½ p. m. in high glee. His head is quite turned, was dear Turtle Doves remark. Marsden parted with great sang froid. He did not write a single letter home as he said that his brother c<sup>d</sup> tell all that he had to say. This aft.noon his uncle took him in the Linnæus Steamboat to Flushing, a beautiful sail. . . .

. . . . .  
 Monday [May] 19<sup>th</sup> . . . 12 o'clock. A moment to say that I have read the Doctors letter to M<sup>r</sup> S[ervoss]. Alas my beloved dear dear daughter has been at deaths door. She was however convalescing. . . .

. . . . .  
 [Addressed by:] Ship Russell

---

*To Dr. Richard Davidson and Eliza Ellen Davidson*

NEW YORK, Thur<sup>y</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> June, 1828

My dear Son & G<sup>d</sup>daughter,

I have the supreme felicity to advise you of the safe arrival at Quarantine, yest<sup>y</sup> p. m. of the Louisiana, Cap<sup>t</sup> Price, as announced in the morning papers, with my beloved daughter, child (children I hope) & servant. It appears she was the only lady on board with 7 gentlemen passengers so that she was not crowded as she w<sup>d</sup> have been in the John Linton. Our family go down at

10, to welcome daughter, mother & sister escorted by Thomas, for M<sup>r</sup> Servoss will not be able to leave his business this morning. I cannot go, being absolutely confined to my office, And[re]w Warner our clerk, having been absent for a fortnight with a violent fever, so that the whole duties rest on me. . . .

(10 o'clock). I can close my letter sooner than I expected. Your brother has called to say that your dear wife & babe are safe at home. No sickness on board, the passengers by a modification of our health law are allowed to come up direct. She breakfasted at ½ p. 6, embarked at 7, & reached 429 Broome St. just as her mother, sister & daughter were all preparing to set off. She looks quite smart & clever & has been very well on the passage. Speaks in the highest terms of Cap<sup>t</sup> Price's kindness, & of the gentlemanly, polite attentions attentions of M<sup>r</sup> George Johnson whom I shall most cordially thank. . . .

My beloved darling g<sup>d</sup>child Eliza. In the absence of your fond mother, you have become her early representative, and I confidently trust that you will so conduct the affairs of the family as to give perfect satisfaction to your kind excellent father, and secure the love & affection of your sisters & brothers, for Pintard soon was with you, after Mothers departure, who saw the Azelia & Kentucky standing in for the mouth of the river, and altho' she exulted with the thought that her favourite son was in the latter, she did not repine that she had embarked in the Louisiana.

. . . . .  
I believe that Cap<sup>t</sup> Partridges Academy declines weekly. His aiming at too much will cause him to lose the substance for the shadow. Like the Dog in the Fable with the Bone in his mouth & its reflection in the water. All Esops Fables are familiar to me because I read them at school in Latin & Greek, a practice unwisely in my opinion discontinued in modern times. Marney comes on finely with his Greek which he does not find difficult.

I have promised him that he shall learn Spanish after vacation.

[Addressed:] per post Via Mobile

---

*To Mrs. Richard Davidson*<sup>10</sup>

N YORK, 8<sup>th</sup> October, 182[8]

Thur<sup>y</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> [October]. I went with y<sup>r</sup> good brother, after office hours, to Youngs, Cabinet maker, where I saw your sofa carefully cased to go on board the Talma. The articles you sent from home were also carefully packed up, saving so much room & freight. On going up to attend the Savings Bank, my heart reproached me. What, could I afford to give you an article of use & accommodation, but somewhat of luxury, worth \$100, and hesitate about presenting my beloved daughter a copy of Scotts Commentary, as her daily bread for life. . . . I called therefore at M<sup>r</sup> Havens Theolog<sup>l</sup> Book Store & directed a set to be strongly bound in Calf, to stand usage, daily, please God, for a long course of Life. It is an excellent Quarto Edition in 5 large volumes, at the end of the last is the Life of D<sup>r</sup> Scott by his son, a most instructive biography of this eminent labourious servant of his Lord & Master Jesus Christ. Thus I have discharged my conscience of a heavy load and I devoutly pray that this invaluable commentary may be as fully sanctified to the daughter as it has been to the father, and thousands of others.

Friday [October] 10. . . . This aft.noon, I have to attend the meeting of the Stand[in]g Com[mitte]e of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] at 4, & at 5, a meeting of the Vestry of S<sup>t</sup> Esprit, preparatory to the Institution of our new Rector<sup>11</sup> tomorrow & opening our Church

<sup>10</sup> As Mrs. Davidson was visiting her parents in New York from June 26th to October, 1828, there were no letters written to her by her father during that interval.

<sup>11</sup> Antoine François Verren.

for Divine Worship on Sunday. But my zeal & affections for the Temple reared by my pious forefathers have greatly abated. This now ancient Edifice, 125 years old is to be prostrated, and the ashes of my predecessors transported elsewhere. Again my attendance on Worship will make me to desert my old companion, at a period of life when we ought to go up to the House of the Lord together. We are so few, so very few in number, & myself the oldest & almost the *only* direct Huguenot descendant, that I cannot easily detach myself as I c<sup>d</sup> wish to do. I am thinking if spared, & we sh<sup>d</sup> conclude as we must soon do, to erect a new church, to afford my services, if acceptable, and then seeing my friends seated more comfortably, decline any further connection with the Vestry, having been Senior Warden upwards of 20 years. . . .

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>o</sup>. [It a]ffords me great pleasure that my beloved daughter with her mother was able to attend the institution of my pastor the Rev. M. Varen, on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> inst. in the French Ch. Du S<sup>t</sup> Esprit, founded by the piety of our poor persecuted Forefathers the walls of which once resounded with their solemn Chaunts. You had thus an oppo[rtunity] of seeing before its approaching prostration, this now ancient Temple erected in 1704, at present the oldest Church Edifice existing in this city. It is small, but neat & commodious. My feeling are always excited when I reflect on the memories of those of my family, who have gone to their rest. Yest<sup>r</sup> our new Rector delivered his first sermon, much to the satisfaction of his hearers. We had a full congregation chiefly of strangers. Alas! he will not again witness such numbers. My Bishop is not so friendly disposed towards us as were Bishops Provoost & Moore in their day, and I know that he discountenanced the attendance of young ladies. His former assistant, the *ir*-reverend Doctor How, was avowedly hostile to the French School, as he courteously distinguished my Church. So be it. If M. V[erren] who is a scholar, sh<sup>d</sup> prove a pious & zealous servant of his

Lord & Master Jesus Christ, he will attract a reasonable congregation. God grant it.

I left on your table, a plain copy of Bp. Porteous' Lectures on S<sup>t</sup> Mathews Gospel, w<sup>h</sup> comprehend a full vindication of the Divine Mission of our Redeemer. These Lectures were delivered in London at the period of Paines attack on Xt<sup>y</sup> to overflowing congregations of the English gentry & nobility. The style is superior, & the subject will fascinate & improve you. Having a copy in the Bishops Works, I spare this to my dearest & shortly absent daughter. My resignation to your departure on Wed<sup>y</sup> will I hope continue, but I hardly dare to contemplate it. Alas! what a poor, weak old man I am.

Let me not omit to express my opinion respecting your kind brother M<sup>r</sup> Servoss, for most kind has he uniformly been to my beloved daughter & her dear children on this your visit. His reserve is constitutional, & surely when known ought not to give offence. It is not my place to pry into his concerns beyond what he may be pleased to communicate. All that I feel confident of is, that he is doing good & safe business, is exceedingly circumspect & prudent & void of all ostentation. He loves to live retired, & as you have seen keeps an excellent abundant table, with all the comforts & many of what you & myself w<sup>d</sup> call the luxuries of life. His temperance & moderation are most laudable & exemplary. All my apprehension is that accustomed to market, I may take too much on myself. My wish is to consult his & dear Sisters taste, & to avoid extravagance. For myself I feel quite easy & comfortable under his roof & regret most poignantly that poor dear Mothers pride of Independence does not permit her to do the same.

It is impossible for me to review this long Homily, w<sup>h</sup> may serve to amuse you on your passage. I trust that when weaned from Marney, you will be reconciled

to the propriety of leaving him behind to perfect his studies. . . .

[Addressed:] M<sup>rs</sup> Eliza N. Davidson  
 On board Ship Talma  
 For New Orleans

---

NEW YORK, Thur<sup>y</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> Oct., 1828

I returned to my office after taking leave of my beloved daughter & dear Turtle Dove, about 2 o'clock. The Talma cast off at 3 p. m. with a fresh & fair wind. . . . The Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Bayard dined with us & occupies your deserted chamber during his stay till next week. He visited his clerical brethren in the ev<sup>g</sup> & y<sup>r</sup> brother & the boys attended a meeting at Masonic Hall in favour of the African Prince,<sup>12</sup> whom M<sup>r</sup> S[ervoss] knew at Natches, & for whom a subscription of \$3500 is recommended in this city to liberate his wife & children. . . .

Sat<sup>y</sup> [October] 18. . . . I have made time to write to M<sup>r</sup> Muhlenbergh by Marney, requesting him to let him pursue his present course of studies until I hear from you. Marney behaves manfully. I believe he left all his homesickness on b<sup>d</sup> the Talma. As a Balloon is to ascend, weather permitting, from Castle Garden on Monday p. m., his uncle indulges him with permission to witness it. Babcock remains likewise. This morn<sup>g</sup> I filled his portmanteau trunk with Hickory & Chestnuts & shall give him a Dollar, to last till Xmas.

Mond<sup>y</sup> [October] 20<sup>th</sup>. Our prayers in Church were off[er]ed yest<sup>y</sup> for y<sup>r</sup> preservation on the g<sup>t</sup> deep. Mother attended at S<sup>t</sup> Thomas, Marney with myself at S<sup>t</sup> Esprit where we had a very good congregation & M. Varenne was more animated than the preceding Sunday. He pleases his hearers, is very graceful &

<sup>12</sup> Abduhl Rahhahman. See [N. Y.] *Commercial Advertiser*, Oct. 15, 1828.



modest, his sermon is s<sup>d</sup> [to] be rhetorical & exuberant, the fault of young ministers w<sup>h</sup> time will correct. There was yest<sup>y</sup> every appearance of snow, and the haze is so thick this day, that the Balloon will probably not ascend. Marney therefore & his friend Babcock return to Flushing 4 p. m. . . . The Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Bayard went, at the request of one of his former parishioners, to preach at Newark yest<sup>y</sup>. Pity that he ever left that place. . . .

Tuesday [October] 21. The Balloon is postp[one]d till Wed<sup>y</sup>. Marney & Babcock got into the stage at our door ½ p. 3 & arrived no doubt by 7 o'clock. . . . Your brother & sister have been amusing themselves with chosing a name for the next child, sh<sup>d</sup> it prove a boy. He proposed *Jacob* after his father, w<sup>h</sup> Sister did not like. To soften it I told him that he c<sup>d</sup> call it *Israel*, to w<sup>h</sup> name Jacob was changed on his return home. He laughed & s<sup>d</sup> that w<sup>d</sup> never do. So he prepared 3 names, Jacob, Richard & Lewis. He drew Richard, Sister likewise, Mother Lewis. I felt scrupulous & did not draw. Indeed I do not like to interfere, as he has complimented our family with two names. Sister wishes a boy to be called after your good man, who presented her with so good a husband. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Russell

---

NEW YORK, 23<sup>d</sup> Oct., 1828

By the Russell w<sup>h</sup> sailed yest<sup>y</sup> crowded with passengers, I wrote my first letter to my beloved daughter. . . . Yest<sup>y</sup> p. m., a most elegant day, the Balloon ascended from Castle Garden & sailed over the city, very slow, a spectacle for all its inhabitants. It alighted in the East river. The aeronauts M<sup>r</sup> Robertson & a Lady were taken up by boats in safety. We saw it very distinctly from our back windows, children & all. . . .

This morn<sup>s</sup> died M<sup>r</sup> Peter P. Goelet. He was a family relation on my mother's side. The rupture of a blood

vessel a week ago caused his death. M<sup>r</sup> G. has left a considerable estate acquired & accumulated by speculations in stock, to which he was devoted soul & body. Rigidly parsimonious, I do not believe that he ever gave a Dollar in all his life to charitable or benevolent purposes, against w<sup>h</sup> he not only set his face but turned to ridicule & scorn every person, like myself, disposed to contribute to the necessities of his fellow creatures, or to promote the great objects of Xt<sup>n</sup> benevolence. He was moreover a confirmed infidel & laughed religion to scorn. But he has gone to his dread account. God have mercy on him.

12 o'clock. I have learned the following particulars of the last moments of M<sup>r</sup> Goelet from his most intimate friend M<sup>r</sup> Mason, my Director. He was a great walker, at least 8 miles a day, in all weathers. A few months past he sprained his ankle, & was advised to take horse exercise, but was too timid, & got along as well as he c<sup>d</sup>. Want of usual exercise caused, no doubt a plethora, & a week ago he burst a blood vessel. D<sup>r</sup> Hosack his physician apprehended no danger. This morn<sup>g</sup> he was taken with sneezing not in a violent degree. It is presumed that he must have burst another principal vessel. He died in an instant. I mention these facts, as they may be useful to the Doctor.

Friday [October] 24<sup>th</sup> I saw D<sup>r</sup> Hosack last ev<sup>g</sup>. He said that the body had been opened, that nothing bursten appeared. That the lungs were still inflated, that the air, probably, c<sup>d</sup> not escape & that M<sup>r</sup> Goelet died sitting up in his bed, in an instant, without pain or struggle. No sneezing as reported had occurred. He is to be buried tomorrow p. m. Yesterday between 2 & 3 I went with y<sup>r</sup> brother, at my request, to Masonic Hall to view the exhibition of domestic manufactures. I confess my astonished [*sic*] at the progress & perfection of the Arts in our country, when I recall the humble attempts that were made at the outset of my life & my enthusiasm to promote home manufactures, the very coarse attempts that were unsuccessfully made and the

extent & excellence of some of the most essential branches in cotton & woollens, together with the taste & elegance of many articles of Luxury. I can scarcely credit my senses or believe that so much has been effected within the short period of my memory. . . .

Monday [October] 27<sup>th</sup>. Yest<sup>y</sup> was a May day. It afflicts dear Mother that my attendance at S<sup>t</sup> Esprit leaves her to go alone to S<sup>t</sup> Thomas. . . . Next Sunday being Sacrament Sunday, I hope to accompany dear Mother, & shall, if spared, attend her every administration unless when the same takes place in S<sup>t</sup> Esprit, where the number of communicants did not exceed 15 or 18, in the days of M<sup>r</sup> Peneveyre. I am happy to say that M. Varen is becoming popular & attracts a g<sup>t</sup> number of strangers. Many pews are hired & hiring & I hope we shall have a reasonable congreg[ation].

Wed<sup>y</sup> [October] 29. My office <sup>13</sup> has met with another heavy loss last ev[enin]g, 2 Houses & Furniture \$3000, w<sup>h</sup> quite dispirits me. . . . I have just learned that the Rev. D<sup>r</sup> Barnes, Classical principal of our High School, was killed, coming from Lebanon Springs, by the oversetting of the Stage. The fall crushed his forehead, & his brains literally run out. In the midst of life we are in death. He leaves a widow & four young children to bewail his loss. His station was lucrative, being a partner with M<sup>r</sup> Griscom in the establishment. This accident is appalling, for I knew him well. Your brother has been sending to the Allens of y<sup>r</sup> city, sundry articles, who have set up a Grocery Store to contain the useful & the delicacies of this life. Sh<sup>d</sup> you have occasion for any of them, you may rely on the quality, being of his selection, & really he exercises great judgment in his purchases, both as to qualities & price. I gave 1/9 for y<sup>r</sup> butter. He bought as excellent he says for 1/5, but then it was on a larger scale. . . . M<sup>rs</sup>

<sup>13</sup> The Mutual Insurance Company.

Shrieves Sisters nurse came last ev<sup>g</sup>, Mother says for a fortnight before she is wanted. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Illinois

---

NEW YORK, Monday 3<sup>d</sup> Nov., 1828

The Illinois is detained by adverse winds & N. E. but very warm rain w<sup>h</sup> was much wanted to supply our Cistern that had been exhausted ever since y<sup>r</sup> departure. . . .

Tuesday [November] 4<sup>th</sup> . . . M<sup>r</sup> S[ervoss] saw M<sup>r</sup> Leonard, the active partner & superintend<sup>t</sup> at Mattawan, who has agreed to take Thomas next May, in the meantime the latter is to resume Mathematics & take lessons in drawing. Tom is highly tickled as he feels now that his lot is cast to his mind. . . .

Thur<sup>v</sup> [November] 6<sup>th</sup>. . . The most contested election that has ever occurred in this city, & the greatest number of votes taken, closed yest<sup>v</sup> at 5 p. m. & the Jackson Ticket is predominant, as it will be throughout the State, tho probably some of the Electors for president will be Adamites. I took no part whatever, as my days for being jostled at the polls are gone by. Had Gov<sup>r</sup> Clinton existed I sh<sup>d</sup> certainly have voted for the Jackson ticket in hopes of its being a stepping stone to his presidency. As it is I confess myself indifferent for let who will preside, affairs will jog on according to circumstances. I confess that I entertain no unreasonable fears about *Old Hickory*, the popular name of the day. A most magnificent Hickory Tree was erected before Tammany Hall. Your brother voted, the first time in this city, for the Adams Ticket. If the fate of the presidency depends on the State of N York Jackson will undoubtedly be President. My own private situation however is most interesting to me. My term of service in the Mutual Insur[anc]e C<sup>o</sup> will expire on the

15<sup>th</sup>, when I shall retire after 19 years & 7 months continuance as Sec<sup>y</sup>, a large portion of human active life, to have been spent for little more than a bare existence. I confess that my heart droops, but I must place my reliance on that kind Providence which hitherto has supported me, & hope that I may be able to obtain some other station that may give me occupation & bread, for I cannot well get along without something to do. Possibly the Savings Bank may open a door, but I do not at present feel sanguine. I feel depressed moreover in spirits as the Office will not be able to make a Dividend, w<sup>h</sup> will not only affect its credit but a great many persons who look up for Dividends for their comfort some almost for existence, a dreadful consideration.

Friday [November] 7<sup>th</sup>. What with my office & the Minutes of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] I can with difficulty find a spare moment to say that Sister remains in statu quo. I saw M<sup>r</sup> Babcock at the Managers Meeting yest<sup>y</sup> p. m., who with his wife sail in the [*blank in MS.*] on the 15<sup>th</sup> & will take with him the result of our late Election.

(2½ o'clock) Tomorrow at 12, D<sup>r</sup> Hosack is to deliver, in the Middle Dutch Church, "a Discourse commemorative of the character & public services of DeWitt Clinton." All the City are invited & if my duties will permit I will join the procession at the City Hall & sh<sup>d</sup> a seat be appropriated on the stage will attend the delivery, otherwise return to my office where my business is urgent. The Doctor says that it will be the best that he has ever delivered. He has a noble subject & I have no doubt that he will do it justice. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Frances

---

NEW YORK, Monday Nov. 10, 1828  
a beautiful day

. . . Aunt Helen [Craig] has got comfortably into their former residence & settled. I walked out to see her yest<sup>y</sup> p. m., an easy half hours walk, w<sup>h</sup> I shall frequently take for wholesome exercise. She looks very thin & pallid, but the dry wholesome air of Bowery hill will restore her.

Wed<sup>y</sup> [November] 12<sup>th</sup>. The Minutes of the A[meri-  
can] B[ible] S[ociety] occupied my whole spare time Sat<sup>y</sup> Mond<sup>y</sup> & yest<sup>y</sup>. . . I have secured a temporary accommod<sup>n</sup> in M<sup>r</sup> Eastburns room, upstairs, where for \$25, till spring, I can transact any little matters, better than at home, being more accessible to any who may call. After so long an association I confess tho' glad to be released from a diurnal routine w<sup>h</sup> has almost stultified me, I feel a sober gloom, not melancholly, on pa[r]ting, arising probably that the pittance \$1000 a year to w<sup>h</sup> I have been reduced, tho' humble is essential to my comfort. Whether any thing is to be expected from the Savings Bank, of w<sup>h</sup> I am not sanguine, remains to be determined. . . .

Doctor Hosacks Discourse on Sat<sup>y</sup> went off with eclat. It was well written & took up 2 $\frac{1}{4}$  hours. Altho he left out  $\frac{1}{3}$ <sup>d</sup> it was by far too long for an audience. It had rained till near 11, w<sup>h</sup> prevented the attend[anc]e of Ladies, as usual on such occasions. There was an assemblage of the most respectable characters of our city, who were desirous of paying respect to the memory of so eminent a statesman & citizen as M<sup>r</sup> Clinton. I was favoured with a seat on the stage contiguous to the Orator, & heard every word that he said. Doctor H. means to publish the Discourse with copyright. It will read & I dare say sell well. When printed I will send you a copy. No one knows the worth of M<sup>r</sup> C. better than myself, & no one esteems his Memory higher.

Thu<sup>y</sup> [November] 13<sup>th</sup>. At the Savings Bank yest<sup>y</sup> it was judged proper to await the report of a Com<sup>e</sup> on

adding a 4<sup>th</sup> day for keeping open the Bank, w<sup>h</sup> is to be made in Decem<sup>r</sup> before moving the consideration of any better mode for conducting its business. The idea of increasing the expenses of the Bank will be the difficulty to be encountered, altho' from the facilities given to Depositors the business must greatly increase by keeping the Bank open daily, and of course the profits far beyond what may be required to remunerate a responsible officer. However agreeable, indeed accommodating to me, such an office w<sup>d</sup> be still I feel so attached to an institution, the success of w<sup>h</sup> I have so long endeavoured to promote, that I w<sup>d</sup> be the last Trustee to sacrifice to personal views, its true interest. I do not feel therefore any hope of employment, other than as heretofore gratuitous, & shall not be disappointed. . . .

Sat<sup>y</sup> [November] 15<sup>th</sup>. This day concludes my services in the Mut[ual] Ins[urance] Co[mpany] at 1 o'clock. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Tennessee

---

N YORK, 52 Wall S<sup>t</sup>  
Monday 17 Nov., 1828

. . . The Directors of the Mutual Ins. C<sup>o</sup> met on Saturday, but declared no Dividend, nor was a successor appointed w<sup>h</sup> lies for the consideration of a Committee. By request I still hold over, w<sup>h</sup> is better than an appointment over Andrews head. The affair of last winter, that almost killed me, operates I fear against him, but for myself I consider him innocent. Altho' it will no[t] do for me to incur responsibility by urging his claim, I shall lament if he sh<sup>d</sup> not be appointed.

Wed<sup>y</sup> [November] 19<sup>th</sup> . . . Mother received a note yest<sup>y</sup> to meet the Greek Ladies to consult on measures to continue the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> King as their Missionary. This she will decline as she cannot resume the charge of so-

liciting subscriptions. Her former success no doubt leads to a reliance on similar services, but she is too old, esp<sup>y</sup> encumbered with winter dress to do up & down the flights of stone steps, to call on the Ladies of her acquaintance. . . .

Thur<sup>y</sup> [November] 20<sup>th</sup>. Mild rain. No John Linton. Your brother quite enlivened our Fireside circle last ev<sup>s</sup> by reading under the N[ew] O[rleans] head of the 25<sup>th</sup> Oct. [th]at the Talma had arrived at the Balize from N Y. in 9 days, the quickest passage, if true, that has I believe ever been known between the two ports. In this event, we may certainly expect letters by the J. L. as I presume you may have got home by the 27<sup>th</sup>. Your brother frequently observed that you might reach the Balize in 10 days, from his calculation that the Talma had northerly winds to the Bahama bank & then Easterly to the Mississippi. . . . Were my years younger, I w<sup>d</sup> endeavour to establish or engraft on the higher Female schools, a department to qualify Females as school mistresses, affording them every possible advantage to attain knowledge, & the elegant accomplishments of needle work, drawing, dancing & the French Language. To turn out a dozen even, of superior preceptresses annually w<sup>d</sup> be eminently beneficial. Too many mistresses, superficially educated, have to learn themselves while they are instructing those committed to their care, and in N[ew] O[rleans] especially you have to catch at such talents as are offered, & are every year obliged to seek for new Teachers, consequently lose all benefit of systematic education, w<sup>h</sup> distracts & injures children. The John Linton has arrived, so that I may have my longing gratified by a letter. (12 o'clock). Your welcome letter has arrived. What a most propitious passage. . . . (2 p. m.) I have just called on Cap<sup>t</sup> Holmes who says he never knew so quick a passage as the Talmas. It quite rejoices him. . . .

. . . . .  
[Addressed by:] Ship DeWitt Clinton

---



N YORK, Sat<sup>y</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> Nov., 1828. 2 p. m. Rain

Monday, 24<sup>th</sup>. 10 a. m. Your brother has just stepped in with y<sup>r</sup> letter of 8<sup>th</sup> inst. by the Kentucky, rec<sup>d</sup> in 16 days. Altho' addressed to dear Mother I opened it, anxious to hear from you. I regret that you are so afflicted with that tormenting pain the tooth ache, & hope that you have recovered without the necessity of extraction. I am glad that Darlings teeth are not, for one so young, more decayed. Let her follow her g<sup>d</sup>mothers example, who never retires to rest without cleansing her teeth with as much care as in the morn<sup>e</sup>. Make this an invariable rule & it will tend to the preservation of this useful & ornamental part of the human system. . . .

Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> Nov. Ann[iversar]y of the Evacuation, 1783. A beautiful day. Well do I recollect an event so auspicious to the long exiled families of this city, who after the privations of 7 long years returned home to their habitations w<sup>h</sup> they left in the enjoyment of ease & comfort to almost poverty, many of them to weep over the ruins of their dwellings & all to lament the loss of many & dear friends & relatives. The Rev. D<sup>r</sup> Livingston preached a sermon a few Sundays following the event, in the old Dutch Church in Garden Street, for the Middle & North Churches had been converted into a riding school & prison for our countrymen. When he recapitulated the names of the heads of families who had died in exile, the sighs, the sobs & groans of the congregation pierced me to the soul. Among other was Col. Abram Brasher, y<sup>r</sup> maternal g<sup>d</sup>father, as upright conscientious a man & virtuous a patriot as our city c<sup>d</sup> boast. Your poor g<sup>d</sup>mother & mother were overwhelmed. But America achieved her glorious revolution, the fruit of what was pledged to Congress of our blood & treasure. I lost a very fair fortune \$25,000 by the utter depreciation of Continental money. The Whigs of this city lost more than any other city in the U States, the principal

Whig merchants giving their gold & silver to support our army in Canada, for paper Dollars then thought sure. Among others my good uncle lost severely. All I got from my being heir to a fortune was the best education the country afforded, the benefit of which has not been entirely lost.

Thur<sup>y</sup> [November] 27. Easterly rain. Yest<sup>y</sup> was a May morn. It clouded over at noon, w<sup>h</sup> prevented my attending the Funeral of an old friend & relative M<sup>r</sup> John Moore who died aged 84 years. He was the oldest & only surviving brother of Bishop Moore of Virginia. His family was derived from one of the most respectable of the English who came to this city after its conquest from the Dutch, But like most of the old families had fallen into decay. They were loyalists during our rev[ol]utionar[y] war. Gen. [Jedidiah] Huntington of Connecticut married his Sister Nancy, who yet lives. She was very pretty. There was a strict intimacy between them & my dear good Uncle who was the kind friend of all his relations. M<sup>rs</sup> Moore<sup>14</sup> the mother was one of the most respectable ladies in person & deportment of the old School & to the close of life, she died past 80, was erect & peculiarly neat tho' plain in her attire. I see her before me. Nothing can exceed y<sup>r</sup> dear mother in neatness of person or carriage, nor in that perfect order & propriety which characterized her mother also. The habits of the old Dutch School were signally clean & neat. Be so good as always to mention y<sup>r</sup> mother *by name* when you send your love. She is too sensitive at any omission. I must not forget to mention that y<sup>r</sup> cousin Davis Craig Esq<sup>r</sup> is admitted attorney in our courts. Mama called yest<sup>y</sup> after Church to see dear Julia [Weeks] who requested when her Aunt sh<sup>d</sup> call to let her come to her bedside. She shook hands, but did not speak. She is very low & cannot last long. Strange

<sup>14</sup> Mrs. Thomas Moore (Elizabeth Channing). J. P. K. Henshaw, *Memoir of the Life of the Rt. Rev. Richard Channing Moore* (1842), pp. 14-15; J. W. Moore, *Rev. John Moore and Some of His Descendants* (1903), Appendix, p. 476.

to say, that no mention of or preparation for death is allowed. Painful. . . .

.....  
 Sat<sup>y</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> Nov. An elegant May day . . . We have little news, Foreign or domestic. The Russians are on the retreat, after an expensive & shameful campaign. If not too greatly elated the Turks may admit of negotiations for a reas[on]able peace during the winter, but eventually the Scriptures must be fulfilled. They will be expelled beyond the Euphrates & the Jews be once more restored to their ancient Kingdom. Your children may see these great events. Adams doomsday is fixed. He will go out on the 3<sup>d</sup> March, without regret. He has no personal friends. His manners are cold & repulsive, & like his father very self opiniated. Jackson will come in without very strong sympathies in his favour, except from his partisans & expectants of office. I am ready to suppose that as far as possible, he will pursue the system that he indicated to President Monroe, to select talents wherever found without distinction of party. After all the head must reward those who elevated him. . . .

By Kentucky

NEW YORK, Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>, 1828  
 beautiful day

Having just closed & sent off my letter of this date by the John Linton announcing dear Sisters safe delivery at ½ p. 4 this morn<sup>g</sup> of another son, *Richard Davidson*, I had but an inst. to mention the happy event. . . . Coming down to the office, I stopped at the Depository & left \$30, to constitute the dear boy a member for life of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety]. . . .

.....  
 Wed<sup>y</sup> [December] 10. April day. Sister is remarkably well. No fever. The babe also, dark blue eyes & fine head. A noble boy. We have heard of the sudden

death of a former neighbour, M<sup>rs</sup> Smyth Roger,<sup>15</sup> probably in child bed, a miscarriage. They had removed to Hartford last Spring, on acc<sup>t</sup> of her husband D<sup>r</sup> Rogers' health, where he was app[ointe]d professor of Chemistry in Washington College.<sup>16</sup> Comfortably & elegantly situated, with all to render life happy. A pious active lady, mother of several children, whom she was bringing up admirably. Of high parentage & beloved & respected by all her family & acquaintance. . . .

To your aff[ec]t[i]onate friend M<sup>rs</sup> Chew remember me sincerely. Dear Lady. She will never recover the shock of her late loss of her promising son Beverly. Superadded to that of her eldest daughter, the affliction is aggravated. . . .

Friday [December] 12<sup>th</sup>. . . . M<sup>r</sup> S[ervoss]'s business opens very favourably, & he has the prospect of considerable assignments from his friends Franklin & White, who are pleased with his last seasons sales. Certainly M<sup>r</sup> S. is a most safe judicious agent & understands the cotton market esp<sup>y</sup> as well as the most experienced merchant in this city. He is very snug in his mode of transacting business & if spared, will make an ample fortune for his family. Very prudent & retired, he will not expend it in extravagant living.

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>. I have to close this letter by announcing the death of y<sup>r</sup> Cousin Julia Hall Weeks. She died yest<sup>y</sup> Sunday morn<sup>s</sup> at 6 o'clock in her 27<sup>th</sup> year. . . . She was wasted to a mere shadow. . . .

---

<sup>15</sup> Mrs. John Smyth Rogers (Augusta Temple Winthrop). *Commercial Advertiser*, Dec. 10, 1828; J. S. Rogers, *James Rogers and His Descendants* (1902), p. 242.

<sup>16</sup> Now Trinity College.

NEW [YORK,] Tues<sup>y</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> Dec., 1828

Wed<sup>y</sup> 17<sup>th</sup>. Last aftnoon I attended with your brother, the funeral of y<sup>r</sup> cousin.<sup>17</sup> I took a last look at her dear wasted remains, a very shadow, but retaining her once beautiful features. Invited at 3, the procession did not move till ¼ before 5, w<sup>h</sup> threw us into ev<sup>s</sup> & I have in consequence taken a sore throat. M<sup>r</sup> Mitchell of the Universalist Church gave an exhortation & prayer, to the family, with w<sup>h</sup> your Mother was pleased, but she can describe the particulars. No scarves were given, not to the Ministers w<sup>h</sup> was wrong, but Robert sprung from Quakers does not even wear a badge of mourning, while inconsistently he had left their meeting & is an officer in the militia w<sup>h</sup> of course is incompatible with Quakerism. . . .

(1 p. m.) I have just heard of the sudden death of my fellow citizen, I wish I c<sup>d</sup> add, respected, John G. Bogert, who on returning home last ev<sup>s</sup> from Masonic Hall, slipped & fell going down stairs & was killed by the fall. He was of one of our most respectable Dutch families, a Lawyer, but given to intemperance, to w<sup>h</sup> no doubt he fell a victim. He was one of poor Uncle Lewis's boon companions. . . . Intemperance, among the higher classes of our city, is no longer the order of the day. Among the hospitable circles, which reciprocate good & cheerful entertainments, a man w<sup>d</sup> be marked who sh<sup>d</sup> retire intoxicated, indeed, except among the young & jovial, convivial parties are all decent & sober. A great change from my early days, & to w<sup>h</sup> we are indebted to the French, who never expell Ladies from the dinner table & retire after Coffee, as no doubt is the case in y<sup>r</sup> city. Festive parties may be an exception, but this is not habitual drinking. But the beastly vice of drunkenness, among the lower labouring classes is growing to a frightful excess, owing to the cheapness of ardent spirits, & the multitudes of low Irish Catholics, who restricted by poverty in their own

<sup>17</sup> Mrs. Robert D. Weeks (Julia H. Brasher).

country from free indulgence, run riot in this. The growth of intemperance is so alarming that the good & wise are devising means to check it. We have 3500 licenced dram shops in this city 2 or 3 at every corner, but if we stop one half, the result will be that the consumers will all go to the other corner. How to stop the fountain is the question. Nothing but a heavy Excise duty, & the introduction of malt liquors as a wholesome beverage. Against this system w<sup>h</sup> w<sup>d</sup> bring millions into the national Treasury, all the Country exclaim, as tho' you were going to raise the price of bread. I have, as member, & not an inactive one, of the Society for the prevention of pauperism in this city, paid great attention to a subject w<sup>h</sup> I confess baffled all our skill. The evil is obvious, acknowledged by all, but a sovereign remedy appears to be impossible. The slow process of education & religious instruction will save thousands from destruction, but as long as we are overwhelmed with Irish emigrants, so long will the evil abound, & if *one* scabby sheep infects a whole flock what must be our condition where the *whole* flock is scabby. Thefts, incendiaries & murders w<sup>h</sup> prevail, all rise from this source. You see how easy it is for me to scribble when I have a text.

. . . . .  
 Monday [December] 22<sup>d</sup>. A winter fine day. I attended the Communion yest<sup>r</sup> in S<sup>t</sup> Esprit. Our new Minister performed the service with great solemnity & without the least mistake, the first time. He is a great acquisition to our little congregation & gives great satisfaction. He is very modest & a handsome man. From whatever circumstance I cannot say, but he attracts a full church. Yest<sup>r</sup> I tho't fuller than ever before, but perhaps this opinion is owing to my carrying the plate, w<sup>h</sup> afforded me a better oppo[rtunity] for noticing our numbers. God grant him success, & that of such as come to learn the French language some may learn their Xt<sup>n</sup> duties. . . . .

. . . . .

Wed<sup>r</sup> [December] 24<sup>th</sup>. Elegant day, a most uncommon Season. . . . A concert was given last ev<sup>s</sup> at S<sup>t</sup> Pauls for the Deaf & Dumb. Y<sup>r</sup> brother was there & delighted. The Musick very superior, about \$1000 made. Mother & Sister are preparing for S<sup>t</sup> Claas' arrival to-night. Pintards eyes sparkled, at breakfast, when I told him that their *Gude Heylig Man* was expected. He is to provide some Hay to feed the Horses. . . . In former days when the children brought their stockings to be suspended over their Mothers fireplace, they also each brought a little parcel of Hay, for the Horses & repeated a Dutch Hymn in praise of S<sup>t</sup> Claas. I think I sent you a picture<sup>18</sup> of this benevolent Saint which I had cut at my own expense, containing the Hymn at the bottom of the picture. It was difficult to obtain the words at the time it was executed, some 15 years ago, & w<sup>d</sup> be almost impossible now. Judge Benson procured them from M<sup>rs</sup> Hardenbrook,<sup>19</sup> an ancient lady 87 years of age. Several, g<sup>d</sup>ma Brasher & others knew some lines, but none except M<sup>rs</sup> H. remember[ed] the whole.

Friday, [December] 26<sup>th</sup>. All due preparations having been made by the children, the preceding ev<sup>s</sup> by placing hay for his horses, & invoking S<sup>t</sup> Claas, Gude Heylig Man, He came accordingly, during the night, with most elegant Toys, Bon bons, Oranges, &c<sup>a</sup>, all which after filling the stockings suspended at the sides of Mothers Chimney, were displayed in goodly order on the mantle to the extatic joy of Pintard & Boudy in the morning, whose exultations resounded thro' the house.

<sup>18</sup> A broadside picturing Saint Nicholas, with Dutch and English words of the hymn about the "Good Holy Man," was engraved by Dr. Alexander Anderson and distributed to each member of The New-York Historical Society at its festival of Saint Nicholas, December 6, 1810. Another copy, with an account of the 1810 festival and portraits of Pintard and Anderson (both engraved on wood by the latter) was distributed by the Society in December, 1864. In the 1864 leaflet is a statement by George H. Moore, then librarian of the Society, that "the engravings for the [1810] print referred to were executed by Dr. Alexander Anderson, of this city, at the request of Mr. Pintard."

<sup>19</sup> Probably Mrs. John Hardenbrook (Ann Bas) who died March 6, 1817, aged 94 years. *N. Y. Evening Post*, March 8, 1817; *Commercial Advertiser*, March 8, 1817; *N. Y. Dutch Church Records in Collections of the N. Y. Genealogical and Biographical Society*, I, p. 181; II, 434.

. . . The Toys are arranged on the back of the side-board & make quite a display. The most acceptable gift was a Drum, w<sup>h</sup> Pintard promises to beat only in the nursery, not to disturb poor g<sup>d</sup>ma. . . .

This morn<sup>g</sup> at 8, M<sup>rs</sup> Shrieves was suddenly called to attend M<sup>rs</sup> Curtis<sup>20</sup> daughter of M<sup>rs</sup> Beers, a family friend. Happily Sister is quite bravely, & with Sally can get along very well. . . .

Monday [December] 29<sup>th</sup> . . . A grand Military Ball is getting up for 8<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>r</sup> to be held in the Bowery Theatre, more splendid than on any former occasion. Gen. Jackson is at the height of his popularity. As soon as his Cabinet shall be formed & the most lucrative appointments made, he will decline like a young Bride whose bevy of suitors & beaux all desert her as soon as she has decided her choice. The honour of the presidency is great very great, but dearly bought, when the cheif comes in as a decided party man. But Gen. Jackson is not made like the Osier of pliant stuff, but of tough Hickory & I am mistaken if he does not play a high & honorable part. . . .

Tuesday [December] 30<sup>th</sup>. . . .

Next Sunday there is a Sermon to be preached & a collection made in S<sup>t</sup> Thomas' for the benefit of our Theological Scholarship, when Richard Davidson Servoss is to be made a member for life, which will make 8 members, from N<sup>o</sup> 429 Broome S<sup>t</sup>. W<sup>d</sup> every competent family of our Church perform half as much, the endowment, \$2500, of w<sup>h</sup> about half is collected, w<sup>d</sup> be soon filled. Episcopalians, from whatever cause, lack that zeal w<sup>h</sup> so eminently characterizes our other Christian denominations. . . .

. . . .  
Last ev<sup>g</sup> Thomas spoke at the exhibition of his school much to the satisfaction & approbation [of all] who attended him. My deafness prevented my paying

<sup>20</sup> Mrs. Lewis Curtis (Mary Elizabeth Beers), daughter of Joseph D. Beers. (Marriage notice in *N. Y. Evening Post*, Feb. 5, 1824.)



Thomas the compliment. He brought home 2 beautiful  
Volumes, as premiums for good scholarship & good be-  
haviour, w<sup>h</sup> gratifies us all. Next Monday he begins  
drawing. . . .

. . . . .



1829

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

NEW YORK, Friday, 2<sup>d</sup> Jan<sup>r</sup>, 1829

.....  
2 p. m. Have just adjusted with M<sup>r</sup> Oothout Treas<sup>r</sup> of the Savings Bank our payment of \$200,000, loaned the Corporation of this City, which keeps our Capital all at Interest, now amounting to \$1,920,000, w<sup>h</sup> by the 1<sup>st</sup> July next will probably exceed 2 millions. . . . This result corresponds with almost every calculation that has ever been made of American experiments, The Revolution, New Constitution, Canals, Steam boats, population, &c<sup>a</sup> &c<sup>a</sup>, all w<sup>h</sup> in reality have exceeded our most sanguine hopes. . . .

.....  
Monday [January] 5<sup>th</sup>. . . . It is *extremely* cold. It snowed all day yest<sup>r</sup> & the collection in S<sup>t</sup> Thomas was put off till next Sunday weather permitting. I know not when we have had such a spell of old time winter as since the New Year. . . .

.....  
Tuesday [January] 6<sup>th</sup>. Weather moderated, wind southerly we may expect arrivals from Europe, 60 days since the last news. . . .

.....  
Wed<sup>r</sup> [January] 7<sup>th</sup>. Our late severe weather has moderated to the great relief of the poor & indigent in the article of Fuel. It was so cold as to render our dining room, not the small one, uncomfortable, & Mother was obliged to put up a chimney board in her room, w<sup>h</sup> she has always resisted for fear of confined air. Sister, by means of one, kept her room very comfortable. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [*sic for Thursday*] 8<sup>th</sup>. The glorious 8<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>, as it [is] headed on the posting Bills of public shows. It is here a N E. but not as yet violent, rain that may soil the dresses of the Belles at the Bowery Theatre Ball this ev<sup>g</sup>. . . . The report yest<sup>y</sup> of the death of M<sup>rs</sup> Jackson is confirmed this day. A good but unpolished Lady, who I hope has gone to heaven, for she is said to have been pious. The General will be spared any unpleasant remarks on her appearance in the drawing room of the President. She lived to enjoy the pleasure of his election, but not that of his inauguration. . . .

Tuesday [January] 13<sup>th</sup> . . . M<sup>r</sup> S[ervoss] is receiving very handsome consignments. I wish that the price of cotton in this market may meet the interest of his friends. We have had no arrivals from Liverpool in now 65 days. Several packets are due. The Cotton market of course is stagnant for want of advice. I sincerely hope that y<sup>r</sup> brother will effect [good] sales, w<sup>h</sup> alone can please his consigners. He is a most indefatigable expert merchant, & peculiarly acquainted with the cotton business. He is rising in reputation in this city, for his intelligence & knowledge of business.

Wed<sup>y</sup> [January] 14<sup>th</sup>. A rainy day, w<sup>h</sup> may clear off at N West, I shall therefore close my letter & send it to the Illinois Bag. Your friend M<sup>rs</sup> Palmer<sup>1</sup> accompanies her husband who is obliged to go to N[ew] O[rleans] on acc<sup>t</sup> of the sickness of his partner, his brother M<sup>r</sup> Amos Palmer & wife also go, so that she will have a companion. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Illinois

---

p<sup>r</sup> [Ship] Tennessee.

NEW YORK, Thur<sup>y</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>, 1828 [*sic for 1829*]

. . . The first benevolent project of the New Year in this city, is to form a Savings Bank for the benefit of

<sup>1</sup> Mrs. William R. Palmer (Nancy Bell Babcock).

Seamen exclusively, to be located near the river, so as to induce Sailors immedi<sup>y</sup> on the receipt of their wages to deposit a share of their hard earnings. Our Bank<sup>2</sup> is too distant, & after the experience of nearly 10 years, only short of 300 Mariners have availed themselves of its benefit. Our Bank, passed at its meeting yest<sup>r</sup> P. M. a resolution approbating the project, least it might be objected that it was to be a rival institution. So far from jealousy, I wish there was a Savings Bank in every Ward, so advantageous do they prove to the humbler classes of the community. . . .

Monday [January] 26<sup>th</sup>. . . . I shall send herewith the Memoirs of the Rev. Leigh [*sic*] Richmond, Author of the Dairyman's daughter, a work with which I am enraptured. M<sup>r</sup> M[uhlenberg] promises to read it with Marney, by w<sup>h</sup> he will learn the character of a truly pious evangelical useful clergyman. . . .

Friday [January] 30<sup>th</sup>. . . . Among our city improvements is the purchase of a very fine site in Beekman Street for the erection of Clinton Hall for the accommod<sup>n</sup> of the Atheneum & the Mercantile Association w<sup>h</sup> I presume will be commenced in May next. I hope that the Edifice will be an ornament to our city. The *Age of Reason* has revived with us & the Park Theatre is the Temple, M<sup>rs</sup> Wright,<sup>3</sup> the Goddess who gives Lectures on Infidelity & that marriage is only a bond as long as it proves convenient to either party & may be dissolved at pleasure. The novelty of a female Lecture attracts numerous audiences, but no persons of respectability & happily few or no females none of note. Let her blow out I say. Opposition will only increase her dissolute followers.

(11½ o'clock) A most stupendous Ox, the largest it is said that has ever been seen in this city, has just

<sup>2</sup> The Bank for Savings, on Chambers Street.

<sup>3</sup> Frances Wright (1795-1852). *Dictionary of American Biography*, XX, 549.

passed thro' Wall St in procession with a company of Butchers on white horses. He is called the president, & is to be exhibited on the shambles in our Centre Market next week, when we must have a sirloin of this premium Beef, as a bounty to the raising fat cattle. . . .

1 o'clock. I have just heard of the death of the Rev. Cave Jones, Chaplain of the Navy Yard at Brooklyn. He was a very pious Divine & ardent friend of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety], memorable for his controversy with Bp. Hobart, indeed persecution, for he was hardly dealt with. He has left a widow & two amiable daughters, with just enough to secure them from want. A fortnight ago he had expressed a desire to see me for we were on friendly terms, & it was my intention when the days grew longer to have visited him. But he has gone to his reward, & I am reminded, "to put not off from day to day." Tho' exhausted by long illness he retained his mind till his last breath. The Rev. Mr McIlvaine was with him when he expired. I feel a pang at losing a friend. . . .

Sat<sup>r</sup> [January] 31. . . . Miss Wright engrosses the day. She has become the Editor of a paper called the Free press,<sup>4</sup> devoted to Infidelity & all the licentiousness of the period of the French Revolution. Let her alone is my maxim & she will talk & write herself down. Pity that the fine mind & education she possesses sh<sup>d</sup> be thus perverted. . . .

---

per [Ship] Louisiana

NEW YORK, Monday 2<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>r</sup>, 1829

A right down old fashioned N. E. snow storm prevents the Tennessee from sailing this day. . . . Your dear mother has been called upon by some Ladies of the Female Tract So[ciety] of S<sup>t</sup> George's Church, to favour them with her aid, w<sup>h</sup> she has done by subscribing as a life member \$10, & Sister I presume will do the same.

<sup>4</sup> The *Free Enquirer*.

This S<sup>o</sup> is Aux<sup>y</sup> to the Am. Tract S<sup>o</sup> of w<sup>h</sup> I am a Director for life from its origin. Mothers heart & soul is quite engaged, but I dissuade her from personal solicitations at her period of life. . . .

Tuesday [February] 3<sup>d</sup>. A fine N Wester will give the Tennessee a grand set off. It is years since we have had such a winter scene as this day. Sister takes the advantage of the occasion to take the children a sleighing, the first time since her marriage that she has partaken of this diversion. G<sup>d</sup>ma, Thomas, Pintard & Boudy compose the party. I once tho't that I c<sup>d</sup> never lose my relish for dancing & sleighing, but I have outlived it & seem to wonder that they ever delighted me. M<sup>r</sup> Maxwell, my old friend, used to say that by wrapping himself up in his cloke & sitting in the air on a N West day for an hour, till he got almost frozen, & then come into the House & drink a dram, was as good as going a sleighing, the pleasure of which, in his estimation, consisted in freezing, thawing, & drinking Cherry bounce. It now seems to me to be much like it. It is astonishing how exhilarating it is to man & animals, to see the face of nature robed in white, the emblem of perfect purity. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [February] 4<sup>th</sup>. Still very cold. Sister & the children (mother not well) took their long talked of sleigh ride yest<sup>y</sup>, of *one* hour out & home, at the moderate charge of \$5, which made Thomas roll his goggles, as well it might, but as snow comes so seldom every advantage is taken. . . .

Thurs<sup>y</sup> [February] 5<sup>th</sup>. Cold & capital sleighing. . . . The election of Edw<sup>d</sup> Livingston Senator to Congress gratifies all his old townsmen. It was his due. But I presume it will be a nominal honour, as no doubt he will be one of Gen. Jacksons Cabinet, probably Sec<sup>y</sup> of State, so that he will have had the compliment paid him, & M<sup>r</sup> Johns[t]on the next highest candidate be elected. Four weeks more & the new Administration takes place of the old. President Adams has held his last levee &

given a most splendid supper on the occasion. *Sic transit gloria mundi*, & for one I shall sing & be joyful, for Adams was an apostate, not from principle but promotion. Judas has had his 30 pieces of silver. Let him go & hang himself.

Friday [February] 6<sup>th</sup>. All that I have to record is that the sleighing never was finer, & that M<sup>rs</sup> Schenck called yest<sup>y</sup> & took Sister & my namesake a riding. Mother is not very smart. She allows her spirits to be affected w<sup>h</sup> it is out of my power to control. (2 o'clock). The president that paraded Wall S<sup>t</sup> a few days ago has just passed by *quartered* for exhibition in market tomorrow.

Sat<sup>y</sup> [February] 7<sup>th</sup>. Milder, w<sup>h</sup> will spoil the most elegant sleighing that we have [had] for many years & w<sup>h</sup> has been improved by all classes day & night. Every kind of sleigh & sled, in city & adjacent country has been put in requisition & the profits of the owners & drivers & all the places of entertainment have been exorbitant. . . .

Tuesday [February] 10<sup>th</sup>. . . . A new Savings Bank for Seamen has been incorporated w<sup>h</sup> will be very beneficial to this thoughtless class of people & conducted on different principles from our own as to seeking them out & compelling them to deposit at the moment they receive their wages. I have been honoured with an appointment as Trustee, w<sup>h</sup> I sh<sup>d</sup> prefer letting alone but am willing to give any counsel in my power, but not personal services. We met last ev<sup>g</sup> for the first time.

Wed<sup>y</sup> [February] 11<sup>th</sup>. . . .

It gratifies me to hear that Pintard is becoming useful & capable of relieving his father in the duties of the Infirmary . . . [Marsden] has great capacity & applys well to his studies, & happily for his moral & religious instruction he is highly favoured, and I trust, whatever may be his pursuits in life he will never forget the benefits derived under M<sup>r</sup> Muhlenbergh who is devoted to his Academy.

. . . .

Friday [February] 13<sup>th</sup>. Last ev<sup>g</sup> your sisters dear babe, 2 m<sup>os</sup> & 4 days old, was christened by the Rev. D<sup>r</sup> Upfold Rector of S<sup>t</sup> Thomas Ch[urch], his father mother & D<sup>r</sup> Davidson—represented by myself—sponsors, & called Richard Davidson after y<sup>r</sup> good man. The ceremony was performed with due solemnity, & the kneeling of our family at prayers around the circular table must have had a serious & impressive effect on the company. At least it made a very solemn one on me. The dear infant, altho at the hour usual for its rest, never whimpered. It was too late in the evening, past 8, to have Pintard & Boudy present as I c<sup>d</sup> have wished. Sisters family friends the Schencks, & a few others were present & after partaking of refreshments D<sup>r</sup> Upfold retired ½ p. 9, the company gradually withdrew by 11, and I staid up on an occasion which may be the last. The weather was biting cold, but the room comfortable, good fires having been carefully kept up all day. Everything went off very well. Mother probably who has begun her letter to you may give particulars. I wish they w<sup>d</sup> call him Davidson, as Richard, altho' a pretty & favourite name of y<sup>r</sup> mother, is not sufficiently distinctive, for where a compliment is intended, boys ought to be designated by the family name. Thomas ought to be called Courtney after his mothers family. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Louisiana

---

NEW YORK, 18<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>r</sup>, 1829. Wed<sup>r</sup>.

Thur<sup>r</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> . . . This is an extreme cold day. My faculties are almost benumbed. We have had more of old fashioned winter this season than for many years, which proves that there is not so great a variation in the temperature of our climate as is generally imagined. Snows in my early days or before the revolution were more constant & durable, in this particular there



is certainly a great difference in this city. . . . The Bachelors Ball on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> being Sunday, went off in high style. "Where little John Trot like a poney just nicked; with long Dolly Draggletail ambled & kicked." The Washington Birthday Ball is getting up, & a Grand Fancy Ball at the Theatre Park Place, for the inauguration of President Jackson, w<sup>h</sup> is to eclipse in fashion numbers & elegance all former exhibitions of the kind. . . .

Friday [February] 20<sup>th</sup>. A violent N. E. snow storm, such as has not occurred in many years. I had a bad walk down, but it will be harder returning.

Sat<sup>y</sup> [February] 21. The storm lasted with unabated fury from 8 a. m. to 10 at night. The snow much drifted & above a foot in depth on a level. . . .

Monday [February] 23<sup>d</sup>. It is severely cold. The intervention of Sunday, without a fire in the office renders it so bitter that I can hardly write. . . . Our harbour is almost blockaded with floating ice, & several of the narrow streets are almost impassable. It is many years since we have experienced any thing like the snow storm of Friday w<sup>h</sup> has extended probably to Washington. . . .

Tuesday [February] 24<sup>th</sup>. It really appears that there is nothing else to do but to chronicle the weather. A more distressing season for the poor has not occurred for many years. The abundant stock for distribution is totally exhausted, the private repositories must be resorted to. Our Fuel Saving Fund has proved a blessing this year. About 60 loads overplus will be turned over at cost to the Corporation, as the best Almoners of public bounty. Phila[delphia] by accounts are as bad off, but it is approachable by land when we are cut off by floating ice. Coal in a few years will be the grand resource when grates adapted for domestic purposes will be improved so as to come within reach of the poor. . . .

There is to be a confirmation in S<sup>t</sup> Thomas' Church,

& our Thomas is preparing to assume on himself the baptismal vows made for him by his sponsors. As one it is my duty to assist him in his preparation. I have just procured for him an instructive little work Bp. Porteous' Evidences of X<sup>ty</sup> one w<sup>h</sup> Marney studies. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [February] 25<sup>th</sup>. Weather milder with appearance of rain w<sup>h</sup> will deluge our streets, but clear the harbour of ice, at present nearly blockaded. Yest<sup>y</sup> Sister accompanied M<sup>rs</sup> Wadsworth who is a manager, to the Infant School in Canal S<sup>t</sup> with which she was delighted. It is contemplated to establish one for children such as ours in our vicinity w<sup>h</sup> will prove highly beneficial to release these careful comforts from their nursery imprisonment. It is surprizing & gratifying to see the capacity of infants of 2 years to learn by imitation; & their faculties called forth, hitherto regarded as to[o] immature for development. . . . I look back with wonder at the comparative ignorance of society in my juvenile years, & regard every movement in the moral & religious world as the manifestations of the approaching latter days glorious, a fulfillment of the sure word of prophecy, & a perfect demonstration of the truth of Divine revelation. . . .

. . . . .  
 Friday [February] 27<sup>th</sup>. A mild rain on Wed<sup>y</sup> ev[ening] with sleet at night rendered the streets so slippery that for the first time since living up B<sup>d</sup>way I remained home all day. The Streets were at 10 o'clock flooded with water & the cross paths nearly impassable. . . . Our harbour is still covered with floating ice so as to impede the departure & arrival of vessels. Liberal contributions are making in every ward for the poor. Fuel is the pinching want & every day diminishes our stock. Supplies are out of the question until the navigation shall be free. Among other gifts toward the relief of the poor, M<sup>r</sup> Muhlenbergh has sent \$20, given by the pupils of [Flushing] Academy so that our Marney is learning the all important lesson of Charity, w<sup>h</sup>

ought to be inculcated in every seminary. . . . Poor dear Mother distresses me in the extreme, by persisting to go to housekeeping again, w<sup>h</sup> unless by retirement to some obscure low price tenement, to w<sup>h</sup> she w<sup>d</sup> never consent, is totally out [of] my power. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Kentucky

---

NEW YORK, 4<sup>th</sup> March, 1829. Ash Wed<sup>y</sup>

This is a day of rejoicing in this city, for the inauguration of Gen. Jackson, President. M<sup>r</sup> Adams goes out with little sympathy, having forfeited the confidence of those who made him president, by his imprudent letter reviving his groundless charges ag<sup>t</sup> the eastern Federalists. For a man of talents, as he certainly is, he has committed some egregious errors & done several foolish acts, his 4<sup>th</sup> July oration, his silly toast at Baltimore of Ebony & Topaz, & above all the aforesaid indiscreet letter, have greatly lessened him in general estimation. The toast was unfit even for a private party, from a private gentleman. A President of Congress sh<sup>d</sup> never do a little thing.

Friday [March] 6<sup>th</sup>. Altho yest<sup>y</sup> was a N. E. rain, we had a full attendance at the meeting of the Managers of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] when it was resolved to publish a small pocket Testament for the use of Sunday Schools, and a Quarto Bible, with every possible accuracy to be regarded as a standard for all future editions of the Scriptures. This subject I have long had at heart & hope to be spared to see it accomplished. Dear Mother attended service on Ash Wed<sup>y</sup> when about 40 ladies remained to form a Female Aux[iliar]y Miss[ionar]y Society. She declined the proffer of being made president, w<sup>h</sup> at her period of life might have been troublesome. The system pursued by Bp. Hobart is so exclusive, all confined to this diocese, not a cent for For-

eign Missions, that I cannot subscribe to it, & it is not pleasing to the most pious Episcopalians in this city, consequently it restricts their bounty, & from those whose hearts are cold, very little is obtained. Mother gave \$5 no others higher than \$[blank] & several only \$1. Small doings w<sup>h</sup> prove that their feelings were not engaged. Indeed we are so fearful of zeal & enthusiasm that cold formality characterizes our denomination, which is [to] be regretted. If y<sup>r</sup> brother will take my pew off my hands, I will purchase one in M<sup>r</sup> Eastburns new Church.<sup>5</sup> I wish to be intimate with my Minister, but cannot with M<sup>r</sup> Upfold whose cheif merit consists in being very High Churchman. Intercourse of consequence is rare, & one dare not speak freely, least offence sh<sup>d</sup> be taken. This class of Divines is the very opposite to the character of the Rev. Leigh Richmond. I am too old, & read too much of better divinity to relish cold moral sermons, indeed incapable of hearing they cannot offend. Permit me again to urge your reading the Memoir of M<sup>r</sup> Richmond.

Sat<sup>r</sup> [March] 7<sup>th</sup>. Clear & cold. The late rain has lifted the ice, & our rivers are once more navigable. The presidents inaugural is a plain matter of fact speech & does him, in my estimation, credit. Opinions differ. Of the several presidents, Washington, Monroe & Jackson were & are Christians, Adams 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>d</sup>, Socinians, Jefferson & Madison Infidels. Under the administration of Gen. Washington, the U States experienced as great prosperity as ever they have since, Adams broke down the Federal party, Jefferson sowed the Wind, & Madison reaped the Whirlwind, Monroe enjoyed unparralled tranquillity, Adams 2<sup>d</sup> encountered great opposition. I hope that Jacksons reign may be peaceable & propitious. But it is impossible to please all parties. The Inns will grin, the Outs will pout. . . . I shall send herewith "The Tales of the G<sup>t</sup> S<sup>t</sup> Bernard" by the Rev M<sup>r</sup> Croley, Author of Salathiel for the amusement of my Darling &

<sup>5</sup> Church of the Ascension.

Turtle Dove. I know not the merits, but think that a clergyman might devote his time & talents to better purpose than novel writing. They are well spoken of & may amuse, if not instruct. I have looked into them, they are pleasing.

Friday, [March] 13<sup>th</sup>. No Illinois. Tomorrow I must make up my packet, in w<sup>h</sup> besides the Tales, I shall add, the Beauties of Waverly, and a picture book of Trades, for the amuse[en]t of the Younkers. I shall send Marney the Memoir of L. Richmond to inspire him with right notions of the high duties of a pious Divine. . . . Sh<sup>d</sup> he go into the Ministry, Presbyt<sup>n</sup> or Episcopal, leave him to his own unbiassed choice. The western States perhaps ought to be the field of his operations. His ardour will qualify to make an enterprizing Missionary, & he may build up a congregation of his own, live to see it flourish, and be the instrument of salvation to many. . . . I have just rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Bayard, who on my recommendation is reading Leigh Richmond with delight. I am travelling to a close with my beautiful large type London copy, & shall sigh as I conclude the last page. I reserve it as a treat in the evening after all my other readings. Never since the enraptured delight I once took in Shakespeare & Johnson have I met with a work that has afforded me so much pleasure & instruction, always excepting Scotts invaluable commentary, my daily bread, from w<sup>h</sup> I never arise without acknowledging my obligations to him.

Sat<sup>y</sup> [March] 14<sup>th</sup>. . . . I send the reading part of the 3 last Journals of Commerce, containing the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Kings Journal, sent to the Greek Ladies of this city whose benevolence has been so generously extended to the unfortunate Greeks. What misery have they not suffered, & how grateful ought we to be for the peace & happiness we enjoy. Our Revol<sup>y</sup> War, w<sup>h</sup> we thought so distressing was peace & tranquillity compared with the struggles of Greece. You know my beloved daughter the interest I have taken in its behalf, & the mem-

ory of my eccentric friend Wood ought to be immortalized for his zeal & services in the cause of Greece.

. . . . .  
[Addressed by Ship] Talma

---

By [Ship] Illinois

18<sup>th</sup> March, 1829

. . . Sunday was so pleasant that dear Mother & myself walked out in the aft.noon to see Aunt Helen who is very well. M<sup>r</sup> Craig intends going back again to his country place, & has let the House, the occupation of w<sup>h</sup> has become unpleasant, at present, in consequence of improving the streets all around it. . . .

Thur<sup>y</sup> [March] 19<sup>th</sup>. This is the birthday of Thomas, having completed his 16<sup>th</sup> & entered on his 17<sup>th</sup> year, being one year older than Marney. . . .

. . . . .  
Wed<sup>y</sup> [March] 25<sup>th</sup>. . . . Miss Richmonds description of the last moments of her father, so overpowered me last ev<sup>s</sup> that I was obliged to lay the book aside, & weep in silence under cover of my shade. No Tragedy, however deeply pathetic, in my play reading days ever affected more intensely. You will say Father grows old & childish. Admitted. My heart, in place of becoming petrified by age, seems to become more mollified, but does not recover its tone quite as quick as a child, which from grief to joy, will laugh while the tear is glittering in its eye. You will experience a share of my sensations after perusal, & of course better excuse my weak & feminine feelings. As a scene of real life it is superior to fiction imagination having no part in a story, that may always be recurred to with profit & melancholly delight. So popular is this memoir becoming that several of our Evangelical Ministers have purchased from 5 to a dozen copies for circulation among their parishioners whose circumstances are too circumscribed to lay out even a Dollar over their absolute wants. Certainly

a spirit of genuine Xt<sup>n</sup> piety must be inspired by the perusal of this Memoir. Of the edition sent you 1000 copies, 700 have been sold & the remainder is going off so rapidly, that the Carvells are about publishing a smaller & cheaper edition for more general use, w<sup>h</sup> will enable me to give copies to my humble friends. Your brother Samuel may have returned ere this comes to hand, or I e<sup>d</sup> wish you to send y<sup>r</sup> copy to y<sup>r</sup> good father Davidson, w<sup>h</sup> in such case I will replace. Presbyterians are apt to suppose that there is very little vital piety among Episcopalians, for w<sup>h</sup>, I will not say uncharitable, reflection I must confess there is too much reason. This Memoir will convince him that exalted piety is to be found among English Divines, & the number of Evangelical Clergymen of our Church is increasing in both countries, altho' I regret to add that there is an increased oppugnation of the High Church party throughout the U. S. [in this] Diocese esp<sup>y</sup>, but mor[e of] this at a future day.

Thur<sup>y</sup> [March] 26<sup>th</sup>. . . . This day Mother & Sister attend the auction of y<sup>r</sup> late cousin Julia Weeks furniture. . . . M<sup>r</sup> Weeks takes his infant child to his mother at Oyster bay, & John, his very fine eldest son is to go to a boarding school in the country. . . .

Friday [March] 27<sup>th</sup>. Sister bought but a few articles, decanters & glasses as a remembrancer, everything sold very well, indeed high. Your Cousin John superintended the sale, w<sup>h</sup> it was too painful for M<sup>r</sup> Weeks to attend. . . .

. . . . .

