

Watertown August 17th 1775

I look upon the promise made my friend of writing him by the first opportunity too sacred to omit, tho' I've nothing yet of any consequence to say - My journey down was safe and my little girls less fatigued than I should have imagined from the heat of the day - I got to Mr Savages before 5 oclock found all friends well and heartily rejoiced to see me - was too much fatigued to go further till Wednesday when I came to Watertown where I'm now pening this - My first enquiry was for Mr Hancock whom I was lucky eno' to find - I told him that I had learnt since I came down what was doing with the few effects my poor friend was possesst of out of Boston - that John W---n had sold every feather bed to General Washinton and for ought I know every thing else -- that his picture so valuable to those who esteemd the original was somewhere near Roxbury the looking glasses that was brought out of town with it were (through carelessness) broke to pieces and I supposed all that was in their hands would share the same fate - Mr H--k appeared much affected at my relation, said his brother had no right to doo those things without proper authority and would certainly be calld to account for those proceedings - He advised me not to go to Cambridge as the confusion of the town would distract me - that he was going himself there - would see the young gentleman and without letting him know he had seen me, or heard any thing would enquire what he proposed doing, and on his return would talk further on the subject - I'am now waiting to know what was the result of the conference as Mr H---k is returned, and will not close my letter till I can give you an account - I imagind when at Worcester that I should doo great things when I came here but find (like every thing in this life) disapointment wrote on all high raised expectations -- noise and tumult reigns here with a high hand, and instead of seeing people look dejected with the dire calamities that are

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impending over our heads they appear like frolic coming to commencement - My melancholly countenance is a novelty in this Place and I find I must not exhibit it with the freedom I could in my little retreat the beauties of which are greatly enhancd since I came to this seat of disipation - alas my friend every thing appears with a different affect to me now and the sight of my friends gives a keener edge to my grief - like a jaundice eye all things receive the same taint, and the soothing tenderness of my belov'd relations cannot dispel the gloom - I yesterday saw my sister Lowell who is come to settle here, and had not my mind been depressed with my own misfortunes I should have esteemd it one of my happiest days -- I have a letter from papa dated the 2d of August he condoled with me in the loss of my friend but mentions no particulars, tho' he might without danger as the letter came by a friend and seald -- I can yet learn no accounts that I_ think authentic, tho' the general voice is against me - pray Heaven I may some time or other be able to acquiesce in the receivd opinion or else be confirmd in ray own hopes and ardent wishes -- Papa writes me that he has obtained leave to see after the poor prisoners, and my dear Mama performs the office of an asistant with him visits them every day, sees they are clean and well nursed, they think it their Duty to continue in town while they can be servicable, but mean to quit it when they can doo no further good - I've not been to Roxbury and believe I shall not attempt it, as I hear the shot from Boston the day before yesterday, reachd beyond the Meeting house some way - if that is the case, I think my dear little girls too valuable to risque for the sake of seeing those who care so little for them.

I've seen the two Mr Adamses Mr Hancock and Dr Cooper but find nothing can be done respecting the children till a Judge is appointed and I cannot hold them one moment after the relations claim their right - I have likewise seen their uncle John found him a good deal touch'd with

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my letter he says his mother after she came from Worcester declar'd her mind more fully about haveing the children brought down that he had wrote me on the subject and in answer to my letter - that next week was pitch'd on for removeing them from Worcester - but hope they will not be mov'd so soon - You will see Mr Hancock 'tis probable by the time this reaches you and he can tell you that I've not been idle in regard to my little charges - I promised Mr. Hancock to meet him at Worcester next Tuesday therefor shall set off Monday mornl Early for my little hideing place thankfull to quit those scenes of noise and confusion which for some days I have been emergd in - I hope this will meet you and your amiable wife in the enjoyment of every blessing that can be bestowed on the deserving -- 'Twill always be an animating consideration to me however unhappy my future days may be that you and yours are rewarding according to the favours you've bestow'd on others - God All Mighty bless you and soon take from this World of trouble your unfortunate Friend

M Scollay

I hope my two little Boys with Sarah are well, remember me kindly to them, all my friends and relations beg to be kindly rememberd to you and your wife, and thank you for your benevo kindness to me -- once more Adieu.

(To Dr Dix)

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To Mrs. Dix.

Will my Dear Mrs.Dix forgive her friend for leaving the house and not again visit the Chamber that had so often witnessd the joys and sorrows of her checqerd state - but I feard to pain your gentle nature by taking a formal leave and tho't it best to come off silently (tho' it had the appearance of stealing) that I might not increase the uneasiness I had procurd you --- Methinks I hear you say I give you joy Miss Scollay that you are again in the habitation of your parents - thank you my friend for your good wishes but Boston does not yet appear like my home - I go from place to place in the house as if I was searching for something with great eagerness, and then return with a dejected heart and disapointment seated on my brow -- I look upon the wreck of my poor friends furniture that papa took into his care, with weeping eyes but check that hasty torrent, as quick as I can least I should be observed, and return to company with a smile on my face, but my heart bleeding - I see every moment faces that I know, but the one I would give the world to behold is not vizable among the grope, and I turn from them disatisfyd I have seen none that beheld the breathless clay and tho' wonderd at still doubt - Pity my weakness my Friend but dont expose my folly none but you shall know my present thots and when I am confirrad in my hopes or fears you shall know - I have purchasd you some Ice-cap but am apprehensive it will not exactly sute, it is a little spotted but the woman where I bought it says they will wear out - it is very cheap considering the

times - I cant get Cousin Greens jagging irons and Polly says they laugh at her when she asks for them, but I will not give over my persuit for them, or handle and latch which I will procure for you if they are to be purchased - I have bought some black gauze for you and Mrs Duncan but fear the aprons will not be long eno' for you, without peiceing the slope on the hips - I cant get any bowls yet but will be on the look

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out for some -- The gauze was 40/ a yd and I got a yd and half -- The bonnet paper was 50/ which I paid for out of the money Mrs Duncan gave me -- Mama desires her kind love to you says she longs to see you and hopes you and yours will be blessed to the latest generation, Papa joins in that hope, and says you will be rewarded -- I think Mama looks a great deal more broke than I expected and I_ fear will not long enjoy the blessing she has This many month's been praying for - but our loss will be her gain and I shall not dare to murmer if she is immediatly summond - Mrs Melvill and all my connexions begs to be rememberd in the kindest manner to you Mrs Duncan etc etc - I will write you again soon and be more circumstantial, kiss your dear little ones for me and be-leive me ever my dearest Mrs Dix yours

I have not room to be particular Most affectionatly
but give my love to everybody

M Scollay