

OBITUARY NOTICE

Dix - In Boston, Mrs. John Dix aged 100 years, one of thirteen children all of whom reached the age of 75 and all of whom were burned out of house and home by the British during the Revolutionary War.

The little girls & boys refer'd to in the following letter of August 17th 1775 were Doctr Warren's children sent to Worcester with Miss Mercy Scollay to the care of Doctr E Dix

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) disappointment 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, thol 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 touchd 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 bestowd 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 disappointment 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 gause 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 gause 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

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To Doctr Elijah Dix

Boston April 26th 1776

My Good Friend

I have this moment heard that Mr Williams sets of for Worcester on Monday, and thol I have nothing of consequence to communicate I cant help begining a whole sheat of paper in hopes my firtile brain will supply me with stock sufficient to fill it -- My pen seems at present my only amusement, and I feel a satisfaction that, thol many miles distant from you and My Dear Mrs Dix, I can often converse with you in this manner; impart to you the hidden griefs of my heart, and receive from you the soothing consolation that undesembled Friendship affords and that has so often been administerd, by you both, to me in my distress -- happy should I think myself were I and my dear little creatures again in my peacefull cottage -- under your benevolent care -- but those days must now appear as tho' they had never been, and I wear a face foreign to the feelings so my heart -- Alas! my Friend I am no Hypocrite, and the starting tear every moment betrays ray sensibility especially when any conversation is introduc'd relative to my past sufferings -- I try to avoid

company but if absent any length of time I'm summons'd to attend and the anxious looks of my Parents reproaches me for giving them one moments disquiet - the sympathetic tenderness that exhibits itself in the looks and behaviour of all my Friends and acquaintance gives me exquisit pain, because I cant give them the pleasure they have a right to expect by a different conduct; - however I will endeavour to rouse up all the stoicism that I can, and strive for that fortitude I once flattered myself I possess'd -- If I saw any Prospect of suitable provision being made for my dear little charge it would animate me I think but in short the Father can no longer be servicable, and all his former exertions in the cause of his country seems obliterated from the minds

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of those who I tho't would be foremost, to pay a grateful tribute to his memory, which they could not, more effectually than to promote any scheme for the benefit of his belov'd offspring - There was a plan laid and all the writing relative to it executed for an inoculating Hospital to be erected, wherein our friend, Doctor Bulfinch and some other Physician was to be concerned; it was to have been submitted, to the inspection of the General court and would have been a publick benefit; -since I came to Town Dr Bulfinch waited on me and after congratulating me on my return, told me he had thrown a petition into the court, respecting the above scheme; that he wanted to push the matter now as he designed to benefit the children by letting them draw their Fathers part; and tho' his trouble would (by the loss of an assistant) be encreased, yet he did not regard that, if he could serve the little ones; - therefore beg'd my influence (as he tho't it would have some weight) with those who had been benefited by the councils and assistance of our Friend; - I promised in the most emphatical manner, that I would exert all the influence I was mistress of in their behalf; highly pleased that there was a prospect of a genteel provision for them - but how was my sanguine hopes disapointed by a repulse; - the motion was rejected because it might alarm the country People by keeping a house of Infection, where they might Poke their noses, and catch the small Pox - thus, for fear of giving uneasiness to a few Ignorant people the dear little ones are deprived of what would be of such service to them, as well as beneficial to the Publick - Is it not fine encouragement for future Patriots and Hero's, to sacrifice fortunes and life for the good of their Country, when their helpless Children are thus rewarded -? - Oh! my Friend what dependence is there upon the empty professions of Friends, without substantial proofs of their regard and a chearfull readiness to doo every thing to promote their wellfare - however I have this

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consolation left me, which is a great one; I can Present them to that Gracious Being, who ever hears the supplicating cries of innocence in distress, and has promised to be "the father of the Fatherless, in his holy habitation" - He can relieve them when all outward means seems to fail and raise them Friends by the most unforeseen events - to his unerring Wisdom I commit their helpless state and by the Divine direction how I may be usefull to them - I have wrote to the old Lady acquainting her with my arrival in Town, and offering my service to doo any thing for the children - I impatiently long to see the dear little ones and have papa's and mama's

promose that I shall; but they think I ought to wait till the young  
Philosopher has been to see me which he has not yet done - I long to hear how  
you all doo, and often Imagin myself by your fireside surrounded by the happy  
little circle that used to meet there -I hope your kind Partner and her  
little ones are well;- tell her I dare not say how much I would give to see  
her, least she should think I was romancing; however assure her there is  
nothing That I would not give for that pleasure,- I have not been able to  
procure many things which I intended, and which I knew your wife wanted, but  
in short everything is dearer here than with you - Should have sent a quire  
of paper, that you or Mr Duncan left here but Mr Williams could not bring it  
- There is no news stirring at present; the Tories, many of them still reign  
tryumphant without any molestation and I seem to think will remain so -  
Remember me in the kindest to your Father and Brother Duncans Family to Miss  
Cheever's Aunt Green, and every body that I know - lay the best of Heaven's  
blessings be showerd on you and yours Pray's your Affectionat

This Family join me in affectionat love Friend  
to you and Mrs Dix - Mama says she longs  
to see her

M Scollay

Uncle Greenleaf bids me tell you that you shall have a barrel of the

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oyl you mentioned for pr gall - and Papa says he can let you havesome rum  
if you want it - - Tell Mrs Duncan there is not a peice of Linnin to be got  
in the Town of Boston, else I should have Procured it at any price - I should  
be glad of ray little Portmanteau Trunk, and the one that I left in your  
lodging chamber, as soon as you can convey-ently send them -- Excuse the  
trouble I give you my Friend - but will endeavor to repay you by all the good  
offices in my power - I shall expect to hear from you when Mr Williams  
returns, and hope this will meet you in the enjoyment of that Happiness which  
is not the lot of your Friend

M Scollay

I have an incessant pain in my stomach that wasts my flesh, and sinks my  
almost exhausted spirits mama mourns over me and says if I dont get better I  
shall kill her, for she cant part with me yet -- so I beleive you must tell  
me what to take that will ease my stomach and mamas mind - I have taken  
neither of your pricriptions, except the turlington - Dont you scold at me  
nor dont show this paragraph to your wife least it should make her uneasy -  
once more