---

By [Ship] Tennessee

NEW YORK, 3<sup>d</sup> April, 1829

. . . . My time is as usual much engrossed with my office duties, & the Am. Bible So[ciety]. At the meeting of the Managers yest<sup>r</sup> I was informed of the reason of the unexpected return of the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Christmas, an

ulcerated sore throat, by the advice of D<sup>r</sup> Davidson, & that he intended to call on me. I shall be happy to see him. We are happy to hear that the children are recovering after a pretty hard attack of the measles. . . . On Wed<sup>y</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Master Pintard went to a decent Madams school. Like his namesake, he took confinement very hard, & was in tears when Robert came for him at 11. . . .

Monday [April] 6<sup>th</sup>. A Steam Boat reached Albany on Sat<sup>y</sup> ev<sup>g</sup> & the river is open. One arrived from Albany last ev<sup>g</sup> with 400 Passengers much to the joy of our trading folks. Yest<sup>y</sup> slight rain, to day high raw west<sup>y</sup> wind, w<sup>h</sup> has made me so hoarse that I can hardly articulate distinctly. A busy week before me. I have just ret<sup>d</sup> (2½ o'clock) from a meeting of the Trustees of the Sailors Snug Harbour. Tomorrow, from 12 to 2, Election of Directors of the Mut[ua]l Ins. Co. Wed<sup>y</sup> 5 p. m. monthly meet<sup>s</sup> of the Trustees of the Savings B<sup>k</sup>. Thur<sup>y</sup> 4½ p. m. of the Vestry Du S<sup>t</sup> Esprit. Friday 5 p. m. of the Stand<sup>s</sup> Com<sup>e</sup> of the Am. Bible S<sup>o</sup>. Sat<sup>y</sup> holiday probably, after 3, for Tho<sup>s</sup> Pintard & myself. . . .

Tuesday [April] 7<sup>th</sup>. 2 p. m. What between writing up the Minutes of the Sailors Snug Harbour, & the Election for Directors of my Office, & *making punch*, for the Voters—such as your Sister made for her wedding—my time has been wholly engrossed till now. . . . The Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Bayard has very unexpectedly called. He is on his way to Princeton, having been at Newark last Sunday where he preached twice. The present minister is leaving that Church & his old friends wish him to return. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [April] 8<sup>th</sup> . . . This morn<sup>g</sup> besides preparatory business for the Savings Bank, I have attended to a very able report by Consul Buchanan of the proceedings of the Fuel Saving Fund, w<sup>h</sup> is so discouraging, notwithstanding every effort, that it will be dissolved next Friday, & we will pay over our small Funds to



the Female Assylum for lying in women, on condition of making every Patron & members for life, Ladies, Members also of the Fem. Assylum. This Society has extended great relief. Females have a better tact for these subjects than men. Less apt to be imposed upon, they can approach the destitute & unfortunate of their sex with greater delicacy & administer to their wants with more judgment & discrimination. If not too painful & irksome Mother may, years permitting, be eminently useful. This City is very much indebted to its Females, to whom I always consider myself under obligations. . . .

Friday [April] 10<sup>th</sup>. . . . I am better thank God this day but weak, & were I not obliged, if possible, to attend the Fuel Fund S<sup>o</sup> at 1 & to call at the Depository & audit the Acc<sup>ts</sup> of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] I sh<sup>d</sup> have kept house, for the day is raw & overcast. Moreover I felt anxious to see whether my office had been involved in the Conflagration of the La Fayette Theatre, between 3 & 4 this morning which is totally demolished, together with several adjacent buildings. The structure being a huge pile of wood & combustibles, the blaze was tremendous. Happily as far as we can yet ascertain, we have escaped having for a length of time doome[d] this Theatre to destruction, we prudently avoided all insurance in its proximity. Pintard knows the place, where he attended with his brother the first Circus exhibition after his arrival here. Thus two Theatres, the Bowery & La Fayette have been conf[li]agrated within a short space of each other. The Park Theatre had its turn some years ago, when the awful catastrophe of the Richmond Theatre occurred. . . . After I had retired to rest at 9 last ev<sup>g</sup> the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Bayard came in from Princeton. He has gone over to Newark this morn<sup>g</sup> to renew his old acquaintance, to preach on Sunday, & go north on Monday so as [to] attend Service on Good Friday at Geneseo.

. . . .

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April. After a succession of most unpleasant weather a fine day w<sup>h</sup> most probably will bring M<sup>rs</sup> Bayard to town. I am labouring under the most severe cold that I have ever experienced. Sat<sup>y</sup> rain & damp I staid home to nurse myself that I might attend the Confirmation in S<sup>t</sup> Thomas Church w<sup>h</sup> I did on Thomas' account altho' the weather was raw & the dampness of the Church has aggravated my cold. It was a solemn service. I pray that it may be sanctified to my good adopted g<sup>d</sup>son, who had attentively prepared himself. About 30 were confirmed & the sight was very impressive to see so many young persons assuming on themselves their baptismal vows & devoting themselves to God. . . .

This aft.noon I am to attend the funeral of M<sup>r</sup> Arch<sup>d</sup> Gracie who died on Sat<sup>y</sup> aged 74. M<sup>r</sup> G. was once the most respectable merchant in this city, of unbounded hospitality & munificence, a subscriber to every religious & beneficent institution, esteemed & beloved above every citizen of his time. The French & British spoliations broke down his once princely establishment, w<sup>h</sup> depressed his spirits & eventually shortened his days. . . .

Tuesd<sup>y</sup> [April] 14<sup>th</sup> . . . Just after returning from M<sup>r</sup> Gracies funeral at 6, Aunt Patty [Bayard] & Caroline arrived. Y<sup>r</sup> brother, unluckily, attended them, for his pocket was picked at the Steam Boat wharf not much money \$6, & all his accepted bills to some am<sup>t</sup>. He has this morn<sup>g</sup> noticed the acceptors to stop payment. No bad consequences will I trust result, but it is mortifying. He said nothing till he showed me his advertisement just now. . . .

---

By [Ship] Louisiana

NEW YORK, Wed<sup>y</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> April, 1829

I have just written to Marney the last news from home, saying, if not otherwise directed, that he is to

sail in the Kentucky, the 15<sup>th</sup> May, & in that event to come to town the preceding Sat<sup>y</sup> so as to attend the annual meeting of the Am. Bible S<sup>o</sup> on Thur<sup>y</sup> 14<sup>th</sup>, & see the procession of our Sunday School Union on Wed<sup>y</sup> aft.noon, the Scholars so numerous as to form a line nearly from the City Hall to Castle Garden, a most imposing & to me, affecting sight. . . .

Thur<sup>y</sup> [April] 16<sup>th</sup>. Superb day. Aunt Patty is highly favoured. Yest<sup>y</sup> the whole party visited the Infant School & were delighted. I was made happy to find that dear mother was able to accompany them, after being confined almost 8 days to her chamber, by something like Rheumatism in the back. Pintard was taken along & behaved like a little man & was much pleased with the children, who I am certain learn more in 1 week than he will, at his Madams in a month, but the association of the very lowest of poor children is not fitting for those of better sort. I wish there was an infant school suitable for him. . . .

Good Friday [April] 17<sup>th</sup>. Just ret<sup>d</sup> from my French Church, in rain & unluckily brot no umbrella with me, *tant pis*. Only Miss Maria Solomon dined with us yest<sup>y</sup>, her sister having hurt her foot e<sup>d</sup> not walk the distance from M<sup>rs</sup> Callenders who lives near the Battery. Thomas waited on her home. She is a fine animated young lady & plays very well on the piano. Dear Mother was bled yest<sup>y</sup> p. m. D<sup>r</sup> Hosack called at a very inconvenient moment ½ p. 4 & took her from dinner table. . . .

Sat<sup>y</sup> [April] 18<sup>th</sup>. . . . .

This aft.noon I am to attend the funeral of M<sup>rs</sup> Scudder, relict of my once eccentric friend John Scudder of the Museum. Poor woman, she lived without God in this world, of which she was too sensible in her dying hour. She called Eliza, M<sup>r</sup> Scudders oldest daughter grown up, & besought her to take her two young daughters to Church, the neglect of which, now too late, she severely felt & repented. May a gracious God have mercy on her soul. She was correct in her life, tho' ex-

tremely sordid, had been M<sup>r</sup> Scudders servant maid. He married her after the decease of his first wife.

This day month, if spared, will complete my *three score & ten*.

Monday [April] 20<sup>th</sup>. . . . .

On Sat<sup>y</sup> ev<sup>g</sup>, as we were about retiring to rest, a person brought in M<sup>r</sup> Servoss' pocket containing every thing except the few Bank notes. It had been left, a few moments before, on his counter in Nassau S<sup>t</sup> by some person unknown. He came instantly to Broome S<sup>t</sup> & w<sup>d</sup> accept of no compensation saving the expense of Hack hire. Every acceptance was exact, being several exceeding \$5000. It has quite relieved us all.

. . . . .  
Tuesday [April] 21<sup>st</sup>. . . . .

Aunt Patty & Sister went yest<sup>y</sup> p. m. to see the panorama of Geneva, with w<sup>h</sup> they were pleased. In the morn<sup>g</sup> they visited the Female High School. This day they attend the anniversary of the Orphan Assylum at the City Hotel. . . . Tomorrow a M<sup>r</sup> Mason of Tennessee & his daughter dine en famille & Sister makes a little party for her on Thur<sup>y</sup> ev<sup>g</sup>. They are introduced by M<sup>r</sup> White of N[ew] O[rleans] as his particular friend. . . . M<sup>r</sup> Bayard has been longer detained than he expected at Burlington, as an evidence in a law suit pending between Miss Wallace, the lame lady, ag<sup>t</sup> her brother John for misapplication of his trust. How unpleasant are such suits between such near connections. It gives Aunt Bradford great pain. Among other woes, is the total prostration of poor Horace Stocktons affairs, whose all has been sold on execution for debt, & with his (not amiable) wife & 2 daughters have been obliged to seek temporary refuge with M<sup>rs</sup> Bradford. To add to their affliction, the youngest daughter is deranged, tho' troublesome, manageable. . . . Horace S. was a man of brilliant genius, but great eccentricity. An enthusiast in religion he became a Methodist, neglected his professional law duties, abused his Trust, spent by antici-

pation the \$10,000 his Uncle Boudinot intended for him, also \$5000 lent him & forgiven by his brother Richard, borrowed & never repaid until he totally lost his character & that estimation, on acc<sup>t</sup> of his family, in w<sup>h</sup> he was once held, & has finally sunk into utter ruin. Aunt Patty says, that it is feared that he has recourse to the last of all degradations, the Bottle. It makes my heart sink to mention circumstances so unpleasant. . . .

Thur<sup>y</sup> [April] 23<sup>d</sup>. A beautiful day. . . . This day Aunt Patty returns home, leaving Caroline till her father comes to town next week. . . . Yest<sup>y</sup> Miss Mason dined with us, quite a polished young lady & plays well on the piano. I c<sup>d</sup> not but contrast Mothers youthful days with those of the present generation, reflecting that a young miss from the interior of Tennessee (Paris) was endowed with all the elegant accomplishments of polished society. She is amiable & modest, pretty but not handsome & genteel in person & deportment. This evening she, with her business Father, will be at Sister's party. . . .

Tuesday [April] 28<sup>th</sup>. . . .

Among the removals in the new order of things is John Duer Esq as district Att[orne]y w<sup>h</sup> I extremely regret, for he is a superior character. His eminent talents however will in consequence of this removal, attract the best professional business in this city, so that he will be no loser. Ja[me]s A. Hamilton son of Gen. Hamilton is app[ointe]d in his place, an excellent man & who went to y<sup>r</sup> city a year ago. . . .

Wed. [April] 29<sup>th</sup>. Fine day. Accompanying is a letter for Judge Smith from his sister M<sup>rs</sup> Salomons. Have I said, for I cannot retrospect, that Miss S. is engaged to a young physician D<sup>r</sup> Woodhull,<sup>6</sup> of re-

<sup>6</sup> Alfred Alexander Woodhull married in 1833. Anna Maria Salomons, daughter of Dirck G. Salomons and Susan (Smith) Salomons. Woodhull and Stevens, *Woodhull Genealogy* (Philadelphia, 1904), pp. 161, 332.

spectable family. She is a fine lively affable young lady, & the match agreeable to her mother. . . .

---

NEW YORK, Sat<sup>y</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> May, 1829

This will be delivered to my beloved daughter, please God, by her dear son Marsden, who after nearly 4 years absence returns home, on a visit to his family. . . . Last ev<sup>g</sup> I was disquieted with the acc<sup>t</sup> that y<sup>r</sup> intimate friend M<sup>r</sup> Chew has been removed from the post of Collector of N[ew] O[rleans] w<sup>h</sup> he has so long & so honourably filled. He finds a retreat however in the Bank, w<sup>h</sup> will keep him from absolute depression. . . .

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May. This day the Directors of the Mut[ual] Ins[urance] Co. meet to elect a Secretary in my place. I was appointed Sec<sup>y</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> April 1809, so that I have served in this Station 20 Years & 25 days, a long period.

Wed<sup>y</sup> [May] 6<sup>th</sup>. The result of yest<sup>y</sup> was the election of a M<sup>r</sup> A. B. McDonald as my successor, a candidate, to me, totally unexpected. His mother <sup>7</sup> is the daughter of my once very intimate friend, M<sup>r</sup> Anth<sup>y</sup> Bleecker, dec<sup>d</sup> & I am glad of the choice, altho' I regret most sincerely that Andrew Warner who has been in the office 10 years was not chosen, but such is the issue of competition supported by powerful friends w<sup>h</sup> Andrew wants, for my influence was inefficient. A Resolution of thanks was passed in my favour, w<sup>h</sup> is highly gratifying to poor Mother. On Satur<sup>y</sup> I close my duties, with permission, kindly granted, to transfer my desk to the back office, & a free access at all hours, w<sup>h</sup> is, for the present, more accommodating than a removal to y<sup>r</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Mrs. Alexander Lewis McDonald (Elizabeth De Hart Bleecker), daughter of Anthony Lispenard Bleecker. W. M. MacBean, *Biographical Register of Saint Andrew's Society* (N. Y. 1922), I, 346.

brother's counting room. Thus my beloved daughter my long agony is over, & I am all gratitude to Almighty God that the cloud that obscured me when you were here is overpast & that my official career terminates without a blot or reproach. . . . The Car[v]ills having sold off their edition of 1000 copies of Leigh Richmond are about publishing another in a reduced size to sell for 75/000 for w<sup>h</sup> purpose I have ceded to them the only London copy 3<sup>d</sup> edition to be replaced, w<sup>h</sup> I somewhat regret as I had marked all the passages to w<sup>h</sup> I wished to refer. I have taken out the print w<sup>h</sup> I intend to have neatly framed for Marney to be placed in his future study as his exemplar. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [May] 13<sup>th</sup>. Since Sat<sup>y</sup> I have not been able to trace a single line. Dear Marney came to town on that day elated with the prospect of sailing in the Kentucky on the 15<sup>th</sup>. My time has been so engrossed with preparations for the 13<sup>th</sup> Ann[iversar]y tomorrow of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] preparing dfts. of Minutes duplicate & triplicates of Resolutions for this aft.noon & tomorrow meetings, w<sup>h</sup> I have, 2½ p. m. thus far concluded, that my poor head is in a state of effervescence. I made out to attend the procession of our Sunday School Union to Castle Garden yest<sup>y</sup> P. M. To Marneys description I must leave the splendid, brilliant, interesting scene, probably at least old & young 10,000 persons were present, a scene w<sup>h</sup> the world cannot equal, for the world does not possess such ample elegant accommodations. I c<sup>d</sup> not but contrast in my mind the past & the present, the period when Col. Williams, before the late War, cast the first stone for creating the foundation of a Military Fortress, & the present glorious exhibition. The day was most favourable & the sight enchanting. The fulfillment of prophecy in this instance is literally accomplished of beating our spears into pruning hooks. I felt some satisfaction in having been instrumental in preventing the total demolition of this Castle, now appropriated to useful & agreeable purposes.

The solitaire once gave a birds eye sketch of the surrounding scenery w<sup>h</sup> is without a parallel at least in our country. . . .

Thur<sup>y</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> May. 13<sup>th</sup> Ann<sup>y</sup> of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety], a glorious day. Our Anniv<sup>y</sup> meeting went off triumphantly. The So[ciety] has resolved to supply thro' the aid of its Auxiliaries, the whole U States destitute families within 2 years, & it will by the Divine blessing be accomplished. Marney will give an Acc<sup>t</sup> of all that he has witnessed & heard this Jubilee. He & Thomas walked with me in procession. The Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Muhlenbergh who delivered an elegant address, is to breakfast with me. . . .

[Addressed:] M<sup>rs</sup> E. N. Davidson

New Orleans

By her dear son

L. M. Davidson

Ship Kentucky

---

NEW YORK, Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 1829

Thur<sup>y</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> . . . On Tues<sup>y</sup> ev<sup>g</sup> Sister gave a family party in compliment to M<sup>rs</sup> Teller & M<sup>rs</sup> Wilsey of Fish-kill. . . . Your brothers prudence has protected him ag<sup>t</sup> any bad results from the failure of M<sup>r</sup> Franklin w<sup>h</sup> I greatly regret. M<sup>r</sup> S[ervoss] has to congratulate himself, that the failure does not arise thro' his advices. On the contrary, he urged greater circumspection. Bad as our markets have been, he will, he thinks, wind up M<sup>r</sup> F's concerns in his hands without much loss, if any. . . .

Thur<sup>y</sup> [May] 28<sup>th</sup>. A week has elapsed since I have put pen to paper. My time all last week was engrossed with record<sup>g</sup> the Minutes of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety]. On Sat<sup>y</sup> I attended the consecration, by Bp. Hobart, of Ascension Church, the Rev. Manton East-



burn Rector & did not come down. On Monday I was devoted to my unfinished Minutes. . . . We are looking for the Illinois. Possibly some tidings respecting the effect on the Doctor of M<sup>r</sup> Chews removal. How hard. I sincerely sympathize with y<sup>r</sup> Sister friend M<sup>rs</sup> Chew. What dreadful effects of party politics.

. . . . .

---

NEW YORK, 1<sup>st</sup> June, 1829. Monday

. . . . .  
 Yest<sup>r</sup> Mother accompanied me to Ascension Church, opened for the first time by the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Eastburn Rector. Much gratified.

. . . . .  
 Friday [June] 5<sup>th</sup>. Too busy with the Minutes of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] to say a word. a dreadful explosion of the Steam Frigate Fulton yest<sup>r</sup> p. m. at the Navy Yard, w<sup>h</sup> engrosses the public sympathy.

. . . . .  
 Thur<sup>r</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> [*sic for June 11*] Last ev<sup>g</sup> your brother brought home the N[ew] O[rleans] Argus of 12<sup>th</sup> May rec<sup>d</sup> by the Francis containing the removals & appointments in y<sup>r</sup> city. Among the rest D<sup>r</sup> R. Davidson. Altho' I anticipated as much I felt sore & dread least it sh<sup>d</sup> be the forerunner of withdrawing the seamen from his Infirmary. Your brother, to console me, repeated over all the Doctor's friends who might interest themselves in his behalf with M<sup>r</sup> Gordon, but I apprehend, with all the new Collector's firmness, that he will be obliged to submit to the party who expect wherever power is lodged it will be devoted to their interests.

. . . . .  
 To change an unpleasant subject, This ev<sup>g</sup> there is to be a Bible meet<sup>g</sup> at Masonic Hall, to promote the Resolutions of the A. B. S. to supply every destitute family in the U[nite]d [States] with a copy of the Scriptures within 2 years. It is God's cause, & I have every hope & confidence of success. The weather being tem-

perate, almost cold. As I cannot hear, Mother purposes to go. . . . .

NEW YORK, Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> June, 1829

The great Bible effort was made last ev<sup>s</sup>. Mother, M<sup>r</sup> S[ervoss] & Thomas attended a full meeting at Masonic Hall. \$7500 or more were paid down after the close of the addresses. Mother gave \$25 out of her scanty means & myself as much more this morn<sup>s</sup>. M<sup>r</sup> Arthur Tappan, the most liberal benefactor in this city by far, gave \$5000. Sermons are to be preached in all our Churches, saving the Episcopal, except S<sup>t</sup> Georges, D<sup>r</sup> Milnor & Ascension, M<sup>r</sup> Eastburn, Bp. Hobarts baleful influence paralyzing every generous effort in the Bible cause. He cannot however quite extinguish the zeal & affection of every one. Many are doubtful of success, who are well wishers. I confess I may be too sanguine, But I have great Faith. It will be a glorious result sh<sup>d</sup> we succeed.

Sat<sup>y</sup> [June] 13<sup>th</sup>. With y<sup>r</sup> last Observers, I have put up a copy of the new stereotype Ed[ition] of Leigh Richmond, so that having two, you can keep one for circulation & one at home. Let Marney leave his, w<sup>h</sup> I will replace, presuming always that this interesting Memoir will be as popular with you as with us. There are also 2 addresses of the 13<sup>th</sup> Anniv<sup>y</sup> & 2 of the Managers on the present Bible question. About 9000 D<sup>rs</sup> have been collected. Dear Mother visited some friends yest<sup>y</sup> & brought home \$7. All Sis[t]ers domestics gave 75 cents each out of their wages, & our 4 g<sup>d</sup>children do the same. These family collect[ion]s will I hope spread & amount to a large sum. \$20,000 is our mark for this city, w<sup>h</sup> I confidently trust will be raised as fast as wanted. . . . .

[Addressed by: Ship] Illinois

NEW YORK, Tues<sup>y</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> June, 1829

Wed<sup>y</sup> [June] 17<sup>th</sup>. After perusing my beloved daughters letter of 23<sup>d</sup> May, my poor distressed heart on her account is more relieved. Your good brother endeavoured to buoy up my spirits by recounting every possible chance in the Doctors favour, but I have had too long & too much experience to count on political partisans, & am therefore not disappointed as to M<sup>r</sup> Gordon altho' grieved. . . . Reduced, or rather circumscribed to his private practice, the Doctor can now endeavour to extend it, & by prudent reserve of his opinions & feelings avoid exasperating those who might retaliate by interfering with his practice. . . . Among the chances & changings of this transitory life, you are now at this moment engaged in removing from your once little paradi-  
 ze, in the very hearts blood of heat, when all if possible ought to be repose. Your brother does not readily recollect your new domicile as there were two M<sup>r</sup> Sauls Cashiers, but from y<sup>r</sup> brief account, no doubt the House is more capacious & accommodating than the last, excepting the confined yard, w<sup>h</sup> will be a dreadful restriction to the children. . . . Pintard being unhinged from his late daily duties is bad. I hope his father will be able to get him a station in the Charity Hospital, where his experience & willingness to perform every duty will render him an acquisition. . . .

---

 NEW YORK, Monday 22<sup>d</sup> June, 1829

Tues<sup>y</sup> [June] 23<sup>d</sup>. . . . Dear Sister has her troubles also. Faithful Robert has left us to prepare for the African Methodist Ministry. Pious, capable, & honest he was every thing to us. He is replaced by a decent coloured man yet to be proved & learn the ways of the family. A general change has taken place since you

left us. Marian went on a visit to her mother & never returned, replaced by a very quiet decent coloured girl, Susan, who leaves us tomorrow, discon[ten]ted with her kitchen mates. The better used the more ungrateful, such is the disposition for roaming. Nothing like old faithful Tamar, after all.

Tues<sup>y</sup> [June] 30<sup>th</sup>. The most ext[raordinary] cool weather that probably ever was known. I had written in answer to M<sup>r</sup> Bayards request for my opinion of his accepting an offer of \$10,500 for his place. Knowing that he was tired of farming & that Aunt Patty wished to live on a smaller scale I gave my sentence in favour of a sale, contrary as I afterwards found to y<sup>r</sup> mothers judgment. Let it pass. . . . I have toiled very doggedly, sometimes very hard, & at all times closely confined for 20 years of my life, but I declare the no work that I have to do, is the hardest work I ever performed. I come down to the office daily but returning early, makes my home day very long. I read till my eyes refuse their office, lay aside my book, nod, take it up again & wish for night. Scotts Bible is my daily bread, & strange you may think it to say, Scotts Novels my recreation. What an association for an old man. For nearly 2 years I have been incessantly engaged with Ecclesiastical History, till finally, it has lost its charms. I c<sup>d</sup> no longer rest on it with instruction or pleasure. I thought last week of Waverly, took it up, & became as fascinated with it as on the first perusal many years ago, & it completely beguiled my mind & killed ennui. I shall read them in succession for an hour or two thro' the summer. When Autumn comes, if spared, my mind & body will I hope be braced for more serious study.

11<sup>th</sup> [June] Sat<sup>y</sup>. . . . My time is thank God much occupied, with the B[ible] S[ociety] & Savings B<sup>k</sup>. The last closed its 10<sup>th</sup> year, 30<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> in w<sup>h</sup> time we received \$4,997,105.40, and paid back \$3,528,419.71, & opened above 22,000 accounts. Vastly beyond our most san-

guine expectations. The 2 years Bible supply meets unbounded approbation. \$50,000 are already engaged to be supplied, of \$200,000, our sum, & this is but a dull season to collect. . . .

---

NEW YORK, 14<sup>th</sup> July, Tues<sup>r</sup>, 1829

. . . . .  
 Thur<sup>r</sup> [July] 16<sup>th</sup>. The Tennessee is to sail tomorrow. I put up for darling Waverleys last Novel, The Maid of the Mist, w<sup>h</sup> she will find interesting. I have only read the first Vol. for I cannot read much this hot weather which has at length come. . . .

. . . . .  
 M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Washington have arrived at Princeton & with their mother are to pass thro' next week on their route to Geneseo. I wish Mother c<sup>d</sup> find some good companion to visit the Springs w<sup>h</sup> w<sup>d</sup> be of service to her. For myself this year, I cannot go. It is a chance if even to Princeton. M<sup>r</sup> Bayard has let his place 1<sup>st</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> to a M<sup>r</sup> Patten who is enterprizing a modern academy. If successful he will purchase it. M<sup>r</sup> B. & Patty purpose to pass the winter with Julia. . . .

Friday [July] 17<sup>th</sup>. After 2 hot days a delightful pleasant one. To the little parcel I have added *Parental Fidelity* for Mother as well as children, the perusal of which will be profitable to both. Little Richard pines, probably the usual infantile bowel complaint. Tomorrow M<sup>r</sup> Servoss takes his family to Musquito Cove, on Long Island, nearly opposite to N Rochelle. A Steam Boat plies daily between this city & those places, w<sup>h</sup> if accommodations can be procured will render intercourse very easy. It is a beautiful retired place, board \$4, Fish, Clams directly out of the water & substantial Farmers fare. Altho' called Musquito Cove, that tormentor does not infest the place. M<sup>r</sup> S. will return on Monday morn<sup>g</sup> when we shall know all about it. I wish

it may so please as to induce Mother to go. The sandy shore admits of comfortable bathing at all times of tide. Such a retreat, in August, w<sup>d</sup> suit me exactly. . . .

[Addressed by Ship] Tennessee

---

NEW YORK, Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July, 1829

[July] 22<sup>d</sup>. Yest<sup>y</sup> at 3 p. m. Sister with her 3 Children, maid & baggage took passage in the Steam Boat for Musquito Cove. William the waiter attended as M<sup>r</sup> Servoss c<sup>d</sup> not leave town. The quarters in a Quaker family are decent, fare plain & wholesome, \$4 a week & half price for children, but no accommodations for Mother, who will go to Bath next week. M<sup>r</sup> S[ervoss] will go to see his family on Sat<sup>y</sup>. He went there last Sat<sup>y</sup> to engage quarters.

23<sup>rd</sup> [July] Thur<sup>y</sup>. William ret<sup>d</sup> yest<sup>y</sup> with a letter from Sister. She is delighted with her quarters. Mother talks of accompanying M<sup>r</sup> S. on Sat<sup>y</sup> possibly to pass next week. It w<sup>d</sup> be gratifying if any accommod[at]ion c<sup>d</sup> be made for her, as it w<sup>d</sup> be more retired than Bath, unless our wild children sh<sup>d</sup> be an annoyance. For myself I c<sup>d</sup> wish a sequestered retreat. If Bath, I shall only pass a day or two, in a fortnight for I cannot bear a public House. A letter from M<sup>r</sup> Bayard informs that only he & Aunt Patty, taking home their 2 g<sup>d</sup> daughters, intend visiting his Rev<sup>d</sup> son. M<sup>r</sup> Washington is obliged to go back to Virg<sup>a</sup> to attend an important trial & returns for Julia in Sept<sup>r</sup> who in the meanwhile stays at Princeton with her sister. On Monday next, they are to come to town to proceed Tues<sup>y</sup> 6 a. m. for Albany, unless M<sup>rs</sup> Bradford who is indisposed with chill & Fever & Gout sh<sup>d</sup> grow worse & call them to Burlington. . . .

Friday [July] 24<sup>th</sup>. Our little Pintards birth day, 4 years old. . . . The Doctor I see is disappointed respect<sup>t</sup> the City Hospital, D<sup>r</sup> Kerrs son having been appointed postmaster. I am led to think that in consequence of

all the late changes & curtailments of income that you hesitate about encountering the expense of Marneys further education. . . .

Sat<sup>y</sup> [July] 25<sup>th</sup>. . . . Mother has decided on going to Bath, which altho' a more public resort of comers & goers, still affords retirement to a private chamber, & better fare than country families can furnish. She had concluded to visit Sister this day, before coming to a conclusion. But a letter from her yest<sup>y</sup> mentions that the table is very indifferent, plain boiled pork or corn meal, without fish or poultry, simple country fare, no pretensions to cookery, & what is worse, bad sour bread, so that she & the children live on crackers. This information has not only decided Mothers choice but will induce M<sup>r</sup> Servoss to change his familys quarters, & altho' it may cost a little more, still in case of sickness or complaint, Mother & daughter will be together. Your Mother is quite a favourite with M<sup>rs</sup> Brown who sent over yest<sup>y</sup> to say, that her apartment w<sup>d</sup> probably be at command on Monday, & Mother has engaged it. Moreover Bath is of easy access, an hour & a half ride. 5 p. m., communication twice a day, & M<sup>r</sup> S. can more easily go & come. It takes 5 hours to & from Musquito Cove, sometimes, according to tides, 6, which throws him late in the ev<sup>g</sup> to get there & late in the morn<sup>g</sup> returning. All things considered it is best to change quarters, & as Mother cannot be accommodated with a room, the reason is more than plausible. The children enjoy themselves, there is however range enough at Bath for them, nice waggon or Barouche to take an occasion airing. Upon the whole I am as well, or better pleased. My visits will be a day or two weekly. As I said, Mother is much respected by the good Dutch folks of New Utrecht & feels herself very much at home with M<sup>rs</sup> Young. . . .

NEW YORK, Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July, 1829

My last by mail, 25<sup>th</sup> inst. Please to inform how many Vol<sup>s</sup> you have of M<sup>rs</sup> Sherwoods Lady of the Manor, I think 5. A 7<sup>th</sup> is just published w<sup>h</sup> I will send with the 6<sup>th</sup> next fall to complete your set.

Tues<sup>y</sup> 28<sup>th</sup>. The Kentucky arrived yest<sup>y</sup>, also the Azelia. Your brother brought home y<sup>r</sup> letters. I confess that my heart sunk, on reading that Marneys destiny was altered. I bow with submission, knowing that an overruling Providence orders all for the best. Your mother was not disappointed, as she knew from Marneys discourse that he *did not intend* to return. So be it. I anticipated that a change in circumstances w<sup>d</sup> not justify his Father to extend his education. Were it possible, w<sup>h</sup> it is not, I w<sup>d</sup> have educated Marney myself. It is some consolation that he has taken to the Law, in w<sup>h</sup> if he applies himself, he will excell, & certainly in a lucrative view his prospects are flattering. To have been retained at the first start, with a stipend adequate to his support I consider a kind interposition in his favour.

Wed<sup>y</sup> [July] 29<sup>th</sup>. Yest<sup>y</sup> P. M. dear Mother left me for Bath, escorted by Thomas who has (9 o'clock) ret<sup>d</sup>. They got up safe & in good season for Tea. Mother has an excellent chamber maid, white, Ann who has been with her a month & accustomed to her ways, is quiet & handy. She has her old apartment, a very convenient one, & is quite at home with M<sup>rs</sup> Young & family. She parted with a very heavy heart, going alone. We hoped that Sister w<sup>d</sup> have changed her quarters, but her appendage is large & the difference between 4 & 6 Doll<sup>rs</sup> a week, & half price for her maid & children am<sup>ts</sup> to considerable in 2 months. . . . M<sup>r</sup> Bayard & Aunt Patty went to visit their son yest<sup>y</sup> morn<sup>g</sup> taking home 2 g<sup>d</sup>daughters. They staid Monday ev<sup>g</sup> with M<sup>rs</sup> Boyd. Mother & myself called on them after my return from the Savings Bank. The Fare to Albany is only \$1, meals to be paid for. Some St[eam] Boats give meals in the



bargain, such is the destructive rivalship between the several proprietors to see who shall do each other most harm. It is a public injury to reduce prices below the fair value. . . . I am happy that you have passed thro the horrors of removal & that you find y<sup>r</sup> new abode cooler. You will get accustomed to the noise, as we became except Mother, in B<sup>d</sup>way, where the everlasting racket of Horses & Carriages was intolerable for the first 6 months. . . . Do not let Marney absent himself from y<sup>r</sup> family devotions & attendance on Church. I hope that he will become a Sunday School Teacher. Thomas is deriving more Bible information by the discharge of this important benevolent duty, than left to himself he w<sup>d</sup> probably have acquired all his life. The Male Teachers of Ascension Church, to which he is attached, meet, once a fortnight, of an ev<sup>s</sup> at each others houses in rotation, for mutual instruction & prayer. He is quite enamoured with his calling & is very punctual & faithful in its discharge. He is a lad of excellent principles. His scho[o]ling terminates the 31<sup>st</sup> & his father will put him into some store. Matteawan is done with, on acc<sup>t</sup> of the woful depression of the manufacturing interest. M<sup>r</sup> Schenck still goes on, but certainly without profit, if not with direct loss.

. . . . .

---

NEW YORK, Monday 3<sup>d</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>, 1829

. . . Dear Mother from whom I heard Sat<sup>y</sup> & yest<sup>y</sup> is well & delighted with her accommod<sup>s</sup> having the best room in the house, S. W. corner, fronting the Bay, with a prospect of every ship coming in & going out. She was most kindly welcomed. Yest<sup>y</sup> she went to Church & contributed her mite to the N. Utrecht Female Missionary & Bible Society. . . . This aft.noon I shall go over & stay till Wed<sup>y</sup> p. m. for Thur<sup>y</sup> is the meeting of the Managers, & next Monday go again & stay till Wed<sup>y</sup> A. M., the aft.noon being the monthly meeting of the

Trustees of the Savings Bank, w<sup>h</sup> goes on most prosperously. We opened 259 new acc<sup>ts</sup> in July, half of w<sup>h</sup> were low Irish, Males & Females. This Instit<sup>n</sup> is working wonders with that class, & Temperance is increasing among them. . . .

Thurs<sup>y</sup> [August] 6<sup>th</sup>. . . . We live, I believe infested with Incendiaries. On Mond<sup>y</sup> night, & Tues<sup>y</sup> morn<sup>g</sup> there were two large fires in the eastern part of the city, last night a very serious fire in the rear of Pine S<sup>t</sup> w<sup>h</sup> has done much damage to merchandize. My old office has escaped the latter, but loses about \$600 in the former. It is no time to leave a house alone to servants, or I sh<sup>d</sup> go to Bath on Sat<sup>y</sup>, but M<sup>r</sup> S[ervoss] takes his turn to the Cove & returns on Monday A. M. . . . Your brother tells me that he has written to you, informing the sad news of the death of M<sup>r</sup> Babcock<sup>s</sup> on his passage in the Talma, an irreparable loss to his family & very serious one to y<sup>r</sup> city of w<sup>h</sup> he was so useful a member. His poor son at Flushing Marneys companion will be much afflicted, as also his sister M<sup>rs</sup> Palmer, who has been ret[urne]d a fortnight, of w<sup>h</sup> I was ignorant, or sh<sup>d</sup> ere this have called to see her. . . .

Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>. Yest<sup>y</sup> the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Muhlenbergh called on me to express his extreme regret that Marney sh<sup>d</sup> not return to complete his educ<sup>n</sup>. He is so much attached to him, that on assigning the cause his fathers inability in consequence of giving up the Infirmary, that he offers to take him for one half, or 125 D<sup>s</sup> as he considers Marneys good example beneficial to the scholars & worth the diminution. . . .

. . . . .  
Friday [August] 14<sup>th</sup>. . . . Miss Duer is I believe well, with her sister M<sup>rs</sup> Morris Robinson at Brooklyn. . . . I have just returned from the funeral of Miss Sli-dell, daughter of my friend John S. She died of consumption, had been lame for many years, was very pious

<sup>s</sup> Benjamin Franklin Babcock, father of Benjamin Franklin Babcock, Jr., and brother of Mrs. William R. Palmer. *N. Y. Observer*, Aug. 8, 1829; Stephen Babcock, *Babcock Genealogy* (1903), pp. 127, 215.

& resigned, a great consolation to her parents & family. I have also, by request written a line of consolation to my old friend, Polly Coutant of N Rochelle, who is going the way of all flesh, of a dropsy in the chest & liver complaint. She is about my years. Except Aunt Patty, she is the last of all my N[ew] R[ochelle] friends. . . .

---

N YORK, Monday 17<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>, 1829. very cool

. . . M<sup>r</sup> Bayard & Aunt Patty ret[urne]d from Geneseo Friday p. m., left all well but M<sup>rs</sup> Cornelia, who is in very miserable health. M<sup>r</sup> B. speaks in high terms of the Society & usefulness of his son, who w<sup>d</sup> however prefer Newark e<sup>d</sup> he receive a call. I know not the cause why his services there sh<sup>d</sup> not be acceptable. I met James Hull in the Street yest<sup>y</sup>. He looks very thin as tho' he studied hard. He enters Senior at Hartford this year, & after taking his degree returns home to study Theology under his father.<sup>9</sup> . . .

Thurs<sup>y</sup> [August] 20<sup>th</sup>. . . . Sister went to a camp meeting last week, with which she was not much pleased. She saw there M<sup>rs</sup> Croghan with her cousin Miss Van Ness. . . .

. . . . .  
Friday [August] 21<sup>st</sup>. I was honoured yest<sup>y</sup> with a call by M[essr]s. Morse<sup>10</sup> & Hull. The former takes his degree at Harvard next Wed<sup>y</sup>. He entered Senior & I am apt to imagine that Marney is better qualified for that honour than M. This superficial hurried education is the bane of youth. Hull will do better, for he was a good classical Scholar when he left his father. He did wrong not to have gone earlier to College, instead of wasting time & money at Middletown. I cannot reflect on that takein place with patience. Thomas [Servoss]

<sup>9</sup> Rev. James F. Hull, of New Orleans. H. C. Duncan, *The Diocese of Louisiana* (1888), pp. 52-54.

<sup>10</sup> Isaac Edward Morse (1809-1866). *Biog. Directory of the Amer. Cong., 1774-1927; Catalogues of Harvard Univ.; Dodge & Ellis, Norwich Univ., II, 182.*

is to go on trial to his Father on Monday. I have been urgent on this head, as I believe he will make an excellent docile apprentice & will profit more under his Fathers eye & instructions than with a stranger. I am the more interested that he sh<sup>d</sup> do well, as it may fall to his lot to take his brothers by the hand. Thomas is a very good youth, totally free from vicious inclinations, & he will be kept regular & free from low associations, the bane of youth, by living at home. He is to begin his career by going down to the store in Nassau S<sup>t</sup> near Pine, before breakfast, sweep the counting room, & return to breakfast, after w<sup>h</sup> to attend to duty till 2, come home to dine, return & lock up at evening. His father will keep him employed & prepare him to keep his books, w<sup>h</sup> as he writes a beautiful hand, he will soon be able to enter upon. . . .

. . . . .

---

NEW YORK, Tues<sup>y</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>, 1829

. . . On Sat<sup>y</sup> as proposed, I visited Sister at Musquito Cove. Had a delightful passage in the Linnaeus St[eam]boat, stopping at Hallets Cove, Frog neck, & N Rochell landing, probably 60 passengers retreating from the city till Monday. The intercourse is greatly increasing with these several places, in consequence of the Steam boat. My feelings as you may well suppose were tenderly excited, as we entered the Creek & beheld poor Uncle Lewis' former abode. I had not the heart to step ashore. M<sup>r</sup> Watts' House is converted into a fashionable boarding house. Sailing among the islands & Rocks, the scenes of my youth & recollection of all my departed friends called up sensations that depressed my poor weak spirits. We arrived at the Cove at 7 & found M<sup>r</sup> Udalls Wagon in waiting & reached his house at 8 where I had the happiness to find Sister well, the children all abed. . . . M<sup>r</sup> Udall is a plain kind Friend, everything plenty, wholesome tho' plain, milk over-

flowing & elegant butter, a fine milk house, with a constant stream flowing round the pans. The Farm is large & well stocked, the House in sight of the Sound. We rode out in the aft.noon & was shown the first Locust Tree ever planted in that country some 80 or 90 Years, tall & very large & thrifty. The whole place abounds with this valuable Timber, & M<sup>r</sup> U. has a most beautiful Locust Grove, one of Sisters walks, which looks over the surrounding Water & scenery. . . .

. . . . .  
 Friday [August] 28<sup>th</sup>. I returned yest<sup>r</sup> from Bath. . . . We attended a Bible meeting at N. Utrecht. Few but females, as usual, were present. As the inhabitants are building a very neat stone Church, not much can be expected this season. . . . Among the doings of the late Gen. Convention of the Episcopal Ch. at Phil<sup>a</sup> Bp. Brow[n]ell has been appointed to visit Kentucky, Tennessee &c. next winter, & to come home by the way of N[ew] O[rleans]. I was quite intimately associated with the Bishop when our Th[eological] Seminary was at New Haven & hospitably treated by him, & M<sup>rs</sup> B. He is a very affable friendly gentleman to whom I will give a letter of introduction to you. You will find him very pleasant & sociable. . . . A beautiful edition of Wilberforce's Practical View, with an introductory essay of the Rev. Daniel Wilson, an eminently pious Divine in Eng<sup>d</sup> has just appeared. A copy shall be sent to you. To the reading of this work, the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Richmond attributes his conversion, as appears in his Memoir. It is 30 years since I first perused. I shall again review it with ardour.

Sat<sup>r</sup> [August] 29<sup>th</sup>. Rain may prevent M<sup>r</sup> S[ervoss] visiting his family this day. I have written to Sister urging her early return. A remarkable cool summer will hasten cool morn<sup>s</sup> & ev<sup>s</sup> & expose the country to autumnal Chills. Indeed many emigrants are prudently returning for the City is healthier than the country even now. On my visit next week I shall endeavour to persuade Mother to come home by the 10<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> for I sh<sup>d</sup>

dread an attack of Fever, after her Spring visitation. Like myself she becomes more feeble. Bath air is perceptibly too keen for me. I am better at home than there. . . .

---

BATH, NEW UTRECHT, Tuesd<sup>y</sup> 1 Sept<sup>r</sup>, 1829

Of the fate of M<sup>r</sup> Saul Jun<sup>r</sup> we had heard. The false honours paid to the remains of a Suicide are very injudicious. Under the Old Law, before the Revolution, suicides were buried, to deter such acts, where 4 Roads met. I recolle[c]t such an instance, where the N. Y. House of Refuge is now situate<sup>11</sup> & where an Inscription, beginning, *Stop Traveller*, set forth the name & particulars, & w<sup>h</sup> all boys, as they passed, were made to read. To mitigate a too barbarous law, the friends of the suicide were allowed by connivance, to steal away the body from the Coroner for private interment. Not content with this lenity, Funerals have taken place & some of them pompous. The first instance of the latter in our city was M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kesson,<sup>12</sup> a daughter of the unfortunate Gen. Hull, who put a period to her existence by suspension, on the noon of the very day that she was preparing to give a party, contrary to her husbands wishes, whose circumstances, in some degree owing to her ambitious extravagance, began to become circumscribed. Remonstrance induced it was supposed the fatal act. The respect shown, was reprobated. The circumstance of her death, brought an immense concourse of people to witness a parade, only due to distinguished public worth. Other instances followed, without discretion on the part of family friends, who only, thereby, expose more widely the horrid crime of their

<sup>11</sup> In Madison Square, near the junction of the old Bloomingdale and Eastern Post Roads. I. N. P. Stokes, *Iconography of Manhattan Island*, III, 954.

<sup>12</sup> Mrs. John McKesson (Sarah Hull), daughter of General William Hull, died in 1810. *Commercial Advertiser*, Feb. 27, 1810; *N. Y. Gazette*, Feb. 28, 1810; Weygant, *Hull Family in America*, p. 493.

unhappy relatives. I have more than once been inclined to lucubrate on a misguided subject, but was aware that the writer on being known w<sup>d</sup> give exceptions to surviving friends. Such mistaken motives ought not however prevent doing what is right.

. . . . .

---

4 P. M. BATH H N. UTRECHT, Friday 4th Sept<sup>r</sup>, 1829

I arrived here at 12 o'clock, & to my great distress found y<sup>r</sup> dear Mother attended by her physician & D<sup>r</sup> Francis. My letter by mail yest<sup>y</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> inst. informed you of her attack by Fever the preceding Tuesday & that after bleeding &c. she appeared so much better on Wed<sup>y</sup> that she cheerfully consented to my going to town to attend the meeting of the Managers of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] yest<sup>y</sup> P. M. w<sup>h</sup> I did. It seems that the Fever recurred very early yest<sup>y</sup> morn<sup>s</sup> & at her request D<sup>r</sup> F. was sent for who approved of her physicians treatment. After prescribing he returned to the city with injunctions not to inform me, for fear of undue alarm of his visit. He came again to day, & is to come again tomorrow A. M. He says the Fever is bilious, & frankly assures me that there is no danger. Blisters have been applied to her breast w<sup>h</sup> I hope will draw favourable. . . . Inflammatory Rheumatisms prevail in the city, of w<sup>h</sup> I have had a touch in my right foot a fortnight past, that occasionally recurs, but I am very prudent. The weather is absolutely cold. I have put on worsted stockings. This House is quite deserted, M<sup>rs</sup> Onderdonck only remaining who probably goes home tomorrow. The transparent kind Irish lady M<sup>rs</sup> Carvill went away this morn<sup>s</sup>. Ann our maid behaves very well, but is fatigued, being much disturbed last night. I hope to relieve her tonight. Tolerable rest will refresh her. D<sup>r</sup> F. tells me that the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Bruen is at the point of death with bilious fever. He was called in last ev<sup>s</sup> too late, & thinks that M<sup>r</sup> B. has been injudiciously

treated. He attended as represent[ativ]e of the A[meri-  
can] B[ible] S[ociety] a meeting last week at N. London  
& Norwich, returned well, but on Sunday whilst in his  
pulpit, was taken ill & obliged to break off. The service  
was continued by some one else. He grew worse & prob-  
ably is now no more. . . .

. . . . .



BATH HOUSE, N. Utrecht, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Sept. 29. [1829]  
9 A. M.

. . . D<sup>r</sup> Francis came at 6 p. m. & prescribed an  
opiate, w<sup>h</sup> was taken at 9. He says that there are no  
malignant symptoms, & that I need not make myself the  
least uneasy, that there is no necessity for any further  
visits, but Mother insisted on his coming out this morn<sup>g</sup>  
w<sup>h</sup> I hope will be the last as I believe he charges \$10  
each visit, & this will make \$50, a heavy tax on my  
weak purse, but will be cheerfully sustained to please  
poor mother, whose sole confidence rests on D<sup>r</sup> F. . . .  
The Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Bruen died last night, as F. says, by im-  
proper treatment. Tho' called in at 3 on Friday morn<sup>g</sup>  
surrounded by Physicians they w<sup>d</sup> not hear to his advice,  
w<sup>h</sup> they s<sup>d</sup> w<sup>d</sup> kill him & that he was doing well. On  
Friday p. m., F. said the case was desperate. . . .

Monday [September] 7<sup>th</sup>. A hard rain last ev<sup>g</sup> has  
cleared off with a high cold n[orth] wester. The rain  
prevented Doctor Carpenters ev<sup>g</sup> call. He was here at  
6 when I was asleep . . . He desired Ann to tell me  
that he considered the fever broken & Mother doing well.  
Francis may come out altho' I hardly expect him. He  
is to deliver the annual address to the Horticultural  
So[ciety] w<sup>h</sup> I dare say will be a fine one. It was my  
intention, as a member, to have attended, not the splen-  
did dinner, with all w<sup>h</sup> I have done. . . . 1/2 p. 10.  
Mother is regaling on mill pond Oysters, fresh out of  
the water, w<sup>h</sup> relish exceedingly. . . . 1/2 p. 12. A  
Miracle. Dear Sister has arrived with old Marney[']s]



Nurse & Richard, who has been pepperd off with the chicken poek. Thank God, this turn is well over. . . .

---

BATH HOUSE, N. UTRECHT, Thur<sup>y</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> [1829]

On my arrival I found Sister taking a ride & dear Mother sitting up for the first in an easy chair. . . .

Friday 11<sup>th</sup>. . . . The Doctors practice I trust extends. May his success establish confidence in his mode of treatment. Prompt, decided, energetic measures can only, under Providence, counteract the dreadful Yellow fever. Hosack & Francis are more successful here, by their vigorous prescriptions. The former has retired to his farm, late D<sup>r</sup> Bards at Hyde Park, where he is laying out large sums in ornamental improvement, from 70 to 100,000 D<sup>rs</sup> it is said. He has great Taste & appears determined to exhibit it on a large scale, at the expense of his heirs. In the issue, it is so much thrown away for the gratification of vanity. We cannot, however ample our means, expect to rival the gentry & nobility of England, whose improvement & embellishments are the work of successive generations. In our country, we have at best only life estates. It is not often that they descend to children, & when sold, the highest cultivated farms seldom produce the first cost. D<sup>r</sup> H[osack] however got his money, by his marriage, easy. Except in his ostentatious style of living, he spends nothing for he is neither benevolent nor munificent, reluctantly & rarely giving to pious or charitable purposes. I once hoped better of him. Mere men of this world have nothing to spare, but let not judge.

Francis came off with flying colours.<sup>13</sup> He had an audience of 1000 among them 600 ladies. The day was fine. The oppo[rtunity] of viewing the profusion of

<sup>13</sup> On Tuesday, Sept. 8, 1829, Dr. John W. Francis delivered an address in Niblo's Garden, before the New York Horticultural Society. It was printed in 1830 (Sabin's *Dictionary*, no. 25448.)

Flowers & Fruits that decorated the splendid dinner tables, & the expectation, not disappointed, of a finished Discourse, were all objects of unusual attraction. I c<sup>d</sup> have wished to have been present.

½ p[ast] 4. Dear Mother walked half a doz. turns round her chamber shrouded in a blanket. This being a drizzly day I have employed my time delightfully & profitably in reading the Memoirs of D<sup>r</sup> John Mason Good by Professor Olynthus Gregory. D<sup>r</sup> G. was an eminent English physician. . . . This work I borrowed from D<sup>r</sup> Francis, to whom it was a presentation copy from D<sup>r</sup> Gregory. . . . D<sup>r</sup> Goods practical maxim was akin to that of another eminent individual, the late D<sup>r</sup> E. D. Clarke who said "I have lived to know that the great secret of human happiness is this, not to suffer your energies to stagnate. The old adage of 'Too many irons in the fire,' is an abominable lie. You cannot have too many, poker, tongs & shovel, keep all going." Let Pintard enter this in his commonplace book, if he has one. He ought to have. D<sup>r</sup> G. was eminent for commonplacing, so was Gov<sup>r</sup> Clinton. I have done somewhat at it in my day. . . .

Sat<sup>r</sup> [September] 12<sup>th</sup>. Mother rested well & is quite smart this day. I visited the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Beatty, at 10, who, by getting well & venturing out too soon, has been confined again with a pain in his bowels. I visited also the site of the old octagon, to me, beautiful in its simplicity, Dutch Church, w<sup>h</sup> has been demolished after standing 170 years, a monument of the piety of the early forefathers of N. Utrecht. Wherever the Dutch settled, they erected places of worship, numbers like that of this place, of an octagon form. I believe the only one existing in this quarter, is at Jamaica. There is one also on Staten Island. Perhaps others in Jersey & at the north. Every thing is modernized, but the venerable structures of antiquity ought to be respected. I am pleading for the preservation of the Old Bell, imported from Holland, but I fear in vain, as a larger & louder seems to be wished. Since Clocks & Watches have be-

come so common, the use of Bells is less required, & if distinctly heard as one approaches the Church, it is eno[ugh]. In country places the sound cannot extend far. Such are my pleas in favour of a Bell that has tolled 4 generations to their long home. The new Church is really beautiful & does credit to the zeal of the people.

About  $\frac{1}{2}$  p. 5, the Steam Boat that plies to Long Branch, took fire just after leaving the Narrows, & was obliged to return to Staten Island. The fire, pouring out of the Cabbin Windows was distinctly seen from hence.

. . . . .

---

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>, 1829. Bath House

Yest<sup>y</sup> with every appearance of Rain, y<sup>r</sup> sister, babe & nurse with M<sup>r</sup> S[ervoss] returned home at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  p. m. in M<sup>r</sup> Browns Barouche, with a noble pair of horses. . . . M<sup>rs</sup> Brinley, a delicate English lady, the last of the b[o]arders has just left us, called for by her husband. She has 2 sons for education & enquired my opinion about M<sup>r</sup> Muhlenberghs Institute, in praise of w<sup>h</sup> I told her from my experience as to Marney, I c<sup>d</sup> not speak too high. . . .

. . . . .

Thur<sup>y</sup> [September] 17<sup>th</sup>. . . . Mother came over to Bath House, Tuesd<sup>y</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> July, & was attacked by Fever Tues<sup>y</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> inst from the direful effects of w<sup>h</sup> she has I trust securely passed thro' the mercy of God, & the skill of her able physicians, D<sup>r</sup> Carpenter of this place & our D<sup>r</sup> Francis, who tho' eccentric, is in my opinion now that D<sup>r</sup> Hosack has relinquished practice, the most able physician in the city of N York. Francis however is growing more sedate. He is too much the life of literary comp[an]y to be under control, but he is temperate. Hyson Essence of Tea, 6 cups at a sitting is his beverage, w<sup>h</sup> must I sh<sup>d</sup> suppose eventually injure him. He says no.

. . . . .

Wall St Sat<sup>y</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> Sept. Dear Sister & Pintard came to Bath at 11. . . . At 12 Mother came out of her chamber for the first time since Monday 1<sup>st</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>. She was very weak, & almost fainted stepping into the carriage. The day was very fine, & the exercise of riding & thoughts of returning alive, exhilarated her spirits & on arrival at 2 o'clock in Broome St felt better than on leaving Bath House. . . .

. . . . .

---

N YORK, Thur<sup>y</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>, 1829. Quite cold

. . . . .  
 Thurs<sup>y</sup> 8<sup>th</sup>. This is to go by the De Witt Clinton to sail this day. Madame Touton of Terre au Boeuf goes passenger. Y<sup>r</sup> brother waits on her to take leave. I am in hopes that he will get consignments the coming season from these sugar planters. M<sup>r</sup> T. was on here this season. There is also a Miss Carroll of y<sup>r</sup> city who came here recommended to M<sup>r</sup> S. She is about establishing a reading room in N. O. I avoided an introduction. She is a Blue Stocking, & it is said a Freethinker. Her acquaintance with M<sup>rs</sup> Wright, a professed Infidel, was disadvantageous to her. Do not cultivate an acquaintance.

. . . . Our young friend W<sup>m</sup> Bayard is with us for a day or so on his way home to Palmyra. He is a very fine young man, & begins to maintain himself by his practise. Samuel is too erratic ever to succeed in the law. He is going to the Legislature of Ohio, probably, this winter. That may lead him to Congress w<sup>h</sup> will disqualify him for his profession. He will make a prominent public speaker & is fond of politics. He is a partisan of Gen<sup>l</sup> Jackson. More to his personal benefit is the prospect of connecting himself with a young lady, whose Father is wealthy. William will now think of settling himself also. Y<sup>r</sup> little foster child at Princeton has recovered from extreme danger, but is mending. If

too delicate to bear traveling, the whole Princeton family are to pass the winter with M<sup>rs</sup> Bradford. Clary<sup>14</sup> is engaged to the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Dodd, appointed a professor in Nassau Hall, \$800 a year & a house. A good beginning. He is a young man of handsome talents & all is at length agreeable to her parents. I know not when she is to be married, probably when M<sup>r</sup> D. gets settled. M<sup>r</sup> Bayard I told you has rented his house w<sup>h</sup> he probably will sell for \$11,000. He talks of hiring a new house, building near M<sup>r</sup> Thompsons for next year. Aunt Patty will be relieved from large housekeeping & the Judge from attending to his beautiful farm, both which employments w<sup>d</sup> exactly suit Mother & me. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship De Witt Clinton

---

NEW YORK, Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>, 1829

Should any misfortune betide their good father, the support of y<sup>r</sup> children may devolve on Pintard & Marsden. I have the greatest confidence that both your sons will, in case of necessity which God avert, discharge their duty to their family. Anticipating therefore such an exigency, it may be best that Marsden like his brother sh<sup>d</sup> pursue a lucrative profession. My thoughts are drawn more to this subject, in consequence of the low state of my esteemed friend James Eastburn who is rapidly wasting after a long tendency to diseased lungs & pulmonary. Unfortunate in business, he will leave his wife & 2 grown up daughters, entirely dependant on their brothers, the Rev. Manton Eastburn, & Edward preparing for the Ministry, both eminently endowed. The latter has been obliged to leave the Theol<sup>l</sup> Seminary, to act as assistant in Columbia College Grammar

<sup>14</sup> Caroline Smith Bayard, daughter of Samuel and Martha (Pintard) Bayard, married in 1830, Albert Baldwin Dod. T. C. Stockton, *The Stockton Family of New Jersey* (1911), p. 49; Dodd and Burnet, *Genealogies of the Male Descendants of Daniel Dodd* (Newark, 1864); *Dictionary of American Biography*, V, 338-39.

school, with the moderate salary of \$800 a year in order to enable him to assist his family. Those circumstances afford relief to the departing Father & consolation to the Mother & Sisters. May a similar case not occur in my beloved daughters family.

Tues<sup>y</sup> [October] 13<sup>th</sup>. Altho' comparatively little to do, my mornings thank God are completely occupied. The Brooklyn Ferry C<sup>o</sup>, the Seamens Bank to attend this week daily from 12 to 1, Wed<sup>y</sup> p. m. the Savings Bank & preparing business for it that devolve on me, & every aft.noon calling & passing a half hour with my departing friend Ja<sup>s</sup> Eastburn, altogether keep me from idleness. . . . Thomas writes by this oppo[rtunity] who is very attentive & assiduous to the duties of his Fathers compting House. He will make a correct plodding merchant & if spared will grow rich. He has a superior example in his methodical Father, a man of honour & principles in his dealings & intelligent above his peers. I know no man to whom I w<sup>d</sup> so soon send a son as apprentice. He is now winding up his last years transactions. Those with Franklin, not favourably. He has prospects of good business the coming season & his standing & character for integrity & punctuality stands high in this City. Indeed he is a very fair & practical merchant.

Wed<sup>y</sup> [October] 14<sup>th</sup>. Delightful day. I am doomed to be driven, altho it is needless to explain I can scarcely snatch time to pursue my letter to my beloved daughter, ere the hour arrives to attend the Seamans Bank. A plant of slow growth, it is hard to raise a saplin at the root of a vigorous full grown Tree. The Mother Bank, as I may call it is so well known, so long established & justly commanding so much confidence, as to render the rearing the Seamens Bank more difficult, but patience & perseverance work wonders. It will ultimately succeed. Sailors are a thoughtless, improvident set, it is difficult to allure them to make deposits & keep something for a rainy day. Cap<sup>t</sup> Holmes is a most zealous

Trustee, & induces most of the Seamen in his packets employ, to lay up part of their wages when paid off.

Dear Mother begins to walk abroad. This day with Sister they intend going to Masonic Hall, to view the annual exhibition <sup>15</sup> of American Arts & Manufactures, w<sup>b</sup> it is said is to be very splendid. I shall call for them on my way home, after 1 o'clock & gratify my curiosity likewise.

Thur<sup>y</sup> [October] 15<sup>th</sup>. . . . The exhibition yest<sup>y</sup> was superb. I c<sup>d</sup> scarcely believe the evidence of my senses, as I beheld the progress of Arts & Manufactures, since my early life. Articles of taste & luxury vie with those imported. It was indeed a display. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Illinois

---

NEW YORK, Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>, 1829

Monday 19<sup>th</sup>. I was quite longing to hear from my beloved daughter when your letter of 22<sup>d</sup> Sep<sup>t</sup> with Marneys was rec<sup>d</sup>. . . . Poor Mrs Wederstrandt, what a sudden death. You must indeed have been shocked. M<sup>r</sup> W. will sensibly experience the loss of such a wife. Is John still at school. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [October] 21<sup>st</sup>. Last evening Sister gave a party. The Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Hull who was there informed me that he is to sail tomorrow in the Frances. I have concluded to conclude this letter to send by him. . . . I mentioned in my last a young man, M<sup>r</sup> Southmayd, who is going to N[ew] O[rleans] on commercial pursuits. As an Episcopalian, & pious Xt<sup>n</sup> he will attach himself to M<sup>r</sup> Hulls Church. He is a most ardent & zealous Sunday School instructor, & one of the most practical Superintendants of our city. If not shackled by High Church systems, he will make an efficient assistant to

<sup>15</sup> The Fair of the American Institute.

M<sup>r</sup> Hulls Sunday School. I shall give him a line of introduction to you. Perhaps you may find his suggestions useful to y<sup>r</sup> School, where I hope Marney will become a Teacher, & if he takes to it like Thomas, he will reap as much benefit from the Bible lessons as his Cousin did while attending under M<sup>r</sup> Southmayd the Ascension Sunday School to w<sup>h</sup> I hope he may revert. . . . I experienced my privation of hearing yest<sup>y</sup> having been invited to a meeting of some gentlemen in the evening to converse about a contemplated plan for organizing a general uniform system of English education for the U. States. The outline is plausible. We all speak the same language, & greater uniformity in instruction w<sup>d</sup> in my opinion be beneficial. . . .

---

N YORK, Friday 23<sup>d</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>, 1829

. . . I mentioned Sisters party on Tues<sup>y</sup> ev<sup>g</sup>. She had invited M<sup>rs</sup> Fort & M<sup>rs</sup> Clement but the indisposition of the latter prevented their coming. She intends asking them to take a friendly dish of tea. M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Collis of y<sup>r</sup> city were present. . . . My friend M<sup>r</sup> Eastburn draws towards his end. I have not gone into his chamber since last Sunday, not to agitate him, nor myself. I call daily, & shall probably announce his decease ere closing this. My loss will be great as I shall have no substitute for my endowed intellectual friend. With Eng<sup>d</sup> & English history & literature & characters in Church & State he was intimately acquainted. Our intercourse & conversations was mostly literary & religious. His opinions coincided with the Christian Observer, w<sup>h</sup> is my standard also, tho' too Evangelical & liberal for High Churchmen, whose orthodoxy is distinguished by passive obedience & non resistance to ecclesiastical authority. We have lost the Rev. D<sup>r</sup> Harris, the popular, with his students, president of Columbia College. Many are the Candidates for the vacancy, but aside of this world almost, I take no concern, & leave



those to choose to whom the trust is confided. My alma mater Nassau Hall, in consequence of the multiplication of Colleges had declined but is looking up, permanently I hope. My attachment is strong to this seat of learning, where Marsden was to have gone had he prosecuted his studies. I sincerely hope that his decision may prove for the best, & that his conduct continues to please M<sup>r</sup> Lea & esp<sup>y</sup> his parents. . . .

Monday [October] 26<sup>th</sup>. . . . .

By intelligence from N[ew] O[rleans] the Spanish invasion of Mexico has come to a close. It is probable that the King of Spain after this weak effort to recover his Am[erican] dominions, will declare them independent. The late expedition always appeared to me a finesse to save the point of honour, so as to give up the Colonies with a good grace, w<sup>h</sup> he ought to have done long ago, but Spain & its King are imbecile.

On Sat<sup>y</sup> ev<sup>g</sup> at 9 o'clock my friend James Eastburn ceased to live. . . . He is to [be] buried this afternoon. My loss is great, as was our intimacy. I can never expect to replace his intellectual mind, nor enjoy such interchange of sentiments, on every subject, again. Tho' not a classical scholar, his knowledge in History, civil & ecclesiastical, was extensive, also in Belle Lettres. He belonged to the Evangelical school, was a pious & enlightened & liberal Christian. . . .

