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LETTERS FROM JOHN PINTARD TO HIS DAUGHTER
ELIZA NOEL PINTARD DAVIDSON
1816-1833

In Four Volumes

VOLUME I
1816-1820

NEW YORK
PRINTED FOR THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1940
PREFACE

It is appropriate for The New-York Historical Society to publish letters of its Founder, John Pintard (1759-1844), who did so much for this Society in its early years. The letters in this and the following three volumes were written to his elder daughter, Mrs. Richard Davidson (Eliza Noel Pintard), in New Orleans, Louisiana, from 1816 until her death in 1833. These were chosen from the Pintard Manuscripts owned by the Society because they are more personal and detailed in character, and the series is more complete, than any other selection which might have been made. The four volumes have been edited by Miss Dorothy C. Barck, who is responsible for the analytical index at the end of the fourth volume.

This first volume, the seventieth in the John Watts De Peyster Publication Fund Series, forms the Collections of the Society for 1937, and the three subsequent volumes containing Pintard's letters to Mrs. Davidson will constitute the Collections for 1938, 1939, and 1940.

Alexander J. Wall,
Director
INTRODUCTION

The carefully-preserved letters from John Pintard (1759-1844) to his beloved daughter, Eliza Noel (Pintard) Davidson, were purchased by The New-York Historical Society in November, 1934, from Mr. J. Stoddard Johnston (Jr.), great-great-grandson of John Pintard, and great-grandson of Mrs. Davidson. They are of particular interest to the Society, because Pintard was its founder and they furnish so intimate a picture of the man, his family, and his associates. They are also of interest to everyone who loves New York City and the details of life here a century ago.

John Pintard deserves a comprehensive biography, and it is hoped that some discerning scholar will soon write one. A twenty-four page account of him by Joseph A. Scoville (“Walter Barrett, Clerk”) was published in pamphlet form about 1863, in substantially the same words as the chapter in Scoville’s Old Merchants of New York, volume II, part 1, pp. 217-44. So little has Pintard been known that even then, only two decades after his death, Scoville commented that few in New York City could answer the question: “Who was John Pintard?” Later, an address about “John Pintard, Founder of The New-York Historical Society” was delivered in the Society’s Hall, on December 3, 1901, by General James Grant Wilson, and printed in 1902 by the Society in a thirty-seven page pamphlet. An article on Pintard, by Dr. Robert Greenhalgh Albion, was included in the Dictionary of American Biography, published under the auspices of the American Council of Learned Societies, in 1934, volume XIV. As a background for Pintard’s reminiscent references, a short outline of his life is given here, with an explanation of the relationship of the many family connections mentioned in his letters.

John Pintard was born in New York City May 18, 1759, son of John and Mary (Cannon) Pintard. His young mother died a fortnight later, and his father
followed her in 1760. The orphaned infant was brought up by his mother's family, in Connecticut, and by his paternal uncle, Lewis Pintard (1732-1818), a New York merchant. Pintard had a strong sense of family and was loyal to all his connections by blood and marriage. On both sides he was descended from French Huguenots. His paternal great-grandfather was Antoine Pintard, of La Rochelle, New York City, and Shrewsbury, N. J., who had sons Anthony, John, and Samuel, and daughters and descendants who married into the families of Cutting, Hutchins, Searle, and Van Dam.¹ John Pintard, son of Antoine Pintard, married as his second wife, Catherine Carré, daughter of Louis Carré and of Prêgeante Fleuriau, who were also Huguenots from France.²

John and Catherine (Carré) Pintard had three sons: Lewis (1732-1818), John (1734-1760), and Samuel (1736-1805). Lewis Pintard,³ who acted the part of father to his orphaned nephew John, married first Susanna Stockton (1742-1772), sister of Richard Stockton (1730-1781), the “Signer,” and of Mrs. Elias Boudinot (Hannah Stockton), and related to many who are mentioned in these letters. They had two surviving children: John Marsden Pintard; and Martha (or Patty) Pintard, who married Samuel Bayard, of Princeton, and so became connected with another large family. After his first wife’s death, Lewis Pintard married, at New Rochelle,

¹ C. W. Baird, History of the Huguenot Emigration to America (1885), I, 295; Edwin Salter, “Huguenot Settlers and Land Owners in Monmouth County, N. J.,” in N. Y. Genealogical and Biographical Record, XX, 30; will of Antoine Pintard calendared in New Jersey Archives, 1st ser., XXX, 380; transcripts made in 1886 of family data in the possession of Elias Boudinot Servoss and manuscript genealogical notes by the late William Kelby on the Pintard, Carré, and Brasher families, owned by The New York Historical Society.

² Collections of Huguenot Society of London, XVIII, 244; Minutes of Common Council of N. Y., I, 197; Baird, Huguenot Emigration to America, II, 49; Records of the French Church of St. Esprit, in Collections Huguenot Society of America, I; wills of Louis Carré and of his son-in-law, John Pintard, abstracted in N. Y. Hist. Soc. Collections for 1895, 164-65, 441.

³ There is a short account of Lewis Pintard (1732-1818) in the Dictionary of American Biography, XIV, 630-31. For the ramifications of his first wife’s connections, see T. C. Stockton, The Stockton Family of New Jersey (Washington, D. C., 1911). The death of Mrs. Susanna (Stockton) Pintard on March 11, 1772, aged 29, was noted in The N. Y. Gazette and Weekly Mercury, March 16, 1772.
April 4, 1774, Madame Marie Vallade, widow of Pierre Vallade of New Rochelle, and their home there is still standing, now connected with the First Presbyterian Church, Marvin Place and Pintard Avenue.

The third son of John and Catherine (Carré) Pintard was Samuel Pintard (1736-1805), who served as ensign, lieutenant, and captain in the 25th British Regiment of Foot, before the American Revolution. He married in 1770, Abigail Stockton, sister of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Lewis Pintard (Susanna Stockton), and had one son, Lewis Searle Pintard, who died in 1818.

The second son of John and Catherine (Carré) Pintard was John Pintard (1734-1760), who married in 1757 Mary Cannon, daughter of John and Jerusha (Sands) Cannon, and granddaughter of Huguenots, Jean and Marie (Le Grand) Canon. They were the parents of John Pintard (1759-1844), founder of The New-York Historical Society, and as has been noted, they both died shortly after his birth.

The orphaned John Pintard, under the guidance of his uncle Lewis Pintard, attended the classical school of his distant cousin, the Reverend Leonard Cutting, of Hempstead, Long Island, and entered the College of New Jersey, now Princeton University, in the class of 1776. During the American Revolution he served as assistant Agent for American Prisoners, under his uncle Lewis, and at the close of the war, joined that uncle's mercantile business. On November 12, 1784, he married a cousin, the beautiful nineteen-year-old Elizabeth Brasher (1765-1838), daughter of the Revolu-

4 Their marriage was recorded in the Registry of Marriages of St. George's Episcopal Church, Hempstead, Long Island. See John Sylvanus Haight's history of the church, Adventures for God (1932), p. 180.
5 Seacord & Hadaway, Historical Landmarks of New Rochelle (1938), pp. 52-55.
7 In the library of The New-York Historical Society are manuscript genealogies and notes of the Canon-Cannon-Canoune Family, compiled by the late Howard Masten Canoune.
8 Baptism and marriage records of the N. Y. Dutch Church, printed in the Collections of the N. Y. Genealogical and Biographical Society, I, 257; III, 285.
tionary patriot, Colonel Abraham Brasher and his wife, Helena (Kortright) Brasher. Both John Pintard and his wife were great-grandchildren of Jean and Marie (Le Grand) Cannon (or Canon). Mrs. Pintard had many relatives who are frequently mentioned in her husband’s letters. Her uncle, Lawrence Kortright, married Hannah Aspinwall, and had a son John (whose widow married Judge (Henry) Brockholst Livingston), and daughters: Elizabeth, who married James Monroe, President of the United States; Hester, who married Thomas Knox; and Sarah, who married in Trinity Church, New York City, in 1775, John Heyleger (or Hilleger). Mrs. Pintard’s maternal aunts were Mrs. John Wilkinson Hanson (Maria Kortright), Mrs. Richard Willing (Margaret Kortright), and Mrs. William Ricketts Van Cortlandt (Elizabeth Kortright). Mrs. Pintard’s elder sister, Judith Brasher (1759-1811), married Colonel Fitch Hall, of Massachusetts, and had several children. Her younger sister, Helen K. Brasher, married, in 1808, Samuel D. Craig, of New York, and had a son, (Benjamin) Davis Kortright Craig. Mrs. Craig’s twin brother, Abraham K. Brasher, was unmarried, but Gasherie Brasher, brother of Mrs. Pintard and Mrs. Craig, married Jane Abeel, and had a son, John Pintard Brasher, and daughters Mary and Julia.9

Pintard became established in New York City, as its business revived after the Revolution, and by the time it became the capital of the United States under the new Constitution, he was active in the mercantile, social, and cultural life of the city. On May 10, 1787, he was appointed secretary of the Mutual Assurance Company for Insuring Houses from Loss by Fire in New York, and did the work of that position until his resignation on February 14, 1792. He was elected an Assistant Alderman of the East (Second) Ward of the city, Septem-

ber 29, 1789, and was re-elected, serving actively until March 12, 1792. He represented New York in the 14th session of the State Assembly, January-March, 1791, held in New York City. In November, 1790, he was appointed by New Jersey one of five commissioners to erect bridges over the Hackensack and Passaic Rivers. Even as a young man of thirty, he showed that willingness to join and work for organizations which his letters evince so strongly, in his later life. In 1790 and 1791, he was secretary of The New-York Manufacturing Society; a trustee of the New York Society Library; sagogue more of the Tammany Society, and a trustee of the American Museum under the patronage of that Society; Senior Warden and then Master of Holland Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, and Grand Treasurer and Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York.  

Pintard's progress was halted by his disastrous financial involvement in the failure of William Duer (1747-1799), who became insolvent and was imprisoned for debt in March, 1792. The details of Pintard's business affairs, connection with Duer, and the resultant creditors' suits against him, would be an interesting study.  


11 New York City directories of 1790 and 1791; A. B. Keep, History of The New York Society Library (1908); E. P. Kilroe, Saint Tammany and the Origin of the Society of Tammany (1913), pp. 104-5, 118. 132-37, 173-74; Early History and Transactions of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, 1781-1815 (1876), pp. 104, 111; Sesquicentennial Commemorative Volume of Holland Lodge No. 8 of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons (N. Y., 1938). In 1789 and 1790, Pintard was urging the formation of a Society of American Antiquarians. Jeremy Belknap's conferences with others who had spoken to him on the same subject lead to the establishment of the Massachusetts Historical Society. See Belknap-Hazard correspondence in Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society, 5th ser., III, 157, 165, 231; 6th ser., IV, 491.  

12 A long letter from John Pintard addressed "To the Creditors of William Duer and John Pintard." dated Newark, May 14, 1792, was printed in The [N. Y.] Daily Advertiser, Wednesday, May 16, 1792. Other items about Duer's failure and the action of his creditors were printed in the same newspaper, March 15, 19, 27, April 13, 18, May 21, 1792. See also Coll. Mass. Hist. Soc., 5th ser., III, 290; 6th ser., IV, 506-7.
Pintard left New York and went to Newark, New Jersey, where he lived for eight unhappy years, to which he makes reference in his letters. For that period, the Society owns two of his manuscript memorandam books. They are not really diaries, but they contain a few references to his misfortunes.

His "Diary and Garden Calendar," April 1, 1793-May 31, 1794, records the progress of the garden around his Newark residence. Interspersed with details of temperature, vegetables, and horticultural notes, are a few references to friends, neighbors, and his children, John, Eliza, Lewis, and baby George, and the following entries:

July 10, 1793. "Threatened with heavy suits. Mr. Boudinot went over to town respecting them & to offer that I sh'd give up all on a settlem & to swear in my behalf. No effect."

November 9, 1793. "Writ issued against me by W. Armstrong."

February 9, 1794. "Mr. Isaac Allen & Cap' Nath' Beach went to Brunswick to give bail for me in the suit of Corneliu's J. Bogart."

Pintard surrendered everything he possessed, but because of some unsatisfied creditors, he was arrested and confined for debt in the Newark prison from July 15, 1797, until August 6, 1798. The Society owns his reading journal, begun in Newark January 1, 1797, and continued through his last day in prison. It is a critical record of systematic reading. He renewed his classical studies with Virgil, Horace, and the Greek Testament, studied legal, theological, and economic works, went through Dr. Johnson's Dictionary item by item, and read Dryden, Pope, Milton, and the plays of Shakespeare. There are only a few diary entries in his reading journal which refer to his unhappy situation. Some of them are as follows:

Sunday July 16, 1797, Newark Prison. My course of reading has been interrupted the week past, by the disagreeable circumstance of preparing to go to prison, where I took up my abode last night the 15 ins. May this severe dispensation be sanctified to my souls benefit both here & hereafter.

January 1, 1798. Newark in Carcer. My oldest son John (who lives with me & his dear mother participating the allotment of my imprisoned life) . . .
INTRODUCTION

Newark in Carcere, Monday, 21st May, 1798. . . . This day was the day appointed for my hearing with my creditors before the court, where I appeared confident of a favorable issue, with all the conscious rectitude of an honest mind, shielded with the panoply of Truth & fortified with the whole armour of Faith. How was I shocked & disappointed when my unrelenting persevering persecutor James Farquhar expressed dissatisfaction when I was remanded to prison for trial on 26th June next. Great Father of Heaven & Earth, what afflictions are heaped on my unfortunate head. But I am resigned to thy severe chastisements, nothing doubting but that they are sent for my benefit. Having made a conscientious disclosure & surrender of every thing, what have I to apprehend. To be dragged as a culprit before a public tribunal is dreadful, but it must be submitted to. . . .

Tuesday, 22d May [1798]. . . . Began the 1st Epistle to Timothy, in the 1 Chap or verse whereof I read this morning, "But we know the law is good, if a man use it lawfully." Did Mr Farquhar use the hard letter of the law, lawfully, when he remanded me to prison without assigning any reason? What a night have I passed. The tortures of the damned are not worse. But thank God for all his Mercies, the oversight of a vindictive Creditor in not paying yesterday the Four shillings allowed by law for my support enabled me to demand my discharge from imprisonment which Judges Smith, Cummings & Lind[s]ley granted this day at 2 o'clock p. m. . . .

Newark in Carcere, Wednesday, 24th May, 1798. . . . Mr Pintard went to town this morning at 6 o'clock, to use her oratory with Messrs Leroy & Bayard & Mr Cornelius Bogart, to withdraw their actions in the Federal Court. . . . My course of study has been interrupted, my whole attention for some days past having been engaged in preparing for the examination before my creditors. The unexpected repulse of Monday, and the ensuing measures to elude the intentions of malevolence, together with the agitation of mind & conflict of passions on the occasion, have all combined to withdraw my attention from books, at least in a great degree. . . . As respects myself, all the fortitude I have exhibited thro' a long course of oppression, thro' six years vexation of unrelenting creditors, has been entirely owing to a firm belief in the truth of revealed religion, to a humble reliance on the efficacious atonement of a crucified Redeemer, and an earnest endeavour to participate of its benefits. . . .

Newark, in Carcere, Thursday, 25th May, 1798. As I have introduced into this literary journal the incidents of these few critical days of my life, for want of other matter, it may be as well to pursue the subject untill the final issue is determined. Cap' Gifford who waited on Mr P. to town, was prevented by the rain from returning last evening. Of course I did not receive my dear companion's letter & one from her brother Gasherie [Brasher], untill this morning. He writes me that he had an interview with Mr Bayard who is obdurate, & says that the law must take its course, that Mr P. has not seen him, but thinks it her duty to call on him before her return. He has been prejudiced by the malignant Far-
quhar, who has the mean address to shelter his own vindictive malice under the mask of the concurrence of others in their pursuing me to the extremity of the law. So be it. I am perfectly resigned. Alexander the Copper Smith hath done me much evil, the Lord reward him according to his works.

Thursday evening. [May 25, 1798.] Another agreeable ray of hope. Gasherie writes me a short line dated 3 o'clock, informing me that Mr Bayard had relented, that he was going to Westchester to get the consent of Mr Lynch, a party concerned to withdraw the suit, to whom he had a letter from Mr B. Livingston, who had warmly interested himself in my behalf. . . .

Saturday 27th May, [1798.] . . . Mrs Pintard returned this evening, the absence of Mr Lynch a party ag' me frustrated her success. . . .

Newark in Carcer, Wednesday, 30th May, 1798. I was removed this day by a writ of Habeas Corpus, before Judge Paterson of the Federal Court at Brunswick, to be surrendered by my bail Messrs Isaac Allen & Major Beach, in the suit of Bogart & others. Judge P. went thro' the necessary business with the utmost delicacy to my feelings & paid me the most engaging attention. I was formerly acquainted with him when a member of Congress in N York, & I had it in my power to show him the hospitality usual to that city. . . . I was accompanied on this occasion by General Cumming, the deputy Marshal, Mr MacWhorter my Counsellor & Mr Alling my bail. The rain prevented our return until Thursday morning.

Sunday, August 5, 1798. . . . I have now concluded the last Sabbath exercises which I trust remain for me to perform within these walls, tomorrow being the day appointed for my appearance before the Commrs of the Federal Court, when I confidently hope that I shall be enlarged from imprisonment. . . .

Pintard was released from his Newark imprisonment, August 6, 1798. At the end of the year he visited Medford, Massachusetts, where he saw the Reverend Dr. David Osgood and members of the Hall family, including Fitch Hall, his wife's brother-in-law. With some miscellaneous Pintard manuscripts which The New-York Historical Society purchased in 1937, there is a small diary kept by John Pintard in Medford, December 25, 1798–January 25, 1799, in which he wrote incidentally about his social intercourse, but commented particularly on what he was reading.

According to another small diary owned by the Society (bought in 1934), Pintard made a short trip, January 7-16, 1800, to Princeton and Nassau Hall, Trenton, Phila-
Philadelphia, and Burlington, attending Masonic Lodge meetings at Trenton, hearing Dr. Samuel Stanhope Smith's oration on Washington in the State House on January 14th, and seeing and being entertained by many friends and acquaintances, including General Joseph Bloomfield, General John Noble Cumming, William Griffith, Honorable James Asheton Bayard, Honorable Elias Boudinot and his daughter, Mrs. Susan V. Bradford.

In September, 1800, John Pintard took advantage of the federal "Act to establish an uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States," approved April 4, 1800. A notice printed in the New York Daily Advertiser, from September 12th through the 17th, 1800, announced that "The Acting Commissioners named and authorised in the Commission of Bankruptcy, issued against John Pintard, of the city of New York, Broker," had certified to Judge John Sloss Hobart of the District Court of the United States for the New York District, that Pintard had conformed to the Act of Congress; and advertised that the certificate would be allowed "unless cause be shown to the contrary on the seventeenth day of September, instant." He received his certificate of discharge from Judge Hobart on that day, and freed, after eight years, from financial obligations, Pintard prepared to start active life anew and earn a livelihood for his family.

With the Pintard manuscripts purchased by the Society in 1934, there was acquired a typewritten copy of an address on John Pintard, in January, 1900, by George W. Johnston (a great-great-grandson of his subject), with which are some typewritten "Notes on the Personal Life of John Pintard." Among these are extracts copied from a journal kept by Pintard, July, 1800–July, 1801, of which the Society does not possess the original. This journal shows that he was attracted by the possibilities of the western country, that he was gathering notes about it, and eagerly interviewing men who had personal knowledge of the Mississippi valley. In November, 1800, Pintard visited Washington, and obtained information about New Orleans, Natchez, and the western waters.
from General James Wilkinson, Andrew Ellicott, and others. He sailed from New York, January 12, 1801, on the Brig Dyett, Captain Halsey, for New Orleans, where he arrived February 17, 1801; he left there on the Peggy, May 14th, reached Havana May 29th, sailed thence on the 20th of June, arriving back in New York, July 6, 1801, after an absence of five months and twenty-three days. The letters to his daughter in New Orleans make numerous references to this visit there in 1801, and although he never visited that city again, he was always interested in it.

Immediately upon his return to New York City, Pintard made entries in a journal, which the Society owns, which cover the few weeks from July 8, 1801 to August 7, 1801. He went to Washington again, arriving there July 25th, and had interviews with James Madison, Secretary of State; Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury; and a short audience with President Jefferson. He talked with them all about New Orleans and the western country. From Madison he learned that Daniel Clark had just been appointed Consul in New Orleans, a post which Pintard had evidently contemplated as a possibility for himself.

Apparently giving up thoughts of federal preferment and western migration, Pintard settled himself again in New York City, and gradually resumed his active part in humanitarian and cultural movements. In March, 1804, he was appointed City Inspector, and in May, 1807, Clerk to the Common Council of the City. He performed these income-providing duties until April 10, 1809, when he informed the Board it was no longer convenient for him to do so. On that day he was elected secretary of the Mutual Insurance Company, successor of the Mutual Assurance Company of which he had been secretary 1787-1792, and which became later in the century the Knickerbocker Fire Insurance Company. That salaried position was Pintard's chief source of income during the next twenty years, until his retirement in

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13 Minutes of the Common Council, 1784-1831, III, 479; IV, 413-15; V, 10, 21, 24, 514.
1829. During a large part of that period, and during all the years in which he was writing the letters printed in this volume, he, Mrs. Pintard, and their daughter Louise, lived above the offices of that company at (old number) 52 Wall Street.

Shortly after becoming City Inspector, Pintard began to work for the establishment of an historical society in the city, and he was the leader in the organization of The New-York Historical Society in November, 1804. He served as its Recording Secretary from 1805 to 1819, as its Librarian, 1810-1811, and as Treasurer, 1819-1827.14

By the year 1816, when the letters to his daughter begin, he was again established in a position of trust, and was actively participating in several organizations. His sons had died, and his elder daughter Eliza-Noel had married, in 1810, a Kentuckian, Richard Davidson, and was living in Pinckneyville, Mississippi Territory. The letters to Mrs. Davidson during her early married years are missing from the collection, and as she was in New York visiting her parents from May 21, 1815, until November 7, 1815, there probably were few written in that year. The correspondence began in January, 1816, when Pintard learned of his daughter's safe return to New Orleans, and continued until her death there in 1833. A few other family letters are included where there are gaps in the series to Mrs. Davidson. Pintard's letters tell his autobiography from 1816 to 1833, and show his active interest in a number of varied organizations and causes, among them: The New-York Historical Society, the American Academy of Fine Arts, the Chamber of Commerce, Sailors' Snug Harbor, free schools and Sunday schools, the American Bible Society, the Erie Canal, the first Bank for Savings, the Episcopal Church, particularly the old French Huguenot Church of St. Esprit, and the General Theological Seminary.

While visiting Mrs. Davidson in New Orleans, his younger daughter, Louise Hall Pintard, married, on April

4, 1824, Thomas L. Servoss (1786-1866), son of Jacob and Isabella Servoss of Philadelphia, a widower with one son, Thomas Courtney Servoss. His first wife, Eliza (Courtney) Servoss, from Philadelphia, had died in New York March 3, 1817, in her thirtieth year. Her sister, Harriet Courtney, had married in 1804, Peter H. Schenck, of New York City. Mr. Servoss transferred his headquarters to New York, and Mr. and Mrs. Pintard lived in the home of their daughter and son-in-law on the southwest corner of Broome and Crosby Streets, where their Servoss grandchildren were born. Their New Orleans daughter, Mrs. Davidson, died in 1833, and Mrs. Pintard passed away on October 13, 1838. Pintard's last years were shadowed by sorrow, loneliness, deafness, and failing eyesight. He died in New York City, June 21, 1844, at the age of eighty-five. His remains were placed in the family vault under St. Clement's Church on Amity (West Third) Street, whence they were removed in June, 1910 (upon the demolition of the edifice), to St. Michael's Cemetery, Queens County, Long Island.

Portraits

The New-York Historical Society owns a miniature in water color on ivory of John Pintard as a young man, painted 1786-87 by John Ramage, and presented in 1906 by Pintard's grandson, George Hancock Servoss; a portrait in oil on canvas, 31 inches by 25 inches, painted for the Society in 1817 by John Trumbull; and a portrait in oil on wood, thirty-six by twenty-seven and one half inches, painted in 1832 by Samuel L. Waldo and William Jewett, which was purchased by the Society in 1928. The Trumbull portrait is reproduced herewith as a frontispiece, because it is contemporary with the letters in this volume, and the others will be reproduced in the subsequent volumes.

15 Scoville, Old Merchants of N. Y., II, pt. 2, pp. 179-86.
16 (N. Y.) Commercial Advertiser, March 4, 1817.
17 Records of Christ Church, Philadelphia, in Penn. Archives, 2d ser., VIII, 57; P. L. Schenck, Memoir of Johannes Schenck (Flatbush, 1876).
18 Information supplied by Mrs. E. G. Hassler, Parish Secretary of St. Clement's Church, and by the office of St. Michael's Cemetery.
The frontispiece of the second volume is from the original oil painting of Mrs. Richard Davidson (Eliza Noel Pintard), owned by her great-grandson, Mr. Philip T. Meredith, whose courtesy in allowing its reproduction is gratefully acknowledged.

Miss Helen M. Turner, N. A., of New Orleans, daughter of Helen (Davidson) Turner and granddaughter of Eliza Noel (Pintard) Davidson, has given the Society miniatures and photographs of members of her branch of Pintard's descendants.

**Pintard Manuscripts**

Pintard's letters to his daughter, Mrs. Davidson, 1816-1833, printed in this and the three volumes following, constitute the bulk of the Pintard Manuscripts purchased by the Society in 1934 from Mrs. Davidson's great-grandson. There are some other personal and family letters in the collection, but those for the years of his regular correspondence with his daughter do not add anything appreciable to what he also wrote to her, and for the earlier years, they are too scattered to make a connected story. Mention has already been made of three journals in the collection: the "diary and garden calendar," Newark, April 1, 1793-May 31, 1794; the reading journal, Newark, January 1, 1797-August 5, 1798; and a diary containing entries January 7-16, 1800, and July 8-August 7, 1801. In addition, the Society acquired a diary or commonplace book, with scattered, impersonal entries for March 18-July 24, 1806, March 16-April 23, 1807, with one entry in 1808 and one in 1809; a scrapbook of newspaper clippings about the Erie Canal, 1823; and an analysis by Pintard of Blackstone's Commentaries, 1799. The Society also owns some other Pintard manuscripts, particularly in connection with the business of the Society itself, of which Pintard was so long an officer, and with the American Academy of Fine Arts, of which he was secretary. A few nineteenth-century family letters were recently presented to the
Library by Miss Helen M. Turner and by Mrs. James M. Todd, both descendants of Pintard’s elder daughter.

The Editing of the Letters

Pintard’s correspondence has been copied with faithful adherence to his spelling, superior letters, abbreviations, punctuation and capitalization. When the manuscript is torn or faded, in so far as they can be ascertained with certainty by the space, or by parts of letters remaining legible, the words written by Pintard are printed, enclosed in small square brackets. All editorial interpolations of letters or words are enclosed in large square brackets. Everything has been copied, it is believed, which could be of interest to any student from any angle. All omissions are indicated by dots: by four if only a sentence or two are left out, and by a line of dots where several sentences are omitted. The omission dots represent the following kinds of omitted material: information sent in a previous letter, repeated intentionally or unintentionally; speculations as to what his daughter and grandchildren in New Orleans might be doing at the moment he was writing; repetitious advice; redundant expression of his beliefs. Enough of such repetition has been included to indicate Pintard’s unfailing affection for his daughter and her family, and his consistent attitude toward life in the course of eighteen years.

The superscriptions are generally omitted, except where they are unusual or informative, for all the letters (with a few exceptions identified by italicized headings), were addressed to Dr. Richard Davidson or Mrs. Eliza N. Davidson, at Pinckneyville for a short time, at New Orleans for many years. Except where otherwise indicated, they were sent by post.

The analytical index for the four volumes will be found at the end of the fourth, in the Collections of the Society for 1940.

DOROTHY C. BARCK
LETTERS FROM JOHN PINTARD
TO HIS DAUGHTER
To Mrs. Richard Davidson (Eliza Noel Pintard) of Pinckneyville, Mississippi Territory

New York, 30th Jan'y, 1816

I can no longer refrain from writing to my beloved daughter & content myself with sending a short notice of our existence in health thank God, at the foot of the Heralds, w'h have been weekly transmitted to you by post. Four weeks have elapsed since I acknowledged the rece'y of your most welcome letter rece'd on New Years day, announcing your safe arrival at N. Orleans. This letter was dated 2d Dec'r wherein you said that the Steam Boat was to sail in a day or two in w'h you expected to embark for Pinckneyville. Were your intention executed you must have arrived home by the 10th, a few days more than one month after your departure on the 7th Nov. from this port. A most unexampled & pro-pitious voyage. You were one month from your home to this city which I regarded as an uncommon instance of despatch. . . .

Before I forget it, let me mention that Mr. Lavertys bill was punctually paid the 6th inst., which the Doctor can confirm. My friend Mr. Cutting sent his oldest son, about 15, to N. Orleans for his health. He sailed about 3 weeks after you in a Brig, but did not arrive at the Balize till 27th Dec'r a passage of 27 days, so that you were exceedingly fortunate. This was the first vessel after y'r ship that sailed for N. O. She was small & crowded. Had we not been so fortunate as to have fallen in with the ship Merchant, your departure w'd have been delayed & thrown you into the most inclement season of the year to have ascended the river. The weather with us was very severe about New Years. But after a heavy fall of snow which lasted but a few days & w'h was carried off by a deluge of rain, the season has
been uncommonly mild & the Hudson river almost free of ice to Albany. A favourable & earthly spring is prognosticated by our weather breeders. I presume the effects of our mild weather has been experienced with you, in w^th case the fruit trees must begin to bud in your early region. From the high price of cotton, your planters & the Doctor among the rest are probably engaged in great preparations for cultivation the present season. I sincerely hope that his customers will be enabled to discharge his bills so as to enable him to increase his field force as you call it. Now is the time for vigorous exertion, & if you do not anticipate your profits & will have patience—a hard virtue to practice—for a few years, you may at least repose on cotton if not on velvet for the remainder of your lives. We are somewhat agitated with the demands of the Spanish Minister for the restitution of the Batton rouge country &c. of which you will have the particulars in the public prints. With respect to Spain there is nothing to fear, for the adored monarch of his minister is more vulnerable than ourselves & a war w^d inevitably bring on a union with the S^ Americans & confirm the independence of that country to the great benefit of this. Indeed this event cannot be far distant, for the interests of these two sections of our western world are so intimately blended as must induce the U^d States to favour the emancipation of the Spanish Colonies from the oppressive thraldrom of the Court of Madrid. To talk of recoding Louisiana & then treat for a new cession is superlatively contemptible. Your westerns were Congress even so we all w^d rise in arms & bid the Spaniards come & take it. The cession of the Floridas, if true, to G. Britain, is a subject of more serious consequence & will inevitably involve us in a new war with that power. I cannot believe it, unless upon the footing of receiving that country as some equivalent for the expenses of the peninsula war, & with a view of selling it to the U^d States. One of two consequences must ensue ere long. Florida must belong to the U^d States, or the U^d States to Florida. No European power
can control the flood of the Gulf Stream, nor the full tide of American population, w^h must progressively over-spread this North Western world. We are all a tiptoe at present respecting the project of the Great Western Canal from Lake Erie to the Hudson. I sent about a fortnight ago, a copy of the Memorial to our Legislature, this day commencing its session, ably & luminously drawn by Mr. Clinton, w^h if rec^d will gratify curiosity & prove the practicability of this stupendous enterprize. Our N York Institution does not altogether languish, but more is devolved on me than my share. The financial part, to raise $100,000, I have matured, & in my own opinion so plausibly as to give hopes of success, but more when this subject is further advanced.

Wed^y morn^s 31^st Jan^v. A very severe day yest^v but the weather is more moderate this morning. No letter. We long to hear from you and your dear darling children. . . .

Do not suffer your children to gorge themselves, which will inevitably induce rapacious appetite & all its fatal consequences. I feel the full benefit of abstemiousness & temperance. Since I have resumed my morning walks I have almost entirely recovered from the weakness I experienced in my right foot, w^h from long standing at the desk for 12 months steady occupation in signing Corporation Tickets ^1 had become very feeble attended with swelling. I rise now just after gun fire & have been in the street a few mornings excepted, long before sunrise. I take about 3 miles promenade, am out & home, read my lessons in the French Bible, an Ode of Horace, breakfast & am in my office between 8 & 9. This is being very smart these short winter mornings. I have hard work to rouse your lazy sister to get up & prepare my breakfast which I have insisted on to make her alert. Mama & herself are preparing for Church, next Sunday.

^1 Paper money of small denominations issued by the City of New York, 1814-1815, which Pintard was appointed to sign. Minutes of the Common Council, 1784-1831, VIII, 51, 104, 113, 176.
being Communion. I go to St Esprit in the morning & to Grace Church in the aft.noon, but Mama & Sister do not like this separation. How can I abandon the Church erected by my pious ancestors! Our preacher 2 is eminent & rises in our estimation. Our collection for the Missionary Fund amounted last Sunday to $100, very handsome for our small church, which however is nearly fully occupied. I heard from Princeton last week where all friends are well. Mr Boudinot 3 of Burlington still continued low. Mama 4 & Sister, 5 Grandma, 6 Aunt[s] Helen 7 & Hanson 8 are all well & join in affectionate love to you & the Doctor. Kiss our sweet babes, for y'r aff. father

J. PINTARD

[Addressed:] Doctor Richard Davidson
Pinckneyville
Mississippi Territory
p't post
[Postmarked:] NEW-YORK JAN 31
[Endorsed:] Rec'd March 22nd 1816

NEW YORK, 3d April, 1816

How am I to account for the long very long silence of my dearest daughter. No letter from you since 21st Jan, upwards of two months and the last to you was your sister's in reply the 21st Feb.

3 Elias Boudinot (1740-1821). Dict. Amer. Biog., II, 477-78. He and John Pintard were both descended from Louis Carré, who came to New York in 1688.
4 Mrs. John Pintard (Eliza Brasher), daughter of Abraham and Helena (Kortright) Brasher.
5 Pintard's only other surviving child, Louise Hall Pintard, who, in 1824, married Thomas L. Servoss.
6 Mrs. Pintard's mother, Mrs. Abraham Brasher (Helena Kortright).
7 Mrs. Pintard's sister, Mrs. Samuel D. Craig (Helena Kortright Brasher).
8 Mrs. Pintard's aunt, Mrs. John Wilkinson Hanson (Maria Kortright).
I presume the children⁹ have advanced in stature, that Eliza is more beautiful, my noble boy more mischievous, our sweet little turtle dove more confirmed in her constitution, & that Bully rock is weaned & begins to crawl after his brother & sisters like a little crab. I hope that good boy Oggleton will soon teach him to walk & run about the courtyard before summer is over. How is the Doctor's health. Since the alarming account you have given of his severe illness I dread the approach of hot weather. He ought to begin to be more careful of himself & not expose his constitution in the manner you have mentioned. I flatter myself that his prospects as a planter may enable him to reduce his practice as a physician & to circumscribe the limits of his visits in a narrower compass.

If therefore the Doctor can remit any thing with your directions what to purchase, Your Mama can lay it out I presume, at least 50 p' c' in your favour, for many articles in the female line are by watching oppo[rtunitie]s to be picked up far below the importing prices, as the necessities of importers compel them to sell at auction, where retailers purchasing & selling for cash take a very moderate profit. It is astonishing what quantities of goods are daily sold at auction, the sacrifices that are made & the very reduced prices at w⁵ they are to be bought in some particular cash stores. Your Mama you know is an excellent judge of goods & understands making a bargain & desires me to tell you that her services are at your command.

Wed⁷ 3ᵈ April. I wrote yesterday, whilst attending the Election in our office¹⁰ for Directors for the ensuing year, of course amid much bustle.

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⁹ The four oldest children of Dr. Richard and Eliza N. (Pintard) Davidson were Eliza-Ellen (“Darling.”); John-Pintard; Louise (“Turtle dove”); and Lewis-Marsden (“Bully rock”), born March, 1815.

¹⁰ Of the Mutual [Fire] Insurance Company, at 52 Wall Street, of which Pintard was secretary and Robert Lenox was president.
Grandma is to dine with us this day. She is very well as also Aunt Hanson, Your Aunt Helen & family. Davis 11 is becoming a very smart boy & learns admirably. He comes every Sunday morning to attend his Godmother to Church who instructs him in his catechism. I had a letter yest from the Revd Mr Bayard.12 His wife presented him a fine son on Sunday morning 31st March & is doing well. He intends naming him after my good old uncle,13 who is to stand godfather & I am honoured with the same request. Our friends at Princeton are all well. Dr Smith 14 enjoys reasonable health. Your Aunt Betsey 15 has not visited her sister Mrs Callender this winter. I am happy to say that Mama’s health has been better this winter than the preceding, w’ she ascribes to the benefit of passing last summer at N. Rochelle. She must take the country air the approaching season & I trust that her former high health will be restored. We indulge in romantic visions & hopes of one day visiting you, that is Mama & Sister. If life be spared till I am able to retire from drudgery—a very distant hope—I may have the opp of indulging the fondest wish of my heart, the pleasure of seeing yr establishment. Perhaps by that time I may caress some of my great g’d children. The project of our great Canal is likely to succeed. Mr Clinton has been all winter at Albany engaged in promoting it, & the enterprize will do him infinite honour. My Hobby, the N York Insti-

11 Mrs. Pintard’s nephew, son of Samuel D. Craig and Helen Kort-right (Brasher) Craig.
15 Eliza (Smith) Pintard, daughter of Dr. Samuel Stanhope Smith, who married in 1803, John Marsden Pintard. (N. Y. Eve. Post, May 3, 1803.) Her sister, Ann Maria (Smith) Callender, was the wife of Thomas Callender, of New York City.
tution yet languishes. Whether our Corporation will accord with the financial proposition of loaning the Institution One Hundred Thousand Dollars to erect a handsome Edifice is very doubtful. At any rate we shall have the old Alms House 16 w^h will be evacuated in May & w^h will afford tho' not elegance yet ample accommodation. I am now aiding in the promotion of two new associations. One to supply the poorer class of the community with Fuel at reasonable prices, the other to induce habits of economy by receiving the savings of labourers & domestics & putting them out to interest, both w^h I trust will succeed. Adult schools have been lately set up & with every prospect of utility. What a field our large city presents for active exertions & useful improvements. It is astonishing to mark the progress of the latter in one short year since the peace. The Bill for erecting a superb new Market on the east river in place of the Fly market has passed, w^h will be an ornament as well as convenience to our city. . . .

New York, 16th April, 1816

Quite a winters day & a smart frost last night.

At length I have the happinesss of acknowledging the receipt of my beloved daughter's letter of 17th March, after your very long silence of nearly two months.

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

Next Sunday, 21st will be one year since you left home & May 21 one year since your arrival in this city. By that time I presume your good friend Mr^h Halliday will have reached Baltimore. It will be too late to tell her that we shall be very happy to see her & that your

16 The Almshouse, on the north side of City Hall Park, on Chambers Street, was, after the removal of the poor to Bellevue, devoted by the city authorities to the use of several organizations, including The New-York Historical Society, the Literary and Philosophical Society, the American Academy of Fine Arts, the Lyceum of Natural History, and John Scudder's American Museum. The edifice then became known as the New York Institution.
Mama will give her a most welcome reception for your sake.

Do you hear any thing of Miss Halliday or Miss Thompson. I told you I believe that your good kind Mr Brown called to see us in December or Jan last on his way to G. Britain, where he is to remain a couple of years, much improved in his appearance & with flattering prospects.

Wednesday morning, 17th April. I finish my letter before breakfast as I have to attend this morning the sale of the pews in the French Church. The talents & eloquence of our Minister attracts a very respectable number, & our congregation increases. I only wish that Mama & Sister understood French to attend with me, as this going to different places of worship, especially on Sacrament Sundays is very unpleasant. I think it a duty to uphold the Church of my Forefathers & to pay my adorations where our pious ancestors poured forth their orisons to our Heavenly Father. Mama & Sister are very well, yet reposing. I rises & walk early. At my return at 7 o'clock call them up & think it fortunate, at this season, if I can sit down to breakfast at 8. Mama wishes to attend family prayer every morning, which sometimes retards my breakfast hour. However we get thro' the day, tho' we do not commence it as early as I c'd wish.

New York, 21st May, 1816

This is the anniversary of the joyful day which a twelve month ago restored my beloved daughter to the bosom of her fond parents and family, a day that will never be obliterated from my memory. It was Sunday and just such another auspicious halycon day as this promises to be, which is the first fair May day we have enjoyed this season. Never shall I forget M'r Browns annunciation of your unexpected & happy arrival, nor
my first interview with my dearest daughter aboard ship.

Last week Mama passed thro' the pains & perils of house-cleaning & our front parlour on Sunday was exactly in the state you found it on your arrival, swept & garnished & as neat as industry can make it. Next week I shall look for the annual visit of my good old uncle, who will spend a few days with us, attend Divine Service on WhitSunday 2d June & partake of the Holy Communion in the Church founded by the piety of our forefathers, more than a century ago (in 1704) & worship God in their language. Our French Church with persevering efforts begins to attain a decency in its service that will shortly vie with any Episcopal Church in this city. As to preaching, Our Minister is at the head. he is our Lessius or Mas[s]illon. A most elegant writer & most eloquent orator. I am rapidly recovering my French which has cost me no little pains & application. We have had a change in our political horizon. This City & State being completely democratized. How happy for me my present situation. Had I been under the Corporation I sh'd inevitably have been turned out of office. Happily for me my familys bread does not depend on the state of parties. Seven years last April since I came to my present office. Ever since which I have gone on my journey of life prospering. Every year adding to my capital & with the prospect please God of attaining that moderate Independence which I have set as the mark of all my exertions. Not that when obtained sh'd life & health be spared, that I shall cease from labour, But that I may console myself, in case of accident, with having acquired wherewithal to render your Mama comfortable & to spare me sh'd life be protracted from the necessity of wearing out its last moments with tugging at the oar to secure my daily existence. In a year more I hope to be within sight of this welcome shore & to land safely in one twelvemonth after. Of which event I shall be happy to advise you.
Keep up good cheer. Whilst I toil for my own independence, I have the gratification of working for the benefit of my dear dear children, wa alleviates all my labours & mitigates all my privations. But why talk of the latter. Am I not blessed with a good faithful, most notable wife, and dear kind children.] God bless you all & make you all happy in time & in eternity.

Wednesday, 22d May. Your arrival at this period has engrossed all our thoughts & conversation and I have retraced every scene of that happiest moment of my life in all its particulars. . . . Your Mama's health is better & she is less troubled with flatulent complaints than before your visit, which she ascribes to her residence last summer at New Rochelle. I know not where she will migrate this season. It is a singular circumstance, that altho' commerce & the profits of trade have very considerably declined, the prices of our markets, rent, & fuel far exceed anything ever experienced in this city, & these high prices apply to the country. You can go no where, but that every advantage is taken of the citizen, who is absolutely fleeced by extravagant charges. The accommodations & charge for boarding in the adjacent villages, keep full pace with the exorbitant taxes on city life, so that it is matter of consideration where to go for comfort at a reasonable cost.

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

New York, 10th June, 1816

I received my dearest daughters postscript to her friend Capt. Walsh's letter of 1st May, wth I acknowledged in the Herald transmitted last week. My answer was deferred until I had an opp of seeing our Recorder Mr Riker on the subject of Capt. Walsh's request. This I did not accomplish until last Friday, altho' I called repeatedly at his office in the City Hall for the purpose. But being engaged in Court I could not approach him. On stating the Case to Mr Riker he says that there are so many applications respecting Blacks, that he has no
recollection whatever of the circumstance, which in all probability came before him in the shape of an Habeas Corpus, which is officially granted without any formal entry of the particulars. 

M' Thomas Delves formerly kept a boarding House in this street just below my residence. But he & his wife have both been dead for some time. Of M'C. Haughton the witness to the Bill of Sale I can find no traces, so that your friend Capt. Walsh must pocket the loss he may sustain by the emancipation of the boy Stephen Hamilton, who were he in this city it would be almost impossible to ferret out. I see not how any possibility of censure can attach to Capt. Walsh's character as being concerned in selling a kidnapped negro, for the Bill of Sale of the late M'r Delves must exculpate him from every shadow of fraud or reproach. I regret my researches have proved so unavailing. Assure him that it will always afford me pleasure to render any services in my power to the esteemed friend of my beloved daughter & family. The little, & that little so unsatisfactory that I have to convey, will apologize for not writing a separate letter. Present him my best respects.

Week before last my very dear good uncle & father paid us his annual visit & brought Aunt Pintard 17 home from Burlington to N Rochelle. They both are exceedingly well, & my uncle especially more fleshy than when you saw him. He enjoys excellent health & spirits. I attended with him on Whitsunday at the Sacrament in the Church of our Forefathers which, after much effort, is reestablished very handsomely a circumstance highly gratifying to him. On Friday p. m. I accompanied him to Newark where on Sunday we attended as Godfathers the christening of his great grandson 18 named after him. I returned in the aft.noon. M'^r Bayard has been confined to her chamber ever since her accouchement, her limbs have been so swollen by some obstruction in the

17 Mrs. Abigail (Stockton) Pintard, widow of Lewis Pintard's brother, Captain Samuel Pintard, and sister of Lewis Pintard's deceased first wife, Susanna (Stockton) Pintard.

18 Lewis Pintard Bayard, Jr.
lymphatic vessels that she is still unable to walk or nurse her babe, which is brought up by hand, is of course very delicate but hearty, is very much like her grandmama Cousin Patty. The eldest child, Matilda, is really a very fine playful & quiet little girl, very fair complexion & resembles her mother. Miss Julia Rhea stays with her sister & claims acquaintance with you, when at Paterson. She is a lady of great intellectual accomplishments, but I do not think in any degree obtrusive as is too often charged against ladies of superior acquirements. This may arise probably, from the envy of their inferiors. All our Princeton friends are well, & Doctor Smith my uncle says looks better than he has known him for many years. Your Aunt Betsey is in town, as gay, dressy & volatile as ever. She stays with her sister Callender, whose brothers being in town from Boston affords attractions for extra company & relieves your Aunt from the insipid monotony of retired domestic life, which is her sisters delight. Mr C. has purchased a house in Greenwich Street, nearer the Battery than where he resided last year & of superior accommodations. This gentleman is doing very good business. Your Aunt is very anxious, she desires me to tell you, to receive a letter from the Doctor. Mrs Salomon,¹⁹ who has lost her husband, is daily expected from St Eustatius. Agreeably to the laws of the Dutch, the estate is entailed on the children. She has remained some time to secure the inheritance of her husbands portion, whose father by succession has lately become heir to a considerable property which will augment her childrens interest & render her situation very comfortable. We shall wait on her for your sake, as she was much attached to you. You did not mention what ship your good friends, Mr & Mrs Halliday were to embark in. If the Marmion, she has arrived safe at Baltimore. I presume in a few weeks Mr H. will come on this way, when we shall make it a duty to show him every civility in our power & render

¹⁹ Mrs. Susan (Smith) Salomons, daughter of Dr. Samuel Stanhope Smith, and sister of Mrs. Pintard and Mrs. Callender.
his stay agreeable. I am much obliged to the Doctor for his attentions to the specimens of natural history wi if in any tolerable order will be very acceptable to Mr. Scudder. We have at length obtained possession of the Alms House, and I am now engaged in preparing the apartments for the Historical Society, which are ample & will accommodate us handsomely. I shall hereafter confine all my attentions to that child of my own, having blistered my hands & broken down my strength in tugging at every oar, & am resolved to be a galley slave no longer. I have by indefatigable labour, obtained a local habitation for our several scientific societies, & shall leave each, hereafter, to take care of itself, but will render any aid by counsel or general superintendance.

I hope my share of duty will be accomplished in a fortnight till when I shall be devoted all my spare hours. We have terrible accounts of the situation of N. Orleans from the crevasse in the levée. The effects of the inundation will be most dangerous to the health of the city the ensuing summer unless the waters shall have subsided during the uncommonly cold weather that has prevailed this way for several weeks. A fire has been comfortable morning & evenings till the 9th & it is now very cool. We have had frost & ice wth has killed beans, cucumber & melons. The like cannot be recalled within my powers of recollection.

I am writing this Tuesday 11th being obliged to take all chances, for what with office & Society calls, I am so engrossed with duties, that the life I led when you were here is the exact picture of my present hours. It is as well to wear out as rust out. But I promise myself hereafter a little more repose. I hope Mama will be able to take a little country air this summer.

Wed's morning 12th June, 7 o'clock. I am just returned from my call at the Historical Society. I hope to get rid of the Carpenters at work setting up shelves this day. The rooms have been scraped & whitewashed & tomorrow I shall get the anti-chamber, for the meetings
of the S° papered, the Library being a large adjoining Room. I have then to remove all our books & arrange them which will occupy about a fortnight, all my afternoons. My faithful assistant Doctor Francis 20 went to England last summer & has not returned so that I am all alone. But I take a pleasure in completing & bringing to life once more this embryo of a very valuable institution & legacy to posterity. It is astonishing what a fund of Historical materials have been collected already.

We took tea last evening with M'^ Butler 21 our quondam neighbour who showed us beautiful specimens of needlework & embroidery of her young daughter Cornelia, only ten years, now at Bethlehem w^ a must after all, be the school 22 for our sweet Eliza & Louisa in the course of a few years, when your crops will I hope be able to defray the expence.

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

NEW YORK, 25th June, 1816 9 A.M.

I had this instant taken up my pen to write to my beloved daughter, when the penny post handed me your letter of 1st inst. Having rec'd that of 21st May, on the 14th inst. My last being of 12th inst. My silence has been owing to the incessant occupation I have had in preparing the apartments & removing & setting up the Library of the N York Historical Society, the whole duty of which has rested on my shoulders, with the aid of my good friend Mr Scudder of the Museum, whose gratitude would not allow him to see me toiling all alone. Doctor Francis my faithful coadjutor whose activity & zeal almost supercede my services being abroad in Europe. Thank God with perseverance I have surmounted the most difficult part of the labour. The arrangement & classification of the Library will be rather an amuse-

21 Mrs. Benjamin Butler.
22 The Moravian Seminary for Young Ladies, at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.
ment than otherwise to fill up the blank hours of these summer afternoons.