Adieu

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Boston May 10th 1776

Hearing from you my dear Mrs Dix is almost seeing you, therefore beg you will  
often give me that pleasure, as I suppose the fears of being molested by our  
insolent Invaders will hinder you from paying me a visit, at least for this  
some time; - but don't be alarm'd my friend, I hope that Gracious Being! who  
has so wonderfully deliverd us from our oppressers will still defend us from

further Hostilitys, and protect those whome He has rescued from the Lions den; not that I think we ought to be quite easy respecting our present State which (in general) is tho't to be far from secure - The best of the Troops are gone from us, and all the arms which belong'd to the Town and Province were destroy'd by the Ruffians before they fled, so that should they make a sudden onset it would greatly distress the unarmed inhabitants, and perhaps I should make as good a figure with my crutch as the best of them! people in general are displeas'd with the general Court and think them Tardy when so much depends on their speedy exertions; however I dont pretend to find fault with that august Body, or to "speak evel of dignities"; - if they think 'tis of more consequence, to set their hens and make fly cage's than to employ men for the purpose of blocking up our Harbour why be it so; they doo, or ought to know what is for our best good, and 'tis to be hoped they will persue it.- - We had accounts yeterday from Halifax that it was very sickly there; that General How had on his landing orderd all the inhabitants to quit their houses, and go into the Country and get shelter where they could, as he wanted barracks for his soldiers; so the poor creatures were oblig'd to fly; while those desturbers of every ones peace took possession of their dwellings, and 'tis supposed are making the same ravages they did here; this account is brought by two seamen who say they stole away; they further inform us that no fleet

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had arriv'd when they came away which was 14 days ago, that they were in great want of provisions and were oblig'd to come to short allowances; they say like wise that the poor Tories are many of them gone to the west Indies, and those who remain are in the greatest distress - Such is the news of this day perhaps tomorrow it will be contradicted, and information given that the Fleet are in the Bay - thus are we kept in suspense while hopes and fears alternatly take the lead - Oh! My friend how doo I long for that peacefull Asylum where, this day twelvemonth I was happy with my little folks, enjoying pleasures new to my eyes therefore delightfull; happy scenes; no more to return and glad my eyes with former prospects -- the curtain is drop'd, and inpenetrable darkness succeeds the sunshine prospect. - I had a visit yesterday from John W---n and I receiv'd, and treated him with all that tenderness which I shall ever feel for the Brother of my Friend - I tho't he seemd reserv'd and expected he would say something on former subjects, which he at last did by telling me he understood I had said I tho't myself very ungenerously treated by him, and the rest of the Family that I had a prior claim to the children and some of my family had reported there was a connexion between this Brother and me which he was ignorant of, and was much surpriz'd that his brother should never mention such a design to him -- I was a little nettled at his manner of speaking and told him twas an affair of too much delicacy for me to converse upon but had his Brother continued here, he might have been better inform'd perhaps by this time - as to my being ungenerously treated I should always think so and was greatly hurt by an insinuation of his Brothers to your husband, that my anxiety respecting the children might be owing to my haveing no place to be at myself - he said the Dr must have misunderstood his brother I told him I could not exactly tell the words he made use of, but did not think either your husband or I could be mistaken as to his meaning -

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that I had not need say much respecting the distress I sufferd, for all who were eye or ear witnesses to the scene bore testimony of it -he made very

light of it I tho't, said it would always be the way with children when there was the least attachment intimating that it was soon over, and forgot by them. - I sufferd a good deal while converse-ing with him, and after he was gone on recolecting some things he said -but we parted good friends, I promised to see the children frequently, and begd I might be imployd in any thing, wherein I might be servicable to the dear little creatures -- Thus ended a conversation in which I sufferd many pangs, -- How unlike those I had often had with one nearly connected; but I'll not dwell on the unpleasing subject any longer. --I long to see you and your dear little ones; and mama has almost consented to accompany me on a visit to Worcester in the course of this summer - tell your husband I thank him for his kind letter and kinder invitation but wont accept it unless he will write me a longer letter next time for I dont like such laconic epistles - I was glad to see honest Joshua today and tho't of his milld cap, and stiff topt gloves that we used to laugh at last winter - I was much surprized when he told me Poor Betty Moneriess was dead, for I heard she was much better; I pity Mrs Royal greatly and fear she'll not long survive her loss, Betty was a good girl and faithfull to her charge -- I'm concernd for you, beg you will be very carefull of yourself on your first coming down stairs -- tell Nanny she must not leave you and come to Charlestown, for she'll have the vapours worse than with you - I was glad to see your uncle Phillips who paid me an early visit, but I could not prevail on him to breakfast with me, I was much fatigu'd with moving the day before and laid longer that morning than usual! --Doo let me know by the first opportunity how everybody does for I find 'tis sickly with you and am anxious for my friends -- tell the Doctor I'm obliged to him for my trunk which I received safe, but dont at present want the others --

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shall expect to see him and you when I think you may sleep quietly, which I hope will be soon, for our Gentleman of the Town have taken the spade and been down on the Islands to work this week or fortnight past, and they say they will have strong forts soon - that will bid defiance to our invaders -- I am sorry Im at the bottom of this page, for I've five times as much to say to you as I had when I began -- however this must suffice for which I beleive you are not sorry -- Give My love to all your relations friends and connexions I want to see every one of them --  
Adieu my dear Mrs Dix beleive me ever yours

M scollay

(To Mrs Dix)

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Boston July 27th 1776

I feel a senceable gratification that I have an opportunity to write my Dear Mrs Dix and tho' I dont expect I shall be able to write you a long letter I will say as much as I can in the little space that is allow'd me -- In the first place let me congratulate you on Billys haveing escaped the small pox which I think a wonder, for some took it who were not half so much exposed; I was very uneasy about both him and you, and feel the tie of friendship strengthend by your exerting yourself so much to see me especially when the weather was so unfavourable -- Every part of your conduct my amiable Friend has exhibited striking proofs of a disinteristed tenderness that I hope will

not be lost upon me, and what I cant imitate I will admire -- You have heard I suppose before this that my Dear little children are again with me, and are under inovulation for the small pox, I wish you and Billy had been one week later that I might have had the pleasure of tending him with them and compleating the little groups; yes my Friend I am highly gratifyd with haveing the Dear little creatures once more under my care, tho' my anxiety is great you may suppose, as I am daily in expectation of their being sick they have been inoculated twice and I am yet fearfull it has not taken; however the delay is not displeasing to me as by that means I shall detain them longer with me and taste a pleasure I have not experienced since they left me, but was you not surprix'd when nurse told you that Betty was to have it with Mrs M----s little boy -- ! I knew you would be, and in order to increase your astonishment beleive me I was the cause of it. -- Me thinks I see you role your eyes up, and say, is it possible Miss Scollay could be so imprudent, she told me she was a hipocrite and she has now evidencd it by her conduct; after such duplicity of behaviour what am I to think of her - but stop my dear before you censure your Friend too highly, hear her vindication and the