. . . . .  
 Tuesday [October] 27<sup>th</sup>. I attended as Pallbearer the funeral of my late friend M<sup>r</sup> Eastburn, who was interred in the cemetery of S<sup>t</sup> Marks. The afternoon was drizzly & suited to my solemn melancholy feelings. Service was performed at the grave by the Rev. D<sup>r</sup> Milnor in his usual impressive manner. M<sup>r</sup> E. came from England to this city in 1802, first as connected with the Woolen trade in w<sup>h</sup> he was unsuccessful. He next became a Bookseller on a more extensive scale than had ever been attempted in this city, for which his general knowledge eminently qualified him. His republication of the Edinburgh & Quarterly Reviews, still continued

in Boston, elevated the standard of reading & intellect in the U States. His importation of the most valuable & rare works, as well from the continent of Europe as England has enriched the public libraries of our country. His reading, altho not a classical scholar, was very general, & he had the happy faculty of calling up & applying the stores of his fertile mind. Conversant from his early years with the Holy Scriptures, he could cite texts, never lightly, on all subjects. He was extens[iv]ely acquainted with & well informed in Divinity, and Ministers might have profited by the resources of his ready mind. He was a pious & liberal Christian & brought all his opinions to the test of Scripture. He was of the Evangelical School, and c<sup>d</sup> discuss or sustain an argument as clearly & satisfactorily as a Divine. He was an elegant Belle lettres scholar, wrote chastely, & was intimately acquainted with English history civil & ecclesiastical, & with public characters in Church & State. As a foreigner he did not intermeddle with the party politics of his adopted country, but in the walks of benevolence he was zealous & useful. He was an ardent & active supporter of Sunday Schools now so universally adopted, at a period when their utility was but little understood in this city, on the ground that education was more universal & less necessary among the lower classes than in England, an ascertainment unwaranted by facts. He was among the early founders of our Savings Bank, in w<sup>h</sup> his knowledge & active services were eminently useful at a time when that institution, now so happily successful, was of doubtful issue. My long intercourse with him was most free & friendly, & nothing ever occurred in the interchange of opinions, to chagrin or interrupt our mutual friendship. We argued for Truth, not for victory. Such was James Eastburn, and this just tho' imperfect hasty sketch of his character is due to the merits of my esteemed deceased friend. I ne'er shall look upon [his] like again.

Wed<sup>r</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> Oct. This is my preparation Week for Sacrament at S<sup>t</sup> Thomas' next Sunday, when I hope dear

Mother will accompany me. I regret exceedingly not having taken a pew last May in M<sup>r</sup> Eastburns Church. I cannot cordially associate with M<sup>r</sup> Upfold, he is below mediocrity. His chief merit consists in being the devoted servant of his Bishop. Of course a free interchange of opinions c<sup>d</sup> not take place between us. On the contrary, the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Eastburn tho' young stands at the very head of all our Episcopal Clergy for learning & piety. My intimacy with his father w<sup>d</sup> render intercourse with him easy & delightful. I hope yet to change my position. Mother went with me, for the first time, to Ascension last Sunday p. m. She was much pleased with the Church, esp<sup>y</sup> with the Chaunts & singing. If M<sup>r</sup> Servoss will take my pew off my hands, a change w<sup>d</sup> be very easy, altho I sh<sup>d</sup> not like to sever Mother & daughter, the only possible difficulty.

. . . . .  
[Addressed by Ship] Tennessee

[By Ship] Louisiana

N YORK, Thur<sup>s</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Nov., 1829

My last of 2<sup>d</sup> inst was by the Tennessee. A melancholy accident occurred yest<sup>y</sup> the intelligence of w<sup>b</sup> will reach you before this letter. M<sup>r</sup> Milligan of your city, rode down to Jones' wharf, where you embarked last year, with his wife, child & servant to go on bd the Salem for N[ew] O[rleans]. The coach on turning by some accident ran off the pier, M<sup>r</sup> M child & servant were rescued. M<sup>rs</sup> M. was unhappily drowned, with the coach horses. She was daughter of M<sup>r</sup> Urquhart. This catastrophe has interested every one who has heard. . . . Tomorrow, my engagements permitting, I am going with y<sup>r</sup> brother to see Mattawan establishment. We expect to return please God & be at home Monday ev<sup>g</sup>. The object is to see whether this short excursion may not benefit my appetite, w<sup>b</sup> has so declined, that I have lost

all inclination for animal food, & live almost entirely on fluids. . . .

Tuesday [November] 10<sup>th</sup>. As proposed we left this city in the Albany steamboat, at 7 a. m. & arrived at Newburgh 12½ o'clock after a very rapid & pleasant passage. My friend M<sup>r</sup> Furman with his g<sup>d</sup>son Treat Irving a fine youth, accompanied us. At the landing we took our luncheon, indeed dinner, on stewed & fried oysters, at 3/ a head, after which we crossed over to Fishkill landing, & took our quarters at M<sup>r</sup> Lamsons Inn, next door to M<sup>rs</sup> Wilseys, declining to part company with M<sup>r</sup> Furman. We w<sup>d</sup> not trouble any of our friends, to their disappointment as they kindly expressed it, and to mine. Our accommodations were very comfortable & clean. We walked up to the Factory, & thro' the attention of M<sup>r</sup> Leonard were shown every department of this wonderful establishment. The power looms exceed the powers of my description, indeed comprehension. The perfect order & propriety that prevail throughout, far exceeded my expectation. We staid until too late to call on the Tellers. Saturday, unfortunately it rained, but we went in a carriage, to survey more leisurely all the Cotton Factory, after which we proceeded 3 miles further to the Woollen Factory at Glenham, the machinery & operations of which were more astonishing than those below. One w<sup>d</sup> suppose that human ingenuity had reached its bounds, but new improvements are daily making. The power looms all go by water, the females attend them to connect broken threads & to see the shuttles fly thro' c[l]oths of 1 yard & 3 quarters wide without the aid of hands appears like magic. We visited a well conducted school of children below 10 years belonging to the working families, receiving excellent education, & were shown specimens of writing & arithmetic that w<sup>d</sup> do credit to our public schools. The sight to me, was most interesting of all that I saw. Besides this they have Sunday Schools for the young persons male & female attached to the Factory. We paid our respects to M<sup>r</sup> Abraham Schenck,

principal of these works who has been long confined to his house by Rheumatism. By 2 o'clock, it began to rain hard, we returned to our excellent quarters, made one meal of dinner & coffee at 5, & chatted over what we had seen at our comfortable fireside. In the ev<sup>s</sup> M<sup>r</sup> S[ervoss] & myself passed an hour at Marsdens old quarters, M<sup>rs</sup> Wilsey's. I do not wonder that he was delighted with Fishkill landing. On Sunday morn<sup>s</sup> we went to Church, sat with M<sup>rs</sup> Wilsey. After returning home with the ladies M<sup>r</sup> W. sent his carriage when we paid our respects to the Lady of the Manor M<sup>rs</sup> Schenck, superbly situated, called on M<sup>rs</sup> Leonard & then on the kindhearted Tellers who regretted, no doubt sincerely, that we had not staid with them. We returned to dinner, settled our moderate Bill, crossed the Ferry in a small steam Ferry boat, embarked in the new Philadelphia Steam Ship, 20 minutes past 5, & arrived 20 m. past 10 at the Wharf in N York & reached home at 11 o'clock, before all the domestics had retired to rest. All went off propitiously except a stumble on my part on board the Boat. I fell, encumbered with my clothes, rec<sup>d</sup> a contusion of the frontal of my left eye, but thank God without dangerous consequences. . . .

Monday [November] 16<sup>th</sup> . . . Thomas always desires his kind love. He is a zealous & will soon become an efficient Teacher. He began to attend last evening a course of Lectures preached by different ministers on Sunday evenings in D<sup>r</sup> Mathews<sup>16</sup> Church, Exchange S<sup>t</sup> to the merchants clerks & apprentices in this city. The Church filled in every part. The Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Eastburn commences a weekly course of Bible instruction. The young men at his house on Tuesd<sup>y</sup> ev<sup>s</sup>, the young ladies in his Church on Wed<sup>y</sup> 12 o'clock. The Sunday School teachers meet for improvement & preparation of their instructions every Friday ev<sup>s</sup> at each others houses. Last Friday was Thomas' turn. They meet at 7 adjourn be-

<sup>16</sup> James M. Mathews, pastor of the South Dutch Church on Exchange Place (formerly Garden Street).

tween 9 & 10. So that he has excellent oppo[rtunity] for religious instruction w<sup>h</sup> he assiduously improves. A Church was opened yest<sup>r</sup> upper end of Chatham S<sup>t</sup> for the exclusive benefit of mechanics apprentices & journeymen. So that there is much good doing in our city. The Devils Agents are also actively employed, But please God their efforts will evaporate. They may delude thoughtless youth & hardened old sinners. But Truth will prevail. I went yest<sup>r</sup> to the chapel of our Episcopal Seminary to attend Professor Wilson's in-  
 triculation Sermon. I c<sup>d</sup> not hear but being invited I though it a compliment due to Doctor Wilson. I wish others would think so. There were only 2 Trustees present. . . .

---

NEW YORK, Thur<sup>r</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> Nov., 1829

. . . . .  
 Dear Sister is engaged with her window curtains w<sup>h</sup> were not displayed all last winter owing to her confinement & nursing. We lived quite in the Quaker style, & began to like it. How much trouble the female Friends are spared by their simplicity in dress & furniture. As all are alike in these respects, there is no singularity nor competition in vanity or costly display. Their attire is of the best materials according to their circumstances, & their table, not over loaded with dishes w<sup>d</sup> gratify an epicure, every thing choice & well dressed. I have partaken of their hospitality & speak experimentally. Were the sacraments of Baptism & the Lords supper administered by them, I c<sup>d</sup> be almost persuaded to become a Quaker. I love their simplicity & above all their active benevolence. They live closer to their rules than any other denomination of Xt<sup>s</sup> w<sup>h</sup> excuses their singularities. . . .

Tuesday [November] 24<sup>th</sup>. Your melancholly tidings of the death of y<sup>r</sup> inestimable friend Judge Smith <sup>17</sup> I

<sup>17</sup> John Witherspoon Smith, son of Samuel Stanhope Smith and husband of Sarah Henrietta Duer. For names of his children, see

rec<sup>d</sup> in time to peruse & inclose it as you desired to his Sister Aunt Betsey. . . . I did not wish that M<sup>rs</sup> P[in-tard] & M<sup>rs</sup> Solomon sh<sup>d</sup> receive this distressing intelligence, in the first instance, thro' the newspapers. . . . Poor dear M<sup>rs</sup> Smith, what a family of daughters to look up to her alone. . . . That Judge Smith died the death of a Christian, beloved by his family & near friends, respected & esteemed by his acquaintance, is a consolation to his surviving partner & children. Sweet Miss Frances is before my eyes. . . .

· · · · ·  
 Sat<sup>y</sup> [November] 28<sup>th</sup>. Notwithstanding the muddy streets I ran about to collect what is intended to be packed in a neat box w<sup>h</sup> I got made up with some difficulty, & w<sup>h</sup> if carefully opened may serve Larney, for his Tools &c. The chief contents are Uncles choice of dresses for you all w<sup>h</sup> I trust will please, 6 p<sup>s</sup> shoes for mother. . . . I send Books for the Doctor & Lawyer. Thomas, out of his own money has put up a S<sup>t</sup> Claas box for the little ones of his own choosing w<sup>h</sup> he thinks will please. For y<sup>r</sup> self I have sent Stanfords Essays on Old Age, which pleases & instructs me. The Rev D<sup>r</sup> Stanford is an aged Baptist minister 79 years, languishing on the bed of sickness. He has been for many years, employed by our Corporation as Minister for the Alms House, Penetentiary &c<sup>a</sup>. His useful services gained him universal esteem. Many oppo[rtunitie]s of intercourse have led me to know his value. This Book is almost a voice from the Tomb, the result of a long life of observation & experience. The visit of M<sup>rs</sup> Sander-son to the widow Lea, you will find, tho' not as to advanced years, applicable to your distressed friend M<sup>rs</sup> Smith. With the Mourner Comforter this Vol. will make a useful work of reference, to enable you, my beloved daughter, to administer spiritual consolation to your sick & bereaved friends, affording you subjects for reflection & application. Thomas has taken some pains

to inscribe the little books for the children. He takes g<sup>t</sup> interest in you all, & does with pleasure anything that may please. He is an excellent grateful youth. His duties are active. Every morn<sup>s</sup> he goes down to the store a mile & a quarter, makes the fire. If bad weather takes an early breakfast, if good returns home & back again. He goes without dinner, except an apple & crackers, sweeps out the counting room, puts out the Fire & candles, locks up & takes dinner & tea after 6. Every afternoon from 2 to 4 he attends a writing master. His 30 lessons for \$10 terminate in a fortnight. These are his daily labours. Sunday ½ p. 9, he attends the Ascension Sunday School & Church, ½ p. 1, the same, & frequently goes without dinner if we are belated. In the ev<sup>s</sup> at 7 he attends the course of sermons to young men in the Garden S<sup>t</sup> Church. Monday ev<sup>s</sup> he prepares for the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Eastburns Bible Class on Tuesday ev<sup>s</sup>. Wed<sup>y</sup> ev<sup>s</sup> attends M<sup>r</sup> Eastburns Lecture in Church, Thurs<sup>y</sup> ev<sup>s</sup> prepares for the meeting of the Sunday School Teachers on Friday ev<sup>s</sup> to perfect themselves in their instructions to their pupils. He takes an earnest interest in all these labours & duties, w<sup>h</sup> I cherish as it may be the only oppo[rtunity] in my life to sow the seeds of Xt<sup>n</sup> piety & usefulness. He will I trust, have reason, if his life is spared to recall my memory with thankfulness. Among the few tracts sent are one or two on the rite of confirmation w<sup>h</sup> please God, Bp. Brow[n]ell will administer in M<sup>r</sup> Hulls Church some time the last of Dec<sup>r</sup>. . . . I had gone to Fishkill when Bp. Brownell was here on his departure westward<sup>18</sup> or I sh<sup>d</sup> have given him a friendly line to you. Sh<sup>d</sup> it be agreeable & *convenient* to show any attention to this Divine & his travell<sup>s</sup> companion the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Richmond, a Widower I will esteem it a favour. . . .

12 o'clock. I have just rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Bayard, saying that mine to Aunt Betsey had safely reached

<sup>18</sup> "Bishop Thomas C. Brownell's Journal of His Missionary Tours, 1829 and 1834" is printed in *Historical Magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Church*, (Dec., 1938), vol. 7, pp. [303]-322.



her. He sets off with Aunt Patty next week from Burlington on their way to Virginia to pass the winter with Julia [Washington]. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Talma

NEW YORK, Tuesd<sup>y</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>, 1829. 11 o'clock

Monday [December] 7<sup>th</sup>. . . .  
Marsden will be pleased to hear that an Auxiliary Bible So[ciety] has been organized in the Flushing Institute & was recognised at the last meeting of the Managers. Mr Muhlenbergh deserves every praise & is meeting with great encouragement. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [December] 9<sup>th</sup>. The Presidents message reached this city in 16 hours after leaving Washington yest<sup>y</sup> 12 o'clock, most rapid despatch, & is now, 10 o'clock, in circulation. It is said that by the General Post Office arrangement it will arrive at N. Orleans in 6 days. A shorter time than ever heretofore. This a winters day, rain & snow.

Thur<sup>y</sup> [December] 10<sup>th</sup>. The president has thrown an apple of discord into our monied market, by recommending a National Bank on the expiration in 1837 of the Charter of the existing U. S. Bank. He has taken unwarantable ground in expressing an opinion the exercise of w<sup>h</sup> cannot fall to his lot, & thus prejudging a question fraught with, at best, great difficulties. The instant effect in this city was to depreciate the value of the U. S. B<sup>k</sup> Stock 5 to 6½ pr. c<sup>t</sup>. A National Bank, w<sup>d</sup> become a political engine subject to the control of every successive administration, & w<sup>d</sup> become a curse instead of a blessing. The country never can submit to such a measure. Other parts of his long talk are speculative & objectionable. But to these subjects I give only a passing review, & leave to politicians the

field of censure or of praise, looking forward to a better world, where all is perfection. Judge Duer was yest<sup>r</sup> appointed president of Columbia College, an honourable & lucrative station. Salary \$2600 & perquisites 100 about \$2700 a year, & one of the finest residences in this city. His talents are of the highest order & no doubt he will make a useful officer. The station is for life, not subject to fluctuations of parties. The event will be highly gratifying to his sisters. The rival candidate was the Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Vickar, professor of Rhetoric & Belle lettres, an elegant writer, but unpopular both with the students & public, not possessing the *suaviter in modo*, otherwise he w<sup>d</sup> undoubtedly been elected, the Bishop & all his party adhering to him.

Friday [December] 11<sup>th</sup>. The Illinois is looked for & may arrive ere closing this. On Wed<sup>r</sup> M<sup>r</sup> G. Abeel buried his son Theodore, who died of consumption, after having completed his education at Brunswic College. He was a fine scholar & very amiable, a severe loss to his parents being the first mortality among their children. M<sup>rs</sup> Abeel is suffering with the gravel, w<sup>h</sup> adds to her affliction. She finds comfort in religion having long been a member of the Dutch Church. What a consolation when sickness & death assail us. My duty at the Savings Bank, at the same hour, where my presence was indispensable, prevented my attending the Funeral. The weather moreover was wet & inclement to stand at the grave yard. Richard Harison, Esq. was buried at 12 the same day aged 81 years. He was the patriarch of the Bar of this city, & the oldest counsellor in the State, but thro' age & infirmities had retired from practice. The Madame was his godmother whom he always mentioned with respect. He was eminent in his profession. . . . (12 o'clock) I have just paid \$7. for the Spectator to this date, & have stopped it, presuming that you get every important intelligence from N Y<sup>k</sup> in y<sup>r</sup> own papers. I declare that my dollars begin to fall short of my actual wants.

Sat<sup>r</sup> [December] 12<sup>th</sup>. . . . Sister was at M<sup>rs</sup> Irvings

snug party of about 100 last ev<sup>g</sup>. M<sup>rs</sup> Laight is said to have circulated 600 invitations. The rooms were so crammed that there was no space to move. Ridiculous to invite more than can be comfortably accommodated, for the vanity of boasting of an excess of company. Give me the olden times when Assemblies were in vogue to attract dancing parties, & when no fashionable parties as at present existed. . . .

[Addressed by Ship:] Kentucky

---

NEW YORK, Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> Dec., 1829

Saturday [December] 19<sup>th</sup>. With every appearance of a snow storm last ev<sup>g</sup> & it did sprinkle, our unusually variable weather has cleared off. The walking is muddy, & one often wonders where all the dirt can come from, for we have no country intercourse of Teams like Phil<sup>a</sup> to bring it in. All our country trade, except a few market carts, is by water & the contents of one of our N[orth] River large sloops w<sup>d</sup> occupy all Market S<sup>t</sup> in Phil<sup>a</sup> with wagons. . . .

Monday [December] 21<sup>st</sup>. . . . I mentioned in my last, that M<sup>r</sup> Abeel had lost a fine son Edw<sup>d</sup> <sup>19</sup> who died of pulmonary, a promising youth who had just completed his education. This is the first loss of a child in his family. The incident made a strong impression on the father, and distressing to say, this morn<sup>g</sup> in a delirium, he precipitated himself from the window of the 2<sup>d</sup> story, into the area & dashed his brains out. . . .

Tues<sup>y</sup> [December] 22<sup>d</sup>. . . . Sister called on M<sup>rs</sup> Dunscomb, where she learnt the following particulars. M<sup>r</sup> A[beel] since the death of his son & the probable decline of another by the same complaint (pulmonary)

<sup>19</sup> *Sic* for Theodore, son of Garret B. Abeel, and brother of Mrs. Edward Dunscomb.

had been very melancholy & depressed in spirits. He visited his daughter M<sup>rs</sup> D. on Sunday aft.noon & observed that he should come to want & directed M<sup>r</sup> D. his partner to draw a check for \$500 in favour of the nurse who attends M<sup>rs</sup> Abeel, to secure payment, probably, of so much in his hands for her.

Before closing I have just been informed that M<sup>r</sup> Abeel who had a large Iron Manufactory had been unsuccessful the last year & lost \$60,000, w<sup>h</sup> altho' serious & a very large sum, he was still worth a fortune.

Wed<sup>y</sup> [December] 23<sup>d</sup>. A superb day, favourable for the consecration of the new Episcopal Church in Hartford, by Bp. Hobart in the absence of Bp. Brownell. This Church is said to be the handsomest specimen of the Gothic in the U States cost \$50,000. Mother pas[s]ed yest<sup>y</sup> with M<sup>rs</sup> Abeel. Sister called in the morn<sup>g</sup> returned to dinner, & went back to attend Mother home. The Funeral was very respectably attended. No scarves, not even for the clergymen w<sup>h</sup> was wrong. The sad catastrophe was no doubt owing to derangement by a Fever in the brain. M<sup>r</sup> Abeel had for a year or more been afflicted with a tendency of blood to the head. He had been depleted & cup, but the malady increased latterly to an alarming degree & excited probably by his losses & other circumstances, eventually terminated in the dreadful event that ensued. M<sup>rs</sup> A. is an excellent lady & is sustained by her Christian resources & resignation.

Thurs<sup>y</sup> [December] 24<sup>th</sup>. Rain, but hope for fair day tomorrow. The annual ship from Amsterdam, Alder lievest Vrow (best beloved wife) with S<sup>t</sup> Class & his presents for good children has arrived off the Hook & a Steamboat is sent down to tow her up, so as to prevent any disappointment to night. . . . After a great deal of contemptuous mockery, by our High Church folks, of the sewing charitable benevolent females of other denominations, a Female Sewing So[ciety] is about being formed in S<sup>t</sup> Thomas' Church, to which y<sup>r</sup> dear Sister

will contribute & aid, as she will be useful in cutting out. My Bishop, who is behind the age, must accommodate to the times, altho' reluctantly. Sunday Schools & all, we have always been at the rear. Passing thro' Ann St I went into the Rom. Catholic Christ Church, where I found several pews of boys, as scholars w<sup>h</sup> delighted me. I have heretofore mentioned the interest I have taken on this subject, & am spared to see the issue of my repeated efforts with my R. Catholic friends to educate their hosts of poor children, only opposed by bigotry.

Sat<sup>y</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>. St Class has at length gone by, with more than usual joy & exultation for all his gifts w<sup>h</sup> as usual surpassed expectation. . . . As accustomed the Sacrament is administered on this Festival in all our Churches. Mother & family at St Thomas, myself at St Esprit. This separation is painful, but I cannot absent myself from my little Church on Sacrament occasions, the number of our Communicants being so small. . . . Another catastrophe occurred. M<sup>r</sup> Lansing of Albany (late Chancellor) left the City Hotel, about a fortnight past, probably to put a letter on b<sup>d</sup> the ev<sup>s</sup> Steamboat, for Albany. He has not since been heard of. The presumption is that he fell into the Dock & has been drowned. The notice in the papers says that he never was afflicted with mental aberration. He was a very genteel fine looking man, about 77, & of one our best Dutch families. . . .

Tuesday [December] 29<sup>th</sup>. . . . Last ev<sup>s</sup> M<sup>rs</sup> Schenck & Sister & Doctor & M<sup>rs</sup> [Bartow] White of Fishkill, M<sup>r</sup> S[chenck]'s youngest sister took an old fashioned dish of tea with us, the first social call of the kind that I have witnessed in years. M<sup>rs</sup> White has had 13 children, 9 daughters & 1 son living. . . . The Rev. D<sup>r</sup> [John M.] Mason, perhaps the most eminent Divine, in his prime, died on Sunday aged 60, & is to be buried this p. m. I fear the weather will be too unfavourable for me to attend. I was once intimate with him. We

have also lost the last of the old race of a once distinguished family, M<sup>r</sup> John Delancy, aged 86, a cousin of the late Cap[tain] Delancey at Maroneck, who you knew. Thus our old stock of citizens [is] departing & I shall soon follow.

. . . . .  
[Addressed by Ship:] Illinois

---

1830

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

NEW YORK, 2<sup>d</sup> January, 1830

. . . Yest<sup>y</sup> was a most brilliant mild day, the finest that I recollect for many years. The streets were thronged with gentlemen going their annual rounds. We had our share in Broome S<sup>t</sup> & Sisters dish of superior, well made Java Coffee, was preferred to every usual New Year's dram that was exhibited. I felt its exhilarating effect, after my return home, almost exhausted. Our city grows so extensive & friends so scattered that a pedestrian has enough to do to pay his compliments. I was 3 hours in the discharge of a duty, once so agreeable but now becoming, except to a very few, extremely irksome. The fineness of the day induced me to extend my circuit. Of the multitudes saluted, I remarked only 2 companions of my early life, Doctor Rodgers & Gen. Morton, my chums at Nassau Hall. . . . This day, Aunt Helen & family, your cousin Mary Brasher & her kind hearted brother M<sup>r</sup> Weeks are to dine with us. . . .

Monday, [January] 4<sup>th</sup>. Before attending the meeting of the Trustees of the Sailors Snug Harbour, probably for the last time, it is intimated to me that, as the appointment of a Clerk, is annual, that I shall not be reelected, on the pretext of incapacity, from my deafness. There is some ground for the objection. Whether to decline or take my chance, depends on the advice of Recorder Riker, who has always been my friend. Indeed I have no foe but one & he is a mortal one whose name I may mention tomorrow, & whose mandate to resign last July, I did not choose to obey. . . .

Tuesd<sup>y</sup> [January] 5<sup>th</sup>. Thro' the mercy of God, w<sup>h</sup>

with gratitude I acknowledge, I was *unanimously* re-elected Clerk for the ensuing year. The person from whom I expected opposition (M<sup>r</sup> Lenox) made none. The Salary \$200 tho' small, adds [to] my comfort. It is less an object than honourable occupation [which is] essential to keep my life from stagnating . . . I may at some future day give some account of my connection with this charitable Institution, now in jeopardy in consequence of a suit brought against the Trustees by the heirs of old Cap<sup>t</sup> Randall, Bp. Inglis of Nova Scotia & others, to invalidate the will of Rob<sup>t</sup> Randall who bequeathed his place at the head of Broadway to be called the Sailors' Snug Harbour, for the benefit of superannuated Seamen. As righteous a bequest as ever was made, & w<sup>h</sup> may be set aside, thro' legal technicalities by the Supreme Court of the U. S. The decision of the Judges may be hourly expected.

Monday [January] 11<sup>th</sup>. . . . I am not much at leisure this day, having to perform a tour of attendance this week from 12 to 1, at the Seaman's Saving Bank. I am likewise engaged to be present at the opening of the new Dispensary at the same hour, & shall only call at the Bank to enter my appearance w<sup>h</sup> can be dispensed with, as two Trustees attend & we have but little [to] do. It is difficult for an acorn to sprout & grow at the foot [of] a flourishing Oak. . . .

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>. . . . Yest<sup>y</sup> at ½ p. 12 I went to the Dispensary. The meeting was fully attended, esp<sup>y</sup> by the kind benevolent Sisters of Charity of this city, who are numerous & take a lively concern in all our humane benevolent institutions. After the Report, the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Schroeder gave a very elegant & pathetic address, as I was informed for I c<sup>d</sup> not hear. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>. Seaman's Saving Bank. 12 o'clock. I am actually, at present obliged, not to let a single moment be lost. I have until coming here been all the morn<sup>g</sup> engaged in preparing the Report of the Funding



Com<sup>e</sup> of the old Savings Bk. to be presented at the meeting of the Trustees this afternoon. Such is the influx of Deposits together with the quarter of interest on stocks rec<sup>d</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> inst. that the bal[anc]e in the Mechanic Bk. in our favour exceeds \$160,000. Too much, but the high premiums exacted, in consequence of the overflow of the monied market, have prevented favourable investments, & we must apply to our Legislature to extend our restricted powers. In all associations there must be necessarily a few to do all the business & of these few, one or two to prepare every thing for reporting. It has fallen on me as not the most idle but possibly the most zealous Trustee, to draft the monthly Reports of the Funding Com. now 10½ years. I do it, from long practice, intelligently & with pleasure, but sometimes I am placed between the upper & nether millstone. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Tennessee

[By ship] Louisiana

N YORK, Tues<sup>y</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>, 1830

. . . This aft.noon I have to attend a Committee of the Savings Bank on the subject of application to the Legislature to extend our powers of investment, now too limited in consequence of the increase of our Depositors, & the high price of the few stocks in market, owing to the superabundance of unemployed capital these dull times. The result I will mention hereafter. Never did any monied Institution flourish more successfully, nor produce greater benefit to the humbler classes of Society than the Savings Bk. . . .

Friday [January] 22<sup>d</sup>. . . . On Wed<sup>y</sup> ev<sup>g</sup> w<sup>h</sup> proved fair after a prospect of snow the young folks of our family, Mother, M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> S[ervoss] & Thomas left home at ½ past 8 to attend M<sup>rs</sup> Schencks party. Only 2 ladies

had arrived before them & several did not come till 10 o'clock. The party was most splendid, all the first floor for the dancers, Waltz, the fashion again & the Tables for refreshments occupying 3 rooms of the 2<sup>d</sup> floor. Everything in the highest style & excellence, the rooms lit up as light as day. Excepting the brilliancy of dresses, I know nothing more. Your sister says that the young ladies were very handsome & Mother thought that Miss Fleming daughter of the Cashier<sup>1</sup> of the Mechanic Bk. was the handsomest in the room. M<sup>r</sup> F. is a cousin of y<sup>r</sup> brother. . . .

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> [*sic for* January 25<sup>th</sup>]. The Talma arrived yest<sup>y</sup> as did the John Linton that sailed before her. The weather yest<sup>y</sup> was extremely cold. As the latter ship lay at anchor on the bar, 3 passengers got into the yawl of the Pilot Boat to come up with her. The wind being very high, the yawl filled, & 2 passengers M<sup>r</sup> Townsend & M<sup>r</sup> Scott with the pilots apprentice were drowned. Hard fate. It was fortunate, probably, that M<sup>r</sup> Palmer was on board the Talma, or in his solicitude to see his delicate wife, he might have been tempted to have gone into the yawl & to have also perished. . . .

. . . . .  
 Friday [January] 29<sup>th</sup>. My letter is terribly behind hand. Our weather continues very cold, too cold for snow, of which the atmosphere is full. . . . Our young neighbour Miss Schermerhorn, a very pretty lady, was married on Tuesday even. to a M<sup>r</sup> Gibert, a young gente[e]l modest Frenchman, the only son of a French lady in comfortable circumstances. . . . M<sup>rs</sup> Jones the mother of M<sup>rs</sup> Governor Clinton was buried last Monday in S<sup>t</sup> Thomas Ch. Yard aged 85. She was active for her years & had been a widow for many years. Her husband was brother to M<sup>r</sup> Evan Jones formerly of y<sup>r</sup> city whose family still resides in y<sup>r</sup> quarter. The literati, indeed illiterati also of our city have been warmly en-

<sup>1</sup> John Fleming.

gaged in a project establishing a University<sup>2</sup> for extending the benefit of education beyond what is required for the learned professions, to take in all branches of modern improvements. The plan is so very plausible, as to induce the Trustees of Columbia College to adopt it. Not believing myself that the city is competent to support two Colleges, & reluctant that the oldest w<sup>h</sup> has struggled for a large part of a century sh<sup>d</sup> be crippled by a rival Institution, I give my opinion if of any worth, in preference to Columbia. Much has been made of its being an Episcopal College, but without just cause for certainly it was not a proselyting college, nor do I believe that any of our numerous colleges are. Probably objections, possibly founded, have arisen ag<sup>t</sup> the influence of Bp. Hobart, w<sup>h</sup> undoubtedly has been great. However, the election of M<sup>r</sup> Duer to the presidency was carried ag<sup>t</sup> all his influence, a favourable circumstance at this juncture, as this gent<sup>n</sup> not coming in under the Bp's wing, prove that his influence was not so overwhelming as to carry all before it. Our Bishops High Church dogmas & exclusion of all validity in the ordination of ministers of other denominations render him very obnoxious in this more liberal to all except that party in our church who chime in with his politics. I cannot, & am therefore out of his pale, altho' I am no ways obtrusive with my private opinions. Yet I cannot look back on the Church of my Forefathers without veneration & respect. It is time for bigotry to cease.

. . . . .

---

NEW YORK. Thurs<sup>y</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup>. 1830

. . . . .  
 Monday 8<sup>th</sup>. Most elegant sleighing, after a fall of snow last ev<sup>g</sup> & night. Yest<sup>y</sup> was a bitter cold day, too cold for dear mother to accompany us to partake of the Sacrament at S<sup>t</sup> Thomas', w<sup>h</sup> considering the extremity

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Chapter I of *New York University 1832-1932*, edited by Theodore Francis Jones (N. Y. 1933).

of the weather was quite comfortable, & I have escaped without taking cold. My prayers were offered for y<sup>r</sup> happiness & prosperity. By adhering to my practice of coming down to Wall S<sup>t</sup> in all sorts of weather my health is promoted & I am less susceptible of taking cold. About 5 o'clock p. m. we were alarmed by a Fire in our neighbourhood, in B<sup>d</sup>way, next to the corner of Broome St. Happily it was soon subdued. Had it occurred at a late hour in the night, it might have proved destructive & extensive, for however alert, it requires time to bring up the Engines & obtain a supply of water. We live thank God in a safe neighbourhood, w<sup>h</sup> adds to our security. . . . We may expect the Kentucky daily. She has a dreadful time to approach the coast. Our Bay is fuller of floating ice than it has been for year, & the weather longer & more intensely cold.

Tues<sup>y</sup> [February] 9<sup>th</sup>. Elegant sleighing. . . .

Wedn<sup>y</sup> [February] 10<sup>th</sup>. I trace a line to say that the weather is moderating. I hope that the change of wind will waft the Kentucky into port. Yest<sup>y</sup> Davis [Craig] called & took Mother, Sister & 2 boys to see Aunt Helen. The riding was superb & the roads animated with every species of sleigh, from the Dandies 4 in hand to the carmans sled & Donkey. Poor horses they earn their oats, for they are going day & night. It is years since we have had such fine sleighing. This is my Savings Bank day when we are to receive the Report of the auditing Com<sup>e</sup> for the last 6 m<sup>os</sup> to be sent to the Legislature, & also the draft of a memorial for extending our powers to invest. It is of my own drawing & has been approved, highly, by the Committee. It gives a birds eye view of our progress for 10½ years, a subject well understood, at least by myself, for I have given the Institution my unwearied constant attention.

Friday [February] 12<sup>th</sup>. . . .

Our weather w<sup>h</sup> had mitigated on Wed<sup>y</sup> has again become intensely cold. It is as much as we can do to keep ourselves warm. Mother & Sister keep home, &

are well also the children. Pintard goes daily to school, & does not mind the cold . . . The ink stagnates, almost freezes in my pen, a proof of the severity of the season. The East river is almost impassable with floating ice. But for the aid of Steam boats, inward bound Ships could scarcely work their way thro' the Bay filled with floating ice. This weather presses on the poor, who have exhausted the Corporation supply of Fuel. Our Fuel Saving Society was abandoned for want of success. This has been the third experiment in my day, all abortive. When cold pinches the improvident feel, but forget their sufferings when summer comes.

Sat<sup>y</sup> [February] 13<sup>th</sup>. I have little else to say, it seems, than to chronicle the weather, still extremely cold. This makes 3 weeks, with one days intermission, of as intensely cold weather as we have experienced for several years. I fear that it may have reached you & cut off y<sup>r</sup> Orange trees, as also those of Florida, from whence, this year, we have had an abundant supply. That country when brought into cultivation will become the Hesperian garden of the U<sup>d</sup> States. In progress of time, Fig, Almonds, Olives, Grapes & Currants with Oranges Limes & Lemmons will be extensively & profitably cultivated. The intercourse is so short & easy, that these fruits can be sent to the northward in great perfection. Sugar also, but not to rival this important staple of Louisiana. I do not know whether Coffe[e] will succeed. It is admirable what resources the U<sup>d</sup> States command within itself. The Jersey Legislature has, after many years opposition, passed a law for a Canal between the Delaware & Hudson & also for a Railroad between Camden, directly opposite Philad<sup>a</sup> & South Amboy, between w<sup>h</sup> & this city, Steamboats ply. When executed, our market will be more abundantly supplied with Butter, poultry & Fruit from West Jersey & Pennsylv<sup>a</sup> at moderate rates. The consumption of this increasing city is immense & great supplies are sent from our western country by means of the Canal. Long island, Westchester, Dutchess, & Orange Counties by

their proximity & water intercourse possess great advantages, & always will be the garden of N York. So light is the tax on transport, that a Farmers Wife pays only 1 cent a pound, to the Country Huckster of course sells her butter within 1 cent a pound of the N York price & receive her profits weekly. Eggs & vegetables in proportion. Small farming probably yields more profit than the large western farms. The State of Ohio will become immensely populous & wealthy in consequence of canal navigation. Your City must greatly increase as the western wilds are brought into settlement & cultivation, so that y<sup>r</sup> children please God will have ample resources before them, & being acclimated will always enjoy a superior advantage over the birds of passage. . . . I see by the papers, that General Van Renselaer the patron of Albany has visited your city for his health. He is an excellent good man, as benevolent & charitable as he is rich. He is probably the wealthiest citizen in the U<sup>a</sup> States. . . .

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup>. Attempting to snow. I attended at the Savings Bank on Sat<sup>y</sup> & notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather (bitter cold) it was pleasing to witness the number of depositors. We took in from 104 persons \$4000, & paid to 105, \$5800, to supply their necessities. Altho' extremely cold, I went down to S<sup>t</sup> Esprit. Mother prudently staid at home. This ev<sup>s</sup> Sister is going to M<sup>rs</sup> Beers' party, a counterpart no doubt to M<sup>rs</sup> Schencks. M<sup>rs</sup> Beers is a very friendly lady. . . .

[Addressed by Ship] Talma

---

NEW YORK, Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup>, 1830

My last of 15<sup>th</sup> inst. goes by the Talma, still detained in port. The weather is more moderate but a dense Fog. Last ev<sup>s</sup> Mother, Sister & M<sup>r</sup> Servoss attended M<sup>rs</sup> Beers party. A tea party, large & elegant, but no dancing, in compliment to Bishop Hobart, the Rev. D<sup>r</sup> Onderdonck

& M<sup>r</sup> Schroeder & ladies. Although all may be proper, still it may appear a little out of character for Divines to attend these gay circles. I believe none others in this city do except the High Church dignitaries of the Episcopal Church. Surely complimentary invitations might be extended, & the parties less gay & more select. But Bp. H. countenances the innocent recreations of society. As yet however Theatres are not frequented by any of the Clergy, w<sup>h</sup> is not uncommon among the Roman Catholics in Europe. Do not suppose me censorious. But according to my notions such things ought not to be. M<sup>rs</sup> Beers is a very amiable lady, kind & sociable like her New England countrywomen. Sister has been long intimate with her daughter, married about the same time & has the same number of children. M<sup>r</sup> B. is a very respectable Broker & rich & successful. He is very friendly indeed to y<sup>r</sup> brother.

Wed<sup>y</sup> [February] 17<sup>th</sup> . . . Mother & Sister passed a delightful evening. The party was expressly given to the clergymens ladies, who were acquainted with most in the room, so that I must take back my reflections, w<sup>h</sup> apply only to mixed promiscuous assemblies. I believe my Rev<sup>d</sup> friend M<sup>r</sup> Eastburn does not visit on such occasions out of the circle of his own congregation, & then never where there is dancing. His lady, formerly Glover, is very plain & retired & will never give exception as a parson's Wife. With all the publicity of character, & great intercourse with Bp Hobart we never hear a lisp about M<sup>rs</sup> H. She is plain & very amiable taking after her once excellent Mother, Cousin Chandler,<sup>3</sup> of whom, in the very trying times of the revolutionary [war], no one ever spoke ill. I knew her well, & always admired her meekness. . . .

Thursday [February] 18<sup>th</sup>. Mild & foggy. Yesterday died Col. Henry Rutgers aged 85. He was a revo-

<sup>3</sup> Mrs. Thomas Bradbury Chandler (Jane Emott) was descended from Pintard's ancestor, Louis Carré. See L. Smith Hobart, *William Hobart, His Ancestors and Descendants*; George Chandler, *The Descendants of William and Annis Chandler* (1883), pp. 260 ff.; J. J. Boudinot, *The Life of Elias Boudinot* (1896), II, 391.

lutionary patriot, and the most benevolent man in this city. A single man, possessed of the largest landed estate on this island, he was enabled to exercise his benevolence & charities with unbounded, almost, munificence. He was a benefactor to many religious institutions, & his private charities to the poor, amounted to \$10,000 a year. His death at this inclement season will be severely felt by them.

Friday [February] 19<sup>th</sup>. Your sister rec<sup>d</sup> yest<sup>y</sup> a letter from Caroline Bayard who has passed the winter at Burlington. Like a frank hearted girl, she announces that she is to be married to Professor Dod, the beginning of April when the vacation in Nassau Hall takes place, & is to proceed immediately on a visit to her Sister Julia, & return the beginning of May when the College Summer session opens. M<sup>r</sup> Bayard & Aunt Patty are to return home as soon as the season permits, to take repossession of his former abode, of w<sup>b</sup> a conditional sale had been to a M<sup>r</sup> Patten for the purpose of opening a modern education Academy. His ill health, however, frustrates the project. M<sup>r</sup> B. resumes housekeeping, & M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Dod are to board with them. . . . I have a task about to be imposed upon me to write up the great Railroad projected from the Hudson river to the Mississippi above the Missouri. More credit is given to me, than I deserve, for holding the pen of a ready writer. Writing is not so difficult as the labour of studying & comprehending a subject. The proposal does not meet my fancy, & altho' I am now reading the project I think that it will be best not to intermeddle. . . .

Sat<sup>y</sup> [February] 20. Unsettled east<sup>y</sup> weather. The very fine day yest<sup>y</sup> induced Mother & Sister, as indeed almost every body else to make several calls, on M<sup>rs</sup> Gouverneur, M<sup>rs</sup> Livingston, M<sup>rs</sup> Hamilton, Beers & Schencks. M<sup>rs</sup> G. who is of my age, has been a recluse for life, dresses her head as she did 50 years past, & is bowed down very much, otherwise enjoys good health. The rest all well. M<sup>rs</sup> Schenck, obliged to move con-



templates taking a very fine 3 story House just above us in Broome St. replete with every accommodation, except that the rooms are not so spacious as modern crowded parties require, but will hold enough to try a mans purse. The family being exceedingly gay & fashionable this defect may bar their coming. . . . I have quite a Bible Society at home. Your brother is as diligent a searcher of the Scriptures as Thomas, & Sister is going thro' a regular reading. Dear Mother always closes her evening with her Bible, w<sup>h</sup> to me is my daily bread. . . .

Tues<sup>y</sup> [February] 23. A beautiful day. I must pay some friendly visits. M<sup>rs</sup> Talbot, M<sup>rs</sup> Maxwell who has been ill, M<sup>r</sup> Furman d[itt]o, & Col. [Aaron] Ogden in prison. I hope Mother & Sister will avail themselves of the mild morn<sup>s</sup> & walk out. The foot walks are quite dry, but the crossings are bad. This is Shrove Tues<sup>y</sup> & in conformity with Custom we shall dine on pancakes. . . .

Ash Wed<sup>y</sup> [February] 24<sup>th</sup>. Mother & Sister attend Church this fine morning. After there is to be a meeting of the Female Miss[ionar]y So[ciety] of S<sup>t</sup> Tho[ma]s, possibly y<sup>r</sup> Mother may be importuned to be elected President, as M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Vickar who is aged & infirm wishes to resign. The office was tendered to her last year, w<sup>h</sup> she prudently declined. . . . We had a Mis[sionar]y Sermon at S<sup>t</sup> Thomas on Sunday ev<sup>g</sup>. The weather was rainy, or rather showery, but not more for others than our family. We were all present. The collection only amounted to \$75. Discouraging. Why did not absentees send their contributions next day. The truth is that Bp. Hobart has so chiled the hearts of all within the sphere of his influence, & is so fearful of enthusiasm, as to have checked all zeal. Some Presbyt[eria]n Churches in this city, do more at one collection, than all our High Churches put together. A collection is to take place at M<sup>r</sup> Eastburns Church next Sunday ev<sup>g</sup> where weather & health permitting Mother

& myself propose to attend. . . . The Rev. D<sup>r</sup> Milnor who is about going to England, not for health but gratification will be delegated to attend as representative of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] at the Anniv[ersary] meeting of the British & For[eign] B. S. in May next. The circumstance makes me happy, as he is so intimately acquainted with the Bible cause in Am[eric]a so zealous & efficient an officer being long Sec<sup>y</sup> for For[eign] correspondence & so capable to represent us, & will make an imposing impression on our parent Society. I cannot express my gratification.

. . . . .  
 Friday [February] 26<sup>th</sup>. Mother & Sister attended at S<sup>t</sup> Thom[a]s on Wed<sup>y</sup>. As M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Vickar, totally deaf, did not resign, Mother was spared declining the honour of an election. Sister however was appointed a Manager w<sup>h</sup> she did right to accept. We all owe a service to our Church. I mentioned being engaged yest<sup>y</sup> with our Bible So[ciety] concerns. The Rev. D<sup>r</sup> Milnor, our Sec<sup>y</sup> for For[eign] correspondence will be appointed next week our Representative to the Br[itish] & For[eign] B[ible] S[ociety] on its anniv<sup>y</sup> meeting in May next. I passed an hour with him conversing on the several topics that will prove interesting to be communicated. . . . He will make a powerful representative & I have no doubt that his address will make a favourable impression on a British audience. His manner is easy, his voice powerful & he is quite free from sermonizing on public occasions to w<sup>h</sup> he has been much accustomed. . . .

. . . . .  
 This ev<sup>g</sup> our folks, all, exopt myself, take tea with M<sup>rs</sup> Wadsworth, a plain friendly party. I adhere to my rule of not annoying my friends with an old mans infirmities, & as the rule is absolute I give no exceptions. . . . After Church on Wed<sup>y</sup> Mother & Sister called on M<sup>rs</sup> Sam<sup>l</sup> Gouverneur, formerly Miss Monroe. She has 3 children, 2 boys & a girl. The eldest boy is deaf &

dumb, from its birth, a fine child. What a dreary pilgrimage thro' Life is its destiny. . . .

[Addressed by Ship] Kentucky

---

NEW YORK, Tuesd<sup>y</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> March, 1830

I have turned out in the hardest old fashioned N E. snow storm, that we have had this winter, quite repugnant to dear Mother's wishes. . . . The storm is actually violent, & as Mother said, increasing. The snow is at least 12 inches deep. The storm began about midnight. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [March] 3<sup>d</sup>. Fair, cold day, superb sleighing. I hope that Aunt Helen will send Davis to treat our folks, esp<sup>y</sup> the boys, with a last ride for the season. We have been entertained & delighted for some days in succession with M<sup>r</sup> Websters admirable speech in the Senate, in reply to Col. Hayne of Ch[arle]ston, the most eloquent speech ever delivered on the floor of Congress, & w<sup>h</sup> will do him, as well as the talents of our countrymen, great credit in England. M<sup>r</sup> Webster is an eminent Lawyer of Massachusets. Born in an obscure country town, his father was a farmer, & kept a public Inn. But genius rises superior to every disadvantage. He stands at the head of his profession as he now ranks above every statesman. He belongs to the genuine old Federal School, & does honour to that, now obsolete party, gone down to the Tomb of the Capulets, but will live & be revered as long as the principles of Washington & Hamilton endure. It is some, a great consolation to me, that thro' all the changes & vicissitudes of political parties, I have alway been a firm, consistent federalist, & have lived to see so eminent a character as Webster triumphant over southern demagogues. I shall put up a copy of his speech w<sup>h</sup> I beg my g<sup>d</sup>sons to read, I w<sup>d</sup> say study. The Finale is most beautiful & pathetic &

must have made the bosoms of every auditor thrill. Indeed it is said that a thunder of applause was likely to ensue, but was suppressed as inconsistent with the dignity of the Senate, w<sup>h</sup> is restored to its full lustre, after having been tarnished by the frenetic effusions of John Randolph.

Sat<sup>y</sup> 6<sup>th</sup>. At the meeting of the Managers<sup>4</sup> on Thurs<sup>y</sup> Cheif Justice Marshall was elected a Vice Pres<sup>t</sup> in place of the late Judge Washington. The Rev. D<sup>r</sup> Milnor was appointed to represent the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] at the Anniv<sup>y</sup> meeting of the British & For[eign] B[ible] S[ociety] in May. The Doctor will meet an honourable reception & make a favourable impression. He is a popular speaker, & been long accustomed to address public meetings in this city.

On Thur<sup>y</sup> died my old friend Col. Rich<sup>d</sup> Platt, AE. 76. He was my roommate at Princeton College & after being graduated entered in 1775 into the Am. Army, & continued in service till the conclusion of the Revolut<sup>y</sup> War. He was at the siege of Quebeck, capture of Burgoyne & Cornwallis. He was a brave officer. After the peace he settled in this city, patronized by Col. Wadsworth of Hartford he dealt largely in the public debt, was very successful, but broke down with others who failed some years after. He was liberal & beneficent, & once moved in the first rank of our city. He married Miss Aspinwall, the most beautiful of her sex. After his failure he spent some time in France, until he c<sup>d</sup> settle with his creditors. He then enterprized as a wine dealer, & was again unsuccessful, & under circumstances that injured his reputation. On Col. Monroes becoming president, he app[ointe]d his brother officer paymaster for this district. Unfortunately Col. P. became a defau[l]ter & injured his sureties. Removed he was again stationed in our Custom House, in w<sup>h</sup> he continued till his death & lately received half pay. The two circumstances gave him \$1750 a year, but he was always in want, having 2 sons

<sup>4</sup> Of the American Bible Society.

who pressed on him. As far as possible, I assisted him till I thought he being better off than myself, I was obliged to resist his last applic<sup>n</sup> for a *loan* never [to] be returned. He withered & sunk away. His poor once elegant wife, the gayest of the gay, shrunk from society & is now bedridden. She rendered herself useful while health & spirits remained, as sup<sup>t</sup> of the S<sup>t</sup> Johns Chu[r]ch Sunday School, where she was deservedly much respected. It is many years since Mother once intimate, has seen her, as she declined, broken hearted, from all society. Her sons are unworthy of so good a mother. Such is the brief acc<sup>t</sup> of the man I always regarded as a friend, & whose misfortunes were aggravated by imprudence or worse. He is to be buried with military honours this p. m. The day is very unfavourable. My duty at the Savings Bank will prevent my attendance, as I c<sup>d</sup> wish, as well as exposure to this damp dense atmosphere, & Mother has enjoined it on me not to find a substitute & risk a cold & fever. It is hard not to pay my last respects to an old friend.

Thurs<sup>y</sup> [March] 11<sup>th</sup>. . . . Yest<sup>y</sup> I devoted to my Grecian friend W<sup>m</sup> Wood, answering his enquiries respecting a project to establish a savings Bank at Canadaigua, where he resides with an independent Widow Sister.<sup>5</sup> This benevolent man is always doing good be he where he will, & it gives me pleasure to promote his views. He sent me a beautiful engraving of Bp. Heber, with whose relict he corresponds. . . .

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March. Looking, hourly, for the Tennessee. On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> I shall close this letter. It will be Marsdens birthday, when he completes his 15<sup>th</sup> year. A word for him. . . .

[Addressed by Ship] Illinois

---

<sup>5</sup> Mrs. Nathaniel Gorham (Ruth Wood). T. B. Wyman, *Genealogies and Estates of Charlestown, Mass.* (Boston, 1879), I, 424; II, 1047; C. F. Milliken, *Ontario County (N. Y.) and Its People*, I, 56.

N YORK, Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> March, 1830

. . . This morning the Rev. D<sup>r</sup> Milnor sails in the Florida for Liverpool. . . . Bp. Brownell arrived here on Sat<sup>y</sup> & proceeded immed<sup>y</sup> for Hartford. He observed to M<sup>r</sup> Dwight, who told me, that he had been on board 15 Steam Boats during his tour, & among 50 passengers each that he only saw 2 decanters of Brandy & Whiskey, that ardent spirits were totally disused, & he had never seen a drunken man on all his route. Wonder change esp<sup>y</sup> in the Western country, where Whiskey abounds, & has been regarded as essential to existence. So much in praise of Temperance Societies. Were it not for the low Irish, drunkenness w<sup>d</sup> soon disappear in our Streets. It diminishes. . . .

Friday [March] 19<sup>th</sup>. Thomas' Birthday, he enters his 17<sup>th</sup> year. . . . A distressing affliction has befallen our next door neighbours, M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Intire. They have lost their hopeful son <sup>6</sup> 8 years old & a nephew, both lying dead at the same time in their house, & their funerals to take place at 2 p. m. What a dreadful visitation, the pang of which I bring home to my own bosom. This calamity mars the pleasure of our little festive board on this day. . . .

Sat<sup>y</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> March. Spring day. The first steamboat Commerce arrived from Albany Thur<sup>y</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> inst. The navigation now open, & trade will revive. It has been very dull, esp<sup>y</sup> for Cotton, as your brother has experienced. There is however still season for good business if the market sh<sup>d</sup> not be too high at N[ew] O[rleans]. Yest<sup>y</sup> I closed my long Trusteeship for the Coutant family, by paying a bal[anc]e of \$115 that remained in my hands for the estate of Jacob Coutant. On the decease of the father David in 1820, I assumed the duty of Trustee, to oblige Polly, & happily discharged it with fidelity until a little before her death, a year or more ago, quite to the satisfaction of the heirs. Having rec<sup>d</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Alexander McDonald McIntyre, son of Archibald McIntyre, of 431 Broome Street. *Commercial Advertiser*, March 19, 1830; N. Y. City Directory, 1830-31.

& paid their rents &c<sup>a</sup> for 9 years, to a considerable amount, they wished to make me a consideration, w<sup>h</sup> I w<sup>d</sup> not accept, as I acted from friendship for the mother, who was brought up by the Madame. I feel happy that the transaction is closed, for I sometimes felt uneasy least during my trust, I might be called away, but all was placed in security in case of such an event. For M<sup>rs</sup> Talbot I receive & pay her annuities, as she has no one else to confide in. This gives me no trouble. . . . I had intended to decline a reelection as Church Warden of my beloved French Church on Easter Monday next, but my brother Vestry men will not hear to it. We must shortly look out for a site in the upper part of the city for a new church, our present Temple being very old, built in 1704. If life & health are spared I sh<sup>d</sup> be glad that it were done in my day, that I may remove the remains of our predecessors from the family Tomb, myself, a painful duty, w<sup>h</sup> must be done, as we shall lease or sell our ground advantageously to defray the expense of a new edifice. . . .

Monday, 22<sup>d</sup> March. After a dense foggy wet Sunday, this is a beautiful May day. It is y<sup>r</sup> dear Sisters birthday. May her succeeding years be as propitious as those she has hitherto enjoyed. This morn<sup>g</sup> she takes Boudy, 2 years 9 m<sup>os</sup> old, to a select Infant School, kept in the basement of the Dutch Church, Broome corner of Mercer, west side of B<sup>d</sup>way a short distance from us. I will get one of the circulars, to show you the system & what advantages for education we enjoy in this city. I observe another select Infant School advertised in this morn<sup>g</sup>s paper. Those for poor children are wonderfully successful & increase & I have no doubt, in a few years will become as numerous as other schools. A Funeral discourse was preached in the late M<sup>r</sup> Christmas' Church in the Bowery last ev<sup>g</sup> to an overflowing congregation. The Observer of 20<sup>th</sup> inst. contains a very good obituary of this devoted servant <sup>7</sup> of his Lord &

<sup>7</sup> Rev. Joseph S. Christmas, late pastor of the Bowery Presbyterian Church. A *Memoir* of him, by E. Lord, was published in New York in 1831.

Master. It is said that his biography will be published. How early in life (26) has he been called to his reward.

Tuesday [March] 23<sup>d</sup> . . . The day, yest<sup>r</sup>, called all the female world abroad. Mother & Sister went down to M<sup>rs</sup> Schencks, where they learned a most distressing circumstance, of M<sup>rs</sup> Livingston, our Cousin's derangement, & attempt to destroy herself, & being sent to the Assylum. Your Mother stopped at her door, & such is the melancholy fact. . . . I regarded her for her persevering kindness to our aged Aunt Hanson, attentive to her in her last stage of existence, & to her funeral. No instance in my knowledge of awful derangement, has ever equaled that of her family. The subject is too painful to dwell on.

Wed<sup>r</sup> [March] 24<sup>th</sup>. Yest<sup>r</sup> was a wet raw N[orth] E[ast] day, w<sup>h</sup> combined with the state of poor M<sup>rs</sup> Livingston quite depressed my spirits, altho' I endeavour to restrain my feelings within my own bosom. Mother is less affected by such events. "One master passion swallows all the rest." The want of a splendid establishment, w<sup>h</sup> seems to embitter her days. . . . But we are differently very differently constituted. Let me not censure, but praise her for her many virtues & constant unremitted attention to me. . . .

Thur<sup>r</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> March. . . . I believe that I have not mentioned to you the prospect of a great act of Charity in favour of Orphans, without distinction of religion or country that is about to take place in this city. John G. Leake Esq. a wealthy Bachelor, died last year, leaving a Will drawn by himself, but not executed, in favour of Robert Watts, son of John Watts Esq. of N Rochelle, in your time, on condition of taking the name of Leake. The Will, after legal investigation was adjudicated to be valid, but before the condition c<sup>d</sup> be fulfilled by an Act of the Legislature, young Watts, the only remaining son of his Father died. In case of such decease or non compliance, the whole Estate of M<sup>r</sup> Leake, a few legacies excepted, was devised to the Rector of Trinity Church,



the senior Ministers of the Dutch & Presbyterian Churches, the Mayor & Recorder of this City in Trust, the income & profits of both Real & Personal Estate to be applied to building & supporting an Orphan Assylum, in the suburbs of the city. The Real Estate becomes escheated to the State, about \$100,000, the personal between 200 & 300,000 D<sup>rs</sup> goes to the Trustees who are applying to the Legislature for an Act of Incorporation. It is contemplated to merge our present Orphan Assylum in this new *Leake O. A.*, whereby it can go into immediate operation & support forthwith 300 Orphans. It is to be hoped that the Legislature will release their claim, & thus carry the benevolent intention of M<sup>r</sup> Leake into full effect. The Real Estate may be worth \$100,000, making altogether \$400,000 by far the largest benefaction ever bequeathed in this city.

Saturday [March] 27<sup>th</sup>. Yesterday was a complete winters day, a N E. snow storm for 24 hours. . . . On Thurs<sup>d</sup> I called at the Infant School, yet few in numbers, about 16. A fine spacious room in the basement of the Dutch Church in Broome S<sup>t</sup>, windows large, above ground, the site a gravel soil & the apartment very dry. It is well fitted up, with every modern improvement for instruction. The mistress & assistant very kind to the children, who appear delighted. Boudy, who we feared might prove refractory, his Madam says is the most tractable & best behaved boy in the school. It excited a laugh to see him with his cap in [hand] make his bow to the Madame, & Assistant, kissing his hand & bending to the floor, after which he went very orderly & kissed a little girl about his size to whom he has taken a fancy. . . .

[Addressed by Ship] Tennessee

---

[By Ship] Louisiana

NEW YORK, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1830

. . . Sat<sup>y</sup> 3<sup>d</sup>. As usual excessively engaged with Bible So[ciety] duties since the Managers meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> antecedent to the Annual meeting in May. We are crowded with business, & meet again 29<sup>th</sup> inst. to rec[e]ive the annual Report. The Rev. M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Ilvaine of Brooklyn who is going to Europe for the benefit of his health, to sail 8<sup>th</sup> inst. was appointed to represent our So[ciety] in conjunction with the Rev. D<sup>r</sup> Milnor who sailed 15<sup>th</sup> March, at the anniv<sup>y</sup> me[e]ting of the British & For[eign] B[ible] S[ociety] in May. M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Ilvaine is of Burlington & rec<sup>d</sup> his education, partly, in the Princeton Theol. Sem<sup>y</sup>. He possesses great talents, & is a popular preacher of the Evangelical school, of course no favourite with Bp. Hobart, whose whole influence was exerted to prevent his settle<sup>t</sup> in Brooklyn. His health has been impaired by his zeal, & incessant duties. He has quite changed the complexion of S<sup>t</sup> Ann's Church Brooklyn, & except with a few High Churchmen is greatly esteemed & his labours have been blessed. . . .

Thur<sup>y</sup> [April] 8<sup>th</sup>. My time has been unusually occupied. I have just return'd from the Steam boat after bidding the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Ilvaine an affect[ionate] adieu. He is quite emaciated by excessive zeal in the discharge of his pastoral duties. Please God that he may be favoured in his voyage out & home, & be restored to his family & church in perfect health. On Tuesday afternoon, 6<sup>th</sup>, I attended the funeral of M<sup>rs</sup> Clement C. Moore, cut off in the very bloom of life not much beyond 30 years, leaving several children with a most aff[ectionate] husband to bemoan her death. She was a Cortland,<sup>8</sup> & very beautiful. Just removed from M<sup>r</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Mrs. Clement C. Moore (Catharine Elizabeth Taylor), was daughter of Elizabeth (Van Cortlandt) Taylor and granddaughter of Philip Van Cortlandt. W. O. Wheeler, *The Ogden Family in America* (1907), pp. 108, 196.

Moore's country residence to a new spacious delightful house in the upper part of the city. About the time of dear mother's convalescence last fall, M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Moore rode out to New Utrecht. She then apparently in high health. He told me of his purchase & intended removal, when I promised to visit him. We have been always on the most friendly terms, but I have resisted all hospitalities, when sitting in the elegantly furnished drawing room, for he is wealthy. My spirits sank within me, to think that my first intended visit should be on so melancholly an occasion. It is God's will, & may he sanctify this dispensation to my friend. M<sup>r</sup> M. is the only son of the late Bp. Moore, & thro' his mother inherits an extensive landed property at Greenwich, equal to 500 lots worth \$1000 a lot on an average & will double by the time his children arrive at age. God bless & prosper him.

Yest<sup>y</sup> Wed<sup>y</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> I was elected a Director of the Mutual Insur<sup>e</sup> C<sup>o</sup>. When I look back on this period 2 years, the misery that I endured on acc<sup>t</sup> of that young villain Monahan, the anguish that I experienced & which you witnessed, & that quite broke me down, I am all gratitude to my heavenly Father, for this instance of his mercy. A circumstance that I c<sup>d</sup> not expect but that is entirely owing to my kind friends M<sup>r</sup> Furman, Mason & Wilson & M<sup>r</sup> Ireland the President. . . .

1 o'clock. The meeting is over & M<sup>r</sup> Ireland unanimously reelected as he deserves for he is a most active efficient president. I have rec<sup>d</sup> a letter of yest<sup>y</sup> from M<sup>r</sup> Bayard, who says that Caroline's wedding is to take place on Monday ev<sup>e</sup> next & that they can only invite *one* person from each family, & wishes me to come on & represent ours. . . .

Saturday [April] 10<sup>th</sup>. After coming from Church yest<sup>y</sup> I wrote to M<sup>r</sup> Bayard declining his invitation. Mother w<sup>d</sup> have been uneasy least any accident sh<sup>d</sup> be-tide me. On reflection I tho't it best so to do. I c<sup>d</sup> not absent myself from the Sacrament tomorrow. Moreover I am so linked with the Savings Bank, that my

presence on Monday will be necessary. We are negotiating a loan of \$150,000 of Pennsylv<sup>a</sup> stock. Sh<sup>d</sup> the terms be acceptable, it is necessary for me, as president, to indorse a check on the Mechanic Bank for payment. . . . With this I shall send you for y<sup>r</sup> children, the Hist<sup>y</sup> of the Jews in 3 small volumes covered with silk, by the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Millman an eminent divine of the Ch. of England. Thomas who is becoming quite a Biblical Critic, was wishing to be acquainted with the Jewish Hist<sup>y</sup> & bought this work, just published, with w<sup>h</sup> y<sup>r</sup> brother & sister are so well pleased that I have procured a set for you. They are the first of a series of the Family Library.<sup>9</sup> The next will be the life of Napoleon,<sup>10</sup> 2 vol<sup>s</sup>, the best written it is said of anything that has yet appeared, & I hope to be able to send the successive Vol<sup>s</sup> as published, the cost being only 50 cents p: vol, to amuse & instruct your children next summer when your winter visitors shall have deserted you. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [April] 14<sup>th</sup>. Another wet day. No Talma. The prevailing Easterly winds have been adverse to her. There has been several, 5 or 6, most ext[raordinary] short passages from Eng<sup>d</sup> & France, that ever were known, in 16 & 18 days, as quick as between this & N. Orleans. . . . I shall put up D<sup>r</sup> Alexander, of Princeton, Bible Dict[ionary] for the use of Sunday School Teachers, for the use of your family, a useful book of which 100 copies have been sold in this city in the course of a week.

---

N YORK, Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April, 1830

The Louisiana sailed yest<sup>y</sup> with a little packet of books & my letter for my beloved daughter. The Talma lingers, out 25 days. I fear some disaster. Ever since

<sup>9</sup> Published by J. & J. Harper.

<sup>10</sup> By J. G. Lockhart.