Mama & Sister have not yet gone into the Country, what is more they have not decided where to go. Indeed until the 20th the season has been so uncommonly backward that the city has been very pleasant. The four last days have been oppressively hot & severe. This day is cooler. We generally have the hottest days in the year in June, when the sun reaches its highest northern latitude. The House at N Rochelle will be occupied by the Revd Mr Bayard & family. His lady since her last confinement has been indisposed with a swelling of her lower limbs to such a degree that she cannot walk. A malady with which her mother was afflicted who found benefit by bathing in salt water. The intention is to have salt water brought from the river side for the purpose of bathing. Had it not been for their occupation of the premises, I believe Mama & Sister w'd have taken shelter under the old family roof. Mr Bayards family purpose going this week, in order to have the benefit of the cherries as well as bathing. Your Aunt Betsey has been in town since my last & was to go home this day. Her sister Mrs Salomon has not yet arrived. I presume your valuable friends Mr & Mrs Halliday have ere this safely arrived at Balt. When Mr H comes this way I shall be happy to show him every friendly civility in our power. The Tankard for my namesake, shall I send it by Mr H or reserve it for the Doctor's arrival, who please God may find so much benefit from his voyage, as travel where he will in the U'd States, he may be able to visit us.

My chief comfort & all my happiness center in my dear family. After sad bitter disappointments, mortifications & privations, depressed below my level in Society, & almost extinguished, I have at length thank God, the cheering prospect of realizing a moderate income, w't will in case I am called off or become in-
capacitated by sickness ensure your mothers comfort for her declining years & leave something of a decent legacy to my two beloved children. Words cannot convey my feeling and gratitude to God that my life & health have been spared to accomplish this object of all my efforts. The toils of the day are alleviated & every care composed when I reflect on my present comfortable state & the certainty under Heavens smiles, of not being obliged to drag out the days of existence by being obliged to work for my daily bread & when called away, to leave a destitute wife & daughter dependant on the cold charity of family friends, than which no greater curse exists for an independent mind. Mamas health is tolerable but she languishes for country air. In August she purposes with Louise to pay a long promised visit to my cousin Judge Samuel Pintard at Middletown N. Jersey. He has no children. His wife is a kind affectionate notable women & they live in rural ease & independence. After a short stay, they are to go to Princeton & so home. Dragging along this year, I hope the next to be able, without too much inconvenience, to provide comfortable summer quarters for Mama. Every place in the proximity of the city is most extravagantly dear, without adequate accommodation, Retirement & quiet as you know are essential to y's mothers health. Sister never rec'd but one letter from you w'h she acknowledged a circumstance for w'h I cannot account as letters by mail come very safe. . . .

Wed' 26. Capt. Hunt, who arrived last week from France called on me to enquire after you & the children & desires to be kindly remembered to you. He says you were an excellent seaman, & he was much delighted with my namesake. . . .

New York, 5th July, 1816

Yesterday the 40th Year of our National Existence was celebrated as usual with the greatest splendor & rejoicing in our city. The day was uncommonly fine &
temperate, so cool, that we sat with the window sashes down. The concourse of people flocking in to keep Independence as it is called, is amazing, 3000 passengers crossed in the Steam Boat, yesterday morning. Our streets, rather Broadway from the Battery to the City Hall, with the adjacent avenues, were almost impassable 'till the processions were over. With all this influx of visitors added to our own numbers, it is astonishing that such multitudes assemble on this occasion, without tumult or riot, and by sunset, the city is as quiet as on other days. This is one proof among others that Americans know how to enjoy Liberty without running mad. The processions all passed thro' the streets in the upper quarter of the City. Wall Street which used to be the constant thoroughfare when the Old City Hall stood, is quite thrown into the background, and we were as still & quiet as tho' it were Sunday, a most delectable circumstance for your Mama who with Sister never went from home. "Her very Soul is in Home, and in the discharge of all those quiet virtues, of which Home is the centre," says the Author of Waverly, and w'h is truly applicable to your good mother my invaluable companion. I declined every party, public & private, to which I was importuned & kept Independence, in the bosom of my dear family. On this occasion I also declared Independence, a point so nearly attained that we anticipated the event on our country's proud natal day. With our desert of fruit &c. beautifully arranged was introduced one of your Father's old fashioned Bachelors Glasses, in which was suspended a golden full blown Eagle coin the largest of the U'd States currency a ten dollar piece, with a label inscribed

**Independence**

*This Eagle is my own*

Laus Deo

4th July, 1816

environed with our Family Arms with my palm tree device & favorite motto Never Despair. We drank the day & hailed our own Independence, next our dearest
absent daughters health and that of our sweet grandchildren, the safe arrival of your good husband and perfect restoration of his health. More splendid, more numerous circles were assembled on this Festive day, but none more grateful nor more contented & happy. I wd not exchange the felicity I enjoyed, for our Corporation dinner which was most elegant & bountiful, at which King Joseph sat down together with General Scott & a great many southern strangers of distinction. The Hospitality displayed by our Common Council on the occasion, is much to the honour of our city. I paid the customary visits of ceremony to the Governor & Mayor whose levies, in the City Hall, were most numerous [attended] & passed the morning & afternoon in the Historical S° Library, which I am now methodizing. I have toiled like a galley slave to be prepared for the first meeting of the Society on Tuesday 9th next in the N York Institution. After which I shall take a little repose. So much for Independence & God grant that the substance may be mine & my dear Families whilst we exist. Let others enjoy the glitter & parade.

Tuesday 9th July. It was fortunate for me my dearest daughter that I took it into my head to give the preceding brief description of our, thank God, Independent Dinner. I have been so engrossed ever since with my attentions to the Historical Society that I have not had a moment to myself. I wish not to appear complaining esp of discharging voluntary duties. This Society is my own child, and will I trust transmit some evidence of a useful existence. I have persevered in the arrangement of the Library, & all alone, without a soul to assist several members considering it sufficiently attentive on their part to call in once in a way to see me work. Be it so. I am content having happily surmounted my task. The apartment for the meeting of the Society is neatly fitted up & papered & the Library room very convenient. The Books exceed in number my expectations, and I shall be abundantly gratified to have the opp° please God of showing your good husband the
fruits of my labours. The Society meet this afternoon at 5, & I am all provided for the occasion, satisfied that my exertions will do me credit. Doctor Hosack has been equally attentive to the Philosophical Hall, which is completed, with this difference however, all my labours have been personal, His work performed by word of command. He is right for he has no leisure from professional duties & few w" thank him to slave as I have done.

Wedn" 10th July. I have had some expectation of a letter from my beloved daughter this morning, announcing the departure of the Doctor, & what vessel & where bound, in w" he had taken his passage. My first business is to look over the ship news for arrivals from N. Orleans in hopes of some tidings of his safe arrival. I sincerely trust that the voyage to the northward will be propitious to his health. Mrs Monroe 23 has come on from Virginia with her only daughter Mrs Hays [sic] who is ailing with the liver complaint, & has been exceedingly low, having undergone a severe course of salivation. A jaunt to the north was prescribed by her physicians as a sovereign remedy & she is going to Balstown Springs. Your Mama waited on them, & was happy to learn that from the opinion of physicians northern air is a specific against this malady. I hope therefore that your companion will derive every benefit from his voyage to his constitution & if restored that he will be more prudent & expose himself less to the alterations of y" climate than he has hitherto done.

New York, Monday 29th July, 1816

Cheer up your spirits my best beloved daughter. This letter is I confidently trust the harbinger of glad tidings respecting your worthy affectionate partner, who safely arrived under y" parents roof & to their most wel-

23 Mrs. Pintard's first cousin, Elizabeth (Kortright) Monroe, wife of James Monroe who became fifth President of the United States. Her daughter, Eliza, was the wife of Judge George Hay (1765-1830). Dict. Amer. Biog., VIII, 430.
come embraces on Saturday last at 2 o'clock p.m. The Doctor wrote you from Phil" of his arrival in the Delaware on the 19th, after a tedious unpleasant passage of 32 days deriving little benefit from his voyage. . . . He found a kind & tender friend in M" Foote of Natchez his compagnon de voyage who he has introduced to our acquaintance. . . . At 2 on Saturday, engaged in attention to M" Lenox who was conversing on an interesting subject & totally forgetful that the hour approached when the steam boat from Brunswick usually arrived, a thin slender gentleman entered the Office & enquired whether M" Pintard was in. I replied I am the person, without any anticip" or impression that it could be y" good husband who with a faultering voice uttered D" Davidson. With a full heart w'h w^d as in my dream have relieved itself by tears had I not been restrained by comp" I immed" took him to my bosom & going into the entry was introduced to his friend D" Carmichael who had brought him in a Hackney to our door & was attending to the delivery of the baggage. . . . You are doubtless anxious to hear what were the first impressions on our minds. I am gratified to say with all truth & sincerity, most favourable. As much so as your fondness or partiality c" wish. The Doctor is a very interesting character, modest, retired & most tender & affectionate in his disposition. His eyes are constantly suffused with tears when we dwell on the delightful theme of his beloved partner & dear sweet offspring.

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

It was evident that he laboured under severe depression of spirits, but from D" Carmichaels acc' who ret'd to tea that he had recruited since his arrival at Phil" he sustained the ride from Trenton to Brunswick on Friday very well & call'd on the transit thro' Princeton at D" Smith's, where y' Aunt Betsey was much affected on seeing him which did not serve to brace the Doctor's nerves. I leave the interview for him to describe. Sat'y night he rested indifferently, owing to overfatigue, agitated spirits, tender recollections of his family by the
sight of parents who recalled every domestic scene. He arose at 8, having determined thro' complaisance to attend Mama & Sister to Grace Church but he w'd have preferred going to his own. The closing of our French Church for the summer to clean & repair compelled my attendance, or I sh'd have gratified my feeling by accompanying the Doctor to his own form of worship of which he candidly avows his preference. God bless him & enable him to become a worthy member of the Presbyt' denomination.

D'r Hosack came to tea as he had promised, two or three western friends whom D'r C. had fallen in with called & the D'r was quite renovated. Letters from England from his partner D'r Francis very interesting, with the proud distinction as well as very singular one for an American of being elected a member of the Royal Academy of London, engrossed all the Doctor's thoughts & convers'*. Our poor pulse case were entirely out of his question. When the D'r retired I asked his opinion who said there was nothing alarming.

Wed' 31* July... On Monday at 5 the D'r & his friend D'r C. embarked in the Steamboat at the very last moment as she was casting off... They arrived at Albany last ev's & will set off this day for Saratoga, where the D'r by D. Hosacks advice is to stay but a short time & proceed to Ballstown the waters of w'h are a greater tonic. Exercise, air, change of scenes, variety of comp'y & perpetual motion will work wonders. He will write you from thence. I was much pleased with D'r C. a man of dignified tho somewhat stern manners a contrast to the politeness & mildness of y' affect. partner. I presented the specimens of the Oxyd of Iron taken from the boiler of the Steamboat w'h was sunk in the Missis. to our Hist. S'o w'h had an extra meeting yest', also the very valuable present of the Indian calumet the most perfect specimen of aboriginal sculpture I have ever seen, from M'r Randolph. These two gent'n with y'r good husband were unani'mously elected Honorary
members of our Society. I shall send Mr R's certificate with a letter of thanks for his donations by the Doctor's return. Sh'd you see him in the interim mention this circumstance & present my [acknowledgts in behalf of our So[ciety]. We are to commemorate the 206th Anniv of the discovery of N York by Hudson, [on] the 4th Sept next, when our pres[iden]t Gouv[erneur] Morris Esq', is to be inaugurated & who will deliver an Address on the occasion. I hope our friends, as Members, will be with us. A high gratificn to me.

Tuesday 6th Aug. . . . This morning I have the pleasure of a letter from yr good husband w' I transcribe in toto for yr satisfaction.

"Saratoga, Aug. 1, 1816. My dear Sir. I reached here yest' at 3 o'clock p. m. fatigued by the ride on the rough road from Albany, but free from fever & the pain in my side not so great as it had been on board the boat. I commenced the use of the waters this morning at day light & they have certainly had a very happy effect on my bowels & stomach. . . . R. D."

12 o'clock. I had written nearly thus far when at my office table pen in hand I was surprized by the unexpected appearance of Dr Carmichael. Had I not fortunately have rec'd yr husbands letter I sh'd have been shocked, presumption that they had both come back. Happily Dr C. says, that he left yr good friend in a convalescent state, comfortable lodged at a private house, M's White's, in Ballstown, neat clean & good diet. . . . I presume they will remain a month at the springs to give all chance to the successful experiment. There is much comp'y from all quarters there. Dr C. thot it very formal & has come down to go & pay a visit to his friend Gen. Cushing who is collector of the Port of New London. He sets off next day after tomorrow, in the mean time will visit us. In the Herald of Saturday of this weeks convey'd you will see a notice of the proceedings of the Historical Society & of the election of your Mayor, Doctors C. & D. as Honorary Members. I shall send the certificate of Electn by Dr D. with a letter of thanks
to Mr. Randolph for the Calumet, w'h we regard as a valuable present & it is registered & his letter to D'r D. entered on our Minutes at large. If you receive the Herald & have an oppo to be pleased to communicate it to him with my best respects. . . . D'r C. speaks very sparingly of y'r good friend Mr. Hacklys case. He says Mr. H. ought to submit to a course of mercury, but that he is very repugnant to every regimen. A pity, for they all represent him as a most amiable. Alas! that one in possession of every thing to render life comfortable sh'd want that primary blessing Health, to enjoy it. So variously are Gods gifts allotted. . . .

Wed'y 7th. My best respects to y'r good friend Capt. Walsh. I presume my letter in answer to his enquiries reached you, tho' not satisfactory, still what was possible I did to fulfil his request. He must submit to the loss of the boy, a circumstance I sincerely regret. Among my N. Orleans recollections I remember Father Walsh, Vicar General, a polite liberal ecclesiastic & a gentleman with whom I spent many pleasing hours. He is since deceased. I hope to meet him in a better world, where distinction of sects will be done away & where the good of all communions will unite in adoration & praise of that beneficent Creator whose providence is over all his works. Was this worthy priest any way related to your good friend? . . . My mind is disposed to sober not to gloomy thoughts. We have had two occurrences within a few days of the frailty of human existence. A Mr. Ferguson, a merchant of respectability & much esteemed, dropped down dead Friday a few doors below me, between 12 & 1 at the very noon tide of this busy street, & a Miss Carberry, daughter of the facetious & good humoured Capt. Carberry was swept into eternity with two young girls, bathing in the surf yesterday morning at Rockaway. . . .

7th. 9 o'clock. just from breakfast. Mama whose system requires depletion will be bled to day, her health & spirits generally better. . . .
New York, 13th August, 1816

... Doctor Carmichael went last Friday to N. London to see his friend Gen. Cushing. He talked of returning as to day & to proceed to Morristown on a visit to his family friends, where he sh'd remain until about the probable return, on the last of this month please God, of his invalids, and then arrange about fixing on the route & period for their departure home, which at any rate will be by the Ohio, and regulated by the autumnal rains, to raise the navigation of that river, the waters of which must, should the same drought prevail west of the Alleghany as in this quarter, be very low. How extremely unfortunate the Steam Boats on the western waters have proved this year. I should apprehend almost if not quite ruinous to the proprietors and likely to impede for a time future enterprize in this way. An experiment of crossing the Atlantic is about to be tried this Autumn in a first rate Steam Boat destined for Russia. Mr Fulton in his life time had a patent right for navigating the waters of the Russian Empire, provided a complete Steam boat should be put in operation by a given period which expires this year. Mr Colden, executor of Mr Fulton, has undertaken the enterprize & should he be able to accomplish the ways & means the one thing needful, will go himself and should he reach Russia in safety, of which I have no doubt, and in season to secure the patent right, He will make a princely fortune. Fortune favours the enterprizing, & I hope he will be crowned with success. Steam Boat navigation is pursued with great ardour in the Atlantic states & Canada, But the expense of Fuel consumes in this quarter a very considerable portion of the profits, & unless Coal can be substituted & greater economy in the expenditure introduced, I do not see how it will be possible to maintain the Boats so as to remunerate the proprietors.

Mama & Sister are employed in my dear daughter's service making a gown in the most fashionable style, a pattern card for the Pinckneyville Assemblies next sea-
TO HIS DAUGHTER, 1816

son. Eliza's Doll will be dressed in the most modern style & Hugganized 24 so as to carry a complete idea of the fancy of arranging love locks &c.

Tuesday noon. I must improve the time because the days are evil & leave nothing undone for tomorrow for each day brings to me its renewed duties. I have just got thro' with the Historical Society w'h is at least in decent order as I hope your good man will testify when he shall have seen it a pleasure to come. This week we have begun with the Academy of Arts, the apartments of which will require considerable alteration & improvement. We have succeeded in raising that all essential to every enterprize public or private, the one thing needful, to be reimbursed by our income from exhibitions, w'h I am confident will be very productive. My good friend Mr Clinton made me much against my inclination Sec'y of this very torpid Society, that had almost fallen into oblivion. In comp't to him my exertions are due & tho' reluctantly I shall faithfully try at the oar, until our gods and goddesses are placed in their respective niches. This I trust will be by the middle or last of October, too late for the Doctors seeing them. We shall then open the Academy for exhibition & it will soon become a popular place of resort & add to the polite attractions of our city & promote a taste for the Arts. To afford innocent amusement to growing opulence is among the duties incumbent on all those who regard the morals of Society. Mankind cannot always be praying, nor working. Gross dissipation always prevails where refinement is not cultivated. The vices of polished society tho' pernicious do not shock by their grossness & as wealth & its consequent indulgences more & more abounds, we must aim at giving a proper direction to young minds, find out new resources for occupation & killing time, among w'h Theatres, Operas, Academies of Arts, Museums, &c. are to be classed as the means

24 John R. D. Huggins was a hairdresser on Broadway, New York City.
to attract & prevent the growth of vice & immorality. These are among the reasons which operate with me to lay the foundation of institutions w'h I cannot ever expect to see arrive at even moderate perfection in my day. There are hundreds more interested than myself for posterity, who from want of advantage in education & thro' contractedness of mind, will neither contribute services nor money to promote these objects, & set all down, like myself, for fools who do both or either. So be it. We all owe a debt to Society as well as to God for the blessings we enjoy, and I wish to discharge my share. I am moralizing as usual to fill up the blank before me. All the time my mind is running upon y'r nursery.

New York, 6th Septem', 1816  9 o'clock

Your letters of 28th July to your good husband & myself have been safely received. This morning, Friday, at 7 o'clock, he set out in the Raritan Steam boat for N. Brunswick, on his way homewards, where he hopes to arrive, with the blessing of God, about the middle of November, a little more than two months from this and about a month after this letter will reach you. We cannot be too grateful my dearest daughter for the rapid recovery of the Doctors health. It appears almost a miracle. He has gain'd flesh, has a good appetite, better spirits & his usual strength. How great a contrast in the short time between his arrival on the 29th July and his departure. Seven weeks.

The Doctor will stop this evg at Princeton & pay his respects to my good old uncle, to y'r Aunt Betsey, D'r Smith & family, and proceed tomorrow to Phil'a to join M'r Hackley who left Newark on Tuesday for Phil'a. They go from thence next Tuesday to Baltimore, from whence the Doctor will write to you. M'r Hackleys indisposition prevented his visiting this city so that we have not had
the pleasure of seeing y° friend. Doctor Carmichael took a French & unexpected leave of us last Saturday. Mr Laverty sets out tomorrow for Balt° where the whole party of y° western worthies will be congregated in the course of next week to their great joy as they separate in various directions on their routes home. On Wed° the 4° inst. the 206° Anniv° of Hudsons discovery we had a gala dinner, the particulars of w° I leave for the Doctor to describe at his return. We hoped to have had the pleasure of D° Carmichael & Mr Hackleys company, as was intended, but their departure disappointed us. Mr Laverty was present, a polite gentleman to whom we expressed every acknowledgment for his kindness to you. He has heard that his lady has presented him with a fine daughter. Mr° Talbot° was with us who talked of course about Ireland, the Emerald isle, the land of potatoes & fine lasses, with Mr° L. She recollects full well & speaks highly of your Irish friend, Capt. Walsh. So that we ed all talk about the circle of y° Society in the Choctaw World. Mr° Foote the Doctors Compagnon de voyage was of the party. An excellent honest Yankee without guile, possibly because he is a most zealous Episcopalian. He accompanied us to the Communion table last Sunday, and the Doctor has acquired a sincere & disinterested friend in him. He is to sail weather permitting on Sunday in the [blank in ms.] & takes with him a trunk of notions from Maine, a Box of valuables from the Doctor, a d° of playthings for the children, a bandbox & a pure apple cheese w° must not be opened nor eaten up till the Doctor arrives, & an indented black boy Prince, of whom the Doctor will write. Mr° Foote will get out at St. Francis Ville as he goes to Natchez, stop at Fontainebleau, deliver Prince & the Doctors letter ride on & meet the Steamboat at Fort

25 Mrs. Eliza Talbot, widow of Commodore Silas Talbot (1751-1813), U. S. N., whom she married in 1808. (Dict. Amer. Biog., XVIII, 280; N. Y. Eve. Post, May 21, 1808.) She was the first wife of John Marsden Pintard, according to manuscript family notes in the library of The New-York Historical Society, and was presumably divorced from him, but the divorce record has not been found.
Adams where he will land & you can send for y° goods, which we hope will arrive safe & prove acceptable. I am unable to give particulars but the list of contents are in one of the trunks or boxes.

(noon). I have got thro' my Office business & must improve my time. You cannot conceive how much I am occupied with the N York institution. I have done my possible to be attentive to your good man but far short of my wishes. As soon as he c° command his legs he required no other aid than his friend Foote to cruise about town in every direction & c° find his way into every shop & quarter, to my frequent astonishment. The Doctor has a great deal of the antient dominion character about him who are brought up among slaves & accustomed to be waited on. We northerns help ourselves. There is good natured apathy & listlessness, in the southern composition, the influence of climate & habit, w° marks them very strongly. They are kind hospitable & lazy.

New York, 1st October, 1816. Tuesday

This is my week to write to my beloved daughter and I have the gratification to acknowledge the receipt of your letter to your Mama of 3° Sept. The Doctor who I conclude is with his friend Mr Hackley at Fredericksburgh has I presume written to you by the last mail it being his turn. I have not heard from him since his leaving Balt°. He wrote from thence expecting to set out the beginning of last week for Virginia. His health & spirits were gaining strength daily and I trust his letter to you will confirm the pleasing tidings of this progressive recovery. My last of 21 Sept: or rather Mama’s long journal conveyed a list of Articles shipped to you on board the Brig Hesper Capt. Mason in the care of Mr Foote, who will I hope arrive by the middle of this month safe at N. Orleans and possibly by the time this reaches you have appeared at Fontainebleau. The contents of
the several boxes will I make no doubt gratify you, indeed exceed as relates to the Doct or your expectations. You were very very prudently moderate my beloved daughter in your requisitions & considering his resources he has been very liberal in supplying them. The articles from your parents will remind you, if that were necessary, of their unceasing love & affection, and the items of plate will I hope, tho' homely & old fashioned, be carefully transmitted to your children.

Thurs^ 3^d Oct.

I have just ret^d from the N York Institution, in which I had placed a little old man M^r Colles,²⁶ who was to have acted as door keeper of the Academy. He is fast travelling to a better world, was taken with an ague & fever last week. Of a slender attenuated frame, in his 79th year, his stamina are quite worn out & he is falling gently into the arms of his Redeemer, for a purer more innocent being never existed. I have long been his only friend, I mean active friend, for he never wanted for kind words, & always promised what I shall strictly perform to see his remains deposit^d along side those of his first wife in S^t Pauls Church Yard. His lamp is nearly extinguished, nor shall I probably hear his voice again. My friend M^r Scudder has also been at deaths door but is thank God recovering. I tho't his ease desperate last Sunday week. He now sits up. Thus you see I do not, with all my other occupations, want for subjects to exercise my benevolence. The Academy is approaching to a finish, & our first Exhibition will take place probably in a fortnight & it will do us credit. Next week, Thurs^ 10^th I shall go to Princeton, next day to Burlington to dine with my much loved & honoured uncle & father at M^r Boudinots on the day that he enters his 85th year a great age, enjoyed with astonishing vigour physical & intellectual. My great Grandmother

Carré lived to her 94th the oldest of our race. To anticipate is useless, but I never expect to see three score & ten. Indeed sh'd my faculties fail, now that I have secured a reasonable competence for y'r mother's support, I do not wish to exist when my days of usefulness to my family are past.

Friday A. M. My old friend still exists. I went to see [him] just after six. The Vis Vitae is very powerful in him & he may last a day or two. This is M's Foote's 3d week. The weather has been very favourable & if he has your luck he may arrive at N[ew] O[rleans] by Sunday week, 13th & be with you by the 1st Novr ere this in course of mail arrives.

Saturday 5 Octr. My old friend & philosopher expired last evening half past 11, without much struggle. I thought he knew my voice when I spoke to him for the last time yest'y morning. Tomorrow at 5 p. m. I shall render him the last services. Requiescat in pace.

New York, 17th October, 1816

This is my week to write to my beloved daughter, a duty which if I sh'd neglect, would render me unhappy. Since my last of 5th inst. no letter has been rec'd from you to me. One to the Doctor, postmark I believe 10 Septr which I forwarded to him under cover of mine the 7th or 8th inst. directed to him at Lexington, in answer to his last letter from Fredericksburg of 2d inst. on w'h day he was to set off with M's Hackley on horseback, with a good waiter on their journey home. I have rec'd three trunks from Fredericksburgh to be shipped to the care of M's Laverty N. Orleans.

I paid my anniversary visit to my dear good uncle & father last week, perhaps I had better journalize my brief

Mrs. Louis Carré (Prégeante Fleuriau), who came to New York with her husband in 1688. (Minutes of the Common Council of New York, I, 197.)
tour out & home. On Tuesd'y I went by the way of Eliz'btown to Princeton where I arrived at 7, the ev's dark & low'ring. I made my visits next morning, rising very early & offering my devotions as the sun appeared at M'r Stockton's elegant grove, a sight of which to one so passionately fond of Forest scenery as myself, is worth a ride to Princeton. After breakfast I waited on Doctor Smith & family. He is better in appearance than at my former visit. M'rs Smith looks very well.

I cannot describe how grateful to me were the favourable impressions y'r husband made on our family friends whom I thanked most cordially for their kind & hospitable attentions to him. My good old uncle is much pleased with him & regretted that his stay was so short & expresses much uneasiness least any accident sh'd betide him. I told him that he had altered his plan of going the whole distance by land. You will delight to hear that all of y'r family are so highly gratified with your partner. After viewing the new Building & a very handsome one it is for the Theological Seminary, I called on M'r Field.

(Friday) to resume my journal. I saw M'rs F. & her eldest daughter Annice, who is addressed by M'r Dunbar educated at Princeton & now studying physic at Phila. She will become y'r neighbour. It is an affair of some two years to come as he is to finish his course of Medical educ'n first. You need not mention the circumstance till you hear it as in all probability from rumour. M'r Stockton & family are all well. M'r & M'rs Harrison were there, the latter not in good health. In the aft'noon I went with M'r & M'rs Bayard in their carriage to Burlington where I had the happiness to meet my good old uncle & to find our venerable kinsman M'r Boudinot tho' confined to his chamber & almost to his bed comparatively hearty & well. He is too weak in his feet to support the weight of his body, but his intellect & spirits are excellent. He reads & writes with great ease & converses with life & spirit. His strength recruits & I trust with the blessing
of Providence that he may be restored so far to his health as to be able to take his seat as president, at the annual meeting in this city, or Phila of the Am. Bible Society the 11th of May next. This would be the highest gratification to him, as Father of that institut as also to all interested in promoting this most laudable Society. Cousin Susan Bradford 28 is very well & received me with her usual warm hearted most friendly hospitality. It was fifteen years this last Summer since I visited Burlington, in which time Mr. Boudinot has built his present very extensive dwelling House & improved its grounds, w^h from a barren field has become a delightful paradise. Next season please God Mama & Sister are to pay a visit to Burlington House, should no intervening mortality change the prospect & render it improper. My invaluable friend Judge Griffith 29 was unfortunately from home. I saw Cousin Abby, 30 who has been long indisposed but recovering. Their eldest daughter is married to a Mr. Cox 31 who with her oldest brother John have gone down the river on business to N. Orleans. It w^d have gratified me c^d they have called on you, but I presume after stopping at Natchez will go down the Mississippi. On Saturday the 12th we commemorated my good old uncle & fathers birthday, when he entered his 85th year. We had a very handsome dinner, at w^h were present Mrs. Bradford, my uncle, Mr. & Mrs. Bayard, Mr. Cuthbert who came from Trenton, Mr. & Mrs. Wharton, Mr. Cox & y^ father. It was literally a Festival to me, a day always to be remembered with delight. These

red letter days are very sparcely scattered thro' my Calendar. I enjoy them the more when they occur. I had but one alloy, w'h was that Mama & Sister were not with me. But all things are not possible or not convenient & let us be grateful for the happiness we really enjoy. I called on my old acquaintances Gen. Bloomfield & Mr. Wallaces family in the aft. noon. On Sunday we went to Church A. M. It rained & there was no afternoon service. The weather kept us within doors. On Monday I left the neat clean orderly City of Burlington & bade possibly a long if not everlasting adieu to a place where I have always been rec'd & entertained with the most cordial hospitality. The steam boat conveyed me to Trenton & I passed directly onward thro' Princeton to Brunswick without being able to call on anyone. We pierced a Fog as we approached the banks of the Raritan which might rival y'r country. The next day Tuesday, at noon landed me in N York, w'h to my utter astonishment after my long absence stood exactly where I left it & for ought I c'd find the world jogging on as well without as with me. I found Mama & Sister well rejoicing that I had an excellent opportunity for so much relaxation. It is all that comes to my share for a whole year, and I am all gratitude for the favour. Yesterday Aunt Pintard came from N Rochelle to go with Mr. Bayard to Princeton tomorrow. She looks very well for her period of life, very th [ms. torn] & apparently better than when you were here. Master Samuel Bayard stays with us & will pass next week in town. He has out-grown his strength, is tall & slender & very delicate in health, so much so as to interrupt the course of his studies. He is intended for the law & if his life be spared will I have no doubt be eminent, he is a fine genius, has a poetical turn & is fond of his studies, a little beauish, natural to his time of life. Were he near me I sh'd take great interest in directing his studies. . . . By the time this reaches you, or before our next letter, I confidently hope that the Husband & parent, & y'r kind friend Mr. Hackley with your lofty neighbour Doc't Carmichael and
affect. kind friend Mrs. Halliday & her good companion & son will all be with you.

A word about the N York Institution. The paintings in my absence arrived from Phila but by bad management the frames have been sent round by water. The Academy is ready to be opened, most splendidly I understand, for none but the Committee of Arrangements are allowed to peep into it before the final preparations are closed. On Wed'y next Mr. Clinton is to deliver his Eulogium to the Memory of Chancellor Livingston our first president when published I will send you a copy. The Exhibition will take place in all next view. A private view will be given to the Corporation our patrons & to the Directors of the Mec[hanics'] Bk who aided us with a loan to fit up the Academy & the principal gentry of our city. After w'h the admission is 25 cents the visitor who may put his bread & cheese in his pocket & stay all day. Thus I have the satisfaction of seeing three branches of our Institution established & I trust flourishing in the Building appropriated for them, the Philosophical & Historical Societies & the Academy. The Am. Museum will open next spring & if Scudder whos health is improving sh'd be spared, his arrangem'ts will do him honour. The Library by the intrigues of an unworthy inefficient Librarian has been paralyzed. But we will do better after the next spring election when I trust more active Trustees will be appointed.

Saturday, 19th . . . Aunt Pintard & Mr. Bayard are just preparing (9 o'clock) to set off for Newark on their way to Princeton. Master Samuel remains with us a week. . . . Next week he is to accompany Mama for the first time to the Theatre. My hearing is too obtuse to enjoy theatrical amusements.

N York, 11th Novem'r 1816 Monday P. M.

Among the felicities of my life, the few, I was going to say, but that would savour of discontent if not ingrati-
tude, the highest is the frequent & regular receipt of my dearest daughters letters. Your favour of 14th Oct. I rec'd this morning, the day on w'h commences the paym't of my dividends, preparatory to which I have had a fortnight at least of severe duty, being deprived almost entirely of my clerks assistance. But this week I shall please God pass thro' this work & have some repose, if repose that can be called w'h consists of going from one toil to another.

Thurs' 14th. As an evidence of my incessant labour, I have not been able to resume my pen, since Monday P. M. when I traced the preceding whilst I was engaged with M'r Cutting & the proprietors of the Steam Boat, settling their acct's for the last 6 mo[nth]s to make explanations, calculate Dividend &c. interrupted me & till this moment 11 a. m. I have been without intermission constantly occupied so as to have had little of strength or spirits left to write. Besides more than ordinary duty Tamar took it into her head to go to N Rochelle on Sunday, from whence she returned last night & I had to rise with the dawn, make 3 fires, run to market, shave & get breakfast to be in my shop by half past nine. But this week will carry me over the worst of it and I shall have some respite. Yest' I rec'd a letter from the Doctor dated Lexington 2d inst. He had then 170 Miles to perform to reach his fathers, where he arrived I hope, weather permitting by the 7th. He was to continue a few days & proceed to the Cumberland river & meet his friends M'r Hackley & Doctor Carmichael in the Steam boat, w'h w'd touch at the mouth of that river, giving him 8 days home. . . .

To clear my hands of the travellers towards y'z land of promise, M'z Pintard embarked in the Brandt, for

32 The New-York and Brooklyn Steam Boat Ferry Company, operating the ferry leased in 1814, for twenty-five years, to Robert Fulton and William Cutting. Pintard was secretary of the Board, and treasuruer. See his account of the records he kept for the Company from its establishment in 1814, in his affidavit, made in 1822, printed in A Statement of Facts . . . In Answer to A Pamphlet, Published at Brooklyn, in Relation to the Steam Boat Ferry (Brooklyn, 1822), pp. [33]-35.
Friday 15th Novr. With the dawn I arose, & went on board Captn Le Count and saw my potatoes & turnips &c. measured & aided putting them into bags wth I had carted home & housed before breakfast & very luckily for it is now raining. So much for taking time by the forelock. My butter is engaged & my apples only remain to complete my winter stock. Fruit is plenty this year but Flour &c. has risen since the last arrivals bringing intelligence of short crops in England. This however is a general benefit, altho consumers eat bread in this city esp'ly, dearer than any part of Europe. How hard it is for the Doctor to have had such indifferent or no crops. But do not despond, and sh'd my namesakes Tankard arrive safe, whenever gloom oppresses look at the Motto and Never Despair.

Saturday 16th Novr. I am fortunate in having almost finished my letter yesterday. Mama invited last evening young Mr John Searle our family relation, to dinner this day, as he leaves town on Monday where he arrived with a cargo of wine, the dull sale of wth will compel him to pass the winter there. He is a married gentleman, very engaging in his manners. My time this week has been so engrossed that I have had no oppo to show him what is to be seen in our city. Mama & Sister accompanied him however to the Academy of Arts, with wth he expressed himself much pleased. He has been several times in London, of course the sight was no novelty to him.

I must defer till some other occasion any remarks on our exhibtn of wth I sent you a fortnight ago a Catalogue with Mr Clintons discourse. We succeed beyond our anticipations, and I trust to see realized as regards the N. Y. Institution all my most sanguine expectations, & that it will be shortly an honour to our city. Great commercial

33 John Witherspoon Smith, son of Rev. Dr. Samuel Stanhope Smith.
embarrassment still continues & great sacrifices still continue at auctions, but times it is prognosticated will mend in the spring.

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N York, Wed'y 4th Decem. 1816
Thursday 5th

You see by the above dates that my intention of beginning my letter to my beloved daughter yest' morn's was frustrated. I have risen at early dawn this morn' & postpone my usual walk to employ the few minutes before breakfast in conversation with my dearest far distant child. God bless you and your dear babes, of whose health & yr' own I had the pleasure to hear yest'y by receiving yr' letter of 28'th Octo. who has had a tedious conveyance of 36 days. My interruption yest'y in writing was occasioned by office duty, examining into the losses & damages sustained by a disastrous Fire, the preceding night which consumed nearly a whole Block of buildings between Beekman & Burling Slips. We 34 shall lose about $4000. The other offices much heavier.

Your Aunt Betsey probably is at N. Orleans in another week. She will take as much of the gay scenes of the city as she can & probably you will not see her until after the Carnival. Our young friend the Rev' Mr Bayard was over here a fortnight ago, when he mentioned that the Doctor at Princeton in conversation with his wife said, that if he wd go to Pinckneyville, a congregation might be collected that would afford him a salary equal to any in our city viz a house & from 2 to 3000 Doll's p' an. His Lady is perfectly willing to go to your country, the climate being more favourable to her health. He has written I presume offering his services if called to go as a minister into your quarter. His Father approving the measure. I hope the Doctor will answer

34 That is, the Mutual Insurance Company, of which Pintard was secretary.
with all deliberation & not hold out delusive prospects for if Mr. B. adventures on a visionary scheme he will lose the substantial tho' humble station he now occupies w'h affords a salary of $1000 p'r & Fuel. Small enough whilst his children are infants but w'h will be very in-
adequate as his family may increase & grow up, & his wife is very infirm for so young a person. His talents I think are respectable & as a minister he w'd please your respectable Families. It w'd be a desireable improvement in your quarter to establish a Church for regular worship and I hope the Doctor may find sufficient encouragement to return a favourable answer. At any rate I trust he will not commit himself upon bare promises, but on actual subscriptions of those concerned who will be bound to fulfil their engagements. I desired him to write personally that he might explain himself without my intervention to prevent mistakes & responsibility.

8 o'clock. I have shaved, called up Mama & Sister, said my Chapter & resume my pen a few minutes before breakfast, after w'h the duties of the day will interfere. I shall endeavour to conclude my letter tomorrow morn^ Saturday being market day, post day &c &c. Tomorrow aft.noon I have to attend the Historical S^ day S't Nicholas 6^ Decr. On Sat^ to attend the Acad^ of Arts. You will see by the Herald the plan of a Saving Bank for laying up the earnings of domestics & the labouring community w'h I have been instrumental in promoting & of w'h I am a Director, an office I reluctantly assumed but could not well avoid taking a share of the trouble in organizing an Institution w'h I trust will prove eminently beneficial to Society. It will remove one of the causes of mendicity & thereby lessen the burthens on the more favoured class of citizens in supporting paupers, by exciting thrift, frugality, a pride of character & independence which will be productive of moral & religious habits. It is an experiment, the utility of w'h has been proved in G. Britain but it will require time, perhaps years before it can reach any great extent in the U'd States. A similar plan is going on in Boston
& Phila & will it is presumed be adopted in every city & principal town in the Union. Thus you see my dear daughter that occasions are constantly arising in such a city as ours for the exercise of benevolence & talents. Were my private situation easy & comfortable, I would cheerfully devote the whole of my remaining days in promoting these great objects of public utility. I can now only afford such moments as can be subtracted from the duty I owe my office w'h must not be neglected nor sacrificed to other pursuits. Probably I do my full share, the performance of which affords me infinite satisfaction. I shall not be able to become a member of the National Bible S° in consequence of this new appointment. My friend Mr Bayard is extremely importunate on this head. I can however render services without being in office. It has my best wishes & I sincerely regret that our respectable & right Rev'd Bishop Hobart has seen proper to oppose it. I think his apprehensions of danger to the Episcopal interest is groundless but his zeal to secure the interests of our Church has perhaps misguided his judgment. He is too eminent & useful for me to doubt his motives and this is another reason why I decline Mr Bayards request, that I may not give umbrage to my Bishop. Indeed instead of extending it is time for me to contract the sphere of my gratuitous services. Verging on 55, I feel the weight of years, tho' thank God I enjoy high health & elasticity of spirits & I trust vigour of intellect with improved judgment to discharge all commonplace duties. Again, by appearing on every list of offices, one gets a character of inordinate ambition grasping at every thing that offers. The imputation of vanity is to me most sore. If I know myself motives of utility only can induce me to fill any of these humble stations, on which however the public improvement & happiness in a great degree depend. Our Academy of Arts has gone on with greater success than we dared to anticipate & will within the year discharge the $1500 borrowed to improve the apartments & get it up. As soon as my name is off the security I shall relinquish my Secretaryship
w h I only hold to guard myself from harm. I propose giving up the Trusteeship of the Library next Spring & thus gradually resign all my blushing honours except the N. Y. Hist. So w h I shall cherish till my last day. Mr Clinton is appointed to deliver a Eulogium to the memory of our late president Mr Morris, w h he accepts & will probably not pronounce it till next spring. My friends prospects for the office of Governor of this State are flattering I understand, tho' there is a very great schism among his party on this subject. The fear of a federal candidates success may unite them w h may prove to his advantage. Tho in opposite politics I sincerely wish he may succeed as I am persuaded he will make an enlightened energetic & most active Governor. Of the Canal I can say nothing 'till the Legislature meets.

Saturday morn's 7 th . . . We will take some occasion of sending suitable presents to our nieces Halls 35 for their kind remembrance of you. They are by all accounts very accomplished young ladies. Your cousin Davis Craig is in the meazles. He has been favoured & has passed the crisis, but he is extremely delicate in his constitution of which he may get the better with care & years. . . . We have no news of any importane either domestic or foreign. Mr Madison's last address was a very fair & honourable view of the situation of the U d States. Mr Munroe undoubtedly will be president & our Governor Tompkins, V. president, which leaves a vacancy in our state that will I hope be supplied by Mr Clinton. A letter from Mr Bayard this week advises that my good old Uncle & Aunt Pintard have gone to Burlington where Doctor Boudinot is gradually gaining strength. I cannot close without recommending your good husband to be very careful how he exposes himself to violent exercise & changes of weather. He must expect relapses unless he observes the utmost prudence in his regimen.

35 Helen Louisa Hall and Emily Matilda Hall, daughters of Fitch Hall, and of Mrs. John Pintard's deceased sister, Judith (Brasher) Hall. D. B. Hall, The Halls of New England (1883), pp. 322-23.
As he understands his case better than he did when he left home he will pursue his course accordingly. Extreme temperance in the use of spirituous liquors is prescribed by Doctor Hosack. I am thinking that my namesake ought to be educated for his fathers profession w^h will always be lucrative in that part of the world where he is likely to live, the pursuit of which will not interfere with cultivating a plantation sh^d he be so fortunate as to inherit one. It will be singular indeed sh^d you be the means of having attracted the Rev^d Mr B. to y^r quarter. With Miss Field when settled there you will have a circle of family connections about you that cannot but be gratifying. . . .

New York, Wed^r 18th Dec. 1816

The receipt of my beloved daughters letter of 5th Nov. in 34 days has set my mind at ease respect^s the safe arrival of her presents &c. at N. Orleans & I trust ere this at home. . . . Last Sunday the 15th inst. I allotted as a festival day with you please God and that your good husband and all the pilgrims met together at your table under Mr Hackleys hospitable roof. We drank your health on the occasion and that of all our good friends of Pinckneyville, presuming you reciprocated ours in Whiskey Toddy out of Captain Pintards Tankard w^h was doubtless handeled on the occasion. How do you like it, especially the device & armorial bearings, w^h I thought elegantly engraved. I am much gratified to find that you estimate the articles of family plate sent you, which I sincerely pray you may be able to retain and transmit, with such other pieces as may fall to your share, to your children who will probably regard them likewise for their mothers sake. Fashion always changes, a set new this day, w^d in a few years become out of date, of course. What we receive from our predecessors ought to be valued as family relics, which recall our early years & endear the memories of those who once used them and are now no more. It is with regret when I reflect how
many of these memorials I have been compelled to sacri-
ifice, for the French families & ours especially have
always been remarkable for their plate, having more in
proportion than any other class of people, & more prob-
ably than their circumstances w'd justify. What was
bequeathed was always preserved as well as what was
purchased by each successive generation, so that all of
us have something to show of ancestral plate. We have
no objection that you sh'd appropriate the Tea set to Eliza
and dear little Taddle shall have her share also please
God. If your Aunt Betsey still possesses y'r Uncles Cups
& will sell them, I will pay her for them & get the Doctor
to have a similar cypher as on the Captains Tankard

J P to L M D
1815

the year of his visit to us, that our Bully rock may have
something direct to remember his namesake & g'dfather.
If they are disposed of, something else shall be substi-
tuted. With the blessing of God on my labours and a
persevering resolution to husband my earnings, there will
be wherewith to gratify all your children. Recollect that
what is given you will in like proportion be given to
Sister who with yourself shall inherit share & share alike
what I may have to leave and God bless you with it.

19 Dec'y Thurs'y. Yest'y I rec'd your letter of 22'd Nov.
in 24 d. You will judge from this w'h of the two posts
are the most expeditious.

I hope you will be able to get up the Frame of your
new tenement. A Log House is very comfortable and
doubly so when it is one's own. Better a hut to ones
self than to dwell in a palace of another. Sweet Inde-
pendence what a blessing in the Cup of existence. Do
not build beyond your capacity for if prosperous you can
always enlarge your dwelling.

Friday 20th. A remarkable fine day. Mama & Sister
have[j] just got thro' the preparations for the approaching
Hollidays. . . . I am sorry to learn that your friend Mrs. Halliday has been detained to discharge the last filial duty to her aged Mother. . . .

Saturday 21. . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
We have no intelligence of moment. The papers give all the Congressional & local news. Our Societies in this city all very active & my afternoons & evens almost constantly employed. The Academy of Arts closed the 19th. We collected nearly $1500. We purpose having semi annual exhibitions in future, Spring & Fall, and this Institution I consider fairly established. The others are in a progressive state & we shall shortly have in the N. Y. Institution courses of Lectures in Chemistry, Mineralogy, Zoology & Botany, most useful branches.
1817

To Mrs. Richard Davidson (Eliza Noel Pintard)
of Pinckneyville, Mississippi Territory

NEW YORK, 31st Decem. 1816

At the close of the year, I conclude its various duties with commencing my letter to my dearest far away daughter.

Thursday evening 8 o'clock, 2d Jan'y [1817]. I had hoped to have found time to have concluded this page on Tuesday. But the interruption of office duties, preparations to close my monthly accounts & superadded an unexpected meeting of the Historical Society at 12 o'clock to attend the delivery of a Memoir by Judge Benson ex president, entirely frustrated my design.

Yesterday as usual our small family party dined with us. Grandmama, M'r Craig & Aunt Helen & Master Davis. We drank y'r health about the time you were no doubt reciprocating ours & wishing you health wealth & prosperity. I was obliged from an unexpected appointment to leave table before dinner was half over, but not before drinking your health as above. The Meeting of the Managers of the American Bible So'. I had for some time been importuned by M'r Bayard a most zealous apostle of this So[ciety] to become a Manager. Bishop Hobart at the origin of this Institution in May last alarmed the Episcopalians by holding out that the Am. Bible So w'd swallow them up in the gulph of presbyterianism & warned them against the danger of becoming members. For one I gave heed to my Bishop & abstained from any connection further than contributing my mite, as I always choose to be the arbitor & almoner of my own bounty. On my visit to
Burlington I examined more closely the subject, and became convinced in my own mind, as I frankly told the Bishop, that his apprehensions of danger to our communion were groundless. I must do him the justice to say that he pertinaciously adheres to his first opinion tho' his arguments do not convince me. Our relation Doctor Boudinot as you may have heard is president of the So & has endowed it with a donation of Ten Thousand Dollars. No small share of the Esprit de famille has induced me to exert my efforts towards building up this Society, and circumstances render it probable that I may materially serve its interests. I at length concluded to be put in nomination to be elected Manager, w'h was to take place yesterday. In the intermediate time a Committee of the Society had been app'd to report a plan for the better conducting its increasing affairs, among other things that a Recording Secretary & Accountant sh'd be appointed with compensation for his time & services. Mr Boyd chairman of the Committee, brother in law of Mr Bayard proposed the thing to me, to decline being elected Manager & to accept if chosen of w'h there c'd be no doubt, the contemplated office. Having determined to join the Board of Managers, of w'h I intended becoming an active member, it was as well perhaps to accede to his proposition & receive some equivalent for my labour. Would to God that justice to your dear Mother & Sister w'd have permitted my gratuitous services. It w'd have been more honourable & accordant with my pride & wishes. But duty to my dear family requires that I sh'd improve what remains of my active life for their benefit. Accordingly I consented & by arrangement attended at the N. Y. Institution, for the Managers meet in the Historical Society room, w'h is neatly fitted up, whilst the Report was read, debated & adopted. I was honourably chosen Recording Sec'y & Accountant, introduced to my seat & instantly entered on the functions of my new office. I did not get home till 8 o'clock to join the family party, wait on Grandma home, return to take a mouthful of supper for I had
lost my dinner & coffee, & to give God thanks for his multiplied mercies & blessings and to beseech him to prosper the work I have taken in hand. At early very early dawn I arose this morning, took my walk, returned & wrote my letter of duty to my good old uncle & father acquainting him of this new incident in my life, w^h I know will gratify him, before Mama & Sister were up, for as usual they did not retire to rest till all was cleaned & put in order, w^h was not till 1 o'clock A. M. when instead of working you no doubt were kicking the world before you, merry as a cricket blightsome as a Lark. May you, if possible, never know grief nor want. Never mind my dear daughter Louise, Your day is to come & I sincerely hope that future happiness & a comfortable settlement are yet in store for her to make amends for all present privations. I had several notices of Committees to make out & serve, also to ballance my Bank account & doings of the last month all w^h came out to a cent, and I drove my quill at a furious rate to accomplish these several duties before 3. Whatever other offices I assume my duty to the Company which gives me home, & bread must not in the smallest degree be infringed. A few years more please God, if life & health be spared & the necessity for so much toil will be lessened. I ought to have mentioned my attendance on divine Service in our French Church. Text, Teach us so to number our days as to induce our hearts to wisdom, & a more elegant appropriate New Years discourse was not delivered yest" in this city. The psalms sung were portions of my birthday Psalm 90th. I cannot express my sensations nor my humble sincere devotional feelings when I sing the same words & the same Tune which more than a century ago were chaunted by my pious Ancestors.

This afternoon at 4, I attended by appointment a Committee of the Managers to arrange [the] Historical room, prepare an elevated seat for the president, Tables for the Secretaries with carpetting for the floor & window curtains. But no one was there besides the Carpenter &
the directions he told me were entirely confided to me & they were promptly given. So that you see I possess the full confidence of my new associates many of whom however are companions in other Institutions & all personally know me. I went to Aunt Helens to meet Mama & Sister at tea, & left them this brilliant full moon even, as mild almost as May, to come home & write to my dear daughter... Mama if she pleases may fill up this blank. If not, for she is very much fatigued & shd we have a fourth summer morning tomorrow she ought to walk for exercise, I will sprawl it over, bestride my walking cane & ride hobby horse with your dear sweet children, but I will stable up my pony for this evening & read my Bible as becomes the Record of the American Bible Society. I forgot to say that the remuneration will be determined, not great but something that will add to my savings.