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reasons she had for her conduct and then applaud or condemn her -- When the selectmen had taken of the prohibition concerning inoculation I became uneasy about my little folks, fearing their Grandmama would be unwilling they should be brought into Town; however I detirmend to doo all in ray Power to persuade her; I was detaind for some days and could not go over but as soon as I could I went, and at the south end met uncle Eben comming in for me and said his mother wanted to see me very much - when I arrived at the old Ladys she told me Mrs M---r had sent out that morning and desired to have Betsy come and have it with her little boy, but she did not chuse to give her consent till she had heard what my mind was concerning the matter -- I did not hisitate to give my consent and now will tell you my reasons; in the first place I thot tho' she was no friend to me, in some of her whimcial moments she might befriend the dear little girl; in the next place it might stop the censures of the World respecting old storys, when the old Lady countenaced her, and lastly I tho't as they referd it to me I had better not say much least they should think I was prejudiced and I was not unaquainted with her art, the old Lady ask'd me if I was against going to see Betsy there intimating that she should be unwilling to have her go without I would visit her; I told her she might depend on it I would see Betsy let her be where she would, that I was not much acquainted with the Lady, and there was some places I had rather frequent than that house, but I would visit Betsy even there -- the dear little girl begd I would go with her when she came to Town to be inoculated and I promised her I would not doubting she would treat me with civility I accordingly went; and was treated with the most audacious insolenc; I need only say she put on all her haughty airs behaved ungenteely that uncle Eben who was present resented it for me, and told me he should not blame me if I never went to

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her house again -- Indeed I never have been, but have sent to enquire after Betsy and the messengers have been treated with as much politeness as your Friend, she has taken Sally Edwards who may (you know I was so concernd about) to live with her and has already learned her to be as impudent as herself and the little hussy treated mama (who con-desended to go there to

invite Betsy here to spend the day) in the most saucy manner you can conceive - and when the chaise was sent in mamas name, Betsy was denied coming with this verbal answer that she was engaged while the dear little creature stood by and dare'nt say one word -- I hear Betsy is very well has been broke out some days, and has got but two pustles that can be calld small pox so while she is not very sick I can be easier at not seeing her, tho' I regret the occasion that separates us; however I'm not very sorry she has treated me in this manner because it will countenance my objecting hereafter, to her having any concern with them when I am denied access to them when I please -- Now my Dear tell me what you think of my conduct, was I to blame considering my reasons - ? tho I think the reasons were good yet if you disapprove them I shall be sorry -- I feel a consciousness that I wish no ill to that woman, and would serve her notwithstanding her treatment of me, and have the vanity to think I feel superior to her, in that respect -- Dont think you can read this scrawl for my little folks have not forgotten their attachment to me especially Polly who wont leave me one moment and her little chat while it pleases, half distracts me. Papa and Mama desire me to remember their best love to you and tell you tho they were prepared to love you before they saw you but they did not think they should feel the force of it so strong on so short a personal acquaintance, they long to see you again and I dont know but Papa would be tempted to walk 6 miles to see Billy who he often talks about - - I am sorry I had not all that silk for I would insisted upon it to the woman

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that she should change it, I never executed any commission in my life that I regreted so much because I was imposed upon; but hope it will learn me more caution in future - remember me to all Friends and believe me yours

M. Scollay

(To Mrs Dix)

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Boston Nov:br 26th 1776

I sit down to write my belov'd Friend; not because I've an opportunity but that I want to converse with her, and at the distance of 48 miles have no other way of communicating the sentiments of a heart replete with love and gratitude for past favor's, and ardent wishes to return them --I feel the value of your disinterested Friendship, and every days experience tells me 'tis a jewel rarely to be met with, and that I'm highly favor'd, to be possesd of such a treasure - yes my friend the world sinks more than ever in my esteem and was it not for a few strings that chain me to this earth, I should with pleasure quit the busy scene, and fly to those mansions where peace and happiness dwells -you will tell me perhaps that I am wrong to wish for my departure when my life may be usefull to anyone individual.- I own it my friend, but alas; my mind often sinks beneath the presence of misfortunes and I think myself a useless being incapable of affording either help or comfort -- I arrivd safe in Town Thursday noon without being much fatigued with my journey; The horse (owing to your care) perform'd exceedingly well,

and my companion exerted himself to render the time and way less tedious than I apprehended, I was much pleased with his company, and assure you he is senceable and clever; has by his attention and care of your friend, made amply amends for former remissness -- I found my mama a great deal better than I expected, but my poor papa has for some time been in a miserable way, they were cautious of writing me word how poorly he was least it should alarm me too much; but I wish they had because 'twould not have affected me so much when I saw him - he has lost flesh amazingly sets for hours and dont speak one word, and a melancholy dejection seems at times to overpower him, he has no sleep but what is forc'd by laudanum and that is not always effectual, he makes no complaints and is loth any one should take notice of his dejected looks -- The Dr says

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his nerves is much shatterd, but by braceing medicines being adminis-tered hopes he'll recover his former firmness and tranquility -- I own I fear it, as Publick Calamities has procurd and still contributes to his depression, and he daily finds what his daughter long ago experiencd (in relation to her departed Friend) that the world is ungratefull to true merit and like the Persians pay Homage only to the rising sun; you have often heard me say 'tho he was firm and austere in his looks, yet he possessd a sensebility of mind rarely to be met with; and that sensibility is nowincreased to a tenderness that is affecting - he views us at times as we set around him with such a fix'd and fond attention as peirces my heart with grief, and I retire least he should perceive it -I believe he keenly feels the neglect with which he has been treated when his life and interest was exerted for the common cause; and all the recompence he has, is a total forgetfulness that he ever serv'd them, and no apologies for former ill natur'd reflections; such is the Friendship of this World, but I hope his recompence is in a better - I mention these things My Dear friend in confidence to you as 'tis an ease to a heart overshadow'd with sorrow to have a try'd friend in whome you may repose your care; and not fear their being divulg'd to those, who may either ridicule or blame ----- I want much to hear from you and regret your Folly (I must call it) which hinders a reciprocal exchange of sentiments between us -- I am interrupted, but will write again the first leisure moment I have; therefore for the present I bid you --

Adieu

Boston December 9

I did not think it would be so long before I should conclude this letter My friend but a great variety of business has occupide my time

