



Our dear little Anna's
hair. September 6th 1852.

My Dear Sister,

I suppose you are aware before this that Mary has a fine, healthy, seven months daughter. We got home about ten o'clock, and it was born at twelve.

While I think of it, I will tell you, that Miss Fanny wants you to get Dr. Smith's to send for "Modern Society" the sequel to Modern Accomplishments. She does not wish her name to be mentioned, and says she will pay you for the book as soon as it arrives. How have you been since we

left you? I had become
so much accustomed to
your society, that every
morning when I went down
stairs, I felt as if some one
had gone away from here
I missed you so dreadfully.
Lizzie would have gone
down in the hack if she
had had an escort. She
and Miss Fanny talk of
going down next Saturday,
and you must certainly
come back with them.

Sally has not forgotten
Sam. If I say to her
"call Uncle Sam, don't
you want to see Uncle Sam

She begins to look round
and shake her hands,
and rub her heels on
the floor with all her might.
Till him if he doesn't
soon come up, I can
not promise how long
she will remember him.
Beck desires his love to
you both, and says you
must certainly come up.
I shall send Dale Moore's
handkerchief by Ben; I de-
finitely forgot it the day I
left. I also return the book,
I hope we shall have a
equal. Love to Sam and Shannon.
Your ever affectionate Sister
Anne.

I hope your cold will
not last very long,
Give my love to Mrs.
Moore, Harmon and
Dinny. Good night.
Your affectionate sister
Anne.

I forgot to tell you that Charles
has returned to Cumberland
and settled there. Father
received a short letter from him
asking him to send his saddle.
Siggie wrote to him last week.
She received a long letter from
Cousin, I expect she will
send it down to you to
read. She took it from here
today to show to Mrs.
Wigginton.