Friday morn 3d. Mama & Sister retd at 10. As she proposes taking a walk before dinner, I shall conclude this page to prevent interruption ere I am called to breakfast. From my many occupations I am obliged to rise early & take a mornings walk, return, shave & all before 8. My health thank God is as perfect as I end wish, & not indulging in any riotous living my mind is always free & my head clear for business a great advantage. I have not a single unoccupied or unappropriated moment & scarcely time for my meals. Mama was counting up last night my several offices lucrative & honorable as follows—Sec'y of the Mutual Insur. Co, Clerk of the Corporation of the Sailors Snug Harbour, Record Sec'y of the Bd of Managers of the Am. Bible Soc. For these 4 I receive compensation. Sec'y of the Academy of Arts, Recording Sec'y of Historical Soc, Curator of the Literary & Philosophical Soc, Trustee of the City Library, Treasurer of the Episcopal Theological Library, Director of the Saving Bank & Vestryman of St. Esprit. In all Eleven stations, the duties incident to the whole I severally & punctually discharge.

1 The New York Society Library.
But some of them are only quarterly meetings. I must however resign some of them as the Elections come round & leave to younger & more active persons my vacant places, hoping they will be better supplied. With all this I read considerably, to w'h my evenings are devoted, and his Lot is enviable who enjoys himself more or is better contented than yr father when seated along side Mama & Sister with his Books around him. Fortunate for me & most favourable for my improvement that my pleasures are all intellectual. I am not monkish however, but disposed to be active perhaps as much so as any of my years in this city. I am always an oarsman in every Society taking a full share & sometimes more of the details w'h must always arise. In labore quies. Action is Rest is one of my maxims. Going from one duty to another changes the scene & relieves the mind. As yet I experience thank God no ill effects to my health from these various pursuits. And it is better to wear out than to rust out.

Saturday morn. 4th Jan near 8. We have had the most ext' weather throughout all Novem' & Dec' ever known, not one particle of snow & little or no rain. So warm t'hat on Friday 27th Dec' there was no necessity for Fire in the middle of the day. You will see tby the Washington acc't that on the 23d The Fires in the Representatives Chamber were extinguished it being so hot. On the contrary you have had frost & snow on the 2d & inclement season. Last ev' it began to rain the first time for weeks & we have been destitute of that essential article rain water & obliged to borrow for 3 weeks. It is now rather a warm April showers than rain, scarcely drizzling, but so dark that I can hardly see to write the remainder of this letter close to the window & it is now 8. What advantage is derived from habitual early rising. I have been to the printing office to put up the Herald, took a walk to Beekman Street to look about a Fire that happened in a Cabinet makers shop at 9 last night of no material injury, ret'd to conclude this letter
before Mama & Sister will be ready for breakfast. I cannot but recommend your following as I believe you do my practice. Cousin Polly Abeel was here yest' expressing her disappointment at not having seen the Doctor. She enquired & Mama told her of his complaint. She said that it was not alarming that her Father had been troubled with it all his life & died at 65 of another disorder, that he took Claret as a remedy. A Wine in that day scarce & probably his physician liked it himself. A Doctor Magraw a learned physician in this city before the revolution very eminent & facetious always prescribed old Hock to his patients, a Wine to which our palates are unaccustomed. Well did you take plenty of your wine was his usual question. Ah Doctor it is so bad I do not like it & only c'd swallow one glass. Let me see the Bottle. Why this wine is sound & good, if you do not like it, I must prescribe something else. It is a pity however to lose the wine & so he tossed off the contents. Doctor Romaine our once family physician was famous for a fondness for plum cake, visited all lying in ladies & if he c'd get in reach of the cake basket w'd devour the whole. He once annoyed Mama very much. It was a New Years day. A bountiful Cake Tray graceed as usual the side board. Mama was dressing. The Doctor raised the Dutch clean napkin & demolished all the Honey & New Years cookies & departed covering over the Tray as before. I dare say it contained some pounds. So you see that every physician has his favourite liquor or food. I hope our Doctor will be moderate in the indulging his propensities & especially to Beware the Bear. . . .

You must excuse the almost illegibility of this letter, written rapidly, with an execrable pen. My eyes begin to be so defective that it is with difficulty that I can make out to make or mend a pen.

2 Garret Abeel (1734-1799).
LETTERS FROM JOHN PINTARD

NEW YORK, 28th Jan', 1817

Mama wrote to you my beloved daughter the 16 inst. and as this is the week closing the month & generally a busy one I begin my letter betimes that no interruption from office duties may prevent my finishing it in season for Saturdays mail. An incident has occurred at Princeton wth may interest you a little, at any rate your Aunt Betsey who I conclude will at all events be with you by the time this arrives. I will transcribe Mr Bayards letter to prevent mistakes or exaggerations.

Princeton 24th Jan'

"Your two last favours w'd have been sooner answered but for the "state of anxiety & perturbation in wth all Princeton has been kept for "several days. A most serious riot & insurrection has existed in Col- "lege for three days. The disturbance began on Sunday morn (19th) "at 2 o'clock. About that hour, a large body probably 30 or 40 of "disorderly students in pursuance of a preconcerted plan, at a given "signal rose from their beds, nailed up & barricaded the doors of the "College, rang the Bell, set fire to one of the out buildings or offices "broke the entry windows & sashes of the upper entry, hooped, huzzaed "for an hour or more till some of the Officers of the College getting up "put an end to the uproar & order was restored. The residue of the "Sabbath was passed in quiet. On Monday the Faculty met & believ- "ing from information they had received that another & more desperate "outrage w'd be committed that night, in order to strike terror among "the whole of the students they determined that about 20 of the ring- "leaders sh'd be ordered to leave College immediately. They accordingly "proceeded to select those who were believed to be the most desperate "& chief managers in the plot. A little after 2 o'clock p.m. on Monday "12 or 13 of them were called up in succession & directed to leave Col- "lege & not to return on the College grounds. They asked leave to "return & take away their trunks, books &c. They were answered "that they c'd not be allowed but that all their effects sh'd be carefully "sent over to their lodgings. Not satisfied with this arrangement they "rush'd back to College called out the whole body of students into the "front Campus. Having remained here arm'd with clubs, dirks &c. in "a state of tumult & disorder for some time & after personally threat'n- "ing & abusing the officers of College they adjourned to the Prayer "Hall. Here they appointed a Chairman & proceeded to consider what "they sh'd do. Some proposed going in a body & demanding of the Fac- "ulty the immediate restitution of all those who had been dismissed. "This was opposed by others & finally it was agreed to appoint a Com- "mittee to prepare & present a remonstrance to the faculty on this "subject. Another Committee was appointed to take care of the Col- "lege property. After this they retired in order, to supper & went "quietly to rest. On Tuesday they rec'd the answer of the Faculty, that "the request of their Committee c'd not be granted. After this they
"gave themselves up to riot & disorder. There were no recitations nor
"prayers this day. In the meantime the Citizens of the town assembled
"& made arrangements for preserving the town & College from Fire or
"other injury. Patrolls were out all night. On Tuesday Six Trustees
"convened but they came to no decision on what course to adopt for
"checking the riotous conduct of the Students. The arrival of M'
"Stockton on Wed'* put a new aspect on affairs. He recommended
"taking out legal process & arresting the chief actors at once. Process
"was accordingly issued against 20 & the inhabitants of the town called
"out to assist the Marshal in taking them. 7 were taken but the chief
"actors getting intelligence escaped in the night like dogs that had been
"engaged in sheep killing. They expected to be attacked by the in-
"habitants on Wed* afternoon & were prepared to defend themselves
"with pistols, dirks & sword canes. They had fastened the doors so
"that they c* not be entered without a powerful force, & in case this
"sh*d be attempted they had logs of wood in the entry windows above
"to throw down on the heads of the inhabitants. They have done
"damage to a considerable amount, but it is a providential circumstance
"that more was not done. Thro' folly & inadvertence not from design
"the edifice was exposed to great danger from fire. On Wed* night
"several who were intoxicated broke down the door of one of the rooms
"& left it burning on the floor. The whole town for 3 nights was kept
"in a state of alarm & trepidation & the whole scene exhibits the de-
gree of folly & violence to w*h a mob of young men will proceed when
"they break thro' the restraints of law & order. About 30 will be ex-
pelled or dismissed, but peace being restored College has begun again
"& will proceed with about 80 or 90 students. The ringleaders were
"Dunn of Virg* & Scott of Tennessee but they had many aiders &
"abetters as guilty as themselves from N York, Phil* & other places."

Thus far M*r Bayard, by whose representation this
affair has a most serious aspect. I gave it to M*r Lewis
of the Commercial for public* w*h he declined having rec*d a bulletin from Presid*t Green extenuating the cir-
cumstance & w*h did not accord with the preceding can-
did statement of facts. There appears to be "something
rotten in the constitution of Denmark" something fun-
damentally wrong in the discipline of this College. The
truth I take it is that the professors & tutors are too
rigid & inexperienced in life, know not how to enforce
the laws or to relax with discretion. We were turbulent en* in my day. But Doctor Witherspoon understood
human nature & we never had such dreadful explosions.
He always was the boys friend & he conciliated our
affections & commanded our love & reverence. In 1775,
I was in my junior year, junior indeed. Opposition
to the British gov't was the order of the day & the principles of unrestrained freedom extended to the College. A number of my class took it into their heads that there was no use for mathematics, a dry study, & resolved to confine ourselves to classical studies alone. The Doctor, who was informed of this intention, replied that we must pursue our own course at our peril, but that we w'd lose our standing in our class. We persevered in our foolish resolution & wasted the winter in frolicking, playing all hours & drinking Eggnog. Our refractory conduct attracted the notice of the Tutors. We were waylaid, listened over, searched, but all in vain. Neither cards nor Eggs c'd be discovered. Our obstreperous mirth at late hours betrayed us, but there was no direct proof whilst we were true to each. Finally however we were arraigned before the Faculty & it fell to my lot to make our defence, w'h was founded on the principle of sturdy denial & the presumption of no proof against us. There were 9 of us, from different parts, for Nassau Hall has always been a very miscellaneous College. Among others George Blewer of Phil'a under the care of M'r Duffield Tutor, who had prevailed on him to turn King's evidence—for these were Royal days. Doct. Witherspoon announced the causes for w'h we were summoned to answer, among the rest the sinful practice of playing cards & the abominable deed of drinking Egg-nog, all against the Statutes of the College, and what you to say young men in y'r defence. I just stepped forward in advance of the line of Culprits & made my bow ready to commence my exordium, when the good Doctor apprehending what was to follow, admonished me very gravely not to aggravate our crimes by telling a (lee) lie as there were sufficient proofs before the Faculty of our guilt. I looked at M'r Duffield & cast my eye on poor Blewer, who was suspected of treachery & found from his downcast countenance & suffused face that we were betrayed. I had readiness of thought eno to say that if a confession had been made, it w'd be best to call upon the party who could explain for us all, & stepped back
to my place with a respectful bow. George Blewer came forward said the Doctor & the recreant bursting into tears, disclosed the truth. Have you anything to reply said the Doctor, nothing further was answered, we bowed & were ordered to retire. In a few minutes we were called in again & the venerable Doctor in passing sentence said, that as we had been too honourable to aggravate our faults by telling lees, that the intended punishment was mitigated & that 8 of us were to be publicly admonished after prayers in the College & that Mr Blewer was forgiven, the price & condition for betraying his comrades. The sentence was executed that evening. But poor Blewer lost his character, no one spoke to him or wd associate with him & after spring vacation, a high spirited youth he came no more to College. I saw him afterwards a prisoner of war taken at the battle of Germantown. He was at Long island where I obtained permission (being with my uncle then Agent for American prisoners) to visit him & Tom Parker of Virginia another fellow student, with whom I shared the only 3 Guineas I had in the world. Poor Blewer burst into tears & hung round my neck & asked pardon for having betrayed us, that at the battle of Germantown when he expected to have been killed, the only thing that disquieted him was his base conduct to his fellow students, w^h he c^d never forget & the reproach of w^h wd follow him to his grave & blamed Mr Duffield for having excited him to this conduct & breach of faith. Here we see the generous conduct of Doct' Witherspoon who saved us from ignominy, by not suffering us to be entrapped as the Tutors left to themselves wd undoubtedly have done. The impression can never be effaced from my mind & the effect on me was such that after vacation I recovered all my studies of the winter & entered the Senior class as well prepared as the foremost. I studied severely hard at least 18 hours a day for months. Such are the consequences of gentle well timed lenity to generous youths. It is a want of this knowledge & practice w^h has occasioned the repeated riots of late
years at Princeton w^h have injured the reputation of that Seminary.

Friday 31\textsuperscript{st}. It always affords me consolation when I have travelled thus far thro' my letter to my beloved daughter, w^h at the close of the month is attended with some difficulty as I have then to settle my office duties. The narrative of the College, after all, you may think sorry stuff. But I commenced it without suspecting it w^d occupy so much space. By a letter of the 27\textsuperscript{th} from Mr Bayard, order is once more restored. About 30 young gent^a will be dismissed & suspended & thus the matter will end. We have no letter from you since the 9\textsuperscript{th} Decr advising the Doctors return. This is the season for tardy intercourse. Winter came at last on the 16th when we had the first snow & we have 5 flights since. The sleighing is elegant. Mama & Sister had a ride with Mr Craig & Aunt Helen this week. I have not been in a sleigh for many years. I recollect when I once thought that when I sh^d lose an appetite for dancing & sleighing it w^d be all over with me. I yet thank God comfortably survive without a relish for either. Mamas health I am sorry to say is very imperfect, still troubled with flatulence & her whole frame violently convulsed. Thro' want of exercise she appears inflated about the chest. Please God it may be no indication of dropsy to w^h none of her race has been subject. But it makes me gloomy & depresses my spirits. Spring I hope will restore her, & she must positively go into the country next summer. We shall be very anxious to learn the Doctors decision respecting removing to N. Orleans, and sincerely trust that he will act with due deliberation. It is an important step & no doubt with prudence he will succeed as physician with less toil & larger fees than at P[inckney] V[ille] but then the expenses must be excessive. I know not what circumstance in my conversations c^d have induced the Doctor to infer that I had any remote intention or desire of joining the present adminis^a or seeking any office under them esp^r one w^h might eventually lead me to N. O. I did say that if the great Canal in our
State sh'd be enterprized & the offer, thro' Mr Clinton made, that I w'd be tempted to accept the Agency, or by whatever title it might be called, of superintending the Financial department and this less from the temptation of salary, than the prospect of applying what c'd be spared in purchasing favourable locations that might benefit my posterity. The oppo however is not likely to occur & I must be content with my present allotment w' custom renders familiar & easy & reasonably delightful. I am not on my acc' ambitious of wealth nor can I at this period of life look for any ext' accumulation. Persevering in our present system will with the blessing of God secure comfort for old age sh'd I live to see it & with that we must be content. Youth is the season for struggle. I lost mine in the pursuit of a vain shadow. May the Doctor be more prudent & successful. No I have nothing to ask & as little to expect if I did ask, from the powers that are or will be.

We have not a word from Mr Laverty nor Mr Foote, not even an acknowledgment from the former of his rec' of Mama's adventure. What has become of your ill fated things. I dread to hear that from carelessness at N. O. the whole are lost but I will not forebode the worst.

New York, Wed' 12th Jan' [sic for February] 1817

I have the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of the Doctors letters of 29th Dec. and of my beloved daughter's of 7th Jan'. Not having heard from y'r good husband after his leaving Abingdon I confess I felt very apprehensive least he had relapsed and might be detained longer than we anticipated on the road home.

Friday 14th. A most bitter cold morning, to my feelings the severest we have had this year. Last week we had several very cold days & the three last have been equally so. I still persevere in my early walks, but this winter for the first time have enveloped myself in a sur-
tut. My health is undoubtedly promoted & secured by early rising & exercise—the latter is somewhat circumscribed by my many vocations.

Your Uncle Hall has recently lost his Father who died at the advanced period of his 87th year. A more regular methodical man never existed. He was precision itself, & almost a machine and proverbial for his systematic life. My good uncle still enjoys excellent health I hear from Princeton almost every week.

Saturday 15th. I have returned from my walk. It is a bitter cold morning & I can scarcely get the ink to flow in my pen. Should the wind continue as it is N. W. the Hudson will be passable on the ice to Powlas Hook. It is nearly closed at present. The difficulty of writing is such that I must I fear break off till the room gets warmer for I am obliged to hold my pen to the fire to thaw the ink. Indeed my ideas are almost congealed. I have been to market and scarcely at 8 have the Butchers cut up their meat, so that I must go again. You will recollect by the date of this whether you participated of this extreme cold. January was so mild that the fields were ploughed as high as Albany. I hope however we shall have a moderate spring. We have heard not a word either from Mr Laverty nor Mr Foote. . . . A word of Politics. The votes for President & V President were counted the 12th, undoubtedly Mr Monroe & Govr Tompkins are chosen. Whether the latter will hold over his office until after our spring election till June is doubtful. The sense of the Democrats is agt the measure & the lovely Daniel is a wary politician & will not do an unpopular act. If he resigns, as is supposed Mr Clinton will certainly be nominated & as surely elected Governor, notwithstanding the howlings of the Panther Tribe in Tammanys Den. The whole opposition agt him is in the Southern district of this State & it is most

bitter. I hope in my next to be able to inform you of the nomination of my good friend. To me personally it is of no consequence but I shall rejoice shd he vanquish his foes. His election will be important to science & literature wth will flourish in his reign. On these subjects I have been long silent. I shall amuse you hereafter with an ac^t of the progressive state & flourishing condition of our Institution. . . .

New York, 24th February, 1817

Monday morning. A most violent snow storm, wind north & easterly. I commence my letter to my beloved daughter early in the week least unforeseen duties may interfere with my regular correspondence, this week closing the month wth always occasion close attention to my office accounts. We have had in this quarter a very extraordv spell of cold weather. Friday 14th was the severest day experienced for many years. The cold abated on Monday & Saturday was a beautiful mild almost May day. Yestv Sunday not so pleasant & the present snow storm began before day & ever since half past six when I arose has been increasing. So much for the season which I presume has been equally felt in your quarter. At the date of this I take it for granted that the Doctor is in N. Orleans exploring the city to make up his final resolution & if prospects are flattering to provide a house for the reception of his family.

Thursday 27th. Another snow. One avocation or another has prevented thus far any further progress in my letter. I have just come down from breakfast. Mama on account of her health indulges till near 9 & your Sister is a perfect lay a bed. Let her enjoy herself. Whether I breakfast an hour sooner or later is of no importance, provided it does not interfere with my business. I began yestv to rise at 6, my standard hour, for the summer. The advantage I derive by early rising is incalculable. It enables me to discharge many private
calls w^h otherwise w^d be neglected or slovenly performed or interrupt the order of the day. Early rising is with the French habitual where you are going & will I trust be practised by you. Last evening we were at Aunt Helens, where Mama & Sister rode in a Sleigh—a pleasure of which we participate but little. A short ride cost two to three dollars—the high price of horsekeeping being a pretext for the most abominable exactions. I left the party to pass the evening at cards & came home to my book my delight & solace. . . . I had proceeded thus far when your letter of 31st Jan^v was brought by the penny post. My letter of 21st Dec^r has been long on its way. But the season was unfavourable for the mails. I cannot account however why the Heralds sh^d get regularly to hand without my letters, as I always put both into the Post Office with my own hands. I conclude to sent no more Heralds after this week. The postage will go far to pay the subscription of a City paper w^h the Doctor must take & the intercourse by sea being generally shorter what news from our quarter may be interesting will always be republished before the papers c^d reach you by post. Our correspondence however had better go on thro’ that channel as attended with more certainty & less trouble of looking out for conveyances by water. The sale of the Doctor’s plantation to his friend Mr Hackley is I presume the most advantageous that c^d be effected. I fear however that a large proportion of its value goes to reimburse M^r H’s advances last year. At all events this is discharging an honourable debt.

Saturday morn. 1st March. . . I have just ret^d from market, after writing the preceding & from the printing office & have put up & directed the last Heralds for the Doctor. For several years I have not failed every Wed^v & Sat^v mornings calling & putting up these papers for Pinckneyville, but as I observe they will be stale before reaching N. Orleans where you will obtain the
Gazette of the city for your amusement & information.

New York, 15th April, 1817

The last letter from my dearest daughter is post-marked 26th Feb a long time past. Your silence is imputed by your considerate Mother to the fatigue necessarily occasioned by your preparations for removing to N. Orleans. . . You will have learned ere this reaches you of the death of Mrs Smith of Princeton, the particulars of w^h the Doctor no doubt has written to his Son & y^r Aunt. Tho' a severe privation to the good man, still under existing circumstances it must be a consolation that his friend & partner is better provided for than by outliving him to have fallen a pensioner on the charity of Princeton College, or to have become burthensome to their children. . . .

We have been in daily expectation of the decease of y^r uncle Lewis, who has had a most violent attack of Typhus fever w^h w^d have destroyed almost any other constitution. His physicians gave him over, but he has survived, to struggle yet a while with his frailties that must overwhelm him at last. His stamina are completely burnt up & he is as feeble as a child. We have no intercourse. He cannot come to the city and there are reasons why we cannot go to him. His poor mother is at Burlington & has also been at the point of death but is recovering. I have a letter from my dear good uncle who went there to attend Dr Whartons Church on Easter Sunday. Doctor Boudinot has relapsed and from his continued infirmity, his situation is extremely critical. . . .

Since my last the fate of my excellent friend Mr Clinton has been decided at Albany where he has triumphed over all his political foes & they were most

5 Mrs. Samuel Stanhope Smith (Ann Witherspoon), daughter of President John Witherspoon, of Princeton College.
6 Lewis Searle Pintard, son of Samuel and Abigail (Stockton) Pintard.
deadly hostile. His nomination for Governor was carried by an unexampled majority and as there will be no Federal opposition he will be elected with a greater number of votes than has occurred for many years. He has also gained a suit in the Court of Errors w^h will place him at his ease, a suit w^h recovers nearly $100,000 in lands of Mr C’s estate. The Canal Bill will also pass notwithstanding Madison’s Veto—intended most undoubtedly to operate ag^t Mr C’s popularity but had a direct contrary effect. This Bonus will be granted another session. Thus this may be called the *annus mirabilis* in my good friends life, and he will rise to that eminence as will enable him to signalize his reign by many useful acts esp^v in the promotion of the Arts & Sciences. I trust that I shall not lose the friend in the Governor, tho’ I shall inevitably, by his removal to Albany, be deprived of that intercourse & the enjoyment of those Attic evenings in his Society which gladdened my life & sweetned its existence. I shall find no substitute to indemnify this privation. It is long since I have adverted to the child of my old age the N. Y. Institution, w^h has surpassed my fondest anticipations. We are not yet a year in possession till 9^th June next, in which time the Academy of Arts has been completely fitted up with the adjoining apartments for the Directors & Keeper’s accommod^a. We had a fine exhibition last fall & are preparing for the 2^d in May. Annexed to the Historical So[i ciety] as appendages are apartments in preparation & nearly completed for Zoological Botanical & Mineralogical Cabinets, the latter is subdivided into compartments, for every State to exhibit the resources of each scientifically arranged. By some convey^e I will send the Doctor the Circular letters of each department when I shall know where to direct to him. The Philosophical Hall is neatly decorated & carpeted & the Antichamber of the Historical w^d not disgrace a drawing room. Lecture- ships on the preceding branches are appointed. On Chemistry, Mr Griscom, Lecturer, has ample accommodations. Scudders Museum is a picture & will be ready
for exhibition by the 4th July. He will have expended nearly $8000 in accommodating his apartments. The grounds between us & the City Hall are laying out into walks as a park by the Corporation and our Institution will soon do honour to the City & State. My personal attention has not been wanting you may well suppose. But the foundation is laid. The pledges we gave that the grant of the Building sh'd do us credit, have been more than redeemed & I fully purpose that I will cease as far as possible from my labours. I have been excessively driven this winter, almost beyond my strength. I have done my full share & shall gradually withdraw my neck from the yoke & leave to others the more pleasant duty of filling up the outline, considering that something must be left for others & that I shall have set a laudable example.

Friday 18th April. No letter by this weeks mail, so that I must direct to you still at Pinckv. from whence in case of removal it can be forwarded. . . . My good friend M'r Clinton has return'd. I shall pay my devoirs on Sunday ev', leaving his levée for those who would have cut his throat to proffer their sincere congratulations on his elevation. The Canal Bill has passed with an appropriation of $400,000 for the current year, w'h will draw after it future legislative support. This is certainly a stupendous undertaking exceeding in extent any thing similar in the Old World the completion of which will render this City the Emporium of the Lakes & the Ocean. N. Orleans is to be the next great city in the Western Hemisphere. Nothing but the insalubrity of its clime & situation prevent its being the first. The rapid settlement going on thro' the whole western country will augment its commerce far greater in proportion than anything we can expect here.

Saturday morn. 19th April. . . . It is unaccountable that Mama has never rec'd a letter neither from M'r Foote nor M'r Laverty. I have refrained writing not to appear importunate, in hopes of hearing something from
the Doctor. At any rate he can speak to Mr. Laverty who if any difficulty occurs respecting this small adventure with w'h I was extremely loth that y'r Mama sh'd trouble him, you can take charge of the articles & do the best you can with them, or retain them till further orders. The want of these expected remittances has so circumscribed our resources, that Mama found it impossible to comply with y'r very moderate request without running in debt w'h she c'd not do. . . .

To Mrs. Davidson, in New Orleans

NEW YORK, 1 May, 1817

I have to acknowledge the receipt of my beloved daughters letters of 24th March & 1st of April; the intermission of your correspondence I had imputed to your preparations for moving to N[ew] O[rleans] and not to personal circumstances. I trust you will ere this have reached your new abode in safety and by the time you shall receive this letter that you will have surmounted all the fatigue & toil of cleaning and putting your premises in order.

I have just rec'd a letter from your friend Col. Hamilton of 2d April, requesting my attention to some business which I will give with pleasure. He mentions his intention that morning of going to dine with you before your departure & speaks flatteringly of the Doctors prospects before him, and adds that he talks of going also to the city to practice as a Lawyer, which will add to the circle of your domestic society. . . .

This is my very busy week, making up my acc'ts for dividend with all the usual details, a task I once thought of considerable difficulty but use makes everything easy, and this is the 16th rotation of discharging my semi annual duty as Sec'y of the Mutual Insur'e Co having been 8 years in the Office. Should life be spared I hope after the same period of future service to be able to retire. My
president Mr Lenox has resigned. I know not who will be substituted the 7th May, when an election will take place. Either Mr Furman or Mr Thomson, both very agreeable to me and who will perform more office duty than their predecessor. I have likewise to make up my accounts for the Steam Boat Co an easy task, and to prepare a statement of the money concerns of the American Bible So whose annual meeting will take place on Thurs next 8th inst. On Tuesday noon 6th the Chamber of Commerce meet for their annual election, w/h has been recently revived & of w'h I was appointed Sec'y pro tem & shall probably be re-elected. I assume this duty to oblige Mr Lenox. At 5 the same afternoon the Historical So meets, a pleasant duty but accompanied with a good deal of service. On Wed'noon will be the meeting of the Directors of the Mut. Ins. Co & at 4 the same aft.noon the Managers of the Am. Bible So meet w'h always gives a great deal of writing & I shall have to write up their minutes at 5 Thurs' morn to be ready for the general meeting at 10 o'clock. I mention these things to show you what incessant occupation falls to my lot. Some, essential towards the support of my dear family, some, pleasurable & some, irksome. I declined a re-election as Trustee of the Library & shall confine my ambition & energies, hereafter, within the walls of the N. Y. Institution, which is wonderfully progressive. This is our Election week. Mr Clinton will be Governor without a competitor. The Federalists set up no opposition in this city nor generally throughout the State. We only struggle for a few Charter Officers in our Corporation where the Democ. will have a decided majority. There are two Democratic Tickets for the Legislature but I believe the Clintonian Ticket will beat. The supporters are chiefly among the Irish & that class who were brought in by the Democrats to break down Federalism. They now complain of foreigners & foreign intrigue & influence. "The poisoned Chalice is returned to their own lips." Thank God among all my duties I am hors de combat as to politics & shall so continue. I have
spared myself by this abandonment much trouble & expense of time & money & have enjoyed greater tranquility and leisure for more useful purposes.

Master Samuel Bayard is in town from Princeton. His sister Susan has been very poorly this winter, partly confined to her chamber, but is recovering. Her constitution, w^h one w'd not suppose, appears to be delicate. The rest of our family friends are all well. I expect a visit from my good old uncle the last of this month. Your uncle Lewis has partly recovered, but he is so shattered that he can only linger out a wretched existence. I shall visit him in a fortnight or so, a painful visit it will be. Grandma & Aunt Hanson are well. Aunt Helen is removing this day to Chambers Street, near the corner of Broadway, a fine open situation opposite the new Park, now laying out between the City Hall & the N. Y. Institution. Mama & y' Aunt will now be much nearer each other. It was a dreadful long walk of evenings, above a mile, to her late abode.7

Sat3 3d May. The Election has been carried by the Tamanies ag^t the Clinton Assembly Ticket. Much umbrage was given by the mode in w^a the latter was got up. Altho' I gave my vote in its favour, it was with compunction, for I abhor the abuse of our elective franchise—the highest privilege Freemen enjoy and the main support of their political rights—by the too easy admission of foreigners to its exercise. Our Charter election has turned out more favourably to the Federalists than I imagined & we shall have a respectable minority in the Common Council. Samuel Bayard Jr left us yest'. He is a very promising youth & his reading is uncommonly extensive for his years, & his improvement & taste far beyond the Rectors at the same period. He is moreover poetical, 'tho I have seen no specimen of his performances, as he is very modest of his talents & attainments a sure indication of merit. His brother William is also

7 At 10 Walker Street, the residence of Samuel D. Craig, according to the 1816 Directory of New York City.
a very smart boy & will enter College next year. It is highly flattering to see the younger branches of our connection so promising.

[Addressed:] Doctor Richard Davidson
New Orleans
p’ post
[Postmarked:] NEW-YORK MAY 3

New York, 12th June, 1817

It afforded your parents the highest satisfaction on receiving my beloved daughters letter from N Orleans. Little did I anticipate the perils of your removal down the river. I thought the passage was always safe & easy, on the contrary you experienced more hazard than attends a sea voyage. . . . You are justly alarmed at the extravagance of living in N. Orleans. It is incident to West Indian habits, & your city partakes of that character, where riches are rapidly acquired to be lavishly expended.

Mama is putting up a small package to go by the Brig Ceylon, Cap” Ferrier, w’h is to sail tomorrow & may arrive as soon as this letter, it contains some little articles for the children, as y’ mother supposes that you may have procured from Mrs Pintard a superfluous dress or two more reasonable than to be had here. I send two prayer books, w’h will do for the present, also the Books the Doctor wrote for, the 2 first n’os of the Am. Magazine publishing in this city a work of promise, some pamphlets, among others the plan for establish’d Lancastrian Schools, with patterns &ca. w’h may be useful, all w’h he will be pleased to accept, a dozen Childrens books for Eliza of a more advanced order to suit her attainments. . . .

We have been all in a flutter with the arrival of President Monroe, who is making a presidential tour thro’
this section of the Union. He arrived yesterday the 11\textsuperscript{th} & his reception has been every way suitable to his dignity & characterist of our proud City. The public papers will convey the particulars, among other compliments his portrait is to be taken. The City Hall was magnificently & splendidly illuminated last evening & made a most luminous & enchanting appearance. Yesterday was quite a Jubilee, as much so almost as the 4\textsuperscript{th} of July. I have every confidence, from appearances, that Mr Monroe will be the president of the U\textsuperscript{d} States & not of a party. This day he visits the Navy Yard & fortifications, at noon he will receive the complimentary visits of the citizens in the Picture rooms City Hall, tomorrow he goes to West Point & at his return proceed to N London R. Island Boston & Maine & from thence to Albany & the northern frontier. A wide circuit w\textsuperscript{h} will occupy all the travelling season. Altho' allied by marriage as you know, I have outlived all my ambition & decline the honour of an introduce\textsuperscript{n} to our illustrious kinsman, with whom formerly I was acquainted. Like his well bred countrymen he is a plain unassuming character of easy access, of course popular. May his administration be auspicious as we say in our official Commun\textsuperscript{n} of the Historical S\textsuperscript{o} w\textsuperscript{h} elected him an Hon\textsuperscript{y} Member. To descend from Presidents to humbler subjects, our Institution surpasses all my fondest anticipations. A young assoc\textsuperscript{n} composing the Lyceum are doing wonders, chiefly young physicians that intelligent & most excursive of all the professional branches. Parts of a mammoth have been discovered by them & a subscrip\textsuperscript{n} is on foot to explore the Mammoths ground in hopes of recovering a complete skeleton, so that this city may boast as well as Phil\textsuperscript{a} of an exhibition of the wonderful extinct animal. I had contemplated this project for Scudders Museum, but we are anticipated thro' the zeal of these aspiring youths, who will eclipse the old Societies if we do not take care. I shall send by Sea, the Doctor's Books he wrote for & our circulars w\textsuperscript{h} will show him what we are about.
Friday 13th. Contrary to my expectations & intentions, I have been honoured with an introd. to the President who recognized me, w. gave me an opp. of enquiring after his Lady & daughter. Last ev. at the stated meeting of the Phil. it was resolved to elect M. Monroe an Honorary member, & this day w. had been previously assigned for his visiting the public Institutions, after viewing the Acad. of Arts he proceeded to the Phil. Hall where his election was handsomely announced by M. Clinton Pres. in a very neat short & classical address. He had been admitted Hon^ Member of the Historical on Sunday, w. was communicated by letter on his first arrival. He then visited Scudders Museum in a state of preparation & w. will be opened for exhibition the 4th July & a wonderful elegant exh. it will be. M. Monroe as already remarked is simplicity & affability itself without affectation of rank or dignity. He is followed whenever he appears in the streets by all classes & has expressed himself I understand highly gratified with his reception. We regard him as a fellow citizen in consequence of his matrimonial connection. I am glad that I had so favorable an opp. of paying my respects, without being mingled among the common mass of visitors who have been introduced by thousands. My friend M. Clinton acquitted himself as usual with great effect. He is Governor elect & will be sworn into office the 1st July for 3 years, & I anticipate everything great & magnanimous from his adm. I only regret that I shall be deprived of my friendly intercourse with him. I hope the D. has obtained a comfortable abode. I am glad to find that he has taken to early rising w. is indispensible to comfort in y. city. When there I always rose at dawn. My summer hour is ½ p. 5, w. gives me every advantage to look after my private business, market &c. I hope the Doctors sanguine expect. will be fulfilled. He must have patience & no doubt will glide into practice. Has he been introduced to my good friend Edw. Livingston, who no doubt w. be friendly to him for my sake. If a letter to him w. be serviceable mention it. Let the
D’ give him a copy of our Hist[orica]l circulars w’h will gratify him to mark the progress of the Arts & Sciences in our city. M’ Pintard you write was to sail. I wonder if she is on board the Ohio, on her return possibly, by this time. . . .

Friday aft. noon June 27 [1817]

I rec’d yest’ the Doctor’s letter by Cap’ Hunt’s arrival. I have not yet seen him, as he has not come up from quarantine. I am exceedingly obliged to y’ good husband for anticipating my request in the circulars by the Ceylon. I shall receive the specimens I trust in time to lay before the S’ at our meeting Tuesday 8th July when due notice & acknowledgment shall be made. I hope to make him the medium of transmitting from the upper waters, articles destined for our Institution, the progress of w’h in every department, outstrips all my most sanguine expectations. The Mineralogical Cabinet esp’ attracts every visitor & receives high applause. I am sure that you will rejoice to understand that the unceasing efforts of y’ father to promote this Institution has proved so successful. You witnessed my struggles almost against hope, & sh’d it ever be y’ lot again to visit y’n native city sh’d I be no more, I flatter myself the Institution will remain a monument of my useful existence. I share however in common with many worthy coad-jutors, particularly Doctor Hosack, the pride & gratification attending successful effort. Nor ought my noble friend M’ Clinton to be omitted whose constant support & encouragement urged my perseverance, & whose future patronage will extend our ability to do greater good. I passed a most happy day yest’ entirely owing to his personal & kind attention, on a visit with the Commis’n to view the Fortifications at the Narrows. The Vice Presid’n of the U States, Mayor Radcliff M’ Dickerson late Governor of N. Jersey quite a classical scholar, were of the party, the first I have been at for two years. I
find myself however fast disqualifying for large circles. My hearing falls off, I was going to say—alarmingly.

Saturday 28th... I cannot find that M's Pintard has yet arrived, but presume she must by this time be in the Delaware. I hope, what is hardly to be expected, that she may become more contented after this excursion. Her father's health is improving, so much, that he is expected on a visit to M's Callender. I expect a visit from my good old uncle next week, w' has been deferred on acct of his health & the abundance of rain that has constantly fallen without deluging the country. Never was a more growing season known & most uncommonly cool. . . .

New York, 17 July, 1817

My dearest daughter's letter of 15th June was rece'd the 14th inst. The N. Orleans mail arrives exactly in 4 weeks w' I presume is the course with you. . . . You are by this time I hope comfortably settled in your new abode. . . . I can trace your situation from the Doctor's description. In my day, the Custom House was on a huge open space fronting the levee. I think a Mons. Riviere occupied a spacious house, at that time one of the finest in N. O. at a corner of the square near the Custom H' in the rear of which block or thereabouts you are fixed. This situation will be handy to the Doctor's Kentucky patients, who come to, as heretofore I presume, the upper Fauxbourg.

By this time, almost, I hope the Box by the Ceylon will have arrived safe. The books will be acceptable to the Doctor. The Magazines in future will be forwarded to the booksellers correspondent in N. O. & will come sooner & safer to hand than by my care. I subscribed for the Doctor, to ensure their being regularly sent. I have seen y'r friendly Cap't Hunt, who told me that my two boys were on board his ship with their father the
morn he sailed. . . With respect to Charles he was indented to me till 21, his time must be nearly out. I regard myself his protector & shall see that his freedom is not abridged. The next time I go to Bellevue I will get the date of his Indenture to me & advise you. I have had the pleasure of my venerable uncles annual visit, he was here the 4th inst., on wth day I was much indisposed with a severe cold & could not partake of the splendid exhibitions, particularly the compliments paid to my worthy friend Govr Clinton who made his first debut as Captain General on the occasion. At his special invitation on Thurv 26th June I accompanied the Commis of Fortifications to the Narrows. Several officers & the Vice President were of the party, wth was very pleasant. The weather was drizzly & it rained all the way home. Protected by a surtout & umbrella, I kept on deck, but the humidity of the air penetrated my frame & I took a severer cattarh than ever befel me, so that I was quite feverish on the Thursv following & the 4th being Holliday, for the first time in many years I took a gentle cathartic which relieved me. Of course I did not go out. We had a family dinner & drank your health, happiness & Independence. Mama & Sister had intended going to Rockaway with Aunt Helen, but my uncles visit prevented. On Satv I accompanied him to Newark & joined with him in Communion on Sunday, administered by his grandson an affecting solemnity. I know not when I have been more gratified than by this visit. The Revd Mr Bayard has improved most astonishingly. By his unabating zeal he has revived a once respectable congregation. He has 90 communicants. For the last 9 months he has preached three times on Sundays & Lectures twice a week. His people far surpass us in singing & chaunting there being a small church organ, excellently performed by Mr Geib. I never witnessed such a transition from empty seats to a well filled Church in the course of one year, in my life. A satisfaction height- ened to me as I was instrumental in obtaining his call. My old friends are all highly pleased & satisfied with
their Rector & only wish their circumstances w'd afford a better salary. Moderate indeed, $1000 p'y an & his fuel, he finding his own house. His compeers in this city get $2500, with less than half his duty. But he is fitting himself to fill, I have no doubt, some more lucrative station. I have just rec'd a line of introduction from Mr Bayard of a Mr Sylvester Larned, who has just been ordained & is to go to N. Orleans a Presbyterian Miss'y & will probably be with you in Nov'y next. He saw the Doctor last year at Dr Smiths. He is a well framed man, of good stature & constitution, fine t'voice, great self possession, a Yankee, of high repute in the Princeton Seminary, & will I am persuaded be a popular preacher. I shall give him a line to the Doctor to whom he has other letters he tells me. He is going eastw'd to take leave of his friends & sets off in Sept'y on a Miss[ionar]y tour to the So[uth] & across I presume to Natchez. The irregularity of Mr Hull, has afforded an opening for the employment of this gentlemans talents, w'h I hope will be more successful. I promise him that he will find an agreeable acquaintance in y'r family, & as he belongs to the Doctors household of faith, his preaching I trust will be more attractive to him. God speed & bless his labours. I must send you Watts' Psalms instead of prayer books in future. I parted with my venerable uncle on Monday 7th with a reasonable hope that we may meet together on his birthday, 12th Oct. at Mr Boudinots. In the stage I met an interesting unsophisticated Virginian, about 20, from near Chilcothe Ohio, coming on with about 40 head of cattle the rem't of 600 driven to Phil'a from that distant quarter. He gave me much interesting information of the worth of land & agriculture in that country. His father owns 5000 acres of land & made 160 Tons of Hay last year, Indian Corn 100 Bushels per Acre on prairie land & wheat in prop'y. . . . On Tuesday 8th I rec'd another invitation from my invaluable friend Mr Clinton to accompany him to dine at Col. Macombs at Kingsbridge, where a most splendid dinner was given to the Leroy's, Bayards
& collaterals in compliment I presume to the Governors appointing Mr. Robert Bayard one of his aids. Mr. C. has commenced his political career as Governor of the State instead of a party who he has evinced by appointment of his Aid de Camps—2 Federalists & 2 Demo's. However exceptional this may be in the eyes of the dominant party, it does him credit & shows his independence. I am convinced he will make a magnanimous Governor & the opportunity both for him & Mr. Monroe is most auspicious to harmonize public opinion, who is fatigued & worn out with the convulsions & agonies of factions & requires repose. I trust that a political millennium has commenced & will last till the demon of party shall be again unchained to trouble the world. The welcome receipt of the president at the Eastw. not excelled in the days of Washington, is a demonstration of this anticipation. We spent a pleasant day, who was however oppressively hot & caused me a violent headache. I rode out & home alone with Mr. C. & had the opp of much frank & satisfactory conversation. I feel much more sensible of the gratification that his friendship is not forgotten than of the honour of being companion to a Governor. You know my sentiments of Mr. C's private worth & character, who I confidently trust will remain under all changes unaltered. An after circumstance has marred the felicity of this day. Col. Macomb is clerk of the Court of Sessions, & was charged by Mr. Ctoleman in the Evening Post sometime since of extortion in his office. Coleman was indicted for a libel, a trial was had last Friday & he was acquitted —a cloud of witnesses supported the charge by who it appears that Col. M. has been culpable of the most bare-faced impositions. He is totally ruined in public estimation & I sincerely regret that my highly valued friend had dined with him so shortly before this trial. A party who has attracted considerable notice & animadversion. The particulars of the Trial will no doubt appear in your papers. "On Eagles wings immortal Scandal flies."
Speaking with a friend Mr. Furman my present president on the subject of Liver complaint, he informed me that his Wife had been at deaths door with this malady & that she had been relieved if not absolutely cured, by Galvanism, a simple remedy, w'h is easily applied. As I presume there must be a Volta pile in y'^ city I w'd recommend the Doctor to try its efficacy. Quer. w'd not common Electricity answer as well?

Friday 18. . . . I have the pleasure to inform you that I have just learned that my protegé James Clinton has been promoted to a 2d Lieut by Com. Chauncey & transferred to a Schooner & will probably remain in the Meditt^ 2 or 3 years. The Comm° will be relieved & return next autumn. I have written this to his father at Albany. This is rapid promotion for so young a boy, but the [Commodore] speaks in high terms of him, w'h I am sure he merits. But I do not wish that my namesake sh'd be a sailor.

Sat'y morn. 19th. I have just ret'd from escorting Mama & Sister over the ferry to Brooklyn, on their way to Rockaway with Aunt & M' Craig & Davis. They return tomorrow & if Mama finds the House retired & agreeable & not too expensive, as these watering places generally are, she will make another visit & pass a few weeks. . . .

N York, 8th Aug' [1817]

I have recently made an acquaintance with a very interesting youth Robert Greenhow, of Richmond V'^ who is a student with D'^ Hosack & lives in his family. He is a brilliant genius & his classical attainments as high perhaps, as any youth of his age, near 18. His physionomy acute & prepossessing, very easy in his address & speaks French fluently. The circumstance w'h has interested me in his favour I will transcribe from the letter of his fond doting Father to Doc'^ H. w'h he lent for my inspect'^.

I am sure the perusal will gratify you. It is dated Richmond 30 April 1817.

"When the welfare of a child & that the only one of eight which "Providence gave & for the wisest purposes no doubt at different pe- "riods of their existence thought fit to bereave me of, becomes the "subject on w I am to decide; suspense as to the course to be pursued, "is unnecessary. But connected with all the tender feelings of the "parent, when he is about to part with a beloved & only child, whom "he fondly anticipated comfort & support from in his declining years; "circumstances of no ordinary hue, bind him, still closer to my hear[t], "among the most prominent of which (the recital tho' painful indulge "me in) was his miraculous escape from the conflagrated Theatre, on "the woful & never to be forgotten night of the 26th Dec' 1811!!!

"His mother, her niece & son, my child & myself with one or two "others, were seated in a Box, when the blazing scenery announced, in "terms not to be resisted by a crowded Audience, that safety from "impending destruction was to be found only in precipitate flight. To "my brother Doctor James Greenhow I yielded at his solicitation the "care of my wife & her companions, and in obedience to her last & "dying words, Take care of my child, which still vibrate on my ears, I "grasped in my arms & over dead & dying bodies, through burning "peices w were falling thick around us, throwing myself with him in "my arms down a narrow stair case wondrous to say we escaped. To "impress on his mind principles of rectitude, to cultivate & adorn it "with every species of literary & scientific acquirement of which it was "susceptible, has been from his earliest infancy my never ceasing effort. "In classical knowledge he can vie with most young men. In the "French language very few are to be found better skilled. In Mathe- "matics, Geog & Hist I c wish he was better versed. In Chemistry "he attended one course of Lectures, & on examination you will dis- "cover him to be no mean proficient."

Such is a fond parents delineation of the mind & capacity of his darling only son who does more than jus- tice to the outline. I have from the ext circumstance of his escape taken quite an interest in this youths wel- fare & have introduced him to Mama & Sister. He went with me on Sunday to French Church, w I induced him to do with the view of correcting the sceptical notions to w in common with his countrymen he is too much in- clined. The ostensible motive is to keep up his French. But I hope he will as he matures be led to consider his eternal as well as temporal welfare. This is delicate sub- ject & not obtruded on him or he w undoubtedly shrink from Ithuriels Spear. While on the subject of other peo- ples children, I wish to give you a transcript from my
protegé Ja* H. Clintons letter rec’d 4th inst. in his own words w’h lead you to judge of his mind & style of a boy not 14. It is in reply as you will see to one from me.

“U. S. Ship Washington
“Port Mahon Navy Yard, May 3, 1817.

“Sir—I own that I was very forgetful in not dating my last letter, “but perhaps the only excuse that I have was because I was (at that “time) very much hurried with the Ship’s duty. It is true that I am “very much pleased with my choice of life but not with my present “situation in the Cabin (for you must know the Commodore (Chaun- “cey) makes me eat in the Cabin as well as his Son with which I am “very little pleased; besides ought not an Officer learn to live upon the “food which other Officers of his rank do? besides it is like a child, so “I beg that you will in your next letter request the Comm’r to let me “mess in the Steerage. I also beg that you will get me permission to “join the Franklin or some other Ship on the Washington’s return “home. It is true that we have experienced some gales off Algiers, but “I have not yet had an opp’t to visit the fortifications of that renowned “place. I have not yet discovered in myself any qualification for “sketching but I am very glad to tell you that the small midshipmen “devote a considerable part of their time to study & I begin to speak “French a little, but that you may judge better. I write this letter in “school. The reason the Dutchmen speak French is because they were “born under the French Government. I am very sorry that business “deterred my Father from writing to me, but however I expect to re- “ceive one[le] the next time. I feel much rejoiced to hear that uncle “Spencer & Father have made up. I suppose that by this time you “have heard of Mr Watts’ death, much in the same way of Palinurus. “I have a friend on board here of the name of Valette who has treated “me like a brother & who I hope I shall have the pleasure to present “to you on my arrival in New York. I think that Mother might have “wrote to me by the same opp’t you did. You will excuse this letter & “paper as they come from a poor Sailor. Give my love to Mother, “Brothers & Sisters, my respects to Mr & Miss Pintard. Yours &c. “James Henry Clinton, Esq”

This letter evinces a great deal of mind & reflection; it being pretty much a detailed reply to my letter containing as usual good advice, of w’h he is every way worthy. You know what a chubby boy he was & I feel confident that he is destined to rise to eminence & if his life be spared & occasion offers that he will distinguish himself in his countrys cause & honour. You must not be jealous that in dwelling on the merits of other peoples

*Ambrose Spencer (1765-1848), married as his second wife DeWitt Clinton’s widowed sister, Mary (Clinton) Norton; and as his third wife, in 1809, another sister of DeWitt Clinton, Catherine (Clinton) Norton, widow of Samuel Norton. (Dict. Amer. Biog., XVII, 444.)
children that my bosom is less warm towards yours my beloved daughter.

... Monday 11\textsuperscript{th} Aug\textsuperscript{t}. I wrote the preceding at my leisure last week, that no unforeseen circumstance might interfere with my duty to my beloved daughter, the neglect of w\textsuperscript{h} always leaves a pang behind. I was so fortunate as to meet with Com\textsuperscript{o} Decatur who with Com\textsuperscript{o} Rodgers were on a visit to this city to give orders for laying the keels of a 74\textsuperscript{10} and 2 frigates at our Navy Yard. These gent\textsuperscript{a} belonging to the Navy Board & I have arranged the transfer of my proteg\textsuperscript{e} to the Franklin Capt\textsuperscript{a} Stewart who is a distinguished Officer so that I have been able to accomplish Master James' wish, in w\textsuperscript{h} his father will concur.