April came in we have had Easterly winds & weather. I have just ret<sup>d</sup> from the Steam Boat taking leave of some clerical friends bound in the Brittainia packet for Liverpool. The Rev. D<sup>r</sup> Gardiner of Boston, a Rev<sup>d</sup> of Maryland, & Rev. M<sup>r</sup> [William] Creighton of this city, for their health. The Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> [William] Richmond lately at N[ew] O[rleans] accompanies his brother in law Jonath<sup>n</sup> Goodhue who goes for the benefit of his health. Great is the company of the Preachers. The wind is still adverse at east. With the Rev. D<sup>r</sup> Gardiner I was acquainted when at Boston, now 30 years ago. He was a pleasant classical scholar, very fond of the convivial So[ciety] of Boston, too much so for a minister. He recollected me & asked after poor uncle Lewis. D<sup>r</sup> G. is exceedingly emaciated & looks as tho' he goes in quest of a vain shadow, & that he is too much broken down & too aged 75<sup>11</sup> to be renovated. Propitious Gales attend them. This party makes 6 Episcopal ministers from the U<sup>d</sup> States, gone to England, of whom D<sup>r</sup> Milnor & M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Ilvaine rank foremost & will do our clergy credit.

.....  
 Tuesday [April] 20<sup>th</sup>. Yest<sup>y</sup> was hot, as will be this day. Your Aunt Betsey came to town on Sat<sup>y</sup> & dined with us yest<sup>y</sup> . . . Her Sister Solomon is very well. Y<sup>r</sup> Aunt grows corpulent & her tall person makes her appear large. She complains of her head, but has been better last winter than thro' the preceding summer. She was at Caroline's wedding, when notwithstanding the very unfavourable weather all passed off cheerful & gay. M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Dod set off for Virginia last Thur<sup>y</sup> on a fortnights visit to M<sup>rs</sup> Washington. His salary has been raised \$200, having now \$1000 a year, a good income, w<sup>h</sup> will go further as long as they remain at Clermont. He takes the mathematical chair in addition to the classical duties. M<sup>r</sup> Bayard in a late letter

<sup>11</sup> The Rev. John Sylvester John Gardiner was not so old as Pintard stated, for he was born in June, 1765. *Dictionary of American Biography*, VII, 137.

mentions that his Rev. son complains of his scanty income, & he fears that all does not go right with him. He had undertaken the sup.intendence of a High School at Geneseo, on his own & his assistants account, with flattering hopes, but it does not succeed to his expectations. Indeed so many academical institutions spring up in every quarter, & competition is so great that one is no sooner got up than a rival appears to the injury of both. Poor Lewis, he has been a rolling stone. . . . I hold no epistolary intercourse with him. He is so high a Bishops man, that my frank opinions did not please, & I am not sorry to be released from a cold correspondence. When with us I take care not to mention the Bishops name nor comment on his policy, as I know every sentiment w<sup>d</sup> be repeated. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [April] 21<sup>st</sup>. . . . Yest<sup>y</sup> a beautiful day. I attended the exhibition of the Orphans, at the City Hotel. Upwards of 100 children of both sexes, sitting on elevated benches, formed an imposing spectacle. After paying Mothers & Sisters annual subscriptions of \$2 each, & expressing, mentally, my gratitude to the fair sisters of Charity devoted to this benevolent institution, I retired, not being capable of hearing the Report or addresses usual on the occasion. How greatly this city is indebted to Females for the time & support they give to our various charitable & religious associations. In the afternoon at 5. I accompanied Mother & Sister to the sale of the S<sup>t</sup> Thomas' ladies Missionary Society, held in Niblos splendid saloon, not far distant from us in B<sup>d</sup>way. Miss Duffy, sister of our late first Rector, is the principal man[a]ger. The exhibition constituted of a great variety of fancy articles, some the work of the ladies others bought by contributions for sale. Mother & Sister gave \$2 each, the profits of each were as much more, thus doubling the first gift. The managers understand their business, asking good prices, w<sup>b</sup> none dispute, as none are obliged to pay. Almost all was sold off by 7 o'clock, when the rest were disposed off

by way of lottery & thus the tables were swept. Mother & Sister laid out \$7 in little books & notions. . . .

Friday [April] 23<sup>d</sup>. The hasty perusal of y<sup>r</sup> miscellaneous letter, espec<sup>y</sup> what relates to my darling Eliza agitated me extremely. . . . The subject nearest my heart is our darling, united possibly by this time to the man<sup>12</sup> of her choice, mutually acquainted & attached for some years, a knowledge of each others dispositions cannot fail to promise every reasonable share of happiness. Her distance from home may render weaning, on both sides, painful, but the seperation of children from parents is the lot of humanity & must be submitted to, surely I have experienced it in y<sup>r</sup> instance my best beloved daughter. It pleases me to learn that M<sup>r</sup> Johnston has a profession that will ensure him if diligently pursued support for a family. . . . The law is an honourable as well as respectable calling & leads with talents & application to high honours. . . .

Grandmama is delighted with your description of my namesake, who she always considered a lad of noble ambition & great promise. How happy it makes me that he excells in his calling & that his conduct gives satisfaction to his friends & employers. I will converse with D<sup>r</sup> Francis on the medical schools in this city, w<sup>h</sup> D<sup>r</sup> Hosacks overbearing ambition has divided & injured. Francis will give me a candid opinion. I have such respect for his capacity in teaching that I c<sup>d</sup> [wish] Pintard to be under his tuition. I do beleive Francis to be the most talented physician in the U<sup>d</sup> States. I mean professional, strictly, & not literary w<sup>h</sup> is very great, & he possesses a most happy untiring faculty of imparting instruction. Since his marriage he has become quite a staid character. He is eminent & rising in reputation, but more anon.

<sup>12</sup> John Harris Johnston. Wm. Preston Johnston, *The Johnstons of Salisbury* (New Orleans, 1897), pp. [77]-79, 156.

Monday [April] 26<sup>th</sup>. After two days of a lowering sky, rain came on yest<sup>r</sup> toward ev<sup>g</sup>, w<sup>h</sup> interfered, no doubt, with the sermons in 2 of our Churches for the benefit of the Orphan Assylum. I hear no more about the Leake legacy & fear some mistake on my part. . . . By the next arrival (Kentucky) daily expected I hope to hear more particulars about M<sup>r</sup> Johnston, & of his establishment on Red river. . . . Possibly ere this our dear darling has changed her name. She has a deposit in our Savings B<sup>k</sup> w<sup>h</sup> with accumulating interest amounts to \$159. This is at her command, & if she pleases can purchase an elegant gold watch & equipage. I c<sup>d</sup> wish it to be laid out in this or other permanent way, that she may possess something to remember her g<sup>d</sup>father who loves her sincerely. On Saturday I opened an account for dear Julia & Lucy Ann, Nos. 25,000 & 25,001, w<sup>h</sup> I never expected to see in my time. As soon as we reached them, I popped in my \$5. each, all that I c<sup>d</sup> contribut[e] just now. I must do as much for our Richard D., whose father deposited for him a year ago. Your dear little girls were alone excepted. Now *all* my g<sup>d</sup>children have Bank Books. My *extra* Bank attendance will terminate next Friday after 3 months duty, & I shall really feel lost, but my own turn comes on in July, w<sup>h</sup> with June, an account of the heat are the worst in the year. The resort to our Bank is astonishing. On Sat<sup>y</sup> we rec<sup>d</sup> from 80 Depositors \$3716 & paid to 113, within one cent of \$11,000. The Bank altho extensive, was at times crowded to excess.

Tuesd<sup>y</sup> [April] 27<sup>th</sup>. Your brother handed to me y<sup>r</sup> letter of 7<sup>th</sup> inst. by the Kentucky, with the intelligence of y<sup>r</sup> darlings intended marriage to M<sup>r</sup> Johnston on the 15<sup>th</sup>. . . .

Thurs<sup>y</sup> [April] 29<sup>th</sup>. Dear mother writes by this opportunity. She gave me her letter to peruse. It is far more gloomy than facts justify, at least as respects myself. True I decay & grow more feeble & my hearing



alas! is almost gone. My eye sight admits of some reading. . . .

[Addressed by Ship] Talma

---

[By Ship] Illinois

NEW YORK, Monday 3<sup>d</sup> May, 1830

Tuesd<sup>y</sup> 4<sup>th</sup>. . . . Sister was detained at home by violent tooth ache. She is undergoing an operation of having *all* the nerves extracted by some Empiric I fear. She suffers greatly, more than I have ever known before. Yest<sup>y</sup> p. m. I attended the funeral of Thomas Franklin, a Quaker friend whom I have known from my boyhood, in his day a very useful & respectable citizen. Having been Chief Engineer, the whole Fire Department about 1500, attended. . . .

Monday [May] 10<sup>th</sup>. Beginning of our *holy* week, devoted to religious & benevolent meetings, but alas! my deafness prevents any attendance, except to my *last* anniv[ersary] duties to the Am. B[ible] S[ociety] & the Sunday School Union meeting in Castle Garden, tomorrow p. m. . . . My mind is made up to resign the Record<sup>s</sup> Sec<sup>y</sup>ship of the A. B. S. at the stated meeting 1<sup>st</sup> July next, when I shall have served 14 years & 6 m<sup>os</sup>. My increasing deafness disqualifies me to discharge a duty, otherwise very agreeable to me. I shall lose of course with the salary of \$400 a year, w<sup>h</sup> has been devoted all this time to pious, benevolent & charitable purpose, so far doing some good. My restricted means will incapacitate me as well for myself & to afford dear Mother the power of extending the hand of charity to the numerous wants of this great & growing city, but we must content ourselves with having done all the good we could while I enjoyed the power. Gods will be done. To sigh & lament is vain if not impious. On Friday a

meeting was held, promoted by beneficent ladies, to take into consideration the subject for establishing a House of Industry to afford the means of profitable occupation to industrious females. Mother & Sister attended. I early showed myself & retired lest I might be added to a Committee to make application to our City Corporation for aid, a House, for conducting the business, without w<sup>h</sup> it will be impossible to carry the object into effect. I have had my many turns, & my deafness is an obstacle in the way of being useful. We had such a House some 10 or 12 years ago, w<sup>h</sup> fell thro' for want of patronage, the losses being chiefly borne by a few. The late John Murray Jun<sup>r</sup> was its indefatigable patron. It is difficult to obtain funds, & in the next place more difficult to sell work made up for cost & charges. However past experience may put the present effort, sh<sup>d</sup> it be carried into operation, on a better footing. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [May] 12<sup>th</sup>. I have taken a violent cold & hoarseness attending the Union Sunday School procession yest<sup>r</sup>. The day was raw & unpleasant & it rained before the show was over. I went to the park before 2 at w<sup>h</sup> hour the scholars began to assemble & as the schools appeared on the ground, they were marched off 4 abreast to Castle Garden. I never witnessed so numerous a collection nor any that equaled it in the neatness & propriety of the scholars of both sexes dresses & behaviour. Dear little things many of whom were not so big as Pintard. A Sunday School came over from Bellevue above Newark, beautifully & uniformly dressed in blue roundabouts & white pantaloons, their animated countenances conscious of their superiority in dress, had an imposing effect. Elated as I was to see the progressive increase of an Institution, the foundation of w<sup>h</sup> I assisted in laying 14 years ago, my feelings, not depressed, were solemnized, that among the Directors of the present day, with whom I walked, there was not one personal acquaintance, all moved off in succession from active life to a better world. Last year I walked with

my lamented friend James Eastburn. . . . It took up an hour for the Schools to enter & pass thro' the Park. The line reached all the way to Castle Garden. It is computed that ten thousand were collected. What a Jubilee for children? What a glorious spectacle for old men? The panorama view in Castle Garden exceeds my powers of description. It was Fairy land & enchantment to me esp<sup>y</sup>, when the assembled thousands chaunted the appropriate Hymns. . . .

. . . . .  
 Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May. We had a most animated Anniversary of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] that has ever yet occurred. Tell Marney that it far exceeded the last w<sup>h</sup> he witnessed. The speakers were all of the highest order & eloquent. Mother made me happy by her attendance. Altho' the weather was obscured, the Middle Dutch Church, the larges[t] in our city was full to excess. I never witnessed so large, nor so patient an audience of Ladies who were assembled from 9 o'clock to 1/2 past 2. . . .

. . . . .  
 Of your friend M<sup>rs</sup> Smith I must speak a word in praise. Encumbered with a large family of helpless children, she shows her magnanimity & pride of character in doing all in her power for their maintenance. . . . I have confidence that a lady of her superior mind & independence, acclimated by long residence, will attract a choice of pupils & enable her to discharge the more onerous duties of a boarding school, by such able assistance as money can command & leave her free to the general superintendence of Instruction & deportment of the young ladies. . . .

Then you think it possible that M<sup>r</sup> Johnston may come to the north this season, the only one, for years that Madam may be able to have unencumbered. You say it depends upon an interview with his Senator brother <sup>13</sup> w<sup>h</sup> must be late as Congress will continue in

<sup>13</sup> His half-brother, Josiah Stoddard Johnston (1784-1833). See *Biog. Directory of the Amer. Congress, 1774-1927*; Wm. P. Johnston, *The Johnstons of Salisbury* (New Orleans, 1897), pp. 63-72.

session probably till the last of this month. I should be most happy to see him, in w<sup>h</sup> case I w<sup>d</sup> endeavour to dissuade him from giving up a lucrative practice for the inconsiderable salary of a judge, an honourable station however. He is too young to retire from practice. . . .

. . . . .

---

N YORK, Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 1830

The anniv<sup>y</sup> of my birthday, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 1759.

. . . . .  
 My morn<sup>s</sup> commenced with reading several of D<sup>r</sup> Johnson's prayers on the anniversaries of his birthday, & my birth Psalm 90<sup>th</sup>, also Taylors Holy Dying, that I may prepare daily for my great account. . . . I meditated at dawn on my dear mothers momentary joy for the birth of a man child, w<sup>h</sup> cost her her life. She died in two weeks in consequence of sitting up too soon. She was a beautiful women of most aff[ectionate] amiable disposition. Her premature death broke my disconsolate fathers heart, who died, about 18 months after at the Cape of yellow fever. I soon shall follow. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [May] 19<sup>th</sup>. . . . Thomas [Servoss] has passed several months under his Father, where he has improved greatly in his handwriting, accounts & Book-keeping. As your brothers business is not suff<sup>y</sup> active for him, it has been contemplated to send him to Mat-tawan, & to bring him up a manufacturer under the care & in the family of M<sup>r</sup> Leonard at the head of the manufactory, an intelligent, correct, excellent man. Thomas, who has a mechanical turn was much pleased with the project. But as your brother is doubtful of the permanent stability of the manufacturing interests, as an establishment for life, he seemed to prefer placing his son in one of our extensive dry good stores, to become acquainted with the quality & prices of goods wholesale & retail. Thomas cheerfully acquiesced in

the judgment of his Father, & we have unsuccessfully, hitherto, endeavoured to find him a situation among some one of our principal jobbers, as they are called. Applications in behalf of youths are so numerous, that I have been everywhere too late, or too early. Yest<sup>r</sup> I was going to call on another respectable house, with w<sup>h</sup> I was personally unacquainted. Having been engaged with my minutes until 1 o'clock, I thot that I would defer my application till this morn<sup>s</sup> & turned my co[u]rse to M<sup>r</sup> S's counting room. Happily as I entered I found that M<sup>r</sup> S. & Thomas had turned their thoughts towards N. Orleans, & that M<sup>r</sup> S. had just written to his friend M<sup>r</sup> Oakey a proposition to take Thomas into his service & family. The thought pleased me so much, that I have concluded to expedite this letter for the purpose of requesting you to desire M<sup>r</sup> Oakey to take tea with you, & to induce him to acquiesce with our wishes.

. . . . .  
[Addressed by:] Mail via Mobile

[By Ship] Illinois

NEW YORK, Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May, 1830

. . . . .  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup>. . . . Your letter by the Louisiana, looked for this week, will I hope bring favourable tidings, of my beloved Turtle Dove, that she was in a condition to bear the fatigue of transportation to her dear sister under the attentive care of her brother . . . I do not precisely comprehend the topography of the country further than probably, that M<sup>r</sup> Johnston occupies the best & finest house among the Log Cabins of Alexandria! Proud name, but at some future day our darling may give you a more particular description of this land of promise. When I visited Washington in 1801, & exhausted myself with roaming over the wide domains of this renowned Capital of the U.S. a gentle-

man of the place, attended me, & pointed out the glorious scenery & prospects. Asking me how I was pleased, I replied that it really appeared all prospect & but little reality, for excepting the Capitol & public offices, very few buildings were at that time, sprinkled over the extensive surface of this renowned city, the progress of which was retarded by frequent attempts to remove the seat of government, of w<sup>h</sup> there is no further danger while the Union endures, as too much money has been expended to render it accommodating for Congress, & it is as central as can reasonably be hoped, unless sh<sup>d</sup> the province of Texas be acquired with all the circumjacent country along the Gulf of Mexico to California, it might be tho't expedient to remove to the Westward of the Missi[ssi]ppi, say to *Alexandria!* What a glorious prospect for darling. Of the state of society, her uncle gives a curious description, that in his earlier day, when at Natchez, it was the rendezvous of all the outlaws & fugitives of that quarter. But as laws, civilization & better population have succeeded, this floating scum has I hope boiled over & floated farther West. Such is the natural progress of American settlement. . . .

I have purchased for him <sup>14</sup> & all this morn<sup>s</sup> Crabb's Synonymes just published with w<sup>h</sup> I beseech him to become intimately acquainted if he wishes to become an accurate discriminating speaker. A little critique on the work w<sup>h</sup> I place on the title page, says all that I can on the subject, the importance of which is very familiar to me. Many years ago, Lindley Murray of York, Eng<sup>d</sup> presented me a copy of his invaluable Grammar, the best in the English language, the product of many years study & reflection. I wrote a line of thanks, thro' M<sup>r</sup> Perkins, connected by marriage with M<sup>r</sup> M.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Lewis Marsden Davidson.

<sup>15</sup> The wife of Benjamin Douglass Perkins was a niece of Lindley Murray. [Sarah S. Murray], *In the Olden Times, A Short History of the Descendants of John Murray* (N. Y. 1894), pp. 78-81.

& suggested the propriety, that one so well acquainted with the powers & beauties of the English language sh<sup>d</sup> undertake to supply the desideratum of a Book of Synonymes. M<sup>r</sup> M. was very infirm, & declined the task, but remarked that the person who had suggested the idea, appeared to be well qualified to execute it. This was high praise, & really I had a mind to attempt when I learned that M<sup>r</sup> Crabb had contemplated his work, the first edition of w<sup>h</sup> I have had, indeed the 2<sup>d</sup> many years. It is admirably executed & a work of g<sup>t</sup> merit, the result of much reading & reflection. . . . I send herewith the little Sunday School Biogr<sup>d</sup> dict<sup>y</sup> w<sup>h</sup> was overlooked with the last envoi likewise a Geographical dict<sup>y</sup> of the Bible, & an elegant map on rollers of the Holy land for the instruction of my dear little Sunday Scholars. You will likewise receive the 4 & 5<sup>th</sup> vols of the Family Library, cont<sup>s</sup> the life of Napoleon by Lockhart one of the London Quarterly reviewers, elegantly written, for y<sup>r</sup> summers amusement. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> May. . . . M<sup>r</sup> Leonard the conductor of Mattawan Manufactory called on y<sup>r</sup> brother & stated to him the prospects of profit to the cotton branch if perseveringly & intelligently pursued. He has always been earnest that Thomas sh<sup>d</sup> come to him. On reflection & conferring, if not consulting, with me, it was concluded best to send Thomas to him, & he wrote his offer to M<sup>r</sup> L. on Monday, w<sup>h</sup> he has accepted, & my young dear companion will leave us the beginning of June, near at hand, to enter on his vocation for life. Thomas has a mechanical turn, & will be instructed in every part of the operations from the Mill Wheel to the power loom thro' all their curious complicated machinery, so as to be able when his apprenticeship is passed, in 4 years, to be competent to the sup.intendence of a cotton manufactory. . . .

. . . . .

N YORK, Wed<sup>y</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> June, 1830

The Illinois sailed this morn<sup>g</sup> at 7 with a packet of books & maps for you. . . . .

Thurs<sup>y</sup> [June] 3<sup>d</sup>. Yest<sup>y</sup> at 12 I took leave of Thomas [Servoss] as he was embarking in the sloop *Hope*, for Fishkill. . . . You justly remark that musick reminds one of early associations & friends. The Tunes, now obsolete, of my juvenile days, bring before me the companions of my youth, mostly to the grave gone down. Such is my prejudice that these old fashioned songs & airs are more delightful to me than all the modern songs & melodies, with some exceptions, put together. The Scotch & Irish, particularly, are so dramatic, plaintive & impressive as to enchant me. The same remark applies to the old solemn tunes of Church psalmody, w<sup>h</sup> for devotional excitement far surpass any of the modern, & more scientific airs. Luthers Old Hundred can never cease to inspire as long as sober chaste taste shall prevail, and so of many others. Church musick to me as cultivated here, is absolutely screeching, but this no doubt is owing to my decayed hearing.

. . . . .  
Monday [June] 7<sup>th</sup>. Mother sits up part of the day, recovers very slow. . . . Aunt Patty & M<sup>r</sup> Bayard arrived on Saturday both very well. . . .

Tuesday [June] 8<sup>th</sup> . . . Mother showed her your letters. She desires her love & warmest congratulations to you on the happy marriage of our darling, & to say that altho' y<sup>r</sup> cousin Caroline is not so fortunate as to worldly concerns, that she also has made a happy connection with Professor Dod who is a learned pious good man, well qualified for his station. I shall be disappointed when his character becomes established, if he shall not be called to the presidency of some of our new colleges, as his talents are very respectable. Aunt Patty will inform Aunt Betsey of the substance of y<sup>r</sup> letters. I did not write of the event, waiting to impart the glad tidings when they sh<sup>d</sup> visit us. Your



Aunts health is better than usual, troubled somewhat with Asthma. The Judge is fat as a Bear, after living on swans, canvass back ducks & oysters with w<sup>h</sup> the Chesapeak abounds. Julia & M<sup>r</sup> Washington come on shortly to spend the summer. . . . I must if possible visit Fishkill to see Thomas. He wrote on Sunday of his safe arrival, arrangem<sup>t</sup> of his goods & chattels & visit to the Sunday School, 48 scholars, & of his intention to commence Teacher next Sunday. He will make a very useful one, having all the intelligence & inclination to render himself serviceable. Yest<sup>r</sup> morn<sup>s</sup> he was to enter on his apprenticeship of 4 years, in the mach[in]e shop. . . .

. . . . .  
[Addressed:] Mail  
via Mobile

---

NEW YORK, Wed<sup>r</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> June, 1830

. . . Thu<sup>r</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>. I c<sup>d</sup> make no progress yest<sup>r</sup> preparing for the monthly meeting of the Savings B<sup>k</sup> engrossed all my time till 12, when the Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Robertson, Miss[ionar]y to Greece was introduced to me with whom I passed an hour, & he is to call at 10 this morn<sup>s</sup> on the subject of the Greek press towards w<sup>h</sup> I am disposed to render every possible service. When I look back to the first efforts in favour of Greece, my indefatigable zeal & personal activity, I feel most sensibly the diminution of my bodily strength at this time, w<sup>h</sup> will prevent those personal applications that w<sup>d</sup> be useful. I hope that we shall do something, but really the present exertions in favour of Sunday Schools in the Valley of the Mississippi seems to absorb all our benevolence. In Phil<sup>a</sup> \$30,000 has been raised & in this city we may probably raise 20 more. It is a noble effort & tho' mainly patronized by Presbyterians ought to be encouraged. The poor Greeks must glean after this full harvest. My Bishop is violently opposed to the

operations of our Gen<sup>l</sup> Miss<sup>y</sup> S<sup>o</sup> in favour of foreign Missions, & of all others told M<sup>r</sup> R. that he considers the Greek most visionary & absolutely forbids him to act as Miss<sup>y</sup> in his diocese. M<sup>r</sup> R. must therefore operate thro' the agency of friends. The poor Greeks w<sup>d</sup> be sadly off, if Bishop Hobarts diocese, like the Devil's, extended all over Christendom. This prelate is at least half a century behind the Age in w<sup>h</sup> he lives. He discountenances every Episcopal exertion not connected with his diocese, & in concordance with his High notions. God forgive him he knows not what spirit he is off. My intercourse with his Holiness is very rare, for I cannot bow to the golden image that he has set up, & do not aspire to martyrdom, to be cast into the fiery furnace of his wrath. Thank God that I live in a free country, where liberty of conscience is not fettered by ecclesiastical Tyrants.

Friday [June] 11<sup>th</sup>. Dear Mother improves . . . She is yet too weak to walk abroad, possibly to Church next Sunday when a collection is to be made for the benefit of our Th[eologica]l Seminary. There is no end to collections in this city. I only wish that my purse were adequate. Had it not been for this circumstance I sh<sup>d</sup> have taken Sister & my namesake to St. Patricks Cathedral next Sunday morn<sup>g</sup> where a collection is to be made for the benefit of their Orphan Assylum. I can however give my mite, but I sh<sup>d</sup> have been gratified to hear the superb music usual on these occasions which attracts great numbers of other denominations & they generally get about \$12,000. This Assylum, being strictly Roman Catholic, derives no benefit from our State School Fund, w<sup>h</sup> is applied to public schools that are not sectarian. Such is our Orphan Assylum, where no distinction is made. The R. Catholics are overwhelmed with orphans, so many poor Irish die after a short residence in this city, martyrs, men & women, to intemperance. Ardent spirits are so cheap, that poor Pat & his wife Shelah cannot withstand the temptation.

Of course a large supply of orphan children are annually cast on the benevolence of the Catholics & tho generally humble the Irish are very charitable & share their last potato with a famished fellow creature. It is the duty therefore of every Protestant citizen to assist them. Just after concluding the preceding page the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Robertson called. He is a slender delicate man, very ardent & very intelligent. In consequence of Bp. Hobarts interdiction, he considers it prudent to leave this diocese, & preaches next week in Connecticut, under the auspices of Bp. Brownell, as he will thereafter in the Eastern diocese under those of Bp. Griswold. I went with him to our printer M<sup>r</sup> Fanshaw who showed him all our power presses that work by steam, & the operation of printing is performed by females under the sup.intendence of a Foreman. I shall obtain a description of a press & apparatus complete, wages of a Foreman, also of a Bindery on a limited scale, the cost of casting from the Tract So[ciety] of the pictures that enliven their Tracts, the same from the Union Sunday School S<sup>o</sup> so as to ascertain precisely what sum will be required to raise. When the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Hill arrives from Virginia who goes out also, for the purpose of establishing schools, weekly & Sunday, for w<sup>h</sup> with M<sup>rs</sup> H. he is eminently qualified, we will begin our lay efforts. But says one of my High Church men Bp. Hobart is opposed to the measure. I shall only work the harder, was my reply. I am no fair weather Christian. I can struggle & breast the N. Wester. . . .

Sat<sup>y</sup> [June] 12<sup>th</sup>. Attended my vestry yest<sup>y</sup> P. M. Our Treas<sup>r</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Hamersley resigned after many years faithful gratuitous services, & with a hearty vote of thanks. M<sup>r</sup> Fleming, Cashier of the Mechanic B<sup>k</sup> an excellent man, a cousin of M<sup>r</sup> Servoss was app[ointe]d in his place. At 5½ I attended at Ascension Church to hear the first performance of its new Organ, built by Erben, cost \$2500, but I was too late. It is said to be very fine toned, but the recess is too deep, & it must be advanced more forward to give it effect. S<sup>t</sup> Thomas

Ch. is to have a similar one by the same builder. Altho' a more recent Congregation it has outstripped ours in this as in every other respect. My inveterate deafness alone prevents me from being one of its members. My French Church is looking out for a site for a new edifice. The present building is too old to be repaired & too low down for convenience. This object accomplished, sh<sup>d</sup> I be spared to see it, & I shall resign my office as Warden w<sup>h</sup> I am no longer competent to fill. I shall have to remove the remains of my forefathers, a painful duty. This morn<sup>s</sup> the Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Bayard surprized us at breakfast by his unexpected arrival on his way to Princeton. He stays till Monday. He [is] in quest of a call if possible to Trenton w<sup>h</sup> if successful will make his 4<sup>th</sup> Church. It is owing to the unhappy state of M<sup>rs</sup> B. that he has been obliged to change his residence. He wishes, if possible, to collect a congregation in some of the new parts of our city. . . .

Monday [June] 14<sup>th</sup>. Rain yest<sup>r</sup> lowering & raw this day. Dear Mother recruits slowly, but does not come down stairs. Was at S<sup>t</sup> Thomas A. M., where a pitiful collect<sup>n</sup> of \$30 was made in favour of our Th[eological] Sem<sup>y</sup>. Disgraceful. Such apathy & indifference to promote the interests of our Church makes me sick. I was at M<sup>r</sup> Eastburns Church p. m. to hear his new & very superior Organ. This is an animated zealous congreg<sup>n</sup>. The Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Bayard preached in the ev<sup>s</sup> for his brother <sup>16</sup> D<sup>r</sup> Lyell in Christ Church. I did not go. He stays in town this day in hopes of seeing Bp. Hobart, who passes all his spare time in summer at his country seat near Springfield, N. J., of course very inaccessible to his clergy. Had he purchased when he bought this place, in the suburbs of this city when land was cheap, he w<sup>d</sup> have left a fortune to his family. As it is, they will never get back the money laid out for his improvements. M<sup>r</sup> Bayard who looks up to his patron, will be governed I presume by his pleasure. Your brother

<sup>16</sup> Mrs. Lewis Pintard Bayard's brother-in-law.

has a beautiful 2 story house & 4 Lots of ground in Amity Street, a central elevated situation near Washington Square rapidly increasing in population & at a distance from any other Episcopal Church. This he offers for \$12,000, first cost w<sup>h</sup> he was obliged to take for a debt. The house cost upwards of \$5000 built 2 years since by the unfortunate young man for his own residence, & is now unoccupied. The Rector is delighted with it & the prospect of gathering a congregation sh<sup>d</sup> the Bp. approve. I feel sanguine myself of his success, for he is well calculated to solicit aid & many in that quarter will afford it to enhance the value of their ground. . . . At the late meeting of the Female Mis[sionar]y So[ciety] of S<sup>t</sup> Thomas, Mother was unanimously elected a Directress, w<sup>h</sup> she accepts. It may prove innocent possibly useful occupation to her. While we were collecting \$30 in S<sup>t</sup> Thomas, the Rom. Catholics in S<sup>t</sup> Patricks collected \$1000 for their Orphan Assylum. See what zeal can do. Cap<sup>t</sup> Holmes tells me that this is the last regular packet this season. Of course I shall hereafter write semi monthly by mail, unless anything extra sh<sup>d</sup> turn up. . . .

Tuesday [June] 15<sup>th</sup> . . . We walked to Amity S<sup>t</sup> in the aft.noon to show M<sup>r</sup> Bayard the very pretty House adjoining the proposed lots for erecting a new Church, w<sup>h</sup> pleased him much. Neat clean & unoccupied ready to receive his family at once, as soon as the measure shall be decided. He called on the Bishop last evening who heartily approves. He has gone to Princeton with elated hopes w<sup>h</sup> I trust will not be disappointed. Poor man he has endured many trials. I hope all for the best & that at last he may find a resting place. As I contemplated the lots I thought possibly that I was regarding the spot where I might lay my bones. In case of his success, I propose to build a vault & remove the remains of our family from the French Church Cemetery, to rest I trust in peace, which I wish to do in my day, & that soon for we shall sell or lease the site of our present Church, for one in the upper part of the city. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [June] 16<sup>th</sup> . . . I send for the amuse<sup>t</sup> of y<sup>r</sup> Alexandrians,<sup>17</sup> Miss Sedgwick's new novel of Clarence descriptive of the customs & manners of this city, it is said, & is well spoken of. She rec<sup>d</sup> \$1200 for the copy-right. I cannot find time to look into the novels that overflow our country, altho' I amuse myself by going over the Waverlys. I send also 3 little Bibles for dear Helen, Julia & Lucy Ann, the Georgian proclamation & if out, the editorial of the Cherokee Phoenix, worthy the best day & best characters of our Rev[olutionar]y patriots, the author Elias Boudinot, a Cherokee educated by D<sup>r</sup> Boudinot whose name he assumed. A proof that Indians are susceptible of civilization & education. The late Act of Congress enforcing their removal from the graves of their forefathers is an indelible disgrace to our country. As to Georgia, "Will I not visit for these things saith the Lord."

You have likewise a notice of M<sup>r</sup> J. L. Miltons contemplated Institute in N[ew] O[rleans]. I hope it will not interfere with M<sup>rs</sup> Smith. . . .

[Addressed by Ship] Louisiana

---

N YORK, Thur<sup>y</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> June, 1830  
(Bunker Hill battle 1775)

. . . I rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from Thomas [Servoss] of 16<sup>th</sup>. He is delighted with his situation at Board & in the Machine shop, where he goes @ 4½ A. M., Breakfast at 6, work at ½ p. 6, dines at 12, back 12¾ remains till 7½ p. m., in all 15 hours application. He has begun with the Turning Lathe & promises a specimen of his handywork. . . .

Monday [June] 21<sup>st</sup> . . . I spoke of the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Bayard. Continuing the subject of my former letter, as this may reach you earliest, Let me repeat, that discontented with a starving country Church, & encum-

<sup>17</sup> Mr. and Mrs. John Harris Johnston, of Alexandria, Louisiana.

bered with a large family of really fine, indeed beautiful children, he came to town a fortnight ago with the intent of seeing whether he could obtain a living in Trenton, the Episcopal Minister of w<sup>h</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Johnson <sup>18</sup> is about retiring. On the prompt suggestion of y<sup>r</sup> brother, he has changed his course, & is now endeavouring to collect a congregation in the upper part of this city, on the west side of Broadway, a rapidly populating district & many genteel Episcopal families. . . . He returns home this ev<sup>g</sup> to bring down his family & enter upon his efforts to gather a congregation. . . .

. . . . .  
 Tuesd<sup>y</sup> [June] 22<sup>d</sup>. . . . Y<sup>r</sup> brother attended an overflowing meeting in Masonic Hall, the 2<sup>d</sup> on Sunday Schools in y<sup>r</sup> great valley, an admirable speech from Senator Frelinghuysen, taking a political view of the immense country, w<sup>h</sup> at a future day is to rule the U States, & of the urgent necessity of enlightening & instructing the rising generation. Collect[ion] \$2000, in all in this city \$15,000. In Phil<sup>a</sup> \$25,000. We do more here for other purposes than Phil<sup>a</sup>. Boston no doubt & other parts will contribute. Sunday Schools & Libraries are to be established & several have come forward as teachers. . . .

. . . . .  
 [Addressed:] p<sup>r</sup> Mail via Mobile

---

N YORK. Wed<sup>y</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> June, 1830

. . . The Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Hare of Pennsy<sup>a</sup> was married yest<sup>r</sup> to Bp. Hobarts 2<sup>d</sup> daughter. I but just begin my Diary to say, that I return home early to be bled at 12 o'clock. My head distresses me so much, that I dread the heat of July. Our reformers are making more ado about the Booths usually erected at the Park & Battery, than what is right, in my opinion. It is now an antient practice.

<sup>18</sup> William Lupton Johnson, Rector of St. Michael's Church, Trenton, N. J. (Hamilton Schuyler, *History of St. Michael's Church, Trenton, N. J.* (Princeton, 1926), pp. 174, 175.

Why sh<sup>d</sup> we not rejoice on the Ann[iversar]y of Am. Independence, that glorious event. Let us regulate but not restrain. It is among the misfortunes incident to Church & State to be zealous overmuch.

Thur<sup>y</sup> [June] 24<sup>th</sup>. I was bled yest<sup>y</sup>, a pint, & my poor head feels relieved. . . .

Sat<sup>y</sup> [June] 26. . . . I am getting my hand in to attend next mo[nth] at the Savings B<sup>k</sup> taking the place of an invalid Trustee for the rem<sup>r</sup> of this. . . . I am loth to give up the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] & the S[aving]s B[ank]. I feel like a poor Mariner suspended by 2 ropes, certain if he quits his hold, that he must plunge into eternity. I dread the vacuum, w<sup>h</sup> must soon come. My eyes failing, reading too much irritates them, otherwise my thirst for books is not allayed, but total want of *compulsory* occupation I dread. My mind is as yet too active to sink into vacancy or stupor, consequently some employm<sup>t</sup> however slight is a cordial to my health & spirits.

Tuesd<sup>y</sup> [June] 29<sup>th</sup>. The favourable accounts of the probable recovery of George IV whose situation had been extremely critical are regarded as a signal interposition of Providence in behalf of G. Britain, indeed of all Europe at this juncture. He is by far the ablest & most popular King of the House of Hanover that has ever filled the Throne. His death might have convulsed Europe. Indeed England is so much the centre of the commercial world that business, cotton esp<sup>y</sup> has been stagnated during his imminent illness. Your brother experiences also the effects. He has had but a moderate share of business the past season. The affair of Franklin has been of detriment to him. . . . Yest<sup>y</sup> closed the 11<sup>th</sup> year of our Savings Bank, the last receiving day before Interest commencing 1<sup>st</sup> July. The pressure was extreme, as also on Sat<sup>y</sup>. The receipts were Sat<sup>y</sup>, \$14,498, yest<sup>y</sup>, \$16,169.69. We opened 50 new accounts each day, & served yest<sup>y</sup> at the rate of 2½ persons a minute, by



w<sup>b</sup> you may judge of the perfection of our system & velocity of despatching business. . . . A Hail storm that occurred ½ p. 3 cooled the atmosphere & rendered the overcrowded room more comfortable than it w<sup>d</sup> have been. The worst is the contaminating effluvia from so many compound breaths & exhalations from their pestilential, almost, carcasses. What a compound of villainous smells.

Wed<sup>r</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> June. . . . M<sup>r</sup> B[ayard] came to town on his way to his son William to attend to business for the estate of D<sup>r</sup> Boudinot. He left this for Albany at 12. More haste than good speed, for at ½ p. 4 P. M. young Samuel Stockton called at our door. He came express from Princeton in hopes of overtaking M<sup>r</sup> B. before his departure. It was on the melancholly occasion of the unexpected death of M<sup>r</sup> Washington who had been detained from coming on with y<sup>r</sup> cousin Julia to be confined in August at her Mothers. His fever proved fatal. . . . Poor Aunt Patty will be overwhelmed for Julia, as you know, is her darling daughter. . . . He<sup>19</sup> became a communicant of our Church last winter, when attending the Legislature at Richmond, und[er] Bishop Moore, allied to our family. . . . Among the recent deaths in this city is that of my friend Lindley Murrays Wife leaving 8 children. I did not attend the funeral, as the distance out & home to the Friends burial ground was too great, at my age, & Mother forbade my standing on the damp earth. Also M<sup>r</sup> Henry M<sup>c</sup>Farlane, Hardware Merchant, who died suddenly on a visit to his Iron Works. He was buried at 8½ this morning in this city. He was one of the most active Trustees of our Theo[logical] Sem<sup>r</sup> & his loss will not easily be replaced. . . .

[Addressed:] p<sup>r</sup> Mail via Mobile

---

<sup>19</sup> William Augustine Washington.

N YORK, Sat<sup>y</sup> 3 July, 1830

. . . Yest<sup>y</sup> Sisters heavy baggage was despatched for Bath. This morn<sup>s</sup> at 9, the whole family attended by y<sup>f</sup> brother, take their Departure in the N. Utrecht Stage w<sup>h</sup> comes over to Broome St<sup>t</sup>, so that I shall once again become the Solitaire. Thomas is expected to day to keep *Independence* on Monday w<sup>h</sup> will enliven my solitude. . . .

. . . . .  
429 Broome St<sup>t</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> July, 1830

The 54<sup>th</sup> Anni[versar]y of Am. Indep[endenc]e ocuring on Sunday, the celebration takes place this day, & a finer day c<sup>d</sup> not be wished for. I took a walk after breakfast down B<sup>d</sup>way, literally alive with crowds of people from the country who flock from all quarters to see *Independence*. It delights me to witness so many happy faces, men women, Boys, Girls, & children all following the military & civil processions or enjoying themselves in the booths, crowded with guests partaking of every kind of luxury eatable & drinkable, & in profusion. Fruits de pays, Oranges & pine apples by thousands. In these last this city has been most abundantly & very reasonably supplied. Sister has made some most delightful sweetmeats of pines. Yest<sup>y</sup> I attended the Sacrament at St<sup>t</sup> Thomas' alone, for our family all went to Bath Sat<sup>y</sup> morn<sup>s</sup>. Thomas arrived yest<sup>y</sup> morn<sup>s</sup>. I shall send a copy of the very appropriate service for the Anni[versar]y selected by Bp. Hobart from what is called the *proposed* prayer book, w<sup>h</sup> contained an appropriate service for the 4<sup>th</sup> July. From whatever cause, it was rejected, & our Book of Common Prayer contains not a single Thanksgiving for this greatest of national events & blessings. At midnight the Boys began with their pistols & crackers which have been incessant ever since. I rejoice that poor mother is out of the way, for her nerves w<sup>d</sup> have been shattered to pieces. It is now high noon, & the Bells are ringing throughout the City & the Artillery roaring at the Battery. . . .

. . . . .

Sat<sup>y</sup> [July] 17<sup>th</sup>. Excessive heat. Glad that our folks are at Bath. Y<sup>r</sup> brother went over yest<sup>y</sup> to return Sunday p. m. If spared my turn comes on Tuesday to Thur<sup>y</sup>, so we alternate & do not leave the house alone. The Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Bayard commences his enterprize tomorrow. I shall attend to make up one of the small number that may be expected. He begins at an unfavourable period when all that can, leave the city. However there must be a beginning & his efforts merit success. He deserves credit for his exertions, having no help, to hunt up a Clerk, prayer books &c<sup>a</sup> w<sup>h</sup> keeps him running from one to tother end of the city & withal, writing a sermon for the occasion. God speed him. The last Sunday of this month, my French Church closes for 2 months, when I will go to M<sup>r</sup> B's upper Chamber. Several propitious circumstances have favoured him. He has obtained a large commodious room in the Military Hall, furnished with Desk & Benches & suitable for worship. . . .

I must enjoin it on Mother to give my poor Mothers old fashioned wedding ring to Mary, w<sup>h</sup> I believe yet exists. If she does, it must not be altered, but be retained as a piece of family relict, now 74 years old. I think my parents were married in 1757. I hope to hear in y<sup>r</sup> next our Darlings decision, watch or tea set. All the same to me. Let her make her unbiassed choice. The latter probably, as most conspicuous, & if so, she shall have the handsomest & most fashionable set the city affords. At this season, our silver smiths are all actively employed making up orders for the southerners who visit the Springs. It is surprizing the amount of money which these free hearted people scatter among us. The whole cotton crop of some plantations go to bear traveling charges & purchase fashionable articles to astonish the natives at their return. The better for our northern industry & for them too, if it makes them happy. To mark the difference of season betwen us, y<sup>r</sup> brother took over watermelons, the first of our country production, yest<sup>y</sup> & this day I bought the first green corn

that has come to market. Roasting ears will soon be plenty at Bath for our youngers. . . . .  
 [Addressed by:] Mail via Mobile

---

N YORK, Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July, 1830. Excessive heat

. . . Yest<sup>y</sup> the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Bayard commenced the formation of his new Church in the upper part of the city. I attended with 10 males 10 Females & 14 children a good opening. The day was oppressively hot & the season is ag<sup>t</sup> as not only most genteel, but also decent families abandon the city & to these he is to look for support. . . .

. . . . .  
 Sat<sup>y</sup> [July] 24<sup>th</sup> July p. m. . . . I attended this morn<sup>s</sup> at 8 the funeral of M<sup>rs</sup> Wilkes formerly Rogers, a rich widow & proprietor of Bath House. She had been troubled with Erysipelas & accidental exposure to the heat of the sun induced apoplexy & terminated her life, in the 65<sup>th</sup> year of age. She was an agreeable lady & her two sons & daughter M<sup>rs</sup> Rhineland, always very civil to mother & me. . . .

. . . . .  
 Wall S<sup>t</sup> Monday [July] 26<sup>th</sup>. I had a most oppressive aft.noon on Sat<sup>y</sup>. We served 243 customers, the room was crowded to excess, air stagnant, indeed fetid. . . .

Savings B[an]k, 4 $\frac{1}{4}$  p. m. I was so interrupted & called off this morning that I c<sup>d</sup> proceed no further. The Funding Com<sup>e</sup> of this Bank of w<sup>h</sup> I am one was deliberating on the purchase of \$100,000 Pensylv<sup>a</sup> 5 p<sup>r</sup> c<sup>t</sup> Stock, on w<sup>h</sup> we concluded. This of course engrossed my attention. It is more pleasant this aft.noon, but still hot. . . .

. . . . .  
 Wall S<sup>t</sup> Tues<sup>y</sup> [July] 27<sup>th</sup>. . . . .  
 The Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Bayard had an election yest<sup>y</sup> p. m. for

his vestry composed of respectable characters. His Church is named S<sup>t</sup> Clements.

[Addressed:] p<sup>r</sup> Mail via Mobile

---

NEW YORK, Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July, 1830

. . . By the way, our post master has desired that distant letters sh<sup>d</sup> not be sealed with sealing wax, w<sup>h</sup> becoming heated, adheres to other letters & often defaces their addresses. . . .

. . . . .  
 Saturday [July] 31<sup>st</sup>. Beautiful day. . . . The foundation stone of S<sup>t</sup> Clements<sup>20</sup> was laid by Bp. Hobart attended by Bp. Croes & several of the Clergy on Thur<sup>r</sup> at 6 p. m. I was not ret<sup>d</sup> from Bath to be present. Y<sup>r</sup> brother say[s] that M<sup>r</sup> Bayard delivered a very neat address on the occasion. . . .

Monday 2<sup>d</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>. A most elegant day after a powerful rain. . . . A letter from Mother. She recruits but apprehends that her strength will never return until she goes to housekeeping, w<sup>h</sup> if in my power I will gratify her. Indeed it is time to swarm. *Four* children are eno[ugh] for Sister, without old folks, & Mother makes such distinction between Pintard & Boudy, as is painful to their father. The latter is never permitted to put his foot in her room. I endeavour to carry an even hand between them, & not to show a partiality w<sup>h</sup> sometimes creates envy & jealousy as they grow up. Certainly if Mother can find a neat dwelling for \$300, as she says she can, I will make every exertion to gratify her. . . . I wish instead of housekeeping, plague of servants & all the worrying incident thereto, that she w<sup>d</sup> consent to go to lodging in some neat family, where our comfort w<sup>d</sup> be greater, & our expenses defined. . . .

. . . . .  
<sup>20</sup> On the south side of Amity (now West Third) Street, between MacDougal and Sullivan Streets. The building was demolished in 1910. St. Clement's is now (1940) located at 423 West 46th Street, New York City.

Savings B[an]k, 4 $\frac{1}{4}$  p. m. My own regular tour of duty expired with July, on Sat<sup>y</sup> ev<sup>g</sup>. 317 new acc<sup>ts</sup> were opened thro' the month. . . . I am taking the turn until this day week for an excellent man, a Methodist, who is attending Camp Meeting. This Society must experience benefit from these meetings w<sup>h</sup> have now lasted seven years, or they w<sup>d</sup> be abandoned. . . . Tomorrow is Commencement day in Columbia College. Perhaps I write under its benign influence. My deafness alone prevents my attendance w<sup>h</sup> I w<sup>d</sup> do in compliment to M<sup>r</sup> Duer, who appears for the first time as president. I understand that he is very efficient & much esteemed. Excepting my Bishop, he enjoys one of the best gifts in this state, Harvard excepted, probably in the U<sup>d</sup> States. I mean Academical. On Saturday was the examination of the Flushing Institute, w<sup>h</sup> flourishes. . . .  
 [Addressed:] p<sup>r</sup> mail via Mobile

---

N YORK, Wed<sup>y</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>, 1830. beautiful day

. . . The Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Bayards family arrived yest<sup>y</sup> p. m. Y<sup>r</sup> brother walked up in the ev<sup>g</sup>. Madam B. is pleased with the house, w<sup>h</sup> tho' small is neat & commodious. . . . Thur<sup>y</sup> [August] 5<sup>th</sup>. . . . What a distressing picture you draw of young S. Smith. Indeed his destitute mother appears destined to drain the Cup of Affliction to the dregs. Of all curses, that of intemperance is among the most bitter. We have experienced it in poor Uncle Lewis, & indeed Brasher. . . . A most dreadful instance of this mal organization occurred in the Rev. Hooper Cummings, son of my friend Gen. Cummings. He possessed the finest genius, wrote well, & was an elegant person & eloquent preacher. He read a Psalm equal to his mentor, D<sup>r</sup> Smith. From his early boyhood, thro school, college & divinity school, he had a strange perversity towards lying, & appeared a radical liar. No warning no reproof c<sup>d</sup> check him till it eventually ruined him with his brethren. He was compelled to leave New-

ark. Having preached verbatim a particular sermon of Topladys, high Calvinistic, on being charged with the fact, he roundly denied, & on giving his MS. discourse to some ministers, charged with the investigation, it was found to be a literal transcript from the printed volume. Thro many gradations from bad to worse, at Albany & in this city, he was obliged to change his ground for Charleston, where shortly after his arrival he died. He broke his mothers heart, still living. My friend his father, regarded his son persecuted, w<sup>h</sup> was not the fact. He fell a victim to intemperance. . . .

Sat<sup>r</sup> [August] 7<sup>th</sup>. The arrival of the packet Manchester gives the official acc<sup>ts</sup> of the decease of George IV . . . It is probable that his successor William IV will make no violent changes in the ministry, which will confirm the tranquillity of the nation & prove auspicious to Europe & America, for G. Britain is the centre of the civilized world. The French, so far, have been successful against Algiers w<sup>h</sup> will probably fall into their hands, & then this nest of pirates will be annihilated. It is marvellous that it sh<sup>d</sup> have endured so long, & that our young nation sh<sup>d</sup> have been the only one to have curbed their insolence. . . .

[Addressed:] p<sup>r</sup> Mail via Mobile

---

NEW YORK, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>. 1830

The Talma is to sail on Monday. I shall put up y<sup>r</sup> papers, the Observers, to go by her. The packets henceforward will sail regularly 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>. I find that Cap<sup>t</sup> Holmes has dissolved connection with M<sup>r</sup> Foster, cause to me unknown. . . .

Sunday Sept. [*sic for August*] 15. . . . I attended M<sup>r</sup> Bayards Church. He had quite a full congregation w<sup>h</sup> is encouraging, but he has 3 children down with fever,

& M<sup>rs</sup> B. is far from smart. This is a pull back. He showed me a letter from Princeton. His mother has recovered but sister Julia, going abroad too soon has relapsed. Princeton I believe is sickly just now. The city, probably is as healthy at present as the country. . . .

Mr Bayards Church, that is to be, or place of worship, that is, is a full mile or more from our abode. I love the By-ways, where I can see the humbler tenants of our great city, clad in their Sunday clothes, where I am aside of the region of false curls, & where free to follow nature is the mode, where plainness & neatness characterise every female, where furbelowed sleeves do not elbow the solitaire off the footwalk, where all, father, mother, children, appear with cheerful countenances, thanking God, in language louder & more forcible than words, that there is one day in seven when High, Low, Rich & Poor can meet & boast, The Lord is the Maker of us all. . . .

Monday [August] 16<sup>th</sup> . . . Sister is longing after a beautiful House, near Bath, situate on Utrecht Mount, overlooking our beautiful Bay, scenery & harbour. The House is a double one, 2 stories, 5 acres land improved, price \$4000, or less. Your brother rode round on Sat<sup>y</sup> to look at it, but it is infested with musquitos, & altho high, several ponds in the vicinity render the whole vicinity subject to fevers by the malaria, so that however enchanting the prospect, it will never do to purchase an unhealthy seat. Sister had set her heart on it, & will be disappointed. . . .

[Addressed by:] Mail via Mobile

---

N YORK, Friday 21<sup>st</sup> [*sic for 20th*] Aug<sup>t</sup>, 1830

On my way down I stopped at every watchmakers to enquire after an old time eight day clock, but in vain. They are seldom to be met with, the old fashioned folk



retaining, like myself & you, these family relics. I shall continue my researches at the Furniture Auctions, but with little hope. New modern clocks in mahogany cases cost from \$60 to 75 Doll<sup>rs</sup>. I had once a very beautiful Clock, w<sup>h</sup> I bot of Aunt Cortlandt for \$50, but g<sup>d</sup>ma Brasher sold it & likewise gave away to rid herself of my old trumpery, a superb Dutch Cass or Wardrobe nicely carved, as black as Ebony with age, w<sup>h</sup> cost originally in Holland £100 or \$250, a great deal of money 2 centuries ago. It was to be sure an unweildy piece of Furniture, but had it remained to me I w<sup>d</sup> not take twice its cost for it. Sic transit gloria mundi.

Saturday [August] 21<sup>st</sup>. Savings B[an]k where I have brought my letter to relate the issue of my researches for y<sup>r</sup> Clock. On my return home yest<sup>y</sup> I determined to call at the Furniture Auction Stores scattered along B<sup>d</sup>way. The first I entered was an extensive one near Wall S<sup>t</sup> where I saw a plain modern clock suitable for a kitchen Hall, cheap at \$12. This was not y<sup>r</sup> clock. On going above stairs into a spacious saloon filled with sofas chairs & tables I saw in a retired corner the very article of w<sup>h</sup> I was in pursuit. On enquiry it was a piece of family furniture, cost \$100, price fixed \$35. If a good time piece, it was mine. On chaffering the Auctioneer told me he w<sup>d</sup> take \$30. I returned to y<sup>r</sup> brothers store to get him to bargain for it. He was luckily in & having occasion to call at the B<sup>k</sup> of N York, I crossed over to a Watchmaker to enquire whether he c<sup>d</sup> clean a Clock, & on describing it, He said that it was the very Clock that he was to repair previous to being sold. That it had belonged to a M<sup>r</sup> Henry Tenbrook lately deceased, & that his daughter wished to sell it for \$35. S<sup>d</sup> to have cost \$100 & to be an excellent clock. Your brother desired him to examine the works, & if as described to bring it to his shop in the afternoon. I called this morn<sup>g</sup> when M<sup>r</sup> Bedient showed me the clock, w<sup>h</sup> required some repairs besides cleaning. The whole to cost with a new glass \$6, that a Box w<sup>d</sup> cost \$1 or more. portorage & freight probably \$3, so that \$40 may

deliver for my beloved daughter an excellent Hall Clock agreeable to her wishes. The Dial plate corresponds with that at Princeton, Hours, Minutes & second hands, tells the day of the month & shows the phases of the Moon, w<sup>h</sup> my good old Uncles did not. The case is mahogany, fluted corners & fluted pillars to the top, very neat & complete. The works are excellent & will be put in complete order & carefully boxed up to go by the Kentucky 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. If it arrives safe I warrant that it will [please] you. Had I traversed the city thro' I c<sup>d</sup> not have found one more to my liking. So much for the Clock, and now to a less pleasing subject. I have come down to the Bank with an aching head & troubled heart. Last night at 9 o'clock, the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Bayard lost his oldest daughter Matilda, his housekeeper & helpmate to her mother. 4 of his daughters have been ill of fever since coming from Princeton. . . . After an early breakfast I called on M<sup>r</sup> Bayard & found him composed, bearing his severe visitation with a truly Xt<sup>n</sup> spirit becoming a Minister of the Gospel. I left him with the Rev. D<sup>r</sup> Lyall who had married M<sup>rs</sup> Bayards sister. A tender kind hearted man. The undertaker M<sup>r</sup> Coates was sent for, a competent man to attend to the funeral, to take place by the Doctors advice, this afternoon at 6. . . .

Savings B[an]k Monday [August] 23<sup>d</sup> p. m. On my return home Sat<sup>y</sup> I found Sister & family safe arrived & ready for Tea. Sister had nothing to do but to sit down in her house all ready prepared & cleaned from nursery to kitchen. We did not know M<sup>r</sup> Servoss' worth as a housekeeper till now.

. . . . .  
 Tues<sup>y</sup> [August] 24<sup>th</sup>. Dear Mother did not come home yest<sup>y</sup> but intend to return this very fine day. . . . My old friend Col. Willet died 22<sup>d</sup> inst aged 90 years 11 days. He was the Nestor of the officers of the revolution, some of whom are Heros in the newspapers, but he was a Hero in the field. When a obituary is published I will send it to you. He is to be buried with every military honour that can be testified. I am invited as

a pall bearer w<sup>h</sup> I respect as an honour from his family, a proof as the invitation was expressed of the estimation he had for me. . . .

[Addressed by:] Mail via Mobile

*To Lewis Marsden Davidson, of New Orleans*

NEW YORK, 27<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>r</sup>, 1830

[My] dear G[ran]dson Marsden

By the Ohio arrived 17<sup>th</sup> Aug. I received your letter [of] 22<sup>d</sup> July, giving a description of your dear Sister Eliza's delightful abode in the Pine Groves. You call her M<sup>rs</sup> Johnston. This is too formal between brother & sister. You sh<sup>d</sup> always mention her as Sister Eliza or Sister Johnston. In our family we always give married sisters the names of their husbands, for instance Sister Davidson, Sister Servoss &c<sup>a</sup>. There may be among connections on both sides, more than one Eliza or Louisa, by adopting the husbands name there can be no confusion or mistake. This for your guidance. I am glad that you are pleased with Crabb's Synonymes. Make constant reference to it & the nice distinctions between words of near resemblance but actual difference will soon become familiar to you & render your language select & correct. . . . For acquiring knowledge you will be infinitely better off with M<sup>r</sup> Lea, who if he appoints you his deputy, it will add to y<sup>r</sup> importance w<sup>h</sup> your own good conduct, fidelity & assiduity to the duties of his office will I feel confident sustain, besides dear mother says that y<sup>r</sup> salary is to be increased. I am happy that your talents are in such requisition, a proof of your rising reputation. You say that you have read Blackstone through, which, if properly performed shows your diligence. Blackstone is a work to be *studied*, not only read. You say that you read my advice to you, contained in dear mothers letter. I trust that you approve it, and as a reward for following it I shall

forward by the Kentucky Chancellor Kents Lectures in 4 Volumes, \$18, a dear work, but highly esteemed, esp<sup>y</sup> the 1<sup>st</sup>, on the Law of Nations, of w<sup>h</sup> a separate edition was printed for the use of statesmen & general readers. The Author ranks very very high among civilians & jurispruidists, as well a[t] home as abroad. Sh<sup>d</sup> I meet with any Law works among my books I will give them to you, but I poss[ess] few or none. When I relin- quished the pursuit of the law [I] rid myself of them, little anticipating that I should be blessed, I hope, with a g[ran]dson who may be destined, *if he pleases*, to be an honour to the profession. If I can find my copy of the Federalist I will send it, otherwise will endeavour to procure one for you. Being out of print it is a scarce book, but ought to be on every lawyers & Statesmans shelf. Did not Judge Smith leave behind a good law Library to w<sup>h</sup> you can have access? I recommend in course, Hargrave, Coke, Littleton, w<sup>h</sup> I once studied with delight & improvement. It gives the very mar[r]ow of English law. . . .

. . . . .  
 4<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>. Among the Books sent is Wo[r]cesters Chronological & Biographical Chart with his Illustrations. By studying it you will more readily impress upon y<sup>r</sup> memory the course of Historical events & dates of eminent men thro' the Streams of Time. The plan is after D<sup>r</sup> Priestlys w<sup>h</sup> I once had well by memory & can therefore speak practically of its utility. . . . There is also a copy of Buttersworths Concordance to hunt up Texts, at which Thomas is very dexterous. Read attentively, on Sundays, Leslies Short Method with the Deists & West on the resurrection, to establish & confirm y<sup>r</sup> Faith in Divine revel[atio]n. Do not forget my dear Marsden the early impressions made on y<sup>r</sup> mind when at Flushing Institute. Be assured that "the Scriptures are not a cunningly devised fable," and the Doctrine of the Trinity, altho above our fallible reason, is below our humble Faith. What pains & study these subjects have afforded me I cannot express. I thank my

God that my Faith in both arises from conviction & not from a mere blind wish. Search the Scriptures for in them you have all truth & as you advance in years you will have more & more cause to rejoice that you were born of Xt<sup>n</sup> parents. That God may bless & influence your mind to be a humble & faithful servant of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ, is the devout wish & prayer of

Y<sup>r</sup> aff<sup>t</sup> g<sup>d</sup>father

John Pintard

[Addressed:] M<sup>r</sup> L. Marsden Davidson

New Orleans

Ship Alabama

*To Mrs. Richard Davidson*

N York Bank for Savings, Monday 30<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>, 1830

. . . . .  
 I regret to mention that our Rev<sup>d</sup> kinsman L. P. Bayard lost his oldest daughter Matilda in her 17<sup>th</sup> year, after a short illness of fever which she brought with her from Princeton. This is a distressing event as she was his housekeeper. Her mother is a decayed body & have now 7 children, 5 girls 2 boys, beautiful girls & the youngest 10 months a perfect cherub. I am writing amid a great deal of tumult occasioned by a man who endeavoured to committ a fraud, representing himself for another person. He is just sent to the police office for examination. A faithful diligent Trustee of this Bank has no trifling trust or duty to perform. We have this day purchased from a M<sup>r</sup> Taylor of y<sup>r</sup> city \$66,000 of y<sup>r</sup> Corporation. Your brother negotiated for M<sup>r</sup> Taylor. We were in treaty for \$134,000 more with M<sup>r</sup> Yeatman who declined our offer which M<sup>r</sup> Taylor took. M<sup>r</sup> Yeatman operates very largely in money concerns & is a valuable friend of y<sup>r</sup> brother, who having stood the shock of Franklin's will I trust another season sail once more before the wind. He has done pretty

well the last & is still obtaining consignments. His judgment in cotton is superior to any mans in this market.

According to y suggestion I have invested Darlings Saving Bk. fund wanting a trifle of \$160, in a splendid watch & equipage. The former of the very best quality fully jeweled, cost \$120 & the equipage \$40, exactly her money. She is indebted to her uncle for hunting up & cheapening the watch w<sup>b</sup> g<sup>d</sup>ma selected as also the chain & trinkets.

.....  
 Wed<sup>y</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> . . . This morn<sup>s</sup> I treated mother to some fine oysters, the prohibition against offering them for sale having ceased to the great joy of our gourmands whose appetite for oysters is insatiable. Mother relished them. Cool weather will restore her appetite & strength. . . . To our great joy High School & Infant School began this day. Both boys glad to get loose from their confinement & both in high health. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Kentucky  
 with a small Packet  
 to the care of Cap<sup>t</sup> Jackson

---

N YORK, Sat<sup>y</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>, 1830

.....  
 On the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. y<sup>r</sup> Cousin Julia Washington was put safe to bed with a fine daughter, to the great joy of the Clermont Family. On Thur<sup>y</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> the excavation of the ground for the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Bayards new Church, called S<sup>t</sup> Clements, was commenced. The edifice is after the Gothic style, a very handsome elevation, contract price \$13,000, the walls to be raised & covered in by Decem<sup>r</sup> next & the work completed by June next. The front is to be of white marble, the Building of a full size, with a basement for a Lecture room & Sunday Schools. Your brother takes great interest in promoting this object. We were astounded on the 2<sup>d</sup> with the marvellous news

of a complete Revolution in France, begun & ended, probably, in one week. . . . Dear Mother continues poorly & is much dispirited w<sup>h</sup> retards her recovery. She insists that this is her last illness, but Francis assures me that there is no cause for apprehension. . . .

Monday [September] 6<sup>th</sup>. Our dear little Pintard has been *extremely* ill with chill terminating in a high fever. . . . D<sup>r</sup> Francis absent D<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Lean his locum tenens attended & prescribed the most active remedies, evacuating the stomach & bowels. The violent operation of antimony sent the blood so to his head, that he was bled & leeches applied. After this process, an anodyne was prescribed. He fell into a profound sweat & sleep & rested for the first time in 3 nights. Happily I knew nothing of his danger when I went to attend the sacrament in M<sup>r</sup> Bayards Church. 31 communicants. When I returned & entered y<sup>r</sup> Sisters room, seeing a strange physician & our dear patient in a torpor under the operation of the leeches I was appalled. D<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Lean, Aunt Helens quondom suitor told me that he had confidence in his prescriptions. . . . This day I am to attend, by app[ointmen]t a meeting of the Bergen Aux[iliar]y B[ible] S[ociety] & to dine with Col. Varick at Powlas Hook. . . .