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and taken me of from an impliment which I love and which is in your power to render more pleasing -- I most feelingly rejoice with you in the return of your husband and hope (if 'tis for the best) his country will not again want his aid; but if it should, I hope youv'e learnd so much by former experience as not to give way to unnessary grief, and forestall trouble, which is the of present enjoyment - Alas My Friend we live in an age that calls for the exertion of Heroic and Christian fortitude to the utmost extent - surrounded with scenes of sorrow and distress, wherever we turn our eyes we are presented with pictures of melancholy and woe - and what to me is most alarming the generality of the world seems not to be senceable of the danger that threatens them- the same round of disepation begins, and ends each week

and the distress of whole communities or individuals has not (to appearance) the least affect on them; How long the stupor will last God only knows; I wish they may be roused from their slumber before tis too late, and fly to that Being, who is at all times, but more especially now the only Door of hope -- I was calld yesterday to take leave of Mr Melvill who with his company is orderd to Providence, and am in momently expectation of Billy and Benneys being summond to attend likewise - such My dear is the exercises of your Friend, has she not need of a double stock of courage and fortitude to enable her to travel thro' life--?--- but I bless God that he has restorde My Dear papa to more calmness of mind, has for this fortnight past given him quiet sleep, and he seems to reasume his former steadyness of temper; Mama is at present in fine health and I think gains flesh - thus I've some ideas to animate me, that I need not be too much depressed - Ive rememberd your caution and so far profited by it; that instead of giving pain by my dejected looks, they attribute to my sprightly conversation! Papas return to more chearfullness are you not affraid I shall grow proud when such Honour is conferd on my poor abilities - , but as tis in consequence of your

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advice the merit is partly yours -- I have been to see my little ones twice since I came home and found them well and as glad to see me as ever; the last time I was there the old lady bed'd me to come and spend two or three days with her for she had got a great deal to say to me, and I found out afterwards by Sarah that the old lady has been in a great deal of trouble, owing to that wicked woman and the Miss Minots who are her confederates, and they have made that little vixen of a girl, Sally Edwards the instrument of their Malice - - I had not time to learn the particulars but find there has been some storys told of poor Sarah, detrimental to the memory of my departed friend, forged and propogated by that artfull woman and her accomplices, Eben has been over to her about it, and there has been a great muster among them - thankfull am I that my neck is out of the collar, and were it not for my concern for the memory of my dear friend, and the anguish it gives his mother I shouldnot be very sorry to have uncle E---n pesterd a little, in order to convince them who are true friends ---- Betty is still permitted to remain there and under the tuition of madm and her chamber maid is taught to dispise her pious Grandmother, and to rail at poor Sarah, who has lived with her from her infancy, and was belov'd by both father and mother -- Oh! my dear were I not consious of haveing done my duty what pangs I should now feel, but when I recolect that I have done my part faithfully, and have nothing to charge myself with, I feel willing to wait the event, and hope the time will come when I shall see the dear little creatures without any interruptions -- This letter must be read only by you, and your other self in confidence, because there is many things between us which is of no consequence to anyone, that dont love me so well as I flatter myself you doo -- Give my kind love to him, thank him for his welcome letter and tell him that amidst all my concerns I am remindfull of his and your friendship, and I never petition

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the throne of Grace, without begging a blessing on my benefactors who administred to my necessities, and to the wants of my dear little children -- May you and yours experience the blessings of this life and be made happy in another is the sincere wish of your affct

Friend

M Scollay

This is to be put under cover and I intend to write more if I have time,  
remember me kind to all your agreeable connections  
(To Mrs Dix)

page 23.

Boston December 10<sup>th</sup>

Tell your good Mama Ive seen the people about the cake pans but as she did not tell me how many she wanted I did not chuse to take them till I hear from her - they have about a dozen and half - she spoke a dozen certain; and if she will have the others added I suppose I can procure them - I cant purchase any orange collard silk for sister Duncan tho Polly and have both tryd for it - I was greatly diaappointed at not seeing your two Brothers when they calld - it was the only times I had been out, from my coming home - as to your madcap of a sister Betsy tell her I would be angry with her if I tho't it worth while - but will endeavor to pay her in her own coin - tell Hannah to wear the handkerchief I left with her for I cant get a better in the room of it - tell her likewise

that Ive had the pleasure to set very close to her Cousin Miss C---s and find by sad experience that the air of Boston has not taken away her perfumes - tell your Brother Duncan Mama would esteem it a favor if he would let her have 4 or 6 pound of the same to which I had at two dollr pr pound - you know he promised me 6 pound at that price if I wanted it - I suppose this will find you all assembled to keep Thanksgiving together \*• I shall be partly with you in prayers and wishes for your happiness while together and when seperated kiss your dear little ones for me, and be sure to let me know when Polly knows where her shoes is -remember me in the kindest manner to your husband and your father Mother Brother, Sister, and everyone you love - This family join me in affectionate regards to you and yours - Believe me ever with the sincerest

attachment your

M. Scollay

You must not expect such along letter from me again this winter for my fingers are now stiff with the cold - Should be glad of my crutch with the spear on it if you have an oppportunity to send it, - once more adieu.

(To Mrs Dix)

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Boston May 21st 1777

Justly might you My Dear Mrs Dix charge your friend with ingratitude as well as neglect for her long silence, but She apeals to the goodness and benevelence of that heart, which has ever eshibited the truest marks of sympathy and forgiveness - not knowing of oppotunities 'till the people were just going out of Town was one reason why I have not wrote and another was I hoped e'er this to have seen you; as Mr Duncan gave me his promise that I should see you and his wife in a week or fortnight after his return to Worcester and I've been daily expecting you - I mention these things my Dear friend to exculpate myself in some measure from the charges you may be drawing up in your own mind against me for want of attention, but could you see my heart you would be convinced "that not the gay scenes of Boston" nor any other circumstance can obliterate from my mind one who has so large a claim to my tenderest Love -

why ray belovd friend will you not write me---?---you have given me a spicimen that you can handle a pen, in the anonymous letter brought by Josha which you need not have been ashamed to have signed as 'twas better writing

than you have from me; therefore you have nothing but j^aziness to plead by way of excuse; and you may be sure I shall grow remiss in writing if you wont stimulate me by writing in your turn --- I long to see you and your dear little ones but fear I shall not see Y/orcester this season, ray mamas health seems to decline daily and Mrs Melville has been visited with her fits more frequently of late than I ever knew her to be, which makes me loth to leave home, and lother still to have her with me for fear of the consequences - I was born my friend to live a life of care and anxiety - tis best it should be thus else I should not feel it and when I can submissively bow to the divine Decree I feel an inward satisfaction that this world cannot rob me of -- blessed frame of mind, how seldom doo I arrive at such a state -- yet 'tis my wish and you