Thurs\textsuperscript{t} 14. You see how slowly I advance in this last page, being incessantly occupied with various calls. Gov\textsuperscript{t} Clinton has come to town & took Coffee with Mama after the sitting of the His[torical] So[ciety] on Tuesday, w\textsuperscript{h} was very full & interesting. He is president. The Doctors mineralogy was presented & accepted with orders of thanks for the valuable donation, w\textsuperscript{h} will be placed in the Louisi\textit{ana} cabinet. I believe I told you the Gen\textsuperscript{t} Min\textsuperscript{t} Repository is divided into Cabinets with glass doors for every State in the Union. M\textsuperscript{r} Clinton confirms all I have done respect\textsuperscript{t} his son. A son of M\textsuperscript{r} Samuel Stockton dec\textsuperscript{d} took Coffee with us M\textsuperscript{r} Francis S. who is mercantilely [\textit{MS. torn}] Phil\textsuperscript{a} & goes out for an opulent House there to explore the resources of the Mobile country, w\textsuperscript{h} if promising, he returns in Nov\textsuperscript{t} to take out a consignment & establish himself there. He\textsuperscript{t} has been several voyages to the W. Indies & speaks French & Spanish fluently. \textit{In} some future year perhaps he may introduce himself to you in N[ew] O[rleans]. . . . I have now to answer a letter from y\textsuperscript{r} friend Col. Hamilton of 5\textsuperscript{th} July on business, w\textsuperscript{h} I fear I shall not be able to accomplish, but I do any thing with pleasure for him as y\textsuperscript{r} friend. I am glad to find you are comfortably

\textsuperscript{10} U. S. Ship of the Line \textit{Ohio}. 

housed, but regret that your man Larry has absconded. . . . I know not what to say of Charles. You had better ask him whether he w'd consent to continue with you till 28 years old when he can be his own master, perhaps by alluring him with some reward he may be inclined to live with you when his time is out with Mr Smith, & tell him any arrangement with you will be agreeable to me. That whenever he returns here to call on me for advice that he shall always find me his friend & that I consider it a duty to protect him as long as he behaves well. . . . It is a mortification to pay such an extravagant price for schooling & the children to derive so little benefit. I hope however by becoming more accustomed to the School & mode of teaching that Eliza esp' will show more evidence of improvement. When I went to College, $100. paid all the charges of Board, tuition, washing $5. a year & pocket money. What a difference in the value of money & charges, before & since 1776. . . .

Saturday, 16 August. This inst. a letter from Mr Foote is at last rec'd inclosing a remitt. of $100. on ace, the balance may come next year. I am very glad as it gratifies Mama who has as many appropriations for it as dollars & more esp' as it removes all hard thoughts of one who I consider as a man of sterling integrity & morality at least. He is a zealous episcopalian & I have no doubt a sincere Christian. . . . Mama & Sister are preparing to make a trip to Rockaway. Aunt Craig went on Thur' & has engaged quarters for a week. Mr C. comes from thence to day to escort the ladies. The price is $9. a week, so that Mama & Sister with Nancy will require $30 at least for one weeks excursion. I hope however the sea air & bathing will do both good. Mama was bled on Thur', the 3d time this season. She is extremely plethoric but I flatter myself after this year she may recover her former health & spirits. . . .
N YorK, 22d Aug, 1817

By the Brig Louis, Cap' Day, which cleared the 20th the 3 Bundles of Books were sent by Mr Olmstead in his packages, to his correspondent Mr Levy of ye city bookseller, also on the 23d I put up another package containing the Medical & Philosophical Register 4 Vol's. bound, a present from Doctor D. Hosack, 2 Bible So[ciety] Reports & a small collection of books for the children to go by another oppo thro the same channel which I hope will get safe to hand.

24th Aug. I rec'd yest'd my dearest daughters letter of July, wh I had an oppo of instantly forwarding to Mama who is still at Rockaway, where she remains this week to try the efficacy of Salt Water bathing, not having experienced great benefit from her excursion altho' Aunt Helen says she enjoys excellent spirits, there being a great deal of genteel company in wh you know Mama delights. Mrs Bayard, the widow of our late Minister at Ghent, James Bayard, cousin of our relation at Princeton, is there with four of her daughters, in whom Mama & Sister have made very pleasant acquaintances. I suppose they will return with reluctance to our Convent after all the Society of this much frequented, tho' not dissipated, watering place. The more wealthy & of course dissipated Company from the South go to Ballstown where as the Doctor has witnessed a great deal of money may be spent in a very short time.

Wedr 27. We have had an unpleasant attempt in our neighbourhood last night to break in the rear of the City Bank a few doors above us. The strength of the door however defeated the design. A similar attempt was ineffectually made last week on the Mechanic's Bank which had been entered a few was [sic] ago & a successful robbery committed of a Keg of Dollars, about $1500. Mama wd be quite alarmed sh'd she hear it for the safety of her plate. But she will not learn it until her return when I hope all will be found safe. The incidents are
unpleasant as showing that our city harbours desperate villains capable of any crimes for the sake of plunder & may possibly have recourse to conflagrations if all other means fail. I have just despatched a letter to y° friend Col. Hamilton to apprise him that I have not yet seen Dr Bullus, who has been absent from town, least he sh’d impute my silence to neglect. . . . It is a mortification that your schools are so bad & that such deceptions sh’d be practised. The exorbitant price of education at least exacts fidelity & sh’d command ability in the Teacher. . . . The picture books wⁿ I have selected & forwarded are intended to fascinate their young minds & allure them to learn the pretty stories & to exercise your childrens memories by learning them by heart. I fear that you have taken an undue prejudice agᵗ the Revᵈ Mʳ Hull. Certainly he had the merit of instigating his scholars to prepare decently for examination & its usual I believe in all schools, excepting latin, to select the lessons intended as the exhibition of the Scholars proficiency, and even in Academies, there has for a long while obtained the slovenly practice of confining the examination within the compass of a few pages, & lessons. In my day & in Mʳ Cuttings school, agreeably to the practice of the high schools in England, we were examined for admission into College, ad apertum libri, or opening of the book at random, as it is technically called, wⁿ proved the ability of the teacher & capacity of the scholar. A practice again revived in Columbia College in this city, which of yore stood pre-eminent for classical perfection. Young as your dear children are they may possibly acquire more at home than at school. I presume they will benefit little or nothing as to learning French. But we must have patience. I hope the Doctor will be able to catch & sell his man Larry & to be able to supply his place by a good female. I am astonished, as I presume he is at the exorbitant prices of every necessary in N. Orleans. I hope however that Medical Fees are in proportion. Possibly by this time, when sickness if ever must prevail, his talents will be called into service. . . . . . .
Thurs' 28. This day I hope is the last of my monkish life. I passed my time with more content when Mama & you were all at N Rochelle. I know not when I have been so perfectly fatigued with solitude as on the present occasion. I do well en° in office hours but the total seclusion at my meals destroys all my very slender appetite. Dinner I eat little or none. Yest^ for instance I partook of a simple crab & one small ear of Indian corn, not en° to sustain y^ little Louise. Were it not for Aunt Helen, with whom I have taken tea every aft.noon, I sh'd retire to rest on a cracker & glass of cold water. This life w'd render me melancholly. The contrast is so great from the cheerful Society of Mama & Sister & the neat appointment of our table. . . . I have been vainly wishing to find some rural place where Mama & Sister can go to enjoy the Summer, but in vain. There [are] no such accommod^ns in our vicinity. No place but general promiscuous boarding houses with confined apartments & crowded with inmates, who might or might not be agreeable to y^ very particular Mother. . . . . . 

Saturday 30th Aug^t. I have the pleasure to inform you that Mama & Sister have returned from Rockaway in good health. They arrived yest^ at noon & I crossed over to Brooklyn to escort them to town.

New York, 7th Octo^, 1817

My dearest daughter's letter of [blank in MS.] Ult° has afforded her parents & friends great relief. I was trembling least one w'd have arrived in the preceding week w° I sh'd looked up[on] as the bearer of fatal tidings. Nor am I yet tranquil on acc^ either of the Doctor or our dear little Turtledove who we thought & hoped was out of the reach of contagion. For I begin to join the contagionists, after the experience of our city the present season, which has by our quarantine system been effectually protected from danger from without, & we have had every chance in favour of domestic origin from heat,
humidity & abundant filth. . . . It was unfortunate that Louise ret\textsuperscript{d} doubtless from your mutual anxiety to see each other as probably apprehension least she might be troublesome to Mrs Smith. I shall be extremely solicitous until we hear again, & sincerely pray that she may be recovered & that the Doctor is restored to health. . . . When this campaign is over, it will be the duty of yr City police to guard ag\textsuperscript{t} future evils by the establishment of a Quarantine System. The Doctor, even if no immediate official benefit sh\textsuperscript{d} ensue, may be instrumental in effecting or promoting rather this object, and I tender him & the city of N Orleans any services in my power to procure & furnish the laws \& regulations of our Board of Health, \& having as you know served in that department, I know how to direct my enquiries on this head. We consider our System as undoubtedly the Philadelphians do theirs, the best in the U States. The comparison of both may lead to the adoption of one better adapted to yr latitude. It is an important subject \& ought to be considered the approaching winter. . . .

Mama as you have learned has made a short excursion to Rockaway. Her health is better \& w\textsuperscript{d} certainly improve were it my power to send her jaunting from place to place to exhilarate her spirits. We are now preparing to go less on a trip of pleasure than a solemn visit to our friends at Princeton \& as far as Burlington, my annual visit to my good old uncle who will, if spared enter his 86\textsuperscript{th} year on Sunday next the 12\textsuperscript{th} Oct. The uncertain state of the family of Mr Bayard had rendered this visit dubious. My dear Cousin Patty's daughter Susan is destined for a better world. Her fate in inevitable Doctor Rodgers assures me \& Aunt Pintard \textsuperscript{11} is reduced to a very shadow, incapable of helping herself \& attended as an infant. But as these patients may linger days weeks or months, By a letter from my uncle this morn\textsuperscript{z} it is decided that we set out on Thur\textsuperscript{r} stay at Princeton Friday proceed to Burlington on Saturday

\textsuperscript{11} Abigail (Stockton) Pintard, daughter of John Stockton and widow of Captain Samuel Pintard, John Pintard's uncle.
& return on Monday. A long way to go & come for so short a stay & I am somewhat hopeful M'^a Bradford will prevail on Mama & Sister to remain over a week. The only let will be the want of an escort home. . . .

Thurs^y 9th Oct. An elegant day. We are all prepared to set off for Princeton, that is Mama & Sister for y'^ Aunt Betsey prolongs her visit. I have engaged seats in the Post Coach from Eliz^town. These are elegant post chaises recently established two lines between this city & Phil^a. We leave town at 10 & will be in Princeton at 6, where I shall conclude this letter & put it in the mail there. Please God to grant us a safe & pleasant journey. I cannot refrain from transcribing a comp[limen]t from Gov^r Clinton in his letter to me of the 6th inst. in praise of your valuable mother.

"My best respects to M'^ P. I attribute a great portion of your "good qualities to the influence of this excellent woman, and I hope "that you will permit me to reciprocate your advice and enjoin on you "to emulate her example."

In my answer yest^y I told him that he had do[ne] no more than justice to your mothers merits. That she cheered me in adversity & supported me under every trial and preserved me from despondence. That a virtuous woman, in the words of Solomon, was a crown of glory to her husband and her value far above the price of rubies. My correspondence with this eminent man & sincere friend is altogether on literary subjects & what may best promote the honour & glory of our state & city. With politics I have no concern any further than the interest I take in the welfare & happiness of my country. I am I trust neither a bigot in religion nor a fiery partisan in politics. Adieu.

Princeton, 10th Oct^r. We arrived here about sunset last ev^r after a very pleasant ride & agreeable company. A Scotch gent^a entertaining us with criticisms on Scotts poems, Waverley, &c^a beguiled the time & a young S^o Carolinian with Mama & Sister guessing conundrums all the way from Brunswick to Princeton, a planter & lawyer from Beaufort who has formed an attachment for
some northern lass & is to pass the winter in N York to accomplish the object of his wishes. We found my good old uncle very well, Your Aunt Patty remarkably so considering the constant attention paid to her dear daughter, who looks much better than we expected & was reclining on the Sopha in her room. She cannot support her own weight. Her physician however assured her brother Lewis, that her case was too far gone to hope of a cure, indeed that notwithstanding appearances, she might be called away much sooner than her fond mother who indulges her hopes, expects, and it is enjoined on me to make this painful communica to her parents, w ℃ I shall defer until our return from Burlington on Monday. Poor Aunt Pintard is alive & that is all she is an emaciated skeleton wasted to almost skin & bone. We pass this day here & tomorrow with my venerable uncle Mama & Sister set off at 8 to reach Burlington for dinner. I have ret ℃ from visiting the very neat new Theolog 1 Seminary with Mr Bayard, a Building w ℃ w ℃ do credit to N York, of stone, & costs about $50,000. It is to be ready for the reception of 40 divinity students in Nov ℃. I find that Mr Larned who is going to your city is highly extolled for his eloquence & is said, young as he is, to be superior to Mr Nott, who I believe the Doctor heard when at Ballstown last season.

5 P. M. We have just ret ℃ from visiting Doctor Smith who I think looks very well better than last year. He desires his kindest love to you, as does your little friend Mrs Salomon, who is very well & children. Miss Witherspoon 12 is quite a handsome lady, fine eye, she is engaged to be married to a young divinity student, I do not recal the name. Mrs Callender arrived just before our visit, Mr C. going on to Phil ℃ & returning next week. Y ℃ Aunt Betsey stays in N. Y. in her sisters absence. We then proceeded to see Mrs Cuthbert who indeed dined with us. She is very comfortably housed every

thing very neat & tasty. She has two theological students boarders w'h enables her to get along very comfortably. But this resource for several families in this town will fail when the Seminary next winter becomes the boarding house for the students, a circumstance much lamented. I never till this day had an opp of seeing Mr Bayards little farm which he has got under excellent cultivation. It supplies him with every substantive as Beef, Pork, Butter, Bread &c. & poultry in abundance. The House you know is very comfortable, indeed a small castle. Their children are very promising. Samuel is quite a poet. William a fine boy enters college this season. Julia & Caroline draw very prettily & excepting poor dear Susan, It is quite a scene of domestic happiness & comfort in this family.

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NEW YORK, 19th Octo', 1817

. . . . I closed my letter at Princeton on my visit to that place, where I gave you the particulars of our excursion until Friday ev's. Aunt Pintard was extremely low and her situation rendered it doubtful whether we sh'd proceed or not to Burlington. Saturday being a fine day, it was concluded best to go. My good old uncle, Mama, Sister & Caroline Bayard with myself set out at 9 & after a pleasant ride, reached Mr Boudinots at 1 o'clock, where I had the pleasure of finding Cousin Bradford expecting us and her father so much improved in his health as to be able to bear his weight suff' to descend & dine with us below. He looks like one of the old patriarchs & at night, seated in a very peculiar rocking Chair (so constructed as to be elevated or depressed so as to lie level or to sit upright as may suit the comfort of the patient) with his family & domestics on their knees whilst in an almost erect attitude he offers up his prayers to heaven I think I never witnessed a more solemn impressive sight. He appeared to me like St John the Evangelist in the isle of Patmos, indeed like a voice
TO HIS DAUGHTER, 1817

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from the tomb, imploring mercy & benedictions on his surviving friends. I can truly say that I never return from this annual visit to my aged family relations, but that I find myself essentially benefitted by the influence of their religious life and example and confirmed in all my good resolutions. I feel a conscious pride & elevation when I contemplate such near relations so highly respectable in society and so eminently distinguished in their day & generation, and I devoutly pray that no conduct of mine or my successors may reproach our name and family. Our stay necessarily was to be very short, it being determined, for fear of accidents to return early on Monday morn. I visited all my friends & had the pleasure of finding Judge Griffith at home, who you know I esteem as my sincerest friend in the day of my adversity. Those scenes which one does not like to recall but which it is useful occasionally to remember. By knowing what we have endured, we are better able to meet life's conflicts without terror. My good friend alas! is experiencing a share of that bitter cup w'h I drained to the dregs. Unfortunate speculations, in a manufacturing establishm't during the late war, on an extensive scale, have resulted in ruin & in his declining life he will have to revert to his practice for support & ample it will be, if he can get disembarrassed. But pride of reputation, so hard to swallow or digest, will I fear induce him to sacrifice in vain some of his few remaining years of active life. I have given him all I had to give, my counsel corroborated by Mr Stocktons opinion, which I fear however he will not pursue. Cousin Abby his lady still continues in delicate health. His daughter married to a young Mr Coxe, a lawyer, still lives in the family and his son John who married Miss Abercrombie has gone to Natchez to look out for a settlem't & stays at present with Mr Dunbar, whose son 13 will finish his medical studies in Phil'a this winter & return with Miss Field next spring. On Sunday the 12th my venerable good uncle & parent entered his 86th

13 William Dunbar (Jr.).
year, his faculties of mind & body sound & perfect. We observed the event with all the propriety due to the day & occasion. Mr Boudinot did not come down to a very pretty dinner given by Cousin Bradford, none but the family present except Judge Griffith & Doctor Stockton a son of the Widow Samuel Stockton. As we were going to Church in the afternoon, Samuel Bayard arrived from Princeton, with intelligence that Aunt Pintard died on Saty at 2 o'cock. Her lamp went out without a pain or struggle, having taken some lavender drops some minutes previous. She was sensible to the last and only said as life ebbed away, "Lord have mercy upon me." She spoke but little when I took her by the hand & told her that I had heard from her son who has been a source of affliction to her & literally brought her grey hairs with sorrow to the grave. We were all just at the Church door as I read Mr Bayards letter. After service we retouched home & Mama, by this event, was prevented from walking & seeing the town & its beautiful scene along the Delaware. On Sunday evs we took leave of Mr Boudinot & left Burlington Monday at 8 & arrived at Princeton at noon, where we found every arrangement made for Aunts funeral and Mama had to assist with Sister in making the Scarves &c. & with difficulty cd take a mouthful & get ready to attend the last duties at 3. The inhabitants of Princeton having been previously invited on Sunday. To avoid unfavourable impressions on Susan Bayard, by the necessary parade of a funeral, The Coffin was sent to the Church & the family assembled at Mr Stocktons & thence proceeded to Church where a discourse was delivered by the Pastor, the Revd Mr Schenek, after wth the procession went to the burial ground in the following order—Ministers, The Revd Mr Schenek, Doctors Alexander & Miller. Carriers, Col. Beatty, Capt Moore, Mr J. Hamilton, White, Nevius, Bogart, Morford, Janvier. Pall Bearers. Thomson, Bache, Brown, Kelsey, J. Hamilton, Beattie. Relations, Mr L. Pintard & Mrs Cuthbert, Mr Stockton & Mrs Field, Mr Bayard & Mrs Stockton, Mr & Mrs J. Pin-
tard, Doctor & Mrs Stockton, Mr & Mrs Millet, Wm Stockton & Louisa Pintard, Sam' Bayard & Caroline Stockton, Sam' Stockton & Ann Field, Wm Bayard & H. Field, Rd Field & Julia Bayard. After whom all the principal inhabitants of Princeton, in couples. The solemnity of a country Funeral is very impressive, where all the neighbourhood appear as one family & take a concern in the grief of surviving friends. The train of followers in a city collected merely for parade evince little interest or sympathy on these occasions. All is pomp & empty show. I never saw a grave prepared with so much propriety; an outside case exactly fitted to the size of the coffin was placed into the grave & when the coffin was let down, a cover was placed over the case and straw was strewed on this cover w'd served to break when the earth was cast in that dreadful hollow sound so appalling & heart rending to affectionate relatives & friends. I thought my dearest child on you & your situation at N. Orleans, where from necessity the coffin is immersed in water, that in such cases an exterior case ought for the sake of decency to be provided. Please God that you may never have occasion for such provision in that city. But to pass from the dead to the living. On Tuesday ev' I took my last leave not formally, of our dear cousin Susan, whose fate is inevitably doomed. . . . Her limbs are ulcerated, she coughs incessantly & discharges puss—sure symptoms of an incurable state of her malady. Samuel's health tho' delicate with prudence & care will probably be restored. He has a beautiful poetical turn & is remarkably forward in his studies. William enters college this fall & is likewise a genius. Julia is very handsome a perfect sylph, most elegant person & her Mamas little housekeeper. Caroline is a little fat, but without except' one of the smartest girls in convers' I have ever heard. In short this is an admirable family of children, to the great credit & comfort of their parents. Mr & Mrs Callender I think I told you were at Princeton. We met at Brunswick on Wed' & ret'd in the steamboat together. . . .
Tuesday 20th [sic]. This being a delightful day, Mama & Sister have gone to N Rochelle to visit my unhappy Cousin Lewis, to counsel him to go on if possible to Burlington & implicitly to follow his Uncle Boudinot's advice. He is now sole heir to his paternal estate, which once yielded a clear income of $850 a year with his house comfortably furnished & a snug farm & woodland at N Rochelle totally unincumbered. His poor father & mother submitted to many privations that their only son might go gallant & gay. He has spent in shameful riotous living the chief of his substance. There is still enough left, if properly disposed of, to yield him an annuity of $750 a year, more than he ought to spend or lavish on a wife who has been I am persuaded the principal cause of his degeneracy. Mama will put up at Cap' Pelor's & returns tomorrow morning.

I sent you the Spectator in place of the Herald, as I consider it a more miscellaneous paper.

New York, 6th Novemb. 1817

I told you that we had left your cousin Susan Bayard without hope of recovery. The nature of her disease was such, that she might linger for weeks or months, But it has pleased God to take her to himself, and she departed on Sunday morning 2nd inst. between 10 and 11 o'clock. She was interred, alongside, no doubt, of our aunt, in the portion of ground allotted to the Stockton family, on Tuesday the 4th. It was totally out of my power to attend as I was immersed in my official duties preparing my accounts for exhibition & examination by the Directors of the Mutual Insu Co on Wed yesterday the 5th.

I have omitted to mention that a ticket was purchased for you & Sister in the lottery drawing last summer w came out a prize of $100, deducting 15 p c produced 85 dollars. Another ticket was bought for
your joint account cost $11, w'h came out a blank leaving $74 between you that is 37 dollars a piece. The prize has just been paid, and I owe you this sum to be appropriated as you please.

Friday 7th Nov. I am persevering almost against the hope of closing this letter for tomorrows post. Yest'r aft. noon was the monthly meeting of the Bible S'. Our session was 4 hours & I have to bring up this day the minutes & forward all the Resolutions & subjects of reference to the several committees, at least 4 hours writing. You will see by the Spectator of this day the very progressive state of our funds. The Biblical Library is a child of my own & accumulates beyond my expectations. The Bibles presented by Mr' Boudinot I lugged with me all the way from Burlington. The Managers last ev' ordered 500 French Bibles to be sent to the Louisiana Bib. S' in N. Orleans & also voted $500 to be presented to the Rev'd Mr' Leo 14 a Protestant Minister in Paris, to aid him in the publication of the Testam't in French for circulation in France. The Rev'd Doct'r Mason just arrived from Europe where he had been for the benefit of his health gave some very interesting accounts of this very pious & benevolent man, who denies himself almost the means of comfortable existence to foster the means in his power & the monies entrusted to him, to edit the Scriptures. He performs every mechanical operation himself, makes the packing boxes, packs the books to be sent to all parts of the Kingdom, delivers them to the carriages. Takes with him on his back wherever he goes, a parcel of Testaments w'h he distributes to every poor person he meets. He has procured stereotype plates for the two translations, of the Catholic & Protestant Churches, & so patriarchal is his character & pure his zeal that he finds favour at Court & among the dignitaries of the Gallican Church. It affords me inexpressible pleasure to discharge the duties I owe the

Am. Bible S°. The compensation is a very secondary consideration but the gratification of being an humble instrument in promoting the interests of the most important benevolent S° every established in this country is more than I can describe. The order & propriety with which our business is conducted & the disinterested zeal of its Managers must silence every objection against our Instit°. The Episcopalians with our Bishop apprehended that we w°d be annihilated by associating with other denominations in this great & glorious work. Indeed his opinion had so much influence on my mind that at first I declined any services beyond a trifling subscription. I have before told you I think the motives that induced me to accept the office I hold, and it is with infinite satisfaction I add that the further I advance the less reason I find to regret the step. It was my revered friend Mr Boudinots last charge when I took my leave of him not to relax my efforts nor abate in my zeal to promote this great Institution. Should I never meet him again these last words will never be forgotten. How wretchedly do I write. My eyes fail me so much that I can hardly make or mend a pen & by this default my writing is almost illegible. I am sorry to tax y°r patience as I do with the fatigue of deciphering my rapid scrawls. By the time you receive this I presume the Revd Mr Learned may have arrived in y°r city. He did not go by the way of N York, but passed along our frontier for Detroit, from whence he was to proceed down the western waters southward. I heard of his being at Buffalo from his friend Mr Hall, & be pleased when he arrives to tell him that I have informed you of his approach & have warmly recommended him to your fireside.

New York, 2d Dec°, 1817

At the close of Sister's letter I had a small space left to acknowledge the rec° of the Doctors letter of the
25th October announcing the birth of another daughter [Mary] and inclosing the precious little lock of hair. This letter my dearest child has relieved the spirits of your parents, of mine esp for tho' I did not indulge gloomy forebodings I was apprehensive least you should not have had a favourable time in consequence of all the sickness & distress in y family w have caused you so much fatigue & solicitude. . . . Our last letters have been messengers of fatal news in the family of our Princeton friends. That place has witnessed three successive deaths almost at equal intervals this autumn. Aunt Pintard died on a Saturday, on the following Sunday 3 weeks after Cousin Susan Bayard departed & on the 3d Sunday after Mrs Green wife of the President also died, circumstances w have made considerable impression on the Society of that place. All gone, we reasonably hope, to a happier state of existence. We have rece'd a very particular letter from Mr Bayard of the last scene of his daughters sufferings & Christian resignation to the will of her heavenly father. . . .

I have just come down from breakfast. Mama is better this morn. Yest[erday] she was bled, which has relieved her. She suffers much from her system being so inclined to inflammation & flatulency. The latter is sensibly abated & will I hope entirely subside in the course of another year & that the effects attending the present change will disappear & her wonted vigorous health will be restored. She suffers great depression of spirits, but that is owing to the constant spasms to which she has latterly been subject. I do all in my power to cheer her by every possible indulgence for she is most valuable to me.

It will gratify the Doctor to learn that I had a very favorable oppo[rtunity] of introducing the son of his preceptor, young Mr Ridgley to my valuable friend Gov Clinton. As ment in my last this young gent arrived on a Friday. On Sat afternoon I showed him the Institution. He dined with us on Sunday & in the aft.noon I took him to Scudders Museum to show him
its arrangem' & impress him as a western man with a taste for Natural History, a delightful study & w'h every polite scholar ought to understand. We ret'd to Coffee & found the Governor, D's Hosack & Francis & passed a sociable evening, w'h afforded him an oppo. of seeing a little of the conversazione of my literary associates. Mr R. is a very correct young gentleman & I was gratified much to find that his mind is not poisoned with that deleterious narcotic modern scepticism against w'h I consider it a duty always to caution my juvenile acquaintance who in the pride of self sufficiency do not reflect when they rise superior, in their crude judgment, to vulgar prejudices that they rest their faith on Tom Paine instead of the Apostle Paul and boast of their independence. Such is frail man, whose opinions are all drawn from sources the foundation of which he seldom examines. But this digression w'd lead me too far. Mr R. is very modest & indicates a very sound mind. He reverts to Cambridge Univ to go thro' a course of law lectures & I shall have the pleasure of seeing him in the Spring please God, when we will be attentive to him for your sakes & when I hope to have possibly, a little more leisure to show him our public edifices &c, if ever leisure is to be my lot. Beyond all former example my time has been most severely occupied ever since my return from Princeton, nor have I the prospect of any intermission. So far otherwise that I have got myself trammelled with a new duty in w'h tho' I reluctantly engage, I must, having put my hand to the plough not look back. To aid in making Collections for instituting an Episc. Theolog' Seminary in this city, a measure recom[mende]d by the Gen. Convention of our Church in May last, but w'h from that lukewarm illjudged procrastinating disposition w'h marks our denomination, has been almost paralyzed. The temporizing delay will at least differ us $25,000 in this city where we ought to have raised $100,000 in consequence of our wealth & the preference given by founding the Seminary among us. I have consented to use my efforts in favour of the de-
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sign w^h had I nothing to do w^d be a pleasing agreeable duty, but superadded to my already oppressive vocations comes most inopportune. This aft.noon we meet to arrange the preliminaries of this mendicant tour, nine gentlemen with myself having been app[ointe]d by Bishop White in Phil^a to assist Doc^r Bowen my Rector, to whom the trust was delegated, in making collect[io]ns in this city. As my coadjutors are young & zealous much is to be expected from their exertions. The result you shall learn. Again I am summoned to attend a meeting of the Ladies who have so faithfully bestowed their time & attention to promote a House of Industry for the relief of distressed females in the winter season, by affording them occupation, to consult on the measures w^h may be expedient to be pursued and to cooperate in endeavours to eradicate mendicity by a similar plan for the employment of the male paupers, to relieve our city from the burthen of increasing demands on their charitable societies public & private. This meeting is to take place next Saturday noon, & having been solicited I mean to attend not knowing what duties will be required. If not too imposing I am disposed to countenance & support these laudable objects. I will give you a sketch of this single weeks appointments. Besides my office duties, w^h will be lighter after this day, having brought up my last months heavy dividend accounts. Yest^r at 4, I met the Standing Comm[itte]e of the Am. Bible So[ciety]. This day half past 4, the Theological Sem^r gent^n. At 7, the Chamber of Commerce. To- morrow 5 p. m. A Com[mitte]e of the A. Bib. So. Thur^v 4, the Managers of the A. B. S. Friday at least 6 hours to bring up their minutes. Sat^r 12 the Ladies of Industry. 4 P. M. the monthly meet^z of the Am. Acad[em]y of Arts, besides any occasional interludes that may arise by way of relaxation. I have not known for months, Sundays excepted, what it is to take a com- fortable dinner, so engrossed is every moment of my time. You will naturally exclaim with y^r good mothers incessant remark, that I bring all this on myself & may
conclude with apparent reason, that it arises from an insatiable itch to be always occupied with every one's business but my own & a perverted ambition, at my period of life, to be distinguished as an active member in every society no matter what its object or pursuit. I confess I feel all this & shrink at the plausible charge. The truth however is, if I am not too much mistaken, & who is not, in the motives which actuate me, that they arise from a sincere disposition to be useful in my day & generation and to apply the talents with which I am endowed for the benefit of Society. I cannot reproach myself with neglecting my family, whose comfort is my first & most delightful duty. The same activity, elsewhere employed, it has been a thousand times s'd w'd have secured me a fortune. Possibly, but without capital, I might have also lost my own & have injured others. Hundreds with greater advantages & fairer prospects & who a year or two ago were in the full tide of commercial prosperity, have failed & from being huzza'ed for their talents are now execrated as artful designing villains. Had such been my lot, it w'd have broken my heart & left y'r mother a beggar, subject to all the reproaches heaped on y'r unfortunate sex for the misfortunes of their husbands. On the whole I have no great cause to regret perhaps, that I have moved in my humble sphere, where if I endure privations & am necessarily excluded from the parade of hospitality, I am likewise sheltered from the storms that have assailed & shipwrecked those who hardly deigned to recognize me. With the intellectual & worthy part of the community I do not want a reasonable share of respect, as is evident from being constantly called on to render my assistance in the manner I have described. Let this be my consolation & with my fireside & books, the dulce lenimen laborum, the sweet solace of my toils. I have more cause for gratitude & content than for repining.

I am driving at this letter at such snatches of moments as I can catch so as to conclude in season for to-morrows post, for two reasons, first that I may not,
from unforeseen causes be prevented from sending my semimonthly epistle, second that it may arrive, barring accidents on the 31st so as to convey the warmest wishes of your parents & sister for a happy new year. ... By the way Dr Hosack intend revising the Medical Repository, a copy of wh he presented to the Doctor & wh I hope he has recd. It will be an affair of some six months. He wishes that Doc D. w collect the facts relating to the late yellow fever in N. Orleans & at Natchez, with all possible accuracy as to its introduc[tio]n progress, character &c &c, comparative ravages with the state of population state of atmosphere & all the prognostics & diagnostics wh I need not enumerate. The dissertation will, if accurately made out give y husband credit on publication. These are just means to acquire celebrity wh he ought to pursue. It is one thing to be a mere practitioner, but quite another to show scientific knowledge & acumen. ...

Wed morn 3 Dec. I fear as usual you will have more trouble in decyphering than I have had in writing the preceding. Mr Bayard came to town yest to attend the Managers meeting of the American Bible Society on Thur. He will be delegated to go to Washington to support a memorial to exempt us from duty on printing paper & from postage wh is becoming a heavy charge. His son the Rector & family will visit Princeton & stay with Cousin Patty in his absence. Samuel goes with his father for the benefit of his health. All are well at Princeton, as are all friends except Julia Brasher who is following her sister in a rapid decline. Mama & Sister join in love. A thousand blessings attend you.

J. P.

I inclose $10 to purchase bon bons for the children. ...
The receipt of the Doctor's letter of 15th Ult has relieved me from great anxiety. . . . It was prudent in him to restrain my dearest child from writing herself. I wish she had been equally prudent in keeping her chamber a while longer. I trust however the attack of ague & fever was subdued without any serious consequences and that the duties of domestic life may be resumed as usual without hazard to mother or child. Your next letter my beloved daughter will please God be one most cheering to me, containing a description of your sweet babe and all the nursery scenes of your little flock. . . . Should Gen. Wilkinson obtain the Mayoralty I have all confidence that he will contemplate as the head of the Municipality of N. O. the measures that ought to be adopted to prevent the recurrence of the late dreadful visitation. A strict system of Quarantine laws can alone secure y'r city from the introduction of this terrible scourge by sea. The expence of such a system will be borne by an impost on the Shipping w'h arrives & consequently will not aggravate the burthen of city taxes. In case any thing sh'd be done I trust he will not forget the Doctor, who when he sees the General will be pleased to tender him my respects and tell him that now he is domiciliated I hope he will seriously set about the sequel of his Memoirs of the Rev War the heroic age of our country. This is the portion of his late work w'h has attracted the highest approbation from all quarters & does the General great credit. In my duties to our His[torical] So[ciety] I bend my cheif efforts towards procuring the documents relative to that period, of w'h I know the full value, and the collections already made will prove a most important legacy to posterity. I have been beguiling the late servile hours of my life with compiling a paper to refute a malignant calumny which appears in Chalmers' Biograph Dict article Washington accusing our illustrious cheif with wantonly

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insulting the feelings of the unfortunate André by erecting the Gibbet on w⁴ he was to be executed several days before that event and in his view, and with demanding & receiving his Sword of L⁴ Cornwallis at his surrender, contrary to the usages of civilized warfare, thereby detracting, in those two remarkable instances, from the character of Washington for his magnanimity during the Rev⁵ war. The latter was easily refuted, for it was O'Hara who performed the ceremonies of the Surrender at Yorktown, Cornwallis, under the pretext of indisposition, not appearing. To repel the former charge cost me no little labour of research as well with respect to written documents as living testimony, in both w⁴ I have most substantially proved the fallacy of these gross charges. The paper has been referred to the Com. of Public⁶ & will probably appear the next Spring when I will send you the Volume.¹⁶ These dissertations render the sittings of the Society a little more interesting & will I hope excite attention to the objects of the institution. We propose to renew our application to the Legislature for patronage this winter and if I can obtain leave of absence, w⁴ is doubtful, I shall go to Albany to support our claim. We rely much on the countenance of M'r Clinton who will give all his weight & influence, but oppressed with the taxes to reimburse the expenses of the late war & the appropriations for carrying on the great Canal, the difficulty is where to find the resources. I think I have hit on a plan w⁴ it is not seasonable to disclose for fear of opposition. A wide survey is about being taken of the state of pauperism in our city. To see if we cannot check in some degree the growth of the present system of relieving the poor, w⁴ if pursued will become as onerous to us as to the English nation. There is little absolute cause for mendicity in a country that affords such demand for labour as the U⁴ States. Our city is surcharged with indigent foreigners, who finding employm⁴ in summer at high wages, become imprudent

¹⁶ Pintard's paper was not published in The New-York Historical Society's collections.
& extravagant & pennyless by midwinter. To let them perish is impossible & to support them in idleness is cherishing the growth of an oppressive evil. Committees have been app'd to digest a plan, to be reported to a general meeting, the little I shall do will be in the way of opinion for it appears to me that the weight of another feather w'd break my back. I have however descanted too much on this subject. I am well pleased that the several packages of Books & pamphlets have reached you in safety. I shall return Dr' Hosack your thanks for his Repository. He will be gratified with yr promised acc't of the late epidemic & the sooner the better, as he has a work in the press for the use of his class and w'd be glad to sustain his opinion of home manufac'd epidemics by fresh proof, abound'd of w'h I presume you can satisfactorily afford him. I shall attend to yr N° of the Med. Rep. & will put it up with what little articles may be at hand whenever Mr' Olmstead informs me of sending another case to Mr' Levy.

My several successive letters since our visit to Burlington & Princeton will have advised you of the instances of mortality that have occurred this season in the latter place. Last week another young miss of 16, daughter of Col. Beatty who was one of our Cousin Susan Bayard's pall bearers, died after a short illness.

Mr' Duer brother of Mrs Smith & Chew has published, just from the press, a letter to Cad' Colden, in answer to his strictures, in the Life of Fulton, on the Report of a Comm'e of the Legisl'l of this State, of w'h Mr' D. was Chairman, relating to Steam boat Naviga'. The pamphlet is very creditable to Mr' D's talents both as a writer & a statesman. No doubt he will forw'd a copy to Mr' Smith. Non omnia possumus. I cannot purchase every thing or I w'd send it. A pleasant little work in 2 Vols. "Letters from the South" by Mr' Paulding, one of the Salmagundi wits of our city, w'h has just appeared & w'h will undoubtedly be forw'd to Mr' Levy, & w'h yr friend Mr'
Hackley can purchase & you can read, will delight both him & the Doctor, as it gives a pleasing descript\textsuperscript{a} of the Ancient Dominion, the Tuckahoes & the Cohees. The work is quite original evinces considerable talent & abounds with highly important reflection political literary &c. M'r Eastburn the publisher gave 500 D\textsuperscript{is} for the copyright a competent reward to the Author. The work, or I am grossly mistaken, will long be a stock work & well compensate the publisher. It is far beyond Sansom's Tour to Canada,\textsuperscript{17} A farrago of rambling nonsense that might better have been let alone. Tourists however always furnish something to compensate ones time in reading, such as me at least who have so little opp\textsuperscript{o} of diverging from the fosses of Wall Street. Reading almost alone compensates for all other privations.

\textbf{New York, 29\textsuperscript{th} Dec\textsuperscript{r}, 1817}

I commence this letter to my beloved daughter hardly knowing whether I shall be able to conclude it for Wed\textsuperscript{s} mail, being exceedingly occupied, as usual, at the close of the month & esp\textsuperscript{v} of the year, & beginning this day to solicit subscriptions for our Epis. Theol. Sem\textsuperscript{r} which will engage at least two hours a day for the ensuing month, as I am resolved that no effort of mine shall be wanting to accomplish this subject. I have not the smallest doubt of success, tho' from the temporizing delay, we shall fall far short of our early expectations. I find by the papers that 5 successive mails have miscarried to y\textsuperscript{r} city, & presume that some of my letters of course will have met the fate of others. \ldots \text{Least any accident sh\textsuperscript{d} have befallen my correspondence, I just repeat that our good Aunt Pintard died the 11 Oct. aged 79 & that we attended her funeral on the 13\textsuperscript{th}, that we left Princeton the 14\textsuperscript{th} when y\textsuperscript{r} cousin Susan Bayard was declining very rapidly & died on the 2\textsuperscript{d} Nov.}

\textsuperscript{17}Joseph Sansom, \textit{Sketches of Lower Canada} (N. Y., 1817).
The present has been a fatal year in our family & the ensuing, considering the very advanced age of our venerated predecessors, must in all probability prove equally so. Indeed some of the younger branches may go first. I wrote you that your Cousin Jane Brasher who lives with her Uncle Abeel had every appearance of a confirmed consumption. Her case is irretireveable. Mama & myself were there last ev^s. Her situation is evidently desperate and she cannot survive this winter. Mary continues with her a dear good affect; sister. Jane was a pretty interesting modest child very much like her mother, whose hectic constitution she has inherited. My namesake \(^{19}\) improves very much grows tall and will be a very likely young man & what is better very correct. Samuel Bayard’s health is so delicate that he is obliged to withdraw from College & has accompanied his father to the City of Washington, in hopes that relaxation & exercise may strengthen his frame. His rapid growth has exhausted the powers of nature. Sh^d he escape another year he will probably recover, But his case is very critical.

I must whip up before being called to dinner that I may accomplish this letter all except the outside, for Wed^y morn^s as I shall be obliged to attend solely to my office tomorrow & next day to close my accounts. I have been absent 2 hours this morn^s on my mendicant tour & have been tolerably successful, but it will be an arduous task tho not insuperable. This aft.noon at 4 I have to attend the Committee app^d to draft a Memorial to the Corporation to patronize the Ladies House of Industry, w^h I have written about, to present the Memorial in due form & then to attend the Committee of Charity to whom it will be referred at some future day, & speechify in behalf of these very patriotic benevolent fair ones whose deed deserves every encomium & whose merits

\(^{18}\) Daughter of Mrs. Pintard’s brother, Gasherie Brasher, and of Jane (Abeel) Brasher. Garret B. Abeel was her uncle.

\(^{19}\) John Pintard Brasher.
transcend my feeble praise. I have much confidence that we shall be successful. Indeed I always go on these occasions full of hope & have to take a higher tone in order to inspire confidence in my associates who generally anticipate disappointment—a sure means of being defeated. One half the battle is to make your foe believe that you will succeed, the rest must be left to the issue of contest. Faint heart never won fair lady, nor man neither as experience has perfectly convinced me. There is a great spirit in our city for every kind of improvement which is always favourable to enterprise. Indeed this spirit pervades the U'n States & if we do not proceed we shall be outstript by our neighbours, an argument that operates upon those selfish minds which are unsusceptible of higher & nobler motives. I had almost abandoned the intention of going to Albany, but in consultation last evening at Doctor Hosacks that our success might probably depend on my individual exertions, I have concluded to go provided the assent of my directors can be honourably obtained. I shall bring the proposition distinctly before them in a few days, if cordially agreed to I go, otherwise I shall stay in my nest, for with as regards myself I shall not be sorry as I foresee the difficulties that are to be encountered. But never despair must be my cynosure, nor will I ever abandon an object that I have once undertaken to promote. I sincerely hope that the Doctor will be able to excite the attention of N. Orleans to the subject of a Quarantine system & that the documents I have sent by the last convey may arrive in season to aid him in promulgating the outline of that system. The lot of Gen. Wilkinson is ere this decided, whether he is to be Mayor or Senator or neither. Pray is he popular generally with you, or only with a party of whom I presume the Doctor is one from motives of former friendship & favours.

Tuesday 30. I am delighted beyond expression by the receipt of my beloved daughter's letter of 1st inst. in the usual course of mail, 4 weeks. . . . I am proud to hear that your babe is so beautiful & so good. We are
pleased with the name of Mary, a compliment due to y'r good husbands side of the house, for we have fairly engrossed all the names hitherto in our family. Mary was the name of my dear Mother to me unknown. I was but a fortnight old when she died & about 18 months after I was left an orphan by my fond fathers decease. My lot is somewhat singular, without brother or sister & I never knew a predecessor on father or mothers side. But I fell into the hands of a most excellent uncle who was to me a father & had in y'r good uncle Marsden a kind affect brother.
To Mrs. Richard Davidson (Eliza Noel Pintard) of New Orleans

New York, 12th Jan'y, 1818

We had two remarkably fine mild days New Years' & the 2d. I dined with my family, The Bible So' having met & adjourned without doing any further business to the following week. . . . Your Cousin John Pintard Brasher dined with us on the occasion, as he promises to do hereafter. He is a very pretty modest correct youth, of delicate texture, partaking of his mothers constitution. With care he may outgrow this tendency to pulmonary complaint, but his sister Jane will fall a sacrifice, in all probability to this insidious malady, which like the canker worm destroys our youth in the earliest bud. I believe consumptions are not incidental to your climate. We have had an afflicting circumstance in the family of the Daubeny's our neighbours that were, for Cap't D. & his sister had taken a small house to themselves in the western part of our city, near St' Johns Church. Miss Charlotte ever since the death of her mother, 2 years, had been very melancholy & low spirited. . . . On New Years day, Cap't Daubeny called to pay the usual compliment, sat a few minutes & passed over the way to dine with his sister Mrs Waddel, a fine notable domestic mother & housekeeper. We enquired after Charlotte who remained home but was very well. It appears that in her brothers absence, she put on her silk walking coat & her best Leghorn hat, but without stockings, left her home & cast herself into the river. At Cap't D's return in the evening she was absent. He returned for Cap't Waddel & made diligent enquiry in every quarter of the neighbourhood to no effect. At midnight
they went to the several watch houses describing their sister, that in case she shd be found strolling the streets, to direct where she belonged. Just after daylight the ensuing morning a man looking over a long pier in the Hudson, opposite St John's Church, observed a female body, floating alongside, wth he secured & gave notice to the Coroner. This body proved to be poor Charlotte & was after the inquest brought down to Cap' Waddels & interred without ceremony on Satv' evening. You may judge of the consternation which this catastrophe occasioned to Mama & Sister. An awful instance of the effects of melancholly on a feeble mind. Miss C. was in very easy circumstances & has left her property to her brother who had been very kind & affec to her. I observed an ace within a few days from Baltimore that a Mr Shephard Brown, of N. Orleans, in a fit of insanity precipitated himself from a 3 story window, broke thro' a shed below & expired in an hour afterwards. If I am not mistaken this gent went to yr city the same year I was there & lodged in the same house.

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

Tuesday morn 13th. The weather is severely cold. I go out as usual before breakfast to take what exercise I can wth is all essential to the preservation of my health. Incessant application ever since my visit to Princeton, of at least 10 hours a day to duty has pressed a little on my stock of health, in the way of my appetite, having lost all relish for animal food. My spirits are very good & in every respect I am as usual but in this particular. It is decided that I go to Albany to nurse the memorial of our Institution for patronage. The excursion & exercise will I trust do me good. I shall be gone at least three weeks. You will hear from again as I do not leave this till February. . . . At 12 o'clock I was obliged to go away up to the further end of Broadway to meet a Committee of the Corporation at the Ladies House of Industry in order to support their claims for patronage. This laudable Society employs the industrious poor in spinning, making up linen &c. and is conducted with a
spirit & attention that does honour to your sex. I never leave the Institution without a more exalted opinion of the merits & virtues of these ladies. I trust that the impression made on the Committee will have a favourable result. This afternoon the Hist' S' holds its annual election. On Thur' last was the elec' of the Lit' & Phil' when I declined the humble office of Curator w'h I held in it, as I wish to withdraw myself progressively from every other association than the Historical the bantling I have bro't into the world & w'h alone I shall consider myself bound to cherish. It is wonderfully progressive & our Library if it goes on as at present, will soon become extremely valuable both as to merit & rarity. My energies will be exerted at Albany to obtain addit' support. But I do not allow myself to be deluded by false hopes. I know that it is easier to project than to execute & the marvel will be if we succeed. As usual Never Despair is the motto of all my efforts, & resolution with perseverance will remove mountains. Mama rec'd a very interesting letter from Samuel Bayard at Washington giving a description of the manners of that city, the Palace drawing room furniture, & Madam's Levée. . . . I have a letter also from my young protege Jas' H. Clinton from Gibraltar 9th Oct'. He improves remarkably in writing & will make a noble fellow. Mark, if his life be spared, & his country shall require his services, if he does not distinguish himself. He has seen & observed a great deal & speaks of Algiers Syracuse, Her- culaneum & Pompeii with intelligence. He pursues his studies and his father will I hope have no reason to regret that thro' my solicitations his gallant boy went to sea. Tho' I do not like the service as a profession without what James has, some family influence to support a boys claims, for after all the children of prominent parents will attract notice & a chance for preference unless in extra' cases.
LETTERS FROM JOHN PINTARD

New York, 27 [sic for 26th] January, 1818

I have decided to go to Albany and I shall set out on Monday next, 2d Feb'. My whole absence at the extent I calculate 4 weeks, & shd the wheels of the legislature move tardily I shall be relieved by Doctor Francis. My object is to get a grant of $1000 to each of the 3 Societies in the N. Y. Institution for 10 years, w' patronage is due and if obtained will make us flourish. I shall go with full confidence of success & tho' we may be disappointed we will not be disheartned, but persevere every season until we do succeed. My individual services shall however be restricted to this embassy, as my leave of absence from office duties is a special favour, & wholly owing to my new President M' Furmans friendship who will supply my place. Governor Clinton in his speech to be delivered on Tuesday 27th will undoubtedly give prominence to the cause of science & literature, w' will be the precursor of our Memorial. A generous spirit exists in our Legislature to foster the Arts & Sciences & Education generally, and I hope with reasonable assurance that our appeal will receive a candid reception. Nil desperandum Teucro duce is the motto of our banner and under the auspices of Clinton I trust we shall prevail. As an evidence of the favourable light in w' our Institution is regarded in this city the following example may testify. On Saturday 17th P. M. the Academy of Arts met to organize the new board, when it was proposed to send to London & request M' West to sit for a full length portrait to be taken by Sir 1 (I forget the name) the Vandyke of his age, price 400 Guineas. To defray the expence it was determined to open a subscription for 20 Gentleman @ $100. each as a loan to be reimbursed at a future day. On Monday Col. Trumbull presented the Subscripta w' was filled on Tuesday, and by the Saturday following the letters were prepared with a Bill for half the am1 the Sum always demanded by eminent Artists to prevent their labours being left on

1 Sir Thomas Lawrence.
their hands, to be sent by a ship for Liverpool to sail in a day or two. This is a proof of laudable spirit highly creditable to our city & honourable to the Academy, being a disinterested tribute of respect to our eminent countryman, who lately presented the Hospital of Phila with a superb painting, the profits of exhibiting which will produce probably 3 to 5000 Dollrs a year to that institution. The Acad' of Phila ought to have paid the compliment shown by ours to the benefactor of their city. This portrait when procured will be inestimably valuable on the decease of Mr West who is now in his 80th year, pursuing his vocation & applying his admirable talents for historical painting with all the ardour of youth & judgment of years. Mr West I presume you know is a Pennsylvanian. Our Hist. So. is likewise making rapid progress. We purchase not only American History, but rare & curious writers on European esp' English History. We bought last week the Byzantine Historians in 30 Folios & the Concilia about 20 more. Works extremely scarce & seldom to be obtained even in Europe—to too voluminous to bear republication in this age of lighter reading of course of difficult attainment. It is our object to make our Library one of research for all that is curious & valuable. A work of slow growth, but if persevered in will in the course of years be accomplished & may become like the extensive Libraries of the Old World inestimably valuable to the erudite Scholar. To have had a hand in the foundation & elevation of such a Library will be hereafter, no small praise.

Tuesday [January] 27th. . . . . . . . . . .