. . . . .  
Wed<sup>r</sup> [September] 8<sup>th</sup>. Broome St. . . . Altho' the walk home was very fatiguing, after changing my dress, I went to Niblos Saloon to view the display of Fruits by the Horticultural Society, w<sup>h</sup> was superb indeed, far surpassing every former exhibition. I did not know which to admire most the Fruits & Flowers or the Beauty & Fashion that surrounded them, altho' my mind was little attuned to such refined contemplation. The Saloon was crowded with fashionables, attracted like myself by this splendid exhibition. The Society dined together & regaled on all the luxuries of the table. Till this year I have been a member but never dined, as I have long refrained from public dinners. I wish my

old friend D<sup>r</sup> Mitchill w<sup>d</sup> follow my example, his weakness on these occasions always degrades him. A pity that a philosopher sh<sup>d</sup> render himself contemptible in the eyes of the vulgar. A superb Ball was to have been given by the So[ciety] this ev<sup>s</sup> & the Fruit reserved for the Ladies, but an accident to the Gasometer causes it to be postponed till next Monday ev<sup>s</sup> when the principal attraction the display of Fruits will be marred. In this great metropolis there is no end to the succession of amusements w<sup>h</sup> are esp<sup>y</sup> gratifying to the southerners who are beginning to return from their summer excursions. It is astonishing what numbers, esp<sup>y</sup> of S<sup>o</sup> Carolinians migrate north; to escape the heats & maladies of their climate, altho this season it has been but an exchange of one furnace for another. Like you I have never experienced it hotter. This day however is overcast & cooler. I mentioned that I was going to Bergen to attend a meeting of its Aux[iliar]y B[ible] S[ociety]. Altho within 2½ miles of Powlas Hook yet situate aside of the main road I was never in this antient town before. It is a Dutch place settled originally by the garrison of Fort Amsterdam. The veriest boors of all the Dutch emigrants, who have retained their simplicity & almost rusticity to this very day, & appear to be a distinct nation within themselves, not to be compared with the congregation of N. Utrecht who are a different race refined by the numerous French families that mixed among them.

(Wall St) We dined at Col. Varicks, where I partook of the finest corn & beans I eve[r] ate. Sweet corn. Have you the species with you, as sweet as sugar. The Col. gave an address as did M<sup>r</sup> Nitchie our Gen<sup>l</sup> Accountant & the Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Brigham Sec<sup>y</sup>. I c<sup>d</sup> not but feel a veneration for the descendants of the Dutch soldiers, who by their proximity to this city, their thrift & economy are all rich. Bergen from time immemorial has always been famous for its cabbages, w<sup>h</sup> are transported in great quantities to the south, so that the cul-



tivation extends. Their veal is considered the finest that comes to our market. . . .

[Addressed by:] Mail via Mobile

---

[By Ship] Louisiana

N YORK, Thur<sup>y</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>, 1830. 1 p. m.

Wed<sup>r</sup> [September] 15<sup>th</sup>. Pintard picking up. Aunt Patty, M<sup>r</sup> B[ayard] & son dined with us yest<sup>y</sup> & mother came to table on the occasion for the first time. She will I hope gain strength before winter sets in. Bp. Hobart while on his visitations was taken with bilious fever at Auburn 2<sup>d</sup> inst. His symptoms tho' violent, mitigated, but on Sat<sup>y</sup> last 11<sup>th</sup> inst. became so alarming that the Sacrament was administered to him. He died on Sunday morn<sup>g</sup> 12<sup>th</sup>. His remains are to be transferred to this city & he will no doubt have a pompous funeral at the expense of T[rini]ty Ch. which permitted Bp. Provost to be buried at the expense of his family. He was an active, ambitious High Church prelate, & will be canonized by his party as such. I c<sup>d</sup> not nor did not go all lengths with him, esp<sup>y</sup> in his opposition to the Am. Bible So[ciety] & indifference to our Gen. Theol[ogica]l Sem<sup>y</sup> w<sup>h</sup> he did all in power to degenerate into a Diocesan School. He has however gone to his account & let him rest. I hope he is better off as I trust our Diocese will be. Perhaps a sketch of his character may appear in the Ev[enin]g Post, w<sup>h</sup> I will inclose. Who is to be his successor will be the subject of clerical intrigue. The Rev. D<sup>r</sup> Onderdonck will no doubt be pushed by the High Church predominating party. Our Convention meets 7<sup>th</sup> Oct. but I sh<sup>d</sup> think so important an election ought to be postponed till the Convention of 1831. D<sup>r</sup> Milnor absent in Eng<sup>d</sup> is out of the question for Bp. H's satellites are violently opposed to him, in consequence of his attachm<sup>t</sup> to the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] & living in Friendship with ministers of other

denominations. I cannot be altogether an indifferent looker on, altho' I shall take no active part. Were it in my choice it w<sup>d</sup> be D<sup>r</sup> Milnor, as a truly evangelical man.

Thur<sup>y</sup> [September] 16<sup>th</sup>. Bp. Hobarts funeral takes place this aft.noon with every respect that can be paid to his memory. . . . Our dear Pintard <sup>21</sup> improves fast. . . . I see you very busy preparing for Pintards <sup>22</sup> sailing, next week, 22<sup>d</sup>. May he have a propitious passage. . . .

---

N YORK, Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>, 1830

I had just delivered my letter yest<sup>y</sup> to go by the Louisiana, & ret<sup>d</sup> to the office, when y<sup>r</sup> brother stepped in & asked me "if I wished to hear good news?" Certainly. You have another g<sup>d</sup>son in N. Orleans, & put the Doctors letter of 29<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> into my hands. I confess I was astounded, & immed<sup>y</sup> wrote a short line in time to go by the L[ouisiana] to acknowledge rec<sup>t</sup> of these happy tidings. . . . I have constituted my dear youngest g<sup>d</sup>son (for the present) *Thomas Servoss Davidson*, member for life of the Am. Bible So[ciety] & will send the certificate in the Clock cast on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. next. . . . Now all my g<sup>d</sup>sons & parents are members for life of our great beneficent A. B. S. Yest<sup>y</sup> p. m. the late Bp. Hobarts Funeral was attended by an immense concourse from the Rectory House to Trinity Ch. The aft.noon was raw & cold. I felt chilled, & returned home after going to the place, on the moving of the corpse. . . . Bp. Hobart was eminent, altho' I c<sup>d</sup> not accord with his high Ch[urch] notions nor policy of Ch. government. . . . Bp. Moore of Virginia officiated, D<sup>r</sup> Onderdonk preached who is to be the successor. I hope Bishop Brownell, but there is no chance of this.

. . . . .

<sup>21</sup> John Pintard Servoss.

<sup>22</sup> John Pintard Davidson, on his way to Philadelphia, to enter the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Monday [September] 20<sup>th</sup>. Our Pintard too impatient to wait, dined at table on Sat<sup>y</sup>. . . . The praises of our late Bishop were in the Churches yest<sup>y</sup>. Much fulsome adulation on the occasion. The robes of many of our ministers are lined with the Fox fur of hypocrisy. Few dare allow, as yet, that they are glad for his decease. A lust of elimination & a contentious spirit were his characteristics, with a bigotted intolerant spirit ag<sup>t</sup> Presbyterians. It is a little remarkable that the 3 Bishops violently opposed to the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] are no more, Bp. Kemp of Maryl<sup>d</sup> taken down by overthrow in a stage in 27, Bp. Ravenscroft of N. Carolina, the last spring, after a short illness at home, & now Bp. Hobart from home. God overrules all for the best, raises up & puts down. . . .

[Addressed by:] Mail via Mobile

---

N YORK, Wed<sup>y</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>, 1830

. . . M<sup>rs</sup> Dodd came to town yest<sup>y</sup> & brought a letter from Aunt Betsey w<sup>h</sup> I shall forward by the next packet. She stays with her husbands parents, & her Rev. brother. . . .

Thur<sup>y</sup> [October] 7<sup>th</sup>. . . . Dear little Pintard was attacked yest<sup>y</sup> with chill & fever, ascribed to me, for taking him to market in the morn<sup>g</sup>. Perhaps rightly. He is as delicate as his brother is rugged. Too effeminate for a boy. No doubt the seeds of his first fever were owing to N. Utrecht, as well as his g<sup>d</sup>mothers, who took hers by imprudent exposure to the midday sun, returning from Miss Cortelyou's, a little west from whose house lies a low meadow w<sup>h</sup> has been banked in, for several years past, & this once healthy residence & the country around has gradually been more & more exposed to bilious fever. The inhabitants of N. Utrecht have recently held a town meeting to investigate the cause of this modern Fever, w<sup>h</sup> is ascribed to the afs<sup>d</sup> meadow.

Measures will no doubt be adopted to remove the embankment & to let the tide flow in as of yore, & thus render that part of the island as salubrious as of old. Otherwise Bath house will be deserted.

Sat<sup>y</sup> [October] 9<sup>th</sup>. A hard N. E. rain much wanted. The country this way has suffered with a long drought. . . . Yest<sup>y</sup> the Rev. Benj<sup>n</sup> T. Onderdonk was elected Bishop of this Diocese, by a majority of 6 clerical & 15 Lay deputies over several other candidates. I find that Bp. Brownell was not set up by his friends. What I cant swallow I must pocket. The reign of terror thank God is over. With all the disposition he has not the talents of his predecessor to tyrannize over the Diocese. He is a man in point of talents below mediocrity, & selected & supported merely because he was the echo of Bp. Hobart. A better race of presbyters is springing up who will think & act for themselves. So let it pass.

Tuesday [October] 12<sup>th</sup>. . . . I have to record the death of another friend, Major James Fairlie, AE. 73. He is to be interred this day with military honours. He served a brave officer during the whole revol[utionar]y war, & was one of Baron Steuben's aids. A man of ready but sarcastic wit, with whom in our day I have frequently tilted. From a friend he became a bitter foe of De Witt Clinton, whose elevation he strenuously opposed, as he did the great enterprize of our western canal, solely, least it should redound to M<sup>r</sup> Clinton's honour & popularity. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [October] 13<sup>th</sup>. At my return home yest<sup>y</sup> 2½ p. m. being detained at the Seamans Bank, Mother told me that somebody wished to speak with me in the parlour. Taking it to be some lady, what was my surprize to find your dear Pintard. . . . He is certainly a comely graceful youth, easy modest & of preposs[ess]ing manners, with every indication of a correct sound mind, & of amiable disposition. He is all, externally, that we c<sup>d</sup> wish, & with the benefit of two medical courses will I trust do honour to his profession. We walked up to

see S<sup>t</sup> Clements, M<sup>r</sup> Bayards Church, & in the ev<sup>g</sup> his uncle took him to the Academy of Fine Arts to view some superb paintings. This morn<sup>g</sup> at 4 Thomas arrived happy to meet his former companion . . . [Pintard] told me that he has written [to New Orleans] from Phila[delphia] where he has taken excellent lodgings with a lady at \$4 a week, w<sup>h</sup> is reasonable. . . . Thomas returns on Friday night to be in the machine shop on Sat<sup>r</sup> where he is charged with keeping the workmens acc<sup>ts</sup> . . .

. . . . .  
[Addressed:] per Mail via Mobile

[By Ship] Tennessee

N York Seamens B<sup>k</sup> for Savings 13<sup>th</sup> Oct., 1830

. . . . .  
I have had little oppo[rtunity] to converse with Pintard, & this rainy aft.noon w<sup>h</sup> w<sup>d</sup> have been favourable I am again obliged to travel down, thro thick & thin, to attend the monthly meeting of the Trustees of our Savings B<sup>k</sup>, w<sup>h</sup> cannot be held without the presence of a Presid<sup>t</sup> or V. Pres<sup>t</sup> of whom we have three, but as my punctuality is proverbial they never turn out in bad weather. . . .

. . . . .  
Friday [October] 15<sup>th</sup>. . . . There is to be a party at M<sup>rs</sup> Schenck's this ev<sup>g</sup> . . . Thomas & his cousin will represent our family. The Misses Teller & other ladies from Fishkill are there & return tomorrow at 7. Pintard talks of going with the party & come back on Tuesday, so as to set off for Phil<sup>a</sup> on Thur<sup>r</sup> where he will be in ample time to deliver his letters of introduction & to make calls before the 1<sup>st</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> after w<sup>h</sup> I hope that he will devote himself to his studies. On further convers[atio]n with him last ev<sup>g</sup> I find that there was no occasion for my hint respecting the dangers of female society, that matter being fixed he told me, having left

his heart in the safe keeping of Miss Carr,<sup>23</sup> to whom he send some music as a love token. He says that she performs on the piano *splendidly*.

. . . . .

---

NEW YORK, Sat<sup>y</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>, 1830  
beautiful day

. . . . .

As the cousins passed the evening or night I presume, at M<sup>rs</sup> Schencks I rose ½ past 5 to call them up so as to leave home a little past 6, to be alongside the steam boat to depart at 7. I found Thomas prepared & your dandy son making ready. William who took down their baggage reported that they were in good time. A large party of Mattawaners who came down to the Fair,<sup>24</sup> returned this morn<sup>g</sup> so that our young squires will enjoy themselves, & really the Ladies too, to be attended by such Esquires. The Fair was a most splendid exhibition of the progress of the Arts & Manufactures in this part of the U. S., from the plainest smooth cross to gold watches, equal to any imported, the cases I presume, & all the variety of Glass, Silver ware & Jewellery that one can imagine. The specimens of cotton & woolen clothes were beautiful. The competition & emulation excited by these annual exhibitions cannot but be beneficial to the infant state of our fabrics, & the time is at hand when for substantial, nay elegant articles of dress we shall be independent of the old world. In my day I have been an enthusiast for promoting domestic manufactures. I began with the new Constitution, & in despite of every prediction to the contrary have lived to see numerous articles, formerly imported, nearly totally excluding foreign & superior in texture, if not quality. Articles of luxury, too much abound, but if we must use them, let us if we can make them ourselves, & having the raw materials save the

<sup>23</sup> Laurette Ker.

<sup>24</sup> Of the American Institute.

cost of manufacturing them at home. To me I confess the display appeared like Fairyland. I did not think it possible to collect such a variety of beautiful articles, & set off with so much taste. . . .

Tuesd<sup>y</sup> [October] 19<sup>th</sup> . . . Young M<sup>r</sup> Hull called yest<sup>y</sup> to say that he sails in the De Witt Clinton next Friday for N[ew] O[rleans].

Thur<sup>y</sup> [October] 21. Pintard has ret<sup>d</sup> as I expected, being detained & housed by almost incessant rains. . . . Sister stepped out yest<sup>y</sup> to Fontaines to select a silk pattern for Mother, a ball dress for Turtle dove, & one for parties for dear Mary, with fancy calicos latest pattern, for Helen, Julia & Lucy Ann. All to go in her name, which better satisfies poor dear Mother. This with what has gone, & your 2 Tubs of butter, 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> must close my efforts for the season, with deep regret, that I cannot do more. Be content as I endeavour to be for so much. An incident has occurred of a marriage, somewhat unpleasant. My French Minister M. Verren, of good appearance, fell in love with Miss Hammersley, daughter of his Church Warden & Treasurer of our Church. He<sup>25</sup> is my second cousin, a man of respectability & handsome property, only 3 children, 2 daughters & a son. My friend & kinsman Thomas H. was opposed to the courtship, as he did not wish his favourite daughter to marry a foreigner. Clandestine interviews & correspondence thro' the connivance of the mother took place for 2 years, during w<sup>h</sup> time Miss H. with her mother & sister regularly attended our Church. Miss Ann Maria came of age this month, & Mon<sup>r</sup> Verren stole a march on the Father & they were married in S<sup>t</sup> Johns Church last Monday, "by the Rev. Benj<sup>n</sup> T. On-

<sup>25</sup> Thomas Hamersley's maternal grandmother was Mrs. Gabriel Stelle (Margaret (Gordon) Carré), whose first husband was Louis Carré, Jr. Louis Carré, Jr.'s sister, Mrs. Catharine (Carré) Pintard, was Pintard's grandmother. M. B. Morris, "Four Generations in America of the Huguenot Family of Stelle," in *N. Y. Genealogical and Biographical Record*, Vol. 44, pp. 110-11; John E. Stillwell, *Historical and Genealogical Miscellany*, V. 434; *N. J. Archives*, 1st ser., XXX, 86.

derdonck D D. Bishop elect of the Diocese of N York," who was apprized of the disapproval of the Father & wrote him a letter on Sat<sup>r</sup> that notwithstanding he intended to marry the couple in a few days. My friend Thomas is outrageous. I sh<sup>d</sup> scarcely suppose that D<sup>r</sup> Onderdoncks conduct will meet with approb<sup>n</sup> other than from those who think that a Bishop, like a pope, is above all ordinary restraints. At home all decide ag<sup>t</sup> D<sup>r</sup> O. as setting a bad example to encourage run away marriages. I regret the circumstance, & shall do all in my power to mitigate my friends wrath. The affair is done, & as the mother connived to gratify the daughters choice, what he cannot swallow, he must pocket, & submit, but he is hurt. . . .

NEW YORK, Friday 22<sup>d</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>, 1830

Your son [Pintard] left us this morning at 5 to take the early line at 6, for Phila[delphia] where, barring accidents he will arrive at the same hour this ev<sup>g</sup>, so as to get settled in his lodgings tomorrow & call to deliver his letters of introduc<sup>n</sup> on Monday. . . . Yest<sup>r</sup> he called on D<sup>r</sup> Francis, who gave him a letter to D<sup>r</sup> Chapman. F. approves of his choice of the Phil<sup>a</sup> Med[ical] School. On walking up with him from the office, some oppo[rtunity] of communication was afforded. Enquiring about his studies, he told me that he was to attend 7 Lectures, for 2 years, w<sup>h</sup> w<sup>d</sup> entitle him, if proficient, to a Diploma at the end of that term. . . .

Sat<sup>r</sup> [October] 23<sup>d</sup>. . . . There is sitting in this city a convention of Literary & Scientific characters from diff<sup>t</sup> colleges & states on the subject of the new University in this city & of improving the general system of education so as to render it better adapted to modern times & more extensively useful to our rising generation, a most important subject w<sup>h</sup> has been discussed with great ability & temper. . . . The Convention has sit 3 days & will adjourn this day, probably to meet again next year, when it will be more numerously at-



tended & call forth the talents of the most eminent men of our country. Altho' excluded from participation, I most heartily rejoice in every improvement esp<sup>d</sup> of education in our happy country.

Wed<sup>y</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>. . . . I was much please[d] with M<sup>r</sup> Johnstons letter w<sup>h</sup> evinces great candour & frankness in disclosing his situation & prospects, w<sup>h</sup> are very flattering. His salary \$2500 sounds large here, & with prudence will afford every domestic essential, without encroaching upon his crops, so that in a few years, if spared, he may become a forehanded planter, instead of, as too common, anticipating his crops, & being eternally indebted to his merchant. . . .

---

NEW YORK, Tuesday 2<sup>d</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>, 1830

. . . This day, for the first of several, is a bright one. Wind N. W. We have had a succession of foggy morn<sup>s</sup>. I have just returned from a most friendly interview with the Rev. Doctor Milnor who with the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Ilvaine of Brooklyn arrived on Sat<sup>y</sup> ev<sup>s</sup> from Liverpool. They were Representatives of the Am[erican] Bible So[ciety] to the last Anniv[ersary] of the British & For[eign] B. S. The reception of these Rev. gent<sup>n</sup> was most honorable & grateful to their feelings. D<sup>r</sup> Milnor preac[h]ed his introductory sermon to his Congregation S<sup>t</sup> George's on Sunday morn<sup>s</sup>. He told me that he was overpowered by the following testimonial of the affection of his people. After concluding his discourse, & before the benediction, his Sunday scholars, male & female exceeding 300, advanced up the middle aisle, & arranged themselves in front of the railing of the Communion table, & sung a congratulatory hymn on his safe arrival, w<sup>h</sup> had been prepared for the occasion. Unapprized of the intention his feelings were beyond expression. He is perhaps the most beloved by

his people of any minister in our Church, a truly evangelical servant of his Lord & Master. He was informed by the pilot of the death of Bp. Hobart & election of D<sup>r</sup> Onderdonck. The former his bitter antagonist to the last & the latter not better. But the reign of terror is thank God over, & I yet hope to see more tranquil days in our Diocese, for the Bp. elect has not talents to sustain his pretensions w<sup>h</sup> are higher than his predecessors. Thro' the influence of Bp. Hobart, Episcopalians generally in N. York are intolerant bigots, regarding Episcopacy as an essential of salvation, little removed from the intolerance of the Church of Rome. But enough of a disgusting subject. While I prefer & love my own Church may I never want charity for Xt<sup>ns</sup> of every denomination. . . . The continent of Europe is in a state of convulsion & we may look for bloody news by every arrival. General Van Hallen<sup>26</sup> who commands the Brussels insurgents was a Colonel in the patriot army of Spain, from w<sup>h</sup> he fled to this city, & with whom I became acquainted. He is an elegant man & a brave soldier. May his efforts prove successful. Happy America far distant from these scenes of tumult.

Wed<sup>r</sup> [November] 3<sup>d</sup>. . . . This is the 3<sup>d</sup> & last day of our Election, in w<sup>h</sup> I do not feel interest sufficient to take a part. The Ghost of Federalism is called from its Tomb to excite party strife. In addition to our own contentious materials we have the Working people & Fanny right men arrayed to level all distinctions to equalize property, abrogate marriages, release children from parental restraint, to feed, clothe & educate them at the public expense, & to have no taxes, & there are fools enough among the ignorant to be gulled by these extravagant notions. One w<sup>d</sup> suppose it hardly possible in a country enjoying so many civil & religious blessings that persons sh<sup>d</sup> be found to hatch & promulge such chimæras or that others sh<sup>d</sup> believe them. It is owing to the debased English migration that such abominable stuff is circulated thro' presses devoted to decry Chris-

<sup>26</sup> Juan Van Halen.

tianity & loosen the bonds of Society & government. They make a great noise for the moment, but their dull lamps will expire with the election. In the meantime, it is a consolation that the promoters & friends of every good work pursue the silent even tenor of their course, & it [is] a gratification that instead of relaxing, their efforts are invigorated & extended. An impulse will be given by the late literary Convention in this city, to improve the system of education throughout the U<sup>a</sup> States, probably Europe. One benefit will most probably ensue, that is the better preparation of Teachers, who too generally are little competent to the duties of instruction. Some time will be required to perfect a system that cannot fail to improve the rising generation. Much had been done but more doing to abridge & facilitate instruction. Female schools esp<sup>y</sup> are too much of a money making concern, wherein the solid is sacrificed to the superficial, to teach young ladies to dance, dress & play on the Piano, are the main objects, to qualify them to come forward, with grace, immed<sup>y</sup> into dissipated company, destitute of every useful qualification to fit them for domestic life. It is the fault of parents, the vanity of mothers as superficial as their daughters, to show them off before their charms & attractions fade & form connections whether prudent or otherwise, no matter, so that they get rid of them & do not stock on hand. Do not think me censorious, but certainly this, shall I call it, corrupted, state of society is growing among us, & ought to be checked. One would suppose from appearances that every young miss is an heiress destined to spend her days in luxury & idleness, while 9/10ths are doomed to lead the lives of plodding, I wish I c<sup>d</sup> say devoted prudent housekeepers. . . .

Thur<sup>y</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Nov. This is my B[ible] So[ciety] day. Of course shall be occupied for 3 or 4 days. We shall have an interesting meeting as D<sup>r</sup> Milnor will report the result of his mission to the Br[itish] & For[eign] B[ible] S[ociety]. As I called in at the Depository coming down a very decent plain Female of Staten

Island brought her contribution of \$30 to constitute herself a member for life of the A. B. S. all in small silver, w<sup>h</sup> she had been laying aside for several years, probably what she could spare of her earnings. I could not but feel a glow of kindness towards her for her zeal & piety. After all our Society is mainly indebted, under Providence, for its support to the middling & humb[l]er classes of Society w<sup>h</sup> feel their dependence on Providence more sensibly than the wealthier. For this gift God I hope will bless her.

Friday [November] 5<sup>th</sup>. Very busy. Merely a moment to say that the Kentucky which sailed from N[ew] O[rleans] 15<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> has not yet arrived. I shall return home as early as possible to attend Mother on a complimentary call on Col. Monroe, who has come to pass the winter in this city with his daughter M<sup>rs</sup> Sam<sup>l</sup> Gouverneur.

Sat<sup>y</sup> [November] 6<sup>th</sup>. We paid our respects yest<sup>r</sup> as proposed to Col. Monroe, whose appearance was as familiar to me as in his youthful days. He is about 6 mo[nth]s older than myself, not a single grey hair, w<sup>h</sup> is brown, thin in person, & weakly. M<sup>rs</sup> Monroe was 63 year[s] of age when she died, about y<sup>r</sup> mothers period, for I think they were near each other. Like his countrymen, Virginians, he is plain, easy & affable, no formality nor undue familiarity. He retains his hearing & sight very well. As President his reign of 8 years was more tranquil & popular than any since the days of Gen. Washington. He has been ungraciously dealt with by Congress w<sup>h</sup> hitherto has declined paying a just bal[anc]e due him of nearly \$30,000, for want of w<sup>h</sup> he has entirely sacrificed his private estate, w<sup>h</sup> has embittered his life. We talked of the eccentric John Randolph whose appointment as Minister to Russia has given universal dissatisfaction & his conduct there has degraded the character of our government & disgusted every American resident in S<sup>t</sup> Petersburg. It is said that he is about leaving that Court, the sooner the

better. His trip to Europe will have cost \$18,000, without a single benefit to the U. S. So much for party.

I propose to call friendly occasionally on Col. Monroe, who lives quite retired as he wishes to seclude himself from public notice. M<sup>rs</sup> Hay, a very excellent lady, his oldest daughter is with him. She has but one child a daughter,<sup>27</sup> married to an eminent lawyer.

After calling on Col. Monroe, we stopped on our return at the infant school to bring Boudy home. I am astonished to see so many children reduced to such perfect order & rendered contented with their confin[em]ent. The effect is visible on Boudy, who is much more orderly than his spoiled brother. He really behaves like a little man, impetuous but placable, & advances rapidly in his learning.

Tuesday [November] 9<sup>th</sup>.

We had a very interesting meeting of the Managers of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] last Thur<sup>y</sup> when D<sup>r</sup> Milnor, our delegate to the Br[itish] & For[eign] B. S. appeared & resumed his seat as Sec<sup>y</sup> for Foreign Correspondence. When our ordinary business was concluded, he rose & gave a report of his mission, & favourable reception in England. He delivered, with applause, addresses to 9 religious & benevolent associations, that held their anniversaries in London during the first week in May, when a concentration of eminent characters, clerical & lay, of all denominations takes place to glad[d]en the hearts of all who take interest in the moral & religious improvements of the age. To hear of these events elevates the soul, what must it be to see & participate. D<sup>r</sup> Milnor is a fine graceful off hand speaker, & probably never shone more than when he recounted last Thur<sup>y</sup> the wonderful doings that he has witnessed during his short excursion of six months, at a most eventful period in the Annals of G. Britain & the

<sup>27</sup> Mrs. Nicholas Lloyd Rogers (Hortense Hay). *Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, VIII, 278.

continent. . . . D<sup>r</sup> M. says that King William is most familiar with all ranks, cannot shake off the frankness of his naval character, & sinks the monarch in the mariner. Time will correct this. The Queen is also very plain, & sociable but more dignified. As neither of them ever expected to sit on a throne they retain the manners, as yet, of courtiers instead of crowned heads. At one of the anniversaries, at w<sup>h</sup> the King was present, & where the Audience overflowed to excess, he rose very familiarly & good naturedly, asked the officers, perhaps my Lords & gentlemen you w<sup>d</sup> wish to see the Queen. Fall back gentlemen, make room for the Queen, & my Lord, to one present, be pleased to attend her Majesty. She accordingly entered the Hall amidst the acclamations of the multitude, took a seat alongside the King & while he was speaking, a paper was put in her hand containing the substance of an address that was intended to be made to her, & w<sup>h</sup> after the King had concluded, was made. When she rose, & with the greatest affability made an off hand reply that delighted every one. The King is but a weak brother, but the Queen if not a masculine possesses a very strong correct mind. So much for D<sup>r</sup> Milnor, who can now talk of great things, about princes & Kings to astonish us poor natives. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [November] 10<sup>th</sup>. Another rainy day, but mild. This is Savings Bank day when I have to make up a report of the Funding Committee, with a statement of our Acc<sup>t</sup> with the Mechanic B<sup>k</sup> from w<sup>h</sup> we have borrowed \$50,000 to help pay the purchase of \$100,000 Ohio six p<sup>r</sup> C<sup>t</sup> stock at a premium of 17 57/100 advance. A high premium but the best that we can do. Large as the above loan sounds it will be extinguished by the 1<sup>st</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> next. A wonderfully prosperous institution. . . .

Thur<sup>y</sup> [November] 11<sup>th</sup>. On Tuesday ev<sup>g</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> inst. Clinton Hall was opened. I was not present as I never attend night meetings. The foundation of the Mercantile Library was laid by my eccentric friend W<sup>m</sup> Wood

who came to town by invitation, on the occasion, a source of high gratification to him, to see the progress & future prospects of so, now, important an institution, w<sup>h</sup> in time, from its resources is destined to accumulate the largest Library in the U<sup>d</sup> States. M<sup>r</sup> W. presented the *first* Book to the Library, & at that period, "the day of small things," I was also an humble contributor. On this occasion he likewise gave a splendid 4<sup>to</sup> copy of the life of Bp. Heber by his widow presented by her to him. M<sup>rs</sup> Heber, quite a literary character & of high family has married a Greek prince, an elegant man, of handsome fortune, & who has settled M<sup>rs</sup> Heber's estate on her & her children. She has been censured for so soon forgetting her first eminent & excellent husband, but she was a widow 3½ years, w<sup>h</sup> surely does not denote precipitation. She wrote M<sup>r</sup> W[ood] a letter on the subject which he promises to shew me.

10 o'clock. . . . I must again intreat that you will not consider yourself bound to reply constantly. For myself, writing to you fills up my blank of life. There are moments, when pressing business intervenes, that I am driven, but these do not often occur. Our darling may occasionally this winter relieve you, & as she holds the pen of a ready writer, the task will not be onerous. Her last letter to you, herewith returned, is in my judgment the best she has ever written, neat, copious & flowing. I admire her critical acumen, a proof that she reads with attention & discrimination. Pray, are not the Females of the present day indebted to their constant novel reading for their colloquial & epistolary powers. The novels of the modern school are generally elegant narratives & free from stiffness & affectation. In your time, we were not deluged with these effusions from the press as at present. Walter Scott has given an elevation to this class of writers. What makes young Ladies express themselves so much better than young men? was a question I put to a flippant young Dandy not long ago. Because they are eternally talking & reading novels. There is much truth in his sarcastic reply, &

it is fortunate when the Belles can take their own parts & shine so well in conversation. . . .

Friday [November] 12<sup>th</sup>. Rain. The Louisiana was falsely announced. I hope she may arrive before closing this next Tuesd<sup>y</sup> 16<sup>th</sup>. A constant succession of wet days has retarded the Kentucky from discharging & loading. Tomorrow y<sup>r</sup> 2 tubs of prime butter will be put on board together with 4 Boxes, strapped together as one of very superior Digby smoked Herrings, w<sup>h</sup> for several years have been withheld from our market, but now restored by the late commercial Treaty with G. Britain. . . . The result of our late election has been anti Jacksonian, but we are in a state of political fermentation & the dregs in all probability will rise uppermost. The workmen association like all opponents, increases & as with them, whatever apprenticeship may be necessary to make a taylor or a shoemaker, politics are no science, & every citizen is qualified for a Governor or President of Congress, provided he can get elected. This is not a pleasant state of things, but the experiment will I fear have its course. The only remedy against these evils is education. It is therefore our duty to diffuse it as widely as possible. Good sense bottomed on good education will preserve the liberties of our country from the violence of demagogues. . . .

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> [*sic for* November 13<sup>th</sup>] . . . A large meeting took place last ev<sup>s</sup> at Tammany Hall, to prepare for a g<sup>d</sup> celebration of the French revolution, on the 25<sup>th</sup> inst., the anni[versar]y of the evacuation of this city by the British in 1783. A day of my getting up as I have told you. Col. Monroe was in the chair & will preside at the dinner. A splendid procession is to take place. Were I younger I sh<sup>d</sup> be one, but there is a time for all things, & it is one of the signs of wisdom to know when to retire. On the ensuing day the 26<sup>th</sup> D<sup>r</sup> Onderdonck, Bishop elect is to be consecrated & the aged & infirm Bishop White of Phil<sup>a</sup> is to come on the occasion. When the brother Bp. Onderdonck <sup>28</sup> was

<sup>28</sup> Henry Ustick Onderdonk.



consecrated, Bp. Kemp of Maryland lost his life by the upsetting of the stagecoach on his return home. I hope that a similar fatality will not befall the venerable Bp. White on his return home, but it appears very indiscreet to say the least of it to drag an old man, nearer 90 than 80, such a distance at this late period of the year to give eclat to the consecration of the weakest Epis<sup>l</sup> Bp. in the whole U. S. I think that I shall not attend. I was pr[es]ent when Bps. Hobart & Griswold of the Eastern diocese were consecrated. The following ext<sup>r</sup> incidents occurred. W[h]en these rev<sup>d</sup> gent<sup>n</sup> proceeded to the communion railing, D<sup>r</sup> Hobart, altho the younger man & at home in his own Church, tripped ahead of the meek apostolic Griswold, so as to be at the head to receive the imposition of hands first, in order to entitle him to precedency, that in time, after the demise of Bp. White he might claim the right of being elected *presiding* Bishop of the Epis<sup>l</sup> Ch. in the U. States, a matter of courtesy but not of right. It has pleased God by removing him, to defeat this as well as many other machinations. "Thus far proud man & no further." Again by custom, it requires the presence of 3 Bishops to consecrate a Bishop. Bishop Moore then living was too feeble to attend & Bp. Provost, who had for some years retired from all episcopal duty attended. After the act of consecration was performed, this aged respectable man, our first Bishop, was obliged to retire before the whole services were finished. Not a single presbyter of the many present offered him an arm, & he was led out of Church by his daughter M<sup>rs</sup> Colden. . . . The cold neglect was remarked by several. After the ceremonies were over I called on Bp. Provost to express my chagrin. He was sensibly affected, & remarked that he had been importuned to attend, w<sup>h</sup> at first he declined. It was cruel indignant treatment, but of a piece with all the conduct of our High Churchmen. From that day forward I never failed paying marked attention to him w<sup>h</sup> was kindly accepted & by his daughter. He was a descendant of our Huguenot families & attended our

French Church, in early day, we were visitors & friends. But I believe I have told all this before. You see how forgetful old age grows.

.....  
 Tues<sup>y</sup> [November] 16<sup>th</sup>. The Kentucky is to sail to-morrow, having been impeded by the late foul weather. Thank God the sun has made its appearance this day, after 9 days absence. . . . Yest<sup>y</sup> aft.noon I called to see a M<sup>rs</sup> Judson of Fairfield, Conn<sup>t</sup> & who when young passed the winter of 1776-7 at Norwalk, in my Uncle Cannons family. Of course our conversation went back to those times & about all our family friends who have gone to their long home. She who was a very sylph when young, is now portly old lady. Singular that we two whose forms were the most slender & fragile of all our cousins, should have survived them all. The boys esp<sup>y</sup> were robust young men. . . .

.....  
 [Addressed by:] Ship Kentucky

---

N YORK, Wed<sup>y</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>, 1830

.....  
 Thur<sup>y</sup> [November] 18<sup>th</sup>. A beautiful day, fresh so[uth] wind must bring arrivals, long expected. Last ev<sup>s</sup> there was a meeting at Masonic Hall in favour of the Tract efforts for the Miss[iss]ippi Valley. \$1850 was subscribed of w<sup>h</sup> Arthur Tappan gave probably \$1000. He is truly a wonderful benefactor & if his life sh<sup>d</sup> be spared & prosperity, his benefactions may am<sup>t</sup> in a few years to half a million. God speed him. I wish we had more Arthur Tappans. Your brother went & was much gratified with D<sup>r</sup> Milnors address recounting particulars of his late visit to England. He quite rivetted the attention of a very full auditory, esp<sup>y</sup> as there was much of pleasing novelty in his matter. It is really consoling altho' I can do so very little myself, to mark such active growing benevolence in this city. The

season of contributions approaches religious & charitable. To the ladies who undertake to solicit benefactions, we are much indebted. They are indefatigable, & really tender their request with great modesty & delicacy w<sup>h</sup> ensure their success & welcome reception by all whose hearts glow with love to God & good will towards man. . . .

Friday [November] 19<sup>th</sup>. I have the happiness to inform you that y<sup>r</sup> dear sister was safely put to bed a quarter before 9 last evening with a fine chopping *boy*, her 4<sup>th</sup> son. . . . Francis who had been sent for on Wed<sup>r</sup> e<sup>d</sup> not attend as his wife, ill, possibly in child bed, required all his attention. A young Doctor Nelson,<sup>29</sup> our neighbour officiated. . . . Pintard wanted to accompany me to the Depository, to see me *make* his brother a member for life of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] a favour I e<sup>d</sup> not grant as his school hour had come. I accomplished this duty within 12 hours after the birth of the child. His Father wrote a memorandum, for my inspection when I arose—"Louis Pintard Servoss, born on Thur<sup>r</sup> ev<sup>s</sup> at ¼ before 9 o'clock, Nov. 18, 1830. God bless him. A fat hearty & perfect Child, just like Boudinot. Thank God for the safety of my dear wife. T. L. S." Amen. . . . What a succession of Boys, w<sup>h</sup> best pleases the Father, altho' the mother w<sup>d</sup> naturally be better gratified with a daughter. Gods will be done. I knew nothing of the name until I saw it in M<sup>r</sup> S's handwriting. I asked him if he wished the certificate to be worded as he had spelt the name. He replied Yes, Louis not Lewis, & so it is. He said that he had so written the Doctor. Of course that point was settled in his own mind without my knowledge & I am obliged to him for the compliment that he has paid to the memory of my venerated Uncle & father. M<sup>r</sup> S. has discovered recently, thro' M<sup>rs</sup> Wadsworth that his mother<sup>30</sup> was a

<sup>29</sup> John Neilson, Jr., M.D., of 428 Broome Street, according to the New York City Directory for 1830.

<sup>30</sup> Thomas L. Servoss's maternal grandmother was probably Esther Mounier (Mrs. Samuel Fleming). See Henry Race's *Historico-Genealogical Sketch of Col. Thomas Lowrey, and Esther Fleming, His Wife* (Flemington, N. J., 1892), p. 8.

descendant of the French Huguenots. This he told me yest<sup>y</sup> exulting that his children had Huguenot blo[o]d in them, a pretty remarkable circumstance. May they in future life be as distinguished for their virtues & probity, as their pious ancestors. They were a godly race of w<sup>h</sup> as you know my dear good Uncle was a fair example. My beloved child, on neither side your dear children have no cause to blush for their forefathers. . . .

Your brother left it with me to write, as he is much occupied attending to the sale of Tobacco w<sup>h</sup> is a very dull article at present. He is a most indefatigable industrious merchant, & good withal. . . .

[Addressed by:] Mail via Mobile

---

N YORK, Sat<sup>y</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> Nov., 1830

. . . . .  
 The season recurs for my accustomed annual tokens, w<sup>h</sup> will accompany this. Instead of the trifling presents for the young fry, I met with a pretty series of little volumes of the publications of our Sunday School Union, w<sup>h</sup> I have had handsomely bound, in 8 vols. for Julia & Sister, & 30 for Mary & Helen, to form a Juvenile Library. Indeed the perusal of most of them may not displease my Turtle Dove. I tho't it better for preservation to send them in this shape, altho' a little more expensive, than to send single tracts, w<sup>h</sup> like the Sybills leaves are soon scattered & lost. I never go into the Book stores of our Tract & Union School Societies but that I am struck with the superior advantages w<sup>h</sup> the rising generations enjoy over the preceding. Every year is productive with some new improvement to shorten & beguile the ascent of the Hill of Science. . . .

. . . . .  
 Tuesday [November] 23<sup>d</sup> Rain over & gone. I hope it will not return till after the 25<sup>th</sup>. The procession is all the order of the day, marching 6 deep it is calcu-

lated, with the Ship, Steam boat & Fire engines, printing press &c<sup>a</sup> &c<sup>a</sup>, on carriages, that it will extend 2 miles in length. Fortunately for my dear boys it is to pass thro' Broome St. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [November] 24<sup>th</sup>. Last ev<sup>s</sup> just before Tea D<sup>r</sup> Davizac who had arrived in the Frances called with y<sup>r</sup> *very* acceptable letter of 2<sup>d</sup> inst. . . .

Next Sunday, Advent Sunday, the beginning of our ecclesiastical year, shall recommence my 5<sup>th</sup> reading of Scotts Commentary taking up the Epistles. I never expect to reach the termination, but shall proceed regularly as tho' I should. . . .

Thur<sup>y</sup> [November] 25<sup>th</sup>. A right old fashioned N. E. storm & gale has deferred the grand celebration this day. Every thing is in preparation for the first fair day, probably Monday. . . . I omitted to mention the death of a young friend, Edward Eastburn, who accompanied by his mother & Sister Ann sailed to Liverpool last spring for the benefit of his health. The climate proved too humid, & he was advised to pass the winter in Charleston. Tho weak he was not dangerously ill when he embarked, but exhausted nature gave out & he expired within 2 days sail. His body was brought to shore, & he was interred in S<sup>t</sup> Michaels burying ground by the R<sup>t</sup> Rev. Bp. Bowen well acquainted with his late father & family. It has been M<sup>rs</sup> E's unhappy lot to have closed the eyes of 2 sons at sea. Several years ago, the oldest, the Rev. Ja[me]s Eastburn, sailed, but too late, for Bermuda, in the fall. The weather was boisterous & the tossing of the ship was too much for his feeble frame, & he died 4 days out & was committed to the great deep. Hard trials for a doting mother who exposed herself to the dangers of the sea for the sake of her children. Her last & now only son the Rev. Manton Eastburn, remains, of delicate habit & not very strong constitution. A Divine of ext<sup>y</sup> learning & merit. He married one of the Miss Glovers, daughter of the late

John Glover who settled the income of \$20,000 or more, on each of his daughters, the principal to revert to his sons, in case they die without issue. M<sup>rs</sup> E. is very delicate, & as yet has had no child, & her share will probably revert. She is comely but not handsome, the courtship commenced in early youth. M<sup>r</sup> E. who has a very fine commanding person & visage might have made a better, worldly speaking, match, but Madam makes an excellent parsons wife, retired, unobtrusive but affable. Edward was one of my young protegés. For many years, I always gave him a New Year cooky & my blessing, with his annual dollar & when he took his degree something to bear the expenses, for his father my late excellent & still bemoaned friend, was broken down. The whole family, male & female (2 girls) possess great genius. Edward was a very bright scholar, & like his brother very modest. Farewell my young friend. I have lost a constant annual New Year visitor, but you are gone where time shall never end. He was pious & devoted to the Ministry for w<sup>h</sup> he was preparing, & a Samuel from his youth up. I had hoped that he w<sup>d</sup> have become an assistant to his brother in the Church of the Ascension. Notwithstanding the opposition of the late Bp. Hobart as well as of his successor, D<sup>r</sup> Onderdonk, this new Church has wonderfully prospered. A Sunday School House is now erecting, All that was wanting to complete the establishment. M<sup>r</sup> E. is of the Evangelical School, who does not *unchurch* his brethren of other denominations & is an ardent friend of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] & to the cause of Foreign Missions, all offences, inexpiable, in the eyes of High Churchmen. He is probably the most learned clergyman in this Diocese. His style of preaching is chaste & his discourses elegant.

Saturday [November] 27<sup>th</sup>. The great show took place yest<sup>r</sup>. The weather cleared off but the day was overcast. The Military & Societies formed at 8 in Canal Street, moved between 10 & 11, according to the handbill sent herewith. The van reached Washington

Square as the last of the rear left Canal Street, making the line of march to extend 3 miles, passing our House in Broome St. We had a complete view of the whole procession which took up 2 hours in passing. It was certainly the most splendid, well ordered & conducted exhibition I ever witnessed. The Butchers in White aprons & Carmen in White Frocks, all mounted made a regiment of themselves, as did the Fire department. I have heard of no accidents whatever, nor was there any tumult. The streets were thronged with spectators, & possibly 50,000 were out on the occasion. . . . The Societies assembled at their several rendezvous at 7, & were dismissed at 3 o'clock, so that they were 8 hours on duty. The streets unfortunately were very muddy. Thus has ended this memorable celebration, of the propriety of which many doubt, But my heart went with it, & I rejoice in the late French revolution. May it prove permanent.

The consecration of Bp. Onderdonck took place in St. Johns Ch. yest<sup>r</sup>. Present Bps. White, Onderdo[n]ck & Brownell, the latter preached on the occasion. The Church was crowded. I staid at home. . . .

Monday [November] 29th. . . . Yest<sup>r</sup> Sunday was a beautiful day. I attended an inaugural address by Bp. White, the patriarch of the Epis<sup>l</sup> Ch. to the new class of the students, 16. I shook hands with him after the service, & thanked him for his persevering attention to the Sem[inar]y. He is very aged, & probably I shall never see him again. Quite of Apostolic appearance. I walked out 3 miles & back with great ease. . . . I send with the little books \$5 in bright pieces for my dear little g<sup>d</sup>children. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>. . . . Our babe<sup>31</sup> is [to] be baptized on Wed<sup>y</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> inst., I hope by the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Bayard. The Schenck family will be, as usual, invited to a family dish of tea, as it is incorrect to make a merry meeting of a sacramental service. Indeed the Church is the

<sup>31</sup> Louis Pintard Servoss.

most proper place, but private Baptism is general among us & when decently conducted, the parlour for the time is a Temple of the Lord. Y<sup>r</sup> brother & myself God fathers, Sister God mother. The Birthday bible, similar to yours, will be presented on the occasion. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Illinois  
with a package

---

NEW YORK, Thur<sup>y</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>, 1830

. . . . .  
Sat<sup>y</sup> 4<sup>th</sup>. A beautiful clear day, quite refreshing after so much rainy humid, obscure weather . . . A most horrid act of piracy has been committed in our waters so[uth] side of L[ong] Island on board the Brig Vineyard, with \$50,000 in specie aboard from y<sup>r</sup> port to Phil<sup>a</sup> for S[tephen] Girard. . . . On next Thur<sup>y</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving day, it is proposed that the infant shall be baptised, at home p. m. by the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Upfold. Your brother is delicate least offence may be given sh<sup>d</sup> the ceremony be performed by the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Bayard. I regret it as the fee \$10 w<sup>d</sup> help him; the other having a salary of \$2000, & a fine parsonage House. It w<sup>d</sup> moreover have gratified Aunt Patty. On these occasions I make it a rule to submit, as every parent ought to be left to uncontrolled choice. There is to be no company whatever. This may also be correct, altho' one w<sup>d</sup> wish to see a few family friends on such an occasion. I believe the Presbyterian discipline insists that Baptisms sh<sup>d</sup> always be solemnized in the Church. As a sacrament it sh<sup>d</sup> be so. The Episcopalians have relaxed in this particular. Where health permits on the part of the mother & infant, Baptism ought to be, as enjoined administered in Church. But our Congregations, unhappily, take little interest in this solemn dedication of a child to the Lord & admitting it as a member of Christ's flock. It has therefore become in this city, unfashionable. On the other hand marriage, w<sup>h</sup> among Protes-



tants is not a sacrament, is more frequently performed in Church as a mark of gentility, thus illustrating our daily confession of "leaving undone the things that we ought to do, & doing the things that we ought not to do." Your [Presbyterian] congregations certainly excell ours in vital piety & devotion & every good work. The influence of our late Bp. Hobart was in my estimation baleful. He was far behind the age in w<sup>h</sup> he lived. He discountenanced all association with other Xt<sup>n</sup> denominations for acts of general charity & benevolence, confining all our (slender) exertions within ourselves, by w<sup>h</sup> means all ardour, zeal & almost vitality have been so smothered that when called up for Church collections, they are shamefully small & make us contemptible when compared with others even the Roman Catholics who are, tho numerous, very poor, & whose contributions do them honour. Their Female Orphan Asylum, 100 children, is chiefly supported by the receipts of Sacred concerts. Being a decided sectarian institution, they cannot by law derive any benefit from our state School Fund, w<sup>h</sup> is approved for purposes of general education without religious distinction. I c<sup>d</sup> have wished to have devised some expedient to have overcome this objection. But the Law is just & equitable. . . .

. . . . .  
Monday [December] 6<sup>th</sup>. A violent N. E. storm, hard rain. . . . .

[Yesterday] In the afternoon I went, as I generally do every other Sunday, to see M<sup>rs</sup> Talbot I found her in deep affliction for the loss of M<sup>rs</sup> Thomson, widow of James T. dec<sup>d</sup>, her best unceasing friend, who died suddenly on Sat<sup>y</sup> of apoplexy. M<sup>r</sup> T. was a Scotsman, a successful merchant. He boarded with M<sup>rs</sup> Loring, & in one of our early yellow fevers, with w<sup>h</sup> he was taken, Miss L. paid him the kindest unremitted attention, to w<sup>h</sup> under Providence he owed his life. On recovery, he married Miss L. & she made him a most excellent wife.

being of one of the old Boston high families well educated & brought up. He was a widower & had one son James (no child by the last wife). An indulgent father, James became licentious when he grew up & kept a mistress, w<sup>h</sup> so displeased his father, that he made a will settling a handsome annuity on him, & to inherit the rest of his estate after his wife's decease (\$300,000). A few years after M<sup>r</sup> T. purchased an elegant Farm in the neighbourhood of Livingston Manor, where the families of that name, rich & poor abound. James, a handsome young man, improved by a trip to Europe & having sowed his wild oats, formed an attachment to a widows daughter. Knowing him to be an heir, & ignorant of the father's disposition of his estate, they were married.<sup>32</sup> M<sup>r</sup> T. a hale hearty Scot, shortly after was attacked with a violent cholera & died at short notice, without making as he intended an immediate settlement on his son, to whom however he had given the Farm, well stocked & c<sup>a</sup> & his income was \$3000 a year a handsome provision w<sup>h</sup> however disappointed his proud wife & mother & caused a great deal of unhappiness to James whose affections c<sup>d</sup> not be increased by this mercenary conduct. Unexpectedly at length he comes into the whole succession & the pride of his lady & mother will now be gratified with one of the handsomest establishments in this city, & James will now be regarded no doubt as an angel from heaven, but I suspect from what has past, domestic felicity will not be their lot. "The bought smile" is an antidote to pure love. M<sup>rs</sup> Thompson was the constant friend of poor afflicted M<sup>rs</sup> Talbot, whom she visited usually twice a week, & sent her carriage always for her whenever she pleased to dine. It was on Friday 3<sup>d</sup> that she called as usual in full health & good spirits to ask M<sup>rs</sup> T. to dine with her on Sunday, yest<sup>r</sup> w<sup>h</sup> indisposition prevented, for she is very ailing, afflicted with piles & had an operation performed last

<sup>32</sup> James Thomson, Jr. and Mary, eldest daughter of the late H. W. Livingston, were married at the Manor of Livingston, June 6, 1825. *The N.-Y. Eve. Post*, June 8, 1825.

week. The death of M<sup>rs</sup> T. was communicated yest<sup>r</sup> morn<sup>g</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Talbot denied herself to all calls, except myself. . . . It is but a few short weeks that I had to console her on the decease of M<sup>rs</sup> Maxwell, as I have noticed, her intimate friend. Of all the once intimates of her brilliant days, only the widow of Don Thomas Stoughton remains, a kind hearted, affectionate Irish lady, who called yest<sup>r</sup> but was not admitted. . . . At the period when James' mother in law was taking undue liberties, calling him the son of a boarding house keeper, w<sup>h</sup> was not the fact, I took some pains to sustain the reputation of M<sup>rs</sup> Thompson, as being derived from one of the best Boston families, for w<sup>h</sup> she expressed her thanks to M<sup>rs</sup> Talbot & wished to see me friendly. I never called, for I had never been intimate with her husband, & secluding myself from all new, & almost all old society, I did not incline to renew a once slight acquaintance, but always spoke well of her as I c<sup>d</sup> freely do, for she was benevolent & I esteemed her for her constant kind attentions to M<sup>rs</sup> Talbot.

Tuesday [December] 7<sup>th</sup>. The violent storm of yest<sup>r</sup> has cleared off at N West last night & this is the first day this season that Ice has appeared in our streets. It is a cold winters day. Dear Mother was bled yest<sup>r</sup>, moderately, having suffered with headache. She is lighter & better this day, being greatly relieved. . . .

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>. I have but a few moments to say, that my little g<sup>d</sup>son Louis Pintard Servoss, was baptized yest<sup>r</sup> P. M. by the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Upfold Rector of S<sup>t</sup> Thomas, his father, g<sup>d</sup>father & g<sup>d</sup>mother sponsors. . . . Judge Bayard has come to town. I expect him every moment on business. John is afflicted with an ulcerated breast. All friends at Princeton well. He left his brother in law Ch. Justice Kirkpatrick at the eve of death, worn out by exhaustion without any serious illness. He was my college chum & about my age. For many years a sceptic, but by conviction latterly a con-

firmed Xt<sup>n</sup>. What a comfort to his surviving friends & family.

[Addressed by Ship] Louisiana

N YORK, Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> Dec., 1830

In consequence of y<sup>r</sup> high commendation I have read Oberlin. What a character, & how much good a single indivi[du]al can do & what females he was blessed with to aid him in promoting all his good works. . . .

Sat<sup>y</sup> [December] 11<sup>th</sup>. . . . Judge Bayard & his Rev. son dined with us yest<sup>y</sup>. Aunt Betsey [Pintard] is quite well. L<sup>t</sup> Sam<sup>l</sup> Stockton of the Navy is to marry Miss [Mary] Hunter, his cousin, a very find young lady of highly cultivated mind & very amiable. Caroline [Dod] is at housekeeping & is very comfortably settled. M<sup>rs</sup> Stockton Sen. is better, almost as deaf as myself. M<sup>rs</sup> Harrison well. M<sup>rs</sup> Bradford very well, her companion & inmate Mlle. Martell recovering from a sprained ancle w<sup>h</sup> afflicted her much. D<sup>r</sup> Wharton in his 86<sup>th</sup> year not long for this world. These are all of our family friends. M<sup>rs</sup> Rush made a visit to her daughter in Canada last summer, a considerable undertaking at 72, & is very well. She <sup>33</sup> possesses fine spirits w<sup>h</sup> she inherits from her mother. . . .

Monday [December] 13<sup>th</sup>. . . . I called in the afternoon to console M<sup>rs</sup> Talbot on the loss of her friend M<sup>rs</sup> Thompson. . . . Her circumstances are comfortable having an annuity of \$250 from my good old uncles estate & the same from Cap<sup>n</sup> Talbots, in all \$500 a year, with w<sup>h</sup> as she is plentifully stocked with clothing she makes out very well. Her board & fuel am<sup>t</sup> to \$350 a

<sup>33</sup> Mrs. Benjamin Rush (Julia Stockton), daughter of Richard and Annis (Boudinot) Stockton, and mother of Mrs. Ross Cuthbert.

year. She is a strict economist, & thus feels very independent, altho' not affluent. She is happy to have it in her power to give something in charity, w<sup>h</sup> is more than her late friend ever did who *never* gave anything to the poor nor to benevolent purposes, with an income of \$10,000, a year, house coach & a plentiful stocked wine cellar, estimated at \$10,000, of w<sup>h</sup> she made a very frugal use, entertained no company, & died worth \$60,000 to 70,000, w<sup>h</sup> goes in 1/3<sup>ds</sup> to M<sup>rs</sup> Neufville only surviving sister of Charleston S<sup>o</sup> Carol<sup>a</sup> very rich, & the children of 2 deceased brother & sister. She left no will. Over & above her liberal annuity, house & coach, &c. M<sup>r</sup> Thompson left \$12,000 at her disposal to charitable uses, of w<sup>h</sup> she bestowed \$2,000 reserving the other to accumulate, w<sup>h</sup> goes back to the heir young James Thompson, of whom I have spoken, who, with what he had comes into the succession of his fathers estate, estimated at \$700,000. How much good will the late penurious lady w<sup>d</sup> have purchased, had she bestowed the Interest of M<sup>r</sup> Thompsons trust, that now goes to an over rich heir, who withal is very well spoken of, and will it is hoped make a good use of his redundant income. He remains on his farm this winter, evincing no disposition for dashing. Indeed he has sown his wild oats. M<sup>rs</sup> T. except by her family & poor M<sup>rs</sup> Talbot, died unlamented & the universal exclamation is "the poor have met with no loss." . . .

[Addressed by Ship] Alabama

---

N YORK, Thur<sup>y</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> Dec., 1830. Clear & cold N. W.

I can never expect to be freed from the rushing of my blood to the head until it is laid on my dying pillow. I do not, thank God fear death, relying on the mercy of our crucified Redeemer, but I do dread becoming an en-

cumberer of the ground, w<sup>h</sup> if spared, my increasing deafness must shortly bring me to. . . .

Friday [December] 17<sup>th</sup>. "Stern winter comes to rule the varied year." This is another clear N[orth] W[esterl]y day, which must close the upper navigation of the Hudson. Altho' business has been very brisk this season, for our trading streets have been & still are almost impassable by the multitude of purchasers, packages, carts &c<sup>a</sup> the price of y<sup>r</sup> brothers staple Cotton being lower here than at N[ew] O[rleans] will I fear dishearten his friends & reduce their consignments. He does the best & better I believe than any other consignee in this city, for he is most diligent & intelligent. I mentioned that I pass 2 hours from 12 to 2 daily at his store to enable him to step abroad when his clerk goes to dinner. While there I saw M<sup>r</sup> Leonard from Mattawan who speaks in the highest terms of Thomas' capacity & applic[atio]n. . . .

Saturday [December] 18<sup>th</sup>. . . . Last ev<sup>g</sup> our good old Tamar called to see us & enquired kindly after you all. She looks very well, is 59. I feel an attachment to her for long & faithful services. She has upwards of \$1000 in the Savings Bank, a good sum for her old age. With \$50 a year & some services, she may obtain comfortable support in the country. Pintard, who only remembers, was quite glad to see Aunt Tamar. This day our little Louis is a month old & M<sup>rs</sup> Shreeves leaves Sister fat & hearty & the babe thriving. I may never witness her attendance again & wish her well. She is a pious Methodist & Sister is much attached to her. What a happiness to have a family nurse in whom one can confide. Sister has a good set of domestics. . . . Political parties are beginning to break ground here for the next president. M<sup>r</sup> Clay has a strong & respectable host in this city, & will probably have all the Eastern states. Old Hickory makes a miserable hand of it, being completely in leading strings, w<sup>h</sup> must mortify his despotic pride. His chief conductor is Sec<sup>y</sup> Van Beuren, a

man of abilities but visionary as to Bank concerns. An intrigant, much such another as Burr. This latter character still exists in obscurity, always concerned in crooked litigation. He has lost his standing at the bar, never I believe engaged in important suits. . . .

Tues<sup>y</sup> [December] 21<sup>st</sup>. . . .

Happy Americans who can look on the throes & agonies of convulsed Europe, while sitting under their own Vines & Figtrees, literally with you, & none to make them afraid. Long, very long may our country enjoy the blessings of peace, civil & religious liberty. There will however in so widely extended an Empire, be always causes of sectional discontent. An attack is going on in the Administration prints against your Sugar planters, to reduce the Tariff on Sugars & thereby open the door for foreign imports. Nothing however will probably be done during the present short session of Congress nor against the Charter of the U<sup>d</sup> States Bank, with w<sup>h</sup> Pres<sup>t</sup> Jackson has imprudently intermeddled. But the next Congress will probably rally all its strength ag<sup>t</sup> the whole Tariff System. Domestic manufactures, esp<sup>y</sup> Cotton, are so well established that they have little to fear from gover[n]ment regulations. Woolens require protection, but eventually must rival the English. Cotton howe[ve]r is our g<sup>d</sup> staple, & thro' the improvements of labour saving machines, w<sup>h</sup> England dare not make thro' fear of starving her immense pauper population, the U<sup>d</sup> States will undersell the world, so that Thomas need not apprehend want of profitable employment during his day. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [December] 22<sup>d</sup>. A right down Winter day. The streets floating with mud 2 days ago are now hard as pavement. Wholesome weather. . . . There is a M<sup>r</sup> Burgess bookseller of this city who sails the beginning of Jan<sup>y</sup> to N[ew] O[rleans] to escape our winter. His constitution is very delicate. He passed the last in S<sup>t</sup> Augustine. Most of the cheap books & novels sent to you were purchased in his shop. I take an interest in

his fate, & shall give him a line of introdu<sup>n</sup> to the Doctor in case of need. . . .

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> . . . It is amusing, as I pass along, to look at the Toy Shop windows & see the endless variety of European Toys that attract the admiration & empty the pockets of parents friends & children. . . .

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>. It w<sup>d</sup> have delighted you on Friday ev<sup>s</sup> to have witnessed the joy that beamed in Pintard's eyes when I read in the paper the report of "the arrival of the Dutch Ship, alder lievert (best beloved) vrow, Cap<sup>t</sup> Wouter Van Twiller, freighted as deep as she c<sup>d</sup> swim with all sorts of Toys, Cakes, fruits & books, for S<sup>t</sup> Claas to bestow his annual presents to the good children of the antient city of New Amsterdam, now called N. York." With what ecstasy did they exhibit next morn<sup>s</sup>, Christmas, the profusion of Toys, Oranges, & bon bons left by S<sup>t</sup> Claas for our 3 children, displayed on Mothers Table for their stocking crammed with cakes could not contain the splendid articles left by S<sup>t</sup> Claas. For good children, Christmas morn is a perfect Jubilee in this city. The day proved rainy. Mother & Sister c<sup>d</sup> not go to Church. I attended the Sacrament at S<sup>t</sup> Esprit, the congregation very small, only Communicants, of whom Mad<sup>e</sup> Verren was one.

Tuesday [December] 28<sup>th</sup>. Wall S<sup>t</sup>, the centre of news, is all in commotion by the arrival of a packet with intelligence to the 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. the pith of which is that Russia was marching an army of 200,000 with 4,000 pieces of Artillery to the frontiers with intention to invade France, that Austria was to co-operate. The greatest exertions were making in France to raise & organize adequate forces for its defence. The accounts from the continent are certainly portentous of a general war. If England sh<sup>d</sup> form as conjectured a defensive treaty with France, the peace of Europe may be yet maintained, but all must be conjecture on this side of the Atlantic until further intelligence shall be received. It appears to me



that France is competent to its own defence against Russia. Her national guard a large body completely organized is a nucleus for the immediate discipline of all the new forces that can be raised. Philip I is very popular as is the late revolution & tho' there may be favourers of the abdicated Charles X their numbers must be small & scattered. The Clergy no doubt will be glad to foment disturbances w<sup>h</sup> a vigilant government & a whole nation in arms will in a moment quell. . . .

I recollect well, in my youth, or rather childhood to have always heard my good Uncle say when there was any thing delicate on the table, that it was a pity to eat it alone. Tho' far from profuse he kept a good table & always well cooked. This was inherited from our ancestors who not gross were always delicate feeders. I partake of it myself as does our darling when she remarked that the very idea of dinner nauseated her, when abroad—always the same roasted meat, without variety or shadow of change. She was not used to this at Mothers table. Some w<sup>d</sup> call this epicurism & a vitiated appetite. It is not so. Ploughmen & labourers may by hard work, relish & gorge solid junks of boiled pork & raw beef, but surely in the preparation of viands, taste may be consulted, & instead of chicken stewed to rags, a nice fricasee, or your voluptuous gumbo may be prepared without the aid of witchcraft, that will give a relish to the most fastidious appetite. I know nothing more disgusting or provoking than to see a good dish spoiled, always an evidence of a negligent house-keeper.

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>. . . . .

Dear g<sup>d</sup>ma, escorted by my namesake attended the sale of the S<sup>t</sup> Thomas Church Fragment S<sup>o</sup> yest<sup>r</sup> & bought several articles for the Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Bayards children. Happily both she & sister think more of the humble than of the great. . . . .

[Addressed by Ship] Tennessee

# 1831

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

NEW YORK, Monday, 3<sup>d</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>, 1831

. . . New Years day, Sat<sup>y</sup>, was overcast & windy but as to admit of the customary annual visits. After Church I made my tour, feeling as I jogged along that it might be the last time. Without sitting down, I did not get home till 4 o'clock, so extensive has our city grown & so scattered my friends. Sister had a great many calls w<sup>h</sup> increase. I found coffee on many tables, some very fine, some mawkish. The best I tasted was at the Rev. D<sup>r</sup> Milnors, Sisters next, but a little over roasted, a delicate operation, on w<sup>h</sup> the flavour greatly depends. . . . The most interesting sight thro' the whole day was towards ev<sup>g</sup> when the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Bayard called with his 5 children, 3 girls & 2 boys, attired in black for the loss of their sister & well behaved. Susan now the oldest is growing up, delicate & very much resembling her Aunt Julia Washington. They are all pretty. . . .

. . . . .  
Tuesd<sup>y</sup> [January] 4<sup>th</sup>. Mild, rain & drizzling. Most unusual weather. I am over head & ears in Savings Bank duty, w<sup>h</sup> increases rather than diminishing. It makes me happy to be useful. I expect to attend this aft.noon the funeral of a M<sup>rs</sup> Monteath, who died suddenly yest<sup>y</sup> morn<sup>g</sup> aged 73. As Nelly Noel she was my scho[o]lmate at Madams School when I was 6 years old. It was my intention to have visited her this week, & renewed an acquaintance intermitted for many years. But upon what a different solemn occasion. . . .