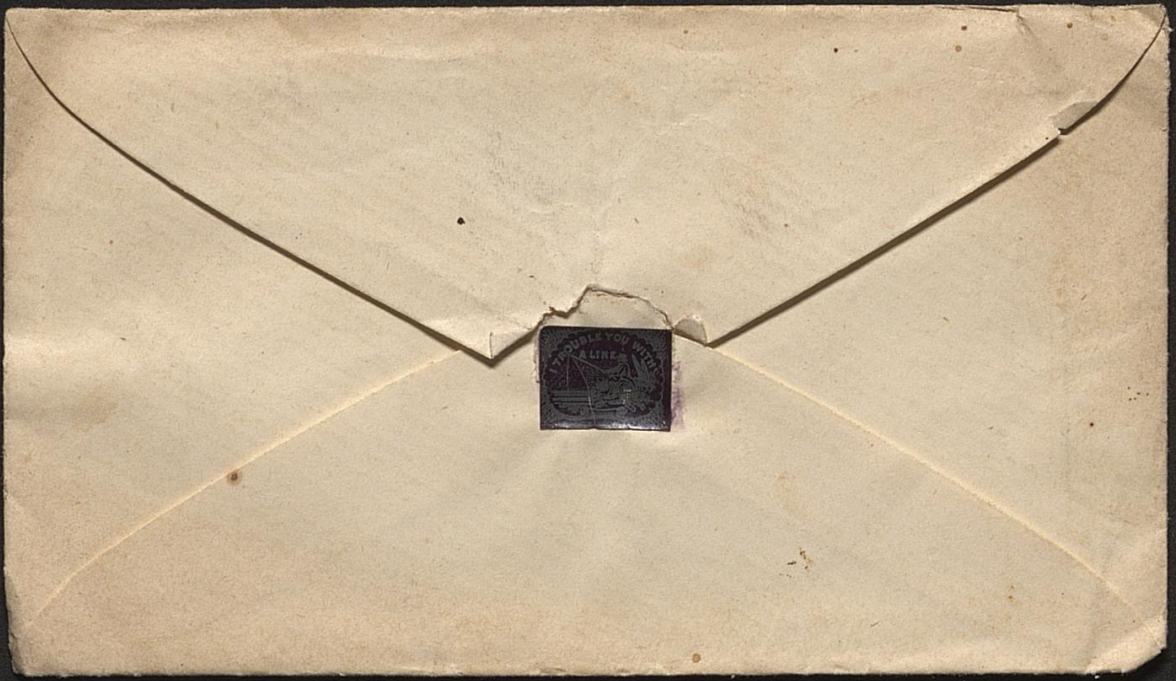
My dear Sister,

I send you
some butter, but not
Mr. Gilbert's. He sends
in very little more owing
to the indifferent pasture.
One evening we had no
butter for supper, that
was fit to eat. I wish
very much we could get
some of your nice plums;
they are delightful indeed,
but Daniel is working
at the barn every day, and
I have no one to send for them.
I am glad you succeeded.

so well with your preserves.
You must put your cabbage
out in the sun for three
or four days to bleach
before you put it in the
vinegar. Spread it on
a cloth to absorb the water,
and put it back in the
brine at night, until
it is sufficiently bleached.
Four days will be enough
to bleach it, and perhaps
three if the sun is very
hot. After it is bleached
throw it in clear water
for three or four days, chang-
ing the water every day,

to soak out the salt,
when it will be ready
for the vinegar. I send
your tiddy; when it is
washed, have it spitted
out so as to make it as
wide as possible. You
must come up and spend
the day before long, if you
cannot come up to stay.
Bring the muslin when
you come. Beck sends
his love to you and Sam,
give my love to Sam,
and tell him Sally shall
not forget him. Write
again before long, and
let us hear how you are

Mr. S. J. C. Moore
Charlestown
Verm.



July Oak Hill Cumberland

My dearest Ellen

Your letter was read by Sister whilst I was in B. attemore and ought to have been answered before this but I have many excuses to plead in extenuation of my apparent remissness in the first place my dear E. we have met with a severe affliction in the death of our dear Mother whose place we shall know no more and whose loss will long be felt by us all that of course has added greatly to our cares our servants being young require seeing after a great deal we also have been very much ^{engaged} in various ways fixing up a letter for Elsie's return I was very much opposed to going to B. but had no one to go for E. and settle her bills and return with her as I dislike her travelling alone at her age the consequence was I was obliged to leave which I did with a heavy heart but her return has renewed us all and infused new life ⁱⁿ us ~~as~~ you cannot think how happy we are ~~at~~ at having her return ~~not~~ to leave us again the thought is delightful and we fully appreciate it Charles let me read your long letter to him giving a description of your visit it must have been very pleasant meeting so many of your relations was delightful how is dear Anne & the children I hope well I was sorry I must acknowledge your having visited this summer if they had only deferred their visit until later but then that should not prevent your coming cannot you come in August

the latter part or the first - just as you please but I think
you & Lizzie should come some time this summer do try we
will all be glad see you and I think you would enjoy yourself
at least we would do all in our power to make you visit agreeable
Claire is very anxious to see you both I was so much gratified
at her receiving the prize for music I could not refrain from
telling Mrs Peck who I was so happy as to meet in the Cove
on our return and who I suppose told you it is a very pretty
medal for the work attached ~~to it~~ is a chain or has a great-
deal of music since her return the young people have been very
gay here for the last fortnight Claire has mingled sparingly she
has attended one social & one party has no great desire to attend
with but circumstances transpired to induce her accept the invitation
of two even after she sent her regrets to one I do not wish her to
go in society for a year at least as I wish her to go through
a course of reading this winter and devote herself to her sister
I find it almost a matter of impossibility to manage the matter
as I wish it you are so apt to give offence if you go to one
gathering and refuse another but I intend doing my best to avoid
them as much as possible at least for a year do you not think
I am correct in my notions I hope so for you not think poor
Bro Swan is dead he died yesterday morning at 8 o'clock
after an illness of two weeks I suppose since his death does
not appear to affect the younger part of the community
as there was a large dancing party last night and
fully attended I have felt sad ever since as he was always

a great favorite of ours his brethren & sisters feel his death
very much I have not heard from Palestine since my return
and cannot account for it Dr Peck is well I believe but has
lost a good deal of rest with Dr Swan is your German still living
he goes you I hope so do promise it if it is do write very soon and
tell us what you are all doing and you & Lizzie come to the
mountains as soon as you can remember us to all to each member
of your family and also your sister
Yours ever
S