The city of Phila has experienced a great loss, as you will see by the papers in the death of Doc' Wistar the most eminent surgeon in Am'. He was distinguished in his profession & was president of the Am. Phila Soc' in that city. You will find the character bestowed on him in the eulogies of his surviving friends. Doct' Hosack yest' pronounced a eulogium to his memory in the Col-

2 "Christ Healing the Sick in the Temple."
lege of Physicians. I c'd not attend as it was delivered at that hour, noon, when it is impossible to be absent from my office. When published I will obtain a copy for the Doctor. Sh'd y' good husband want any new medical works, published here by mentioning them I will procure & forward them. I will thank [him] if he can procure me, at any future day, the jaws of a large alligator. It is wanted in our Cabinet for the purpose of completing or rather forming materials for comparative Anatomy. Any thing in this way will be acceptable & serviceable to promote his professional character.

Wed'y 28th Jan'y. . . . Mama rec'd a very affect. letter from Cousin Patty last week. Mr Bayard is still at Washington but was to return by the last of this month. Rector Bayards family is still there. All were well. My good old uncle had been indisposed. He is subject occasionally to something like fainting, arising from the debility of extreme old age. . . . Your Cousin Jane Brasher is rapidly declining. I think she cannot long survive and probably my next may be my last visit to her. . . . Her Uncle Abeel & Aunt have been most kind to her, bringing her up as their own child. I have often thought how merciful God has been to poor Gasheries family, deprived so young of both their parents and who have been so fortunately protected. . . .

ALBANY, 18th February, 1818

A letter to my beloved daughter from this city will be somewhat of a novelty. . . . I left town as I had proposed on Monday the 2d inst. at 10 o'clock. The preceding Sunday Mama had been engaged in discharging the last tender duties to your cousin Jane Brasher. . . . My journey was very agreeable & happily before the late extremely severe weather. My travelling companions Mr Hogan, your uncle Marsdens friend, Alderman Brasher & a Mr Eleazur Williams a half breed Oneida Indian, who has received an education & is preparing for
the Ministry in our Church, is licensed as a lay reader &
will be ordained Deacon next Summer. A shrewd intel-
ligent Indian & not without the craft & cunning of his
brethren. He purposes to undertake a history of his na-
tive tribes traditional as well as connected with the Eu-
ropean settlers by trade alliances offensive & defensive,
and I have no doubt shd he persevere that he will make
a very interesting work. I have promised him any as-
sistance in my power, but he will derive greater benefit
from Gov. Clinton who has made this subject an ob-
ject of considerable research. From Sir John Johnston
[sic] in Montreal he will obtain access to all the colonial
Treaties in his possession. Materials will not be want-
ing if he shall have perseverance & patience, Indian
qualities, to pursue his design. We arrived at this seat
of State Government the third evening Weds having
taken the slow stage. On Tuesday we lay by in the
afternoon at Kinderhook, & until we had breakfasted
next morn. A violent snow storm prevented our pro-
ceeding with any comfort earlier. There was a severe
blow in N York I find the same afternoon & I suppose
along the coast. I waited on Mr Colden one of our city
Representatives on Thursy morn with the Memorial of
our Institution, wth was presented & committed the same
day. M' W. Duer, brother of Mrs Smith & Chew is
my chairman, & very friendly to our objects. Mr D. is
a very prominent member, of handsome talents & ad-
dress, & commands great respect. He will rise to re-
spectability in our State. His character domestic, pro-
fessional & political is highly honourable. Indeed I
know no one of his years that surpasses him. His reply
to Mr Coldens remarks on the Steam boat question is
logically & elegantly written. I speak not of the merits
of the question but the style & composition wth does him
honour. He married a Miss Denning, not handsome,
but has 7 very pretty children who resemble the father.
He introduced me at a morning call into his parlour,
where I was gratified to find that Mrs D. was bringing
up her daughters after the good old manner, the two
eldest, before going to school were clearing away the breakfast table with all the dexterity & propriety of early habit. . . .

3 p. m. The preceding I wrote before breakfast & must drive my pen ere nightfall, as the mail closes at 7 & this letter will arrive in season for Saturday post day for N. O. My business is here is necessarily protracted until a Bill w\textsuperscript{h} is preparing in the Senate to provide for an Agricultural establishment & professorship, the funds for w\textsuperscript{h} are to arise from an Excise on Taverns & retailers of Ardent liquors, w\textsuperscript{h} has been relinquished by Congress & w\textsuperscript{h} in our extensive State is productive of more than $100 thousand Dollars. I hope to obtain an Appropriation of $6000 p\textsuperscript{r} an. for 10 years for the three Societies equally w\textsuperscript{h} will enable us to get ahead & show something honourable for the institution & beneficial to the learned world. The Governor is my Index & I patiently wait his orders, in the meanwhile I pass my time pretty generally as follows. I rise between 6 & 7, Walk when not too severe out & home 3 miles, breakfast, go to the Governor at 9, stay till 10, then go the Sec\textsuperscript{r} of States Office, look over his early records from w\textsuperscript{h} I am compiling some important illustrations of our colonial history, go to the Capitol, pass an hour or two in the lobby, tho' I hear the debates with great difficulty, return to dine at 3, sit in my room, M\textsuperscript{r} Hogan & myself inmates, till dusk, take another walk, return to Tea at 6. Read or write till 10, retire & ring the same change over again the next day. I am quite at home at his Excellencys, who is overwhelmed with visitors & everlasting sitters who are glued to their chairs never knowing when to depart. Were it not for his very early rising & wonderful aptitude to despatch business he c\textsuperscript{d} never get thro' the functions of his Office w\textsuperscript{h} are numerous & various as this State is extensive. I have dined twice with him at his public dinners, 40 to 50 guests, Yest\textsuperscript{r}. He gives substantial dinners & excellent wine, w\textsuperscript{h} in a degree is casting pearl &c. for a large portion of his guests are indifferent to its age price or quality. To vary this
monotony a little I made an excursion last Thursday to Schenectady about 15 miles distant, situate on the Mohawk river for the first time in my life I crossed on the Ice. Young Mr. Verplanck was my companion, lately returned from Europe, & one of our most intelligent young men. We went to see Union College, passed the evening & breakfasted next morn with Doctor Nott, president, whose zeal & address have obtained an endowment of $300 thousand Dollars from this State. The plan for this great College is extensive, 100 Acres in a square have been purchased for its site & two Colleges of Four are already erected as large as Nassau Hall. The whole when executed will exceed any Academical Institution in the U States. 200 students are already educating in this place from its centrality promises to be the University of our State. Schenectady contains about 6000 inhabitants is handsomely laid out & has several very pretty buildings not disfigure N York.

I interfere little with the political changes taking place. This day the Council of Appointment met the 2d time among others Cadwallader D. Colden Esq. member from our city & who alone of all the Tammany men, violent Anti Clintonians, advocated the Canal, has been appd Mayor of our City for which I rejoice as he will I trust take high & respectable ground. I have seen a little of the manoeuvres of party as the Curtain blew aside. Enough to make me grateful that I am not a candidate for office.

New York, 30th March, 1818

My dearest daughter,

Your father has once more thank God returned in safety to the bosom of his beloved family, after an absence of nearly 8 weeks, longer than I have been from home at one time, since 9 years service in this Office. After dancing attendance, in vain, on the Legislature, I broke off suddenly on Tuesday 17th inst. and after
a ride, or rather being dragged thro' mud & mire, brake & briar, from 4 in the morning till 10 at night, I arrived safe without broken bones, on Friday afternoon. Saturday I reposed. Sunday a violent storm prevented my setting off in the mail stage for Princeton, but on Monday I arrived there thro' execrable roads at 8 P. M. and had the inexpressible happiness of finding my venerable uncle & parent still existing & sufficiently sensible to recognize and bless me. His eyes were sealed but his voice tho nearly lost, articulated the kindest enquiries after all my family & expressed his love & benediction to them. He was & had been free from any pain during his last illness. Nature perfectly exhausted was giving way & his spirit returned to God who gave it on Wed\textsuperscript{ev} 9 o'clock, so imperceptibly that those who watched his last scene could scarcely distinguish the moment of departure. I had taken my final agonizing leave at 10 in the morning in a chaise, to Newark, for his grandson to return and attend the conveyance of his ancestors remains to this city, where they arrived on Saturday morn\textsuperscript{e} 28\textsuperscript{th} at 10, in a snow storm. I had arranged all that was required for the entombment of my dear venerable uncle & fathers honoured relics with those of our family. Bishop Hobart performed the funeral rites and his coffin was laid over that of the Madame's,\textsuperscript{8} along side of his brothers, our late uncle, Cap\textsuperscript{t} Pintard, on which is to repose his son's, Uncle Lewis, in God's appointed time. A silver plate bears the inscription—Lewis Pintard, Born 12\textsuperscript{th} October 1732 Died 25\textsuperscript{th} March, 1818, Ætatis 86. Thus my dearest child having performed the last solemn duties to the memory of my beloved parent, for he brought me up with a parents love and care, it remains for me & all of us to follow his virtuous pious example, trusting that by so doing we may finally meet thro' the atonement & merits of our crucified Redeemer, in the realms of eternal bliss. Amen. I took from Mama

\textsuperscript{8} Madame Marie Pintard, widow of Pierre Vallade and second wife of Lewis Pintard. She died October 22, 1810, in her 81st year. \textit{N. Y. Com. Advertiser}, Oct. 25, 1810.
a few of your oranges. Aunt Patty proffered a small piece on Tuesday aft. noon of which he partook. She told him that it came from you. He enquired after you, y' husbands health, how many children, and blessed you all. To say that my poor heart was overwhelmed with grief, feebly expresses the poignancy of my feelings. He raised my hand repeatedly to his lips and blessed me. His life was spared, as by the special favour of a gracious Providence, till I had seen him once more. For at 11, after my departure, he fell into a lethargic doze, from w'h he just awoke in the afternoon, called for some tea, the only refreshment he took for the last 3 weeks, fell asleep to wake no more. I have drawn an Obituary notice w'h will of course appear in the Spectator & reach you I hope. The narrative part is mine, Mr Bayard adding the account of his religious character. When I receive a copy of my uncle's will, I will inform you of the particulars & mode of his bequest. . . . My spirits are now thank God composed & I have this morning resumed my office duties with serenity. I have written to your Aunt, my dear Sister Patty for so I shall henceforth call her & hastily sketch these lines to you so that the Wed's mail may convey one more letter from a fond father to his beloved daughter. Whilst my heart was bending down beneath the weight of domestic grief, & whilst I was making preparations for opening our family tomb, & Mama had gone abroad on Friday—a bleak raw day—to provide linen to make scarves &c. I was astounded with a circumstance that occurred last week to the eternal disgrace of the man & reproach of our holy Church. Doctor T. Y. How who stood pre-eminent as a polemical writer but void of every principle of religion or decorum, was detected last week in attempting the seduction of a servant girl. The affair was exposed by one Dussenberry a city marshal, in whose service she was, and perhaps nothing has ever occurred in our city that has made so much noise or excited so much just resentment. Mr. How has resigned his clerical functions & has been suspended by his bosom friend
Bishop Hobart who is bowed down by this overwhelming calamity. I shall give the letters on the occasion w^h were printed & sent to every Vestry in the city yesterday to be enfolded in the Spectator in hopes of its reaching you w^h will abridge further painful explanation. The Doctor can show it to whom he pleases. Let him that standeth take heed least he fall must be every clergyman's motto.

My errand to Albany has proved abortive. My stay was protracted as long as there were hopes of success. The endless procrastinations of a public Legislature are beyond expression tantalizing—day after day week after week passed with the object always in view and always eluding one's grasp. Want of management was evident but uncontrollable by me. An apparent disposition was evident to me from the first, to paralyze every measure recommended by Governor Clinton w^h might render his administration popular. I mentioned my apprehensions as delicately as possible. The event has proved my fears just. I left Dr Francis who had gone up to promote some objects relating to the medical department, to pursue our Memorial. He returned on Saturday, with Mr Hogan, both of whom were my room mates. They took Coffee with us on Sunday evening. There is no probability that the question of patronage will be agitated this session w^h is drawing to its close. So that I have spent my time & money to little purpose. One thing however compensates me for both. I have learned to estimate men as they are, widely the reverse of what I fondly thought them to be. I fear that I am a little beyond the age I live in & expect too much from the present generation. When one can't do all one wishes he must be content with doing all he can. I would not give up the lesson I have learned for any consideration, and this winters schooling at Albany has afforded instruction to last me the remainder of my life. I shall attempt less in future & not waste my health & spirits in useless efforts, nor flutter like the captive starling against the wires of my cage until I drop down exhausted.
& expire. The field of useful exertion is ample & I shall not want occasion or opp° to exert such talents as I possess, nor shall I cease to occupy them & beneficially I hope for Society & honourable to myself.

Wed^r 1st April. How I rejoice when I turn my page, & have so far accomplished my letter to my dearest child. My business begins to press upon me but I find that notwithstanding my long absence that I glide very easily into the track of my duties. I worked very hard yest° to bring up arrearages & by continuing my early rising preserve my health by exercise & my strength for labour. . . . I rec°d a letter from the Doc° inclosed of 11^th Feb° inclosed by M° Randolph on the 16^th . . . I have delivered his order to Mes° Posts who will execute it. . . . I only called whilst at Princeton on Dr Smith & M°rs Cuthbert. The latter I did not see being confined to her room by the gout. The Doctor evidently droops, he is exceedingly reduced in flesh, but enjoys moderate health & excellent spirits. Your friend M°rs Salomon & family are very well. Miss Witherspoon is married to a young clergyman M° Wood, & have gone to his fathers a substantial farmer in Pennsylv°. Aunt Betsey kindly staid with my dear sister, attending for 3 weeks on our dying parent, & rendering every service & attention for w^h I am grateful. I was happy to hear the flattering tidings rec°d from the Rev° M° Larned, of his popularity & prospects of usefulness. . . .

NEW YORK, 14^th April, 1818

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

On the all important subject of your religious duties I think you ought to have no scruples as to joining y° good husband's Church. . . . It is all important to train up y° little flock & lead them to Church w° will influence their future lives, & it is delightful to see a whole family assembled to render their adorations to their Heavenly Father on the day consecrated to his service. I suppose I must furnish you with Psalm & Hymn, instead of com-
mon prayer books. Let me know what kind Mr. Larned has adopted, for there is a great variety in use among the Presbyterian & Congregational denominations. With respect to Eliza sh'd it be found expedient to educate her in the Convent. You need not apprehend unfavourable consequences from early Roman Catholic impressions on her susceptible mind, w'n will wear away when she mingles once more with her family & the Protestant world. I know not that proselytism is the precise order of the day with the Fair Ursulines, doubtless with other branches of education, they will inculcate religious instruction, and they can instil no other than their own ritual. . . . I know that many Protestants, with scarcely any pretensions to religion, have an utter abhorrence to the Roman Catholic Church, having been brought up in these prejudices & taught to believe that we still exist at the period of the reformation when so many barbarities were exercised on both sides. They can never think of the Church of Rome without recalling the events of the reign of the bloody Queen Mary, & the Rev'd John Rogers burned at Smithfield, with his wife & nine small children, one at the breast, looking on, so dolorously depicted & sung in the New England primer. But these days are past & whilst we act liberally to each other as Protestants, let us endeavour to exercise a little liberality also to that Church which for so many ages included every believer in Christianity & which at this day embraces so extensive a portion, more numerous than all other denominations put together, of the Christian World.

Doctor Bruce, a physician died a few weeks since a voluptuary & his wife from the same cause followed him shortly after to the grave. If physicians cannot or will not resist their propensities to high living know-

4 Dr. Archibald Bruce died February 24, 1818, and his widow, Mrs. Frances Bruce, died March 30, 1818. *N. Y. Eve. Post*, Feb. 25, 1818; April 1, 1818. There is an article about him in the *Dictionary of American Biography*, III, 179-80.
ing & daily witnessing the fatal tendency of indulgence, what are we to hope from mere sensualists.

My letters are almost illegible I fear, owing to my defective vision I cannot mend my pens & have no one to perform that office for me. Hardness of hearing & failure of sight are two of the warnings of declining life. A few short years, or sooner, my pilgrimage will terminate.

To Doctor Richard Davidson of New Orleans

New York, 18th April, 1818. 10 A. M.

My dear Son,

I have this instant rec'd yours of 18th Ult advising yr appointment as "consulting Physician under the Quarantine law for the port of N. Orleans." It was due to your exertions & I trust your attention to the faithful discharge of your duty will do you credit & merit the patronage. . . . The salary is not large, but will pay your house rent, and the introduction to public notice, with the benefit you will positively derive from attendance on Masters of vessels & their crews will I trust be productive of sufficient towards your comfortable support the present year and if your life be spared will encrease your practice & enable you to lay by something for a future day. You must be particularly careful of yourself and tho timidity in the discharge of yr duty w'd be wrong & serve to endanger you more, still every precaution ought to be observed in not exposing yrself unnecessarily to contaminated air &c., all which you understand as well or better than myself who had the experience of one yellow fever campaign when as City Inspector I attended & visited every ward & patient in the Hospital at Bellevue daily, without fear of infection. It was remarkable that we never lost a nurse at that place, who frequently fell asleep along side the dying patients, inhaling the pestilential atmosphere incident, with every possible care to the best regulated Hospitals.
I presume that every attention will be paid to the construction of the Hospitals, so as to have detached buildings for the extreme ill, those not so ill, & for convalescents. We used Tents or Marquees at Bellevue wherein to place those patients *in extremis*, whose excretions became too nauseous for the Wards, & whose groans & shrieks agonized & w'd have broken down the spirits of the other patients. The utmost cleanliness is observed at our Quarantine Hospital, Lime, Vinegar &c. are used in the greatest profusion, & the Buildings are regularly whitewashed inside & out every spring. Every comfort of bedsteads, mattrasses or straw beds, clean linen, plenty of medicinal & invigorating stores, are abundantly supplied. All this however comes more immed'y under the care of Gen. Wilkinson Health Officer. But as consulting Physician you will, as a friend also, be consulted. Any enquiries in my power to satisfy I will take all pains to get answered by Dr DeWitt our Health Officer, as well as Dr Hosack & others, as I wish you to be, if possible, preeminently useful. The appointment of Gen. W. does not surprize me. If we can't snow white we must snow brown, and I presume he is very needy. He will be in the way of receiving many handsome presents from Captains & Sup. cargos who are always liberal to Health Officers. I hope he may afford a few trifles from his superabundance to you. My best respects to him & congratulations on your joint appointments.

Alas! poor Mr Hackley, he is now probably numbered with the dead, & you are left. . . . . . . . . .

New York, 4th May, 1818. Monday A. M.

This letter is commenced with very little hope of being able to close it in time for Wed'y as this week I am preparing my accounts for the meeting of my Directors on that day. . . .

Tuesday morn'y. . . . This day the Chamber of Commerce meets to elect their new Officers. I shall decline
my Secretaryship, a troublesome office, without compensation. I have served my turn & aided in resuscitating this ancient corporation. On Saturday I resigned my office of Treasurer to the Am. Acad$ of the Fine Arts, prior to the Spring exhibition w$ commences this month. I was kept constantly in advance & frequently perplexed by payments of orders & bills w$ were presented when my office duties pressed. In the Institution therefore my sole remaining office is that of Rec$ Sec$ to the Historical S$ and that is more than enough. But this being my own brat I am in duty bound to nurse it. In a few years I hope that it will be out of leading strings when my care will no longer be required. At the importunity of an old & respected fellow citizen Mr. John Murray, a Quaker preacher & most benevolent man, I consented to take a turn to serve one year as Trustee of the N York Free School, w$ is the first establishment that adopted the Lancastrian system of education. It is on a very respectable foundation and has ample funds. As the late introduction of Sunday Schools is the order of the day, this Institution requires a little support, w$ has induced me to lend my services. I presume that I was elected yest$ tho' I put it on the footing that if any other candidate appeared equally willing with myself to contribute his time & aid, that I cd wish to be excused. Thus probably I only discharge one load to take up a heavier, but we all owe a debt to Society.

We have had a most ext$ backward spring, the effects of w$ have reached as far as Georgia & probably yr country. I am still clad in all my winter clothing & am this day sitting at as large a fire in my office as midwinter. This inclemency is ascribed to the floating islands of Ice w$ detached from the Arctic Seas are met with along the Atlantic Ocean by every ship arriving from Europe. The crops generally will be injured by the late frosts. Peach & Cherry Trees are scarcely yet in bloom.

Wed$ 6th. . . . We have on a visit Samuel & William Bayard during the vacation at Princeton. Samuel is
quite a prodigy, his studies have been interrupted on account of his health, but he has the flattering prospect of resuming them next fall. He is much improved by his visit to Washington. He is tall & slender & his countenance the very index of genius, irritable & sensitive as poets usually are, domineering & imperative over his brother William, who were Samuel not by w'd pass for a lad of genius. He is a substantial matter of fact fellow, compact, fair complexion & handsome, very modest & retired, is in the Freshman class. They are both remarkable fine boys & unusually well read & advanced in their attainments & will make if spared reputable characters & ornaments to Society and I have no doubt will be dutiful and blessings to their parents. My dear Sister Patty, for she is all that I can so call of my own flesh & blood, you know is a kind affect. tender hearted mother. She wrote me a very pathetic affect. letter by her boys. We hope the next visit will be on her part with her two girls, and Mama & Sister will return with them. You know not how my heart draws towards her. I wish she lived in town but I presume with all their accommodations & comforts about them that they will not readily abandon Princeton. Poor N Rochelle House still remains unsold & unoccupied. Such has been the depression of country seats in the vicinity of this city that all kind of property has fallen so that even a bid at auction could not be obtained for it. It is too late in the day for me to think of it. I am doomed to toil & the city is my element. Here occupation suitable to my talents is to be found, and a compensation if not exuberant still adequate to our reasonable wants. I hope this year to be able to obtain some decent house that may please Mama, who will not readily circumscribe herself within the compass of my capacity. The price of lots & buildings are so extravagantly dear that I fear nothing like a respectable two story House can be hoped for under $12,500 to 15,000, w'h will make my rent very heavy & will take all my life till 70 to redeem should my years & health be spared
so long, but there is nothing like trying & I am resolved for her sake to make every reasonable effort. I have come down from breakfast bringing with me the love of Mama & Sister & the boys to you. Louise ought to have written for me but the visit of these young gentlemen takes up all her attention & Mamas, for my confinement to the office prevents me from going any where with them which Mama kindly does. They go to the plays, have seen the Museum, tomorrow ev^st to an Oratorio & this ev^st theatre.

New York, 18th May, 1818

Born 18th May, 1759, I this day enter on the 60th year of my age. . . . You have an arduous task of maternal duties to fulfil. Cities in general are unfavourable to morals, for children with every good example at home, learn to imitate the vulgarities of their associates more readily than their virtues. . . . Of all cities, N. Orleans was, & I presume is yet little better, a very sink of pollution and it will require all y° influence & exertion to counteract its baneful effects. I hope that as an increase of American population is introduced that a preponderance of American character will give a more favourable tone to public morals, and that a more regular & rigid police will keep the city in better order.

I have passed thro' the very whirlwind of my vernal duties & tho' incessant occupation be before me I shall not be deluged by accumulated official concerns. My office Dividend, Steam Boat d[itt]o, annual meeting of the Am. Bible Society all come at the beginning of May. Singlehanded I could vanquish them all, but en masse they almost overpower me. Thank God I am through & shall for me a share of repose, if not on roses at least not on thorns. We have had a visit from Aunt Patty & her two girls, Julia & Caroline, a very short one. They accompanied Mr Bayard to attend the Anniv° meeting
of the A. B. S. on Thur\textsuperscript{y} 14\textsuperscript{th}. They arrived on Wed\textsuperscript{r} & departed on Friday. My dear Sister is slowly recovering her spirits. The lost of Susan is irreparable. She misses her in every book. Julia is extremely delicate, very pretty, very mild & very good, but not alas! I fear destined for maturity. Caroline is quite a hearty & uncommonly smart child. . . . The Spectator will have informed you that Doctor Boudinot our venerable kinsman who the 2\textsuperscript{d} inst. entered his 79\textsuperscript{th} year, with all his infirmities, arrived & presided at the annual meeting. It was an imposing spectacle to see this aged benefactor of the Society he has so nobly endowed ($10,000) seated for once as President. The meeting was in the City Hotel, the Assembly numerous, esp\textsuperscript{y} of y\textsuperscript{r} sex. He was conducted to his chair by Gen. Clarkson Vice Pres\textsuperscript{t} & Col. Varick treas\textsuperscript{r}. He was much affected when the Society & all the Spectators rose & stood both at his entrance & when he delivered his address. He presided with great dignity & the duties of the day were conducted with the greatest decorum. The sitting was from 11 to 3, four hours. We offered him & Cousin Susan Bradford all our house, but the impossibility of getting up stairs & the fear of unfavourable weather induced him to take lodgings at the City Hotel on the same floor with the Assembly room in w\textsuperscript{n} the meeting was held. We see him every day morn & ev\textsuperscript{r}. He is sitting for his portrait to M\textsuperscript{r} Waldo who is taking an admirable likeness. That of Sully is totally unlike, tho' an admirable painting. He is drawn in a Methodist John Wesley Wig, with unkempt locks w\textsuperscript{h} masks his noble front & disfigures the finest portion of the human face Divine the forehead & skull. Waldo at my instigation draws him as nature made him & the portrait will be a noble faithful resemblance. M\textsuperscript{r} W. has also taken a sketch in order at some future day to draw a whole length. This Artist improves rapidly & will be soon at the head of his profession in the U\textsuperscript{d} States.

Wed\textsuperscript{r} 20\textsuperscript{th}. Mama & Sister have devoted much of their time to Cousin Bradford. Louise stays with her
at night. The weather has been very unfavourable during their visit. Yest\textsuperscript{y} afternoon we went to the Academy, w\textsuperscript{h} is this day opened for its 4\textsuperscript{th} exhibition. By courtesy the Corporation & principle members were invited to a private view previous to the public. There was a good deal of company & the exhibition is very rich in fine paintings. Mrs B. scarcely recognized her fathers portrait. Mr Sully of Phil\textsuperscript{a} who took it is an artist of distinguished merit, but he has failed in this instance, as well as in a very inferior likeness of Com. Decatur taken for our Corporation. With respect to Doctor Bou-dinots picture there is some excuse as it was taken almost in articulo mortis, when he was very ill & shattered. We visited all the apartments, the Museum, w\textsuperscript{h} is very progressive & in the evening the Mechanical Panorama, making the most of the few remaining hours, as weather permitting they return to Jersey this day. We have had a most unfavourable backward Spring, & so wet & cold that fires are as necessary as in midwinter. Incessant rains, on Saturday the 16\textsuperscript{th} a violent storm at N. E. The season will prove very destructive to our crops it is feared. Vegetation is scarcely begun.

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To Doctor and Mrs. Richard Davidson

New York, 30\textsuperscript{th} May, 1818

My dear children

Cap\textsuperscript{t} Hunt, my beloved daughter's Ship master on her return to N. Orleans, called upon me yesterday & informed me that he was to sail for your port in the Ship William tomorrow. This short notice has only allowed me to pack up a few pamphlets, w\textsuperscript{h} as they will cost nothing, will of course not tax your acceptance. Bristed's Resources however will afford very useful as well as gratifying information & expand the Doctor's views with regard to our country, & I beseech him to read it as I have done attentively. It is a candid work, the author an Englishman of some fifteen years resi-
dence, a counsellor, man of talents & perhaps the best classical scholar in the U\textsuperscript{d} States.

The Health Law & annual Bulletin are in the press. Copies shall be forwarded as soon as published, probably next week. . . . The 1st An. Report of the Bible S\textsuperscript{o} contains a certificate of membership for my beloved daughter. I subscribed also for Mama & Sister $30. each $90—to qualify you & set a good example.

Adieu & God bless you,

J. Pintard

[Addressed:] Doctor Richard Davidson  
Consulting Physician &c.  
New Orleans  
By Cap\textsuperscript{t} Hunt  
Ship William

To Doctor Richard Davidson


My dear Sir

I have rec\textsuperscript{d} this morning your P. S. to my dear daughters letter of 2\textsuperscript{d} inst. On application \textit{instanter} at the Board of Health I learn that the Law of this State establishing the Health department for this port is now in press, & will be published, probably, next week, when I will transmit you a copy, together with the annual address of the Board which is a repetition, as well as the law, of what I formerly sent you. As to the proceedings of the Board, they have no By laws. The Quorum is established by law, which in time of health meets monthly, & a Committee meets daily to receive all Reports from the Officers, & applications. The ord\textsuperscript{p} business is minuted, & only official Reports, & documents containing principles are entered formally by the Secretary. All Reports & letters are carefully filed. Business is conducted with the usual ordered [\textit{sic}] observed in the Common Council. The Mayor presides, & all applications are referred to the proper officers. I would
advise your Secretary, at the outset, to keep a portfolio for the preservation of all letters relating to the Board, & another for the Officers Official Reports, which should be dated & signed. After they have accumulated to a sufficient number, have them bound chronologically & indexed. This will perpetuate them, for I know by experience how easily loose papers slip thro' ones hands & after a while become irrecoverable. At some distant period reference may be had, & a different construction drawn when the document is lost, w'h may implicate the consistency & uniformity of your measures. You cannot be too careful at the outset in the preservation of your official documents.

Yours aff'y
J. Pintard

NEW YORK, Monday 1st June, 1818

This is a rainy morning that prevents my usual walk. After my ablutions purifications & scripture readings I shall devote a few moments to converse with my beloved daughter, whose favour of the 2d May I rec'd on Saturday. Should your Rev'd friend M'r Larned have set off on the 12th we may look for his arrival with bully rock in all this week. We shall make out the best we can, tho' I fear poor little fellow, that he will miss his brothers & sisters. After 8 years residence Tamar at length concluded that she could stay with us no longer & on Sat'y with Nancy left us to go to the country. Her place for the present is supplied by a plain honest dutch wench Mary, who came late on Sat'y evg & appears a good substitute as to honesty & what will gratify Mama is remarkably clean. Tamar had lead a turbulent life of it, when she made up her mind to go w'h she had often threatened. Nothing but her integrity & care of the House in case of all our absence ed have suffered me to endure & put up with her violent temper with which you were acquainted. Her extreme economy has saved in our service $300 which I shall place at interest for her.
I confess I parted with reluctance from one who had remained so long under our roof, but all is wisely ordered for the best & Sister is gratified. We shall pick up some young girl to attend table & please God make out very well.

7 o'clock. The morning paper is just thrown in, looking for ship news I find announced the arrival of the Brig Argo 19 days from N. Orleans the Rev'd Mr Larned & others passengers, but young Master Davidson is not mentioned being included among the children I presume. . . . Last ev' Doctor Francis gave me a small parcel of medical tracts for Doc't D. w'h I will put up with some reports of the British & For. B[ible] S[ociety] Reports. I shall endeavour to make up the series . . .

After breakfast. Judge of my surprize when having concluded the preceding page, a pull of the bell, apprized me of Mr Larned's arrival. My heart was in my throat as I opened the Office door to embrace my dear little grandson, But I find he is left behind. All is right no doubt, tho' I felt disappointed. I accompanied y'r friend who looks thin but well to Mr Keese' to engage lodgings for the three ladies under his care. I had of course only a few minutes convers'n & all about you & y'r good man & children . . .

Tuesday 2d June. Mr Larned called when I was absent in the ev' & left y'r letters. Our new ignorant wench had not the understanding to ask him in tho' Mama expected him.

Wed's morn 3d June. We were disappointed in the pleasure of seeing Mr L. at Coffee. He sent a note that he was so engaged with the affair of young Mr Bayard whose story you know that he c'd not come. I hope that we may see him before he leaves town to enquire a little about y'r situation. It will be a respectful mark of attention on the part of his congregation, If the ladies as is customary, sh'd subscribe $150 & remit the same to Richard Varick, Esq't Treas'r of the American Bible S' N. Y. to constitute their respected Pastor the Rev'd S.
Larned a Director of the A. B. S. for life, make him a Director w^th will rank him among the most respect'd of his clergy. I shall not mention this hint to him, as the compliment will be greater if paid in his absence.

New York, 22d June, 1818

My beloved daughter's letter of 23d May, rec'd 20th inst. has relieved our solicitude respecting your dear children, especially my sweet little turtledove. From the tenor of her father's letter I had almost consigned her to the grave, but knowing from experience how much children will bear & how low they can be reduced by the prostrating malady of cholera & yet survive, I cherished the hope that y' letter might, as it did, convey more flattering tidings. These repeated attacks however will I fear exhaust her delicate frame & gradually reduce her strength, unless kind nature shall rise superior and she should outgrow the maladies incident to her youthful period. I remember full well the conversation of my dear good uncle & the physician when one night I was attacked with this severe complaint. I must have been about 7 or 8. It was in midsummer, just before day, after passing thro' a most dreadful evacuation. My uncle asked whether it were possible that I could survive or see the morning. The Doctor spoke doubtingly. I had no apprehension of death or fear of dying & seemed to wonder that anyone sh'd think me to be so ill. After the most violent drenchings, allayed probably by anodynes I felt quite refreshed & composed, and recovered so as to go to school in a week, the great object of my concern thro' fear of losing my standing in my class. I was but a delicate plant & often thought my life of very short duration & behold I am in my 60th year, with as much or better health & spirits as most of my contemporaries. . . . I tremble for the Doctor's health & hope that he has ere this provided a horse & gig to diminish his fatigue w^th will otherwise prostrate him. It is not the affair of a season to introduce the
Quarantine system w^h operates so much against mercantile despatch. Much prejudice is to be overcome & a steady perseverance in an impartial discharge of duty will eventually prove the utility of the Law, A Law which met much opposition here but w^h from experience is now so fully established that it w^d be next to impossible to repeal it. . . . I wrote M^rs Pintard of the rec^t of the Doctors dft for $150, which has been paid. She requests me to keep it until her coming to town w^h may be this week, when I presume the mantuamaker & milliner will benefit of the greater proportion. My dear good uncle has left her an annuity of $250, during her widowhood, payable on a fixed day half yearly. This will always keep her from want as she may board for less than that sum in the country. So that she will not be quite destitute. . . . I saw Miss Prevost yest^ at Church. What has caused her return? Her father has not yet got back, nor will not probably. If wise & obtainable he ought to stay in S^o America in some public character. He wants not talents but application & he cannot condescend to plod for an honest living. There are some characters too lofty, in their own esteem, to submit to vulgar rules of industry & economy. Too proud to labour, they will stoop however to receive pecuniary obligations & to leave their offspring dependent on others. Of all degradations this last is the lowest and I w^d sooner clean a kennel than not maintain by my own personal labour the children with w^h God has blessed me. There are different modes & opinions however of Independence. Some are too proud to work & others too proud to live without work. . . .

Tuesday [June] 23^d . . . . . . . . . .
I observe a Medical Society is instituted in N[ew] O[r-leans]. Is he 5 a member? The officers all appear to be French. This looks somewhat exclusive. I will thank him, in return for such documents as I transmit to send me, by sea, & when convenient such reports & pamphlets as may be published in y^t city, for our His. S^c. We are

5 Doctor Davidson.
progressing at a great rate & at some future day I will narrate the events that have recently occurred. . . . The removal of Tamar, unkind & ungracious as she latterly was, is still felt, as we are not yet fixed in the domestic line. Nor is our habitation yet cleaned, Mama being disappointed in her work people, who do not come till Thur\textsuperscript{2}, perhaps not this week. Such is the demand for help in this wonderfully progressive city, that no reliance can be placed on hirelings in any walk. It is said that 2000 new buildings are erecting, w\textsuperscript{h} I believe for they appear to be springing up in all directions & some of them very fine structures. Our Canal is progressive & I hope to see the junction of the latter & the Hudson. I once contemplated an Agency in this great enterprize. But new Kings have arisen that know not Joseph. All is for the best no doubt. I believe I told you that Gov\textsuperscript{r} Clinton had a fall last winter that dislocated one of his knees. He still goes on crutches & some apprehend that he will never recover. But he thinks otherwise himself. He will not be able to visit this city this year in all probability. I sh\textsuperscript{d} like to pay him a visit, if practicable.

Wed\textsuperscript{2} 24\textsuperscript{th} June. . . . . . . . . . . . . .

I know not whether I told you that the Rev\textsuperscript{a} Mr Bayards youngest child, a daughter was troubled with a tumor in the upper lip. He has been in town, at her cousin Mr Rutgers' a fortnight. Doctor Post has performed the operation of cutting it out, very skilfully & the incision is healing without disfiguring the lip. They return this week. Madam is a true parsons wife, looking forward to her fourth child. . . . The Rector's income is only $1000 & he provides his own house, but fuel in part is furnished. This is a slender stipend without great economy, a hard word, to w\textsuperscript{h} his partner has not been accustomed. W\textsuperscript{d} you believe it, the whitewashers have just this day begun to clean, Mama not being able to get them before. Luckily the weather is very temperate. Grandmama [&] Aunt Hanson are very well but live very distant, nearly as high as Duane Street in Greenwich, too long a walk for poor old Grandma at nearly 80. Aunt
Helen & family are all well . . . A line from Mr Bayard yest' informs me that Dr Smith is quite indisposed, which I presume detains Aunt Betsey. . . .

New York, 7th July, 1818

I have, from habit, little difficulty in writing. The worst is making my pen w^a is very bad generally & accounts for the illegibility of my scrawls for my eyesight impairs rapidly all but for reading. I pass my acquaintances in the street without recognition, for I dislike wearing spectacles, which have been so much in order with young gentlemen, who no doubt have fatigued their eyes by their midnight studies, that old persons, who generally do not like to betray the decay of years, are proud to draw some line of distinction & make believe, as I do, that they can see very well. But the fact with me is that the peculiarity of my vision requires convex & concave lenses, for I cannot use the latter to read with, and this renders the use of glasses awkward. I write now with spectacles, but my eyes thank God are tolerably strong, tho' I put them daily to severe proof, for I read almost incessantly the only solace of my secluded life. I have such advantages of commanding all the new publications & such a range for research that the temptation to read is irresistible—perhaps a disease. . . . I can not describe the inexpressible satisfaction w^a I derive from the attention I bestow on my theological course of reading, being amply furnished with many most valuable works. No Divine by profession can set down in pursuit of eternal truth, with higher delight than myself, when opp° permits me to open my commentators & investigate the treasures amassed by the learned Doctors of past ages, to whom all modern theologues owe obligations of which not many are sensible & fewer acknowledge. . . . I go constantly to my French Church, where I have the advantage of a fine seat an audible eloquent preacher & superior discourses. In the after-
noon at Grace Church I have only the benefit of prayers, for when Doctor Bowen preached I *never* heard him for two years past & his successor Mr Montgomery is to me equally inaudible. I shall not therefore sacrifice so much valuable time as I have done to ceremony. There may be something in setting a good example, but there is more in improving the short remainder of my time, & my Sundays are sacredly devoted to religious improvements.

The account of the taking possession of Pensacola was rec'd before your letter. I think Gen. Jackson's reasons (those no doubt of our admin*) conclusive. This event can alone restore peace & security to our southern border. I do not apprehend a war with Spain, which has enough to do with her colonies. Indeed this power is too feeble to attempt single handed a war with us w^h^ w^d^ eventuate in the absolute independence of S^o Am^a without w^h^ country the resources of old Spain are inadequate to the expenses of her Court & government. Sh^d^ England grow jealous, as there is some reason for apprehension, of our eventual possession of the Floridas, w^h^ in time of war w^d^ expose her West Indian trade to our numerous picaroons w^h^ w^d^ harrass the Gulph Stream, all along to Georgia, This power may possibly interpose & compel us by negotiation or war to yield up our late acquisition. But England may pause & chew the cud of reflection, whether she will not gain more by the arts of peace than by the unprofitable contest of "who shall do the other most harm." Our growing population must at last make poor old England succomb & wherefore fight.

Wed^y^ morn^z^ 8^th^ July. This day is to be celebrated the funeral obsequies of Gen. Richard Montgomery who fell on the 31^st^ Dec^r^ 1775, before the walls of Quebec, where [h]is bones have rested till this period. His remains arrived yest^y & will be deposited at the foot of his monument in front of St Pauls Church. Those of his aids Macpherson & Cheeseman ought to have accom-
panied his. Every pomp & circumstance of military parade is to take place & the procession, fortunately for Mama & Sister who w'd not otherwise have gone out will pass before our door in Wall Street. . . . The Washington 74, Com. Chauncy came up from Quarantine last ev'g & will fire minute guns. James Clinton who went out in her remains in the Mediterranean. He is determined to learn his trade before he returns. . . .

New York, 15th July, 1818

. . . . We have had some most oppressive days, the 11th, 12th & 13th inst. The Therm° @ 96 3 p. m. an intense oven heat without air or elasticity. Our house is Calcutta & the bed chambers excessively hot, unrefreshed by evening breezes on acco of the narrowness of the Street & loftiness of the opposite houses. For 10 years that we have resided in Wall Street, we have never passed a comfortable night in the Summer Season. It is quite a treat to visit Aunt Helen, when the walking permits, whose residence opposite the opening in the rear of the City Hall, is favoured with the Southern sea breezes. . . . I found on calling at Eastburn's bookstore this morn° that this Rev'd gentleman was still in town. . . .

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

One thing I beseech you & once for all, do not be communicative of my correspondence to him. It will entirely destroy all freedom of remark sh'd I suppose that what is always hastily written sh'd be submitted even indirectly to the strangers ear. Remember my dearest child, that the chitchat between us can only be interesting to ourselves. When I want learned discourses I have books enough to go to. When politics, the newspapers are at hand, but when I want the greatest boon the world can afford, the pleasure of a peep into yr nursery & of darlings my blessed grandchildren on my

6 On Chambers Street.
7 Sylvester Larned.
knees, your unvarnished letters afford me more happiness than all the books & newspapers in the world. My dear dear daughter, as I never expect to see you again, let me indulge my parental affection for you & your dear babes by unrestrained correspondence.

Monday 20th July. . . . I went on Thur's morn to Staten Island & breakfasted with my good friend Gov't Clinton who has come down from Albany & takes up his quarters for a few weeks at the Narrows, for the purpose of recruiting, if possible, Mrs Clinton's health. She is so far gone in a dropsy as to forbid all hope of recovery, indeed Doctor Hosack thinks she will never return to Albany. I never saw such an alteration in any person in so short a time. When I took her by the hand, the tears came into her eyes. I confess they did into mine, for I c'd not suppress my feelings. M'C. is recovering slowly, but is still obliged to use crutches, he will probably never have the perfect command of his left leg. No bone was broken, but the dislocation at the knee will cause rigidity that is I apprehend incurable. I went down yesth after church with Doc't Hosack & Com. Chauncey & dined with him, in a House distinct from that in w'h he resides, w'h is a small building erected during the last war for the Com's officers quarters. My protegé James Clinton sailed with Com. Chauncy. At his own request he has been transfered to the Franklin Com. Stewart & remains for another 2 years in the Meditteranean. The Com's speaks very highly of him & has been very friendly to him. He is a high tempered lad & requires strict discipline, which is not wanting aboard our Navy. He has been appointed one of his new Commodores Aids, some proof of merit. He writes a very good letter. His poor Mama observed whilst I was cheering her with his praises, that she began to be proud of her son. M'r C. did not thank me in the first instance for promoting James' wishes to go to sea. But she expressed her hearty approbation afterwards. I shall offer Mama's services to go down to Staten Island & attend M'r's C. in case her situation sh'd become more
critical. . . . Whether owing to her late heat or what, she [Louise] is greatly debilitated with an almost constant fever. . . . This has put off going into the country. I wish to get lodgings at Harlem, where I can go out on Sat\textsuperscript{v} ev\textsuperscript{g} & return early on Monday. I know not whether they or myself will visit Princeton this year. M\textsuperscript{r} Bayard has so many family connections constantly coming & going, that there is scarcely room for us. . . .

Wed\textsuperscript{v} 22\textsuperscript{d} July. A large party goes down to Staten Island this day to give a Turtle dinner to the Governor. I intended being one, but am oppressed with a severe cold & fever w\textsuperscript{h} I took by getting wet thro' on Sat\textsuperscript{v} ev\textsuperscript{g}, coming down from seeing M\textsuperscript{r}n Rush \textsuperscript{8} & her daughter M\textsuperscript{r}n Cuthbert just arrived from England, from Washington Hall. I experienced no inconvenience till Monday & yest\textsuperscript{v} was much indisposed. Last night I took some magnesia w\textsuperscript{h} has operated favourably. Still at this critical season I will not expose myself to any unusual excitement. Besides the difficulty of hearing unfit me for large companies. The party is numerous 200. The day is remarkably fine & I wish them all pleasure & happiness. club \$2. w\textsuperscript{h} the Doctor will consider very moderate for a Governors entertainment. But it is a kind of morning [?] party where every thing is laid in by the wholesale & no extra frippery of creams ice jellies &c. a sheer turtle feast, hard eating & harder drinking. The party leaves town at 12, in a steam boat & returns at 7. The accommodations of this mode of conveyance is astonishing. . . .

N York, 29\textsuperscript{th} July, 1818. Wed\textsuperscript{v} A. M.

At last my beloved daughter, we have been honoured by a visit from y\textsuperscript{r} Rev\textsuperscript{d} friend M\textsuperscript{r} Larned. He called & took tea with Mama & Sister last evening. . . . He re-

\textsuperscript{8} Mrs. Benjamin Rush (Julia Stockton) and her daughter, Mrs. Ross Cuthbert (Anne Emily Rush). L. A. Biddle, Dr. Benjamin Rush . . . also . . A Short History of the Rush Family in Pennsylvania (1905).
mained in town a week & ret'd with y'r Aunt Betsey to Princeton. . . . He has been much occupied with making a contract for building his church w'h he has accomplished for the very moderate sum of $31,000. The Master Builder, a Massachusetts man is to go out with all the materials & workmen & will I dare say accomplish the contract w'h if faithfully executed will leave but little profit behind, in w'h case he will be entitled to some extra compensation. Your friend appears to be a very frank open hearted man of strong intellectual powers, & I dare say, applauded as he is, of handsome professional attainments. One proof of vigorous mind & independence is, that he is void of affectation & is exceedingly candid. I think your city has a great acquisition in him, & your family particularly. But do not calculate on his long residence. If I augur right his talents will command the first offers in the gift of his denomination, and I shall not be surprised if that offer comes from this city. The present incumbent in Wall Street Church (these Presbyterians are so afraid of Saints that they are obliged to name their Churches after Streets) M'r Whelply, is very unpopular & uneasy with his congregation, so much so that it is probable he will be obliged to retreat. This is the oldest & most respectable Presby't Church in this State. The congreg'n opulent & will command the first talents. M'r L. preaches there next Sunday, or Sabbath, in their dialect, & will I presume make a favourable impression. . . . It is our Sacrament Sunday, in the afternoon, if not too oppressively hot, we will go & hear y'r Rev'd friend. I like him for his frankness. . . . The Presbyterians, since D'r Masons day, affect to despise the clerical costume & go like evry day men into the pulpit. Another generation sh'd their system continue, they will in warm weather pull off their garments & stripped to the elbows buffet Satan like gladiators. They are mistaken in thus lessening their own dignity. A few extraordinary minds may rise superior to vulgar restraints, But the mass, like the privileged orders must, to com-
mand respect hedge themselves within the magic circle of awe & reverence.

The middle of August, when it will be convenient to receive them, Harvest being over, Mama & Sister propose paying their long intended visit to Cousin Sammy Pintard at Monmouth. One of the many Steam Boats w'h accommodate intercourse goes twice a week to Monmouth point, so that the difficult of water passage is removed. This excursion will I hope prove beneficial to the health of Mama & Sister. Grandmama & Aunt Hanson have removed to Aunt Helens where I hope they will be happy, & more easily attended in case of sickness than at strange lodgings. My friend Governor Clinton has been obliged to remove from Staten Island & to take lodgings near the city. M'^rs Clinton's case is so critical as to require daily visits. Her end is approaching.

Monday, 3d Aug. On Friday ev'^s M'^rs Clinton died at Mount Vernon, 4 miles from the city & was interred on Sat'^. Yest'^, Sunday, afternoon I went out to see my respected friend, who is recovering very slowly, indeed I perceive no progress tho' he thinks he gains strength. He has four sons & two daughters. Charles the eldest has just taken his degree at Union College & will make a fine man. He is to study law. I think I told you that my protegé James remains behind in the Mediterranean & will I have no doubt make a distinguished seaman. Yest'^ morn'^ was Sacramento Sunday. Your Sister accompanied me to the Altar, Mama being too weak to endure the extreme heat w'h all last week has oppressed us. Besides the usual services w'h are very long, our new Rector M'^ Montgomery was inducted by Bishop Hobart. We did not get from Church till past 2. I was almost suffocated with heat & tho' I live almost as abstemious as a hermit, I am subject to violent rushes of the blood into my head with vertiginous affection, for w'h another season, if as bad, I must get bled. Mama & Sister went in the afternoon to hear Mr Larned & returned quite gratified.

I find from his remarks that Marsden has thrown my
poor namesake into the back ground. I hope not in y'r affection. Eliza I trust will readily acquire French & it is all important that the Boys sh'd learn it as early as possible. The wide field for commercial enterprize w'h is presented to N. Orleans by the settlement & cultivation of the upper western countries, holds for such flattering prospects for the establishment of y'r boys if their lives be spared that you cannot be too anxious to give them the French & Spanish languages, as a sure basis for their future success. . . . The knowledge of French & Spanish however is of immense importance to a mercantile man. The future resources for enterprize, w'h the eventual Independence of S'o America is opening presents a field for the rising generation which will employ your young folks to great advantage. Should their lives be spared they will see a canal that crossing the Isthmus of Darien will interlock the Pacific with the Atlantic & operate as great a change in the commercial world, probably, as the discovery of a passage to India round the Cape of Good Hope. . . .

Wed'r 5th Aug. . . . . . . .

We have been much plagued with domestics, having only a little black girl, very smart & cleanly, but whose stay depends on the caprice of her mother & she may be taken away at a moment. How much the comfort of existence depends on domestics. Mama will dispense with other assistance until after her jaunt. I can in her absence eat at some lodging house w'h is better than to expose the house to a stranger. Sister is quite clever, but she does not look hearty tho' her spirits are very good. It is toilsome but attention to housework agrees with y'r Mama who enjoys better health than when she was so sedentary. The excessive high price of houses in any favourable street almost makes me despair of being able to purchase one to our liking & we must have patience I fear another year. . . .
LETTERS FROM JOHN PINTARD

New York, 17th Aug', 1818. Monday

Your favour my dearest daughter of 14th July by Mr. Foote was rec'd 6th inst. . . . The long expected excursion has at length taken place & Oyster bay, on the north side of L. Island about 30 miles distance is the retreat that has been chosen. Lodgings in a private family have been obtained at $4 a week each, w'h is very reasonable. Mama & Sister were attended by their nephew & cousin John P. Brasher. . . . Mama was to have gone the preceding Tuesday, but the difficulty of leaving me totally alone prevented. This embarrassment has been removed, by prevailing on Marianne Brower, daughter of Mrs. Brower who sews for us, to come & keep house for me, leaving the little servant girl Betty, who is very nice & handy to make Fires, hang on the teakettle &c. All is ordered for the best, and it was lucky for me that Mama was home, for on Thur's morn' early, faithful Benjamin came to town to inform me that my poor Cousin Lewis had breathed his last on Wed's 3 p. m. & I had to make arrangements for his interment w'h took place at 6 on Thur's in our family vault. I sh'd have felt gloomy all alone. The decease of my unhappy kinsman & once dear brother was an event rather to be wished than otherwise. He had led a miserable life ever since his imprudent marriage with a low minded vulgar artful widow, who drew him into her toils & abused his confidence. She had the address to secure by will all that remained of waste & riotous profusion. He has not left a cent to any of his family. . . . Thus Mamas being disappointed was fortunate, again, on Friday. Aunt Patty & all her family, stopped on their return from Rockaway, and altho' they did not dine, still they refreshed themselves with cracker, smoke beef &c. As they left town in the Staten Island steamboat, a new road to Phil', at 2, I sh'd very awkwardly have paid my attentions had I been alone. Mr. Foote very kindly called the morn' after his arrival with y'r letter, & altho'

9 Lewis Searle Pintard, son of Captain Samuel and Abigail (Stockton) Pintard.
going to Connect the next day, took tea with us & told us as much or more about you & family, short as his visit to you was, as y'r Larned friend.