Wed<sup>r</sup> [January] 5<sup>th</sup>. I came down thro' a violent hard rain to attend to my duty to the Savings Bank. The Funding Com<sup>e</sup> so called are negotiating a purchase of \$100,000 Alabama 6 p<sup>r</sup> c<sup>t</sup> stock w<sup>h</sup> if concluded, it is incumbent on me to endorse the Treas<sup>rs</sup> check in payment. . . . On Monday p. m. I went down to draw a little money for a person, expecting to return by 5 o'clock. The Trustee who was to have attended was absent. I took his seat amidst a great throng of customers, & did not get home till 8 o'clock. Mother was so uneasy that she sent William to attend me at that late & dark hour, for fear of accident as our city has been infested by a set of villains knocking down & robbing passengers even in the most public streets, & being insolent to Females, indeed waylaying & endeavouring to *abduct* them, as the phrase goes. This is a very unpleasant state of things, w<sup>h</sup> will excite greater vigilance in our police. . . .

. . . . .  
 Friday [January] 7<sup>th</sup>. Engaged with business of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] engrosses my time, & I shall be pretty much occupied between this & the sailing of the packet. Calling at M<sup>r</sup> Burgess' book store for a little book for Pintard, I laid aside for Madam Johnston a volume of Receipts w<sup>h</sup> may be very useful to her in the country, also the Arabian Nights by Scott, as I think I hear my dear g<sup>d</sup>children say G<sup>d</sup>pa sends us many pretty books, but they are all so *dry*, as Marny said when he began his Law reading. Full well do I recollect the delight I experienced when my dear Aunt Lydia used to tell me the stories of Aladins Lamp & the Adventures of Sinbad the Sailor &c<sup>a</sup> all w<sup>h</sup> I swallowed for Gospel truth, & thought if I lived to be a man that I w<sup>d</sup> go to the E. Indies & bring home Diamonds from the mines of Golconda. This vol. will serve to amuse & astonish the younglings. To M<sup>r</sup> Burgess who deferred his departure till the 15<sup>th</sup> I will give a line of introd<sup>n</sup> to the Doctor, & he will take charge of these books.

He is an excellent character & I hope he may benefit by his voyage.

Saturday [January] 8<sup>th</sup>. How Time flies, & how my early companions fly also. On Thur<sup>y</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> Died at Brunswick Andrew Kirkpatrick lately Ch. Justice of N. Jersey, & brother in law of M<sup>r</sup> Bayard, & is to be buried this day. He was my Chum at Nassau Hall before the revol<sup>n</sup> a class ahead of me. Chum literally means in the Universities of G. Britain, from w<sup>h</sup> we derive it Room mate but is commonly, nowadays applied to contemporaries. He was my roommate, & a very pleasant one. Thus in one week I have lost two schoolmates, M<sup>rs</sup> Monteath & M<sup>r</sup> Kirkpatrick. Solemn admonitions to me to prepare to follow. Of all my College mates in this city 6 only remain, Col. Burr, D<sup>r</sup> J. R. B. Ro[d]gers, Gen<sup>l</sup> Morton, James Roosevelt, & Ja<sup>s</sup> Beekman,<sup>1</sup> & something remarkable, that on New Years day, D<sup>r</sup> Rogers, M<sup>r</sup> Roosevelt & myself met together at Col. Varicks. M<sup>rs</sup> Kirkpatrick, M<sup>r</sup> Bayards sister is a lady of superior intellect & very pious. The exemplary death of their eldest daughter very accomplished & pious, awakened the Father's attention to his Xt<sup>n</sup> duties, for he had been a sceptic from early life. He was so impressed by the devotion & comfort w<sup>h</sup> his daughter exhibited as to induce him to search into the evidences of Xt<sup>y</sup> & he became convinced of their truth, & for the latter years of his life lived & died a Xt<sup>n</sup>. He was always a moral man & of the greatest integrity. He always attended the family prayers put up by his excellent wife. . . . I hope that the weather will prove fair tomorrow, for in the evening our family propose to attend at Ascension, M<sup>r</sup> Eastburn's Church a Charity Sermon on behalf of the Female Assist[ance] So[ciety] by the Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Hawkes an eloquent popular preacher. Application was made to M<sup>r</sup> Upfold, rector of S<sup>t</sup> Thomas for the use of his pulpit on the occasion, w<sup>h</sup> he declined, as the Charity was not *ecclesiastical* as our High Churches call it,

<sup>1</sup> The catalogues of Princeton graduates do not list a *James* Beekman. Pintard evidently referred to William Beekman, of the class of 1773.

whereby he has given great umbrage to some of those to whom he owes his rectorship, and unless I am mistaken, will rue it. M<sup>r</sup> U. is below mediocrity & his Congregation declines. You know that I did my possible in favour of M<sup>r</sup> Eastburn, the first scholar of our Ch[urch] in this diocese but, not bowing implicitly to the mandates of Bp. Hobart, every effort was exerted by the High Ch. party to oppose him, & to elect a man, whose *only* merit consisted in being a humble satellite of the Bishop. Happily they succeeded, for my friend has since collected a very promising respectable congregation, w<sup>h</sup> built for him a fine Church, and he is the beloved pastor of a pious flock, disposed to countenance & aid all public charities without distinction of ecclesiastical associations, w<sup>h</sup> are not neglected for on every such appeal his collections exceed S<sup>t</sup> Thomas' nearly double. Such always will be the result where the minister possesses the hearts of his people. I did wrong not to have followed the bent of my inclination & to have left S<sup>t</sup> Thomas when M<sup>r</sup> E. lost his election, but Mother & Sister were reluctant. To me, deaf as I am, it is of little consequence, but I c<sup>d</sup> wish to live in close intimacy with my minister. This I can never do with a man below me in Theol<sup>y</sup> learning. M<sup>r</sup> U. is a poor stick, not speaking too disrespectfully. . . .

Monday [January] 10<sup>th</sup>. A complete olden times N. E. snow storm. Sleighing elegant. . . . The charity sermon at Ascension was postponed. . . .

. . . . .  
 Returning home on Sat<sup>y</sup> I subscribed for a weekly paper published by the Am. Sunday School Union, No. 1 of w<sup>h</sup> I will send you. It contains much inform<sup>n</sup> about education, & a statistical Table showing the number of Sunday Schools & Scholars in every state in the Union, among which it makes me happy to find that N York ranks preeminent. . . . On Saturday as a reward for good behaviour I treated my g<sup>d</sup>sons with a visit to the Am<sup>n</sup> Scudders Museum, w<sup>h</sup> has been removed to a new 5 story marble building, built expressly for it in

B<sup>d</sup>way corner of Ann S<sup>t</sup> opposite S<sup>t</sup> Pauls. It is admirably arranged & is a most splendid exhibition. . . .

Tues<sup>y</sup> [January] 11<sup>th</sup>. Seamens Savings B<sup>k</sup> 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> o'clock. My quarterly turn of duty has again come, & tho' very inconvenient to me I retain my station as it gives credit to this feeble plant to say that some of the Trustees of the old B[an]k are Trustees of this. After concluding the turn here, I have again to go [to] the Phoenix Bank to examine the Certificates of Alabama Stock purchased yest<sup>y</sup>. I have been at work all the morn<sup>g</sup> from 10 to 12. There [are] 50 Certificates of \$1000 each & 100 of \$500 each, total \$100,000, with 3 transfers to each, & another in a transfer book, all which are to be singly examined, no small task for my old eyes. . . .

Thurs<sup>y</sup> [January] 13<sup>th</sup>. Complete winter & elegant sleighing. . . . My time was in the preceding part, occupied with preparing a Report for the old Bank, w<sup>b</sup> met in the aft.noon to declare our usual 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> p<sup>r</sup> c<sup>t</sup> interest for the last 6 months, but at the rate of high premiums paid on investments we shall I fear be obliged to reduce our interest to 4 p<sup>r</sup> c<sup>t</sup>. We are about closing all accounts exceeding \$1000, w<sup>b</sup> will lessen our Capital & serve the interest of the humbler classes for whom this Bank was instituted. . . .

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> [*sic for 14<sup>th</sup>*] Jan<sup>y</sup>. Yest<sup>y</sup> was our coldest day, & this is quite severe with some appearance of snow tomorrow. . . . As I was preparing to make up my little packet at M<sup>r</sup> Burges' I saw a pretty edition of all Goldsmiths works, by Washington Irving, an appropriate for one whose style corresponds so much with Goldsmith. It will be a delightful Book for all my g<sup>d</sup>children in succession. How much have I in my day been fascinated with the Essays poems & comedies, especially "She Stoops to Conquer." The deputy<sup>2</sup> can enact both S<sup>r</sup> John Harcastle & his booby waggish son

<sup>2</sup> Lewis Marsden Davidson, deputy clerk of the Supreme Court of Louisiana.

Toney Lumpkin, to the life. The Vicar of Wakefield, Traveller, Deserted Village, Edwin & Angelina will waft the author's name & fame to the latest posterity. As a trial of skill I once committed to memory in two readings the latter Ballad, but it was early in life when I was near my school & college habits. Alas! I can *now* only recall a few scattering verses. Soldiering, business & the cares of life have effaced almost all the beautiful passages, prose & verse, which I had assiduously treasured up. My almost constant Bible reading for more than 30 years has however rendered it very familiar to me, and altho' I cannot cite Texts as a Scot, yet when quoted I can tell if they are rightly so, but without strict fidelity to the letter, I can apply the spirit to every incident of my life. . . .

Satur<sup>y</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> [*sic for* 15<sup>th</sup> January]. A right down old fashion N. E. violent snow storm. The Talma of course cannot sail till Monday. The Kentucky arrived below yest<sup>y</sup>. If she did not get up she must have a hard time of it for it blows a gale. . . .

Monday [January] 17<sup>th</sup>. The violent snow storm of Satur<sup>y</sup> continued with equal violence until last ev<sup>g</sup> when it cleared off at N West. . . . My moments are few, near 10, when the Talmas bag is to be taken away. . . .

[Addressed by Ship] Talma  
with a small packet

---

[By Ship] Kentucky

N YORK, Tues 18<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>, 1831

. . . . .  
On Sunday I kept house as did y<sup>r</sup> brother, who is not apt to stay from Church by w<sup>h</sup> you may judge of the state of the weather. The narrow streets are almost blockaded & impassable. Meetings are held to alleviate the distresses of the suffering poor. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [January] 19<sup>th</sup>. Clear, cold & fine wind for

Talma. Last ev<sup>g</sup> our neighbour Mr<sup>s</sup> Suydam<sup>3</sup> gave a tea party for her daughter 10 years old, to which 42 children were invited, with our Pintard & Boudy, at 5 o'clock, p. m., so as to come away early. The eldest danced. . . . William went with them & waited. Boudy held out till 8 when overpowered with sleep, he was brought home. Pintard enquired of a gentleman the hour. 9 o'clock. Then it is time for me to be off & so he came home mightily pleased with the first debut, & more with a paper of cake & bonbons, for himself & brother. . . . Yest<sup>y</sup> at 1, the Vestry of S<sup>t</sup> Esprit met to receive the report of a Committee previously appointed on the subject of selling our antient Temple, built in 1704, & now the oldest sacred edifice in this city, and the site on which it is erected in Pine Street. The report in favour of an immediate sale was adopted as property in that street & in the vicinity of Wall S<sup>t</sup> is probably at its height. The Committee was empowered to dispose of the premises & look out for another site on w<sup>h</sup> to build, in the mean time, in case of sale, to hold our meetings in some upper chamber, likewise to attend to the decent removal of the reliques of our forefathers & predecessors. The meeting was a very solemn one to me, on reflecting that it fell to my lot to decide on the prostration of that small but convenient Temple, built so many years ago by our pious predecessors. I am moreover the only direct lineal descendent that adheres to the congregation, in which sense I may be called the *last of the Huguenots*. My feelings were intense the more so as I felt obliged to repress them, for most of the present congreg<sup>n</sup> & vestry like Pharaoh have arisen who knew not Joseph. I hid the silent tear that trickled down my cheeks as well as I could, but my feelings were too strong & evident, entirely to escape notice. It seemed as tho' I had passed the Death Warrant of my Church when I voted as was proper in favour of adopt-

<sup>3</sup> Lambert Suydam lived at 433 Broome Street, according to the New York City Directories of 1830-31 and 1831-32. The Pintard-Servoss residence was 429 Broome Street.



ing the Report. I distinctly recollect going to this Church when 5 years old, now 67 years ago.

Friday [January] 21<sup>st</sup> . . . We have a vacancy among the Vice presidents of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] in consequence of the death of Judge Kirkpatrick. I am doing my possible in favour of M<sup>r</sup> Bayard, who under Providence may be considered the founder of the So[cieity] for it was owing in a great measure to his incessant solicitation that D<sup>r</sup> Boudinots mind was influenced in favour of the subject. The rule is to nominate at one meeting & elect at another, w<sup>b</sup> will take place in Feb<sup>y</sup> & March. I have called on several & stated M<sup>r</sup> Bayards early & important services. The Rev. D<sup>r</sup> Milnor will I hope nominate him. His rival will be M<sup>r</sup> Frelinghuysen who is justly a very great favourite with our Sabbatarian & Indian friends, & who moreover stands very prominent in the religious world, & is nearer the times of most of our present managers. I trust however that early services so important will not be forgotten, but I am doubtful. . . .

Have I told you, that the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Anthon of S<sup>t</sup> Stephens has been ele[c]ted assistant minister of Trinity. He is a minister of superior talents, chaste & eloquent. The Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Hawkes has been unanimously elected Rector of S<sup>t</sup> Stephens & will I trust accept, in w<sup>b</sup> case our church will gain another minister of splendid talents & perhaps the foremost for eloquence in the city.

Pintards nurse, Mary Leamy who went to M<sup>rs</sup> Glover after leaving Sister, where she lived ever since, died yest<sup>y</sup>. Altho' this is a piercing day I propose to attend her funeral. . . . She lived many years in poor M<sup>rs</sup> Livingstons family who was very kind to her. I am going to call on M<sup>rs</sup> Talbot to get her order to receive her half yearly income \$125 from M<sup>r</sup> Talbots estate this day. It is due & there is no foreseeing what a day may bring forth. . . .

Satur<sup>y</sup> [January] 22<sup>d</sup>. I attended the Funeral of Mary Leamy yest<sup>y</sup> aft.noon. . . . M<sup>r</sup> Glover with whom

she lived since last with us gave her a very decent funeral. I did not attend the corpse to S<sup>t</sup> Luke burial ground more than a mile distant. . . . She has left her little property in the Savings Bank to her brother in Engl<sup>d</sup> a minister, about \$600. . . . The Mutual office lost about 5 this morn<sup>g</sup>, \$7000 insured on one of our public schools.<sup>4</sup> This makes the 3<sup>d</sup> school for w<sup>h</sup> we have paid roundly. The Fire was owing it is said to one of the new patent Furnaces for heating the apa[r]tments w<sup>h</sup> appear to me very safe. Every project is experimented to increase the power of heat & lessen the expense of Fuel.

Thur<sup>v</sup> [January] 27<sup>th</sup>. The cold does not abate. I believe this is the 7<sup>th</sup> day. It is asserted by experienced old persons that so great a body of snow has not fallen in 50 years. Indeed it is bitter cold. Much distress & want abound in this city, & great exertions are making to relieve it. From past experience the mode of soliciting benefactions is very much simplified. Formerly a few benevolent & active persons used to take a whole ward, & the duty of calling at every door was fatiguing indeed. Repulses by the wealthy were disgusting & disheartening. Now committees are appointed for every Ward, who select the most respectable inhabitants in a block, & by this subdivision do more collectively in an hour, than we c<sup>d</sup> possibly accomplish in a day. For instance, last ev<sup>g</sup> one of the Ward Committee called in & informed M<sup>r</sup> Servoss that he & his neighbour M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Intyre were appointed for their block. He stepped in to M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>I. who consented to act & asked when they sh<sup>d</sup> go. Y<sup>r</sup> brother said that the present was as good a time as any. It was a beautiful moonlight night. Almost every househo[l]der, except a few who were attending the Ward Committee was at home. They accomplished their tour in about an hour, & made a hand-

<sup>4</sup> Public School No. 12, 17th Street near Eighth Avenue. N.-Y. *Commercial Advertiser*, Jan. 22, 1831; W. O. Bourne, *History of the Public School Society of the City of New York* (1870), pp. 122-23.

some collection. None that c<sup>d</sup> give, refused such respectable applicants. It is in this subdivision of labour that so much good is effected in our overgrowing city, both for religious & charitable purposes.

.....  
 Satur<sup>y</sup> [January] 29<sup>th</sup> . . . I see by the papers that Judge Johnston's brother <sup>5</sup> is reappointed Senator a proof that his services have proved acceptable. Yest<sup>y</sup> I was employed in writing to my rev<sup>d</sup> friend M<sup>r</sup> Potter, & endeavoured to give him all the Ecclest<sup>l</sup> & Theol<sup>l</sup> intelligence in my power. I shall leave as a legacy to y<sup>r</sup> sister to be kind to his son in law when at a future day he may come on to our Sem[inar]y for his fathers & my sake. . . . There is a great revival of religion in our quarter of the city, in M<sup>r</sup> Pattens Church,<sup>6</sup> just east of us. Exercises are performed morn<sup>g</sup>, aft<sup>n</sup> & ev<sup>g</sup>. . . . You will see an account of it in the Observer. . . .

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>. . . . Your brother will ship by the John Linton to sail the 8<sup>th</sup>. 3 superb pianos on account of the manufacturer, to his friend M<sup>r</sup> White. When advertized for sale, call & see them, & the perfection to w<sup>h</sup> these articles of luxury are brought in this city. I presume the price will be \$500. . . . We have sold the premises of my old French Church for \$50,000. My mark & a very large price it is. It will be my duty to attend to the removal of the remains not only of my own family but also of those which have no friend to protect them. . . .

---

N YORK, Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup>, 1831

.....  
 Wed<sup>y</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup>. Mild & I hope the immense body of snow will go off gently. An arrival, but not the Illinois, w<sup>h</sup> I hope will appear this week. All friends to our Country & its constitution are rejoicing at the

<sup>5</sup> Josiah Stoddard Johnston, of Louisiana.

<sup>6</sup> The Central Presybyterian Church, Rev. William Patton. on Broome Street, near Elm Street.

defeat of the southern demagogues to break down the independence of the Sup. Court of the U. S. the great palladium of our liberties. Thank God there is yet too much virtue & sound sense in Congress to prostrate the Judiciary. This nefarious attempt is for the present frustrated, as I hope it always will be.

I apprehend that the Vestry Du S<sup>t</sup> Esprit will encounter some trouble on acc<sup>t</sup> of the removal of the remains of our predecessors, which is certainly a delicate & painful subject. But what can we do? The edifice founded in 1704 is very old & decayed, & not fit to be repaired. It has been for some years contemplated to dispose of the premises to locate & erect a new church farther up the city, for the population is fast deserting the lower districts, where the old habitations are converted into Ware houses. This measure cannot be accomplished without disposing of the present premises w<sup>h</sup> has been done very beneficially for \$50,000. There are 8 Vaults, all modern, within 40 years, besides our families which is coeval with the foundation of the Church. Several remote descendants of the antient families, & who do not belong to the congregation are endeavouring to oppose the exhumation of their ancestors remains, a very natural objection, but they are, those in the vaults excepted, totally decayed, for the cemetery being small, interments have ceased for many years. It is very easy to excite sympathy on such an occasion. . . . Probably any difficulty may be surmounted by providing, at the expense of the Church, new vaults, in place of the old. I made no stipulation in my own favour, but if others are indemnified, I shall look for neighbours fare. My name is so identified with the Church, that my acquiescence in the sale silences the clamours of many. Still I fear trouble, & it distresses me. . . .

Sat<sup>y</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup>. Bitter cold. Thur<sup>y</sup> p. m. it snowed & cleared off after a rain w<sup>h</sup> became a sheet of ice & rendered the walking very hazardous. I attended on

Thurs<sup>y</sup> the meetings of my vestry & the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety], glad to reach home safe at 7 o'clock. The Committee of sale reported that they had disposed of the Old Church & premises for \$50,000, \$5000 down to bind the contract, \$15,000 1<sup>st</sup> May, when possession is to be given & \$3000 pay[ab]le in 10 an[nua]l instalments with interest at 5 p<sup>r</sup> c<sup>t</sup> semiannually. A very great sale. If we meet with no difficulties on acc<sup>t</sup> of removing the remains of those buried in the cemetery, I shall be happy indeed, but some trouble may be expected. Died yest<sup>y</sup> AE. 46 John Watts, J<sup>r</sup> M. D. President of the College of Physicians, a manager of the A. B. S. & a useful member of several of our humane & benevolent Institutions. I mentioned something a year ago about a large legacy left by the late John G. Leake Esq. to Robert, son of John Watts, uncle to the Doctor. The will, after being carried up to the court of errors was adjudged in favour of Robert, who had just come of age & shortly after died, whereby his Father became heir at law to M<sup>r</sup> Leakes estate valued at \$300,000. It was a condition of the Will, that in case Robert sh<sup>d</sup> die, without heirs, & before he came of age, that the whole of the estate sh<sup>d</sup> go towards founding an assylum for Orphans, without distinction of denomination. M<sup>r</sup> J. Watts has most honourably relinquished his legal right to this large estate to carry into effect the intention of M<sup>r</sup> Leake, and a Bill is now before our Legislator, to incorporate Trustees to take charge of the Estate & fulfil the intentions of the munificent Testator. The Building will probably be designated, the Leake & Watts Orphan House. This is probably the largest single legacy ever bequeathed to a single object in the U States. Few, very few w<sup>d</sup> be found to act the liberal & generous part of M<sup>r</sup> Watts. The higher praise be his. I ought to have mentioned that Doctor Watts was own cousin of M<sup>rs</sup> Smith & M<sup>rs</sup> Chew. Lord Stirling had only two daughters, Lady Mary who married Rob<sup>t</sup> Watts, father of the Doctor & Lady Kitty who married M<sup>r</sup> Duer. The Watts family were of the highest in our

city before the Revol<sup>n</sup> & among the most respectable since. The name of Watts will now descend with honour to posterity.

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup>. Our weather still continues extremely cold. . . . 3 ships from N[ew] O[rleans] are now out of time, the John Linton, Azelia, & Illinois, owing to the preceding N. Westers. I hope no accident to either has happened. We are also deprived of European intelligence. The last accounts left the Poles in a state of insurrection, but we may tremble for the result. How can this brave handful of people oppose the gigantic power of Russia & the gallant youths who began the onset may all fall victims to cruel despotic policy, or be obliged to abandon their families & country. In consequence of Kosciusko, Pulaski & other generous Poles who took part in our struggles for liberty, we naturally feel an interest in their fate. . . . While the people of these U States have abundant cause to be grateful for the civil & religious privileges we enjoy, there is still cause for apprehension that our constitution is too good to endure, & that it will fall a victim to the ambition of demagogues. The late audacious attack on the judiciary has been happily defeated, but I confess for myself I tremble for the future. No human policy can be devised so perfect but that it may be assailed & finally prostrated by unprincipled partisans looking for state & personal aggrandisement. It becomes therefore the wise & good of every section of our extended empire to rally round & support the most perfect constitution that has ever yet been bestowed on a nation. The Union, once severed, can never be restored on equal principles, & the small states will be swallowed up by the greater. My maxim has always been, with respect to N York, let who will rule or whatever party may predominate to do every thing for the improvement & aggrandizement of our state, that in case of trouble, we may be able to secure, at least, our own inestimable privileges.

. . . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [February] 9<sup>th</sup>. Still extremely cold, & much suffering by this protracted winter. Were it not for the abundant supply of anthartic coal in the city I know not what rich or poor c<sup>d</sup> do. As to inducing the humble to provide in summer for the wants of the winter, it is practically impossible. I have had 3 heats at it, & despair. The only remedy is the universal introduction of the use of coal for every domestic purpose in families. Then abundant supplies will be procured by the Vendors, for it requires little comparative room for Coal Yards compared with wood. Oak Wood is now selling at 4½ Doll<sup>rs</sup> a load, the 3<sup>d</sup> part of a cord @ \$13.50. It absolutely exhausts all the charitable funds that can be raised. . . . Arrivals of 2 packets bring great & interesting intelligence. . . .

Saturday [February] 12<sup>th</sup>. Providentially a fine day to observe the Eclipse w<sup>h</sup> engrosses all classes philosophers & fools, grown persons & children. I have just stepped down to Wall S<sup>t</sup> with a faithful promise to be back by 11½ o'clock when the Eclipse begins, leaving our boys on the look out & William smoking glasses for observation. . . . The John Linton put into Newport, being out of coal for the Cabbin 10 days, but Fuel eno[ugh] for cooking. Her passage must have been terrible. The Illinois yet lingers. Your brother is to meet the Palmers this aft.noon & on Monday I may give you his determination w<sup>h</sup> will depend altogether on the favourableness of the offer. If he accepts he will make a most capital agent for the concern, altho' it is a very troublesome one, but his intelligence & activity can do much for the interests of the owners.

Monday, [February] 14<sup>th</sup>. We had but a sorry Eclipse to the g<sup>t</sup> disappointment of the boys who expected to see the Fowls go to roost. At the commencement the sun shone bright, but was obscured by clouds before the eclipse attained its greatest obscuration & so continued until it was over, with no greater darkness than frequently occurs in a cloudy day. It was nothing

to compare to that of 1808 when it was really darker than twilight, but the event served to amuse the children & to explain to them the celestial phenomena. Every advantage must be taken to enlighten & expand their minds. No Illinois. She must probably have got into the gulf stream & been driven to the eastward. The Alabama was more fortunate. She is to sail on Wed<sup>y</sup>. The Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Pyne goes out passenger to N[ew] O[rleans] in behalf of Washington College Hartford. By request y<sup>r</sup> brother will give him some letters of introduction, to which I shall add one to the Doctor. He is a respectable Divine of the Epis<sup>l</sup> Church & goes out under the auspices of Bp. Brownell. Y<sup>r</sup> asking him to tea is all that is necess<sup>y</sup> as you do not belong to our communion. Your brother has assented to take the Agency of the new line <sup>7</sup> & one tenth interest. Mess<sup>rs</sup> Palmers write to this effect. The consummation of the agreement rests at N[ew] O[rleans]. Sh<sup>d</sup> it take place, the keel of the first ship will be laid in April & so on monthly until the whole are built when the line will commence running in Septem<sup>r</sup>. He thinks he sees his way clear & that it will be profitable. God speed him.

Shrove Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup>. Pan cake day to the great joy of our children. . . . Yest<sup>y</sup> we received via Jamaica, a confirmation of the death of Bolivar, the Liberator of So[uth] America. His character, unlike Washington, has been equivocal, but certainly he has been a very great general, & placed in most trying, desperate, & critical circumstances. It will soon be seen what is to be the fate of New Spain, whether like the successors of Alexander, it is to fall a prey to the ambition of those of Bolivar. It takes more to make a Free independent nation, than a mere Declaration. The degraded ignorant state of the Spanish colonies, subject

<sup>7</sup> The Louisiana and New York Line, the third line of regular packets between New York and New Orleans. Five ships were built and launched for this line in 1831: *Louisville*, Capt. Peter Price; *Nashville*, Capt. John Rathbone; *Natchez*, Capt. Hartwell Reed; *Creole*, Capt. Ambrose Page; and *Huntsville*, Capt. Charles Stoddard. See R. G. Albion's *Square-Riggers on Schedule*.



to the vilest superstitions of priestcraft, rendered them incapable of self government, & probably a whole generation must be cut off, like the Israelites of old, before the several disunited states can settle down into a peaceable happy people. . . .

With your other papers I send an Ev<sup>s</sup> Post containing biographical notices of the new British Ministry.

. . . . .

---

NEW YORK, Thur<sup>y</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup>, 1831. Quite mild

. . . The late excessively severe weather is I hope broken for the season. Since the blow at S. E. & hard rains of yest<sup>y</sup> it has cleared off as mild as April, & the snow happily for the country is dissolving gradually. The cold commenced 6<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> & the heavy snow on the 8<sup>th</sup> was followed by a succession of snows, w<sup>h</sup> rendered the sleighing uninterrupted till yest<sup>y</sup> so that we have had 6 weeks of winter as severe as I ever knew. The Sound was frozen across from N Rochelle to Sands Point Light House & the navigation entirely closed, that of our Bay & Harbour greatly impeded by floating Ice. Fuel, Wood has been as high as \$3½ a carmans load & w<sup>d</sup> have risen much higher but for the full supply of Pennsylv<sup>a</sup> Coal in the yards. A general consumption of this article can alone render poor people comfortable at a cheap price, & the constant improvements of cheap Furnaces will gradually introduce them into the apartments of the humble, who will soon learn how to use them. . . .

. . . . .  
Wed<sup>y</sup> [February] 23<sup>d</sup>. Fog & drizzle. I am to attend a special meeting of the Trustees of the Savings Bk. this p. m. & shall return early home. . . . Were it not for M<sup>r</sup> Dwight Editor of the Daily Advert[ise]r I sh<sup>d</sup> have no one with whom to interchange a sentiment. Reading is my only resource & that, esp<sup>y</sup> newspapers distresses my eyes. I fear that if spared I must shortly

become a recluse, next morbid & lastly that wretched being a misanthrope, w<sup>h</sup> God avert. It appears by the last letters from N[ew] O[rleans] that the new line of packets hinges on y<sup>r</sup> brothers accepting the Agency. To this he has unequivocally assented & M<sup>r</sup> Foster has been written to, to come on immed<sup>y</sup> to aid in building the ships, w<sup>h</sup> are to be of the first rate best materials & best found in every particular.

Thur<sup>y</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup>. . . . An old British officer Major Price of Boston, who served with my uncle Cap<sup>t</sup> Pintard in Germany, was notorious for his endless stories. It is related of him that on embarking for Eng<sup>d</sup> his conversation was interrupted, that on his return 9 years after he met the friend with whom he had parted on the Long Wharf, & seizing him by the button of his coat, resumed the subject of his interrupted story, with "as I was saying" & spun off the remainder of his Yarn. There is nothing more irksome than one of the tedious minute prozers except perhaps a prolix letter writer, like myself, for example. . . . Be not alarmed least your father sh<sup>d</sup> play the fool with others than y<sup>r</sup>self. I almost abhor writing, excepting to y<sup>r</sup>self, & really when I receive a letter it almost gives me an ague fit on opening it least I sh<sup>d</sup> have to answer it. Coming down to Wall S<sup>t</sup> this cold morning, the mild rain of yest<sup>y</sup> being blown off by a piercing N. Wester, I stopped in at the Union Sunday School office & bought G<sup>d</sup>father Gregory's tales for Julia & Ev<sup>s</sup> recreations which may be profitable read by children of larger growth. 2 more vol<sup>s</sup> are yet to appear w<sup>h</sup> shall be forwarded when published. I have looked into these & confess that my knowledge of the old Test[ament] is improved. There are several small works, on the geography, natural hist<sup>y</sup> &c. of the Scriptures, in course of public<sup>n</sup> w<sup>h</sup> shall also be sent. What are not the advantages of the present generation of children?

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>r</sup>. I rec<sup>d</sup> this morn<sup>g</sup> a letter from our Knight <sup>s</sup> w<sup>h</sup> after taking home for perusal, will bring down tomorrow & inclose for you to save repetition. It was delivered in time to call on his Uncle & obtain \$50 w<sup>h</sup> I remitted by mail instantly, so that it will reach him tomorrow, at 10, & enable him I hope to settle all demands & set off with his friends M<sup>c</sup>Neil & Davezac for Pittsburgh. His uncle says, if no impediments in the roads & that the waters sh<sup>d</sup> be up, he may arrive at N[ew] O[rleans] in 12 days after setting off. . . . Last ev<sup>g</sup> y<sup>r</sup> brother & sister attended a Charity sermon at S<sup>t</sup> Pauls for the Orphan Assylum, preached by the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Hawks, who was to have accompanied M<sup>r</sup> Pyne to N[ew] O[rleans]. The Church was crowded to suffocation almost. The sermon s<sup>d</sup> to be the most eloquent & pathetic ever delivered within its Walls, and the collec<sup>n</sup> \$627, one of the greatest ever made in any *Episcopal* Church in this city. This Rev<sup>d</sup> Divine has sealed his fame & thrown all his brethren into the background, excepting always the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Upfold of S<sup>t</sup> Thomas, who refused the use of his pulpit as I have heretofore told you. A renowned High Churchman, who, as he told y<sup>r</sup> sister, never moves a finger without consulting Bp. Onderdonk. Among modern improvements automaton preachers might be one, like hand organs, to grind off a sermon. It w<sup>d</sup> be a saving of g<sup>t</sup> expense. Such w<sup>d</sup> be the *Dumb Dogs* spoken of by the prophets. The machine might be set to high or low or no Church discourses, adapted to the meridian of the Congregations, who may as well sleep under wo[o]den as living automatons.

. . . . .  
[Addressed by:] Ship Illinois  
with a Packet

---

<sup>s</sup> John Pintard Davidson.

NEW YORK, Wed<sup>y</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> March, 1831. beautiful day

. . . This & the 2 preceding days are as mild as May, a very little chill in the atmosphere owing to the great body of snow in the country. Our streets are fluid with mud, excepting Broadway, the west side of which is dry & clean, along which the Belles & Beaux flutter like papillons, happy to get abroad to visit the Fashion Shops filled with the newest patterns of French & English Fancy goods received by the last arrivals. The mantua makers & milliners will be in full requisition & there will be a grand display of fashion & finery at the great *Fancy Ball* to take place on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are out, & one sent to your brother & sister w<sup>h</sup> they declined. . . .

Thur<sup>y</sup> [March] 3<sup>d</sup>. Bulletin. Dear Mother was bled yest<sup>y</sup> . . . By her request D<sup>r</sup> Francis bled Aunt Betsey yest<sup>y</sup>, w<sup>h</sup> she much required. Her blood the D<sup>r</sup> say[s] was as black as Tar. She was surprized to see it flow, without feeling the puncture, being accustomed to the phlegms of country physicians, instead of the delicate lancets in modern use. . . . The Doctors lady who had never before returned Mothers & Sisters visit, called yest<sup>y</sup> & saw them both. The Doctor said that she expressed herself much pleased with her visit, finding them probably not quite such vulgar cattle as she expected. M<sup>rs</sup> F. is the daughter of a M<sup>rs</sup> Cutler<sup>9</sup> of Boston, a Georgian I think, who when a widow, before her last marriage, was introduced to mothers acquaintance. She was an affable pleasing lady, is still living. M<sup>rs</sup> F. is tall, stooping, not handsome, but as a Doctors wife ought to be sociable. I understand that she is pious & attends M<sup>r</sup> Eastburns Church. She is also benevolent. . . . She has a brother also a Minister. I hope that the believing wife will convert the unbelieving husband. Francis, some 7 years ago, was taken very ill & his

<sup>9</sup>Sarah (Marion) Hyrne Cutler, widow of William Hyrne, who married as his second wife, Benjamin Clark Cutler, of Boston. N. S. Cutler, *A Cutler Memorial* (1889), pp. 565-66.

life despaired. Surrounded by the Faculty, young & old. I called repeatedly to see him. One morning, finding him all alone, much reduced in body & spirits, I spoke to him freely & fully on the state of his soul, & of the duty of making his peace with his maker & preparing for death, as I firmly believed that I sh<sup>d</sup> never see him again in this world. He was totally silent & squeezed my hand at parting. He recovered thro' the mercy of God, & told me of the many who had called to see him, not one, besides myself, ever spoke of his future state or gave him any spiritual advice. I asked him what he thought about his cond[it]ion. He replied that he thought that there were many among his acquaintances more wicked than himself. Sorry consolation for a dying sinner, but one I fear too often administered. Francis however in his worst estate was not to my knowledge a scoffing sceptic. He always spoke moderately on the subject of Divine Revelation, altho it was apparent that he as well as others of my philosophical friends regarded me as a weak enthusiast, for I never shrunk from contending for the Truth on all proper occasions. He is evidently more soberly inclined & abstains from that once free indulgence at the table w<sup>h</sup> was once too much the order of the day with most of us. His colloquial powers are great. Rather too cynical & vehement, but extensively read, & travelled. He has been to me a very entertaining, profitable companion. . . .

Sat<sup>y</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> March. . . . D<sup>r</sup> Francis bled me *copiously* yest<sup>y</sup> w<sup>h</sup> was much required. I feel lighter & less top heavy than before. I find, if spared, that this depletion must be annual at least. Col. Troup, who is about 4 years my senior, was advised by his physician to be bled semi annually, that it w<sup>d</sup> prolong his life 30 years. He has attained 31 years since following this advice, & has outlived all but two I think of his contemporaries at the Bar, of whom Col. Burr is one. Considering what a fall this man [h]as experienced, almost from the summit of political rank, what scenes he has passed thro' &

what mortifications he must have endured, his protracted years are marvelous. His health & appearance are good, but he passes thro' the streets, unnoticed tho' not unknown. He lives retired, attends to professional duties, but condescends to the most degrading litigations, contesting & disturbing titles to estates. Employed in no eminent causes, he is obliged for a living to condescend to those of the lowest character. I always feel a pang of regret whenever I see him. He was once kind to me, for w<sup>h</sup> I suffered by having to pay, as bail for D<sup>r</sup> Brown \$450 election bills, at a time when I c<sup>d</sup> illy afford it. Francis says that if I will submit to his counsels, that he will cherish my life till 90, a period improbable, not desireable, long before w<sup>h</sup> I shall probably become blind & lamed as well as deaf. I may infer that he thinks my constitution sound for my years. Thank God I feel it so. . . .

Monday [March] 7<sup>th</sup>. . . . .

I was espec<sup>r</sup> delighted in the ev<sup>g</sup> by reading attentively a sermon of the late Pres<sup>t</sup> Dwight on the Resurrection & a future state. It comprehends all that is revealed to us in Scripture on this interesting subject that naturally attracts human curiosity, & excites much imagination. S<sup>t</sup> Pauls 1 Epis[tle] to the Corinthians 15<sup>th</sup> Chap. is a summary of every thing that it has pleased God to reveal to mortals. It is the most sublime of all his Epistles, & what is more on so speculative a subject, most intelligible even to common minds. This Chapter is in our Funeral service, w<sup>h</sup> is read on occasions of distinction. Bp. Hobart was accustomed to read it with powerful effect & I have often told him that I considered it his masterpiece of eloquence. This as he justly w<sup>d</sup> remark depended greatly on his feelings at the time. There were occasions, at the funerals of eminent persons, such as Gen<sup>l</sup> Clarkson &c<sup>a</sup> when the Church was crowded by an Audience of our first characters, that the Bishops energies sh<sup>d</sup> be excited to their highest pitch. It was on such occasions that he far excelled all others that I ever heard. This solemn sublime service of our

Church is too often performed in the most monotonous common place manner, as tho' the minister was executing a task for the sake of his scarf, & wished to get over as quick as possible. . . .

11½ o'clock. To my astonishment, y<sup>r</sup> brother has called in & says that he has rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from Pintard, at Phil<sup>a</sup>, requesting \$70, that he has been detained expecting a remitt[anc]e from his father. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> March. . . . This morn<sup>g</sup> has been devoted to preparing the Report of the Funding Com<sup>e</sup> of the Savings Bank, w<sup>h</sup> always falls to my lot, to be laid before the Trustees at their monthly meeting this p. m. To indexing the last minutes of the A[merica]n B[ible] S[ociety] a job of 2 hours, & to attending a Committee of Losses of the Mut[ual] Ins[urance] C<sup>o</sup> on an important case, a policy of the Public School So[ciety] on one of their Schools lately destroyed by Fire, w<sup>h</sup> the Com<sup>e</sup> adjudged to be forfeited by informality. . . .

Friday [March] 11<sup>th</sup>. . . . Pintard [Davidson] says [*i.e.* writes] that Senator Johnston is to leave Phil<sup>a</sup> for Alex[andria, Louisiana] I presume on Sat<sup>y</sup>. Y<sup>r</sup> brother was in hopes that he w<sup>d</sup> have visited N Y & to have introduced him to us. He likewise says, M<sup>r</sup> J. has sent by the transportation line a portrait of his brother, for what purpose he does not mention, but we shall be very happy to see the likeness of our darlings companion. I have been highly gratified with the perusal of M<sup>r</sup> Johnstons letter on the subject of the proposed reduction of the tariff on N[ew] O[rleans] sugars. His premises are just & his conclusions sound. The Letter is admirable for clearness of conception & perspicuity, & ought to carry conviction with it. The mystery of the attempt to single out Louisiana alone for this reduction is obvious, a rod held over the planters & people to influence their votes in favour of Jackson. Y<sup>r</sup> brother whose ideas on this subject are practical, fully concurs with M<sup>r</sup> J. He

wrote an article signed Orleans on the subject, published in the Journal of Commerce last Nov. w<sup>h</sup> corresponds so fully with M<sup>r</sup> J. that one w<sup>d</sup> almost infer that he had it before him when he wrote the letter. M<sup>r</sup> J. has given proof of elaborate research & will well deserve a public dinner from his constituents when he returns to Louisiana.

Monday [March] 14<sup>th</sup> . . . The last N<sup>o</sup> of the Observer contains a letter from N[ew] O[rleans] of 14<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> giving an acc<sup>t</sup> of y<sup>r</sup> Sunday School meeting, with a very favourable & liberal description of y<sup>r</sup> city & Society, French & Americans. How greatly improved since my day. The worst part of y<sup>r</sup> winter population is, probably, the trading adventurers, who flock to N. O. in pursuit of rapid wealth. They leave their religion & morals, if they had any, at home, & adopt all the vices of fo[l]ly, gambling & dissipation, & do little credit to our country. Your slave trade too is of the very worst character, being generally the turbulent slaves of the south, sold to get rid of them & save the lives of the Virginians &c<sup>a</sup>. This dreadful curse is one day to be visited & I shudder to anticipate the period of awful visitation. Come it will & to our Southern states also w<sup>h</sup> are repeatedly agitated by the dread of negro con[s]piracies & insurrections. . . .

Tuesd<sup>y</sup> [March] 15<sup>th</sup>. beautiful mild day. Mother improving. I inclose you[r] sisters card for the Fancy Ball on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The Miss Schencks called yest<sup>y</sup> p. m. to see whether she was going, w<sup>h</sup> as not agreeable to M<sup>r</sup> S. she prudently declines. They say that it is to be the most splendid Ball that has ever taken place in this extravagant city. 700 Tickets are out. The Room is got up in a Fairy Grotto style & many ladies fantastic dresses are to correspond. . . .

[Addressed by:] Brig Trent  
with a small packet

---



NEW YORK, Tues<sup>y</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> March, 1831

. . . . .  
Your dear mother as I have written, has been again prostrated by Chill & Fever. It has pleased God once more to raise her from the bed of sickness & I hope that this attack, so early in the spring, may secure her from relapse or illness thro' the next summer. . . .

Thur<sup>y</sup> [March] 17<sup>th</sup>. . . . M<sup>r</sup> Bayard came to town yest<sup>y</sup> without Aunt Patty. . . . M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> B. accompany their daughter Julia to Virginia, to stay for a fortnight, leaving M<sup>rs</sup> Washington till the last of May . . . M<sup>r</sup> B. returns at 1 o'clock. I had provided a superior round of beef to alamode of w<sup>h</sup> he is very fond & a fine calves head mock turtle soup. The Rector will ask a blessing & represent not inadequately his father. The Bayards are all hearty feeders. Your Sister attended the wedding of Miss Bogardus to a M<sup>r</sup> Snowden merch<sup>t</sup>. Service by the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Upfold of S<sup>t</sup> Thomas. M<sup>rs</sup> U. was also there. The party not very large & a very genteel supper. Ret<sup>d</sup> home at 11. Sister was very shall I say gaily dressed but neat, her headdress with her pearl &c<sup>as</sup> looked more than smart, not gaudy but chaste & pretty. . . . I believe she will go to the Fairy ball tomorrow ev<sup>g</sup>. All the world is going father & it is to be the most superb, splendid & fanciful of any ever witnessed in this city. 700 Tickets @ \$15 ea. are out making 1400 couple, cost \$10,500. Where they are all to sit or stand must be left to the ingenuity of the Fairies. . . .

Friday [March] 18<sup>th</sup> . . . I rejoice that you have lit on a good cook at last. By this time you will have had proof of her disposition & conduct. Being sold out of so respectable a family as Judge Hays, appears against her. Dear Mother will call on M<sup>rs</sup> Hay, now with her Father in this city & enquire into her character. . . . Sister, who has had a variety of Cooks, good & bad, has now a very good one, Nancy, from Baltimore, the best she has ever had & good enough if she continues, as at present, contented. She has an excellent waiter, William, who is good to the boys & who are very fond of

him. Mary the Nursery maid, now 18 months with us, . . . .

Sat<sup>y</sup> [March] 19<sup>th</sup>. rain. Your sister went to the Fancy Ball last even<sup>g</sup> & got back at 12, without rain. . . . Your brother who was at first reluctant is pleased & gratified that he went. . . . The present y<sup>r</sup> brother says was managed with the great[est] propriety of any he ever witnessed, w<sup>h</sup> is to the praise of our gay city, indeed boisterous levity w<sup>d</sup> not be tolerated. Your brother thinks that Sister looked as well as most others, & surpassed the Schencks who perhaps were over gay. . . . I cannot forget that I was once young, & that such were most pleasing to me. Dear Mothers participation was but, from adverse circumstances, short lived, but she was once the gayest of the gay, as she undoubtedly was the fairest of the fair. . . .

Monday [March] 21<sup>st</sup>. . . . .

My time this morn<sup>g</sup>, now 1/2 p. 12, has been occupied about my French Church concerns, & will be more or less for a fortnight until the total removal of the reliques of our forefathers. We have quite an excitement in Wall S<sup>t</sup> this morn<sup>g</sup>. The City Bank has been robbed, between Sat<sup>y</sup> & last night, of, some say \$130,000, others, of \$160,000. . . .

Tues<sup>y</sup> [March] 22<sup>d</sup>. . . . .

All eminent characters generally, have been early risers. The soldier from necessity. Gen. Washington always rose before six the year round. My friend De Witt Clinton was habitually an early riser. I have repeatedly called on him at 6 & found him with his books & papers in his private office. He always remarked were it not for this practice he c<sup>d</sup> never write or despatch the business of the day. Divines generally, are sluggish, their sedentary lives lead to indulgence. Bp. Hobart was a *very* early riser never requiring more than 6 hours repose, but he was uncommonly energetic in mind & body. . . .

. . . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [March] 23<sup>d</sup>. Yest<sup>y</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> was y<sup>r</sup> Sisters birthday. . . . She did not get abroad till late, to pay her respects to M<sup>r</sup> S[ervoss]'s Aunt Wo[o]d, as it was her birthday also, when the good old lady completed her 86<sup>th</sup> year, a great age. She was very well. Having to attend the Vestry Du S<sup>t</sup> Esprit, I took my plate alone & in the ev<sup>g</sup> Sister accounted for her absence at dinner. She enjoys remarkable good health & spirits, & her nursling is a very fine quiet babe. The meeting of our Vestry was to increase the salary of our Rector in consequence of his change of situation. His was \$1750 a year & we granted \$600 more to hire a comfortable House. When our new Church shall be built, w<sup>h</sup> may cost, with site, \$30,000, & we shall [have] placed our revenue in secure funds, I hope that we shall be able [to] give M. Varen a permanent salary of \$2500, w<sup>h</sup> with prudence will enable him to live decently & comfortably, & to lay by something for his family. Time I trust will reconcile M<sup>r</sup> Hammersley to the match, who is rich, & will, in all events, not forget his daughter. Madame Varen is quite an amiable lady & we are attentive to her as our cousin. . . . This aft.noon I am to go to S<sup>t</sup> Clements Church, to give some directions respecting the new vault, w<sup>h</sup> I may hereafter describe.

. . . I have been all the morn<sup>g</sup>, now 1/2 11, engaged in preparing some facts respecting our late City Hall,<sup>10</sup> with dates to w<sup>h</sup> it was difficult to recur, for the Mirror,<sup>11</sup> together with a short introductory note for the instructive amusing tale of the Dean of Bajadoz.<sup>12</sup> . . .

Friday [March] 25<sup>th</sup> . . . The mystery of the detention of y<sup>r</sup> letter<sup>13</sup> was unravelled by y<sup>r</sup> brother. Having

<sup>10</sup> At Wall and Nassau Streets.

<sup>11</sup> Pintard's "A Brief History of the Old Federal Hall," was printed in *The New-York Mirror* of November 19, 1831 (vol. IX, p. 153).

<sup>12</sup> "The Dean of Badajoz" by the Abbé Blanchet, was printed in *The New-York Mirror* of April 9, 1831, vol. VIII, pp. 314-15, with an introductory paragraph by "Senex."

<sup>13</sup> Mrs. Davidson's original letter of February 7, 8 and 10, 1831, to her father, addressed by the *Tennessee*, was presented to The New-York Historical Society by Mrs. James M. Todd (Margaret Ker Texada), a great-great-granddaughter of Mrs. Davidson.

been sent too late for the Tennessee, it was forwarded by the ship Howard, w<sup>h</sup> had a very long passage. . . .

Sat<sup>y</sup> [March] 26<sup>th</sup>. . . .  
 I have just come from the Ch[urch] Yard [of the French Church] which is turned up in every direction, to take up Coffins & the decayed remains of past generations, to be placed in boxes, & taken away by their relatives or sent to the Vaults purchased in S<sup>t</sup> Marks Church at the upper end of the city. My Tomb is to be opened on Monday morn<sup>g</sup> where I shall attend at 9, to designate the Coffins 5 to be removed to my new Vault in S<sup>t</sup> Clements. . . .

Monday [March] 28<sup>th</sup>. . . . I have just come 11½ o'clock from a heart rending scene, taking up the Coffins from our family Vault. The Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Bayard breakfasted with us, after performing morning service in his Church at 6 o'clock, this being Passion Week. I also rose early to read the service & lessons of the day. He kindly attended me & render essential aid, as it was difficult to discriminate the diff[erent] coffins. Of the 5 w<sup>h</sup> I shall transport this aft.noon to our new Vault in S<sup>t</sup> Clements Church 2 only remain undecayed, My good old Uncle <sup>14</sup> & g<sup>d</sup>ma Brasher.<sup>15</sup> The Madames <sup>16</sup> & Captains <sup>17</sup> were too much decayed, & the contents were taken out & decently placed in poor Uncle Lewis' <sup>18</sup> Coffin, his remains being totally decayed, and the whole placed in an external Box. Of the 4 Van Dams, 2 only are so far entire as to be capable of being removed to S<sup>t</sup> Marks Church in cases, & the contents of the others placed in a Box. Of the Cutting Family, 3 are to be cased & 2 Coffins are entire. My poor heart is almost gone. It was difficult to suppress my tears, amidst a number of spectators all anxious to see the exhuma-

<sup>14</sup> Lewis Pintard (1732-1818).

<sup>15</sup> Mrs. Abraham Brasher (Helena Kortright), mother of Mrs. John Pintard, who died in 1819.

<sup>16</sup> Madame Marie Elizabeth (Desleau-Vallade) Pintard, second wife of Lewis Pintard.

<sup>17</sup> Captain Samuel Pintard, younger brother of Lewis Pintard.

<sup>18</sup> Lewis Searle Pintard, son of Captain Samuel Pintard.

tions that are going on in our antient Cemetery. At 4 this afternoon the dear reliques of my departed friends are to be taken to S<sup>t</sup> Clements & when deposited in the new vault may they rest in peace. . . .

Tuesd<sup>y</sup> [March] 29<sup>th</sup>. Bulletin. I left dear mother better. A rainy morn<sup>g</sup>. I was favoured by the weather yest<sup>y</sup> to accomplish the most painful services that can be rendered to the remains of our dear departed friends. By the arrangements of the morning the only 2 entire Coffins, my dear Uncles, with y<sup>r</sup> g<sup>d</sup>mamas, & the Case containing poor Uncle Lewis' decayed Coffin & the reliques of his Father & of the Madame, were all safely & decently transferred & repositied in my new Tomb in S<sup>t</sup> Clements Church at 5 o'clock p. m. y<sup>r</sup> brother & M<sup>r</sup> Bayard lending their kind assistance. The Vault is under the vestry room in the rear of the Church easily accessible without removing earth over its aperture, it being constructed like a cellar with doors, locks & keys. Tho' not so large is more so than most modern vaults. I have had it shelved at the lower end so as to contain Coffins without resting on each other. Dear old Uncle & g<sup>d</sup>ma repose side by side. Uncle Lewis' Box too large for the shelf rests on Locust plank, brought up from S<sup>t</sup> Esprit. Requiescant in pace. I had brought up the Marble Tomb stone, inscribed "Tombeau de la famille Pintard 1704" & will have the present year 1831 inserted & set up over the new vault. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [March] 30<sup>th</sup>. On Monday aft.noon y<sup>r</sup> brother sent home the Box w<sup>h</sup> arrived after my return home from S<sup>t</sup> Clements, opportunely, to dissipate the gloom that depressed my spirits. It was immed<sup>y</sup> opened & the portrait<sup>19</sup> placed on a Chair directly before dear mother to contemplate the resemblance of her new g<sup>d</sup>son, with w<sup>h</sup> she was very much pl[e]ased.

. . . . .  
This is my very solemn week. Thus far hath the Lord helped. As a small, not trifling, tribute of gratitude I send a packet by the Kentucky, with 31 vol. in

<sup>19</sup> Of John Harris Johnston (1795-1838).

neat half binding of the Tracts of the Am. Tract So. such as you have, for my Turtle Dove to present to y<sup>r</sup> Sunday School Library, also a map of Palestine for the Bible Class to be pres[en]ted by my dear Mary, who are both Teachers I presume. This with Mothers approbation. In the package are all Peter Parleys works in 7 vols for the Younglings Juvenile Library. Useful & entertaining. Also Marneys ring, with the last Observer & S[unday] S[chool] Journal, a Report on our Lunatic Assylum for the Doctors w<sup>h</sup> they will find useful, also Websters celebra[ted] speech on the Judiciary & his reply at the late dinner, for the Deputy. On the table of the portrait I see Currans speeches, indicative of the Judges early taste. Deputy, read Curran, but do not imitate his style. The Irish Orators are too flowery indeed hyperbolical for our chaster taste. *Study* Burke, when you can command time. He is a mine of political maxims, & not so florid as his countrymen, his wild Irish fancy chastened by English conversation. His Works, w<sup>h</sup> I do not possess or I w<sup>d</sup> send them were to me a luxury, surpassing Junius, in my estimation.

. . . . .

---

Broome S<sup>t</sup> Sat<sup>y</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> April, 1831. A May day

. . . . .

What a happy Easter you will all enjoy tomorrow. It will be a solemn day with me, to partake for the last time of the Lord's Supper in the Temple reared by our pious Forefathers, after which Divine services are to close, in order to dismantle the Church w<sup>h</sup> is to be delivered to the purchaser on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. . . . After concluding service in S<sup>t</sup> Esprit yest<sup>r</sup> I sent home a superb English Baskerville Folio Bible & 2 Folio Common Prayer Books, w<sup>h</sup> are to be loaned to S<sup>t</sup> Clements Church until called for, w<sup>h</sup> will be a long day. They are splendidly bound in blue Morocco, not much the worse for wear. They were procured in 1803, for the English service performed on Sunday afternoon, which after the de-

cease of M. Albert was discontinued. I shall endeavour to obtain our small Organ of excellent tone, Chandeliers & Christening Marble Font, for the temporary use of S<sup>t</sup> Clements, so as to help our Rev. Rector along. The setting up of the wood work is now in rapid progress & the Church may be completed for service in all May. A Bell is presented by M<sup>r</sup> Allaire a Founder, to the Church, a handsome acquisition.

Monday [April] 4<sup>th</sup>. A N. E. drizzly raw day. Dear Mother improving. Yest<sup>y</sup> Easter Sunday was a beautiful spring day the streets thronged with people going to Church. Altho' a day of rejoicing for the resurrection of our Redeemer, my individual feelings were very much exercised & depressed as I knelt at the Altar to receive the Sacrament for the *last time* in my old French Church. . . . I can never forget early impressions nor the simplicity of the worshippers in my almost infantile days. This day I shall attend at 12, the election of our Vestry. I have consented to act if chosen as Ch. Warden for the ensuing year. . . .

Tuesd<sup>y</sup> [April] 5<sup>th</sup>. A right March blustering day after hard rain last night. Dear mother convales[c]ing but exceedingly weak & emaciated, so I think than in any former attack, & her spirits are out of tone. Yest<sup>y</sup> I was together with the last Vestry re-elected for the current year. On a conviction that I may be useful I almost reluctantly consented to serve. Deference is paid to my opinions & respect thank God, to my age. This day there is to be a contested election in S<sup>t</sup> Thomas' Church, where an almost entire new vestry is to be run, adverse to the present Rector, M<sup>r</sup> Uphold. Sh<sup>d</sup> it succeed it will be a sure manifestation of having lost the affections of his congregation & of course his utility & must lead to a separation. Your brother, prudently, declines interfering. For myself considering my connection with S<sup>t</sup> Esprit, & having never voted in S<sup>t</sup> Thomas, it w<sup>d</sup> be indelicate, if not worse, at my period, to fish in troubled waters. . . . With respect to M<sup>r</sup> U. I never

had but one opinion, he is a weak brother, & his cheif merit w<sup>h</sup> introduced him into S<sup>t</sup> Thomas was being a sattelite of Bp. Hobart. As an avowed enemy of the A[merican] Bible S<sup>o</sup> perhaps my antipathy ag<sup>t</sup> him may be unduly excited. As I never brought him into the Church, God forbid that I sh<sup>d</sup> take a part in displacing him. Every thing is right, altho' at the time I tho't that the rejection of such a man as the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Eastburn was wrong, & those who at the time opposed him are now convinced of their error. M<sup>r</sup> E. is infinitely better off, Rector of the Ascension, w<sup>h</sup> by his zeal & merits, tho' unacknowledged by the late Bp. he is deservedly popular, enjoys the hearts & affections of a devoted respectable congregation. Before closing this I hope to give an account of the dedication of his Sunday School House next Friday, w<sup>h</sup> was to have taken place yest<sup>r</sup>, but postponed on acc<sup>t</sup> of the unfavourable state of the weather. But I must stop. This is also election day for Directors of the Mut[ual] Ins[urance] Co. . . .

Wedn<sup>r</sup> [April] 6<sup>th</sup> . . . The election in S<sup>t</sup> Thomas yest<sup>r</sup> resulted in favour of the old Vestry for w<sup>h</sup> I am glad, as the opposition proceeded from every thing else than a Xt<sup>n</sup> spirit. . . .

Thur<sup>r</sup> [April 7]. . . . I have taken a very severe cold & shall have great difficulty to read my minutes at the Managers meeting of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] this aft.noon. All my colds are accompanied by great hoarseness. After passing over this duty I shall endeavour to nurse myself a little. The Directors of the Mutual meet at 12 to elect, according to custom their president for the ensuing year. It is matter of form. M<sup>r</sup> Ireland a good man, & very kind to me will be re-elected. My old master Robert Lenox has been confined to his house with Erysipelas in his leg. Wealth will neither ensure health nor length of day. He has some good & is I have no doubt a sincere Xt<sup>n</sup>, but he like his countrymen is a bitter hater as I have experienced. God forgive him, in his day he has done me much harm. . . .



Friday [April] 8<sup>th</sup> . . . Yest<sup>y</sup> the A. B. S. granted a donation of 20,000 Testaments to the Union Sunday School, for the supply of the Valley of the Missi[ssip]pi. These western wilds have come more into notice in consequence of the efforts making to establish Sunday Schools, than on any other occasion. . . .

Saturday [April] 9<sup>th</sup> . . . I have been deputed to request Col. Varick, President of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] to present the S<sup>o</sup> with his full length portrait, to correspond with D<sup>r</sup> Boudinots & Gov<sup>r</sup> Jays. An intimacy of 40 years justified the overture, w<sup>h</sup> he graciously granted. It rained yest<sup>y</sup>. As no moment is like the present, notwithstanding that it blew almost a hurricane I called on the Colonel this morning to designate the artist. He named Ingham [*sic*], who had before painted two likenesses. He is a celebrated portrait painter. I had to walk back to Vesey St. & to request M<sup>r</sup> I. to call on the Col. for orders, to prepare the canvas, w<sup>h</sup> really almost exhausted me. On reaching the office I was glad to rest, when I had promised Andrew to prepare an introduction to Cooper the Novelists anecdote <sup>20</sup> respecting Gen. Washington for the Mirror, a copy of which when printed I will send to you. I had some research for facts & dates, & really it is surprizing what trouble a few short lines will give when one goes back 50 years to recall them. We are so much given to amplify & to throw into romance almost, the events of the rev<sup>y</sup> war, as to be disgusting to those better acquainted with the incidents of that memorable struggle for the Independence of these U<sup>d</sup> States. Truth requires no fiction to blazon the almost romantic scenes of that war. In my time I have taken some pains to correct such errors, with little thanks from their fanciful authors. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> April, clear & cool. At the Seamens Saving B<sup>k</sup>. . . . We sh<sup>d</sup> assuredly been very happy to have

<sup>20</sup> An extract from a letter from J. Fennimore Cooper, dated Paris, 28<sup>th</sup> of January, was printed in *The New-York Mirror* (April 16, 1831), VIII, 327.

seen the young medical student <sup>21</sup> but after such devotion to his studies it was natural for him to visit what was to be seen in the truly Athens of America, Phil[adelphi]a. This city is only the Pyræum of Athens, but I predict that it will in process of time excell all others in the U. S. as well in Arts & Sciences as in commerce. Great cities with great wealth afford encouragement & patronage to Literature, & generally speaking, in the background, as we certainly are at present, greater patronage is given to Authors & bookmakers in N. Y. than either Boston or Phil[adelphi]a, & this pabulum is every thing for the support of Literature. Our contemplated University will in the course of a few years work wonders in rearing up a new generation whose superior education must change the present, in a degree, grovelling character of N Yorkers. I know full well the contempt with w<sup>h</sup> we are regarded by our rival sisters B[oston] & P[hiladelphia] not a little owing to the jealousy of our vast superiority in commerce, w<sup>h</sup> from our geographical positions cannot be taken from us. . . . We are as yet scarcely in the grizzle of manhood, nor shall we arrive to anything like maturity till the end of this century. . . .

Y<sup>r</sup> brother by exposure last Friday & getting wet took a cold w<sup>h</sup> affected his hearing. D<sup>r</sup> Francis this morn<sup>g</sup> drew some blood w<sup>h</sup> will I hope relieve him. He will soon be over head & ears in business for the new line of packets. The shipwrights are in such full employm<sup>t</sup> that the keels of only 3 can be immed<sup>y</sup> laid. Cap<sup>t</sup> Price explored the Yards yest<sup>y</sup>. In consequence of the great demand for shipping, evidence of our increasing mercantile prosperity, each ship will probably cost more by 5000 D<sup>rs</sup> than last year, but the difference will be soon ballanced by the advanced rate of freights. I anticipate most favourable results to the concern, from 2 such active agents as y<sup>r</sup> brother in N. Y. & M<sup>r</sup> Foster in N[ew] O[rleans] both business men & competent to

<sup>21</sup> His grandson, John Pintard Davidson.

discharge faithfully their duties. On the 28<sup>th</sup> Sept. next Cap<sup>t</sup> Price is to sail in the first ship the others to follow at intervals of a fortnight. If every Comm<sup>r</sup> can equal or approach Cap<sup>t</sup> Price, it will be a noble concern.

Thurs<sup>y</sup> [April] 14<sup>th</sup>. Beautiful day. . . . Yest<sup>r</sup> Sister attended in the City Hotel the ann[iversar]y meeting of the Orphan Assylum. The exhibition of the children was most interesting. She paid her own & mothers subs[cription]s \$2 each with great satisfaction. The duties of the Seamans B<sup>k</sup> occurring at the same hour, 12, prevented me the pleasure of complimenting the good ladies who interest themselves in this important institution. Among the children were 3 orphan daughters of M<sup>r</sup> Duff formerly a wine merch<sup>t</sup> in this city. His wife was a daughter of D<sup>r</sup> Tillary a respectable physician of the best practice, who lived at the corner of B<sup>d</sup>way & Wall S<sup>t</sup> when G<sup>d</sup>ma lived in 72 B<sup>d</sup>way. She was a very pretty little woman, but unfortunately became, from her husbands misfortunes intemperate. They both died in early [life] leaving their 3 children a charge on the Assylum. It makes one shrink when we regard such instances & ask whose children may in process of time become subjects of the Assylum, to be bound out to service after the decease of parents, who spent their all in profuse extravagance, w<sup>h</sup> was literally the case with M<sup>r</sup> Duff, who was one of poor Uncle Lewis' boon companions. . . . Yest<sup>r</sup> dear mother, as a small tribute of gratitude to her heavenly Father for raising her from almost the bed of death, sent \$25 to the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Bayard towards procuring Communion plate for S<sup>t</sup> Clements. Sister sent the like sum the day before. Mother also sent \$20 extra towards the Communion Table. . . . The Rector is indefatigable in soliciting benefactions, & the Congregation is as yet hardly formed. What with plate, & hangings for the pulpit & desk, the burthen will fall heavy on a few. . . . In your packet I put up the last Mirror containing a favourite Eastern Tale, The Dean of Bajadoz, w<sup>h</sup> Andrew

with some difficulty procured. The short introd[uctio]n  
*Senex* will show what I once tho't of it. . . .