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can witness that I have strove to attain it - Happy for me misfortune's don't wholly sink my spirits, they will rise in some proportion to their depression 'thol sometimes tis long before the dejection ceases - My dear little charge for whome I've spent so many sighs and tears, still claim and receive their share, 'tho I'm obliged to be very secret in my payments least those who want an excuse for their ingratitude, to the departed Hero should laugh at me for my romantic attachment to his little ones -- Thank Heaven! I am permitted to see them often and feel a pleasure superiour to every other in this life for the indulgence -- I know it will give you pleasure to hear that the old Lady is my fast friend and treats me with a tenderness, not inferior to that she bestows on her own Children; I spent last week with her (which by the way was the reason I did not write by Mrs Salsbury) and have her promise that my little favorite Polly shall spend next winter with me if the times are less distracted than now - she is greatly distressd about Betty's continuing with that woman, and seems to have as great a dislike to her moral character as you or I have, but her sones are fearfull of offending a woman, who has art enough to make them beleive she is a most valuable friend - I have not yet talkd with John Warren on the subject, but as the old Lady is desirous I should I intend the first opportunity I have, to deliver my sentiments with the greatest freedom and doubt not being heard with candor, as his behaviour is much alterd from what it was owing I\_ beleive to the kind offices of my good friend Mr Adams from whome I have lately had a veuy kind letter of thanks for my fidelity to his friend, and promises to assist me in everything in his power -- Mr Hancock will be in Town next week then I suppose we shall kno?/ where Sosey's place is fixd for his Education, and if he retains the same sentiments which he did at Worcester I shall beg him to help me with regard to the others; further I cant doo and when Ive discharged my confidence I shall rest

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satisfied - Now dont you want to know what ray sentiments are about ^ the times-? I assure you they are so various that I dont think I could arrange them properly, but thus far I may be bold to say; without we become a more humble people, we shall not yet see an end of our troubles; vice of every kind is commited among us with greediness and a Melancholy deadness possesses the minds of our best Christians a want of benevolence and Charity and a desire to accumulate the trash of this world, seems the predomante principle which actuates each individual - alas! my Friend for these things the land mourns, and without a reformation may we not expect still heavier judgments - --?-- However this is an animating consideration to me that "the Lord reigns",

and altho' he may see fit in infinite Wisdom to punish us for the great abuse of his Mercy! yet his "loveing kindness he will not wholly take from us nor suffer his faithfullness utterly to fail\*" - as to the fear (which seems to possess many) of being obliged to quit the Town I thank my Maker I have not experienced any apprehensions that were distressing concerning the matter- I hope and trust we shall not be again necessitated to leave this Town which has been so wonderfully deliverd from the rage of those who meant to destroy it-----

Boston May 25<sup>th</sup>

I begun this as you will see by the date some days ago intending to send it by Mrs Lanmon, but your brother Duncans being in town I detain it to add a little more by way of a postscript - I was rejoiced to see him as I began to be apprehensive something had happend that would deprive me of the pleasure I have so long expected; that of seeing you but he again gives me hopes that I shall soon have the much wishd for visit - don't my beloved Friend disappoint me I have a thousand things to say and more questions to ask and if you dont come to hear and answer I shall think you love me not, neither wish to see me - either of these

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would embitter my future moments, and render many pleasures tasteless - I want to know what is become of your husband does the cares of this world take up so much of his time as to make him forgetfull of his friend, that he can't afford her one scrape of his pen--?-if he means to settle the argument by escorting you to Town, tell him I don't want to see him - he may write by you, but I forbid his coming without he will be governd by rules which I shall prescribe, that is to let you stay as long as I please without hurrying you from post to pillar as he did last time you visited here - I wish 3'ou had come before as I fear the heat will come on, and render travilling disagreeable; therefore beg you'll not delay and hope we shall have some fine Weather -I have sent Hannahs hat by your brother in hopes 'twill arrive safe; tell her it was not in my power to send it before and hope she will forgive me for~ keeping it -- remember me to all your worthy connexions and accept the kind regards of all mine - let me know when you set out from Worcester, and I will meet you at Western for my impatience will almost lend me wings - Wish'd for interview may nothing happen to disappoint the eager desires of your ever affectionate

M Scollay

The exigences of the times is such that I can't get any better paper to write on, hope my friend excuse it -  
(Yo Mrs Dix)

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^  
My Dear Mrs Dix may justly blame me for not writing before this, and I must plead guilty to any accusation she shall lay to my Charge, except that I don't love her; for when I cease to doo that, I must cease to exist, but alas! my Dear Friend my time since I left you has been spent among sickness, Death, and distress - Happy for me that I got a recruit by My journey to you, which helped to strengthen me under my anxieties -we have lost our faithfull Boy Harry, and Mrs Melville has been at the point of death so that I have not had leisure to write so fully as I intended, and indeed promised, but she seems for this some days past to mend so much, that if she

has no more attacks she will recover her usual strength - I have tho't my Dear Creature of our Conversation upon a certain subject more times than I can enumerate, and if God spares my life and gives me abilities I will soon employ my talents for the Honour of my Great Master! and Pray for His Blessing on my endeavors - Oh! would it Please infinite Wisdom to make me a humble instrument in his hands, of doing good to the souls of those who administerd to my necessities, when a stranger, and an exile from my Fathers House, then would I not regret the sorrow they shared with me, and bless my God that I was counted worthy to suffer - but Oh! my Dear Friend your fond Partiality for me leads you to think too highly of My Capacity; I'm less than the least of all the Mercies of my Great Creator, and unworthy the crumbs that fell from the Table of his common Providence, much less to lead others to the footsteps of his alter; however as you desire something from me I will write upon the subject so near your heart, and hope our joint endeavors will be crown'd with success -- The pleasing interviews I had with you and your friends at Worcester has dwellt upon my mind, and I  
^^\_^^

long to renew them, May we in some future day live nearer to each other, and the sweet intercourse of friendship be often repeated. I hope your

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sister Duncan is well and less distressd than when I saw her - time alone ca.n alleviate her sorrows and happy it is that it takes the edge from the keenest - I intend when I get more in favour with my pen to write her - but lately 'Tis a task - our journey to Town was more favourable than I expected, and Mama has been evidently better since she came home - She desires her kind love and gratefull thanks to you and your worthy Family, for your Hospitable entertainment of her, and wishes she could repeat her visit -- I was sorry I did not see Hannah when she was in Town nor send the patterns to Cambridge as she requested, but I enclose them now and hope they will answer -- Give My kind love to them all and tell them I wish them every blessing,-- May you and your belov\*d partner enjoy every Spiritual and Temporal Felicity Prays your unfeign'd and affectionate Friend

M Scollay

I will settle with the Dr when he comes to Town for the borrowed sum -as paper money has depreciated since I chuse to pay in hard - I wish you would ask Mr Fullerton about the price of white ash he promised to send me for crutches and beg him to let me have it the first opportunity that offers of a team coming to Town.