Tuesday [August] 18th

On Sunday Miss Brower went to her Mother & Betty also. I went to Church A. M., eat my bread & butter & saucisson for dinner, read the Evening service of our Church & a Sermon, for I did not like to expose the house all alone, took tea with Aunt Helen Grandma & Aunt Hanson, & all returned in the Evening. Mr Craig has purchased an unexpired lease of a neat small house in the Bowery, short 2 miles from town where he goes in Septem'. This distance will render intercourse difficult & cut off the only visiting place Mama & Sister have. We alternately take tea every week besides occasional calls. Never was a young female more secluded than y'r Sister. Not a single friend or acquaintance, as visitors, in this place. How many miseries does early misfortune entail on a man & his family. When Mr Foote returns I will see how he is to take charge of y'r hat. . . . The Hats in fashion are monsters, as I presume you see in y'r city. It seems as tho' the present mode is the most awkward & frightful I ever saw. But still you shall have a most fashionable bonnet.

N York, 31st August, 1818

. . . . I am much gratified with the Doctors recent appointment as Physician of the State prison. It is a proof, at least, of the Governor's friendship and I trust of his rising in estimation.

Tuesday 1st Sept'. The beginning of the month brings about the various duties I have to perform. This day at 1, I attend the Chamber of Commerce. Thur 4 P. M. the Am. Bib. So. Friday 4 P. M. Trustees of the Free School. Saturday 5, Acad of Arts. Tuesday next P. M. Hist. So. Thur Ev Lit & Phil. Every
Monday for 2 months at ½ past 3 P. M. I have to attend as Trustee of the Free School, on the Committee for admitting scholars. On Thurs\textsuperscript{r} 3 p. m. weekly for the same time, visit the School to examine the progress of the Scholars. These are allotted duties, besides various Committees arising out of these several Societies. All which occupy at least four afternoons weekly. Were it not for my early rising I would never get along. But this confirmed habit gives me great advantage in the economy of time. I have risen not later than ½ past 5, the whole season, & when fatigued go to roost at 9, usually 10. It is with difficulty that I can command about 3 hours reading except Sundays when the whole intervals of service are applied, chiefly to Theological subjects. So that I make out to keep up with the new publications, tho' old authors are my delight. I have been much engaged for the last 12 months with the period of the Reformation & have perused the biographies of Luther, Melancthon, Calvin, Knox, Ridley, Cranmer &c. & am now reading Jones Hist\textsuperscript{r} of the Waldenses, after w\textsuperscript{h} I shall take up a course on the Catholic Question, Chillingworth, &c. to refresh or rather inform my self on the corruptions of the Church of Rome & the protestant faith, of all w\textsuperscript{h} I have a tolerable tho' not profound knowledge. Modern Voyages & travels are my episodes, and I am quite at home in Greenland & the N\textdegree Pole, prepared for the accounts of the present exped\textsuperscript{a} from England to explore the Arctic seas.

On Sunday I dined with my good friend Gov. Clinton with Dr Hosack a tete a tete party w\textsuperscript{h} is my delight. He is mending slowly, begins to stand on his foot and will gradually recover its use. He goes this morn\textsuperscript{z} at 9 to Albany, will visit Utica to see the progress of the Grand Canal, w\textsuperscript{h} proceeds with great expedition. In 8 years more, barring the interruption of a war or any general calamity, this stupendous enterprize will be completed and immortalize the name of Clinton. I once flattered myself with an agency in this business. But perhaps I am better off. The death of Gouv\textsuperscript{r} Morris Esq.
removed my best friend on this subject. Whatever is is right. The Governor will return in Octo' & pass a month or two in town. At the City Hotel he purposes to take up his quarters where he will be a little more accessible. We are instituting a literary Club, not to exceed a dozen to meet every Sat' at 4. dinner Salt Fish & Beef Stakes, Glass of Ale & ½ pint a Wine Club—probably $1.50, where we can talk over subjects of Lit'y & national importance & enjoy at least myself who am excluded from all dinner parties, the feast of reason & the flow of soul. We anticipate much pleasure in the association & shall commence the middle of October. The famous Lancaster, who perfected the System of education that goes by his name, arrived in this city from England last week. He gave an introductory Lecture, at the Free School, which I attended in the evening. I was introduced to him in the Committee room, in the afternoon. I expected to have seen a tall, lank lean worn out pedagogue, instead of w'h I met full blown beer drinking Briton whose rosy cheeks & amplitude does credit to John Bull. He is a Quaker, polish & very pleasant. He is wonderfully active, proceeds with Gov. Clinton to Albany to visit the Lancaster School there, & will make an excursion westward to Niagara. return in Novem'r pass the winter & give a course of Lectures on his System in this city, which will no doubt afford us many useful hints. An Instructor 10 of the first character has also just arrived to take charge of our Schools, for we have 3 & are preparing to build a fourth. We expect to educate young men purposely to follow the profession of teachers to send to every part of the U States, and I hope that the Doctor will be instrumental in promoting the Lancaster System in N. Orleans. The principles are simple & children learn faster & with more delight than under the old plan. . . . I am purchasing from Mr Eastburn, bookseller, the Paris edition of Humbold[t] & some other splendid works, for our Hist. So. being part of du-

10 Charles Picton. (Wm. O. Bourne, History of the Public School Society of the City of New York (N. Y., 1870), p. 31.)
plicates sent out for M'r Fromentin, Your Senator, whose collection of Books, if correspondent with the present, does honour to his taste & surpasses any thing I have ever seen imported for a private Library. It is a luxury even to look at his books. Here I feel & lament my poverty. But all is right.

Wednesday 2d Sept'. Yest' Mama & Sister went to N Rochelle to see whether some books & other articles that had been left with your uncle Lewis cannot be recovered, as likewise whether his relict will dispose of some parts of our family plate to us. . . . M'r Bayard has gone up this morn' in expectation of effecting some compromise respecting the estate. But the will of his father was so vaguely drawn by M'r Boudinot, as to leave no chance in my opinion, nor is the property worth contesting. M'r Foote called last evening. He has got into trouble respecting the black boy sent out by M'r Hackley & the Doctor. The owners have served a writ on him for $700 damages for the detention of the vessel, with his brother I am to be his bail, a thing I had absolutely disclaimed since my being injured by Doctor Brown who left me in the lurch for $500, But as the circumstance arises on account of y' husband I could not decline. M'r F. will of course recover from him whatever he may be obliged to pay by sentence of court here, consequently the Doctor must take measures to recover from the Exec'rs of M'r H. who however will I fear leave him in the gap. . . .

N York, Monday 14th Sept, 1818

. . . . I mentioned in my last, I think, that Mama, with Sister, had gone to N Rochelle to obtain some books, & to endeavour to purchase part of the family plate from y' uncle's widow. She gave Mama a kind reception restored the books but as M'r Bayard has determined to contest the validity of the will she could not sell any thing. Her resentments are very strong ag' M'r B. who was no favourite with y' poor uncle. He went
to N R. when Mama was there & called just the very
day that she dined with Mrs P. who thought the coinci-
dence designed, w'h it was not. The result I think very
doubtful & she will not listen, as she ought, to any com-
promise however liberal. She gave Mama the picture
of the King of Prussia w'h has been shamefully injured.
You may possibly remember it. The effigies is entirely
composed of penmanship & contains the 1. 2d Epistle of
Popes mostly legibly tho' some of the writing requires
almost a microscope to see the letters. The history of
it is this. Uncle Captain Pintard belonged to the 25th
Reg't commanded by Lord Down 11 with whom he was a
favourite being at the time young & a Lieut. His Lord-
ship had acted as Umpire in a difference between two
gentlemen w'h he settled, One of whom presented him
with this singular production of penmanship, w'h had
been three years in executing. Too lofty to receive &
unwilling to decline a favour he accepted it & presented
it to uncle. It is a very singular & valuable curiosity &
'w'h I rejoice has been rescued as a family relic. Mama
has the promise in case of any disposal of the plate to
have a preference.

Tuesday morn^ 15th. I am just returned from break-
fasting at Doctor Hosacks, in comp'y with a Mr Harts-
horn a substantial Quaker of Monmouth Co. N. Jersey.
His ancestor purchased Sandy Hook of the Proprietors
of N. J. somewhat about 150 years ago for $10. Ten
Dollars. The U'd States a few years ago bought it for
public use & paid the present proprietor, the gent'n with
whom I was in company $20,000. What an advance on
the original cost. On this barren sand beach stands the
Ligation House & Fort to protect it. Similar results will
follow fortunate location's in the western wilds. We
are getting up a club of 6 to 9 who are to meetï every
Sat'y ev' probably at each others houses, a converzazione,

11 Sic. According to the British Army Lists, William Earl Home
was colonel of the 25th Regiment of Foot when Samuel Pintard became
ensign and lieutenant, and he was succeeded in 1761 by Colonel Sir
Henry Erskine.
to promote useful objects. When matured, I will give the outline w^h may be adopted by the Doctor & will be beneficial to him. In these associations the various hints & projects for the benefit of Society can be discussed improved & converted to the best interests of the community. The refreshment to prevent a competition of luxury, will be limited to Coffee, sliced Tongue, Sausisson, a pickled Oyster, Wine & porter, with Segars. Sh^d this attempt succeed, it will be the first club that I shall have belonged to since my return to the city, 17 years, & will probably continue during my remaining days, to take place only in the cool period of the year. On Sunday after noon we went to take tea with Aunt Helen, who removed as I told you, to a neat little box, 2 miles from town. They got in on Sat^ & are very comfortably fixed. But the distance will in winter cut off all social intercourse, w^h I extremely regret, for tea visits were constantly interchanged weekly, besides occasional calls. This will occasion to Mama & Sister a greater seclusion than ever I fear. Not having walked so far, during the extreme heat, I find that my locomotive powers are not so agile as heretofore. It required 45 minutes, the distance being 2¼ miles from my door, but as the season grows cooler, I shall reach the goal in 40 minutes—a pleasant walk. I was surprised to see the number of houses that have sprung up in the suburbs this summer, nor is the spirit of improvement confined to this city. All accounts from the interior of the State speak of the rapid progress of settlements. But the grand canal seems to challenge the admiration of every visitor to the Falls of Niagara w^h has become a fashionable place of resort. A position, called the Table rock, w^h afforded a favourable view, lately gave way & a large part fell into the abyss, 200 feet below. A young lady who with a party had stood on the spot, the very day before, on going to view the scene, the day after, fainted at the idea of the imminent hazard she had escaped. Governor Clinton has gone to Utica to see the progress of the canal & he is going also to attend the annual meetings of several
agricultural Societies & a great cattle show that is to take place in that quarter in October. I dwell with pleasure on every thing relating to the improvement & aggrandizement of our State. Our literary institutions do not languish & I trust that next winter we may derive some public patronage, to secure the funds. We are endeavouring to get the U States to take from this State the Land & Fortifications erected thereon at Staten island, whereon $300,000 have been expended. Should we succeed in this negotiation, the means will be afforded of cherishing our various societies medical, scientific & literary. I shall never lose sight of this object whilst I have breath & by constant & reiterated applications we must & shall succeed.

New York, Monday 28th Sept. 1818. 7 A. M.

.... This morning at 11, Mama & Sister leave me for Princeton, to attend commencement. Mama goes very reluctantly on account of leaving the house to my negligence & the care of a strange young woman, who she brought from N Rochelle . . . Our little black girl Betty, was yesterday taken away by her parents altho' Mama had consented to pay the extravagant wages of $3 a month for her services, being only 11 years. For this Pain however at Mamas return, a substitute can be obtained, & we are well rid of a child who was subject to the control of a capricious cross grained mother whom nothing could satisfy. She expressed an expectation that her child sh'd be sent daily to school & have presents in the bargain, as many such places of indulgence are to be found, in w'h she will find herself mistaken. I mention this to show the perplexity & derangement we have been all summer. Tamar has acted ungratefully to say the least. But she was of a stubborn sullen disposition & her child Nancy a young artful thief, destined to misery, for her mother w'd exercise no discipline over her, a folly w'h she will probably live to repent.
After breakfast. This is a very fine day & Mama & Sister will have a pleasant time I hope. Mr. Foote was to have gone with them, but unluckily he has engaged his seat in the line w^h goes by Elizabethtown at 10. Mama goes by way of Brunswick at 11 & will get into Princeton about 7. Mr. Foote is on his way home by Pittsburgh & says that he expects to visit you at New Year. He is a good sincere plain man, a zealous Episcopalian & crosses over to Burlington in hopes of seeing young Mr. M^Ilvaine, who takes orders this fall, & to induce him to go to Natchez, where he will see Mr. John Griffith, son of my friend Judge G., with other acquaintances, & where a favourable prospect presents of forming an Episcopal congregation. With respect to your Hat, Sister desires me to tell you that the ladies wear the identical Leghorns sent you, & as a smart hat, she wears the same she got when yours was. In this case, if not satisfied, you had better suit y^self at N. Orleans, where I shd suppose the price cannot be more extravagant than here from $10 to $30 according to the quality. Yesterday morning I attended the funeral of Mrs. Seaman 12 daughter of Mr. Livingston formerly Kortright, who died at Oyster bay, where she lived, just settled in a beautiful house where Mama called to see her mother. She had just lain in with her fourth child, recovered was taken with an intermittent w^h terminated in a typhus fever. She was young & beautiful only 24 years. I met her grandfather Mr. Edmund Seaman as I came off the battery this morning who doted on her, & told me that her decease was so sudden that the account & corpse reached him at the same time & quite overpowered him. Her Mother was fortunately with her. There are two instances of mortality in this family within a few months, Judge Livingston having lost his oldest

12 Mrs. Billopp B. Seaman (Hester Mary Kortright), daughter of Captain John Kortright and Catherine Seaman. Her mother's second husband was Judge (Henry) Brockholst Livingston (1757-1823). Her father, Captain John Kortright (died 1810), was a first cousin of Mrs. John Pintard. Mary Thomas Seaman, The Seaman Family in America (1928), pp. 103-4, 151-2.
son, of the same age, who had gone on a visit to his sister, settled in Jamaica, W. Indies.

TO HIS DAUGHTER, 1818

New York, 12th Octo. 1818

Mr. Larned called just as I had prepared this sheet to write on, to take leave & ask my commands. He goes to Princeton this morning stays one day & then proceeds direct for Pittsburgh. After Mamas & Sister's visit to Princeton, they went across the country to pay their long promised visit to my Cousin Samuel. Owing to ignorance of the road & late setting out, they were benighted, & did not reach their place of destination till next (Sunday) morning. Cousin Patty took them in her carriage. Tomorrow p. m. I expect to go to Newark to visit Doctor Boudinot & Cousin Bradford who arrived there on Thurs from Burlington. This is a wonderful excursion, considering how very low this venerable old gentleman was a year ago. My good friend Elisha is verging towards the grave. I went to Aunt Craig's yest & took tea. Poor old Grandmama was in town week before last & going down Chambers Street, missed her step, rising the curb stone, fell on her face & receive a most violent jar & contusion. She is recovering, but the accident might have proved fatal. She came to town to take leave of a family relation, Mr. Simon Schermerhorn, who died shortly after & was buried last Monday. This makes the 6th family relation wth has died within 1 year.

Tuesday 13th. Mama & Sister returned safe yest at 1. She passed a week with my Cousin Samuel, who has no children. His wife has a fine estate, but is very penurious. On Sunday she came down to Shrewsbury, to the place of my ancestors now owned by my namesake

13 Robert C. Livingston, who died June 28, 1818, aged 24 years. N. Y. Eve. Post, Aug. 14, 1818. His sister Eliza was married to Jasper Hall Livingston, of Jamaica, West Indies. Lawrence, Colonial Families of America (N. Y., 1932), XI, 43, 47.
who has been a seafaring man, very kind & hospitable & rejoiced to see his kinsfolks. He has two boys William & Marsden, & two daughters. Mama & Sister are delighted with the family & the situation is beautifully romantic, bounded by a river and Monmouth bay, which lies west of Sandy Hook. She brought home with her a young girl Susan whom she hires at $2. a month & who is very handy, about 14. We have been tormented about domestics, But I hope the white woman Sophia who appears very domestic, will be contented to remain in w^h case Mama will be quite comfortably accommodated.

Friday, 16th Oct. . . Mama as I told you arrived on Monday. On Tuesday morn^ she concluded to go to N Rochelle & make one more attempt to redeem my poor Cousin Lewis' plate & preserve it in the family. Mrs Pintard had succeeded in establishing the will & to act as sole Executrix. She was selling off the personal effects, no time was to be lost & Mama altho' it blew almost a hurricane set off at 1 & returned on Wed^ morn^ without accomplishing any thing, as this Lady is at present quite flush of money and is very fond of her family plate. She has promised however in case of selling to give Mama the refusal. . . . Our venerable relative Doctor Boudinot with Mrs Bradford came to Newark last week to see his brother Uncle Elisha who has had a slight apoplectic attack, but has recovered. I went over yest^ morn^ & passed the day with them, and dined, the first time in many many years at my old friends, who was not stuff^ well to be at table. The Doctor has so far recovered as to walk without a crutch. He cannot rise from his seat without assistance, but goes forward when up with comfort. . . . Last evening I had a long & interesting conversation with him on the subject of endowing a professorship in the Theologic^ Sem^ at Princeton. I endeavoured to obviate some plausible objections, such as, that by different appropriations to benevolent purposes of the same sum $25,000 he might render more extensive utility, of abuses that might arise
at a future day in the election of a professor to fill a chair endowed in perpetuo. I am certain my remarks made a due impression as I was totally disinterested in promoting the interests of a Seminary in w'h I c'd have no other than a general concern as relates to the great interest of Xt's without sectarian views. Were the impression w'h I think I have made opportune improved, my belief is that the endowment w'd be secured, w'h w'd perpetuate his name to the last posterity, and set a brilliant example to others to do likewise. Cousin Bradford & M's Atterbury come over tomorrow & dine with us. I have promised to take them to see Waldo's portrait of D' Boudinot an admirable likeness, a full length, which will I hope be suspended in the Theological Hall in compliment to the Endower of the Divinity professorship. We are then to go to the Acad'y of Arts to view Col. Trumbulls Historical painting for Congress of American Independence an admirable performance w'h will immortalize his name. And next to visit Vanderlyns Panorama of Paris w'h I cannot describe, not having seen, but it is said to be executed with great truth & elegance.

New York, 26th Octo. 1818

We have had quite a visitation from our country cousins. On the Saturday of my last letter, M's Bradford, M's Atterbury & her brother Elias Boudinot Junr came over from Newark. I accommodated my business so as to wait on the ladies to see Col. Trumbulls National picture of Independence, the Institution and Vanderlyns panorama of Paris a beautiful object. Sister staid home to superintend the household preparations. M's B. has been so kind that she merited every hospitable attention & Mama gave her a very handsome dinner, in her neatest style, which showed what she could do, if the means were at command. I dine out very rarely, but I go nowhere that I see, except the profusion, so much
propriety in every minute arrangement as at your mother's table. The party returned at 4, a very pleasant day. On Monday last we were unexpectedly favoured with the company of Mr. S. Cuthbert of Princeton, who staid with us till Saturday. She came to town with Mr. General Porter, late Mr. Grayson, sister of Mr. Brackenridge who was married the preceding Friday evening at Doctor Smiths. She is a beautiful woman, raised, as the Virginians say, in Kentucky. She kept her intention of a change of situation secret till within a quarter of an hour of her marriage when she requested Doctor S. to perform the ceremony. She became acquainted with Gen. P. at Washington last winter. Tho' more hard of hearing than myself, he was not blind, became enamoured with the widow & won her hand. Mama & Sister waited on them & they returned the call. The Generals home is at Black rock within 18 Miles of the Falls of Niagara. He is wealthy & a Commissioner for adjusting the Northern boundary between the United States & Canada, worth about $5000 a year. He was the rival candidate of Mr. Clinton for the Governor's chair of this state. Formerly an intimate friend but now a political foe. He is said to have been a bon vivant, but not more so I presume than what was incident to the life of a soldier & bachelor of 45. I have no doubt but that the match will be a happy one. I had a slight acquaintance with him, being introduced formerly by Mr. C. The General was formerly a zealous Federalist, but tempora mutantur. At any rate he is a very clever fellow.

Tuesday 27th Oct. There is no perfection under the Sun. We thought ourselves well provided in the domestic way, at least for this winter. The young girl which Mama brought home is tolerably handy, but heedless. Sophia, who I mentioned that Mama had accidentally met with at N Rochelle & who was all gratitude for being relieved in her destitute situation, & who con-

14 Mrs. Peter Buell Porter (Letitia Preston Breckinridge). Her first husband was Alfred William Grayson. Her brother, Joseph Cabell Breckinridge, was Dr. Samuel Stanhope Smith's son-in-law. Alexander Brown, The Cabells and Their Kin (1939), pp. 531-34.
ducted herself with signal propriety during Mama’s absence in Jersey, & indeed in every instance, left us last evening, while absent, without notice or reason. We took tea at Cousin Polly Abeels, where all are well. I returned just after dark & Susan on opening the door told me she was all alone. Sophia had been employed in making Quince Sweetmeats. At dusk she exclaimed, in the kitchen, that the Quinces were spoiled & that she never look Mrs Pintard in the face again. She instantly went & packed up her clothes, & left the house and part of her present months wages unsettled. She was very handy, lived easy, was growing hearty & then absconded to our regret & surprize. Mama ret’d at 9 & went with me to her sisters at service also. She was not there, or denied. Her sister is to call this evening, but I do not expect after this French leave, that Sophia will return. It is vexatious in the extreme to part thus without cause of umbrage, & just when she had become acquainted with our habits. The difficulty of supplying her place is more than you can well imagine.

We have had & still enjoy a very fine October. It is warm & very dry. The forests on each side the Hudson, in the Highlands are said to have taken fire and burning with inextinguishable fury, a great loss to the owners of the woods as well as future injury to our city, probably owing to the carelessness of sportsmen, who for the sake of game set the world in flames.

Wed 28th Oct. . . . I attended last ev’g the anniv’g meeting of the Society for the extinction of pauperism when the Report which will be published was read. The city is divided into districts & committees are app’d to call on every family to enquire into the condition of domestics & among the lower classes their means of support. The intention of this Society is not to afford alms but labour, so that there shall be no pretext for idleness, to give the means of occupation to the industrious, to educate their children & to expel the drones from Society. Great benefit will result from the exer-
tions of a few public spirited men, who will not only relieve the city from a poor tax of $80,000, but meliorate the condition of the labouring community and amend their morals. I declined, from my many other avocations, being a manager last year, but am apprehensive that I was elected last ev." I feel so scrupulous about accepting any of these patriotic stations without discharging the duty, that I decline many applica^ as it is well known that my punctuality can be relied on. We are all bound to discharge the active duties of Society as well as looking to our own household.

New York, 16th Nov. 1818

Extreme pressure of official duties interfered with my writing last week, my regular turn. . . I know not when I have been more oppressed by close application than during the last 3 weeks. . . Last ev" Sunday, Gov. Clinton was to have taken Coffee with us. He went however, to L. Island on Sat" w" prevented. I had asked Cap" Riley to introduce him to Mama & Sister, who entertained us with his adventures till near 11. You may have seen his Narrative, if not it is well worth your perusal, w" will show you how much misery & destitution Man can undergo. To look at him now a stout athletic person 6 feet 1 inch well set, square & well fed & hearty—it is scarcely possible to reconcile the truth of his assertions. He is a modest unassuming pious man and I verily belief [sic] all he says of his personal sufferings. At his invitation I passed the evening, on Friday, with him & some friends, to consider the propriety of presenting Mr Willsire, who under providence was his liberator & preserver, with a peice of plate as a token of gratitude. It is concluded to raise a subscription of $5 or 600 Dollars & procure a silver Vase with emblematic devises, to be presented to Mr W. with a suita-

ble inscription, which will take effect. I have consented to serve on the Committee much as my time in engaged, as I have a high respect for Capñ R. I mentioned in my last that I had enlisted in the Society for the prevention of pauperism. At the first meeting I was placed Ch.man on the Committee of Lotteries, one of the 10 Standing Committees of the S° with instructions to report at the December meeting, and also on the special Comٍ to report on the expediency of establishing a Bank for the savings of industrious persons, a subject familiar to me. The Lotteries are however more intricate. The evils & abuses are apparent but the remedies not so, for there is no possibility of laying the ax to the root & abolishing them, & how to prevent insurance & gambling wٍ are carried to an enormous excess in this city, is beyond my present comprehension. It wٛ require some days labour to look over the existing laws & to acquire information to enable me to sketch even a tolerable practicable report. For unless the expedients to be devised are practicable we shall do nothing. Fine spun theories wٛ look so well on paper are seldom reducible to practice. We must legislate for men & not for angels and accommodate our laws to the positive existing State of Society. That is all amendments shٍ be within the bounds of possibility to execute. How to find time is my chief difficulty, for I am overpowered with duties & I perceive that an error has been committed in joining a society wٍ ought to be all life & activity to do any good. The effort however shall be made. A dreadful instance attending gambling has recently occurred in the course of the present Lottery. A collusion between some of the Managers & a Mr Judah, of wٌ accounts have appeared in the papers, to draw or not draw certain numbers on given days, by wٍ means insurances to large amounts have been successfully made. A Mr Baldwin,¹⁶ a lottery broker & printer who brought

the charge was indicted. He justified & after a trial of 3 days was acquitted most honourably, of course. Mr Sickells one of the managers is most deeply implicated. He always sustained a reputable character has been a manager of several Lotteries for many years. He is the father of Mrs Commodor Chauncy & the affair has excited great attention. The Trial when published I will forward. I am waiting its appearance to obtain full information of the nefarious practices wh have attended our lotteries, to be enabled to judge of the remedies to be devised. Another painful incident has occurred. Young Platt, the son of Col. Platt was a clerk in the Branch Bank of the U'd States in this city, a gay youth with a moderate salary, suff however to have supported him genteely. Led into expensive gambling habits, he purloined from the Trunk in the Bank notes belonging to one of his brother Clerks Mr Morton son of General M. deposited for collection, wh he negotiated with brokers. He was committed to Bridewell, a large part recovered & his Uncle's Aspinwalls, his sureties, paid their Bond for his good behaviour, & he was released from the civil action, but still detained on the criminal suit. His family connection being highly respectable an escape, undoubtedly connived at, was effected last week. His poor mother who like yours had been thrown into the shade, from the height of rank & prosperity by the misfortunes of Col. Platt, is almost broken hearted. Indeed I know not how to express the agony I experienced on the first rumour of this awful circumstance. I am thus particular, that in case this young man sh'd wander your way, you may be apprized, & act accordingly.

Tuesday, 17th. . . . It is quite October hitherto, very mild & no rain. The season is peculiarly favourable to the Building part of our city. Upwards of 200 Houses have been begun since Septem'. The growth of this place is beyond all belief. Feb' next will show whether we are not over built. The commercial world has suffered extremely from the unprecedented scarcity of money & the depression of stocks is beyond every thing
before known. I hope however that money will be plenties and that Banks will soon be more liberal in their discounts. . . . Your good friend Mrs Halliday has gone to a better world. It w^d have been a heart rending circumstance to you were you still at Pinckneyville. I shall always remember her kindness to you. Sh^d yr friend Capt Walsh have arriv^d, present my respects to him. I hope his lady & daughter will be pleased with the their new abode, and I wish his accomplished daughter a favourable & happy settlement in life. Our Atlantic world is all mad after new settlements in all directions. The Alabama country & the Floridas, when ours, are & will be very attractive. But much disappointment of visionary prospects must ensue. Were I not so far advanced I sh^d certainly migrate & get rid of the eternal duties w^h are so monotonous as almost to break down ones spirits. If Mama w^d consent I sh^d not continue longer where I am, but this is idle talk.

Wed^r 18th . . . . I was to have accompanied Gov^r Clinton & some gentlemen to view the new Assylum for lunatics now building about 6 miles on the Bloomingdale road. But the hour is too soon for me to leave my office. The recreation w^d have been agreeable very little of w^h falls to my share, but never mind. . . .

New York, 28th Nov. (Sat^r) 1818.

My letter to my beloved far distant daughter is begun thus early as on Monday & Tuesday I shall be busily engaged in closing my Dividend months accounts, which when settled, I shall enjoy some share of repose, or rather less severe office duty, until April. I shall however find no lack of employment in discharging the several obligations, w^h I have imposed, voluntarily, on myself due the benevolent Societies of w^h I have become a member. We do not abound with citizens of independent circumstances who have talents or inclination to attend to the multiplied demands on humanity & benevolence. In this respect Phil^r is more fortunate,
where a number of wealthy Quakers particularly take
an active part & devote much time to the public service
without fee or reward. Here, these duties fall oppressively
heavy on a few public spirited citizens, whose
necessities compel them like myself to *toil* for their sup-
port. We find it difficult therefore to devote much time
to committees, on whom the whole weight of the busi-
ness of these Societies devolve. A few therefore are nec-
essarily compelled to bear the whole burthen & discharge
the whole duty. We are obliged therefore to economize
our time & to subdivide our labours in order to despatch
the business of the Societies at the monthly meetings
where there is generally a great waste of time in super-
fluous debates for more come to hear themselves talk
than to work. I have been every day this week en-
gaged with Committees and will sketch a sample of my
next weeks tour. Monday 4 P. M. Com° of the pauper-
ism S° on the subject of a Savings Bank, on w° we shall
report the expediency. Tuesday 4 P. M. Committee of
the Hist° S° on the Library, on the propriety of estab-
lishing a reading room or Atheneum (inexpedient) & on
the arrangements for Monday 7° when G. C. Verplanck
is to deliver the Ann° discourse & the S° dine together,
the Festival of St Nicholas, falling on Sunday 6°. Wed°
ev° the Society for pauperism meets. Thur° 4 P. M.
Managers of the Am. Bible S°. Friday, same hour Trus-
tees of the Free School. Sat° like hour, Am. A° of the
Fine Arts. Monday noon 7° H. S. discourse. Tuesday
4 P. M. His. Society. Thur° 7 P. M. Lit° & Phil°. Fri-
day 7 P. M. Standing Com. of Bible S° besides any Com-
mittees w° may arise out of the meetings of these So-
cieties. So that a person disposed to take an active part
will not want occupation. With all this I find some 2
or 3 hours for light reading, my Sat° evenings & Sundays
being appropriated to my Theolog° researches. Tomor-
row is Advent Sunday, the commencement of *our* eccle-
siastical year, when I arrange & also commence the
regular course of my devotional readings for the year,
many of w° are devoted to the Festivals & Fasts of my
TO HIS DAUGHTER, 1818

Church. I feel so sensibly the benefit of these periodical celebrations that I regret exceed the non observance of them, by a large portion of my protestant fellow Christians.

I have had a pretty arduous task as Chairman of a Com. on Lotteries to read the late Trial, Baldwins, in this city, for a libel ag' the Managers &c. together with the existing laws on Lotteries, in order to devise some remedy against the abuses esp^ Insurances. The evils are obvious, but to regulate Lotteries with the least possible injury to the public morals, considering the prevailing appetite for desperate gambling, is almost if not quite beyond my comprehension. Some expedient must however be found to mitigate these evils. Extirpation w'd be a radical cure. But the faith of the Legislature is pledged for a number of successive lotteries, w^ drawn, the Grand Canal Commiss'^s look to them as a resource for part of the expenses of this stupendous enterprize. Thus Lotteries are entailed on us for a long succession of years. To draw only prizes & to shorten the term within one week together with providing Managers of elevated character above all seduction are among the expedients that after much deliberation occur to my mind. Our Comm'^ will report progress & ask for further time to mature their report. By the evidence in the trial of Baldwin the greatest iniquity has been disclosed & public faith shattered in the integrity of the Managers. Something must be done by the Legislature to restore this Faith & provide greater restrictions. Our city will be much indebted to the S^ for the prevention of pauperism for the correction of many abuses. My leisure hours have & will be for some time to come devoted to works on political economy, to enable me to discharge my duty with some degree of intelligence. We promise ourselves the most beneficial results from the establishm't of a Savings Bank to economize & protect the savings of domestics wages & of the humbler classes of mechanics labourers &c. The experiment has been
fairly tried in G. Britain & successfully in Boston & Phila. This alone will be a blessing to Society.

Monday, 30th Nov. A very fine morn after 3 days rain, mild for the season & favourable for completing the many new buildings not yet under cover, among the rest our new Free School 17 w'h I hope will be roofed this week, when we shall be secure against winter, and the carpenters can go on with their part of the work, so as to be completed by May. I visit the premises once a week, about 2 miles distant. You will suppose my dear child that I have very little to say that I fill up my paper with my own private concerns. It is a fact for these piping times of peace afford few subjects either for correspondence or newsmongers. Editors of newspapers are so wofully at a loss for matter that they seize with avidity on every trifling event to give novelty to their columns. A murder with all its concomitants is a grand treat. A gang of robbers or counterfeitors affords some thing to gratify curiosity. A scalded child or drowned pig are at this dull period important events. If the manufacturers of news by profession are at such a loss how much more must I be who have nothing to vary the scene but the endless topic of the rise & fall of stocks, Scarcity of money, short discounts & mercantile distresses. Were it not for my books I sh'd absolutely languish, but these afford me a never ending source of delight & improvement. Sometimes I relax my brow of care with reading Waverley & the like. These Scottish tales fascinate me beyond conception. I beguiled the evenings of my late severe laborious days with reading the Tales of my Landlord. To enjoy Old Mortality & the Brownies of [blank in MS.] I skimmed over all the Scottish hist' of Hume & some ecclesiastical writers. The novels or tales are the Romance of real life & I know not when I have so much enjoyed myself as in reading them. I identified every character, time place & incident with all the enthusiasm of a son of Scotia. All that was wanting to

17 Public School No. 4 on Rivington Street. Wm. O. Bourne, Hist. of the Public School Society, pp. 688-89.
complete the fascination was a topographical acquaintance with the wild scenes of action, w'h I could only conceive & of course felt all the insufficiency of imaginary instead of real pictures. With Scottish lore I have been long & familiarly acquainted, their songs enchant me. There is so much of nature, simplicity & domestic life in the dialogues peculiar to Scottish ballads, that one really sees the very family of father, mother & bairns all embodied & acting their several parts.

Tuesday, 1st Dec. . . . . . . . . . . . .

This afternoon Aunt Helen & Grandmama take tea with us. The day is very propitious, being more like October than the beginning of stern winter. We feel sensibly the want of intercourse in consequence of the distance between us & shall more so when winter sets in. I am mistaken if Mr. C[raig] does not regret his purchase, as he will find it very disagreeable coming to town, as he necessarily must, being one of the ward Justices, thro all sorts of weather. . . .

NEW YORK, Monday 14th Dec', 1818

. . . . Our season, here, has hitherto been remarkably mild, with little rain, the first flight of snow was on Friday night 11th & last night we had a slight sprinkle. It is still temperate but the indications of stern winter are at hand.

(Tuesday before breakfast) I am obliged to journalize my epistle or I sh'd never get along, for I cannot steal time enough to sit down & make a finish of it. Even thus early it is a chance but some one calls, who may have any business relating to the Societies with w'h I am engaged. That for the prevention of pauperism is a most important association. My main object in joining it was to promote the incorporation of a savings Bank in this city, which if accomplished will prove an incalculable benefit to the industrious. The report to the
Society was published in the Spectator \(^h\) will inform you of the principles.
I have every hope that we shall succeed in procuring an Act of Incorporation, the Bill for which engrossed all my time yester\(^y\). . . . Beg M\(^r\) Howard not to be discouraged, nor to throw my namesake in the background by calling him dunce & blockhead. The faculties develop so differently in different children \& as with Eliza so different in the same family, that one is mortified that the same precocity is not incident to all. We must distinguish between aptitude to commit to memory \& genius and never despair because one child is more tardy in acquiring his letters than another. I recollect a remarkable instance in two brothers, sons of M\(^r\) Pear-tree Smith, father of the first M\(^s\) Boudinot, as you may remember. Belcher, the eldest was his fathers favourite, who being a man of independence devoted his life to the instruction of this son, who turned out, not above mediocrity. He died a few years after the rev\[olutio\]n. Pitt (afterwards our family physician) was proverbially a blockhead, an incorrigible dunce, who at maturity shone preeminent, but premature death deprived me of a warm friend \& Society of his talents. . . .

We have little new stirring except Congressional. Public sentiment is ag\(^t\) Gen Jackson Your Hero, in the affair of Arbuthnot \& Ambrister. Tho’ I think great allowance is to be made for the peculiar state of the southern frontier \(^h\) was devastated by the instigations of these men. The impetuosity of Jacksons temper breaks out on every occasion. It \(^d\) have been better to have referred the subject to the president. But he wished to deter others by the fate of these wretched men. How superior does the character of Gen. Washington rise, when contrasted with his successors. In the most trying times of our rev\(^y\) war he never forgot humanity nor justice. But we ne’er shall look upon his like again.
To Mrs. Richard Davidson (Eliza Noel Pintard) of New Orleans

New York, Monday 11th Jan., 1819

As customary Grandmama & Aunt Helen & family dined with us on New Years day, when we drank the health of my beloved daughter, her good husband & children, about the same hour that you were I hope enjoying the festivities of the day & talking of your parents & friends.

Tuesday 12th I have told you before of my association with several highly respectable fellow citizens to meliorate the condition of the poor & to lessen the causes of abject poverty. Last evening a meeting was held, in the City Hotel, Mr Colden, Mayor presiding & Judge Livingston Sec'y to take into consideration the expediency of applying to Congress to adopt more extensive & efficacious measures to introduce among the native Indians the blessings of civilization, education & religion. The Rev'd Mr Milnor, Peter A. Jay, & Rev'd Dr M'Leod spoke very pertinently & pathetically on the occasion. A Memorial to Congress was read & approved, and it is to be hoped will be attended with good effect. It will be far cheaper, on the score of economy even, to expend money in civilizing what remains of the Aboriginals than to maintain armies to extirpate them. Surely after taking from them all this continent almost, we are bound to make them some retribution. Humanity & religion call loudly for the effort. The experiment has been tried among the Creeks & Cherokees and we may reasonably hope that by adopting judicious & conciliating plans & by sending suitable missionaries, that civili-
zation & conversion may go hand in hand & change the ferocity of the hunter state to the peaceable enjoyment of agricultural life. Our Governor’s speech will have reached you ere this. It is a luminous exposé of the state of our affairs, a highly interesting document, which has pleased all who have read it except his personal political foes, & such he has & those most envenomed & bitter. He will however I trust rise superior to a faction which to crush him w’d paralyze every public measure & effort to aggrandize this state. This is an evil which cannot be eradicated from our political system, & must be endured but kept in check by the virtuous and good who [MS. torn] not men but measures. I had the pleasure of sending this speech to his son James in the Mediteranean last week, who may be expected home next summer, sh’d the Franklin be relieved. If I am not mistaken, he will turn out a fine man, and I hope his father will have reason to thank me for being instrumental in leading him to the Navy. A report is in circulation [MS. torn] believe to be true, that Govr C. is paying his addresses to a Miss Jones, somewhat past the bloom of youth, but handsome, of a pretty personal estate, who is cousin to the family of the same name, in your quarter. The match to take place in the Spring. I am neither the confident of Mr C’s politics nor amours, but give the talk of the day, & w’n I presume to be true. Another matrimonial party however is near at hand. Your Cousin Julia Brasher is to be married on Thurs’ evening 14th inst. to a young man, Mr Weeks, in the dry good business in this city. I understand that the match is approved by her uncle Abeel who has been a father to these children. Julia is very pretty but of delicate hectic frame & has inherited from her uncle Capt Abeel a fortune of $30,000, a comfortable addition to the stock of Mr Weeks who possessed $20,000 from his father. He is prudent, young, & bids fair to be prosperous in business. Your sister is to be one of the bridesmaids, the others, sisters of Mr W. Mama is very busy making up Louise’s dresses, the first parade suit dear girl she has
ever had. On Friday the party are to go to Oyster Bay L. Island & pass a week with Mr. W's mother & return when I suppose the N. York bridesmaid must give a party to the bride. . . .

I took up my pen early & was interrupted by Dr. Francis on business relating to the election at the Hist. S° this afternoon at 4. Shortly after my Directors left me ½ p. 2 I resumed it & now at 3 a man comes to perplex me with the project to buy land at Monmouth N. J. to raise muskmelons for market two weeks earlier in the season than heretofore. I must refer him to the members of the Belly letter Society a numerous association in our city. Were I disposed to encourage every projector I sh'd have little else to do. But I am called to dinner & shall then get rid of my man.

Wed' 13th Jan' I have had to call on Dr. Francis this morn' at 7 in order to decline being nominated as Treas'r of the Lit'y & Phil'y S° tomorrow ev' as the attendance at my nieces wedding may interfere with my presence at the S°. I consider the place honourable, but, to me, it will be very troublesome as I sh'd have to open a complete set of Books & post up the duties of my predecessor hitherto only kept in a Memorandum entry. Besides I have so many other calls on my time that I must resolutely determine to curtail instead of augmenting my stations. An intrigue at the election of the Historical S° last ev' has quite chagrined me, Doctor Hosack being left out as 1st V. Pres't & Francis as Cor. Sec'y owing to medical cabals. Genus irritabile is the physicians motto. I shall gradually withdraw from the Institution, & hereafter devote what talents I may possess & time to spare to our benevolent Societies. . . .

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NEW YORK, 21st Jan', 1819

. . . . This instant I have been interrupted, before breakfast, when those of my Society friends as know my early habits & have business, call upon me. I had a bookseller, printer & a member of the His. S° all at once
before 8, who kept me engaged till called to breakfast. I must therefore break off, till the next opp° of resuming my pen. ... In old times St Class used to cross the Atlantic & brought immense supplies of cookies &c. from Amsterdam, ship loads for every house & family was visited, not only in this city, but in Albany & all the intermediate towns. ... 

Monday 25th. After a long series of cloudy obscure humid spring weather, we are favoured with sunshine & a clear sky. The season has been like April for a fortnight without snow or rain, the country suffering by drought & the city overflowing with mud, the streets almost impassible. As the contractors are not obliged to remove the tons of floating manure w'h annoy the passenger until March, & no one else can touch it, such is the law for obtaining a revenue at the expence of the health & comfort of the citizens. But a northerly wind will soon dry our pavements. Sister returned at 7 on Saty evening from the excursion of the Bride to visit her new connections the mother & family of Mr Weeks at Oyster bay. But I ought to commence with the wedding w'h took place on Thursy ev° 14th inst, the ceremony performed by the Rev'd Mr Cooper ¹ Senior Minister of the Dutch Church. There were three Bridesmaid Miss Weeks, sister of the groom, a Miss Strong cousin, & yr sister cousin of the Bride, who was dressed the neatest & in my eye looked the best of the party. The company was assembled in the drawing room upstairs & at 8 the nuptial coterie entered. Your cousin shrank to anatomy & with the groom appeared like two children at a juvenile ball. I was obliged to retire immed'y after the ceremony to attend the annual election for officers of the Lit. & Phil° So where an intrigue, as in the Historical So was intended to put down Hosack, w'h was frustrated. I moreover declined being candidate for the Treasurers Office as I am resolved to divest myself of these barren honours & propose at the next meet-

¹ Geradus A. Kuypers.
ing of the Historical to resign the office of Rec. Sec. provided there be a probability of electing D’ Francis, who by the way was chosen Cor. Sec. of the Philo S 0 an honourable station, w h affords some balance for the ingratitude of the Historical. It is 13 years since the establishment of this S 0 during w h period I have performed the humble tho’ essential duties of Rec. Sec. I shall retain for this year & longer if not too irksome the office of Treasurer, w h few will covet. But I am straying from the wedding. Mama & Sister returned before 11. Next morning the party set off for Oyster bay where they remained till Saturday & returned late. Unluckily the Miss Strongs had their trunk, containing all their finery stolen in the entry of their House immed after its being delivered safe. Sister, partaking of Mama’s prudence, held hers by the handle at the Steamboat wharf, & rejoices that the misfortune did not fall to her lot. This is the first time that y’ Sister has ever been from under Mama’s wing. She is quite elated with her excursion, tho’ evidently harrased with the round of frolic that is more peculiar to the country than city. To day the Bride sees company. Modern custom has substituted morn for evening visits, not to interfere with Balls Theatres Concerts & private parties w h abound in proportion to the pecuniary embarrassments of the country. Three days are allotted to this formality after which the Bridesmaids are to give parties I presume. I know not whether I can overcome y’ Sisters reluctance to writing, but shall endeavour to prevail on her to give a description of her debut poor girl, on this occasion, a topic to which I am inadequate. It will serve moreover to relieve a little the monotony of my sombrous epistles. At sixty I look back with astonishment on those scenes w h once constituted my delight & am surprized at the apathy with w h I contemplate the frolics of youth. Probably from long seclusion & abstraction from the gay world I have prematurely lost my zest for these pleasures & amusements. Indeed I feel very indifferent even for promiscuous dinner parties owing in no small degree
to my increasing deafness. One feels very awkward in a large circle when spoken to not to understand what is said or know how to reply. I am more sensible of my deficiency in my attendance on the several societies of wh I am a member, not hearing distinctly or with satisfaction the debates on important subjects, & losing thereby much information. But this is one of the three warnings, diminution of sight is another & when I begin to halt, I shall look for the arrival of old Dobson unwelcome visitor Death. May I be ready to attend his awful summons.

New York, 20th Feb^r, 1819. Saturday 7 A. M.

... I received this week, on returning home one ev^r the Doctor's Letter by Cap^t Riley, but have seen nor heard nothing of the Box for our learned Doctor Mitchill, perhaps Cap^t R. has sent it to him direct. I sh^d be sorry if it sh^d meet the fate of the former package by M^r Holliday. ... You mention that you were about accommodating a young gentleman (M^r Townsend) who had gone to y^r city to reestablish his health, pulmonary affection I presume is his malady. It occurs to me that it w^d prove beneficial to take persons as boarders who may visit your city in the winter to escape the rigour of our northern climate. With suitable domestic aid & accommodations w^d not this be profitable. To be the intimate of a physicians family where attention to regimen & the benefit of medical advice & aid always at hand would command adequate & liberal compensation.

Our city is all in arms for the reception of General Jackson the Hero of N. Orleans. I will postpone until Monday the account of the honourable distinctions prepared by our Corporation & Citizens for this distinguished Chief, for preeminent he is notwithstanding some unlucky mistakes & entrenchments on civil authority, always to be dreaded in a popular government.
But his glorious achievements at N. O. mantle a multitude of sins. It is to be regretted that an impetuous hasty constitution has tarnished his laurels. How superlatively high stands the immortal Washington on the pinnacle of the Temple of Fame. The example of both these illustrious Chiefs will serve as an Excitement & a Beacon to future Commanders. We are reluctantly obliged to qualify the praises due to Jackson, least future Generals should trample on the liberties of our country. Republics have always fallen sacrifices to the aspiring ambition of Military Heroes, usurping power, & riding triumphant on the back of malcontent demagogues.

Monday 22d Feb. Washingtons Birthday, 88 years. I will not anticipate the order of the day, further than that Mama & Sister intend going to the Military ball this evening. I took tea with D'Hosack last evg & was much gratified when he informed me that he had perused with great pleasure Dr Davidson's statement of Mr Dummer's case, at present in the Lunatic Asylum, of w D'H. is physician. He said that it was very well & neatly drawn up & evinced the talents of a physician. . . . Gen. Jackson was rec'd with great eclat on Satur'y tho' the weather was unfavourable.

Tuesday morn. 23d. I waited on Mama & Sister to the drawing room of the City Hotel last evg at 8 when they were escorted into the Assembly room by one of the Managers. As this was a military Ball given in honour of the day by Col. Murrays splendid Regt of Governor's Guards, I understood that outsiders were not permitted to be subscribers, But another arrangement took place, without my knowledge, & a large concourse of citizens, attracted by the presence of Gen. Jackson were of the party. I somewhat regret that I did not know the circumstance as in all probability I shall miss the gratification of seeing the Hero of N. Orleans. His reception in this city has been most flattering no doubt to his feelings, & that complimentary respect of taking his portrait for the City Gallery & presenting him with the freedom of the city, w takes place at noon
this day, in a gold box are instances of municipal honours superior I believe to any that has been shown elsewhere. The Box is to cost $500. Mama was introduced by Mrs Colden to the General & chatted with him. She expressed the interest that she took at the period, in the event of the siege of N. Orleans having a daughter settled in the vicinity, now at N. O. The general like a polite Soldier said he had the pleasure of being acquainted with Mrs Davidson, a compliment easily paid w'h he supposed w'd gratify y'r mother. He is very affable & easy, as indeed most military men are. The Anglo Americans of this city are excessively chagrined & mortified at the distinction paid to this illustrious Chief. I heard one of high station among us, say that he could have wished that Jackson in the military procession that escorted him from the Battery to the City Hall had appeared with the Halter which hung Arbuthnot & Ambrister, about his neck. It is excessively galling to hear such remarks w'h I c'd not help reproving for their indiscretion. I do not attempt to give any description of the Ball, decorations, supper room &c. w'h were splendid & brilliant, tho' got up on short notice. Mama & Sister will I hope write you all about it, at least I shall urge it. The papers however will contain an account of the whole. We certainly do these things very handsomely & nobly in this city. The Kentuckians will participate most cordially in the compliments paid their illustrious countrymen. I must break off to breakfast & see how the ladies do after the revels. Y'r sister danced 3 cotilions & returned with Mama 1/2 p. 12. She looked very well & Mama was very chastly attired.