. . . . .  
 Friday [April] 15<sup>th</sup>. . . . As every one concerned in  
 the new line, is to build his own ship & provide the  
 commander, y<sup>r</sup> brother has agreed with Cap<sup>t</sup> Reed, a  
 gentlemany man, who formerly commanded one of the  
 Mississippi Steam Boats, well known & esteemed in  
 N[ew] O[rleans]. There is great difficulty in making  
 contracts for ships, nor will the line be completed as early  
 as anticipated. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Kentucky

---

NEW YORK, Sat<sup>y</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> April, 1831

. . . No decision as yet about y<sup>r</sup> brothers new ship.  
 M<sup>r</sup> Eckford one of our principal builders launched yest<sup>y</sup>  
 a superb ship of 1000 Tons pierced for 24 Guns, a Flier  
 for Russia, it is said, & is laying the keel of a 74 for  
 the same power. This shows the fame of our port for  
 ship building. I asked y<sup>r</sup> brother whether 2 of the pack-  
 ets c<sup>d</sup> not be as well & much cheaper built in Phil<sup>a</sup>. He  
 observed no, that altho' timber materials & workman-  
 ship were as good, yet the Phil<sup>a</sup> shipwrights had not the  
 tact to model & finish ships equal to the N Yorkers. The  
 case formerly was otherwise & a Phil<sup>a</sup> built ship bore  
 the palm far away, but in consequence of the increased  
 navigation of this port, the finest ships that float on the  
 ocean are constructed here, as is admitted at Liverpool  
 & Havre. The new line is to be built on the model of  
 the Alabama a beautiful ship, but a little longer & more  
 breadth of beam, w<sup>h</sup> will make the ships about 600 Tons,  
 equally buoyant & stowing more. . . .

. . . . .  
 Tues<sup>y</sup> [April] 19<sup>th</sup>. . . I think much very much of  
 you all & esp<sup>y</sup> of our darling <sup>22</sup> & hope that by this date  
 the Talma has arrived with the Baby things for her

<sup>22</sup> Mrs. John Harris Johnston (Eliza Ellen Davidson).

amusement. Altho' a wide difference in quality, I hope that you may have preserved for her one of the little frock[s] w<sup>h</sup> she once wore at Pinckneyville, as a remembrancer of her childhood. All of my poor dear Mothers were sadly scattered. The revol<sup>y</sup> war made sad havoc in this city of every family relic. I can recall the old family pictures & furniture, now no more, w<sup>h</sup> tho' far inferior to modern luxuries, one c<sup>d</sup> wish to have retained as household gods. Of plate even, I know not that I possess a single article that was once my dear mothers, & very few that have been preserved of my g<sup>d</sup> fathers. The love of novelty plays a vengeance with old family plate, & the same in succession is to be the fate of the fashions of the present day. La! Mama, I would not keep such an antiquated Teapot, &c<sup>a</sup> on my table, and as to old Tankards, Mugs &c<sup>a</sup> they are quite a bore, fashionable plated ware is much more tasty & splendid. But my child such things came from my dear parents. Oh, a fig for such things, I am tired of seeing them. Well dear, as you please, we will exchange them for something more modern. As it was in the beginning is now & ever shall be, & why mourn that our children sh<sup>d</sup> act the same foolish parts that we did. The preceding is a short colloquy of real life.

.....  
 Thurs<sup>y</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> April. I had a very satisfactory conversation yest<sup>r</sup> with D<sup>r</sup> Francis respecting dear Mother. He says that tho' very weak her debility arises from agitated spirits & want of air & exercise. He recommends high seasoned food, to restore & stimulate her appetite, & that there is no appearance of danger. Francis is very candid, as a physician ought to be, the very opposite of the late Doctor Post, who was the most cold, heartless man I ever knew. Approached his patient, felt the pulse, prescribed & retired without opening his lips nor satisfying the enquiries of an anxious family. Still his practice was very extensive among the wealthiest families, & he died rich. His whole stock of books w<sup>d</sup> not have filled a wheelbarrow. F[rancis] on

the contrary has a very extensive professional Library, also every modern work of dis[tinc]tion & merit. He is frank & communicative, & considers it a religious duty to be candid with his patients & families. . . .

Friday [April] 22<sup>d</sup>. This day determines the doom of the two bloody pirates<sup>23</sup> who are to be executed for their horrible murders on the ocean. An account of their confessions & execution will no doubt be published, of w<sup>h</sup> I will endeavour to send you a copy. The Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Bayard visited Gibbs or Jefferies several times. He was to have had a last interview yest<sup>r</sup>. He found him penitent & resigned to his fate. May a gracious Judge be more merciful to him than he was to his fellow creatures. A more cold blooded murderer is scarcely to be found in the annals of piracy.

Most ext<sup>r</sup> tidings this day from Washington, the resignation of the whole of the Presidents Cabinet w<sup>h</sup> he has accepted. The important particulars are on the way to N[ew] O[rleans] & will reach you long ere this. The convulsions of the old world seem to extend to the new. This event is unprecedented in the Hist<sup>r</sup> of the U. S. It is said that Edw<sup>d</sup> Livingston will be app<sup>d</sup> Sec<sup>r</sup> of State. He will make a more honest & confidential one than Van Beuren. . . . But certainly there was a period when statesmen were more upright than at present. America, indeed the world, will never see another Washington, nor with all his personal errors, a wiser or more honest statesman than Alex<sup>r</sup> Hamilton. . . .

Sat<sup>r</sup> [April] 23<sup>d</sup>. . . . In former, now long gone by days, it was the practice for all young ladies to copy the Family receipts, to serve when they became housekeepers, for generally the printed receipt books, such as M<sup>rs</sup> Glass,<sup>24</sup> &c<sup>a</sup> were so extravagant & troublesome, in their

<sup>23</sup> Accounts of Charles Gibbs and Thomas J. Wansley may be found in *The New-York Observer*, April 16, and 30, 1831; in the *New-York Gazette* for April 23, 1831, and other contemporary newspapers. The New-York Historical Society has four pamphlets of 1831 relating to the trial and execution of Charles Gibbs.

<sup>24</sup> Mrs. Hannah Glasse, *The Art of Cookery*.

prescriptions, as to be scarcely reducible to practice, therefore the old, long tried family receipts, were only to be relied on. . . . What an excellent cook Hannah was, brought up by the old Madame, & also g<sup>d</sup>mas Silvey. . . . Yest<sup>r</sup> at 12, the pirates expiated their crimes at Ellis' island, & their bodies were delivered to the surgeons who like vultures hovered round their prey. . . .

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April. . . .

What concerns us more nearly is the resignation of the late cabinet. M<sup>r</sup> Van Beurens letter is a complete mystification, almost unintelligible, Eatons is shorter & simpler, but neither give reasons for their conduct. The truth must be that they lost by their duplicity, esp<sup>r</sup> V. B., the Presidents confidence, without which a cabinet cannot exist. E. Livingston will make a much more confidential sec<sup>r</sup> & will no doubt support Gen Jacksons views to a reelection with cordiality. Of his talents there can be no doubt. Those of V. B. are great but he is a perfect intrigant, a complete Tallyrand.

Thur<sup>r</sup> [April] 28<sup>th</sup> . . . As I have mentioned, I think, that thro' my persuasions Col. Varick is sitting for his whole length portrait, by Inman, to place in the Managers rooms of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety]. Being infirm on his feet, I attend him daily at 11, to Inmans, in Vesey S<sup>t</sup> above S<sup>t</sup> Pauls, a long walk from Pine S<sup>t</sup> in w<sup>h</sup> he lives. We crossed over to the Depository to decide on the Frame, w<sup>h</sup> is to be nearly similar to D<sup>r</sup> Boudinots. . . .

Sat<sup>r</sup> 30 April. . . . (1/2 p. 12). I have just ret<sup>d</sup> attending Col. Varicks last sitting to Inman, 4 times, the likeness is faithful & admirable. M<sup>r</sup> Inman is going to Phil<sup>a</sup> where he will finish the portrait in about 3 mo[nth]s. He will eclipse Sully who is not happy in his likenesses. He murdered D<sup>r</sup> Boudinot, so that we were obliged to procure another portrait, of w<sup>h</sup> you had an engraving, defaced but not replaced. . . . The Rev<sup>d</sup>

M<sup>r</sup> Bayard whose exertions are unremitted, proposes to have his Church, S<sup>t</sup> Clements, consecrated next Thur<sup>y</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> May. It will be a singular circumstance, that the foundation of that Church, was the last act of the kind by Bp. Hobart, & the consecration, the first act by his successor Bp. Onderdonck. I cannot speak too much in praise of the Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Bayards zeal & pre-severance, nor do too much to the utmost of my poor ability to aid him. He proposes to give a plain cold collation after the service to the Bishop & Clergy, & Sister has generously promised to do what ever is in her power to assist. I shall go up this afternoon & help arrange the Bill of fare, & to relieve Cornelia by making some preparations at home, such as an Alamode round w<sup>h</sup> our Cook prepares elegantly. We cannot do too much on this occasion. . . .

Tues<sup>y</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> May. Mother quite bravely. A fine day, she may possibly take a walk or airing at noon. Yest<sup>y</sup> your sister called on M<sup>rs</sup> Hay. Her information respecting Sally is not as c<sup>d</sup> be wished. M<sup>rs</sup> H. says that she is an excellent Cook, neat & clean & has many good properties, *but* fond of liquor & when intoxicated is a dreadful creature with a most virulent tongue. If strictly governed she may be restrained or reclaimed when she may become a most useful servant. She is pleased to hear that she is with a family connection & desires to be remembered to her & expresses a hope that she may be deserving of her good lot. M<sup>rs</sup> Hay says that she has several young slaves, I think Sallys children, of excellent dispositions, w<sup>h</sup> being her own, she must sell as she is obliged to break up housekeeping. The eldest a girl of 14 years, an excellent Cook & many good properties. She c<sup>d</sup> wish to sell them altogether & reasonably, that they may live with or near each other. Is there any possibility that the lot w<sup>d</sup> suit Judge Johns[t]on, or of his making any arrangement to purchase them & safely transported to him. Coming from a respectable family, trained to decent habits they w<sup>d</sup> be an acquisition. She



promised to send Sister a list, w<sup>h</sup> if rec<sup>d</sup> before making up my packet tomorrow I will inclose. Col. Monroe is still with his daughter M<sup>rs</sup> Gouverneur, but is in very delicate health. Y<sup>r</sup> Sister did not see him. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> May. . . . .

I have been & shall be exceedingly engaged with the preliminary preparations for the Anni[versar]y of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety]. The past has been a very busy year, & thank God, thus far most prosperous. The Tract Society & Sunday School Union are equally so, & engaged in expediting their Boxes of Books by the Illinois, to go up the river for the [Mississippi] Valley effort. A very large, unusual, number of Boxes of Bibles & Test[aments] from the A. B. S. go by the same conveyance. . . .

[Addressed by Ship] Illinois

N YORK, Wed<sup>y</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> May, 1831

Thur<sup>y</sup> 5<sup>th</sup>. M[utual] Ins[urance] Office. Here I am instead of attending the consecration of S<sup>t</sup> Thomas' [*sic for* Clement's] Church as proposed . . . I was obliged to call at the Collector's Office City Hall to pay assessments on M<sup>r</sup> S. Bayards lots for paving, to prevent their being advertised for sale. Again on his business I waited on D<sup>r</sup> Milnor who had nominated M<sup>r</sup> Bayard as a Vice Pres<sup>t</sup> of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] in place of the late Judge Kirkpatrick. D<sup>r</sup> Milnor is confined by the gout & cannot attend the meeting of the Managers this p. m. & I must endeavour to find some other friend. M<sup>r</sup> Frelinghuysen is also in nomination & it is very problematical whether M<sup>r</sup> B. will be elected. These subjects clashed with my attendance at S<sup>t</sup> Clements, w<sup>h</sup> out of respect to the Rector, Sister & myself have provided all necessary refreshments, in abundance, with wine. The Vestrymen are all young men unacquainted with such arrangements. It was fortunate for Cornelia

that she had friends that were, & disposed to relieve her from all anxiety on this head. William goes to wait. Mother, Sister & the boys rode up yest<sup>r</sup> aft.noon. It is a beautiful Gothic Church on a small scale & very neatly fitted up within. A small Organ, full large en<sup>o</sup> for the size of the Church, w<sup>h</sup> was in S<sup>t</sup> Thomas' was fitting up & w<sup>d</sup> be ready for this morning. An excellent young gent<sup>n</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Walton, preparing for the ministry is volunteer Organist, full of zeal, ardour & enterprize, a man after my own heart. . . .

Sat<sup>r</sup> [May] 7<sup>th</sup>. . . . Sister only, attended the consecration of S<sup>t</sup> Clements. The day was not unfavourable. A respectable congregation, & Bishop Onderdonck & 16 Epis<sup>l</sup> ministers. Every part of the Service & discourse by the Bishop were solemn & impressive. The Choir of good ladies & Organ performed to a charm. The refreshments were ample & pleased Cornelia. I shall attend, weather permitting, opening the Church tomorrow. To give you an idea how I am pres[s]ed & what I can go thro' in an emergency I will just sketch my operations of yest<sup>r</sup>. Rose early, went to the Barbers ½ p. 6, to market at 7, ret<sup>d</sup> home to prayers & breakfast at 8, called ½ p. 8 at M<sup>r</sup> George Rapeljes, by request of D<sup>r</sup> Turner, to see whether, as possessor of a considerable parcel of land at Greenwich, he will not bestow a site for a Church, to be erected in that Quarter, w<sup>h</sup> will enhance the value of his lots. Found him not within, the same this day. Reached the Depository at 9, made out Resolutions referred to Committees. At office ½ p. 10, arranged my minutes for Andrew to engross, who made out, neatly 4 certificates, 2 for M<sup>r</sup> Bayard & M<sup>r</sup> Frelinghuysen, elected Vice presidents for New Jersey, 2 for M<sup>r</sup> Stuyvesant & D<sup>r</sup> Willett elected Managers, trotted back to the Depository with the certificates to be instantly forwarded by mail & to the new Managers. This is always my rule to prevent lapses. Came back to Wall S<sup>t</sup> to arrange business for the Anniv<sup>r</sup>. Called at 2 at the Depository to make out warrants for the work peoples wages. At 3 set off hom. On my way

called on M<sup>r</sup> Rapelye. Not in, the same this morn<sup>g</sup>. I must write to him a letter on the subject but w<sup>d</sup> prefer conversation to remove objections. He is rich in money as well as land & has no children. I doubt of success, but having put my hand to the plough will not look back. Dined at 4. Intending to go to S<sup>t</sup> Clements, but the air was raw & piercing so Mother dissuaded me. I was glad to take it, for my mind having been on the stretch all day, it required repose. . . . I am interrupted by a call to do some duty for Washington College Con[necticu]t, Bp. Brownells. More anon.

Monday [May] 9<sup>th</sup>. Altho' it rained in torrents yest<sup>r</sup>, a complete N E storm, & the wind a tempest, I beat up to S<sup>t</sup> Clements to attend the opening of this beautiful Church, for Divine service & to receive the Sacrament at the hands of its very efficient Rector the Rev. L. P. Bayard. The storm prevented anything like numbers, about 20 Communicants. However, it was gratifying to see the decency & propriety in everything about this church. Nothing splendid but everything neat. The desk pulpit & curtains in front of the Organ loft crimson silk damask & fringe, the drapery of the Communion Table very chaste & tasty, white satin with crimson Festoon. The sacramental plate, plain silver, ewer, 2 vases, 2 pattens, 4 plates cost \$200, defrayed by subscription.

. . . . .  
Tues<sup>r</sup> [May] 10<sup>th</sup>. . . . The Steamboat in which Thomas [Servoss] came from Newburgh last night [was so crowded] that the passengers were obliged to sit up, or keep the deck. It was excessively cold for the season. The rain & hail squalls thro yest<sup>r</sup> having cleared off at ev<sup>g</sup> with a N. wester. Besides the good & pious who resort in throngs to attend our Anniv[ersarie]s, vast numbers of the gay, gambling world are attracted to witness the great race at Jamaica for a \$10,000 purse, between a colt of Eclipse & a southern. Every thing on wheels & four legs have been engaged to go to the ground. A Horse race is certainly a beautiful sight, esp<sup>y</sup>

such coursers as will be started to day. My scruples are not so great as to make me condemn this only mode of improving the breed of that noble & useful animal, the Horse. Great pains are taken to restrict gambling & drinking on the grounds, but the black leg gentry & all sorts of pickpockets &c<sup>a</sup> will evade the strictest laws. . . . This p. m. we shall attend at the park to see the Sunday [School] Scholars. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [May] 11<sup>th</sup> . . . But here comes y<sup>r</sup> brother ½ p. 10, with a letter & a smile. "There is no end to your progeny in N[ew] O[rleans]." "News about Eliza?" "No." "What then?" "Louise is helping herself to a partner." <sup>25</sup> . . . . .  
The Judge & Rev. son is to dine with us, & then I have to attend the Funeral of M<sup>r</sup> Jones, the son in law of M<sup>r</sup> J. Mason, who fell a victim to consumption, possessed of an ample fortune, beautiful wife & everything that c<sup>d</sup> render life happy. Sic transit.

Friday [May] 13<sup>th</sup>. Our anniversary, 15<sup>th</sup>, went off gloriously. The weather was most auspicious, as it has been all this week. Heaven smiles upon us. We never had so numerous an audience. The Middle Dutch Church in Nassau S<sup>t</sup> crowded to excess, pews aisles & Galleries. . . .

Sat<sup>y</sup> [May] 14<sup>th</sup>. . . . .  
I believe that henceforward I shall write semimonthly by mail, w<sup>h</sup> will be quicker than by the packets, & as they accumulate I will send y<sup>r</sup> papers by them. Of the new line of packets 4 are contracted for. The 5<sup>th</sup> not yet. Capt. Holmes who pretended to dislike the molds, has been, I understand to endeavour to contract for a new ship just like these. His concern has been most profitable this season, freights being so high. . . .  
[Addressed by Ship] Louisiana

---

<sup>25</sup> Louise Pintard Davidson married in June, 1831, Richard Bedon Screven, Lieutenant, U. S. Army.

NEW YORK, Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> May, 1831

Tuesd<sup>y</sup> [May] 17<sup>th</sup>. . . . The Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Bayard just stepped in & informs me that he has rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from his father announcing that his sister Caroline was safely put to bed on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> inst. with a daughter.<sup>26</sup> . . . .

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May. A letter inclosing a *precious* lock of hair, is just rec<sup>d</sup> 1/2 p. 10 to relieve our solicitude for our beloved Darling, and to make us rejoice "that on Wed<sup>y</sup> morn<sup>g</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> May, 40 minutes after 3 o'clock," a man child was born into this world at N. Orleans. . . . I shall forthwith, as I return home call at the Depository & constitute my g<sup>t</sup> g<sup>d</sup>son, John Pintard Johnston, son of the Honourable John Johnston of Alexandria, Louisiana, member for life, of the American Bible Society.

[Addressed:] By Mail via Mobile

---

NEW YORK, Sat<sup>y</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> May, 1831

Monday 23<sup>d</sup>. A delightful day. Dear Mother was to go to the Silver Smiths to bespeak the birth day gift for her g<sup>t</sup> grandson, also one for S<sup>t</sup> Louis, w<sup>h</sup> to my mortification has been omitted. . . .

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>. . . . Yest<sup>y</sup> being a very fine cool pleasant one, Mother & Sister went in search of & found cups to please them. Darlings will be inscribed, "A Birthday Gift, 4<sup>th</sup> May 1831, to John Pintard Johnston, by his g<sup>t</sup> g<sup>d</sup>mother, Eliza B. Pintard." The same with alteration of date & name to St. Louis P. Servoss. . . .

[Addressed:] By Mail via Mobile

---

<sup>26</sup> Martha Bayard Dod, daughter of Albert Baldwin Dod and Caroline S. (Bayard) Dod. Dodd and Burnet, *Genealogies of the Male Descendants of Daniel Dod* (Newark, N. J., 1864), p. 143.

NEW YORK, Wed<sup>y</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> May, 1831

My last of 24<sup>th</sup> inst. yest<sup>y</sup> was despatched by mail. . . . The Talma lingers altho several vessels have arrived from N[ew] O[rleans] in short passages. By her I may possibly send this, on 1st June, or more probably by mail, to advise you of having put on board the little packet cont<sup>s</sup> the certificate, Bible & g[rea]t g[ran]dma's presentation cup, w<sup>h</sup> is her choice & I think pretty. The engraving is neatly done. Long may my dear little namesake [John Pintard Johnston] live to look upon it as the gift of his g<sup>t</sup> g<sup>d</sup>mama. If preserved, he will not need to go to the Family Bible to look for the date of his Birth. . . . Our country retreat is yet unsettled. Were it not for the youngers, Sister says that she w<sup>d</sup> remain in town, but in the extreme heat of July & August they will languish for want of country air & exercise. The difficulty of locating lies with Mother who requires more accommodation than can readily be found for both our families. Bath w<sup>d</sup> be preferable, nearly as cheap, more commodious & of easy access, but the mal air, w<sup>h</sup> seems to infest this place after the middle of Aug<sup>t</sup> has proved so nearly fatal, twice, to Mother that she will not encounter it a third time. . . . Poor Thomas will be quite disappointed as he took much pains to hunt up a place at M<sup>rs</sup> James Wiltzes near the river. . . .

Thur<sup>y</sup> [May] 26<sup>th</sup> . . . I came down to Wall S<sup>t</sup> as usual, my spirits exhilarated with the important news of the glorious victory of the Poles 5<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> April over the Russians. Heaven smiles on a brave people fighting for their liberties against a ruthless barbarous despot. . . . The news by the last arrival from Liverpool, as will be published in y<sup>r</sup> papers before this reaches you is most extr[a]o[r]d[inar]y, the defeat of the English ministry in their plan of Reform, the determination of William 4<sup>th</sup> to support his ministers by dissolving the present Parliament & affording by a new election, the English nation of expressing its opinion for or against

Reform. The Nobility, great Landholders & Ecclesiastics, pertinaciously adhere to the existing abuses of rotten boroughs & partial representation. Whether the commonalty possess virtue & strength sufficient to give a decided majority to the ministers in a new parliament, will soon be seen. England is certainly in a very critical state. As to France all is distraction & new revolution more or entirely republican is not improbable. The continent of Europe is convulsed, & the overthrow of Despotism is at hand. . . .

[Addressed:] Mail  
via Mobile

---

NEW YORK, Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> May, 1831

. . . Herewith you will receive copy of a note from M<sup>rs</sup> Hay to y<sup>r</sup> sister, sent yest<sup>r</sup> containing the names of her 12 slaves which she wishes to sell. Young & old, their properties & characters appear to be favourable, & coming from Col. Monroe & M<sup>rs</sup> Hays family, is a recommendation that may be relied on. If within the view & power of Judge Johnston to make the purchase, 12 slaves belonging to one family, some born & all accustomed to each other might probable be an acquisition. . . . Col. Monroe, I am sorry to say, is quite ill, & possible near the term of his years. No doubt his embarrassed situation has broken his spirits. Political eminence, where a man, like Gen. Washington, does not enjoy an independent fortune, too commonly ends in destitution & leaves children in poverty. Witness Jefferson & Monroe & my friend De Witt Clinton, all rich in Fame but bankrupts in fortune. Our former Governor Geo[rge] Clinton, tho' very moderately compensated lived in frugal times, not avaritious, but very economical, by early investments in certificates & lands when both were very low, left a rich inheritance to his family. I have always been jealous that there was foul

play with his Will, as he appeared to die intestate, as I think he w<sup>d</sup> have bequeathed something handsome to a nephew who sustained more than his name & fame. I repeatedly intimated my suspicions to M<sup>r</sup> Clinton, but he was always reserved on the subject, his usual mode, when he did not wish to commit himself by an imprudent remark or censure. He took every remark most freely & friendly from me, altho' they were sometimes unpleasant, yet true predictions of the faithlessness & ingratitude of his politick friends. His looks acknowledged their justness, but he never or seldom replied. I have often told him, that with all our intimacy & general freedom of communication, were I [to] turn his bitterest Foe, I scarcely knew a single circumstance, with adherence to truth, that c<sup>d</sup> injure him, w<sup>h</sup> was saying a great deal considering his general frankness & inclination to great freedom of speech. He was by no means taciturn, and in private life immaculate. In public he sacrificed his better judgment to please his party & failed. His Uncle, on occasion of a speech that reflected on the Federalists, to please the violent democrats, "That the Federalists w<sup>d</sup> rather rule in Hell than serve in Heaven," told him De Witt you are mad. The expression did him no good with his party, & embittered the old Federalists against him till his dying day. I often lamented in his company when alone this imprudent remark, to which he tacitly assented, but c<sup>d</sup> not reply. On one occasion looking at a very correct engraving of him, in his best days, of w<sup>h</sup> he gave me a copy still preserved, M<sup>rs</sup> C. asked me how I liked it. I expressed my full approval. Is it not handsome? Yes Madam. Do you know what Book he has in his hand? No. Milton, his favourite author. The unexpected remark caused a burst of laughter & made him scratch his Head. The Quotation alluded to was from Milton. The above occurred some years after his very imprudent application of it, w<sup>h</sup> I often, in vain, endeavoured, to palliate. It shows his heart, was the retort. They did not know his heart. It was good. But his head, politi-



cally, was sometimes wrong. So true is the maxim, that the head of a political leader like the serpents, is impelled by the Tail. Take him all in all, he was maganimous. Not the less I trust for his constant regard for his humble friend, for w<sup>h</sup> also he was unjustly censured, but never hurt my feelings by telling me so. I learnt the unwelcome fact from others, but thank God our intimacy & friendship lasted uninterruptedly till his death. He avowed his esteem for me, calling me his oldest & most disinterested friend, to his noble son Charles, only a short time before his sudden departure. . . .

Sat<sup>y</sup> [May] 28<sup>th</sup>. Talma not arrived. By her I shall send 2 Copies of this days Observer, one for Darling, in w<sup>h</sup> she will see her first born's name announced ere it is a month old, an honour never conferred upon any [of] her family, on either side, before. My friend Mr Nitchie Gen<sup>l</sup> Agent of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] thought that the fact of my being the first g<sup>d</sup>father & g<sup>t</sup> g<sup>d</sup>father that constituted his grand and g<sup>t</sup> g<sup>d</sup>children, members for life of the A. B. S. deserved notice as an example for g<sup>d</sup>fathers to go & do likewise. He accordingly, without my knowledge, sent the article to the Observer. I sh<sup>d</sup> have demurred had I been consulted, thro fear of being charged with vanity. As it is it will gratify me if a single g<sup>d</sup>child shall, in imitation be made a member. . . . You will also receive the just published No. 40, of Monthly Extracts for May, containing some of the addresses delivered before the A. B. S. at the last Anniver<sup>y</sup>, which will delight. That of Mr Hasbrouck is, in my opinion, the most elegant that has ever been delivered before our So[ciety]. Marney, this gentleman is a Lawyer, perhaps not much beyond 30 years, chaste in composition & animated in delivery, it made a most impressive effect on the Audience. Study as a model. Governor Vrooms of N Jersey, is also a very fine address & well delivered. He also is not far advanced in life & belonged to the Bar.

. . . . .

Thurs<sup>y</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> June. Extreme heat. . . . M<sup>r</sup> Ab. Schenck of Mattawan died the 31<sup>st</sup> after a long confinement of nearly 3 years. Your brother will endeavour to attend his funeral tomorrow afternoon. . . .

Friday 3<sup>d</sup> . . . The Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Brigham our Sec<sup>r</sup> for Dom. Cor[respondence] was appointed yest<sup>y</sup> to go to France, on the subject of exploring, to see what aid, if any, can be afforded by the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] for the diffusion of the Scriptures in that country. . . .

Sat<sup>y</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> June. . . . Yest<sup>y</sup> the Bayard family dined with us, all but Cornelia, who was not well but, with Susan, walked down in the ev<sup>g</sup>. The latter is a beautiful delicate girl very much like her Aunt Julia. Sister provided an excellent matter of fact dinner, with plenty of peas & strawberries, & an ice cream to top off with. Caroline is very well & babe. M<sup>r</sup> Todd<sup>27</sup> is of delicate health. His salary is \$1000 a year & a snug comfortable house. It will probably be raised to 1200 next fall, w<sup>h</sup> with economy will support a young couple comfortably. July is well but delicate, much as when you saw her. Her children are passing thro' the whooping cough. She is Aunt Pattys idol. Lou, the Rev<sup>d</sup> Rectors eldest son Lewis is with his g<sup>d</sup>parents, preparing for College. He is promising. The College looks up, 125 students this season. I hope that my Alma Mater has seen its lowest depression. She stands high in repute at present. Aunt Betsey is well, so is the Morven family. The Raritan & Delaware Canal goes on rapidly & will be completed next year, for sloop navigation. Cap<sup>t</sup> Stockton & his father in law<sup>28</sup> own a majority of shares & have the whole control. He is president of the concern, Salary \$2500. M<sup>r</sup> Thompson his brother in law has appointment with \$1500, w<sup>h</sup> enables him to live comfortably in his handsome new house. Cap<sup>t</sup> S. who is principal Heir & proprietor of Morven, is making great improvements

<sup>27</sup> Sic for Dod—Albert Baldwin Dod.

<sup>28</sup> Robert Field Stockton's father-in-law was John Potter, and his brother-in-law was John Renshaw Thomson. T. C. Stockton, *The Stockton Family of New Jersey* (1911), pp. 77, 111, 130.

about the place. His Mother & Sisters will probably occupy the mansion until her death. You know he built a very fine house as you turn down to M<sup>r</sup> Bayards. He & his father have cleared \$100,000 by the Canal speculation. . . .

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June. More temperate slight showers & cloudy. Yest<sup>y</sup> p. m. Mother Sister & Boudy took a coach for S<sup>t</sup> Clements in order after Church to pass another hour with Aunt Patty. The Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Bayard will if he preaches as he did yest<sup>y</sup> attract a respectable congregation. . . . William Bayard came to town yest<sup>y</sup> on a visit to his family. He is successful in practice but a flaming Jacksonian. A very fine young man. Samuel is at Tiffin, in Ohio, I believe. Too much in the clouds for steady habits. A fine genius but erratic. . . .

[Addressed by Ship] Talma

---

N YORK, Tues<sup>y</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> June, 1831. 12 o'clock

Wed<sup>y</sup> 8<sup>th</sup>. . . . .  
 Yest<sup>y</sup> p. m. I walked with y<sup>r</sup> brother to the Ship Yards to see the progress of Cap<sup>t</sup> Prices ship. The Ribs are ready to be set up & finer timber never was collected for the purpose. The keel of y<sup>r</sup> brother's ship is to be laid 1<sup>st</sup> July. In the meanwhile, the frame is preparing & it will rise rapidly. Cap<sup>t</sup> Reed is much pleased with Webb the shipwright & is persuaded that it will be the best ship of the line. I had supposed, from y<sup>r</sup> brothers parsiminious habits, that he w<sup>d</sup> have beaten down, & consequently slighted all the work. On the contrary he has selected the best mechanics, best materials & full prices to ensure the best ship. He makes himself intimately acquainted with all the parts. Each partner, for economy builds his own ship. They had better have paid y<sup>r</sup> brother his moderate com[mission] to have con-

tracted for & superintended the whole. Such is my estimation of his judgment & intelligence, & indefatigable attention to business. Y<sup>r</sup> brothers is to be the December packet, in order that the construction may not be hastened, & that the materials of the Hull sh<sup>d</sup> be well seasoned & prepared. . . .

Thur<sup>y</sup> [June] 9<sup>th</sup>. Another dreadful explosion of a steam boat [General] Jackson of Po[ugh]keepsie by which several lives were lost & wounded on the 7<sup>th</sup>. I declare it makes one tremble to think of embarking in these water conveyances. Mother hesitates about going to Saratoga. Sister is preparing to give Madame Touton & Sister a party.

Friday [June] 10<sup>th</sup>. Your brother has called in & shown to me a letter of 29<sup>th</sup> May from M<sup>r</sup> Foster to M<sup>r</sup> Palmer, mentioning that M<sup>rs</sup> F. & children were in their passage in the Bolivar that sailed on that day, & may be hourly expected. I shall wait on her to hear tidings about my dear N[ew] O[rleans] family. M<sup>r</sup> F. expresses a wish that the ships sh<sup>d</sup> all be of the first class & construction. . . .

Tues<sup>y</sup> [June] 14<sup>th</sup>. . . .

I said that I was interrupted about Savings B<sup>k</sup> business. The Funding Com<sup>e</sup> of which I am one have just risen (12 o'clock) from a negoc[iatio]n for \$200,000 Ohio Six p<sup>r</sup> c<sup>t</sup> w<sup>h</sup> is to be concluded tomorrow at this hour. You see on what a scale we operate.

Wed<sup>y</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> June. . . . Our party are to leave town on Thurs<sup>y</sup> the last of June & will barring accidents by flood & field reach Saratoga Friday p. m. They are to go in the 7 o'clock St[eam]boat & lodge at Albany, thereby avoiding at this hot season, the impure air & vapours of an overflowed stateroom, crammed with traveling families from the So[uth] & this city. . . . A meeting takes place this ev<sup>g</sup> to consider the subject of manual labour institutions. My deafness excludes me. . . .

---

N YORK, Wed<sup>y</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> June, 1831

Friday 17<sup>th</sup>. . . . I have just put up y<sup>r</sup> papers, the most interesting article is a violent discussion that took place in the Br[itish] & For[eign] Bible So[ciety] Anni[versar]y to exclude those who deny the doctrine of the Trinity from membership w<sup>h</sup> was negatived by a large majority, but the same question was carried a week after in the Naval & Military B. S. nearly unanimously. I abhor for myself all Tests, & regret this attempt at innovation. Man in his best estate is but a poor creature, & too often a persecuting one. The meeting at w<sup>h</sup> y<sup>r</sup> brother was present on the manual labour plan of education, was intended to raise \$3000 for the purpose of erecting Buildings at Whitesborough, for the express purpose of educating young men for the Presbyterian ministry. Being exclusively sectarian the matter sh<sup>d</sup> not have been brought before a promiscuous assembly. The plan is excellent & succeeds marvelously, & will I hope be followed. Education is the order of the day & improvements continually making. . . .

Sat<sup>y</sup> [June] 18. The Kentucky & Alabama arrived yest<sup>y</sup>. I met M<sup>r</sup> B. Robinson in the market who informed me of the safe return of Miss Duer with Miss Chew in the latter. . . .

Monday [June] 20<sup>th</sup>. . . . It is very honourable to him [John Pintard Davidson] that although a student he has been elected surgeon of one of the militia regiments. . . .

Last evening we attended a sermon by the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Hawks in favour of the Epis. Sund<sup>y</sup> School, eloquent popular preacher. Church overflowing. Our S<sup>t</sup> Thomas never witnessed such a sight before. Colle[ctio]n \$155, cheifly from the congreg[atio]n, the others came to hear

& see the most splendid organ in this city, but not to contribute. . . .

---

NEW YORK, Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> June, 1831

. . . . .  
 Tuesday [June] 21<sup>st</sup>. Sister called yest<sup>y</sup> p. m. on M<sup>rs</sup> Foster at her brothers D<sup>r</sup> Clintons in Varick St. . . . She is to go out of town to her Fathers on L[ong] Island this aft.noon, so that I shall not have the satisfaction of conversing with her about my dear N[ew] O[rleans] family. . . .

. . . . .  
 Wed<sup>y</sup> [June] 22<sup>d</sup>. And sensitive plant [Mary Davidson] is to [be] sent in y<sup>r</sup> absence for cultivation in a convent. I hope that she will acquire the French language & every other useful accomplishment the School affords. . . . Does Judge Workman still live? If so wait on him, Marsden with my compliments. . . . He will recollect J. Pintard who became acquainted with him thro' the late M<sup>r</sup> Cullen Carpenter. . . . I thank y<sup>r</sup> brother, my beloved daughter, for his intended compliment of calling his ship after me, of w<sup>h</sup> I knew nothing till you hinted at it. I declined the favour with thanks, before his receiving a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Foster, that the concerned w<sup>d</sup> name the ships after the great rivers of y<sup>r</sup> western world, Missis[sip]pi, Yazoo &c<sup>a</sup> w<sup>h</sup> I think is right, as it may secure freights from those waters.

. . . . .  
 Thur<sup>y</sup> [June] 30<sup>th</sup>. Our families left home at 1/2 p. 6 & embarked in the steamboat at 7, to the great joy of the children. . . . It was a sight to see our Caravan move off, 2 carriages containing 11 persons, a baggage cart with moveables, trunks, boxes &c. sufficient to settle a western colony. M<sup>r</sup> S[ervoss] expects to reach Albany at 6, take a steam boat & lodge at Troy, w<sup>h</sup> will be 6 miles on their way, where they can lodge more comfortably, charter a stage, & set off for M<sup>r</sup> Putnams 24

miles, after an early breakfast, where they may arrive about 10, take possession of their chambers & repose a little before dinner. . . .

---

N YORK, Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1831

Monday, July 4. 55 An[niversar]y of Am. Independ-  
ence. A beautiful day. All alone. Thomas [Servoss]  
has gone to see his Aunts & the parades. William has  
set off with a traveling Booth, a Wheelbarrow & basket  
of cakes & a 10 Gal. Keg of beer of his own making,  
outfit 50 cents, to make a few Cents out of the multitude  
that throng the streets. The Cook to see her friends.  
M<sup>rs</sup> King our green grocer & 2 little boys, Boudys infant  
schoolmates, occupy the front room to view the civic  
procession that is to pass thro' Broome St. . . . Yest<sup>y</sup>  
Sunday I attended all alone the communion in St  
Thomas, a solemn duty as you justly observe. May  
the commemoration always be sanctified to me & mine.  
It was the more solemn as possibly it will be the last at  
the hands of the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Upfold, who from whatever  
cause is obliged to resign the Rectorship, having com-  
pletely dissatisfied the congregation & the whole vestry.  
He stipulates for \$2500, & to retire the 1<sup>st</sup> Aug. This  
sum is to be raised by subscription. Altho' I was op-  
posed to his election w<sup>h</sup> was carried solely thro' the  
influence of Bp. Hobart for his High Churchism &  
oppugn<sup>n</sup> to the Am. Bible S<sup>o</sup> Still I will pay my quota, &  
I sincerely sympathize with his family. Altho a weak  
man & quite giddy with his elevation to one of the first  
churches in the city, no ways popular with his people,  
I alway behaved friendly towards him. . . .

Tuesday [July] 5<sup>th</sup>. Col. Monroe died yest<sup>y</sup> 3 p. m.  
. . . We have had a large Fire last night in the N W part  
of the city. As I sat musing all alone last ev<sup>e</sup> I re-  
flected how providentially this city had been favored on  
our Ann[iversaries] No Fires, to my recollection having

ever occurred on the 4<sup>th</sup> July. This morn<sup>s</sup> at 6 y<sup>r</sup> brother arrived home. The party reached Troy at 9 Thur<sup>y</sup> ev<sup>y</sup> & found a nice quiet Hotel. They left that place after breakfast. The roads were execrable owing to a heavy rain on Thur<sup>y</sup>. They did not reach Saratoga till 5, dining on the road, distance 30 miles. Mother excessively fatigued & complains of violent pain in the back. Small uncomfortable chamber, 17 children, a dozen parsons, for their health at cheap quarters, & of course very plain living. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [July] 6<sup>th</sup> . . . The funeral obsequies of Col. Monroe are to take place tomorrow 4 p. m. with every municipal, civil & military honours at the expense of the Corporation.

Thurs<sup>y</sup> [July] 7<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately the day is showery & very close. Your brother forwards a paper with the funeral arrangm<sup>ts</sup> w<sup>b</sup> are as extensive & honourable as ever took place in this city. . . . Your brother & myself are invited as relations & shall attend accordingly. . . .

---

N YORK, Sat<sup>y</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> July, 1831

. . . My last was on the 7<sup>th</sup> by mail, advising the death of Col. Monroe on the 4<sup>th</sup> a remarkable coincidence with Adams & Jefferson. The funeral took place on the aft.noon of the 7<sup>th</sup> by far by the largest & most solemn of any that ever was witnessed in this city. Yest<sup>y</sup> I forwarded a paper containing the particulars. It is estimated that not less than 50,000 people including spectators were in the streets. The procession reached from S<sup>t</sup> Pauls, proceeding up B<sup>d</sup>way to Bleeker S<sup>t</sup> thence to the Bowery & to the Marble Cemetery in 2<sup>d</sup> St. a distance between 2 & 3 miles. The head reached the cemetery before the line closed at S<sup>t</sup> Pauls. All the shops were closed, every door & window full, & the roofs of the public hotels &c<sup>a</sup> crowded with spectators. The side walks & about 1/3 of the streets were lined & such



was the profound silence on the occasion, together with the firing of 73 minute guns at the Battery, the knell of muffled Bells, & funeral dirges by various bands, the effect was more solemn & impressive than is in my power to describe. I walked with y<sup>r</sup> brother among the relations following the plumed Hearse w<sup>h</sup> afforded an imposing spectacle to the multitude. 3 rounds by the artillery were fired at the cemetery & 3 vollies by the Infantry. On the whole, the most marked respect has been paid by this city to the memory of Col. James Monroe. His administration was honourable & peaceful & his departure glorious. Requiescat in pace.

Wed<sup>y</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> [*sic for 13<sup>th</sup> July*] Seamens Savings Bank. Clear & Cool. My Turtle Doves marriage to Lt. R. B. Screven in the U. S. service, at N[ew] O[rleans] is announced in the Gazette of this morn<sup>g</sup> from whence I have transf<sup>d</sup> it to the Daily Advertiser of tomorrow, for the benefit of my readers. As the charming Bride is called Louisa Pintard Davidson, I have already rec<sup>d</sup> the congratulations of some of them. . . .

---

N YORK, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July, 1831

Having just despatched my letter of this date with the 2 n[ews]papers according to custom I begin a new one, in the Seamens Savings Bank, where business is so dull, that I am glad to write out my hour to prevent drowsiness. But I shall have ample occupation in the Chamber S<sup>t</sup> S[avings] Bank, this being Lady day, & our paym<sup>t</sup> of interest commences. Owing to the difficulty of investing to advantage, we have been obliged to give notice that from the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. next, that an Interest at the rate of 5 p<sup>r</sup> c<sup>t</sup> per an. will be p<sup>d</sup> to Depositors on all sums below \$500 & only 4 p<sup>r</sup> c<sup>t</sup> on all deposits exceeding that sum, thus giving 6 mo[nth]s notice that large Depositors may close their acc<sup>ts</sup> if they please, w<sup>h</sup> will relieve us. Yest<sup>y</sup> aft.noon I walked

with y<sup>r</sup> brother to the Ship Yards to see his ship, w<sup>h</sup> is decide[d]ly superior in mould & construction to that of Cap<sup>t</sup> Prices, w<sup>h</sup> is also a very fine handsome ship, but sharper & of less capacity by 100 bales or more, & M<sup>r</sup> Webb the builder says tha[t] she will outsail them all, tho' Cap<sup>t</sup> Price is noted for carrying a press of sail & making quick passage. Naval Architecture is a delightful subject of w<sup>h</sup> I was in early life so partial that of choice I w<sup>d</sup> have been a ship carpenter, but we were at the end of the Rev<sup>y</sup> War at the very lowest point of depression in this city. A stout good Brig, a few very few London ships excepted, was for many years the class of vessels built, & navigating from this port principally to the W. Indies. I was concerned in several with poor generous Marsden in the Madeira trade. . . .

. . . . .

---

NEW YORK, Wed<sup>y</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> July, 1831

. . . . .  
 Thur<sup>y</sup> 21<sup>st</sup>. There is no end to Books, & I dare not trust myself in a Booksellers store. Providing the 15<sup>th</sup> An. Report of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] I stepped into [*blank in MS.*] store where I got the Chap books for my dear g<sup>d</sup>children, to procure Lockharts elegant life of Robert Burns, w<sup>h</sup> led to Burns poetical works. . . . I rec<sup>d</sup> on Tues<sup>y</sup> ev<sup>g</sup> from my old friend Tho<sup>s</sup> Swords Printer, a presentation copy of the Portraiture of a Xt<sup>n</sup> Gent<sup>n</sup> [by William Roberts] with w<sup>h</sup> I am so delighted that I stopped this morn<sup>g</sup> & purchased a copy each for my two sons & g<sup>d</sup>sons, which I hope they & their dear partners will read with improvement. They will find nothing incompatible in the duties of our holy religion with the rational enjoyments of genteel life. Also, the 2<sup>d</sup> & 3<sup>d</sup> Vols. of the Standard Works of the Episcopal Church, the 1<sup>st</sup> sent more than a year past. The 3<sup>d</sup> Vol. is the Apology of the Church of Eng<sup>d</sup> & c<sup>a</sup> by Bp. Jewell, an invaluable defence of the principles of the Reformation ag<sup>t</sup> the Ch. of Rome. . . . The notes

are copious & learned & do great credit to the Editor, the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Whittingham an Eleve [of] our Epis. Sem<sup>y</sup>, recently elected Rector of S<sup>t</sup> Lukes Church. Also for y<sup>r</sup>self, Nelson on Devotion, a truly useful manual. I bought a copy for Mother also. The last days of Heber that truly Evangelical Bishop & Miss<sup>y</sup>. Last Calverton [*sic for* Claverston] or the Infidels visit, by a Lady, w<sup>h</sup> may afford instruction to young unsettled minds. . . . Amid these lucubrations the auditing committee have been at my table, examining the acc<sup>ts</sup> of the Treas<sup>r</sup> of the Savings Bank, & the evidences of our Capital. Certificates of various State Stocks am<sup>t</sup> at par within a few Dollars of 2 millions & a half. . . .

. . . . .  
I have swelled my parcel of Books & pamphlets with adding for a common stock book as Turtle Dove calls it, Holmes' Annals of America, with me a constant commonplace. . . . It is a delectable instructive work. . . .

---

N YORK, Sat<sup>y</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> July, 1831

. . . . .  
Thur<sup>y</sup> [July] 28<sup>th</sup>. . . . This morn<sup>g</sup> at 6 y<sup>r</sup> brother left me. . . . He will stop at Mattawan to see Thomas & recross to Newburgh to take the night St[eam] boat arrive tomorrow in time for the early stage for Saratoga & join our family at noon. There is a fine water power for sale at Fishkill, nearer the landing than Mattawan, w<sup>h</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Leonard wishes M<sup>r</sup> S[ervoss] to purchase for Thomas. He will look at it.

. . . . .  
Thurs<sup>y</sup> [*sic for* Friday, July] 29<sup>th</sup>. . . . The Observer of this day w<sup>h</sup> I have just dispatched to the post office contains a beautiful letter from M<sup>rs</sup> [John H.] Hill wife of the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> H. Episcopal Miss[ionar]y to Greece. It w<sup>d</sup> do credit to the daughter of Leigh Richmond, whose letter on her fathers death is an honour to her sex. M<sup>rs</sup> Leigh died sometime last winter. M<sup>rs</sup> Hill is a daughter of John Mulligan Esq. son of my Rev[olu-

tionar]y friend Hercules Mulligan, dead & gone. She is a small very pretty interesting woman & embued with a true zealous Miss<sup>y</sup> spirit. They once proposed going to the Sandwich islands but altered their destination. I do not anticipate great results from this mission to Greece, where the Greek religion grosser than Rom. Catholic will be inculcated & pictures of saints introduced in the schools, w<sup>h</sup> must tend to the abandonment by Protestants. The Greeks after all are a benighted, miserable people. Providence in fit time, will reform them. . . .

Saturday [July] 30<sup>th</sup>. . . . My spirits are much depressed this morn<sup>e</sup> at the probable death of Col. Varick, Pres<sup>t</sup> of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] with whom I have been long most intimate. He is near 80, has been to M<sup>t</sup> Vernon last of May, next on a short excursion to Newport Rh. Island, ret<sup>d</sup> the week past & when I saw him, congratulated him on his appearance of renovated health & strength. His illness very short, this the 3<sup>d</sup> day & supposed that he cannot outlive it. . . .

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>. Col. Varick died on Sat<sup>y</sup> night, at his country seat, Powlas Hook, the instant that the Hall clock struck 12, in the 79<sup>th</sup> year of his age. I was long & intimately associated with him, when Mayor of our city corporation & as presid<sup>t</sup> of the A. B. S. & had promised not to resign my station as Rec[ordin]g Sec<sup>y</sup> as long as he remained in office. . . . I must close, to conclude my letter to dear mother, & to attend a meeting of the officers of the A. B. S. at 12 o'clock. I am also called upon to give what I can recollect of Col. Varick, for an Obituary, of w<sup>h</sup> I also will send a copy. . . .

---

NEW YORK, Tues<sup>y</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> August, 1831

. . . . I wrote yest<sup>y</sup> of the death of my long & intimate friend Col. Varick, late president of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety]. His funeral is to take place this afternoon. It will be, I think, too pompous, but his es-

tate is well able to afford the expense. He leaves many heirs, but no children. I am invited as a pall bearer, & shall attend with a sorrowful heart. You may reasonably [believe] that I am much affected by the unexpected departure of Col. V. Society will lose in him a liberal benefactor, & myself a warm friend. It is said that of the N York state branch of the Cincinnati, only twelve original members remain. The Colonel as Pres<sup>t</sup> gave an annual supper every Oct<sup>o</sup> or Nov<sup>r</sup> to the Standing Com<sup>e</sup> to audit the Treasurers accounts of disbursements to the widows & families of their needy departed brethren. By invitation I attended sometimes, until my heart quailed as I heard the Roll called over by the Secretary of the names of every member, & the awful response of, dead, dead, to almost the whole catalogue, with most of whom I was personally acquainted. They will all shortly become extinct, being past three s[c]ore & ten. At every annual meeting their number rapidly decreases. Col. Platt last year, Col. V[arick] this, and for whom the standard of the Society, veiled in black, will next be borne before the coffin, God only knows. . . .

Thurs<sup>r</sup> [August] 4<sup>th</sup>. I devoted yest<sup>r</sup> to writing to dear mother the particulars of Col. Varicks funeral, w<sup>h</sup> I need not repeat, as you are so far off & are so little interested, generally. The pall bearers were Col<sup>s</sup> Fish, Ogden, Trumbull, surviving brother soldiers, Chancellor Kent, V[ice] P[residen]ts of A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] Woolsey & P. A. Jay, M<sup>r</sup> Catlin & J. Pintard, who attended with the clergy & relations at the Col<sup>s</sup> late residence, Powlas Hook, from whence we moved in procession precisely at 4, crossed the Ferry where we [were] rec<sup>d</sup> by a military corps, thro' whose files with reversed arms we passed the Band performing a funeral dirge. The Corps led the van & proceeded circuitously thro Maiden lane & Wm Street to the Presby[teria]n Ch. in Cedar St. A Psalm, prayer by the Rev. D<sup>r</sup> DeWitt & Eulogy by the Rev. D<sup>r</sup> Mason pastor of the Church.

Singular to say, he never adverted to the deceased being Presid<sup>t</sup> of the A. B. S. the brightest feature in his character. We arrived at the Church precisely at 5, the hour designated. Service lasted an hour. The procession was again resumed, & we walked to the tune of the dead march to Chamber St<sup>t</sup> where carriages, to my great relief, were in waiting to accommodate the Ministers, Pall bearers, relations, Cincinnati, A. B. S., Corporation, Trustees of Columbia College, Judges Lawyers &c. It took up an hour & a half to move from the Church to the Marble Cemetery, where the Coffin was repositied in the receiving house, to be removed to Hackensack, the Colonels birth place, & from whence it was conveyed at daybreak this morn<sup>g</sup>. 3 vollies were discharged, but as I told the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Noble, formerly of Middletown who stood near me, that the Cadets w<sup>d</sup> have been disgraced to have fired so badly. I left home at 2 & did not get back until the Clock struck 8, so that I had been 6 hours on fatigue w<sup>h</sup> it literally was. The day was close, showery & excessively hot. Bound to my post I suffered much more than at Col. Monroes funeral, when I cast off when I reached Broome St. 100 scarves & pairs of black silk gloves were given, & 100 Coaches provided on the occasion. So much for the obsequies of my departed friend. The Managers of the A. B. S. meet this afternoon. We shall have a solemn meeting, esp<sup>y</sup> myself.

M<sup>r</sup> Servoss ret<sup>d</sup> home yest<sup>y</sup> morn<sup>g</sup> at 5. He found & left all well. Dear Mother wonderfully improved by the use of the waters. While I was writing to her, M<sup>r</sup> S. stepped in, & as he handed to me a letter from the Doctor of 17<sup>th</sup> July, he observed, "Wonders will never cease. Your Turtle Dove & mate<sup>29</sup> are on their passage from N[ew] O[rleans] for this city in the DeWitt Clinton. I confess as dear Louise used to say, my heart palpitated. . . .

Friday [August] 5<sup>th</sup>. No De Witt Clinton. No Turtle dove & mate. Your brother who has made several passages at this season of the year says that 21 days

<sup>29</sup> Lieutenant and Mrs. Richard Bedon Screven (Jr.).

are a good passage, in w<sup>h</sup> case we may look for the arrival of the D. C. tomorrow or Sunday. Your brother proposes to accompany me to Staten island. As no sickness prevailed at N. O. the passengers will be quarantined only 2 days as you were. Your brother thinks that if it accords with the Lieuts views, it will be best to despatch them imm<sup>y</sup> in the aft.noon steam boat for Albany, so as to reach Saratoga next day at 3 p. m. But I am thinking that M<sup>r</sup> Screven will think it best, instead of writing to go to Washington & see the Sec<sup>y</sup> of War. A personal interview may accomplish the wished for transfer to the Engineer department instantly, w<sup>h</sup> if successful will be so happy for all parties. . . .

Last aft.noon the Managers passed a very neat & appropriate tribute of respect to the memory of our late munificent president [Varick] a copy of which Andrew is engrossing to be sent to his Widow. . . .

---

NEW YORK, Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August, 1831

. . . . .  
 Tues<sup>y</sup> [August] 9<sup>th</sup>. . . . M<sup>r</sup> Taylor, pres. of y<sup>r</sup> new B[an]k has arrived. Y<sup>r</sup> brother saw him yest<sup>y</sup>. He mentions that some lots in w<sup>h</sup> he was concerned with the late Judge Smith have been advantageously sold & will yield a profit to his estate. I am glad for his family, also for the Doctor, who I suppose must have a large bill ag<sup>t</sup> the estate.

. . . . .  
 Wed<sup>y</sup> [August] 10<sup>th</sup>. . . . A letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> just rec<sup>d</sup> from dear mother says that Congress Hall & the House where our family, overflow. 300 persons sat down to dinner at C. H. on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>. . . . I learn from Cap<sup>t</sup> Holmes that passengers are not quarantined, so that our runagate will come up to the city direct & save me the trouble of going down. . . .

Thur<sup>y</sup> [August] 11. Long looked for come at last. The DeWitt Clinton arrived yest<sup>y</sup> with among others,

L<sup>t</sup> Screven, lady & serv<sup>t</sup>. Your brother has gone to hunt them up. The term Ladys Board<sup>s</sup> H<sup>o</sup> in B<sup>d</sup>way is so indefinite that I fear it may cost him some trouble. . . .

12 o'clock, 11<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>. My sweet Turtle dove sent a note to the office, with her uncle. I called to see her. She looks very well indeed, not at all sea sick, altho some part of the passage was boisterous. . . .

---

NEW YORK, Sat<sup>y</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>, 1831

. . . After dinner on Friday the military Chieftain & lady came up to Broome S<sup>t</sup> where their uncle insisted that they sh<sup>d</sup> take up their quarters during their stay & kindly accomodated them with his room. . . . I had written a note to Miss Chew & Miss Smith apprizing them of their young friends arrival. They came to early tea & it was gratifying to witness the tender aff<sup>t</sup> meeting of the young friends, tho I retreated not to restrain their feelings & enquiries. After 9, they went under the escort of the Lieut. to Niblos Garden, to attend the young ladies home to their Aunts<sup>30</sup> in Houston S<sup>t</sup>. These young friends are inseperable. Yest<sup>y</sup> Miss Smith dined with us. Miss Chew ret<sup>d</sup> home to make preparations for a tea party kindly given by her aunt M. Robinson to the Bride & a hop in the ev<sup>g</sup>, the company all cousins & young & of course the utmost freedom of enjoyment. . . .

. . . . .  
 Tues<sup>y</sup> [August] 16. Extreme heat. . . . I took home with me the D[octo]rs letter of 30<sup>th</sup> Ul<sup>t</sup>o & Pintards of 20<sup>th</sup> by the Tenessee & inclosed for his new brother, who with Turtle [dove] were out. She however returned at 12, with her friend Miss Williamson, whose g<sup>d</sup>mother, wife<sup>31</sup> of my college mate Col. A. Ogden was

<sup>30</sup> Mrs. Morris Robinson (*née* Duer). See Elizabeth Clarkson Jay's "The Descendants of James Alexander," in *N. Y. Genealogical and Biographical Record* (1881), XII, pp. 19 ff.

<sup>31</sup> Mrs. Aaron Ogden (Elizabeth Chetwood) and John Pintard were both descended from Louis Carré. W. O. Wheeler *The Ogden Family*



my 2<sup>d</sup> cousin. So that these young friends have formed a link of relationship between them. . . . M<sup>r</sup> S[creven] most frankly disclosed his fathers situation circumstances & prospects, that in 2 or 3 years to be devoted to the army, he will be able to relieve his estate from debt & to give one of his cotton plantations with a stock of slaves to begin with. His father<sup>32</sup> is a consulting physician & sent for in all important cases, consequently adequate to his support. He has placed my Turtle Dove at the head of his Fathers table & installed her mistress of the Family, during his life, whom he represents as a most hospitable man abounding in every good that this world affords. . . . Senator Johnston & lady are arrived at the City Hotel. Yest<sup>r</sup> he called at the store & told M<sup>r</sup> S[ervoss] that M<sup>rs</sup> J. was indisposed. M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Screven will call on them this p. m. . . .

Wed<sup>r</sup> [August] 17<sup>th</sup>. By the Louisiana I sent Boswells life of Johnson, S<sup>r</sup> Walter Scotts Scotland, 2 V<sup>s</sup>, M<sup>c</sup>Intosh's Eng<sup>d</sup> 2. Grattans Netherlands 1, Outlines of History<sup>33</sup> 1. These works are in progres & will form an elegant epitome of Hist[ory]. Family Library, v. 23, Hist. of Ancient & Modern Egypt,<sup>34</sup> Southey's Wesley, Extracts &c. I envy y<sup>r</sup> boys the luxury of reading Boswell & Southey. I have also been making up a small military Library for my Turtle Dove, to have something of her own when she arrives at her quarters, viz<sup>t</sup> Universal Receipt Book, Lady of the Manor 7 vols, Leigh Richmonds life, Annals of the Poor, The Ladys Book, an annual, Port<sup>t</sup> Xt<sup>n</sup> Gent<sup>n</sup>, Nelsons Devotions, Prayer Book, Bible Dict<sup>y</sup>, Walkers Pocket Dict<sup>y</sup>. These will furnish instruction & afford good Sunday reading. . . .

in *America* (1907), p. 135; J. J. Boudinot, *The Life of Elias Boudinot* (1896) II, 391.

<sup>32</sup> Dr. Richard Bedon Screven. J. B. Heyward, *The Genealogy of the Pendarvis-Bedon Families of South Carolina* (1905).

<sup>33</sup> By Thomas Keightley. This work and the other three histories named were included in Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopædia.

<sup>34</sup> Michael Russell's *View of Ancient and Modern Egypt*, no. 23 in the Family Library, published by J. & J. Harper.

Thur<sup>y</sup> [August] 18<sup>th</sup> . . . I forgot to say, I think, that Senator Johnston called for a few minutes on Tues<sup>y</sup> ev<sup>g</sup> at our house, not with his lady of course. He went up to Saratoga yest<sup>y</sup> & I wrote a short line to mother w<sup>h</sup> he will send. Possibly he may call on our folks. He promises an interview at his return. On Sat<sup>y</sup> the ceremony of commencing a railroad from Saratoga to Schen[ec]tady is to take place, w<sup>h</sup> will draw out, weather permitting the numerous company at the Springs when Mother & Sister may meet M<sup>rs</sup> Johnston without formality. . . .

---

NEW YORK, Monday 22<sup>d</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>, 1831  
excessive heat

. . . . .  
Tues<sup>y</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> . . . His lofty son L<sup>t</sup> Screven wrote a short line to him [Dr. Davidson] yest<sup>y</sup> conveying the happy tidings that his exchange to Baton Rouge was effected. . . . M<sup>r</sup> Screven will take passage back in the DeWitt Clinton, for himself lady & maid to sail next Sat<sup>y</sup> 27<sup>th</sup>.

Wed<sup>y</sup> [August] 24<sup>th</sup>. . . . Our Turtle Dove has gone to spend this fine day with her new aunt M<sup>rs</sup> Hazard, & if they take a ride to Coney island the weather is clear & cool. The difference is 10 degrees between N. Utrecht Bath & this city. . . . Louise saw Miss Smith yest<sup>y</sup> morn<sup>g</sup> who with her cousin Chew &c<sup>a</sup> are to go to Lebanon Springs tomorrow. . . .

. . . . .  
Friday [August] 26<sup>th</sup>. . . . M<sup>r</sup> S[ervoss] concurs with me that Pintard had better come in the Alabama 1<sup>st</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> the finest packet in the lines & the model of the new packets. His uncle store will be N<sup>o</sup> 67 South Street, 3 or 4 east of Cap<sup>t</sup> Holmes, counting room upstairs, where M<sup>r</sup> S. remove next week. . . .

½ p. 11. Just returned from taking leave of my  
Turtle Dove converted into a Flying Fish. . . . .

---

NEW YORK, Friday [*sic for Saturday*] 27<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>, 1831

. . . . .  
Tues<sup>y</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> . . . I have just concluded my last letter  
to dear mother at the Springs. We may look for all our  
emigrants home next Sat<sup>y</sup> p. m. . . . I am delighted  
with my beloved daughters description of the Pine  
Groves & the accommodations of the Lady of the Manor  
[Mrs. Johnston]. I know full well what a Log House  
is. Some of those early settlers still remained during  
the Rev<sup>y</sup> war in the upper parts of Morris C<sup>o</sup> N. Jersey,  
which gave place to others very neatly hewed & squared,  
with all the conveniences of Rustic dwellings. Our  
Armies were hutted in winter quarters in log huts. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [August] 31<sup>st</sup>. delightful day. . . . Yest<sup>y</sup> I  
called upon Michael Hogan Esq. our Consul at Peru,  
who with his lady has returned from that distant station  
after an absence of 9 years. He looks as well as M<sup>rs</sup> H.,  
very well, altho debilitated by the gout. Y<sup>r</sup> uncle Mars-  
den introduced me to his acquaintance when M<sup>r</sup> H. was  
very rich, but unfortunate speculations dissipated his  
wealth. He was very friendly to me, but not in a pe-  
cuniary way, a frank, generous Irishman. I respect &  
esteem him. We were both mutually happy to greet  
each other in the land of the living. He was amazed  
when I told him that I was in my 73<sup>d</sup> year to see me  
look so well & walk so alert. . . . .

. . . . .  
Friday 2<sup>d</sup> Sep<sup>t</sup>. This morn<sup>g</sup> y<sup>r</sup> brother left us to  
meet our family this p. m. at Albany, to return once  
more to Broome St. . . . The first packet, Cap<sup>t</sup> Prices is  
to be launched tomorrow 7 A. M. Had y<sup>r</sup> brother been  
in town I might have gone but fear of accident & not to  
cause distrust to dear mother I shall not go, but reserve  
myself for y<sup>r</sup> brothers ship, the *Natchez*, to be launched

in Oct<sup>r</sup> sail in Novem<sup>r</sup>. Price's ship is to be called the *Scioto*<sup>35</sup> to sail 28<sup>th</sup> inst. . . .

---

NEW YORK, Friday 2<sup>d</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>, 1831

Sat<sup>y</sup> 3<sup>d</sup>. Turtle Dove may have shown dear Mother her little military Library w<sup>h</sup> was selected under the impression of her going to Maine, where there is neither Church nor Chaplain, & where the Sabbath is passed in military parades in the morning & revelling the rest of the day, an awful exposure to a young inexperienced female mind, the disadvantages of which appeared not to be perceptible to her gay companion. Of the female Society with w<sup>h</sup> she was to associate was a M<sup>rs</sup> Dearborn,<sup>36</sup> a highly accomplished Boston Unitarian Lady, not a little vain of her colloquial powers & talent for disputation. Elated no doubt of her easy victory over juvenile officers who never give a sober serious attention to religion, incapable of giving a reason for their Faith, & like this flippant lady disposed to get rid of the Devil on easy terms & willing to go to Heaven on a velvet cushion. Thank God our dear unsuspecting, guileless child, is rescued from the syren charms of this Seducer. Unitarians make great use of these modern Eves to entice silly listeners into their toils, who have a great advantage by preaching only to such as are incapable of a reply. It was for the purpose of affording my Turtle Dove better instruction that I furnished her with such excellent works as might induce her Chieftain to read aloud for his own as well as her improvement on Sundays, & w<sup>h</sup> he promised on his honour to do. . . .