(To Mrs Dix)

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I intended writing you My Dear before this as I often reproach myself for not more frequently enquireing after the welfare of one, who has ever bourn so tender a share in my sorrows - May I never forget your soothing sympathy so often exhibited for your unfortunate Friend,

\*

and while I bend in gratitude to that Best of Beings, for inclining the hearts of so many, to comiserate my unparelleld sufferings, I earnestly implore the Divine benediction to them in all their hours of distress --We are told from the Mouth of him, who was a man. of sorrows and acquainted with grief, that in this World we should have tribulation -- happy for us if affliction leads us, with penitential tears to the footstool of Sovereign Grace - there to solicit a sanctified improvement, from him who never said to

the seed of Jacob, seek ye me in vain -- Indeed My Friend I bless the Chastning hand of my God, and make no doubt 'thol the rebukes of his Providence has had a large share of the wormwood and gall, yet eventually 'twill be for my profit, and I shall see that 'twas necessary for me, and rejoice through the never ending ages of Eternity for all my sufferings here -- I bless the name of my God for the tran- quility of mind he is pleased to grant me -- I have been very cruelly treated by misjudging friends, and malicious enemies - the former I often servd, and the latter I never hurt - but when I view them as rods in the hand of the supreme Governer of the Universe - I desire to be dumb and not open my mouth - to suppress every uneasy tho't and bow with submission to the severest strokes - I long to see you and mix my tears with yours, but that soothing pleasure will I fear be denied me for some time, I think my Dear mamas health declines fast and I am loth to leave least I should loose one, of the many pious precepts, that daily flow from her lips - Happy saint, may I follow her bright example, ancj after I have done, and sufferd the

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will of my heavenly Father, meet her in that mansion where all sorrow will be done away ---- I thank you ray Dear friend for the repeated en-quiris you have made after ray health, and for the visits, 'thol short ones, I receivd from your kind partner, and sisters, remember me to them in the tenderest manner and except the unabated affection of your sincere and obliged friend M Scollay

This family deaire their love to you and yours.

I should be obliged to the Dr if he can send my bed by some safe conveyance as I have promised it to a friend of mine thats soon to be married,

(To Mrs Dix)

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Boston Feb. 15, 1786

It is so long since I addressd myself to you my Dear Mril Dix, that I am almost ashamed to use the familar and endearing title of friend; fearing my long silence has (in your opinion) made me forfit so distinguished a character - but indeed myaniable and always belov'd Friend, I should think myself void of feeling did I not cherish the utmost gratitude, for those repeated marks of tenderness and sympathy I have experienced from you, - they afford me, on a retrospective view of my sorrows some of the most pleasing sensations; and I hope never fail to call forth the effusions of my heart, before that Being! who loves Benevolence in his creatures, and has promised large rewards to those who imitate his blessed example; and are afflicted in all their affliction -- I can make no excuse for my remisness in writing you but the want of that intercourse by letter which your diffidence denies me; if you prompted me by your pen, I should not dare to be so neglectfull -I wish my Dear Mrs Dix you would now and then favour me with a line; it would stimulate me to write you by every opportunity and I should not so long remain ignorant of your wellfare - the sight of your Husband after a suspension of 9 months was very pleasing to me, and I did not reproach him with his neglect, because he seem'd concious of deserving it - I am very sorry for your ill state of health and hope your Physician will prescribe a journey to the seaside for your recovery, indeed I most ardently long to see you, and begin to despair of comeing to Worcester myself. - I rejoice my Dear friend in the domestic happiness you enjoy, and in the growth and Prosperity

of that Town, which afforded me such a quiet asyllum from war, and its terrifying alarms. - Long may you,, and the rest of its inhabitants, enjoy the felicity that seems opening before you, and above all may your souls prosper and be at Peace. I did foster a hope that you would live nearer to me in some future

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period; but I am too selfish in indulging such a wish; sensible 'tis more for your interest to remain where you are - therefor I bid adieu to your Glass with a sigh, as it nourishd my hope while it remaind here - I hope it will arrive safe, and I be happy enough to see (in some future day) your countenance reflected on its surface - I had not time to ask your Husband half the questions I wanted to respecting all your dear family, beg you will remember me to them all, and tell Anna I did expect she would have fixd that old Bachelor in her neighborhood, long before this - I think him very insensible to her worth, not to make an offer of himself, but perhaps he is too bashfull to make his advances - I should be glad to see your sisters when they come to Town, as it always gives me pleasure to see any Person connected with your family -- I wish, to know if Mrs Duncan ever heard from Mr W--- respecting the ruffles; - I will enclose a copy of the note I sent when I presented them, for hers and your perusal, but wish it may go no further, as I would be tender of the Man I regard, notwithstanding his foibles - but am anxious to convince Mrs Duncan, that I executed my commission to the best of my ability, and if the dear little girl is not recompencd 'tis not my fault.- I ought to have apologized for giveing you the trouble of those things I left in your care so long, but knowing yur goodness I trust you will excuse me - I mentiond to the Doctor haveing them removed to Town, but the trunk I wish you to keep; it may in your large family, be of service and I have no use for it - the articles it containd, may be packd in a small parcel, and I desired the Dr to put them in a box directed for me, to be left at my Brothers shop, and accept my thanks for your care of them - If Mr Nazro has my book of drawings that I lent him some time ago I wish you would ask him for it as I want it to lend a friend - My Father has commissiond me to enquire thro' your means, at Mr Thomas's store for a book entitled - Jenks, on submission to the Righteousness of

