

Bloomington Jan 2^d 1834

Dear Son:

I was disappointed in your not going on to Phil^a & had made my calculations to pay the remainder of what I promised you for horse & buggy which I had hoped, with what you might scrape up from your debtors about Richmond, might carry you through the winter. But it seems, from your letter that the scraping has been the other way & that you have been the scraped.

So you made Cincinnati do for Phil^a. It is all for the best, no doubt. I have no wisdom in such matters. But debt is to be abhorred: though I have never been out of it & sometimes pretty deeply in, considering. One thing your mother could never learn (& perhaps you may take after her somewhat in this respect) viz that saving of money in numerous small items is great in the aggregate, reckoning only for one year; & that this aggregate it is which gives power, peace of mind, & ease of movement, also efficiency in action - to say nothing of being pinched & bare of material comforts - a catastrophe not to be kept off by what one gains but by what one saves. To spend the revenue of Croesus would be easy & yet so as to have nothing to show for it at the end of the year.

I have sold Selim for \$5 dolls to be paid the middle of next month. My next quarter's payment will be due in a month, when I shall try to spare you another hundred - but I think I shall hold on to Fann. I shall try & cure Peto's lameness, & then she might answer your purpose till you could sell her.

Dear John.

Jan 2nd 1850

Father handing this, says, I, or whoever pleases may add a P.S. I have often heard say, that a lady's P.S. generally contains the most important piece, of her letters; & since this will be one of 3 pages, am in hopes to make it, of sufficient interest, to come under that category, although the letter is from one of the sex (who first made, & now keep it a going, the above ~~unpleasant~~ & ungenerous observation. And now after having said thus much, allow me to wish you a happy New Year; which wish I fear, will not be realized to the extent I wish, (may that could never be on any spot of Earth) since you have got back to the ~~point of~~ stairs of Miss Mary Pans. Am not going, to read you another Candle Lecture, on matrimony knowing you preserved the last; to that we beg you will refer, when ~~you~~ are in danger, of being smitten with a dan, like of Eve, minus, even one, of ^{the} qualities qualifications - ~~quoted~~ we thought essential, & would like you to think so, in your selection of a helpmeet. Esth says, she told you of every thing (in her last of a week or two since), that was of the least consequence; of all that happened in the year 49; nothing remains for me to detail, & so I shall detail — nothing. Of course the young gentlemen (& old) of W. are aware of the present foolish, tiresome custom, of making calls on the first day of the year, whether you follow the custom being old fashioned quakers, is more than I am aware; however, I am too hasty in condemning the fashion, as being foolish, & tiresome: at least should except, should defer, to the opinion of the majority, those ~~call~~ who call & a lady here & there, a young lady, happy to see her bear at any time, & an occasional ^{and} a man, who thinks there is great friendship, consideration & coined in the making of these calls, all I have said on the matter, is preliminary, to saying, we had some 25 or 30 yesterday; that I exhausted all my ideas trying to be entertaining, that I felt stupid to night, & that I cannot but annunciate with regret, on the good old days, when we had a

turkey dinner, & a glass of toddy, ~~so~~ could eat & drink of the ^{same} without
any body's knocking at the door, or anybody having to say come in.
The gay season has commenced in B. with great gusto; 3 parties last
week, & 3 more in contemplation for the ensuing several months.
Abe & I go to some, where we know there are those ^{there} of our own clique, but the
young fry we do not often interrupt. You see how uninteresting I am,
when I've no news, fact, to relate, go on talking about parties & such
nonsense. Have just finished perusal of Jane Eyre. ~~Am~~ much pleased
with it, though by no means admitted, to be one of the first rate, by the
best judges. but the hero, & heroine, are so unlike any other, the style so
graphic, ^{some papers} & a sentence here & there, a thought once in a while, so brief &
beautiful, that though there are some things, unlife like, & over strained
~~that~~ the class of readers, of which I belong am one, are pleased with it to a
man. Sam writes your health is entirely restored; hope you will take
excellent good care of yourself, avoid the night rides as much as possible,
wrap well in flannel, & don't smoke more than one cigar, or chew more
than one quid of to-bacco a day; all of which advice you will follow no
doubt, as far as convenient. We are all jogging along as usual this winter;
nothing has happened us, since you left, out of the routine, nor is
anything likely to take place, of much moment, if you do not get an
epistle often, just think, know, that they have nothing to say. ~~She~~ says
to tell you, she is cutting a great swell, making quite a dash, but it
not being the truth, I won't tell it for such. Got a letter from Thos. the
other day; had just arrived at Phila. a great part of his letter was filled
with laments, that he did ~~not~~ ^{not} arrive an hour or two, sooner, when he would
have been in time, for Will's wedding, & have seen them all, says old Dr. ~~W.~~ &
family were much pleased with May. ^{May, Jane, with wife &c.} Abe rec a letter from Aunt E.
a few days since; She writes Aunt J's health is still very bad, though able
to sit up most of the day; her physician has but small hope of her
recovery. Mr Bell had not returned, were expecting him daily.
Kate was in good health & spirits. They intend (72 & 73) going to house keeping

on his return. Uncle McKee, & all the boys, are at home this winter. John is dep. P. M. gets a salary of 800. Uncle Leake is taking the tour of this State, or rather visiting vacancies in the P. Church. He is out of a situation in Penn. & wishes to obtain one here; did he carry a better recommendation in his visage, he might ~~have~~ succeed (for he preaches well) but he looks so mightly cracked, that all the world will know what he is, a sour old cab. ~~Many~~ ^{good faces} a face has been the making of ones fortune, & visa versa. Our new professor, Marshall, arrived a few weeks since he is very young, but 20, does not look that old, he is much liked so far, is pleasant & chatty & though from Virginia does not think that ~~that~~ the center & circumference of the Univer. Read McCaskey's England, (now I think out he spells his name, Macaskey) with much interest, one could not easily forget what he writes (mean his History) think his is the only part of English History I shall ever remember; forget whether you gave me the Book, or left it for me to read, know you did say something of the kind about one or other. Mary & family are well. she looks better, & is more cheerful, does not complain so much, as when you were here; the Dr. gets along as usual. Jenny goes to school, & makes good progress in her music, she promises being something of a musician. Got a letter from Sam the other day it was all about shirts. Write soon, & assure us, of your continued good health. Am your affec^t sister Liz.

Liz, not being able to fill up this sheet, I add a piece of advice which might seem unnecessary to a physician, namely that your health, the greatest of earthly blessings, being now, according to Sam's account, restored, is to be preserved by a due degree of Exercise. Exercise & temperance, I firmly believe, are of more importance than all the pills & prescriptions of all the doctors from Hippocrates down to Daniel Drake. Though I am suffering just now no little from a sprain in the small of my back, brought on by exercise with a pitchfork in tossing to the cattle, a bundle of fodder. Affectionately
A Wythe