I intended they should both write to you this week, but you know how it is in holy-day time. Joseph plays with all his might during the day, and at night is very tired, John seems to think he must get through with just so much reading this week, as he has not much time to read at school. Besides we have such a collection of little folks around our table at night, in honor of John & Joseph, (whom they think something extra,) that it would be a difficult matter for either of them to write. You speak of the pleasure it would afford you to entertain me in your own house. You know then my dear Eleanor, how to sympathize with me in my great desire to see you & your dear little son. Having lived so long with you all, and experienced so much kindness from you, you seem very near to me, more like dear children than cousins. I assure you Eleanor, it is no small trial, to be so far from you all, but on my children's account, it seems to be expedient that I should make the sacrifice. I can well imagine what your poor heart felt at the
loss

of your dear Nora. It is hard, very hard
to give up those dear little Innocents in
whom we (imperceptibly) centre so much
love, so much hope, that they seem to
constitute a great portion of our earthly hap-
piness. Yet, when we consider it is so ordered
by a kind Father who knows best what is
good for us, and always sends what he knows
to be best; we are enabled to adore his
merciful designs and humbly submit ^{to} them.

I received your letter as I mentioned before
on Christmas day, it was a long time on the
way 13 days I think, should this be as long going
you will think the box & all lost. I intended
to write by the next mail, Tuesday morning,
but I took a long walk with John on Mon-
day, and then made some visits, and
when night came, I was so much fatigued
I was obliged to retire without writing.

I received Lizzie's letter the same day,
How rich I felt. When I read yours Eleanor,
I could not refrain from smiling & crying
alternately. I will answer Lizzie's letter soon.
My love to Mr. Moore & many kisses to dear
little Scollays, John and Joseph send much love
to you and Cousin Sam.

Woodbury Sept. 1st 1842

My dear young friend,

You know that it is generally assumed, whether rightly or not is I presume a debatable question, that the ladies ought always to be served first, and speedily. Whether or not, therefore, the doctrine is true, I have determined to discard for the present all objections, and act as though the assertion bore upon me with all its force. And to this determination you may attribute this speedy reply to your kind letter. Perhaps I should rather say, you may attribute it to the reasons which urged this determination. So, notwithstanding, I have been told, and believe it partly, that I generally act from impulse rather than from reason, I assure you I had reasons of various weight in the present instance. Whether the opinion that I am not a reasonable creature will raise me any in your estimation I know not; I will have to suffer you to determine the validity of the charge. I was very much pleased indeed in receiving your letter. I was anxious to hear from you, to know what you were doing. I was afraid that as I had heard nothing of a new teacher you were probably spending your time to no purpose. I am glad however that it is not so, and that your Director is interested enough in your welfare to devote a part of his time to your advantage. You may rest assured that this is the very best period in the world for acquiring knowledge. I would give any thing on earth if I was afraid of your age, and about to begin the world again, if I could be possessed of the experience I have now. And unless you improve the present you will see the same some day; and the best thing you can do now is to believe what I say, and take my experience as your own. You will then be in the very position I have mentioned: a position possessed of all the advantages earth can afford. You have youth on your side, the opportunity of the best schools in the land, the means to take advantage of them, and above all a mind capable of retaining, and of acquiring too, any amount of knowledge, and of every kind. Who could ask more? I often think of the noble answer of Stone the great self-made Mathematician, who was the son of a poor gardener. The nobleman who employed his father as a gardener was one day walking through his grounds, and observed a copy of Newton's Principia lying upon the grass. Thinking that some one had brought it from his own library, he called a servant to take it back, when young Stone stepping forward claimed it as his. "What," said the noble, "do you understand Euclid Latin & Newton?" "Surely," said Stone, "one need only learn the twenty six letters of the alphabet in order to know every thing else!" And upon the other requesting the history of how he had acquired so much he answered, "A servant taught me the alphabet, and I learned to read. Seeing the workmen one day engaged in building your Lordship's house I saw that the head man used instruments, and that he made calculations; and by inquiring their use I found that there was a science called Arithmetic, I bought a book and learned Arithmetic. Discovering that there was still another science called Geometry I bought a book and learned Geometry. Hearing that there were good books on these two sciences in French I bought a Dictionary and learned French. Finding also that there were other good books on them in Latin I bought a Dictionary and studied Latin. Surely six, one need know but the twenty six letters of the alphabet in order to know every thing else!" He was then only a boy. He afterwards went to London and published a number of works on mathematics. I often think if I was not young I would strive hard to become a learned man. It is not with this however I would like to see you become a great classical scholar, but only to be diligent and endeavor to learn all knowledge that will be at all useful to you in your sphere. And whatever you do learn, be it ever so little, learn thoroughly. Superficial knowledge I find on any subject is actually a curse. No one can ever feel comfortable under it, if he can feel at all. At least so I feel times innumerable.