Tuesday 23d 2 P. M. I have just returned from the City Hall seeing Gen'l Jackson sworn in as a citizen of this City. I had a short but distinct view of his hard features suff't to qualify me to judge of the fidelity of the Portraits of two of our artists Vanderlyne & Jarvis, the first appointed to take the picture for the Corp'n the second for himself. V. is not happy. His portraits are too stiff & minutely laboured. Jarvis executes with
spirit & is very successful in giving character to his performances. He ought to have been the artist. I am gratified at having had the opp of even a glimpse of the Hero of N. O. The ceremony took place in the Sessions Court room which was overflowing with Ladies & gent so as to throw me with my usual attention of place aux dames quite in the background. We are well stocked with a set a rude boors, who usurp every privilege without regard to sex. But I always proteet as far as possible every female & maintain their prerogatives.

N York, 15th March, 1819. Monday

Mama was so kind as to supply a letter to my beloved daughter in my behalf. Having been at the time, indisposed with a sever catarrh from w thank God I am perfectly recovered, & was much better as I noted in Mama's letter. After an unexampled mild February, Winter set in the commencement of this month with repeated heavy snow storms. The Yard of our house is almost completely filled with snow, having no avenue but thro' the house, it is impossible to discharge it into the Street. To prevent the gutter, leading thro' the cellar being choked up & obstructed, I undertook to open a passage thro' a large bank of snow, & worked hard in a drizzling rain on a wet cold pavement for two hours, which eventually brought on the cold that afflicted me. Our domestics are so viciously bad, that they will scarcely do even the small share of house work incumbent on them and to change at this period would be probably only from bad to worse. Consequently while Mama & Sister have performed every drudgery above stairs, I thought it my duty to render what services I could below, for as to hiring a labourer, one w'd have charged me a dollar for what I did myself, w however, had I anticipated the consequences, might have been better paid. At the time of my indisposition, which did not obstruct my daily attendance on my office, but w con-
fined me within doors, Mr Caldwell, Agent of the Am. Bible So was likewise taken with a severe cold that confined him to his house & prevented his attendance at the Depository. He discharged however all his duties at home, & was not considered either by his friends or physician in a critical state. After 12 days however his fever terminated his existence on Tuesday 9th inst. at 4 P. M. AE. 50. Doctor Beck sat up with him & just before 4, asking how he felt, he complained of severe pains in his lower limbs. Doctor B. adjusted his pillow, sat down & after a few minutes calling at his bedside, Mr C. without a groan or struggle to excite the least attention had breathed his last. His loss is great not to his family, for he left no children & had married some years since a rich widow,² but to the A. B. S. and it will not be easy to replace his talents as the duties of an agent are very multifarious. He was interred on Thurs' afternoon attended by the Members & Managers of the A. B. S. & a large concourse of citizens, for Mr C. had been a very useful member of So particularly of his Church. The Rev Dr Romeyn characterized him as the most intelligent layman of the Presby denomination that he ever knew, ardent in zeal acute & skilful in controversy, an important trait in a Presbyterian. It was but the Thur⁴ (4th) preceding that the Board of Managers in reorganizing the duties of the Agent, had raised his salary from $1000 to 1500 a year, a sum tho’ incompetent to his services, he considered as some reasonable compensation. This arrangement somewhat interfered with my stipend, but as the exigencies of the Depository required that the Books of Accounts should be kept there, and it was entirely incompatible with my situation to give personal attention during the hours of business, the accountant duties were transferred to the Agent, diminishing my reward $200, which met my full approbation. Good man, he did not live to enjoy the benefit

of this arrangement. The fate of this gentleman was singular. His mother was inhumanly killed, during the revolt war in 1780, when the British invaded Jersey & proceeded to Springfield, where the Rev’d Mr Caldwell, the Presbyterian Minister of Elizabethtown, lived. He was an active, zealous, influential revolutionist. While the British were in possess of Springfield a villain deliberately stepped up to the window & shot Mrs Caldwell dead, as she was sitting on the bedside surrounded by her children. A year or two after, the Rev’d Mr Caldwell was also deliberately killed by an American Soldier on guard at Eliz’town point, when he took under his protection, a Mr Barnet, returning in a Flag of truce from N York, having in his hand a small package, w’h the soldier ordered sh’d not come ashore without privilege from his officer. Mr C. presuming too far on his standing & character was stepping forward when he was instantly shot dead. The soldier was tried & acquitted as he obeyed orders. But the case was a very severe one. Our worthy friend & relation Doctor Boudinot took the family under his protection. Mr John E. Caldwell a youth of 13. was patronized & taken to France by the Marquis de la Fayette & educated 6 years. He became thro’ the influence of his Instructors a Roman Catholic, but reverted to the Protestant Faith on his return to America. Such is the brief sketch of his eventful history. . . . Mr Bayard of Princeton I thought might suitably supply this vacancy, it is doubtful, either whether he w’d accept, or whether the place will be offered to him. There will I foresee be many competitors & probably some intrigue, to the latter Mr B. w’d not submit. Indeed circumstanced as he is I w’d not give up my Independence to the rigid duties of an Agent of the A. B. S.

A little dish of politics, with w’h I have not troubled

3 Mrs. James Caldwell (Hannah Ogden).
you in a long time. General Hamiltons eldest son Philip Schuyler H. was killed in a political duel some years before his fathers unhappy fate. His next son, Alexander, was taken into the compting H° of M° Arch° Gracie, patronized & sent sup. cargo to Cadiz, & wasted the consig[n]ment to a considerable amt returned blem-ished as to probity & character. During the late war he acted as Aid to Governor Lewis. He paid his addresses to M° Thos Knox's only daughter. The father wd not consent & a runaway match ensued. A reconciliation took place a year after, when Pres't Monroe visited this city, Mrs Knox, deceased, & Mrs M. being sisters. He is in business again but probably not promi-nent. Last year this degenerate son of Gen. H. deserted the Federal ranks & joined the Tammany men & was elected Member of our Legislature, with talents far be-low mediocrity, but with ambition to make himself no-torious. The following appeared in a late Albany paper wh I am oblig'd to give at large that you may have the whole story before you.

"The question has been often put & no satisfactory answer obtained. "Is report true that A. Hamilton the son of the lamented Gen. A. H. "paid his personal respects to Gen. Root the moment he arrived in "this city to take his seat? If it be true, then what stuff is this young "man made of? Has he forgotten that when his mother applied to "Congress for compensation due the General for revol' services Roots "observation wh must have smote every sensitive heart with horror & "disgust, 'that the State of N York has excellent laws providing for the "poor & that the widow could throw herself on the town and be sure "of her bread.' Can any man who ever respected the great Hamilton "see his son associate with Root without shuddering at the prostitution "of Character which such intimacy exhibits.

This article called forth the following scurrilous letter from M° H

"To DeWitt Clinton Gov° of the State of N York, Sir
"To your sha[me] & confusion let it be recorded that you dared "not assume the responsib[ility] of preserving to our national councils, "a patriotic & distinguished statesman while you c'd advocate the pub-"lic of a base & insidious attack upon private [char]acter thro' the "public organ of y'r adminis°. You know the motive of my visit to M° "Root. You were not ignorant that the Senatorial re-election of Rufus "King was to me a subject of deep personal concern; & on this occa-
"sion you declared, that you had marked my course, & that this sup-
port shd recoil with vengeance upon the repub's party. To those in-
timate with y's pusillanimity & intrigues, you disappoint no expectation.
"It is the pride of the name I bear, to be distinguished by y' en-
venomed malignity. One & all, we are opposed to y' adminis' & your
character. I am induced to make this explanation as a permanent
"obligation to the public, to my own feelings it is perfectly humilitating.
"I have the honor to remain Y' ob. s' Alex. Hamilton.
"Assembly Chamber 8 March, 1819."

This malignant explosion, intended to please the
Wigwam, & bring the writer into notice, has been repro-
bated by every liberal mind. Let us see what obligations
the family of Hamilton owe to Mr King. The latter
came to this city, a representative from Massach'ts in
the first Congress, possessed of splendid talents, but no
fortune. He was noticed by Gen. H. transfered to this
State, elected to Congress & finally sent Minister to G. Britain, where he remained several years. He had
married Miss Alsop of our city an heiress & thus in-
dependent in circumstance was enabled to devote him-
self to a public life. On his return, after Jeffersons presi-
dency, He was rec'd by Gen. H. with open arms. When
Col. Burr challenged Hamilton, why did not Mr King
interpose & prevent the exposure of a life so valuable
to the Federal party & his country. Instead of w't the
day preceding that appointed for the interview, He set
off for Boston & left his friend to his fate & this is the
debt of gratitude, for w't the son of Gen. H. has debased
himself, by calling on that miscreant Root the bell
weather of the Democrats, to support Mr K.

We have had another blow up in one of our Banks,
the Merchants, last week. Livingston & Tracy, brokers,
had tampered with the Chief Teller, Thorn & a book-
keeper so as to have overdrawn their acc't in the course
of some months to the tune of $104,000. They had, by
pecuniary favours, inveigled this young Thorn into their
toils. His expenses were enormous. It is said that his
regimentals worn at the Military Ball, cost him $300 &
Mr Ja' Thompson told me that on a visit to Ballstown
springs last summer Livingston spent, or gambled away,
$5000. This affair, as you may well suppose has made much noise, & shows the demoralized state of our youth. Notwithstanding the pressure of the times, extravagant entertainments have never been so high in this city as the past winter. The Glass ornaments that glittered on some of these fetes are said to have been hired at the rate of $200 for the night. The Beauty of it is, that not a single marriage, of all the young ladies exposed for sale, at these entertainments has taken place this season. Indeed the young men are too profligate, the young ladies too extravagant to admit of matches. It was not so in y'r Mothers day & I look with astonishment on the change of habits, the progress of luxury & conceptions of morals that have taken place in my day. But this city is destined to undergo severe chastisements ere it be restored to sound health.

Wedr 17th. . . . We had another snowstorm yesty & the streets have been deluged with mud & water. Mama & Sister have not been out in three weeks but are well. On Sunday I walked thro' a piercing north wind to see Grandma, Aunt Hanson who with y'r Aunt Craig & family are all well. They remove to their former habitation in Chamber Street in May, being tired with rural felicity. . . .

New York, 27th March, 1819

At the close of my last of 17th inst I mentioned the circumstance of a considerable fraud that had been practised on the Merchants Bank which as there stated appeared to have arisen from a connivance between young Thorne the chief Teller & the Bookkeeper, by permitting accounts to be overdrawn & falsely entered. Which wd reflect on the vigilance of the President & Cashier. The fact however, & w'h in consequence of the confidence necessarily reposed in the principal officers, does not inculpate the Pres't & Cashier, M'r T. took out of the vaults Bank Notes to the am't of $104,000, and as the examination of the vaults is usually quarterly & on a
day previously fixed, The Teller & his friends had the address to replace the am\(^t\) of notes on a given day & withdraw them the day after. Suspicion having been excited by the appearance at the City Bank for deposit of a Post note for $500, of an old date & w\(^n\) had been withdrawn from circulation & deposited with others of the same kind in the vaults, The Teller was taken by surprize & all the trunks of current notes were taken into the Directors' room, after closing the Bank, examined & the deficiency appeared. The confession of M\(^r\) T. lead to the apprehension of Messrs Livingston & Tracy, brokers, who were apprehended & have since with Thorne been committed to prison for trial. But our statute in case of breaches of trust is so broad, that it is doubtful whether any penal consequences will ensue, & the Directors will be forced to take up with such compromise as the culprits may have it in their power to offer. I have given this sequel of as gross an instance of perfidy & turpitude as has appeared in this city for many years, And unless condign punishment can be inflicted the Banks can never be secure ag\(^t\) breaches of trust. Col. Varick the President is outrageous & determined to pursue Thorn, whom he had patronized & who had grown up from a boy in the service of the Bank, to the utmost verge of the law. Thorn was paying his addresses to Livingstons sister. The latter is also a young man & entered into partnership last summer with Tracy a keen cunning Yankee & brought a capital of $10,000. The greater part of the money is s\(^d\) to have been lost in unadvantageous speculations in U\(^d\) States Bank stock, receiveable at a very high advance. It makes one shudder to think with what temptations young men are beset at the threshold of life and it behoves every parent to bring up their children in the strictest principles of moral rectitude. I hope a better state of things than at present will offer when your boys come on the stage. God bless them. I shall not be here to see that period. The decease of M\(^r\) Caldwell Agent for the Am. Bible S\(^o\) has left a vacancy which attracts competition to supply. I
had hopes that M' Bayard wd have accepted the office, and to have had the pleasure of Aunt Pattys society in this city. But from the tenor of his correspondence I doubt whether if elected, he wd accept & give up his independence for $1250 a year, the most he cd make it net him, & to be a slave, tho' an honourable one, from Jan'y to Dec', for he wd have to be always at his post, & he has been too much accustomed to live as a free agent to brook constant confinement. The whole of his salary wd not pay much more than house rent, so that the exchange of situation wd not add materially to his income & wd materially entrench on his ease & comfort.

On Thursdays 18th & 25th inst. I attended the semi-annual examination of the Free Schools No's 1 & 2. The improvement which has taken place within the last year both as to discipline & progress in education is almost incredible. In the course of the last summer I gave strict attention as Trustee to No 1, and had I not known the actual state of the School, I should not have believed it to have been within the capacity & power of any teacher to have advanced his scholars so perceptibly in so short a time. Looking back on my infantile days I cannot refrain from observing the immense improvement in modern education, even in the elementary schools. I am sure that there are hundreds of children from 7 to 9 years much farther advanced in reading writing & arithmetic than what I was at the same periods, and I was by no means the most backward cub of the litter of lads who went to M'r Leslie at that time the first school in the city. I heard some young girls, in the female school, deliver pieces which as respects correctness, distinctness & accuracy of enunciation, accent, emphasis & pauses, wd have done credit to a first rate boarding school, and the Instructress, educated herself in the School, did not appear older than 18. Surely where so much attention is given to educate & to instil moral & religious principles in the tender minds of so many children, as are educating in our Free & Sunday Schools, great & important benefits must result to Society. I could not, as I
traversed along the different forms & gratified the little urchins by inspecting their performances, help thinking of my dear g'd children & wishing that their education was as equally well attended to. But this is not to be expected in the present state of your city. From what you say, I presume that scarcely a perceptible improvement can be noticed at the end of the quarter. Do you take any concern in endeavouring, while their organs of speech are flexible, to let y' boys, by playing with the Creoles acquire the faculty of speaking French, w'h children learn better by the ear than by dry rules of grammar. The tide of events gradually leads to immense resources for the rising generation. French & Spanish will be all important to y' boys, who by the time they commence their career, if their lives be spared will find an unbounded field for enterprize in Spanish America, w'h must eventually become independent of the mother country. The possession of these two languages will give them decided advantages to be employed as consignees & factors to conduct adventures, & finally to manage business on their own account, on the Spanish Main, w'h will I am persuaded afford the fairest prospects for commercial pursuits of any part of the world.

Monday 29th March. We have had a very cold month, attended with much snow. The Hudson is still closed at Albany. Yesterday aft.noon, Sunday, tho' the wind was high, as the walking was dry, Mama & Sister walked out to see Grandmama & Aunt Hanson & took tea with Aunt Craig, who are all very well & looking forward to their removal to the city; being heartily tired of their residence as I foresaw, but nothing like one's own experience to make people wise. To be obliged to come to town daily thro' all kinds of weather, without intermission, is very trying to ones patience & comfort espec'y in winter. Your Aunt Betsey has been in town for some weeks & called to bid adieu on Friday. She desired me to tell you that she has written twice since your last to her, & that she is very anxious to hear from you. She leaves the city quite disgusted with the change of
manners. I presume that she no longer meets with those invitations to parties to which she has once been accustomed, and her sister Mrs. Callender, living a domestic life, does not altogether suit yr Aunts still volatile disposition. The good old gentleman Doctor Smith, is gradually declining, both in mind & body, tho’ he has passed a tolerable winter.

Tuesday [March] 30th . . . . . . . .

Last week Mama & Sister went to the Theatre, the only time this season. Macbeth. Lady M. by a Mrs. Bartlett an eminent Actress from England, who with the aid of a great deal of puffing has attracted large audiences in all our principal cities. Her voice is unharmonious, but she is dignified, easy, & graceful in her person & carriage. Mama & Sister were escorted by yr cousin J. P. Brasher, who has grown up a very genteel youth & very correct. I hope next season he will be able to act a brothers part & attend Sister to such parties & places as may introduce her a little into Society. Tho’ except for the gratification, I see but little benefit, in the way of matches, resulting from all these public fairs where young ladies are exhibited for market. We have had but one marriage this winter, a daughter of Mr. Mason one of my Directors to a Mr. Jones, both at least $100,000 fortunes & a family match. Indeed such is the extravagance of modern customs & fashionable education that young men are afraid to encounter matrimony and there must remain a larger proportion of the present race of females, destined to lead apes in tother country. . . .

New York, 8th April, 1819

I have this day written a short line to the Doctor, accompanied with a Diploma which was handed me yest by Dr. Hosack whereby he is admitted to the honorary


degree of Doctor of Medicine by the Regents & faculty of the University & College of Physicians of this State. This subject has been sometime in train, and I w'd not anticipate it before it was brought to a successful issue. As it is very difficult to obtain the honorary degree & the College has resolved to confer no more after the present year, I suggested the hint to Doctors Hosack & Francis, who nominated the Doctor & with persevering address obtained a privilege w'h the Doctor knows how to appreciate. He can now sign M. D. after his name, w'h always gives consequence to a physician. His name will be announced in our papers & can be transferred to the N. Orleans Gazette, as the distinction may be of service to him, by showing that he has been honoured here. I likewise put up a Book presented by Dr Hosack, and the Doctor I hope will write a suitable letter of thanks. I rec'd this morn the N. Orleans Gazette of 10 March containing the commun'a respect "The Medical & Surgical Society of New Orleans," of w'h Dr D. I remark is president, a flattering compliment on which I congratulate him, as well as for the tribute paid his services as consulting physician, all which will promote his reputation & I trust his interests. . . . His diploma will arrive, unexpected, & raise his reputation at home when they find he is honoured abroad, for with the faculty, these honours are highly respected, and designed as they ought to be considered, marks of merit & distinction. The fees I have paid with cheerfulness & mention them not to enhance the favour, but to show what charges attend these honours as established by the College—Matriculation $3, Degree $30.—$33.

Did I ever write the Doctor the following remedy for the liver complaint which I rec'd from Mr Furman my president, whose wife had been long afflicted some years ago & had tried many prescriptions in vain; when her physician Doctor Stringham recommended Galvanism & provided a small pile for her use, which effectually relieved her. Mr F. is very much of a family physician among other things he gave me the following valuable
recipe for Hulls famous bilious pills, w'h are very gentle in their operation as I have experienced, and probably excellent for passengers going to sea. Keep the Nostrum to yourself.

Hulls Bilius Pill

Take 1 oz. Saffron 1 oz. Cloves
1 " Mace 1 " Ginger
1 " Myrrh 6 " Aloes

Make up the pills the size of a small pea. Six pills a doze for a grown person, may be taken on going to bed.

9th April Good Friday. . . . The last arrivals from England & France have dreadful accounts of the fall of our Cotton & Rice & Tobacco. Numerous bills have ret'd under protest & serious failures throughout Europe & this country are apprehended. One merchant in this city shipped Cotton to the am't of $146,000 w'h sold in Liverpool for $94,000. Nothing can withstand such tremendous losses. I presume that similar losses must attend y'r city & that many who have calculated upon fortunes will turn out Bankrupts. The fall of Cotton & rivalry in England of the Bengal market must be attended with fatal consequences to the Cotton plantations. The president as Mama & Sister now call Cousin Joe 8 has made a fortunate retreat. How I sh'd palpitate for you were you still at Pinckneyville. A profession is far more stable at this juncture, and I trust most sincerely that the Doctor's prospects are brightening w'h when reverses are befalling those around him will give him proportionate elevation in Society. Since my last we have obtained an Act Incorporating the Savings Bank; and I am upon the very troublesome Committee for organizing the Company. We met on Tuesday evg from 7 to past 10, shall sit again this evg for at least the same time, & I hope one meeting more will enable us to report. When organized, I will send the President our Act, Bylaws &c: I know not whether such an Insti-

8 Doctor Richard Davidson.
tution be calculated for yr meridian, But shd it be, it w'd gratify me to learn that the Doc' interested himself to promote one. You see that I am still engaged in doing good. I only wish that I had more time to devote to these benevolent institutions. I mentioned in my last that Mr Bayard was pondering whether he sh'd present himself a candidate for the Agency of the Am. Bible So w'h he finally determined to do. In the mean while a Mr Nitchie of this city was brought forward & has been appointed. Mr B. is better off & w'd have found the duty very irksome.

Monday 13th [sic for 12th]. . . . I had the notice of the N. O. Medical & Surgical So inserted in last Saturdays Commercial & w'h will appear also in the Spectator. I gave the new title; R. Davidson M. D. pres's so that he appears early in print & I hope will do credit to both. We have been distressed beyond description with unfaithful ungrateful domestics, all thro' the winter. I w'd not annoy you with these perplexities. The last we had not only behaved with intolerable insolence, but decoyed away the young slut Mama brought home with her from Jersey, who tho' stupid & ignorant, was very contented till rendered otherwise. They both left us, nearly together, the beginning of this month & for 8 days I had to make the office, kitchen & parlour fires, hang on the tea kettles, bring up all the wood & coals, sweep entries &c. until Mama c'd provide herself with some decent body & just at this juncture Grandmama spent a week with us & fatigued as Mama was she had to accompany her Mother to seek for new lodgings, as Mr Craig will not consent to accommodate the old ladies any longer. The weather was blustering & unfavorable & with all possible research this object is unaccomplished. We have a very decent black woman at present, the best we have had by far since Tamars leaving us. But we expect from Princeton Little Hannah who you may remember in my dear good uncles family. She has had several children who run about Mr Bayards kitchen, but the youngest, an infant she brings with her. We
are also to have a young white girl from the same place & look for them on Wed^ by the Steamboat, together with Samuel & William to pass part of the vacation, so that we shall have quite a house full. Hannah is an excellent cook but her other properties are to be proved. I flatter myself that she may please & be contented to remain, but such is the state of domestics in this place, that there is no reliance to be placed on them for they are constantly decoyed by the Intelligence offices. Our abode is not very favourable to make domestics contented, being attended with many inconveniences in consequence of the office, w^ supports me. I had hoped this year to have provided a tenement, if not to live, to die in. But buildings are so high that nothing like a house in a decent street can be obtained under $10,000, a sum almost insuperable for me. Again I must effect some arrangement with my Directors to allow me a compensation for the house I live in, w^ I fear will be attended with difficulty. Perhaps another year the price of houses in consequence of the impending calamities may fall in value & I may succeed better. Let us live in hope of better accommodations for Mama & Sister, who are nearly prisoners during the hours of business in Wall Street. I ought to have mentioned that your dear sister did all in her power to assist during the absence of all domestics, by bringing up wood out of the cellar for the kitchen & coal for the parlour. This serves to teach her what household cares are, tho I could not burn the wood which she brought up.

Tuesday 14^th [sic for 13th]. Last ev^ Aunt Helen & family & grandmama took tea with us. They were puzzled to guess what new honour had been conferred on our family, until they were informed of the N. Orleans presidency on w^ they congratulate you & desire to be aff^ remembered. Grandma is not yet suited with lodgings & I fear will find some difficulty. At any rate they can stay till accommodated with Aunt Craigs. The rents of houses & markets are so very high that board wages must bear some proportion. It is painful at the very
close of life to see these good old ladies thus exposed to wander from place to place without any fixed residence to die in. I confess my dearest daughter that the reflection gives me the utmost pain, and I have only to be thankful that I have not been the cause of this destitution. Nor w’d your Aunt Helen part with a mother who lavished on her what ought to have been her support & comfort in her old days, were it not for Mr. C. who has few sympathies beyond his own personal wants & comfort.

Wed 14th April. . . . I have learned that Capt. Aborn, the friend of y’ uncles Gasherie & Lewis, of Providence, has removed to Cincinnati I think, & is to take command of one of the Steam Boats in the course of this season. As the arrivals are I presume announced, I wish the Doctor w’d call on him, & invite him to tea. He is a kind hearted man & will be happy to find a family acquaintance in N[ew] O[rleans]. Perhaps you may recollect [him]. His acquaintance may prove eventually serviceable. In case you sh’d see him, remember me to him & tell him that all our friends here are well, as also of y’ cousin Julia’s marriage. He was the bosom friend of her father. Col. Loomis, tell him, informed me of this change in his residence & that I sincerely wish every prosperity & blessing for he is a good worthy man. We are again undomesticated. Our servant left us last evg but we look for the new supply from Princeton this day. Mama finds her old faithful man servant very handy on these occasions. His habit of early rising enables him to make the fires &ca. before he is called to other duty, w’h he performs without noise or grumbling. . . .

New York, 23d April, Friday, 1819

Since my last Hannah & Nancy have arrived from Princeton, and we have the prospect of being a little at ease please God for some time in the domestic line.
Never since our housekeeping days have we experienced so much actual misery as in the course of the past year. Mama's life has been fairly embittered & without enjoyment. Hannah's child about a year old & at the breast tormented her by day & by night incessantly crying & fretting her mother so as to interfere materially with her duty. Mama took Miss Julia, so named after Julia Bayard, upstairs, & with very little discipline, in the course of one day, taught ma'amselle to do without bawling, & now begins to be as quiet as can be expected & to sleep still at nights. I hope therefore we shall get along without much further trouble on this head. Nancy tho' small is docile, & willing & in the course of a month will glide into Mama's regular system, when we may once more look for a little comfort. Life has been embittered & I have felt more like a boarder than a member of a family afraid to give exceptions by even ordinary commands, not knowing but that at midnight we might have been robbed & deserted by the worthless trollopes who annoyed us the past winter. Hannah seems quite pleased as yet & disposed to render her services with a due sense of obligation for being in a family that wishes to treat her well. But we must not account on permanency where so many are on the look out to decoy domestics, by every temptation of higher wages.

Monday morn² 26th. . . . On Sat’y Mr Bayard & his son William arrived from Princeton. We expected Samuel also, but he remains to take care of his Mama. William is a very fine boy, of sweet disposition & not so irritable as his brother the poet. He is in the Sophomore class, & obtained the prize for eloquence in the Whig Society this spring, $40. which he is about laying out in a double barrelled gun, as he is a great sportsman & remarkable fine shot. He will stay with us a week or ten days & gives very little trouble. It affords me great pleasure to accommodate the boys with a home on their visit during their vacancy. Mr B. & yr Aunt Patty feel quite satisfied that they remain at Princeton. The change w’d not be agreeable, to be pent up in so small
a compass as a city house after enjoying so long the spacious apartments & accommodations of their place at Princeton. Doctor Boudinot contemplates attending the anniversary meeting of the Am. Bible S° on the 13th of May, his health being so much improved as to permit his traveling without apprehension of danger, indeed the exertion, exercise & change of scene attending his visit last year has quite renovated his age & constitution. He enters I think his 81st year this spring. It will gratify me very much to see the good old gentleman once more presiding in the Society of which he is the founder & benefactor. I have regularly sent him an abstract of the proceedings of the board of Man[a]gers every month, w° has afforded him great gratification & for w° he has expressed his warmest acknowledgments. Old persons receive these marks of attention with great sensibility. Outliving the generation & friends of their early life, they become insulated as it were from the world and feel slight favours as great obligations. This however is not precisely the case with our venerable relation, whose House is the mansion of hospitality and attracts by means of his dutiful affec' daughter, a constant succession of friends & visitors. Perhaps few decline towards the grave with more comfort & serenity than Doctor Boudinot, and altho' his bodily infirmities are great & severe, the faculties of his mind are vigorous and he engages in affairs of business with astonishing facility. He purchased the manufacturing establishment of my good friend Judge Griffiths for one third of its original cost and he is now concerned in a woolen manufactory, the details of w° occupy his mind & serve to amuse him.

Tuesday 27th. . . . Yest° Mama & Sister paid their respects to Mrs Clinton, who rec'd them with great affability. I waited on his Exe° on Sunday & was introduced to the Bride. This day our election commences & every effort is made by the malcontent, dissappointed office seeking Federalists in conjunction with the Tammany men to frustrate Gov° Clinton. In this city, the power of democracy, the Tammany ticket will succeed,
But I confidently trust that the Western Counties will secure a majority in favour of the Administration. Altho' I take no concern, still one cannot be altogether indifferent. Indeed after the uniform friendship I have always experienced from Mr. C. and a very long period of social intercourse, I should accuse myself of the blackest ingratitude to desert him at this crisis. My solitary vote therefore shall be given, for what is called the peoples ticket. Mr. Bayard past last evening with us & goes after breakfast to N Rochelle. He has at length let the place for a trifling rent $300, w^h must be expended in repairs. Benjamin removes, having lived on it about 20 Years, and a good home he has had of it, having laid up within that period $1400, w^h Mr. Bayard has in his care. I have bid a final adieu to N Rochelle & shall never see it again. Grandmama & Aunt Hanson have returned to the city & have comfortable lodgings in Murray Street not very far from Aunt Helen's residence, who remove this week. Mr. Craig is going in June to visit his lands in Virginia, where he sent an Agent last winter, and it is essential for him to look after them himself. They are situate in Kanhawa County very mountainous, but the wood is valuable for the salt works carried on in their vicinity. Mr. C. hopes to be able to dispose of the tract, and realize something handsome. Dr. Davidson made some enquiry about them as he passed thro that quarter on his return home. We have had some very short arrivals from Liverpool in 21 days. 3 ships w^h sailed at the same time all arrived at this port the same day, and kept in sight of each other almost the whole passage, a singular circumstance. The accounts of markets are very discouraging, failures numerous and a general depression in the commerce both of G. Britain & the continent. How remittances are to be made except by Bills from this country I cannot foresee. Importations, tho' somewhat curtailed are still very large. The southern Cotton planters must experience heavy losses, and from the dashing enterprize of young adventurers to N. Orleans, y'r city will come in for a full share of
losses. How comes on the Rev'd Mr Larned with his new church. Will not the stagnation of the times paralyze the efforts of those on whom he relied for support. I sh'd be sorry that his generous exertions sh'd be attended with any personal difficulty or embarrassment. Present my respects to him, & tell him that the Theological Sem'y of Princeton continues to flourish, as also the College.

Wed's 28th. . . . We have little or no intelligence, foreign or domestic for y'r amusement. Intelligent men hope that our commercial affairs are nearly at the worst, that every thing will settle down to a peace standard this year, and that planters & cultivators will know what will be the future regular prices of their products and calculate their expences accordingly. Salary men like me will be benefitted by the reduction of the cost of the essentials of life. We begin already to experience the increase of the weight of bread. I presume this is the case with you where Flour must be much lower than in this city. You heard much of the progress of building with us last year. On walking thro' a great number of streets yesterday, in the upper part of the town I found an unusual proportion of Houses with bills to let, which proves what I apprehended, that there w'd be more build-ings than tenants this spring. Still great preparations I see making for more improvements. Rents however must fall with the fall of trade. . . .

New York, 3d May, 1819. Monday

As usual at this period this is my very busy season, preparing this week for the meeting of my Directors next Saturday to declare Dividend, the next is the annual meeting of the Am. Bible Society, when I shall be harrassed to death with adjourned meetings of the Man-agers & entries of Minutes with other details that I cannot enumerate. This afternoon I have to attend the Corporation, to obtain a place in their gift for the operation of our Savings Bank. Thank God, I have got
thro' all the preparatory business relative to this institution w'h has kept me more or less occupied for several weeks. Wed'y at noon the Trustees of the Sailors' Snug harbour & Thurs'y 4 P. M. the Managers of the A. B. S. meet. This day the Trustees of the Free School. I have been obliged reluctantly to decline a reelection as the Savings Bank will engross much of my time for at least one year, if I am spared. . . . After breakfast. I have run round town to deliver advertisements for the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce tomorrow 1 p. m. to 7 Printers, to deliver notices of the meeting of the Trustees of the Sailors' Snug Harbour & on Dr' Hosack to attend Mama at noon with his lancet, an operation usually requisite on the return of Spring. . . .

Monday 10th. . . . Mama is better after her depletion. On Wed'y afternoon she assisted in clearing out the Augean Stable, my back office, w'h generally gets encumbered with books, boxes &c. during the interval of the Directors meeting spring & fall. Hannah was to go, as she did, to Brunswick on Friday to exchange her bawling brat, for as troublesome a boy about 3 years old. she returned on Saturday when the room being duly prepared, after the meeting of the Directors who retired at 2, while I was engaged in making up the minutes of the meeting & w'h I always do, instanter, Mama & Sister returned all the tables, book cases &c. into the room, with so much silence, that I never heard them & to my surprize when I opened the door, thinking what a task of lugging I had to perform, behold all was neatly arranged in due order, much to my surprize & gratification. . . . Sunday . . . it rained violently all day. I went however to Church & called on my good friend Gov'y Clinton to thank him for an act of friendship w'h I shall now relate. There is a charitable Institution in this city founded by a Mr' Robert Randall, who left his Estate, to endow a Hospital for the support of sixty superannuated seamen, to be called the "Sailors Snug Harbour." This property consists of about 20 acres situate at the head of Broadway & is at present worth above $100,000, tho not
productive. The rents & those of other houses are to be placed at interest until the fund is sufficient to maintain 60 seamen. It now produces 6 to 7000 a year the accumulation of which will ere long enable the Trustees to fulfil the Testators views. The Trustees are a very heterogeneous body. The Chancellor, Mayor & Recorder, President of the Chamber of Commerce, Pres' & V. Pres' of the Marine S° Rector of Trinity & eldest Minister of the Presbyterian Church. 5 constitute a quorum in which it is exceedingly difficult to form. I have been clerk for a few years with a compensation of $250 per an. This was effected when Mr. Clinton was Mayor. Cap't Farmar the treasurer was becoming infirm & he resigned the 30th April. Anticipating his resignation I had made interest for the succession, & Mr. Colden, the present Mayor & president of the Board called a meeting last Wed'y in which with much running & importunity on my part was accomplished and in 5 minutes I was app'd Treasurer. According to rule it was necessary to give security to the amount of $10,000 for the faithful performance of my trust. Retired as I am, this appeared to be an almost insurmountable obstacle against my pretensions. To have asked the favour from any commercial friend or one immersed in speculation might have been attended with a request to indorse to a similar amount, a common practice, in which might hereafter have involved me beyond any thing that I can hope to benefit from the office. In this dilemma I waited on Mr. Clinton and prefaced my request by remarking that a negative would not impair my friendship, for it might be incompatible with his situation as Governor, to become bondsman for any individual, & esp'y one to whom he was under no political obligation. With a frankness becoming his magnanimity, he immed'y replied "cheerfully," and I think the following are his very words "It gratifies me to think that you had so much confidence in my friendship as to make the request." The obligation is a hundred fold enhanced by the very gracious manner in which it was conferred. Mr. Clinton has been accused of in-
gratitude to his friends. I have never found it so, and this is not the only tho' the greatest, favour w'h he has conferred on me. I am sure it will delight my dear daughter to find a person of Gov'r Clintons rank placing full confidence & rendering essential services to her father. The emolument at present is not great, perhaps about $300, w'h will make up for what I have had reduced from my salary as Sec'y to the A. Bib. So & the Steam boat of $400, a serious item in my annual income. My duty will be increased as I shall have to collect the rents, w'h I must make compatible with my afternoon hours. In 1823, four years hence the present leases expire, when as the city is approaching the Sailors' Snug harbour, the grounds must be laid out in conformity with the new regulations of the streets, & the property will become more productive. I look to this appointm't if life & health be spared, as something to afford me easy employment when please God I may be able to retire from the drudgery of my present office in the Mutual Insur'e Co where I am not compensated, but receive probably what the office can afford, for it was paralyzed under th' administration of M'r Lenox. To toil as I now do, must shortly break down my energies, and necessity will compel me to relinquish some of the oars at w'h I am tugging. If next year I can purchase a house for about $10,000 & work on 10 years till I have cleared it, I shall then if life be spared consider myself entitled to some repose, When looking after the establishment of the Hospital as above, may amuse without fatiguing me.

I have seen nor heard nothing of M'r Hill. Sh'd he present M'r Larneds letter I will show him every attention & introduce him to my learned friends. I am sorry that he is not here to meet the Historical Society this afternoon, when Gov'r Clinton will preside. . . The death of M'r D. Halliday surprizes me. I rec'd a line from him last summer from Baltimore. He appeared the picture of health when with you here. I look for the ar-
rival of Dr. Boudinot to attend the annual meeting of the Am. Bib. Soc. which meets on Thur' next 13th. Rooms are taken at the City Hotel. I will leave this space open to tell how he looks.

Wed'n morn' 12th. Towards dusk Dr. Boudinot arrived at the City Hotel last ev'. A N E storm sat in on Sat' ev' & continued till this morn' when it has cleared off with a fine N. wester. Mama & Sister notwithstanding the rain, passed the ev' with Mr. Bradford who as usual accompanies her father. He looks much better than last year, is stronger walks tolerably & sits comfortably in a common chair. I was very much affected at seeing him. His countenance very much resembles my dear departed uncle & father, and the association of almost always seeing them together in the latter years of his life, brought him directly before me.

NEW YORK, 18th May, 1819

This day, my dearest daughter, is the anniv' of my birthday, and I am now, by the mercy of God, three score. . . . I shall hold my connection with the Historical Society that I have so long cherished, but I shall leave to more competent characters the few services wh' were in my power to render to the Lit' & Phil' Society & the Academy of Arts, from which I have withdrawn myself, likewise from the Free School, in consequence of the time I shall devote to the Savings Bank. I sent you on Friday 14th the Daily Adver' of this city containing a very detailed account of the 3rd An' of the Am. Bible Soc. Our venerable relation Doctor Boudinot presided with great dignity. On his right hand sat Governor Clinton, on his left Sec'y Thompson of the U. S. Navy depart' both Vice presidents of the Soc. The Supreme & Mayor's court adjourned on the occasion & we were honoured with the presence of the Ch. Justice & Judges, of the Mayor & Recorder, & a considerable assemblage of Clergymen, among whom I w'd have wished to have
seen our worthy Bishop Hobart, but he still adheres to his first sentiments, tho' not as pertinaciously as at first. Doctor Boudinot left this yest. We have had one continued N. E. storm of cold rain during his whole stay, w'h prevented Mrs Bradford from going abroad not even to call on Mama, but we have seen them daily. Just as they were departing they received advice of the death of Joshua Wallace Esq of Burlington, their intimate friend & my much esteemed acquaintance. Mrs Wallace you may recollect was sister of Mr Bradford.

Monday 24th. . . . I see by the mornings paper that D' Williamson 9 died last Sat'y afternoon and is to be buried this afternoon. His age not mentioned, somewhere about 89. Unless I learn of his leaving some legacies to public Institutions or Charities, I shall not swell the retinue of a Miser, who was little less than a Sr Jobs Giver. He was a man of talents, but extremely penurious & has died rich. Sic transit, to the great joy no doubt of his heirs. I think the Doctor traced a connection with him, the honour of w'h is all that will fall to his share. We are amused with speculations on the reported cession of Cuba to the British. I shall not myself credit the rumour until it is verified. This island is the largest & most important to the Spaniards of any of its W. India possessions, being considered as the very key of their American provinces, the central depot of communication and the city of Havanna regarded as the Madrid of the New World. I cannot conceive what equivalent G. Britain has to offer for this, to her, invaluable island, the command of which w'd give her the absolute control of the whole Gulf of Mexico & place Mexico as well as N. Orleans, Alabama &c: at the mercy of her naval power. Were the Spanish Colonists made of the same stuff as the people of these Ud States, they w'd never submit to be transferred like herds of cattle to any new proprietor, but struggle till the last extremity for independence. But brought up for so many centuries

under political & ecclesiastical despotism, the once high
indignant Castilian spirit has evaporated & may have
degenerated into a dastardly race. We need not be sur-
prised therefore, sh'd the cession be true, that whatever
groanings may be uttered these islanders will submit
without a struggle. In this case sh'd G. Britain
pursue her colonial system & restrict the commerce of
Cuba to the mother country, the value of the N. Orleans
sugar plantations will be enhanced, as the formidable
competition that now exists between Havanna & the
U'd States will cease. I presume this affair is quite in-
teresting to the Quidnunes of y'r City, who are wonder-
fully greedy for news & very well understand their own
interests. It will be marvellous sh'd y'r merchants escape
participation in the numerous failures that have occurred
& still threaten the commercial community of the At-
lantic States. The times here are awfully gloomy & the
aspect still more so. Fortunes, during the French revo-
lution, have been so rapidly acquired, that people can-
not think of returning to the sober paths of long & un-
remitted industry, to acquire independence. The great
mercantile establishments of the old world were the work
of generations & with very few instances to the con-
trary, the fortunes acquired in this country before the
revolution were the results of a long & laborious life
of toil, prudence & economy. Americans are an active
restless people impatient of slow profits. Their habits, I
speak of the seaboard, must undergo, not a reformation,
but a complete revolution. A new race must arise on
the broken fortunes of the present, who differently
educated may be content to plod & earn an honest living,
to accumulate by slow degrees, bring up their children
in habits of strict morality & industry & leave them a
good name, a small capital with a run of customers to
begin their career. To thank God for small profits w'h
gradually increasing may enable them to leave their suc-
cessors a larger capital & a more extensive field for
operating than fell to their humble lot. To labour in-
cessantly is the doom of man. "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat thy bread," was denounced on Adam, but a merciful God tempered the sentence of vindictive justice by giving bread as a never failing reward of industry.

When I came down from breakfast, the Doctor's letter of 4th Ap. was delivered. I immediately called on Col. Varick & paid the 150, the rec't & certificate will go by this mail directed to the Doctor, & I will see that the name of Mr Larned is included at the close of the 3d An. Report. I congratulate you my dearest daughter on your successful efforts with the Ladies of his congl. to afford this tribute of honourable respect to [the] merits of their worthy pastor. I made an extract from the Doctors letter which may appear in the Commercial of this evening. An aged relative of our family departed this morn Mr Andw Hamersley at the very advanced period of 94. His lamp went out without perceptibility. Dr Williamson rode abroad on Sat returned, reposed & expired. His will disappoints all his expectants, I understand in this city, His property going to his kindred in England. He has not left a cent to his long & faithful domestic. Mr Chs M'Evers & Doctor Hosack are his Executors. (Tuesday morn) A splendid funeral & an encomiastic obituary notice closed yest' the obsequies of the late Dr W. Tomorrow at 6 p. m. I shall attend the last duties to Mr Hamersley, a more humble as well as more charitable member of society. Yest' morn Mr Craig set off with his friend Mr Scott to explore his lands on the Kanhawa. He hope to realize $20,000 from their sale & sincerely wish that he may not be disappointed. On Saturday I shall go to Newark to attend Divine service on Whitsunday with our kinsman the Revd Mr Bayard. This is my annual visit, when formerly I accompanied my dear good uncle & father on his way home.

10 Richard Varick, Treasurer of the American Bible Society.
11 In the [N. Y.] Commercial Advertiser on Monday, May 24, 1819, page 2, column 1.
New York, 7th June, 1819

. . . . We have had a cold lingering month of May. On Sunday the 30th I was at Newark, rainy & cold enough for fires. Sat'y & yest'y we were melting with fervent heat. My sensibility increases with my years and I find that I am doomed to suffer this season by my blood rushing violently towards my head. I can scarcely endure the weight of a Leghorn hat, the Havanna palmetto is intolerable. I must therefore be very careful not to exercise too violently w'h will I fear interrupt my salubrious promenades. I must be more quiescent & walk early in the morning w'h is very congenial with my early hours as I am seldom in bed at 5. I was very much gratified with my visit to my Rev'd Kinsman Mr Bayard, who evidently improves and if he perseveres in his studies will attain a reasonable elevation in our Church, if not eminent, he will be useful. He possesses a good share of presbyterian zeal, w'h combined with the sound orthodox principles of our Apostolic Church qualify him to discharge the duties of a faithful minister of Jesus Christ. He preached three times & administered the Sacrament to 80 communicants. This frequent preaching is not favourable to the correct composition of his sermons tho' there was little exceptionable in style & nothing in matter, for his morning & afternoon discourses adapted to Whitsunday would have done him credit in any pulpit. I called on my good friend Judge Boudinot & took tea with the family. Mrs Colt, Eliza, was there. The Judge does not come down stairs but occasionally. He has lain by too soon & enfeebled himself. He looked well & was quite cheerful. It was Sunday after afternoon church. I then called to bid a final adieu I apprehend to my old friend Capt Gifford who has had a severe attack of paralysis and is I fear too far advanced to recover the Shock. His giant frame is reduced to a meer skeleton. . . .

On the 26th May I wrote you, as I did to the Doctor, inclosing a receipt & certificate of Directorship for yr Revd pastor Mr Larned. I felt so elated on reeeiving the $150 that without reflection I drew up a short para-
graph for the Commercial announcing the intelligence. In the evening I looked over the Doctor’s letter & ob-
served that you wished that this subject shd be an agree-
able surprize to M L. I fear least thro the medium of the papers he shd hear of it before the Dorcasses of his congregation shall receive the certificate to present in
due form, in this case be pleased to apologize to the ladies for my indiscretion. . . . I have recd this letter by Mr Hill together with the petrified Buffalo’s head in excellent preservation. It will be presented to the S tomorrow. He will oblige me to obtain from Col. Croghan, with whom I have the honour of an acquaint-
ance such unvarnished particulars respecting this subject, as he may be able to furnish. I have not had it in my
power to be civil to Mr Hill, on whom I called. Mama was & is still engaged in House cleaning, a tremendous job, as you know. Dr Hosack was daily engaged in
visiting Mr King 13 at Jamaica who died on Sat. Francis has gone to a convention of physicians which has met in Phil on the subject of a pharmcopeia, and my
own time has been exceedingly engaged & will be till we get the Savings Bank in operation the 3d July, for I
have to attend to every detail. I shall aim at seeing him this week. We shall be disappointed at not receiving a visit from my dear Sister Patty, this month. The
Revd Mr Bayard & children all go to Princeton for some weeks, and it is proposed that Mama & Sister shall go there on August 14th Aunt Patty’s birth & wedding day,
& then proceed to Burlington. . . .

Tuesday 8th. Yest afternoon whilst your dear Mother & Sister were slavishly employed above stairs I
attended the An meeting of the N. Y. Protestant Epis.
Sunday meeting at St Pauls. It was delightful to see
about 700 Children, Males & Females, & a large number

13 Mrs. Rufus King (Mary Alsop).
of Color, assembled in the galleries. The congregation below was respectable, I shª hope duly impressed with the importance of the occasion. After service a collection was made. I have subscribed as a life member $10. This practice I pursue progressively with all the benevolent institutions, & eventually I shall purchase my freedom in all without being annually called on for my dues. The order of the day being concluded, cakes were distributed by the Directors to each of the scholars. I did not stay to this pleasing part as I was obliged to attend with Mr Sherred, at the Saving's Bank to give instructions to the Masons. We have been retarded in consequence of a conspiracy on the part of the Masons, against reducing their wages one shilling from 16/ to 15/ per day, the former being the war price. All industry has been suspended for a fortnight in expectation of compelling Builders to yield. But a steady perseverance on the part of the latter against shameful imposition has brought their appetite to, & work is once more resumed. These combinations are very unjustifiable. Such is the influence of the ringleaders that they proscribe every one, tho willing to labour at reasonable prices, from offering their services, an abuse of liberty that degenerates into licentiousness. I will collect & send to the Doctor all the reports of the Sunday Schools, together with the class books, which may be useful in case anything similar shª be attempted in N. Orleans. I have more than once requested him to take care of these ephemeral documents which may be wanted for precedents, & once mislaid or lost are irrecoverable. I speak from my own experience, for being a kind of Sir Oracle, I am incessantly applied to for information, & not unfrequently, after having lent an article cut out of a newspaper, a Tract or publication on some interesting subject, am requited, instead of safe return, with an apology that some person must have purloined them, a mortifying reflection. To avoid similar treatment, the Sou for Pauperism is forming a Statistical Library, in which I shall deposit all these excerpts &c. & have them bound up for reference.
have little news stirring. The explosion at Balt° has become stale, its effects I fear have been more fatal to N. Orleans than anything that has occurred either in Phila or this city. The pressure is somewhat lightened with us. Altho' more failures are anticipated it is presumed that we have seen the worst. Prudence & economy will spring up from commercial embarrassments & people will learn to live on less and that the absolute wants of life are within the compass of industry & perseverance. The heads of people have been fairly turned by the heretofore rapid & easy acquisition of wealth. The Rev° clergy even are not free from the influence of extravagant habits. It was not more than a month ago when at the Bible S° a knot of us were discoursing about salaries, when a Rev° gentleman, who sprung from obscurity & was educated by charity & who is now at the head of one of our most respectable churches, observed, what wd my congregation who visit me think of their pastors living in a two story House? I made no reply, but like the Welshman's Nightingale, the Owl, I paid it off in thinking.

Wed° 9th June. Yest° afternoon Mr Hill accompanied me to the sitting of the Historical Soc° when the Rev° Mr Larneds letter was read, the Buffalos head presented & thanks rendered to Mr Hill for his care of the article & the Cor. Se° directed to return the acknowledgments of the S° to the Rev° Mr L. We had many commun° w° afforded Mr H. a favourable opp° of seeing the proceedings of the Society. He expects to go to Boston, thence to the Springs, up to Niagara & down the St Lawrence to Quebec, a delightful town. Mrs Cuthbert ° is going from Princeton to Blackrock on a visit to Mrs Porter who politely invited Mama & Sister. Were it in my power to escort them I sh° of all things be gratified with such an excursion. The border of our State on the Lakes is historical ground, distinguished in every war by military events.

° Probably Mrs. Alexander Cuthbert (Susan Stockton).
New York, 18th June, 1819. Friday

I was allotting, as they say in Boston, to commence my letter to my dear daughter this morn\(^{2}\) when just as I had stepped up to breakfast Mr. Duer called at the door with y\(^{r}\) letter & Miss Marys resemblance, for your sister. I did not see Mr. D. to thank him and am very sorry that his tour does not promise the good effects he had anticipated. If hot weather be beneficial he will miss nothing in that respect for it is almost pestilential. If Ma'amselle Mary has as pleasing a countenance as the emblem you have sent, she must be a very interesting child. I hope she has passed thro' that severe malady the whooping cough. It is well when these ordeals incident to poor human beings are passed thro' in infancy. The whooping cough is particularly distressing in advanced age: & the effects are very lingering. I know several who have suffered for years, indeed whose constitutions have been sensibly impaired. Be thankful therefore however troublesome that y\(^{r}\) children pass thro' these several probations in infancy. Your family picture is very gratifying, but the turbulence of the Admiral is not so pleasing. I do not like the vocation of a Seaman, do not encourage any early propensities w\(^{h}\) almost always give a bias to future life. I am glad that my namesake begins to write prettily. Let him & Eliza send a specimen of a line each at the top of y\(^{r}\) letter to me. I trust that Pintard will prove a solid boy and not too brilliant to make a plodding merchant. Your city by the time that he is fit to stand at a counter, will become a mart of extensive commerce, offering superior advantages to our own, and a young person habituated to the climate, will enjoy superior advantages on the score of health over our northern habits. . . . When Mr. Halliday appears we will show him every civility for your dear deceased friends sake. . . . Mama & Sister will be kind to Miss Ellen for your sake. . . . We are doing very well in the domestic way thank God. Hannah
has gone thro' all the cleaning of our endless house for w'h Mama gives her additional compensation.