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God - tis a book he has long been in quest of, and lately heard 'twas to be purchased at that store - begs you will let him know the price, and he will repay you with thanks - I wish my Dear Mrs Dix you would send with freedom to me, if you ever want any thing purchased, either for yourself or family - I should take the greatest pleasure in procure-ing you anything, within the compass of my abilities - I long to see your dear Children - give my love to William and Mary and tell them they must become amanuensis 's for their mother, and write me in her stead - our family are all well and desire the kindest regards, to you and all your connections - accept my sincerest Love - my best wishes for your happiness - and beleive me to be with unremitting affection

your Friend

M Scollay

Boston Feby 15th 1786

(To Mrs Dix)

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My Dear Mrs Dix will apologize for her friend Miss Scollay, tho' she don't write so often as might be expected, and when she recollects how many, many letters remain in her possession unanswered, she will not harbour suspicion of her friends neglect - but I don't mean to upbraid --Indeed My Dear friend you were never more present to my imagination, than at the present day - a day pregnant I fear with distress to many individuals, whichever way the fortune of war may decide, and sorry I am that you are calld to see the formidable preparations in a place that was once a peacefull, and happy asylum to me -When I view the calamities of the present day as connected with the loss of perhaps, many of my fellow creatures, I deprecate the unsheathing the sword and fervently wish those poor misguided men might be brought to a sehce of their duty by means less destructive; but when I consider them as the disturbers of our Public tranquility, and enemies to this, and future generations I acquiesce in every measure to reduce them to obedience, and feel animated that there are yet so many brave Hero's among us, willing to venture their lives in defence of those rights they heretofore so firmly asserted -May that Merciful Being! who stilleth the noise of the waves and the tumults of the people, appear for us at this critical day, restrain their wrath and the remainder Praise him.-- I never longd more ardently for you to write me than now - I want you to let me know if you think you can with fortitude hear the sound of the trumpet and the alarms of war, or if you have secured a retreat for yourself and your dear children, should Worcester become a scene I shudder to imagin - Miss Wheeler lodged with me last night, and afforded me much satisfaction in conversing of you, and your family - I love her for her goodness of heart and native sensibility but I seem to feel my affection gather strength as I find she has the same Ideas of my friends worth, that I entertaind, from the first moment I saw her - so natural tis for us to love those, who have the

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same feelings with ourselves and express simular sentiments.--- I find that your Mother is in Town, and means to stay till the event is decided I hope to see the dear runaway old Lady, and afford her all the consolation, her present anxious state calls for -- My heart receives all my Worcester friends and I wish I had a habitation as capacious for their accomodation - 'twold give me joy if I could contribute as much to their ease as they did to mine --- Colnell Tyler has promised to deliver you this, as Miss Wheeler goes earlier tomorrow than I can send it, he can tell you that I am well as we spent last evening together at a friends house - I hope to hear from you at his return and the intervening time will pass more peacefull than my busy fears presage - I beg and intreat of you my dear Mrs Dix to write me or commission the Dr who used sometimes to favour me with a line -- I shall feel myself momentarily interested for your welfare by the time this letter will reach you and shall remain extremely anxious. 'till I learn the event of this contest.--If peace and good order again takes place, I shall hope to see you this spring either in Boston, or at Worcester; an Idea I love to cherish because it affords many pleasureable sensations, and I have need of those animating Ideas at present to counterbalance my fears.---tell your husband that I am apt to think he has been in Boston several times since I saw him, but I don't chuse to enquire lest I should be mortified with the certainty of what I now only suspect.-- If he knew how glad I was to see him I am sure from the benevolence of his disposition, he would be glad to indulge me with

a visit-- I learnd sometime ago that my friend Mr Tucker always keeps with your sister Duncan when the Court sets there -- had I known it sooner, I could have made more frequent enquires concerning you, but in future will endeavor to profit by it, if the regulators don't disapoint me, and I hope when you know we are acquainted, you will sometimes ask after your old friend -- remember me to all your dear family as if particularly nam'd and asure them of my unabated regard -- I intended to

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have filled another sheet but it growa late, and my fire and candle is now spent, else I should tire with reading such a lengthy epistle, but I don't mean to lengthen it by apologizes -- My Dear Mother is tenderly anxious for you, and joins the rest of the family in affectionate regards to you and yours---that your fears and anxieties may be soon over, and more tranquil times take place is the fervent wish of your unfeigned, and sincerely  
Affectionate

M Seollay

Boston Janrv 16th 1787

(To Mrs Dix)

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Boston Sept 10th 1789

I thank you My Dear Mary for your kind letter and the generous present accompanying it -- Your dear Mother very much operates my services for her; services that are amply her due & she will never let me discharge the mighty debt I owe her -- tell her my dear Girl I love her noble soul, and wish her every blessing that pertains to this and a future life.---I have been very anxious My dear Mary to hear from you ever since your Mother left Boston, and regret exedingly that I saw so little of her while in it -- Mr Wheeler tells me she is better, I rejoice to hear it, and hope I shall have an opportunity to enquire more particulary of aunt Anna, and Betsy (Who promise to call on me) concerning her reestablish-raent; -- cherish and support your dear parent my belovd young friend, and a rich reward will be yours -- she appears like a falling flower but I hope will be reanimated and flourish for years to come.-- I am glad My dear that your work meets the approbation of your friends, and happy that it has been in my power to contribute in any way to their pleasure -- My heart is tenderly attachd to you all, and every talant I possess is cheerfully given for your benifit; -- call on me my dear girl whenever my exertions are wanted, and be assur'd I am gratifyd when employd.-- Your dear brother William spent an hour with me the other day, and delighted me with his sensible and solid remarks; thol deliverd with that modesty and diffedence, which is the greatest ornament to youth -- he seems to possess his fathers spirit, blended with his mothers softness -- may he and you my dear, as eldest, strive to imitate the virtues of your parents, and transmit the noble fruit to the younger branches; that you may all rise up and call them blessed -- I urged William to come and see me often and partly promised him that when his 5 weeks vacency commencd, I would pass the whole or part of it with him, and you all at Worcester -- the

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dear youth seemd so desirous to be of the party, that I fixd upon that  
Period and hope nothing will intervne to disapoint us - My tenderest  
affections await your dear Parents, and my repeated thanks for your generous  
bounty, that is not bestowld on an ungratefull heart -- My love to all your  
brothers; and tell them I hope to be better acquainted with them soon --  
accept the fervent wishes of my heart for your happiness, and that of all  
connected and beleive me to be with every sentiment of  
Tenderness yours sincerely M Scollay  
tell your Mother I have not yet heard from London but she must not expect  
great things from thence for her friend; - all have not so capacious souls as  
she has -if they had I should be nobly rewarded - give my love to Miss Duncan  
  
(To Miss Mary Dix)