As to you think that in making any charge against the ladies I was not exactly cor-
rect. There is probably truth in your opinion. Indeed I know there is in certain cases. But
I can assure you that there is a certain class who act precisely as I said, and a pretty large
class too. Having little or nothing else than good looks they stake their whole fortunes upon
them, and to many of them they are really for times, for I must confess that among the men
there are probably as many as among the ladies who think good looks the only requisite in order
to a man's happiness; and these are generally the ones who make the pretty ladies' fortunes.
You are not far from the mark when you imagine that I have fallen among a strange set of people,
not indeed exactly the same kind that the man who was "going down to Linc." fell among; and yet
in some respects, I think the character of some of them is altogether as unamiable. Before I came
I was informed that I would find Mrs. Blythe to be a very singular woman; but the fact is she is the
only female about the house for whom I feel very much respect. She is very obliging & kind.
The majority of the people here are Quakers, and they are just about the least people in the face
of the earth. I feel a suspicious etc. not companionable for a cent. There are not more
than half a dozen men in the village who are companionable at all. Thank fortune the first man
with whom I saw is one of them. Occasionally however a stranger preacher comes along and enliven
us a little. In the midst of it all however I feel our great consolation. There some expect
last books. And more than that I will have in a few days. When I engaged with Mr. Blythe it
was for fourteen weeks. They end on the fifth of this month. He wanted me to stay longer and I
wrote to St. Alexander asking his advice, and he advised me not to stay. And rather than go con-
trary to his opinion I will not stay; as doing otherwise might put me out of favour with
him; and thus the remainder of my course be not so pleasant. So that on Saturday next I
will be on my way to Princeton again. One reason therefore why I have answered your
letter so soon is that I wish you to inform your brother that I want him to write to
me and direct to Princeton so that I can get it soon after I arrive at that place.
And to give me full instructions as to what he wants me to do for him prior
to his coming on. As for news you must never expect any from me; and especially
from this place. The soil here is too poor to produce any. Nothing will grow but
beans and shiraz. Nothing going from day to day except a little wholesome slan-
der; a little backbiting of neighbours; a perpetual complaining of the treatment
received from others; dissembling critically, the character, pretensions, and dissecting
with the nicest precision imaginable, the character of others; complaining that
some of the beaux are about to die of consumptions, and that unnumberable
others have not yet come from Ireland, or have never been born; together with
that never failing subject, dross - these occupy a goodly portion of the time of the
good people of this little town, and with all these important subjects, which you
know are standing out, you cannot expect that there can be much place left
for anything that is new. As for the men, they are too busy discussing the pretensions
of "Cap. the Tiger", to originate, or perpetrate, any thing worth recording. I am really
sorry that ~~that~~ all your Tiger songs have grown so stale. The "Capt'n" has bitten
you mightily severely, I imagine. He is just about the greatest scamp I know of. I
hear you have again got a debating society in "Camp". I should like very much to be
to attend a meeting or two. "Camp" must look very much like it did this time last year. It
is true there are some few changes, but not so many as to alter it materially. I enjoyed those
same debates. You can have no idea of how much pleasure it gave me to be able to thrash
some of the members. How I would like to see such another night as that on which we debated
the constitutionality of the bank. I never felt in such a mood for debating in my life. Take the
debate that night all through it was the best of the kind I ever heard. It is true some of them
got rather wrathful, but it soon evaporated. I am glad you enjoyed your party so much, and hope
some of the young ladies have been so agreeable as to return the favour. I had the pleasure of being present
at a tea party a few nights ago, at which there was some big people. Nothing less than an Author, together with
one or two Navy officials, and certain Phil. folks, but you know what kind of a light I would be in company
with stars of such magnitude. But I believe my paper is done and so I must close, for you see I have determined
to occupy the remainder of this sheet otherwise than in writing to you, though in doing so I may very possibly err;
But as Eliza said to her friends, "Great men are not always wise; neither do the aged understand judgment,
and of even the greatest we can expect that such an one as I am will be always in the right." My best love, as
you say to all, remember I will be glad to hear from you at all times, and so write soon. Yours &c. W. S. S.