Monday [September] 5<sup>th</sup> 1/2 p. 12. Occupied with my A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] duties I have but just

<sup>35</sup> Actually named *Louisville*.

<sup>36</sup> Perhaps Mrs. Pamela A. S. (Gilman) Dearborn, wife of Captain Greenleaf Dearborn, U. S. A. (See *The New-England Hist. and Gen. Register* (1880), XXXIV, 346.)

time to say that our family all ret[urne]d in health, on Sat<sup>y</sup> ev<sup>k</sup> at 10 o'clock, particulars to morrow.

Tues<sup>y</sup> [September] 6<sup>th</sup>. On my way down I learned that Doctor Sam<sup>l</sup> L. Mitchill is on his death bed. With him I have once been intimately associated in the cause of science & literature, & think it my duty to promote due respect to his memory. To avoid repetition the following is the copy of a note w<sup>h</sup> I have just traced to D<sup>r</sup> Francis on the subject.

"Dear F. I am informed by Sylvanus Miller Esq<sup>r</sup> that D<sup>r</sup> Samuel L. Mitchill lies at the point of death, so low, that he will not in all probability survive this week. The faculties of mind & body totally prostrated. As D<sup>r</sup> M. in the early & more advanced stages of his life was distinguished as a physician, statesman and philosopher and rendered important services to his country by the promotion of science & literature, I take the liberty of suggesting to you the propriety, in the event of his death, to commemorate his long & eminent services with suitable respect to his remains by the medical, philosophical, Historical, & other professional & literary institutions with which he was connected some of which he aided to found & others to promote. Let not the merits & services of the active period of our eminent fellow citizen, be veiled by the frailties of his old age. Excluded as I am from Society by my deafness & retired into the vale of obscurity, "oblitus meorum & obliviscendus ab illis" I know not whom to address on this occasion, with so much freedom & propriety as y<sup>r</sup>self, confident that I am not mistaken in your disposition to render respect & honour where in my humble estimation, they are so justly due.

Y<sup>r</sup> sincere friend, J. P.

. . . . .  
Wed<sup>y</sup> [September] 7<sup>th</sup>. . . . .

There are no tidings that I can learn of M<sup>r</sup> Foster, who is daily expected. His new ship was launched on Sat<sup>y</sup> & sits like a Duck in the water. She will not be ready to sail as soon as expected, probably not till 12<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>. Your brother remove[d] on Monday to his new store 67 South S<sup>t</sup> next to the corner of Pine S<sup>t</sup>. He has a very accommodating counting room up stairs & is exactly on the spot of N. Orleans business, of w<sup>h</sup> I wish him a full share, which he deserves for his intelligence & indefatigable attention. . . .

Thurs<sup>y</sup> [September] 8<sup>th</sup>. . . . .

My old friend D<sup>r</sup> Mitchill died yest<sup>y</sup> at 12. . . .

Friday [September] 9<sup>th</sup> . . . I shall attend D<sup>r</sup> Mitch-ills funeral this p. m. as a pallbearer. . . .

---

NEW YORK, Wed<sup>y</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>, 1831

My beloved daughter

I send one more package of books by the old line, for the improvement & amusement of my dear N. Orleans family. Imprimis, as the Deputy w<sup>d</sup> say, Dwights Theology, 4 Vols. Oct<sup>o</sup>, a work to which I feel myself so much indebted, as to lead me to consider that Scott's Commentary, Hornes Study of the Scriptures, together with the above, are a suff[icien]t library for a young Divine. I recommend Dwight to the particular study of my g<sup>d</sup>sons, a knowledge of his system will enable them to test & correct any licentious errors of any minister of the Gospel. It is held in such estimation in Eng<sup>d</sup> & Scotland as to have passed already through 14 editions, I think, & very many in this country where as well as in England it is stereotyped, a proof of its popularity. I regard it as the most valuable legacy that a professor of Theology c<sup>d</sup> possibly leave to his countrymen. So long as the Congregationalists of New Eng<sup>d</sup> adhere to Dwight, so long will Orthodoxy & sound religion & piety prevail among them. The style is plain, almost mathematical. His positions clear, his deductions fair & his reasonings & demonstrations candid & conclusive. Where he differs from Episcopacy it is without acrimony, rather as a matter of opinion that has divided Divines of the most preeminent abilities, than from mere sectarian motives. His Discourses on Death, w<sup>h</sup> I read this Summer I recommend to y<sup>r</sup> particular attention my beloved daughter, for we must *all* die & let us learn to be prepared. The *study* will correct many loose notions on this solemn & all important subject. I am endeavouring to persuade the proprietors to print an edition of this part of the work, on a larger type for the benefit of aged persons & decayed sight, persuaded that "Dwight

on Death," will [prove] as useful, popular & profitable, as Drelincourt & Sherlock have been in their day. But President Dwights style is not always jejune. His pulpit eloquence shines in his sermons, 2 vols. of which have been published, which I am now reading & will send you at a future day. As a lawyer, Marney may study D<sup>r</sup> Dwights argumentative style & to improve himself in the all important professional knowledge of the Law of Evidence. He may derive great benefit from Wilsons Evidences of Xt<sup>y</sup> recently sent, elegantly written, & w<sup>h</sup> I am also reading with all the avidity of youth, fascinated with both matter & manner. Leslie's Short Method, heretofore sent, is an exercise for the most discriminating mind, & will teach him to state, examine & cross examine evidences, to be acute in w<sup>h</sup> is one of the perfections of a lawyer. . . . In the parcel you will find Scotts prose works, 6 v<sup>s</sup>, delectable reading, that g<sup>d</sup>father sh<sup>d</sup> not be charged with sending only such *dry* works as are fit for Sundays, also Bishop Porteous' Lectures invaluable, for Turtle Dove w<sup>h</sup> was overlooked when packing up her Military Library, a copy each for the Life Members of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] No. 43 of the last Extracts, also for the Madames 3, a copy of the Health Almanac, likewise the last N<sup>o</sup> of the Mirror containing an account of the Old Jail in this city with some revol<sup>r</sup> anecdotes by g<sup>d</sup>father who c<sup>d</sup> have wished that his name had not been mentioned. You may think me fond of scribbling in my old days. otherwise. But as I stand almost alone as to past times, I am incessantly importuned to furnish some illustrative facts. This was done to oblige my young friend And<sup>w</sup> Warner who takes an interest in promoting the Mirror. I am looking thro' the Minutes of our Corporation to make up an account of our old & new City Halls, no small research, to illustrate a plate shortly to be published of w<sup>h</sup> I will send you a copy. But I do not altogether fancy becoming a chronicler of small Beer. To be authentic requires more labour of research to establish the truth of a single fact than those who have not

essayed it, can imagine. There is so much fiction employed to blazon revolut<sup>y</sup> *Heroes* as they are *all* called where the sole merit consisted in firing at an enemy behind a stone fence & as he advanced running away. . . .

[Addressed by Ship] Tennessee  
with a parcel

---

NEW YORK, Sat<sup>y</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> [*sic for* September] 1831

. . . . .  
Wed<sup>y</sup> [September] 14<sup>th</sup>. I have just made up a package of books to go by the Tennessee to sail tomorrow. . . . Mother went yest<sup>y</sup> to see her cousin M<sup>rs</sup> Gouverneur, who begins to be quite bowed down with years. She has been the most perfect recluse of any person I ever knew. Dear Mother walked to Beaver S<sup>t</sup> & home again, evidence of her recruited strength.

. . . . .  
Friday [September] 16<sup>th</sup>. Quite a N. E. rain yest<sup>y</sup> & the weather was so dark at night as to prevent Mother & Sister from going to M<sup>rs</sup> Hamersleys party, who resides in Greenwich S<sup>t</sup> very near the Battery. . . . Sh<sup>d</sup> the day prove dry, not to interrupt the ship carpenters the 2<sup>d</sup> new packet will be launched, weather permitting, tomorrow p. m. 4 o'clock. Our ladies & children are to go on board. She is to be called the Nashville. Cap<sup>t</sup> Prices ship is not yet named. Y<sup>r</sup> brothers, Cap<sup>t</sup> Reed, will be named the Natchez, w<sup>h</sup> he regards as the best of the whole line, all superior ships, as you will see, when you may honour them with a visit at N. Orleans. What a contrast to the Brigs & hulks w<sup>h</sup> first conveyed my beloved child to & from N. O. I can scarcely credit the improvements. . . .

[Addressed by:] Mail

---



N YORK, Sat<sup>r</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>, 1831

My last miscellany was despatched by mail yest<sup>r</sup>. Probably that by the Tennessee is still detained by unfavourable weather that still continues & prevents the launching of the Nashville till Wed<sup>r</sup>.

I saw, for the first time, M<sup>r</sup> Foster, yest<sup>r</sup>. He has been very much reduced is still very thin, but recruiting. It was a desperate, almost, undertaking, the journey by land in his weak state. His ship is to come to the wharf the last of next week, to take in lading, to sail [*blank in MS.*] Oct<sup>r</sup> in w<sup>h</sup> he will embark with his family. . . .

Monday [September] 19<sup>th</sup>. A superb day. A flood of European news by late arrivals. Hostilities had commenced between the Dutch & Belgians, the latter, fled like poltroons. An army of 50,000 French having advanced to support the Independence of Belgium, the King of Holland consented to the arrangements of the allied powers. Peace consequently is restored, unless by the interposition of France in behalf of the Poles, it sh<sup>d</sup> be disturbed & without such interference that brave nation must probably succumb. . . . We were on the qui vive in expectation of War & our speculators as to that event are sorely disappointed. It is humiliating to humanity to reflect that the hopes of commercial profits so much rely on the miseries of mankind. . . .

Tuesday [September] 20<sup>th</sup>. . . .

Tomorrow at 8, we are to attend the launching of the Nashville. If the day sh<sup>d</sup> prove as propitious as this, it will prove a pleasant party for the ladies.

Wedn<sup>r</sup> [September] 21<sup>st</sup>. Our folks were up early & left home ½ p. 7 with the 2 boys. The day is obscure & N Easterly wind, but not unpleasant. Several ladies attended & a large concourse of spectators. The Ship glided "majestically into her element" as Editors say, exactly at 9. It was a beautiful Launch & sight tho

somewhat tedious. A collation, plentiful & genteel, was given in the Corlaers Hook Garden house. After a cup of coffee, I glided off, a la solitaire to Wall St. Sister gives party N<sup>o</sup> 1. this ev<sup>s</sup>. She invited the Robinsons & their nieces, Smith & Chew. Miss Duer called to say that the former was at Princeton, & that the latter had commenced her schooling & c<sup>d</sup> not come. . . .

Thur<sup>y</sup> [September] 22<sup>d</sup>. Last ev<sup>s</sup> tho' overcast was favourable for Sisters party, w<sup>h</sup> was large. The Schenck family alone fill one side of a parlour. A French gent<sup>n</sup> & lady from N[ew] O[rleans]. I sat a while, chatting with Miss Tellar of Fishkill. The fashionables did not assemble till 1/2 p. 8. Tea at 9. . . . The ev<sup>s</sup> passed off cheerily, everything genteel & abundant. How different dear mother observed from our times when every thing was prepared in the family. Now all is provided abroad. Easy, but expensive. . . .

---

NEW YORK, Sat<sup>y</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>, 1831

My last was by yest<sup>r</sup>s mail, to my beloved daughter. This, probably, will be the final letter thro' the same channel, as the new line of packets is to commence running in Oct<sup>o</sup>. The Louisville the 1<sup>st</sup>, in w<sup>h</sup> M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Foster are to return, to sail 14<sup>th</sup> . . .

Monday [September] 26<sup>th</sup>. On Sat<sup>y</sup> I took a turn at the Savings B<sup>k</sup> for M<sup>r</sup> Swan indisposed. . . . I felt constrained to stay home on Sunday & take a doze of Seidlitz. . . . I regretted it the more as the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Hawks preached. Our folks were delighted. A most eloquent Divine, a learned Scholar, pious, energetic, & w<sup>d</sup> resuscitate our fallen Church. Strange to say that one half the vestry are opposed to the wishes of a great majority I am persuaded, of the congreg<sup>n</sup> & what is singular M<sup>r</sup> H. is High Church, withal. The day was beautiful, & he had an overflowing congreg<sup>n</sup>. But the

Lord reigneth & will overrule all for the best. I find by the advertisement in the papers of the sailing days of the new line of packets, that y<sup>r</sup> brothers ship the Natchez, Reed, will not sail till the 13<sup>th</sup> Nov. . . . Turtle Dove told me that Marney talked of sending or bringing on Larney to place him, at his own charge, at the Flushing Institute w<sup>h</sup> is no longer a matter of experiment but has perfectly succeeded. I shall endeavour to procure a recent public<sup>n</sup> of the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Muhlenbergh & forward it. I hope that Marsden will carry his resolution into effect.

Tues<sup>y</sup> [September] 27. . . . .

M<sup>rs</sup> Foster & M<sup>rs</sup> Palmer called yest<sup>y</sup>. M<sup>r</sup> F. is quite indisposed & confined with his N[ew] O[rleans] complaint. I will call & see him tomorrow. Last ev<sup>g</sup> a M<sup>r</sup> Nelson a very respectable new pew holder in S<sup>t</sup> Thomas' called with a petition in favour of appointing the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Hawkes Rector, whose sermon on Sunday made a most favourable impression. As the most aged of the Congreg<sup>n</sup> I was complimented with being the first signer. He anticipates success. God speed him. What cause there can be for hesitation I cannot imagine, except that some of the adherents of the late Rector Upfold wish to gratify him, by electing as successor anyone but M<sup>r</sup> Hawkes. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [September] 28<sup>th</sup>. . . . To counteract the new line of packets, Cap<sup>t</sup> Holmes, not very friendly, has reduced the price of freights, an unprofitable mode of hostility, w<sup>h</sup> generally defeats itself. As this (28<sup>th</sup>) was the intended period to commence running the Louisville, Cap<sup>t</sup> Price, not being ready, the concerned engaged another ship, the S<sup>t</sup> George to supply its place, w<sup>h</sup> will sail tomorrow, & the 1<sup>st</sup> packet on the 12<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> & so on every fortnight thereafter. These ships are equal in construction & elegant accommod<sup>s</sup> to the finest European packets & must command the preference both of freight & passengers. Y<sup>r</sup> industrious brother will be most actively occupied & I regret that I am incapaci-

tated from being serviceable to him. My deafness is an insuperable obstacle. . . .

Thurs<sup>y</sup> [September] 29<sup>h</sup>. Dear Mother attended yest<sup>y</sup> P. M. in her place as a Directress of S<sup>t</sup> Thomas Ch. Fem. Miss[ionar]y S<sup>o</sup>. A poor concern as Thomas calls it. An an[nual] subs<sup>n</sup> of \$1. is required w<sup>h</sup> has been refused by some ladies, after subscribing, as they did not think well of miss<sup>y</sup> efforts. God grant them grace, & better hearts. . . . I have just heard that the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> McIlvaine who had been elected Bishop of Ohio, & Rector of S<sup>t</sup> Pauls, Boston, both eminent stations, has out of a truly Xt<sup>n</sup> love for his humble congreg<sup>n</sup> of Brooklyn declined both, for w<sup>h</sup> I do most sincerely rejoice, as we have no truly evangelical spirit in our Church to spare in this cold formal High Church Diocese. I am going to the wharf to look at the Louisville w<sup>h</sup> was to come down this morning.

Friday [September] 30<sup>th</sup>. . . . .  
Yest<sup>y</sup> towards ev<sup>g</sup> M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Curtis with their little daughter called, having arrived in the morn<sup>g</sup> from Boston. I have never seen her before, a very genteel person, handsome face, like her dear mothers, Sister Hall. . . .

---

NEW YORK, Monday 10<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>, 1831

. . . . .  
This is to go by the Louisville to sail, if possible on Thur<sup>y</sup> 13<sup>th</sup>. M<sup>r</sup> Foster has been too precipitate as to the period of sailing. A fortnight later w<sup>d</sup> have been better, & given more time for preparation, w<sup>h</sup> is scarcely complete. As regards the superb cabbins, you will be astonished my beloved daughter to view the elegant finish of the state rooms & accommodations, equal to those of the first class Liverpool & Havre packets. May the enterprize of the concern be richly rewarded. Y<sup>r</sup> brother always said that the Louisville was too sharp & w<sup>d</sup> draw too much water. This is likely to prove the case, w<sup>h</sup> will prevent her from taking in a full freight out to

N[ew] O[rleans]. This is the ship, Cap<sup>t</sup> Price, whose turn comes 13<sup>th</sup> March, to take *Doctor* Pintard home. Price is a bold skillful navigator, with whom you sailed. I have this aft.noon, to attend as a pall bearer the funeral of an old Revol<sup>y</sup> officer & brave man, Major [William] Torry, at the upper end of Hudson Street, a mile & a half at least from Broome St. . . .

Tues<sup>y</sup> [October] 11<sup>th</sup>. Notwithstanding the violent N. E. Storm yest<sup>y</sup> for it poured incessantly, I attended the funeral of Major Torrey. He was a captain & brave officer of the N York line in the Rev<sup>y</sup> War, & always sustained a fair character as a man & citizen. He was moreover a pious Xt<sup>n</sup>. In his younger days he was an admirable singer. I c<sup>d</sup> not but regard a beautiful Chamber organ, the companion of his declining years, with emotion, as also his Cincinnati Eagle shrouded in crape, suspended over the chimney piece. His funeral, considering the very unfavourable state of the weather, was respectably attended, for he was much esteemed. He was father of Doctor [John] Torrey, a professor in our Medical College. I rode out & home & thank God experience no harm, taking care to protect my feet with Indian rubbers, & my faithful careful wife wrapping me up in my camblet cloke. It w<sup>d</sup> have made you smile to have heard her charge to the Coachman to be sure to help the old gentleman out of the carriage & up the steps of the house w<sup>h</sup> he attended to. Employing the same Livery Man, he always sends careful drivers. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [October] 12<sup>th</sup>. The sun has at length smiled on us. The storm at N. E. was severe the last 3 days, so as to have impeded the loading of the Louisville. Monday is now fixed for her sailing. . . . This day is the anni<sup>y</sup> of my dear good uncles [Lewis Pintard's] birthday, 99 years ago, 1732, born in the same year with General Washington, to w<sup>h</sup> he frequently recurred.

Thur<sup>y</sup> [October] 13<sup>th</sup> . . . I stepped to the wharf & y<sup>r</sup> brother attended me on board the Louisville the state rooms & cabin furniture of which exceeds in splendour.

not vies with, that of a superb Liverpool ship on the opp[osite] side of the wharf to see w<sup>h</sup> I was politely asked by a gentleman whose name I cannot recall. . . . Thomas' leave was out yest<sup>y</sup> & he ret<sup>d</sup> home this morn<sup>g</sup>, gratified with his visit altho' the weather has been unpropitious. His return home was probably a little more hastened, as he expects to attend a wedding this ev<sup>g</sup>, Miss Wilsey, where y<sup>r</sup> boys have stayed. She is to be married to a promising young man, of the western part of this state, about 400 miles, where she removes forthwith. . . . Thomas' whole heart is in his business. He begins to be a complete draftsman & drafts all the machinery made at Mattawan, a useful essential talent. At New Year he is to go from the mechanic shop to the cotton Factory, to commence with the picker & come up progressively to the loom & callender, so as to become a perfect master of all the branches of cotton manufactures. M<sup>r</sup> Leonard his instructor says that he w<sup>d</sup> give any sum were his son as competent & fond of the business as Thomas, of whose talents, assiduity & attention he cannot speak too highly. . . .

. . . . .  
 Sat<sup>y</sup> [October] 15. A fine day for the Launch of the Natchez. . . . Yest<sup>y</sup> at noon Mother & Sister went on b<sup>d</sup> the Louisville & were charmed with the superb cabin & state rooms, as you will be when you see them. In the ev<sup>g</sup> M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Foster took a parting dish of tea with us, after w<sup>h</sup> the young folks went to the Niblos to see the panorama of Bonaparte. Mother & myself staid home. They ret<sup>d</sup> to Sisters neat refreshment of Oysters &c<sup>a</sup> & after drinking success to the Louisiana & N. O. line of packets & a prosperous & speedy passage to the Louisville, I took French leave at 10. . . . The ship is to haul out in the stream on Monday morn<sup>g</sup> with intention, if possible to sail p. m. but most probably on Tuesday. Every thing is to do & fix, on b<sup>d</sup> a new ship. The cabin is full & there are 50 steerage passengers, so that she will go crowded with live stock. I believe that she takes a good share of freight notwithstanding the

active opposition of the old lines, but the new, after the first outfit, must from the superiority of structure & accommodations carry all before them. Jealousy tho' natural is folly.  $\frac{1}{2}$  p. 12. How I am driven. I have just handled the Louisvilles letter bag by putting a small parcel cont<sup>g</sup> Hist<sup>y</sup> of France, 2 v<sup>s</sup>, Family Library 25<sup>th</sup> vol, Scotts life, Walter 1 with the last newspapers, one containing a brief sketch of the Fair,<sup>37</sup> w<sup>h</sup> we visited with the boys yest<sup>y</sup> p. m. The crowd too great to give them even a peep. Our stay of course was short. I declare it is as much as life is worth to go thro the lower business streets, for carts, packages &c<sup>a</sup> & y<sup>r</sup> brothers counting room is crammed with freighters. The lower hold of the ship is chocked off for laying the hatches, & there appears to be plenty to fill between decks, so that I hope this Ship will have a good set off. It w<sup>d</sup> have been provoking to have gone half freighted. . . .

Monday [October] 17<sup>th</sup>. A heavenly day, for the sailing of the Louisville 4 p. m. We had a superb aft.noon, a superb launch of the superb ship Natchez & a superb collation attended by a large concourse of feasters. Champagne flowed by the dozen. Mother drank 2 glasses, myself 1, w<sup>h</sup> was full enough for my poor head. It was really a brilliant spectacle to see such a noble ship, gliding without the least baulk or accident into her element. She is to sail 13<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>, short time enough to complete her & take in cargo, but y<sup>r</sup> brother has the sole control, & will lose not a moment to expedite her. It is a difficult matter to outfit such splendid ships as compose the new line of packets. The enterprizing proprietors merit every encouragement. The Louisville is full & turned of[f] freight. The Nashville is coming along side the wharf at Pine Street w<sup>h</sup> lies almost opposite y<sup>r</sup> brothers convenient store. M<sup>r</sup> J. Foster, brother to M<sup>r</sup> F. attends to the lading. A very smart active, obliging young man whose address & intelligence give great satisfaction to M<sup>r</sup> Servoss. I am happy that he is

<sup>37</sup> Of the American Institute, at Masonic Hall.

employed, and altho' this is the first ship that he had attended to, he is quite at home in his department & what is essential very ready. The Nashville, Cap<sup>t</sup> Rathbone, is to sail the 28<sup>th</sup> next week, by w<sup>h</sup> I shall write next. . . .

---

NEW YORK, Tues<sup>y</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> [*sic for 18th*] Oct., 1831.

Summer day

I have just returned 1/2 p. 10 from the steam boat, taking leave of M<sup>rs</sup> Foster, to sail in the Louisville this delightful morn<sup>g</sup>. I wish her a speedy & prosperous passage. I believe that the principles of conducting the concerns of the new line of packets by M<sup>r</sup> Servoss in this city are satisfactorily, to all parties, arranged. He has the prospect of very active & detailed troublesome duties before him, but as he is man of great method & despatch he will so arrange the duties of his clerks & subordinates as greatly to facilitate his operations. This first ship, all being new, has been the most difficult. The others will be easier. The Nashville comes next, & as M<sup>r</sup> S. will be chief manager his duty will be lighter. This enterprize is a noble one & does M<sup>r</sup> Foster great credit for his indefatigable exertions w<sup>h</sup> I hope will be crowned with success. Your friend M<sup>rs</sup> F. is much improved in health. I have broken off to decline an appointment as a Man[a]ger of the Prote[stan]t Mission S<sup>o</sup> for this city. My advanced years & deafness disqualify me from being an intelligent useful member of a deliberative association. . . . I am again invited to attend, as pall bearer, the funeral this aft.noon of M<sup>r</sup> John G. Tardy, AE. 71, with whom I was long associated in the Vestry of the French Church, of which he was the faithful secretary for 30 years. . . .

Thurs<sup>y</sup> [October] 20<sup>th</sup>. As I went home yest<sup>y</sup> I passed thro' the park where the Sunday [School] Schol-



ars were assembling to the amount of many thousands. The neatness, order, propriety of behaviour were truly exhilarating to an old spectator who looked back to the times when nothing but frolicking & riots were exhibited on those grounds, now the scene of such rational God-like improvements. I c<sup>d</sup> not wait to hear the hymns sung expediting my course to attend D<sup>r</sup> Francis. The side walks in B<sup>d</sup>way from the Park to Canal Street were filled with the processions of the Sunday scholars, whose smiling countenances together with the cheering aspect of their Teachers esp<sup>y</sup> Female bowed my heart with gratitude, that I sh<sup>d</sup> be spared to witness such scenes.

At 1, Francis bled me *copiously*. It was requisite, for my poor head had been in a dreadful state for many weeks. The bandage slipped & towards ev<sup>s</sup> the blood flowed profusely, w<sup>h</sup> gave Mother some trouble to staunch. . . . The stricture of my bandage prevents writing with ease. Adieu.

Friday [October] 21<sup>st</sup>. Superb weather. . . . Our proposed University<sup>38</sup> have made choice of a location, directly north & adjoining Niblos Garden, 5 lots thro' from B<sup>d</sup>way to Crosby S<sup>t</sup> @ \$10,000 a lot, \$50,000. An injudicious choice in my opinion, on too public noisy a thoroughfare & bad aspect, west & east, instead of south & north. It will tend to raise the value of 429 Broome Street, however.

Sat<sup>y</sup> [October] 22<sup>d</sup>. Fine day. *Business*. Your brother told me last ev<sup>s</sup> to mention that he had accepted the Doctors draft, but that he was engrossed with pressing business that he had not time to write to him. This is a fact, for he does not come home to dinner until 6, as we are preparing for tea. I remonstrate with him, that so long abstinence 10 hours from 8 to 6, will injure. He says no, that he takes an apple & a cracker by way of luncheon, which is too slight. He has gone this morn<sup>s</sup> to the launch of the *Creole*, the 4<sup>th</sup> ship. . . . The Louisiana concern are about contracting for a 6<sup>th</sup> ship, Cap<sup>t</sup>

<sup>38</sup> The site ultimately chosen for New York University is on the east side of Washington Square.

Marshall, to be built this winter, & ready to sail to Liverpool with a cargo next May, to be coppered, return & take her place in the line next fall. I hope the co[mpany] is not too sanguine, but I place great reliance on the judgment of M<sup>r</sup> S[ervoss] who is a most assiduous attentive judicious man & the best cotton agent without exception in this city, where his reputation as a merchant begins to rank among the foremost. . . .

Thurs<sup>y</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>. The first page of my letter by yest<sup>ys</sup> mail <sup>39</sup> was a continuation of the preceding sheet of this. It was to advise you of the safe arrival of y<sup>r</sup> son [John Pintard Davidson] & companions in the Talma yest<sup>y</sup>.

On my way down I paid y<sup>r</sup> subscription of \$10 at the Sunday School office, which will be acknowledged in the Observer & Sunday School Journal of next week. What a grateful offering in your behalf, of a mite towards the greatest effort of the times, the establishment of Sunday Schools in the Valley of the Mississippi. . . . Our Doctor Jun<sup>r</sup> dined with us, having passed a few hours with his g<sup>d</sup>mother & aunt before I came home. He is the same modest well disciplined youth as when here last year, and charms us all . . . He went to the City Hotel, after dinner to his companions, to see the sights of this great city overflowing with visitors on the meeting of the Tariff Convention. I shall call as I go home to take a peep at the most numerous deliberative body ever assembled in this city. . . .

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>. My dear g<sup>d</sup>son dined with us yest<sup>y</sup>. . . . He thinks of returning by the way of Ohio, so as to make a visit, at his fathers desire, to his family relations in Kentucky. I told him that it w<sup>d</sup> be an agreeable duty to visit also his g<sup>d</sup>father Davidson in Missouri. . . .

<sup>39</sup> Not preserved with this collection of Pintard's letters.

Pintard gave me 2 letters to drop in the bag, but as they are addressed to ladies, to prevent inquisitive curiosity on the passage prying into them, I shall place in y<sup>r</sup> envelope. I have made up a little parcel of Missiles as usual. Dwights Sermons, Moores Fitzgerald & Monita Secreta of w<sup>h</sup> I speak in a short letter to *Louis M.* together with y<sup>r</sup> papers & some pamphlets. Sister will provide a dress for you & some little articles to go by the Natchez 12 or 14 Nov<sup>r</sup> with y<sup>r</sup> next tub of butter N<sup>o</sup> 2. This ship is to come along side the Wharf tomorrow. Y<sup>r</sup> brother is quite pleased with her construction & accommodations & thinks she will prove the best ship of the line. The 6<sup>th</sup> ship, to be completed next May, is contracted for, by the same shipwrights, Webb & C<sup>o</sup>, as the Natchez. She is to be 2 feet longer & is 2000 D<sup>rs</sup> cheaper, say \$24,000. These ships all told run up to \$45,000 each or more. A heavy concern to w<sup>h</sup> I wish the enterprizers every success. . . .

[Addressed by Ship] Nashville

---

*To Lewis Marsden Davidson, of New Orleans*

NEW YORK, 31<sup>st</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>, 1831

My dear g[ran]dson Louis M. Davidson Esq

Deputy Clerk of the Sup. Court of Louisiana

Pray do [you] wish to be called in future Louis—let me know for my government.

. . . . .  
By this ship, the Arkansaw, [*sic*] I send 2 vols of President Dwights Sermons. I recommend them all, but those to the Candidates for the Baccalareate in Yale College in particular. Look into the discourse "Life a race" & see whether any of the characters suit you. This is considered as one [of] the Presidents best sermons. He appeared to estimate it, by preaching it 3 times. Were I a Trustee of that renowned College, I w<sup>d</sup> stereotype it to present a copy to every student as he

took his degree. Moore Life of Fitz[g]erald, an unfortunate victim to his patriotism, will please you for its style & subject. . . . I also send a very curious little work, just published, *Secreta Monita*,<sup>40</sup> private Instructions for the Jesuits. It has been extremely rare & inaccessible. Many years ago I heedlessly missed the only copy I ever saw. I seized this with avidity. Read it as I do, as a Latin exercise. The Truth of its history is well set forth in the Introduction. This little Manual will develop the arts of an order that once governed almost the Cabinets of every Rom. Catholic Kingdom. Until the extension of their intrigues & power made Kings to tremble & worked the expulsion & almost ruin of an order w<sup>h</sup> is again reviving. Wherever they settled in the New World they made immense acquisitions of territory. Your upper Fauxbourgh a great way along the river was owned by the order & reverted to France on its expulsion & granted to y<sup>r</sup> city, but as this is a home subject, you must be better informed than myself. I send it to show you the artful duplicity of the Jesuits who by the way rendered themselves odious to the regular clergy. This order is endeavouring to engross education among the Rom. Catholics in y<sup>r</sup> western country & to make converts. Their character therefore ought to be studied & known. I do not mean that my g<sup>d</sup>son sh<sup>d</sup> be a casuist in religion, but capable when asked to give a reason for the Faith that is in him. . . .

[Addressed:] Louis M. Davidson Esq  
 Deputy Clerk  
 of the Supreme Court  
 New Orlenas

[Ship] Nashville

---

<sup>40</sup> "Secreta Monita Societatis Jesu: Secret Instructions of the Jesuits, printed verbatim from the London copy of 1725" was advertised for sale by Jonathan Leavitt, of 182 Broadway, New York, in *The New-York Observer*, of Saturday, Nov. 5, 1831. There is an article on "Monita Secreta" in *The Catholic Encyclopedia* (N. Y.), X, 487.

To Mrs. Richard Davidson

N YORK, Tues<sup>y</sup> 1 Nov<sup>r</sup>, 1831

The Nashville sails this day at 10, with my letter of yest<sup>y</sup> & pacotile. The Illinois also sailed at 9, having an hours start, both sailing at the same time the trial will be w<sup>h</sup> may first arrive. The Illinois has the advantage of being in known trim. Every thing new, sails & rigging of the Nashville is somewhat against her for the first days, in which the Illinois may take the lead, so as not to be overreached. The N[ashville] takes a full freight, y<sup>r</sup> brother says \$500 more than the Louisville. I wish that the Natchez may have as good luck. She is to come along side the Wharf this day. Four prime ships leave this port to day, the above, & 1 for Charleston the other for London, all about the same hour, a beautiful sight. . . .

Thur<sup>y</sup> [November] 3<sup>d</sup>. Beautiful day. I visited the Natchez yest<sup>y</sup>. She is the *crack* ship of the line. Her arrangements & accomodations surpass the 2 first ships, as [you] will grant sh<sup>d</sup> you visit them, but say nothing to M<sup>r</sup> Foster to hurt his pride. He deserve[s] great credit for his enterprize. The Natchez will not probably be prepared to sail till Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>, 2 days later than her regular date, the 13<sup>th</sup> w<sup>h</sup> falling on Sunday is no sailing day. . . .

Monday [November] 7<sup>th</sup>. By the preceding brief how do ye's my beloved daughter will see that my mornings had been engrossed by my duties to the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety]. We have an adjourned meeting on Thur<sup>y</sup> to take into consideration 4 important resolutions respecting supplying Scriptures in Foreign languages. The result I will communicate ere closing this. Yest<sup>y</sup> morn<sup>g</sup> an elegant day I attend[ed] service in the Chapel of the Epis<sup>l</sup> Semin<sup>y</sup>. Bp. Onderdonk delivered the annual sermon & charges to the new students,

18, after w<sup>h</sup> the Sacrament was administered. It was a solemn sight to see 40 young men preparing for the ministry, kneeling in succession at the Lords Table. Our friend M<sup>r</sup> Bayard of Princeton, calls this act, as he does every thing else that does not accord with his Presby<sup>tn</sup> notions, Roman Catholic superstition. It is not. In the Church of Rome where the absurd doctrine of tra[n]-substantiation is believed, it is an act of adoration to the Real Presence, but with us it is an humble demonstration of devotion. However my dear child, so much depends on education & habit, that we ought to think & speak charitably of all forms & customs that differ from our own Church. The Presbyt<sup>s</sup> stand at prayer, Episcop<sup>s</sup> kneel & both are reconcileable with primitive usages. If the heart be right, forms signify little, if cold & un-devout, forms will not avail. Let Protest<sup>s</sup> think what they will, the external forms of Rom. Catholic worship are certainly more devotional & impressive than our own. God will judge & accept the aspirations of the most ignorant & bigotted if offered according to our best belief. Of all things let us think & speak charitably of our fellow Xt<sup>ns</sup>. It was exhilarating to me, to see the largest number of students than ever in one season attended the Theol<sup>l</sup> Sem<sup>y</sup>. The highest n<sup>o</sup> in Bp. Hobarts time did not exceed 18. The number now is more than double. His High Church notions repelled students, & his aim was to depress the Gen. Seminary into a Diocesan School, but by his death & other circumstances, it has pleased God to order it otherwise, for which I rejoice. My heart is in this Sem<sup>y</sup>.

Tues<sup>y</sup> [November] 8<sup>th</sup> Indian summer, delightful weather, favourable for the Natchez, w<sup>h</sup> y<sup>r</sup> brother apprehends will be delayed by the Joiners. The Cabin is far from being completed. I all along enquired whether they were sufficiently urged. It seems not. However the weather is favourable for expediting their nice work. . . . The last Observer of 5<sup>th</sup> contains a very detailed account about Steamboats on your mighty waters, amount-

ing to 402, wh<sup>h</sup> y<sup>r</sup> brother says is a faithful description. I do hope that y<sup>r</sup> sons read these letters as conveying information so useful indeed essential for them to know. When I look back to the period of my short abode in N[ew] O[rleans] in 1801, now 30 years ago, when I walked the levee daily with a very intelligent gent<sup>n</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Mather, since departed I believe, & when we discoursed on the practicability of navigating the Mississippi by steam, casting sticks into the currents & eddies, & calculating their power, as also that of the current of the river, I think 4 miles p<sup>r</sup> hour, & of the possibility of propelling boats of burthen ag<sup>t</sup> it, I feel all astonishment at the immense & almost, to me, incredible progress of steam navigation on the western waters, bringing together all circumstances of population & water communication. I tell y<sup>r</sup> brother that the concerned have no reason to doubt of the success of the new line. At my return home, & before the first steamboat ascended the Hudson, I had frequent conversations with M<sup>r</sup> Fulton about the Miss[is]sippi. He sanguinely, as I then thought, observed that if he c<sup>d</sup> conquer the Hudson, he hoped to see the day when there would be as many st[eam] boats on the Miss[iss]ippi as there were states in the Union. He died however prematurely, his hectic constitution exhausted by intense application of the powers of his mind & body to the great object of his successful ambition, before this then extravagant, but not insignificant anticipation was realized. I have however been spared, tho' not to witness, to hear & read, of the wonderful result of his inventive genius. Altho' not the exact inventor, he h[as] the honour to be the first practical author of propeling [vess]els by the power of steam, and of benefitting all the civilized [worl]d with the fruits of his astonishing Genius. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> [November] 9<sup>th</sup>. I went yest<sup>y</sup> to see the Huntsville to be launched w[e]ather permitting next Sat<sup>y</sup> 12<sup>th</sup>. She is a beautiful ship. Cap<sup>t</sup> Stoddard was so pleased with my Coat of Arms that he had the Devices

carved & blasoned for the Stern. Your brother says they look beautiful. I wish they were on his ship. This is a most splendid line of packets exceeding any belonging to this port & will no doubt flatter the pride of y<sup>r</sup> city. Last night, or early this morn<sup>s</sup> a Fire on the east side of the town burnt down the Roman Catholic Church S<sup>t</sup> Mary & 6 buildings, the former insured for \$10,000, not in the Mutual w<sup>h</sup> loses nothing. The Episcopal N. Y. Mission S<sup>o</sup> has purchased a Church, formerly the Rev. Hooper Cummings, latterly Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Dyes <sup>41</sup> called the Paraclete, in Vandewater S<sup>t</sup> for \$15,000. It has cost \$25,000, & is intended for a Free Church, where every one incapable of paying pew rent may find seats without expense. It is to be under the care of the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Cutler, brother of M<sup>rs</sup> D<sup>r</sup> Francis, a pious Divine. How the project will succeed time must determine. Such a Church appears to be much wanted, but whether mere comers & goers will feel much interest where nothing is paid, is doubtful. The Methodist pews are all free, but every body pays something w<sup>h</sup> attaches them to their Churches. It is a laudable effort. I wish it success. Our new Epis[copa]l Churches tax heavy rents. I have now my annual Bill for last year in S<sup>t</sup> Thomas \$30 this with 6 p<sup>r</sup> C<sup>t</sup> on \$400, the first cost, makes \$44 [sic] a year. Y<sup>r</sup> brother however pays me half the rent \$15. He has the cheapest of the bargain. I have given the pew to Mother, but as y<sup>r</sup> Sisters family increases it will become too small. Indeed it is so already when all are present. It cannot conveniently accommodate only Pintard, for Mother will not be incommoded. However, *we* shall soon give place to our successors. I attend because I profit by the Liturgy, & it is exemplary to go to Church. We have as yet no new minister chosen. If he sh<sup>d</sup> prove a High flyer, such as the last I will quit, & attend again my French Church,

<sup>41</sup> Richard Varick Dey. (Jonathan Greenleaf, *A History of the Churches in the City of New York* (2nd ed., 1850), pp. 45-46, 90-91, 163-64, 355; C. E. Corwin, *A Manual of the Reformed Church in America* (5th ed., 1922), p. 308.)



but this will be very painful to Mother who is attached to her own seat. . . .

Sat<sup>y</sup> [November] 12<sup>th</sup>. I was so engaged yest<sup>y</sup> till 2 o'clock with B[ible] S[ociety] duties that I c<sup>d</sup> not trace a line. . . . The Managers of the Am. B. S. made the following appropriations for Foreign objects to be paid, by particular subscriptions, the ensuing year, Viz<sup>t</sup>

- \$5000 to the B<sup>d</sup> of Foreign Missions, toward printing the Scriptures in the Mahratta language
- 5000 towards the N[ew] Testament for the Sandwich islands
- 5000 to the Baptist Mission towards printing the Scriptures in Burmese
- 5000 or upwards for stereotyping the modern Greek Test[ament] & publishing 30,000 Copies to be sent to Greece.

Handsome appropriations w<sup>h</sup> will do great good. At my return home I found the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Bayard at Tea & he received the intelligence with g<sup>t</sup> coldness, not approving, after Bp. Hobart, of Foreign missions. God mend these *High Flyers*. They will not even countenance the General For. & Dom. Miss[ionar]y S<sup>o</sup> of our own Church, further than confining all its meagre efforts to domestic purposes. I have no patience on this subject, & had better be silent. This same class of conscientious Churchmen is doing all in their power to break down the General S[unday] S[chool] Union, by raising the hue & cry of Presbyt<sup>n</sup> influence & Union of Church & State. Shameful.

Monday [November] 14<sup>th</sup>. . . .

I have (11 o'clock) just been on b<sup>d</sup> the Natchez. There is no chance of her sailing tomorrow. The steerage passengers are rolling in their baggage to the number of 60. Cap<sup>t</sup> Reed says that there will be in all 100 souls on board. The hold is chocking off, but the am<sup>t</sup> of freight will not equal the Nashville. Her Cabin is nearly completed. The State rooms are all most ele-

gantly furnished like the Louisvilles. Every possible comfort & accommodation are provided. Ship Stores of the first quality & abundance. . . .

Tues<sup>y</sup> [November] 15<sup>th</sup>. Altho' the aft.noon was very raw & blustering our folks rode down to Ficket[t]s ship yard to see the launch <sup>42</sup> w<sup>h</sup> was very elegant. Part of M<sup>rs</sup> Schencks family came down, many other ladies were present. The refreshments were in superb style, champagne flowing like cider, after w<sup>h</sup> we got home thankful, the boys delighted. . . .

---

*To Lewis Marsden Davidson, of New Orleans*

NEW YORK, 14<sup>th</sup> Nov., 1831

My dear g<sup>d</sup>son

Mothers Box contains last Sat<sup>r</sup>s Journal of Commerce with a neat article by y<sup>r</sup> uncle respecting your friend M<sup>r</sup> Lea.<sup>43</sup> An adventurer palmed himself off at Boston last summer as a rich Louis[ian]a planter under the name of M<sup>r</sup> L. The imposture was detected & published. Your uncle, noteing the article w<sup>h</sup> I did not, drew up the one sent you, to let the Bostonians know who the real M<sup>r</sup> Lea was. In the paper loose, is an acc't of the 5 new packets given by y<sup>r</sup> uncle, with an advert[isement] of Judge Johnstons Cotton, w<sup>h</sup> I thought might amuse & please.

It w<sup>d</sup> be a wonderful Box from me, without a Book. Among others is poetical Quotations, 4 v<sup>s</sup> w<sup>h</sup> will serve y<sup>r</sup> turn perhaps to round a period of some of y<sup>r</sup> forensic speeches, also Cobbets Advice to Young Persons, w<sup>h</sup> I have not more than looked at. The practical remarks of

<sup>42</sup> Of the *Huntsville*, Captain Charles Stoddard.

<sup>43</sup> *The New York Journal of Commerce* of Friday, November 11, 1831, contains the following notice: "We learn that the name 'Franklin W. Lee' is the property of a young gentleman of high character and standing at New Orleans, and now Clerk of the U. S. District Court in that city. . . . The assumption of his name by a fellow otherwise calling himself Bernard Watson, alias Jones . . . was a bold and wanton act. . . ."

this ext<sup>r</sup> man may be useful to you, also Col. Willetts campaigns, with whom I was long & intimately acquainted. His narratives may be relied on for the truth of the Facts. He was one of our earliest & most devoted Whigs. Let me give you one anecdote from his lips. His Father [Edward Willett] was as decided a Loyalist or Tory as his son was a Whig, & used to tell, nothing doubting but that the British w<sup>d</sup> conquer, *Marinus* you will be hung. When the son took leave of his father who remained in the city, he said, My son, I never expect to see you again, for you will either be killed in battle or hung. At the termination of the Rev<sup>y</sup> War in the Independence of these U. States, Col. Willett embracing his aged parent said, Well Father, here I am, neither killed nor hung. How do you like our Independence? I'll tell you my son. When I was a young man Governor Clinton invited me to dinner, a high honour in those days. Not accustomed to meet such great folks, I determined to do at table just as they did to avoid disgracing myself. After dinner, with the desert, Olives were on the Table, which altho' I had read of in the Bible, I had never seen before. Every body praising them, I took one also, w<sup>h</sup> tasted so nauseous that I c<sup>d</sup> not eat it. I put up my hand to my mouth, took it & silyly disposed of it, in my pocket. So it is *Marinus* with your Independence, what I can't swallow I must pocket. An instructive anecdote which may be useful to you on many occasions. As you read this veterans narrative, turn to *Holmes Annals* w<sup>h</sup> will aid you in fixing events & dates in y<sup>r</sup> memory, that when you recall & cite you may be accurate. I believe that you have got no good authentic hist<sup>y</sup> of America either Colonial or U States. There is a General Hist<sup>y</sup> in the Family Library, very well spoken off, possibly puffed, going thro' the press. If it sh<sup>d</sup> please me I will send a copy for my N[ew] O[rleans] family. It is worse than a shame, it is gross, for an American who has any pretensions to education to be ignorant of his own coun-

try. More of my day were better informed in the His<sup>y</sup> of Eng<sup>d</sup> than of America. . . .

[Addressed by:] Ship Natchez

*To Mrs. Richard Davidson*

NEW YORK, Wed<sup>y</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> [*sic for 16th*] Nov., 1831

The Natchez sails this day, with a fair wind. A more sple[nidid] ship never left this port. Also the Talma & another ship. We shall hear which beats. On board the Natchez you will I hope receive y<sup>r</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> Tub of butter, 4 Boxes Digby Herrings, strapped together counting 1, 1 small box Chocolate, 1 Box from Sister, 1 from myself. . . .

[Thursday, November 17] . . . Your brother went down with the passengers as far as Quarantine. Webb, the ship builder proceeded in her to the Hook & ret<sup>d</sup> in the pilot boat. The Natchez was exactly an hour from Quarantine to Sandy Hook distance 14 miles w<sup>h</sup> she reached at 12, so that she must have made a fine offing by sunset. She sails well & will I hope have a short run to N. Orleans. . . . Thomas . . . is eminently calculated to make a scientific intelligent manufacturer. Next month he is to go from the machine shop where he has passed 18 months, into the new Factory erected this year, where he is to begin by unripping the Bale of Cotton, picking & assorting of it to go thro' all the various stages until it is converted into cloth, so as to become intimately acquainted with the perfection of every process & render himself an expert practical manufacturer as well as machinest. He has become very serviceable, already, to M<sup>r</sup> Leonard who begins to entrust him with the execution of the business of the concern. . . .

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> [*sic for 18th November*] . . . I have just rec<sup>d</sup> a copy of the Mirror to be published tomor-

row, with a beautiful vignette & engraving of the late City Hall in Wall S<sup>t</sup> with an account of it & its predecessors by myself, w<sup>h</sup> I will send to you. Bricks & mortar are but indifferent subjects for descant, & look better in picture than description. However I have endeavoured to connect with it a few historical facts to render it somewhat interesting. Altho' read in a few minutes, the compilation from the Journals of our Corporation cost me several mornings research. If I proceed as solicited to chronicle such prints as may hereafter be published occasionally in the Mirror, it will afford me some occupation, innocent & amusing. My memory being tolerable, early impressions & anecdotes are more readily revived. I am going to say something about the Walton Mansion House,<sup>44</sup> in its day, the proudest private dwelling in this city, & remains still a noble monument of the best style of building more than three quarters of a century ago. I must refer to my description when it shall appear in print, in the mean time scratch my head & collect my thoughts to bring it forth.

Sat<sup>y</sup> [November] 19<sup>th</sup>. But a moment to say that I am going to attend the consecration of the Mission Church <sup>45</sup> by the Title of The Holy Evangelists, under the pastoral care of the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Cutler. The pews to be entirely *Free*, the south Gallery reserved for Mariners. It is a generous effort and I trust that it will succeed. "The Poor have the Gospel preached to them" a leading characteri[sti]c of the Christian Religion. I shall contribute my mite \$15 to constitute me a member of "the Prot. Epis<sup>l</sup> City Mission." God speed it.

Monday [November] 21<sup>st</sup>. On Sat<sup>y</sup> I attended the consecration of the Mission Church, w<sup>h</sup> was chiefly filled, as usual on such occasions, by respectable Females. I staid thro' the service & sermon, contributed my mite & prayers for its success & got home by 2, where I found a card for me from D<sup>r</sup> Screven of S<sup>o</sup> Carolina, who had

<sup>44</sup> Pintard's article on "The Walton Mansion-House, Pearl Street" was printed in *The New-York Mirror*, March 17, 1832. IX, p. 289.

<sup>45</sup> In Vandewater Street.

called in a carriage with a lady, but did not alight. After dinner, at 4 I called at M<sup>rs</sup> Man[n']s, his lodgings, 61 B<sup>d</sup>way, he was not in & I left my card. This morn<sup>g</sup> I called again, after some time the waiter said that the Doctor was not within, & that he was going to Phil<sup>a</sup> tomorrow morn<sup>g</sup>. And here I presume the formality is to end. I sh<sup>d</sup> like to have seen the Lieut<sup>s</sup> Father, but as you kn[ow it] is out of my power to have, as I c<sup>d</sup> wish, invited him to dinner. Had the Lady been the Doctors daughter, Mother & Sister intended to have waited on them & asked them to take tea & pass the ev<sup>g</sup>.

. . . . .

---

NEW YORK, Tues<sup>y</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> Nov., 1831

. . . This is to go by the Creole Cap<sup>t</sup> Page to sail, weather permitting, Thur<sup>y</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. with a full cargo, but no steerage passengers who very much incommode a ship. I wish her a speedy & prosperous passage. By letters from M<sup>r</sup> Foster we learn that the Louisville has been much visited & admired as will all [the] rest. The owners will I trust be remunerated for their liberal enterprize. What changes in the size & accommod<sup>n</sup> of packets since my beloved childs first adventure by sea to N[ew] O[rleans] now many years gone by.

Since my last I have been visited, for the first time in my long life with a serious fit of illness. I was attacked last Monday p. m. by the influenza w<sup>h</sup> has prevailed throughout this city, sparing neither old nor young, stout or weak. I was so dreadfully prostrated the 2 first days that my situation was thought critical. Indeed I thought so myself, and that I had reached the term of my existence. I felt perfectly resigned, ready nay willing to depart, casting all my doubts & sins at the foot of the cross, and looking up to my Redeemer alone for hopes of salvation. I was not forsaken in the hour of trial and most devoutly thank God for his

sustaining mercy. My malady has yielded to the skill of my Physician, D<sup>r</sup> Francis, but above all, under Providence, to the tender unceasing care & attention of y<sup>r</sup> dear mother. I always heard that she was a most tender affect<sup>ed</sup> nurse, but I never before experienced. . . .

Wed<sup>y</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. I was quite cheered yest<sup>y</sup> p. m. by the receipt of my beloved daughters letter of 13<sup>th</sup> inst. postmark 15<sup>th</sup>, how rapid the transmission. . . . It has pleased God to take to himself our beautiful child Louis Pintard [Servoss], who died at 7 o'clock this morn<sup>g</sup>, he was born the 18<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1830, being aged 1 year & 12 days. With its dear mother, I am quite overwhelmed. The shock to me was greater as tho' complaining I was unapprized of his imminent danger. . . .

Thur<sup>y</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. I am spared my beloved daughter to see the light of another day. . . . Poor dear Mother who has held out wonderfully is suffering with a violent cold & stricture of the chest, I think that Francis calls it *congestion*. . . . This is the stated meeting of the Managers of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] from w<sup>h</sup> for the *first* time in 15 years since I have been Rec<sup>d</sup> Sec<sup>y</sup> that I have been absent from illness. . . . I sh<sup>d</sup> mention that Boudy is passing favourably thro the measles. Pintard & Richard not yet affected. . . .

1/2 p. 1. Francis has taken some blood w<sup>h</sup> may relieve poor exhausted dear mother. He assures me that there is nothing alarming. . . .

1/2 p. 4. They are just removing the mortal remains of our blessed little Louis to be deposited in our new Family Tomb in S<sup>t</sup> Clements Church. What a consolation that this receptacle was provided in season. . . .

[Addressed by Ship] Creole

Broome S<sup>t</sup> N. Y. Wed<sup>r</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> Dec., 1831

Through divine mercy I am permitted, *once again*, to write to my beloved daughter. . . .

. . . . .  
Boudy has passed thro' the measles, Richard is passing thro', & dear delicate Pintard, tho drooping was not assailed till last night. . . . I must be very careful about getting up & more so in going abroad. I hope thro' the blessing of God to be enabled to attend Church on Xmas day, next Sunday week, and to partake *once more* of the Lords Supper.

I have the happiness to acknowledge the rec<sup>t</sup> of my beloved daughters letter of 25<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> by the Louisville, a prime sailor w<sup>h</sup> made the Light House in 8½ days from the Balize. Splendid ships indeed, w<sup>h</sup> I am pleased that you visited with y<sup>r</sup> friends, to whom the sight must have been quite a treat. With the alteration of Marsdens situation I am gratified. M<sup>r</sup> Lea to say the least was niggardly & ungrateful. How much my g<sup>d</sup>son are you indebted to y<sup>r</sup> kind good brother Johnston. . . .

. . . . .  
[Addressed by Ship] Huntsville

Capt. Stoddert

---

Broome S<sup>t</sup> Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> Dec., 1831

For the first time since my illness I have passed the threshold of my Chamber door. . . . The Huntsville, by w<sup>h</sup> I wrote on the 14<sup>th</sup> c<sup>d</sup> not sail yest<sup>r</sup>. Whether the weather, w<sup>h</sup> is easterly, will permit her going to day, I shall know when y<sup>r</sup> good kind brother returns. She was to go at 8 a. m. Possibly she may be towed off, for Cap<sup>t</sup> Stoddert, like Price, is a bold seaman. . . .

Sat<sup>r</sup> [December] 17<sup>th</sup>. Fine day. Mother improving, myself gaining strength & dear Pintard going on favourably. Thank God for all his infinite mercies to us. Cap<sup>t</sup> Stoddert sailed yest<sup>r</sup>. The pilot left him ½



p. I making an offing at a great rate. He sent back word that he had a noble ship under him. . . .

[December] 18<sup>th</sup> . . . Dear Sister has just left us to go to Church, the first time that she has appeared abroad & the first time that she has worn weeds for her own flesh & blood. The sight quite overpowered me. . . .

This Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> in Advent, is an Epoch in S<sup>t</sup> Thomas' Church. The rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Hawks was unan[imously] elected Rector last Friday ev<sup>s</sup> & enters on his Ministry this day. The circumstance is quite a balm to my spirits. He called yest<sup>r</sup> morn<sup>s</sup> to visit me, his first visit, to any parishioner, as I was sick. It did me good. He renewed an acquaintance with me, being introduced when in our Sem[inar]y to me 8 years ago. He is a learned pious Divine & a very popular preacher. May the Lord shine upon him & bless him & enable him to resuscitate our prostrate congreg<sup>n</sup>. . . .

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>. . . . Dear Mother has made for me a black velvet cap, like my dear venerated old Uncles. I c<sup>d</sup> not but exclaime when I beheld myself in the glass "Alas! poor old man, have you come to this." I found it comfortable & wore it at table. . . . Dear Sister went to morn<sup>s</sup> Church, where they saw an overflowing Congreg<sup>n</sup>. The Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Hawks gave his intro[ductor]y discourse "I am resolved to know nothing among you but Jesus X<sup>t</sup> & Him Crucified." He made a beautiful exposition of the X<sup>t</sup><sup>n</sup> duties, & a pathetic applic<sup>n</sup> to his new situation, w<sup>h</sup> he entered upon with fear & trembling, not the fear of man but least he sh<sup>d</sup> not fulfil the duties of a servant of his Master. He preached to very g<sup>t</sup> acceptance both morn<sup>s</sup> & ev<sup>s</sup> when the Church was equally crowded. He has many personal followers from S<sup>t</sup> Stephens. He is a very elegant writer & popular preacher. May the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon him & upon his congreg<sup>n</sup> w<sup>h</sup> I have no doubt he will resuscitate, & instead of a reproach & a by word S<sup>t</sup> Thomas will become a goodly example to all our Churches. I cannot express by gratitude to my

heavenly Father that I have been spared to see this happy event & to enjoy the comfort of friendly intercourse with the pastor of my Church. He enters upon his duties with zeal & ardour, to Lecture next Thurs<sup>y</sup> ev<sup>g</sup>, to establish a Bible class the evening following, & to meet the Sunday School teachers on Sunday ev<sup>g</sup>, both hitherto unexampled in S<sup>t</sup> Thomas! Next Lords day he is to administer the Holy Sacrament at w<sup>h</sup> please God I may be present & will prepare with more than usual diligence.

. . . . .  
Tues<sup>y</sup> [December] 20<sup>th</sup>. . . . .

A premature & very piercing winter has stagnated business. The pressure on the money market has never been equalled. I know not how y<sup>r</sup> good brother gets along with all his heavy advances & unsold cotton. The northern manufacturers are all bitter. They were blowing on cotton to depress it lower & postp[one]d their purchases. Many of the Factories will have to close, or transport cotton all the way by land from N. Y. to Albany. Not content with rapid sales & large profits, they aimed, by combination to get the raw material still lower, but are deservedly taken in.

. . . . .  
Thurs<sup>y</sup> [December] 22<sup>d</sup>. Bulletin. Convalescents

improving. Dear Mother sitting up. Pintard running up & down stairs with usual alacrity. I have got out of my neat Chamber gown, w<sup>h</sup> mother provided for me, into my Camblet frock surtout, w<sup>h</sup> makes me feel a little more like getting well. It is to accustom me by degrees to be able please God to go to Church next Sunday. . . .

. . . . .  
[Addressed by Ship] Louisville

Capt. Price

---

NEW YORK, Monday 26<sup>th</sup> Dec., 1831

On Saturday the Nashville arrived in 14 d[ays] from the Balize. She made Sandy Hook about 8 A. M. but a dense Fog prevented sight of land. Only the sound of the breakers warned Cap<sup>t</sup> Rathbone that he was near the coast. He proceeded by the sound & the lead, & had nearly run down a pilot Boat at anchor. The pilot came on board & went under easy sail by the lead until the Ship entered the Narrows when the clouds breaking away at 10, discovered the first sight of land. Your brother had gone to Whitehall to engage a steam boat to tow her up, at the rate of \$10 an hour, telling the master that he expected the Nashville every tide. He replied that the Nashville was below, being announced on the Bulletin. While they were conversing, here she comes, said the Captain, & sure enough it was her, having run up, the Bay luckily being clear of ice with w<sup>h</sup> it had been before covered. She made fast to the Wharf at 12 o'clock after this short & propitious arrival.

I hope that the several boxes arrived safe, & that the contents pleased the big & the little children. The joy of the latter yest<sup>r</sup> morn<sup>s</sup> on the arrival of S<sup>t</sup> Claas with his annual gift, I e<sup>d</sup> easily see, in that of our dear children who came down from the nursery to mothers room, to examine the contents of their stockings, suspended at the fire place according to ancient usage, a custom w<sup>h</sup> I hope your dear children will retain & practice, as their turn comes to make glad the hearts of their little innocents, & to remind them of the rock from w<sup>h</sup> they were hewn. S<sup>t</sup> Claas is too firmly rivetted in this city ever to be forgotten, or mince pies to be omitted on Xmas day.

Yest<sup>r</sup> Xmas, was a mild pleasant day. Thro' Divine mercy my earnest wish to make my *first* appearance abroad, in Church & to renew my vows at the foot of the altar, was graciously gratified. Sister & myself rode

there, it being too early for dear mother to venture even down stairs. . . . We had an overflowing congregation & double or more communicants that ever attended our Communion. M<sup>r</sup> Hawks preaches to great acceptance & in the evening Sister & brother went. The Church crowded to excess. Several of our first rate young lawyers & others who go to hear eloquent preaching, were there. Text, Who are the Wise, who the Scribes, or who the Scoffers, w<sup>h</sup> M<sup>r</sup> S[ervoss says] was most ably handled & the best discourse that he ever heard in his life. Y<sup>r</sup> sister s<sup>d</sup> that notwithstanding the crowd, you might have heard a pin drop, all was breathless attention. The singing superior & the Church most elegantly decorated with Xmas greens, according to our cheerful custom. The good Presbyt[erian]s are too gloomy. They enter not into our joys. Your dear mother on this occasion presented our son as a small tribute of gratitude for all his goodness to us, thro' our late illness, with a beautiful diamond breast pin cont<sup>g</sup> the hair of his dear little Angel, with his decease & age, w<sup>h</sup> was most kindly accepted. I trust hereafter that more cordiality towards him will prevail on her part. . . .

---

Broome S<sup>t</sup> N. Y., Wed<sup>r</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> Dec., 1831

The Louisville was to have sailed, if possible, this day, but an old fashioned snow storm, not violent, will prevent.

. . . . .  
 Dear Mother is as lively & brisk as ever, assorting her clothes for our present state of mourning, w<sup>h</sup> in every sense ought to be rejoicing, for our blessed little saint in Heaven. Miss Maria C. Gouverneur, youngest daughter of N[icholas] G[ouverneur] dec<sup>d</sup> was married to M<sup>r</sup> Cadwallader of Trenton. A good match on both sides. She has a handsome fortune. Stephen Girard of Phil<sup>a</sup> died the 25<sup>th</sup> the richest man in the U. S. He

sailed before the mast in my good old uncles employ, before 1775.

Thurs<sup>y</sup> [December] 29<sup>th</sup> . . . It snowed till night yest<sup>y</sup> mild & level about 8 inches. The sleighing is elegant & highly improved. Broadway rings again with the merry bells. . . . I have been for the first time in Wall S<sup>t</sup>. The streets were shovelled & I walked out & home without fatigue. . . .

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>. An elegant day. superb sleighing. B<sup>d</sup>way alive. . . . That you may judge of the state of our bay, the mail that left this city at 4 P. M. Wed<sup>y</sup> [did] not reach Powlas Hook till 6 a. m. Thur<sup>y</sup> being all night floating & fast in the ice. The pilot was afraid to take the Louisville under charge yest<sup>y</sup>. A steam Boat all ready to tow her out . . . M<sup>r</sup> S. said that Cap<sup>t</sup> Price hoped to sail this morn<sup>g</sup> at 8. He carries a freight within \$200 as much as the first, 12 cabin & 9 steerage passage w<sup>h</sup> at this season is marvellous.

Last ev<sup>g</sup> my French Church Vestry to accommodate me, met at our house, to appoint a Building Committee, with power to contract for building our new Church & Parsonage House w<sup>h</sup> both will cost, not far from \$30,000. Perhaps with management we may include an Organ. The plan is very handsome & will do us credit as well as ornament the city, an object always to be held in view, in public edifices, where the funds will hold out. I consented to serve on the Com<sup>e</sup> rather as counsellor than an operative member. This consent, w<sup>h</sup> I had hitherto withheld gratified my colleagues. It may afford me amusement sh<sup>d</sup> I live next summer to call & oversee the work. When I was recovering I asked myself, for what purpose has it pleased God to protract my days. I thought probably that I might be an example by my upright walk, to my family & fellow citizens. I then resolved to lend my name & services as far as health & strength w<sup>d</sup> permit, if called upon, to promote every object of Xt<sup>n</sup> benevolence & usefulness. This then is the first fruits of that humble resolution, w<sup>h</sup> pleases me the rather as it is performing all in my power for the benefit

of *my*, for I must still call it mine, French Church. For a year or two past I had gradually withdrawn from society, more on acc<sup>t</sup> of my deafness, than diffidence of my incapacity. This however may be my weakness, so to say. It is better however that my remaining talent should wear out, than rust out. God be praised for all my endowments such as they are.

2 p. m. William has just come up from the store. He says that the Louisville is to be towed out by two steam Boats at 4 o'clock. God speed her. The Rev. Mr Bayard is to have a grand sacred Concert this ev<sup>g</sup> at S<sup>t</sup> Clements. It promises to be a most favourable ev<sup>g</sup> & I heartily wish him success.

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1831. The last day of the Old Year. What solemn reflections the word *last* inspires, esp<sup>y</sup> to one just raised from the bed of death. . . . The Louisville attempted in vain to sail yest<sup>y</sup>. She was to make an effort this morn<sup>g</sup> at 7, but on calling at y<sup>r</sup> brothers store I understood that she did not succeed.

. . . . .

---

