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Boston October 16th 1790

It is a long time My dear Mary since I have heard from you, and a distant  
period since I had the pleasure to address myself to you by letter; My time  
has been fill up with some painfull events, but thank Heaven My sister  
Prentiss's restoration to health has dispeld some of the clouds that obscured  
my repose, and I am returnd to Boston after six months absence, to watch the  
declining days of my aged parents, whose feeble state calls forth the most  
anxious feelings - I am truly sorry that I was not in Town when you visited  
it because I wish'd to detirmine somthing concerning those screens which wait  
your orders.- I wish I could flatter myself or oblige you by proposeing a  
visit to Worcester this fall, but beleive it will be impracticable, therefore  
dare not indulge the Idea - I've been so long from home and My father and  
mother think me so necessary to their comfort, that I am per-swaded they will  
not consent to my leaving them again -- It is a pain-full to me ray dear girl  
to surpress the Idea I so fondly indulgd of spending a few weeks with you and  
your dear Mother, whose society I prize, and whose steady, uniform friendship  
to me, my memory will ever gratefully record - tell her I love her tenderly  
and frequently recolect the happy hours we passd together I wish she was  
nearer me that I might testify the friendship I feel for her and her family  
by every effort in my power.- Write me my dear Mary and soon respecting  
screens as I wish to know how to proceed - I have enclos'd the account of the  
money receiv'd and what was added for drawing - remember me affectionately  
fco your father, mother and all connected - I'm in hast and can only add my  
fervent wishes for health and happiness to you and family which will ever be  
gratefully rememberd  
by your affectionate (To Miss Mary Dix)

M Scollay

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Boston March 14th 1791

A fatality indeed My Dear Mary attends every effort to our meeting, and  
disapointment is wrote on all our exertions for that purpose, I did hope to

have accomplishd the long expected visit this season, but Providence has orderd it otherwise, and we must acquiesce in the decree - As the weather has been so uncertain, and at times so very severe, I beleive it is best I was prevented takeing the Tour; ray visit must have been short, and it would have paid me to put your father to unnecessary expense, or trouble, to return me home at the end of 3 weeks; which was the time limited for my stay at Worcester, my dear bereav'd parent being unwilling to extend it to a longer period - her solitary state and growing infirmities calls for my constant attention, I must therefor give up the hope I had so long nurturd of spending a little time with your belovd Mother and you - shall think upon it as a delusive dream from which I awoke to disapointment and regret. - Tell your dear Mother nothing but the distance, and the reasons I have given should be an obstacle to my seeing her speedily, and seeing her often - My heart feels more than I can express for her sufferings, and I would gladly fly to aleviate, or share her sorrows, did not a widdo?/d Mother, and various avocations, claim my detention here; - I once fondly hop'd that we might live near to each other, and my imagination painted some pleasing scenes, which fancy decorated with glowing colors, but alas! 'twas visionary all, and like many traits in my life existed only in Idea.- The Dark clouds of Adversity My dear Mary have often coverd and now hang gloomily over your friend, and every animating prospect to which I turn fade from my view, but affliction is no novelty to me whose whole life has been subject to corporeal or mental disquiet, and perhaps the sacrifices I have been calld to make at the shrine of happiness, may, in the chain of events, terminate in my best good -- a wise and unerring hand My dear young friend governs

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and disposes all sublunary things for our good, and we must endeavor to profit by the mixd dispensations of a righteous Providence that superintends the minutest occurances of our lives.-- Mr Adams deliverd me your letter for ?/hich I thank you, at the same time told me of your mothers ill state of health when he left Worcester, I am extremely anxious to hear from her, and beg My dear girl you would write me by every opor-tunity - as we can't see each other, let a reciprocal correspondence take .place - I will endeavor punctually to fulfill my part, and hope you will not be wanting on yours -- In future I will not trust to the Post but lodge my letters at Mr Salsburys shop, or with any friend you shall name - when you write me, direct, to my Brothers shop in Corn-hill, or Mr Seth Adam's shop opposit the west door of the Statehouse - from either of those places I shall be sure to receive them.- I never my dear will charge you with neglect, and wish I could evidence how dear you are all to my heart, and how interested I am in every thing that concerns you.-- I hope to see your father when he comes to Town, and shall then be able to give him my reasons more fully for declining to accept your invitation - My tender and sympathetic love awaits your Mother who is the friend of my heart, and whose solitary hours I wish to chear but wish in vain - remember me to your little flock of Brothers, tell them Aunt Mercy thinks of them with affection - Adieu My dear Mary, beleive me yours affectionately

M Scollay

(To Miss Mary Dix)

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Boston Septbr 17th -91

I wrote your Daughter My Dear Mrs Dix last week and hope you have e'er this been acquainted with the reasons of my long silence; when I so faithfully promised you that I would speedily write Mary and that my pen should be frequently employ'd in inquiries after yours, and her welfare. -I must have appear'd wanting in friendship to you after such an interview as our last, to neglect complying with what you so pathetically requested, and what, at that time I intended soon to perform - You know my dear friend the occasion of my long delay, I wrote your daughter the reasons, therefore will not repeat the unpleasing tale of woe -- I am a child my friend of sorrow, and affliction presses hard upon me, the debilitated state of my dear Mother is a constant source of anxiety, and the dread of loosing her calls forth a thousand painfull Ideas, that mar my peace - I did hope that the time would come, when I might flatter myself with the prospect of spending a few weeks with you, but my Mothers feeble state, demands my constant attention, and has a strong claim upon every exertion of mine for her benefit,-- I want much to hear from you, and to know what plan you mean to persue, in regard to fixing your place of habitation; I still wish that Boston may be the favoured spot, and often in imagination realize the hope.--What has hindrd you ray friend from takeing your proposd tour to the Southward, and why have you not travelled this way again -?- I am too much interested in all that concerns you not to be anxious, and beg that you or Mary will write, and let me know how you are and every thing which concerns, or pains you - Our last interview is still recent in my rnind, and I recolect our conversation with a mixture of pain and pleasure, let it be renew'd on paper, and let me share in your joys and sorrows - I owe much to your friendship and very much to your partial tenderness exhbitd for me, May a Gracious Being heal every wound of your heart, and grant you happiness in proportion to my

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wishes.-- I intend asking Mrs Sullivan to convey this to you, and at her return, shall expect a particular account of your welfare - don't My beloved friend let me be disapointed of a letter - tell Mary I won't forgive her unless she writes soon - My kind regards attend the Dr and my love to all your children - Adieu My dear friend be-leive me affectionately yours

M Scollay

(To Mrs Dix)