which as yet I mean to entertain
my Son in Law I. F. Courcier
admitted on his Estate but has
never yet been able to settle it.

I have thus explained to you the circum-
stances of the difficulty which I had
to encounter & why my friends were
supposed - would to God that I could have
charged it for the better I would do it
for beyond what I see than if I had
in my power.

Your next error this
I know for indeed I am almost unable
to write for my right shoulder being
injured by a severe Fall which makes
it very difficult for me to hold my
pen - in addition to that my Mind
& Memory both give way.

I will still pray that God
may enable me to pay them what
I justly owe them. May the Lord
bless you and them all yours truly
Thos. Courcier

Ms. A. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1.
July 15 1787.

My Dear Paul,

15 July 1787

I recd yours of the 29th June
and am most truly sorry that I could
not immediately answer you with
what my most heartfelt wishes should
dictate, that is by praying most promptly
what I owe to those who are near
& dear to me & you & which your most
fulfilling Letter calls for, but circumstances
are which I had no contrivance has
operated against me, and me precluded
in the least, deprived you of my chance
of recovery unless it should please a kind
Providence to interfere for interest & pain
to curtail the interest of others, but which
I can scarcely expect, but for which I
have prayed since my earliest opportunity
concerned. I had the misfortune
to be placed in the Will of Col. Courcier
my Father in Law as the Trustee
of two of his Daughters who were unfor-
tunately married, the care of two children
who were, I am told, & whom I had to
take under my immediate direction

besides a helpless old Widow who had
the entire Estate under her direction during
her life this excepted my entire attention
for several years - prevented me from
attending to my own business a thought
to have done, I was in a part of the
estate which was to be ultimately my
own property but had to pay rent
during the Widow's life -

I then was called to Norfolk during
the War of 1816 and after my return
I became sick & was confined to my
bed for 18 months - A friend came to see
me & he with others persuaded me to
go to business in Winchester & the first
merchant found me in it, he made a
large purchase of 10,000 dollars & before
the goods were well on the counter the
fell 50 per cent this unfortunate event
permitted me immediately because I
had no funds of my own but was obliged
to pay interest in bank for my share -

then I became necessary for me to
send the Securities I had in my case
to Philadelphia at a cost which was too

great for me to bear I kept them 4 years
at an expense of 700 dollars & several
expenses in all in charges & then when
of nearly 3,350 dollars, then success
I would not pay but we expected to sell
the Estate but could not do frequently
offer this time at once nearly all
I had & threw me into despair from which
I was however recovered and by it involving
my own relations & friends in difficulties
for which I am grievously sorry
and my constant & unceasing prayers
beseech that I may be able to pay
them yet - The Question which you
ask in regard to some remains I may
have in the winding up of my affairs
I was so completely involved in diffi-
culty that I did not attempt to attend to
the winding up of my affairs but left
it in the hands of the Lawyers of the
opposite party - the only interest which I
had in the property was my large interest
in her Sister's name & no other estate