Sat' 19th. The Rev'd M'r Bayard breakfasted with us & returned at 10. He accompanied Miss Clark on an errand. His family is well & go next week to eat Raspberries at Princeton. All the parties of the Bayards are regulated by the Festivals of the Season. Our weather is extremely hot again after a few cool days. Uniformly I think we have the most oppressive heats in June. It may probably be owing to the circumstance of the Polar Ice getting disengaged & floating southward, that the temperature of July is lower than June, & that the Atlantic Seaboard is refreshed with the coolness of the atmosphere occasioned by the dissolution of the Icebergs, w'h instead of objects of terror will be regarded as welcome refrigerators.

Monday 21. . . . I put up with the Spectator last week two Evening Posts, containing a description of the plant skullcap with particulars of its virtues & efficiency in cases of Hydrophobia. The remedy is considered infallible against that most direful disease. . . . Mama has placed Miss Mary & the correspondent figure just above Louise's Piano, from which is suspended in neat bows, a flute. I thus shall enjoy frequent oppo's of contemplating the smiling features of your cherub. I hope that Pintards wish may be gratified and that y'r next will be a son, & then that you may be respted from further augmentation of your family. I am happy that you are likely to suffer less on this than on former occasions, & that your confinement is to take place at the cool period of the year.

The days of retrenchment are at hand, and economy with all the domestic virtues will come once more into fashion. Every thing sublunary is in a state of continual change. In the day of the Age of reason Infidelity had so far influenced public opinion, that it required some fortitude in genteel life, to avow a belief in X'r. That baleful influence has died away. Regard, & some-
thing more than formal, for the precepts of Religion pervades our country. Luxury & extravagance have also had their day, and necessity direful necessity, exacts & will work reformation.

Tuesday 22\textsuperscript{d}. We have a very ext\textsuperscript{y} person in this city, Jacob Barker, who came here from Nantucket about 20 years ago in a pea jacket, without money & without friends. Uneducated he possesses uncommon talents & unbounded enterprize. At the close of the War he set up a Bank,\textsuperscript{15} on his own bottom, by every art his paper has circulated far & wide. Nothing else but his notes were to be found in the markets & every retail shop. He surmounted a run on his Bank about a month ago, but confidence being shaken, another run took place yesterday & his resources failing he has, by advertisement, suspended payment & gone to look after a branch bank of his own at Sandy Hill in the northern parts of this State. His notes entirely circulated among Mechanics labourers &c. & the default of payment must fall heavy on the poorer classes of the community. (2 p. m.) Wall Street has been all alive with Barkers note holders, some apprehension of a riot was entertained, but the Mob has disappeared. The city Watch is to be doubled this night to guard against accidents.

Wed\textsuperscript{r} 23\textsuperscript{d} June. The excitement caused by Mr Barkers suspension of payment subsided, much to the credit of our citizens, without any riot. Wall Street was thronged for about 4 hours & much uneasiness prevailed least in this concentrated location of Banks & monied institutions evil disposed persons might have excited a riot for the purpose of plunder. We had as tranquil quiet an evening & night as tho’ nothing had occurred more than usual. The Spectator will no doubt convey Mr Barkers address. Few of our Banks c\textsuperscript{d} have sustained, unsupported, the run made upon his. But it is time that his progress sh\textsuperscript{d} be arrested, for his resources were dubious, if not fictitious.

\textsuperscript{15} The Exchange Bank, Wall Street.
New York, Sunday 4th July, 1819

My dearest daughter

The Anniversary of our National birthday is for once celebrated with religious exercises. It would be a rational improvement of the honours & rejoicings usual on this glorious occasion, if the Day was opened with prayers & thanksgiving in every temple of God throughout the U.S. States and the rest of the time given to sports & festivity, to military & civic parades, mutual congratulations and every diversion that can gladden the heart of the multitude, and make them thankful for the Independence achieved by their forefathers and grateful for the highest boon allotted to man, that of being born and living free. I am just returned, after calling on my good friend Gov'r Clinton, from my Church where I was instructed by an excellent discourse of my French pastor from "Blessed is the Nation that hath the Lord for their God," analogous to the occasion, and a very elegant composition most fervently delivered. The French beat us out of sight in pulpit oratory.

Last evening our Savings Bank was opened most auspiciously. It will be open again tomorrow from 11 to 2 & every Sat'v evs & Monday thereafter. I had fixed $1000 for the receipt of both days until this most beneficial Institution shd become better known & understood. Judge of my superlative gratification when I tell you that $2807 were received last evs from 80 depositors. I shall give Mr. Lewis an abstract of the whole for publication on Tuesday afternoon & you will receive it in the Spectator. In common with my brother Trustees I have toiled incessantly for some 2 or 3 months past. But thank God, not after a vain shadow.

Monday 5th July, 5 P. M. I have returned from my delightful duty. We took this holiday $1269, making $4076 in all. By way of some apology for troubling you

16 Zachariah Lewis, publisher (with Francis Hall) of the daily Commercial Advertiser and of the semweekly New-York Spectator. His office was not far from Pintard’s, on Wall Street.
with this detail, I have deposited a half eagle $5 for each of my dear children, have brought home their Bank books & please God I will do the same at New Year, & every 4th of July & New Years day that I am spared & shall be able, with the intent of leaving the same at interest until they come of age, & in case of accident to any of the children, the survivors to share the am't between them. God bless them & the gift. Grandma & Aunt Helen dined with us & we drank your health. Mr Craig returned at noon from his expedition to the Kan-hawa much pleased with his jaunt & benefitted as to his health & interests. He is sunburnt, but in good spirits. I have partaken of none of the sights, more gratified with considering the poor. There was an exhibition of the mechanical performances of the cooper, for prizes this morning. The barrels & casks were certainly most elegant.

Tuesday 6th 7 A. M. I have just been to call Mama & Sister up, the hour of their rising. The national Jubilee is over & was celebrated in this city with increasing splendor. I walked out in the evening to see Scudders illuminations. His Museum was thronged. But what to me was the most imposing spectacle, was the multitude Males & Females who thronged & filled all the park between his porch & Broadway. The moon, nearly at full, shone resplendent & the blaze of light from the illumination thrown on several thousand faces, all, as in a theatre, looking towards the Museum presented a most interesting sight. As to the interior, the multitude came to see the 4th of July, for the crowd was so great, & the heat so insufferable, that no gratification could arise from viewing his elegant preparations. The music was very fine, & the Spectators outside had the best of the bargain. The day was serene & remarkably cool. Before I close my narrative of marvels, I must mention that on Saturday morn's 3d I attend the consecration of S't Philip's Church appropriated for the Africans. Prayers by Mr Milnor of S't George's, the consecration by Bishop Hobart who preached. A Mr Peter Williams a man of colour, is
studying Divinity & will be ordained Deacon shortly who is to officiate in this Church, which is a very neat building & neatly fitted up. The Africans sung the concluding Hymn themselves with great effect, for they have fine voices. This is the first African Episcopal Church in our city. There has been a Methodist one for many years.

My health is better. The dreadful fever in my poor head has abated, since I left off, by Dr Francis' advice immersing my head in cold water. This cool regimen was killing me, w^h I mistakingly applied, to reduce the terrible heat w^h afflicted me & w^h was increased as the secretion was checked. I mention the circumstance more particularly for the Doctor who may in his practice, have occasion to benefit from my case. My face, on the least exercise, became inflamed & as red as a topers. Any one w^d have supposed me a confirmed drunkard. But I am better & improving thank God.

Wed^y 7^th. I regret to say that all our domestic comfort is once more unhinged. Hannah who had behaved very well until a visit from her husband a week ago, who is to be emancipated. He found out Princee, where she formed an acquaintance. On Saturday without a cause, she wished to go to Princeton with her troublesome boy, but that better of it. I had procured a round of Beef to a la mode for Sunday & Monday, to avoid cooking on those days. She told y^r sister that she was going to cook no more dinners for our family. She went to her room & lay abed all day. On Sunday she went to Church, & on Monday morn^s rose at 4, went off & never returned till last evening when she came to demand her wages, w^h I refused to pay her, as Mr Bayard desired me to stop them to discharge some debts w^h she had left unpaid at Princeton. I discharged her, for her conduct & ingratitude.
TO HIS DAUGHTER, 1819

New York, Sat. 17 July, 1819. 10 A. M.

We have been under some excitement here least we sh'd be revisited by the Yellow fever, symptoms of w'h have appeared in Phil'a but the alarm has abated. To show what Fame with her trumpet tongue can do, last Sunday a report was rife, that the Plague had been imported into Phil'a by a vessel from the Mediterranea. This you may be sure excited no small alarm for our unfortunate neighbours. The result of a communication between the two Health offices of this city & Phil'a has no doubt been republished in N Orleans . . . A visitation of malignant fever w'd sadly aggravate the depression arising from commercial embarrassments. Please God that this scourge will be spared. The failures among our mercantile folks are fewer at present, but there is no reason to conclude that we have passed thro' the worst. As the evil spreads thro' the country the effects fall on the cities. But what is evil? Is unbounded national or individual prosperity a blessing or a curse. One or the other as good or bad use is made of it. Nations as well as individuals get intoxicated with prosperity, run mad and involve themselves in eventual ruin, public & private calamities bring us to our sober senses and teach us that we are all but poor weak mortals. . . . The great object that attracts and amuses the public mind in this place is the unparralleled success of our Savings Bank. I wrote you in my last that it had opened auspiciously, and its progress has been still more flattering. Our 4 receipts am't to nearly $20,000. It fell to my lot last December, at an interview between the members of the Legislature from this city and a Comm'e of the So. for the prevention of pauperism, to explain the nature of a Savings Bank and to obviate any plausible objections that might arise. Sanguine myself, I did not dare go further than to observe that if our application for an Incorporation sh'd be successful, we might reasonably hope, to receive $52,000 the first year, at the rate of $1000 a week. But that in the course of 7 years I had
no doubt that the utility & benefit of the Institution w'd be so fully established that we might calculate our deposits w'd amount to one Million of Dollars, ¾ th's of which w'd be rescued from dram shops & frippery. A smile played across the countenances of the gentlemen present, as tho' they thought how ardent I was. The issue I trust will prove that I was not too confident. The basis of my estimate was that in a population of 110,000, at least 10,000 w'd make permanent deposits in that period average $10 each w'h gives the million.

I shall conclude this subject by adding what this ev's & Monday will produce. Last Sat' I rose ½ p. 4, was at my desk (meals & marketing 1 hour excepted) till past 3, was at the Bank from 4 to 11, & returned after 17 hours constant work, battered down. . . . Mr Bayard came to town & left us yest'. He has decided to contest y' Uncle's Will, an object scarcely worth the pursuit, but he says Aunt Patty is very tenacious of her rights, & as I am joint heir, I join, tho' reluctantly, in the suit. The expense is certain, the event doubtful, & will not produce $1000 each. Mama & Sister will go to Princeton in Aug'. It will be impossible for me to leave our House. We have a decent, civil woman Jane, but neither cook nor a good washer, appears sober & willing. A month will show what she is. Hannah has got back to Princeton. But enough of these more than insect vexations.

Tuesday 20th. I have not been able to resume my pen before having been much occupied yest'. The receipts at the Saving's Bank on Sat' ev's were $5908 & yest' $1926. This institution is becoming very popular and I am more than requited for all my pains. But I think that this is the last effort that I shall make to get up any new project. . . . The Savings Bank must be the apex of my little molehill. As long as health & circumstances permit I will serve as a Trustee & take my regular tour of duty.

I am glad to find that you have so kind a friend in Mrs Butler, who makes substantial acknowledgments for
TO HIS DAUGHTER, 1819

your attentions. Mama frequently obliges her country friends by shopping for them, & generally more economically and as they are pleased to say better than they e\textsuperscript{d} do for themselves for she is an excellent judge of goods. One rule she uniformly pursues, w\textsuperscript{h} on similar occasions I recommend to you. She always takes a bill & receipt for every article she purchases, w\textsuperscript{h} she incloses with the parcel. This removes all distrust of charging more than the cost and is satisfactory to both sides. One cannot be too scrupulously exact in these particulars. Your friend Col. Hamilton does not give me much trouble. I wish he were here to make the best bargain he e\textsuperscript{d} for the disposition of the property. A person on the spot w\textsuperscript{d} know all the difficulties he has to encounter in the sale of property at this juncture, but I shall do my best to serve him. I have recommended what I ant\textsuperscript{c}icipate he will not think good advice, to lease his premises till his son comes of age and to place the interest, to accumulate in our Savings Bank. . . . There is something enigmatical about Cap\textsuperscript{t} Hill, who I passed in the street yest\textsuperscript{r}. We exchanged salutes. Why he is unprovided with letters from his own country is mysterious, for travelling gentlemen know the importance of such introductions. I was glad that he was not in town when Gov\textsuperscript{r} Clinton was here, for one feels awkward in being the medium of introducing strangers upon slight acquaintance. By the way, is it not time that the consulting physician of N. Orleans sh\textsuperscript{d} have acknowledged Doc\textsuperscript{r} Hosacks attentions. . . . I mentioned in my last of having made a small deposit of a half eagle for each of y\textsuperscript{r} dear children in the Savings Bank & w\textsuperscript{h} I shall repeat please God at New Year, & so progressively as long as life & means permit. To make all smooth & give no cause for umbrage I deposited also $25 for Sister, & shall give my good faithful Mama $100 next month, & yearly. . . .
New York, 30th July, 1819

... We are labouring under oppressive heat, & our dwelling is the very black hole of Calcutta, unrefreshed by any air. It was bad eno formerly, but this Spring there has been a general eradication of poplar trees throughout the city, on acc^ of the caterpillars that infested & devoured their verdure & we are doubly exposed to the direct & reverberating heat of the Sun, without the least shelter. ... We have a willing, quiet, but ignorant body—Jane—of an Irishwoman, as a substitute for a better. Nancy the little girl from Princeton is very smart & begins to be acquainted with our ways. I hope her mother may not detain her when she accompanies Mama. I dwell too much however on this tormenting topic.

Monday 2^ Aug^t. How little we foresee what a day may bring forth. I was consoling myself that Jane, who tho ignorant seemed well disposed would have continued with us, at least thro the summer. It seems that she had left her husband in the country, who came to town in quest of her, & found her out, by means of her sister. On Friday ev^s she went as natural to see her husband, staid with him & at 5 on Sat^ morn^s returned & went up to Mamas bedroom & told her that she must go away, which she did instantly without previous warning, & thus we are undomesticated again except Nancy, at this intolerant hot period w^b quite prostrates us. Mama must now give up her country jaunt, at least for the present. What torment is yet in store I know not, but I confess that I was so unhinged on Sat^ that I had little spirits left to continue this journal. In the ev^s I attended the Savings Bank, my last turn as attending Committee man, but I shall assist Mr Buckley this mo[nth] who lives out at Manhattanville. Our total deposits for the month of July am^t to $40,303, a sum four times greater than I had anticipated. ... 9 o’clock. ... As I opened the office door I observed a young gentleman looking at the H^o. I stepped forw^d to guide his enquiries when he
asked for me & extended a letter from the Doctor. I asked him, & thanked him, but finding him unacquainted with y" family, did not take him upstairs. He, M' Custis, says that he expects to return in Novemr. I requested to call to be introduced to y" Mama & Sister, w'h he promised to do. I find that the Doctor is no longer in the Health office department, but that he concludes it better for his practice to be at his own command, which I hope will prove true. . . . I gave the Doctor's Epistle to D'' H. a cursory glance & shall reperuse it & forward it this afternoon. In the evening I will refresh myself with his dissertation. His letter is very creditable to him. Indeed my dear daughter y" good husband does not want for talents nor expression. His station as President will exact attention to his composition, and he will select his matter as he reads & practises to do credit to himself & honour to his Society. I am glad that he has reciprocated the compliment to my friends Hosack & Francis, whose names will honour any medical Institution. D'' Paschalis,¹⁷ a Frenchman himself, has puffed his colleagues. The sterling merit of the Medical & Surgical S° will not require such artificial aid. I shall endeavour to collect what professional pamphlets may be in my power & forward them. With respect to your dear boys & the West Point Academy we will talk the subject over hereafter. If the Doctor means to make them bucanneers & send them prowling over the face of creation, then a military education may perhaps be eligible. But if they can be reconciled to work for an honest living in the sober walks of life, it will be best not to contaminate their young minds by the licentious manners of youth destined to have their throats cut in the honourable profession of arms. The bigger devil the better soldier, is the general maxim, but I confess I do not relish much entering our boys in such a service. . . .

To D'' D. Tuesday morn⁶ 3ᵈ. The extreme pressure of the heat yest⁵ prevented my calling with y" letter on D'' Hosack, and towards ev⁶ my good companion was

obliged to go in quest of a domestic, I was therefore kept at home, & perused y" inaugural address, for such it appears to be, as you acknowledge the honour conferred on you. Your account of the climate, local position & internal character of N. O. is very satisfactory.

My beloved daughter. Were it not that y" husband sh*d look at this letter I w*d candidly ask you, whether the President was not indebted to his Larmed friend for the polish given to his dissertation. My impression of him was, that well gifted by nature, he was not much given to books, beyond what his profession required. The dissertation evinces ext'y power both of mind & reflection & will do honour to the S° when published. It is more than neatly expressed, and if it be a genuine production, I shall be not a little proud of my son in law. I read his conclusion beginning with "to these imperfect remarks" to Mama & Sister who were much gratified. Mama has a very critical tast both as to orthoepy & composition, which, had she been blessed with education w*d have been more conspicuous. Her praise therefore is no small meed, and as such accept it together with the unqualified approbation of y" Father.

We have unfavourable accounts from Spain, that the ratification of the Treaty is suspended. I believe I mentioned that the cession of the Floridas w*d be very unpalatable to John Bull, who, if not exhausted by his late battles w*d put an absolute veto on the transfer. Tho’ delayed the Treaty will be eventually ratified & we shall possess the Floridas without a war. We made too much school boy whooping & hallooing about the acquisition, frightening the English & forgetting the Indian maxim, not to halloo till we get thro’ the woods.

Yesterday afternoon, a Baloon was let off from Vauxhall by a M. Guille who ascended in the parachute; its assent was slow, regular & majestical and was some time in direct view of the whole city, drifting by a northerly wind towards Long island. After crossing the East river M. Guille detached hurriedly & lighted safely with his
parachute at Bushwick returned to the city & attended the circus at 9, where he was rec'd with plaudits. We saw it distinctly from our back windows. Altho' the day was most severe, Tens of thousands went out to see it, broiling in the sun for hours. City Felicity.

Wed'y 4th Aug't. We are blest thank God with a strong northerly wind w'h commenced last night, after 9 days of intenser heat than has ever been experienced in this city. Out Therm° w'h at breakfast stood at 87 is now down to 76. I feel like a different being, for I have been dreadfully prostrated. . . . Yest'y was commencem't in our college, but none of us went to Trinity where the exercises were performed. This & the Balloon have afforded some amusement to our languishing females & dandies.

New York, 13th August, 1819

a pestilential hot day.

There is one subject in your last letter that occasions much solicitude. The education of my namesake, whose faculties seem to develop very slowly. It is worse than useless to send boys to Grammar School & College too early. My opinion is that he had better be kept at home till he is 10 years old, & acquire the French language as his vernacular tongue. . . . At 10, we will bring him on this way, & if domestic circumstances sh'd be favourable I c'd wish to superintend & direct his education. The basis of classical lore is to be laid in the Grammar School & we have one or two capital Schools in this city. . . .

Sat'y 14th Aug't. . . . Our city thank God is free from malignant fever, w'h prevails in Balt° & has appeared in Boston. Our Quarantine laws are rigidly enforced. I dread that in consequence of the abrogation of yours that N. Orleans will be exposed to its ravages.

Monday, 16th Aug't. At length we have experienced
a refreshing change in the intemperate heat that has so long prevailed. The wind changed yest' morn to N N W & afterwards blew a gale from N E. The Therm° in the Tontine Coffee House below us w' on Sat' was at 93° fell in 24 hours to 74, a change of 19 degrees. Last night we enjoyed the first comfortable nights rest that we have had for two months. Saturday ev' at the Savings Bank, was almost suffocating with the heat from 8 Candles, without free circulation, and my nights rest was without comfort or repose. But thank God a fine rain last night, the first I believe in 6 weeks & an easterly overcast day with a prospect of more rain, has so cooled the atmosphere that I am now comfortably clad in cloth, when I c'd scarcely endure the lightest clothing for weeks. My former summer dresses, not much worn, had become out of date, & Sister who is like her Mother & y'self exceedingly expert with her needle, has made me some fashionable vests & pantaloons & is engaged in making an India Gingham short coat, w'h will be better than those purchased at the sale stores, & less than half price. I think for a pair of neat cotton with a blue stripe pantaloons for w'h they ask $3. Mama got all the materials, with her careful shopping, thread & buttons included, for 9/, & the vest for 4/. The Gingham pantaloons & vest come to $2. What an immense difference in expenditure. I pay y' Sister the price of making up, w'h she deposits in the Savings Bank. This institution more than answers all my sanguine hopes. We have) taken $52,000, & shall probably exceed $100,000 by Jan'. It will prove incalculably beneficial to every class of the community as it will [MS. torn] people not only talk of but practise saving. . . .

I am glad that you have at length got a pew of your own. . . . You do not mention the price w'h the pews in general brought, and w'h no doubt has been affected by the times. I hope that the expenses of the Building have been nearly re-imbursed. I think Mr Larned told me that the contract was $30,000, now if the whole cost
$40,000 it wd require 100 pews at $400 ea. to raise that sum. I presume this average is hardly to be expected.

Tuesday. . . . the Bible $o . . . which begins to feel the effects of the general depression of our commercial prosperity. But we shall recover & the gloom will pass over, altho the worst has not yet come. I dread the ensuing winter. We have repeated failures in this city, among the rest my esteemed friend Mr Eastburn the enterprizing Bookseller who has enriched our country with invaluable importations. But he has failed for lack of support.

Wed'y 18th. . . . I have stepped out & procured a package of school books tales &c. 2 doz. as a reward for Eliza's progress in learning. The various catechisms by Mavor 6 or 7 are excellently adapted to expand young minds. . . . I came across a second hand set 6 vols. on Natural History, with elegant plates for w'h I gave $9, the others cost $3. These will serve to give a useful bias as well as afford entertainment.

New York, 28th Aug', 1819

By the next opp'o I will send her [Eliza Davidson] the best book in the world, a pretty little Bible to take to Church on Sundays, to find the Chapter w'h Mr Larned may read. I am sorry that the Presbyterians read so little of the Scriptures in Divine Service. In this particular our Church excels, nor are the lessons left to the caprice of the preacher, who generally wears out his people with the Epistles. I could not but remark the impropriety of an injudicious selection for a public exhibition of the African school last Spring, when the boys & girls recited by memory a chapter in the Hebrews, w'h they c'd not understand, instead of a portion of our blessed Saviour's sermon on the mount, or some of the parables so fascinating, so intelligible, & so instructive to tender
minds. But their teacher was no doubt enamoured with Owens ponderous commentary on the Hebrews and of course thought this difficult & abstruse Epistle eminently adapted to the young Africans. I am sure it is incomprehensible to whites of tender years.

1 o'clock. You have probably thro' the papers heard of the death of the Revd Doctor Smith. I have just rec'd a letter from Mr Bayard of 26th & transcribe for yr satisfaction his account.

"It is now about 4 weeks since our departed friend was taken to his "bed. He languished from day to day, until Thurs' (19th) last, when "after taking his tea as usual, nay, in rather better health than before, "about 9 o'clock he was suddenly struck with apoplexy as Dr Van Cleef "supposes, after which he never opened his eyes or spoke. About 12 "o'clock that night I was sent for & remained with him, almost without "interruption, except Friday night, until the moment of his departure. "He suffered no pain, but quietly breathed his last a minute or two "before 11 on Saturday morning. His remains were interred on Mon- "day afternoon agreeably to our solemn manner, w'h you had once an "opportunity of witnessing (Aunt Pintards funeral). Doctor Wood- "hull the senior clerical Trustee, preached the discourse, & gave a "short narrative of his life. His remains were attended to the grave "by the largest concourse of people ever witnessed here. Six Trustees "bore the Pall, eight members of the Church convey'd the body to its "last home. The Students of the College went into mourning & "formed part of the procession. Clergymen, strangers from the neigh- "bouring towns, & the inhabitants of the borough followed in the train. "There has not been time as yet to prepare an obituary article of this "venerable man, but you will shortly see one, w'h I hope will be rec- "ognized as a just portrait, neither exaggerating, nor diminishing his "distinguished excellence. The family will remain together for some "time until the distant relatives can be heard from. The Vice president "will not take possession of the house until after the meeting of the "Board of Trustees. Mr Salomons sends $30 to be deposited in the "Savings Bank."

I thought that this transcript w'd convey better than my own words, the acct of the last moments of your once kind friend Doctor Smith, for he always spoke of you with affection. Poor Aunt Betsey what is to become of her? . . .

To conclude this obituary article, you have doubtless

heard of the decease of Mr. A. Duer. I did not see him when he dropped your letter at my door.

Monday 30th. I am happy to inform you that we are at length likely to be domestically comfortable. Nancy the young girl who was with us from Princeton, was taken off, as usual, at an hours notice by her mother. She was a very smart girl & just got acquainted with Mama's habits. We were destitute of help for a week. Your Sister doing all the work, but we refrained from cooking & lived on rice & milk & chocolate till Satur'y when the weather being cool she roasted a sirloin elegantly. You must know she is an epicure & a good cook. She has made the sweetmeats, Noyau & Cherry brandy & this morn" is preparing mushrooms for ketchup. . . . Destitute of servants & dreading the constant change of unprincipled, unqualified & thieving white women, I hunted up Tamar to prevail on her to come & stay with me, while Mama shall be absent. She called, & at length agreed if we would take Nancy with her that they would both come back. Accordingly Nancy came on Sat'y & Tamar is to come on Wed'y. Unlike the monsters who infest this city, she would not leave her former place until she had washed & cleaned the house. I do fervently pray that we may agree together, & tho' no witch at cooking, her fidelity, honesty & sobriety are such as to render her invaluable esp'y to me who am obliged to leave my office exposed, or to be confined to it till sunset & lose my exercise. . . .

Wed'y 1st Sept'y. Last evening Mrs Talbot took tea with us. She is pretty well & desires to be remembered to you. Her constitution is frail & she is a quack, easily alarmed & always groaning. Fond of company, indeed, solitary & alone, society is her only relief. Aunt Helen was with us. All our family friends are well, except my good friend Judge Boudinot, who by early retirement from active life & over nursing will in all probability depart before his brother whose health & spirits enabled

him to attend the anniv^r meeting of the N. Jersey Bible S° at Trenton last week. He talks of coming on to Newark in Octo^r to visit his brother. A wonderful old man. We have nothing new stirring. The Spanish Treaty will I think be ratified at any rate the U^d States will occupy the Floridas. Commerce is very dull, failures numerous, it will be worse ere it is better, but we shall gradually settle down into the old slow & sure habits of prudence & economy. Emigrants in sholes from Europe throng our streets. The broad bottomed Swiss females are quite a spectacle. They c^d put one of ours in their pocket. Adieu. God bless you.

New York, Friday 10 Sept. 1819

Perhaps my dearest daughter will have experienced some solicitude on account of the health & safety of her parents & sister, w^h thank God, remain as yet in perfect security, in consequence of the bulletins of our Board of Health, announcing the existence of Yellow Fever 20 in this city. After a lapse of many years 10 or 12, except a few sporadic cases which always have occurred, we have till the present season, been free from all alarm of this desolating disease, which was ascribed, under Providence, to the vigilance of our Quarantine Officers. The past, & indeed 'till yest^r, the last of the Dog days, & present season has been unusually hot, beyond all former experience within the recollection of the oldest livers. A great drought has also prevailed, along the Atlantic states. The same causes must produce the same effects, and if the tropical heats engender yellow fever, we have shard an abundance of such heat, without the refreshing sea breezes. Danger was apprehended, & at length appeared on Sunday 5^th inst. at the Old Slip & Water Street, not very remote from our quarter. The cases justified the B^d of Health to recommend an evacu-

20 There is an account of this epidemic in A Statement of the Occurrences during a Malignant Yellow Fever, in the City of New-York in the summer and autumnal months of 1819 [by Dr. Felix Pascalis], N. Y., 1819, pp. 52, with a map of the Old Slip area.
ation & purification of the Houses in that part of our city, and renewed instances of 6 or more cases have confirmed the propriety of an order, w I thought in the first instance, precipitant. A compulsory order to abandon that quarter was issued yest afternoon and I hope, that the fuel being removed the Fire will expire, and the aliment withheld that the malady will become extinct. Whatever detriment may arise to our foreign commerce, direct benefit will result to our city, as the alarm being general, great attention is paid to ventilation & purification. The old inhabitants require not such inducements, but the multitude of new comers, amongst whom are a large portion of the lowest offscourings of Europe, who live in low damp dwellings crowded to excess, unaccustomed to our changeable climate, & extreme heats. improvident, careless & filthy, it w be a miracle if fevers when they appear sh not be of the highest type. In the present instance however, the spot has been noted in 1797 & 9, for the first appearance of the yellow fever of those years, so that there is some local fatality existing in that quarter that converts every incipient disorder into high malignant or yellow fever. The cases minutely stated by our B of H. will attract the Doctors notice. Our Board deserves credit for their prompt & honourable disclosure of the real state of the city. The Baltimoreans are outrageous at being quarantined esp with their rival city Phil & speak very uncourteously about us. Having, as you know, served in the trenches during a yellow fever campaign & that most faithfully, I am not easily alarmed and what is more to be thankful for, Mama is no ways timorous & Sister relies on Mama, so that we remain as yet very tranquil & hope so to continue. The wind yest having shifted to the north & west, from a dense, inexpiirable oppressive atmosphere we are all at once relieved by a clear elastic air, that has quite invigorated us, & last night, for the first in 8 or 10, we have all enjoyed refreshing sleep. A few days of northerly wind will I hope dissipate the seeds of disease. . . . In case of extremity, Mama &
Sister will go to Princeton. Yeast a very affect. & pressing invitation was rec'd from Aunt Patty. At any rate I shall endeavour to prevail on Mama to accept it, esp. as we are now once more comfortably accommodated with Tamar & Nancy who have both much improved. I shall my self go to Aunt Helens, in case of worse times the Banks & Offices will all have to remove. But I do not apprehend this necessity. Forewarned, forearmed, it is best to provide seasonably for a retreat.

Saturday 11th. 7 A. M. No new case has occurred by the bulletin of yeast afternoon. By order of the B'd of Health the infected Houses at the Old Slip have been evacuated. The Streets at least are kept very clean, & attention is generally paid to purify every dwelling. A fine refreshing N Westerly wind has prevailed the last two days & still continues, braces us & with the blessing of God will dissipate every seed of contagion. The city has been much agitated, but the panic has subsided. We remain quite tranquil & easy in our habitation & trust we shall have no cause to remove.

Monday 13th. This letter will be almost entirely occupied with the narrative of our Yellow fever campaign. On Sat' no new cases appeared but yeast' 3 are reported & 1 death. Our Health officer, Doctor DeWitt died at the Quarantine Ground on Sat' morn' at 2 & was buried at noon. Francis with a few other physicians attended from town. The report was a stroke of the sun, but Dr. F. says that the case was decidedly yellow fever. His assistant lies also ill. This has caused much alarm. He is the 5th Health Officer who has died since the establishment of this department 24 years. Doctors Treat, Smith, Bailey, Ledyard & now DeWitt, so that the appointment may be considered as a 5 years lease. I am stopped by the appearance of Mr. Levy, who has just presented y' package w' I must read.

Tuesday 14th. I could proceed no further yeast'. Such has been the excitement respect the yellow fever, that the public mind is fairly unhinged. This being a dull

TO HIS DAUGHTER, 1819

period, at the best of times for business, & peculiarly so, just now, people have nothing to do but run up & down enquiring news & exaggerating every report. There has been but one case, in the same quarter the 24 hours at noon yest\textsuperscript{v} & but one death. The fever is confined happily to one spot & has not appeared in any other quarter, and why this agitation. A power has been conferred on the Mayor, in concurrence with the Board of Health, to compel families to evacuate every infected house or quarter w\textsuperscript{h} will be exercised & I trust remove the cause of further evil. Mama will put up her plate this day & prepare her travelling equipage in case of necessity. Thank God she is very firm & composed, not easily alarmed, nor will we be the last to retreat. I was obliged to attend at the Savings Bank at 11 yest\textsuperscript{\textdegree} so many of our Trustees being absent. We rec\textsuperscript{d} $2500. Our whole deposits exceed $80,000.

We have two prominent physicians in this city Doctors Hosack & Post.\textsuperscript{22} The former has the most lucrative practice & extensive fees, I suppose equal to $12,000 a year, liberal, hospitable & expensive. I doubt if he is worth a dollar. The latter has laid up $100,000 & is still in full practice. Hosack ought to have exceeded this. Such is the wide difference between spendall & saveall.

Wed\textsuperscript{v} 15\textsuperscript{th} Sept. 7 A. M. I have just finished my morning lessons & returned from market & have read over all your letters & specimens from my dear grandchildren. . . . The card of Mr. Howard is very elegant, I believe we have none so elegant in our city. I presume it is French taste, who excell in everything of this sort. It shall be preserved, together with his advertisement in print, with the other letters. We had a gale from the north yest\textsuperscript{v} & it is now quite cold. I c\textsuperscript{d} hardly bear the sheet over me on Monday night & last night slept comfortably under a blanket. . . .

\textsuperscript{22}David Hosack (1769-1835) and Wright Post (1766-1828). Dict. Amer. Biog., IX, 239-40; XV, 121.
Wed' 15. Thermometer in our Parlour at 8 A. M. 64°. Yest' 14th same hour 87—diff. 23°.

New York, Saturday, 18th Sept', 1819

My dearest daughter's letter of 21st Aug' has quite relieved me, at a juncture when we are extremely agitated by the fever that has prevailed in the vicinity of the Old Slip, which in consequence of the death of Mr Gilbert Aspinwall merch & his clerk Mr Johnson has terrified all the lower part of the city Wall Street included out of their reason & senses. I wrote you on Wed' last and this is commenced to go by the next Wed'' mail, please God. I am alive & well. The fever has been peculiarly malignant & fatal in every case, & all can be traced to the quarter I mention & is charged to Baltimore, in consequence of the relaxation of the quarantine laws by the late Health Officer Dr DeWitt who did not believe in foreign importation & contagion. Mr Aspinwells store was near the Old Slip. He was taken last week & went to Jamaica L. Isl where notwithstanding every medical aid, pure air, & domestic attention he died this morn' His young clerk did not remove from town & died this morning also. The prominence of this case has excited an alarm beyond description. Stores are shutting up & goods removing to the upper parts of Greenwich & B''way. The Banks have not yet started, but several of the Insurance Offices remove this day, on the principle that they must follow their customers. I presume that the same rule must guide us, altho' I absolutely declare that I think the city is panicke struck. This ev' I will apply to the Trustees of the Savings Bank for permission to remove the Mutual Insur' Office to the Institution in Chamber Street, and as I was chiefly instrumental in procuring the accommodation for the Bank I have no doubt but the privilege will be cheer-

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23 Edward Henry Johnson, reported as having died of yellow fever during the week ending Saturday, Sept. 18, 1819. N. Y. Eve. Post, Sept. 20, 1819. See also Dr. Pascalis's *Malignant Yellow Fever* . . 1819, cited above, p. 30.
fully granted. In wⁿ case I will find quarters in the neighbourhood provided it will not be agreeable to Aunt Helen to accommodate me & be in a high & healthy part of the city, where in the worst of times, when the old Alms House was crowded with paupers, an instance of yellow fever never appeared. On Monday the expediency of removal will be determined, in the mean time only 3 deaths have occurred & 3 new cases, all connected with the Old Slip, and no instance, except a solitary case at the foot of Rector Street, has yet occurred & this is the 18th day since the first alarm. The weather is very temperate and we may look out for the Equinox¹ storm wⁿ will change the atmosphere.

2 P. M. The impression of carts loaded & loading with merchandize, household effects & office furniture, constantly passing our door this morning is I confess appalling, and makes ones heart sick. Happily Mama & Sister are busily employed upstairs, assorting & packing their treasures, for removal to the Bank for security in case of our retreat. How worthless all earthly comforts appear at such a moment, wⁿ only add to ones solicitude. We are like a city in a siege, the inhabitants fleeing they know not whither, leaving all that renders life happy behind them, exposed to midnight robbers and incendiariestes. Tomorrow however is the glorious Sabbath of rest that will tranquilize these agonizing feelings.

Sunday morn² 19th. Attending at the Savings Bank last night & sitting up late, I did not rise till past 6, when after dressing &c. I drew up as usual the Report of our deposits with a few obvious & timely reflections, wⁿ I could not copy fair until after breakfast & was detained too late to get to Church. Not unmindful however of our domestic duties at this eventful period, Mama & Sister are necessarily engaged, providing for removal. It is decided that our office shall be removed to the Savings Bank, for wⁿ I obtained permission last ev². We shall remain here en famille tomorrow night & on Tuesday Mama, Sister & Nancy will embark in the Steam Boat for Princeton, Tamar will go to Connec² &
I shall at noon go in quest of lodgings. Aunt Craig offered us all an Assylum before the necessity of removing was ascertained, but I presume it is not agreeable to M' C. to afford me accommodation, for w'h I sh'd have paid and not a lisp has further occured. You know my disposition, so that I shall go to some private lodging house, relying however on the former expectation I may find it difficult to procure retired reasonable quarters. This part of the city is totally abandoned & will be almost entirely so tomorrow, when I presume the Banks will also consider it expedient to change their positions, a troublesome job. Were it not for the soli-tude & Mama w'd consent I w'd keep my stand. But she w'd be unhappy perhaps not go on such condition, for I confess that I do not apprehend danger. Indeed there is nobody in this quarter to die, and the Fever has never extended from beyond a short compass at the old Slip.

Ante prandium. I presume the Learned president has latin en° for this, at any rate your Larmed friend has. You see my spirits are a little exhilarated after my return from the City Hall, where no new case of Fever is reported; & I sincerely hope that no more will, but this is hardly to be expected. Sh'd this favourable state continue a day or two confidence will be restored and the Banks will not remove. We must wait & see what the morrow will bring forth. I shall spend my afternoon with Bishop Horne, 24 & then seek for quarters in ease of need, in the meanwhile ye' good Mother & Sister are packing up our travelling equipage.

Monday 20th 8 o'clock. I must proceed by paragraphs. On going as far as Burling Slip before I c'd find a Ship Chandlers Store to buy some cord for binding our trunks, one of w'h with plate &c. is to go to the Bank & 2 or 3 others with Mamas most valuable clothes linen &c: I shall send to my friend Scudder at the Museum, for fear of robbery or fire, I observed all the Stores almost along Pearl Street Water & Front Streets closed

24 Probably A Commentary on the Book of Psalms, by George Horne, Bishop of Norwich.
or closing. The panic is universal & without cause, so high up from Old Slip w^h the B^d of Health has prudently ordered to be barricaded to prevent intercourse.

Tuesday 21st 11 A. M. The consternation has thank God subsided. The report of the B^d of H. only one case a Carman 25 in Grand St on the Eastern side of the city, whose business lay at the Old Slip, to which every instance of malignant fever can be traced, & how introduced these will be the subject of critical investigation after the campaign is over. In the Ev^e Post appeared an Address from the B*^ of H. w* being published in all our papers you will of course see, and w^h will allay all apprehensions of future danger & tranquilize the minds of our fugitive citizens & their absent friends. The Banks (1 o'clock, you may see by what fits & starts I write) are just meeting by their Committees to decide on removing or not, w^h will determine the fate of my office. After what I said yest^y it is agreed that I shall take up my quarters at Aunt Helens. Mama is almost prepared & worn out with packing up trunks to remove our valuables, for leaving town tomorrow at 11 in the Brunswick Steamboat, wind & weather permitting. It has blown a hurricane to day & when I went to the Battery, just after 6, to know about the hour of the Steamboats departure, I e^d scarcely get home for the clouds of dust, a match for your Streets in dry windy weather, tho' our dust is somewhat more gravelly & not so dense. I expect to get my luggage off this afternoon. So that we shall have little else to do than lock up tomorrow after Mama has gone. Were it not so dreadfully solitary I sh^d be content as well as Tamar to remain at home. I find by stepping upstairs that Mama will be too fatigued to get away tomorrow, so that the term of our absence will be shorter. . . . The Banks unanim^o decided against removing for the present, w^h will render Wall Street more secure, as on ac^t of the Banks, in w^h all are interested, the Night Watch will be very vigilant. We have had a

25 Benjamin Couenhoven. See Dr. Pascalis's Malignant Yellow Fever . . 1819, cited above, pp. 32-33.
very hard gale at S. E. & a tide higher than for many years, w^h has overflown all the wharves on each side of the town & inundated the Ware house cellars. No doubt much injury must be sustained. I hope not to health as the season is so cool, but from this cause Yellow fever in former years proved more extensively fatal. If the morrow proves fair I shall urge Mama to depart. She will rest on the Steamboat before encountering the ride to Princeton. I find by a letter of 18th Aug^r published this ev^r a very exaggerated acc^t of the Fever in N. O. I had just before seen M^r Olmstead partner of M^r Myers to whom I mentioned your advice of the 21st w^h he s^d w^d be very satisfactory to M^r M. I sent a short extract to the Ev^r Post to counteract the effects of the forementioned awful letter, written with great levity & inconsistency by some new settler to show his wit & folly. This flurry will prevent Mama sending anything by so favourable an opp^r as M^r M. will return before Mama gets back. I have searched for Dwights Psalms neatly bound, in vain, & on Sat^v when the panic struck everyone M^r Swords was to have got for me some copies in sheets for binding to my liking. But bookbinders, booksellers & all have taken their flight. I shall make another search but doubt of success. . . . M^r Townsend on arriving from N. O. will not be allowed to come to this city at present for our quarantine is very strictly administered at present. No doubt he will visit this in Nov^r when I shall find him out as I am acquainted with a relation & namesake in M^r Dwights office, who I asked if he knew this gentleman w^h he did.

New York, 23rd Sept^r, 1819. Thurs^v

. . . . The extract published from y^v letter has relieved much anxiety, as its authenticity is so satisfactory. . . . We had a severe gale last night with rain. The Wind was so high yest^v that none of the Steamboats cd sail. The violence of the storm has abated, with ap-
pearance of clearing off, in wʰ case Mama & Sister will set off tomorrow. I am just taking 2 extra trunks to Scudders, as Aunt Helens room is too small to admit of more. I shall get the rest of our effects insured, tho' in case of accident I never shall replace my small but valuable collection, my Penates, my household Gods, for wʰ you know my fondness. But we must trust in Providence. "Except the Lord keep the City, the Watchman waketh but in vain." On leaving a small trunk at Aunt Helens, she wᵈ not permit the other two to be sent away, so that all is accommodated in the room appropriated for my use. Mama now, & Sister are all ready to depart tomorrow, wind & weather permitting. I regard our city as at the most critical crisis from the inundation of the cellars. Our vigilant Bᵈ of Health now sitting, have the subject before them of employing Fire Engines to pump out the cellars of Ware houses on both sides of the town, which will free them much quicker than by single efforts. Too much praise cannot be given to our Board & particularly to Mʳ Colden the Mayor who is indefatigable in the discharge of his duty. The candor of our Board, on the first appearance of Fever, must be applauded by all. Experience of 20 years has taught us that Honesty is the best policy.

Friday 24ᵗʰ ½ p. 11. I have just returned from embarking Mama & Sister on board the Steamboat, an unpleasant drizzling day, close & muggy weather being unfavourable to the health of the city, & I am glad that they are well off. Yestʳ aft.noon the gale subsided after doing much damage it is apprehended along the seabord. The Tides were higher than known by our oldest citizens. Much property in the cellars of Ware Houses will be damaged. Newark meadows have been completely inundated, & the great undertaking of the Swartwouts ²⁶ to drain the meadows & render them arable to be brought into crops & fresh grass, has been prostrated by the embankment extending a mile being completely

swept away by the force of the gale & tides. An enormous expenses has been incurred for years, & I fear these enterprizing brothers will be utterly ruined. We are at the very crisis of our city's health. Sh'd this close weather continue our Fever campaign has but just begun, but by the almost universal abandonment of the southwestern quarter in the vicinity of the Old Slip, the aliment for continuing the fever being removed it cannot rage much unless it sh'd extend, w'h my journal will inform you. As Tamar does not go in the country till tomorrow, at 9, I shall dine home, solitaire, take tea & sleep at my new quarters, breakfast, come down to my office & close at 3, after dismissing Tamar. The back windows, doors & shutters being all secured by Mama & Sister who are both very handy with the gimblet, saw & hammer. By the way y'r sister bought a small key hole saw the other day to be independent in her carpentering, w'h made the man smile who sold it & who gave her a handsome handle for it, observing that it was the first saw ever purchased from him by a young lady. . . . The report of the B'd of H. was very flattering yest', only one case & one death, both traceable to Old Slip. As long as it does not spread we are safe.

Saturday 25th. Only 2 cases reported yest', in the upper part of the city, both connected with the Old Slip. The rumour of damage to Swartwouts meadows is like most others exaggerated. It is said that $100 will repair all the damages. For the first time 10½ years, I slept out of our house. From necessity, Tamar remained, as the boat does not sail till tomorrow. This ev' she stays with her sister & at 4 I shall for the first time turn the key on the outside of the door, trusting to the care of Providence its contents, w'h I have had insured for $5000 for one year, cost $25.50, which it is better to pay than charge myself with culpable neglect in case of any accident. After much agitation on Mama & Sisters account, I reposed last night with great tranquillity & refreshment. Aunt Helen does every thing to make me comfortable, & your good mother has left as many instruc-
tions about my treatment, bed, board & washing, with the due mixture & proportions for my beverage, noon & night as tho I were a convalescent patient, or a spoiled child, w'h indeed she has made me. . . .

Sunday 26th 4 P. M. 1 case yest' a nurse employed in Pearl St. near Old Slip. The lad 27 reported yest' in Augustus Street, died. His inhuman master a cooper, compelled him to keep open his shop at the Old Slip after he had abandoned it himself. A base villain. The day Saturday was a continual succession of showers, heat, & hard rain. We concluded to close our office at 1 o'clock, for our customers w'd not come to us, & moved all that was requisite by 2 to the Savings Bank in the Institution, nearly opposite Aunt Helen. I c'd not leave home on acc't of the rain till past 4. It felt like nailing up my own coffin, as I nailed up the shuttered doors & window shutters of our old castle. The striking of the clock in our deserted mansion startled me, and I felt the full effect of what is so powerfully described by the inimitable M's Radcliffe in her romantic descriptions, w'h tho' highly coloured, are drawn true to nature. But one must have travelled in Spain & Italy, fully to comprehend the powers of her vivid & faithful scenes. I snatched a short meal & attended to my duty at the Savings Bank. If there is a spot in this city, that can cheer the spirits amidst the general gloom, it is this Institution. Notwithstanding a rainy evening & the general depression, we took in $2400 from 35 depositors. I believe that the reports w'h I have drawn up in succession ever since July, do not reach you. They contain some reflections w'h have probably excited public attention. Mama preserves them all. . . . I went to D's Mc Leods Church, Scotch Antiburghers, rather Cameronians, who are so admirably depicted in the Tales of my Landlord. I have the pleasure of an acquaintance

27 Edward Donaghan. See Dr. Pascalis's Malignant Yellow Fever . . 1819, cited above, p. 34.
28 The Reformed Presbyterian Church, on the north side of Chambers Street, east of Broadway, of which the Rev. Alexander McLeod was minister.
with the Doctor. There was nothing distinctive in his discourse. The service is introduced by a Commentary, of at least half an hour, on every verse of the First Psalm that is sung. I am so enamoured with the Book of Psalms, that I can dwell on them forever & they are always new. This unusual treat of course delighted me. I take the oppo[rtunity] of my own Church being shut, to visit the churches of every other denomination except the new attempted introduction of the baleful weed of eastern Socinianism, which I trust will not flourish in our ground.

Monday 27. 4 P. M. I am now writing in the Savings Bank where my office commenced business this morn§ & I have had pretty active service arranging my papers, & attending to the rec⁴ of deposits having taken in $4645, a great deal of w⁵ in small silver & sums, w⁷ makes it very troublesome, & then to lug all this specie to the Mechanics' Bank, for no one is trusted to lodge the money but a Trustee. The state of the public health is favourable, not a single case the last 24 hours. . . .

Tuesday 28th P. M. Yest⁸ afternoon I devoted to the conclusion of this Epistle, when a Baker, seeing the Savings Bank open, entered with a sack on his shoulder containing $600, in q⁹ & half dollars, w¹ I had to count, next a female domestic $285 & a Doctor 17, his 3⁴ deposit. Of course I was obliged to lay aside my pen & after the examination & entry of the receipts had again, with the assistance of the Accountant to take all this weight of silver to the B² in Wall Street. . . . There is no new case of Fever this day.

. . . . I met Dr Francis just setting off for Princeton by whom I wrote a short line, & shall hear by his return. He has gone to be initiated an honorary member of the

Whig S$. This man is destined to be the first physician in the U$d States. His professional knowledge is far superior to any of his contemporaries, & as for belle let-
tres, history & general knowledge, his flight is far above them. He is an extraod$ man, & what is more to me my friend on whose judgment in case of illness, I sh$d confidently rely. . . . This day is most delightful, serene, temperate, fine elastic air, w$ is much more so than in our dense atmosphere in Wall Street.

Wed$ 29$ Sept$. Unluckily for the Princeton Commencem$ this proves a rainy day. I know not whether yr Sister went equipped to appear at the Ball, or whether Mama, under existing circumstances w$d choose to interfere with the notions of the good folks with whom she sojourns, who do not believe that there is a time for all things, & by urging young people to go to prayer instead of dancing tend to make them hypocrites. This is among the mistakes of rigid Presbyterian discipline, a subject on w$ I never argue presuming that Episco-
palians are thought to be too relaxed. Judge not &c. When at the Bank yest$ I saw a person depositing sev-
eral bags of Dollars, w$ from being rolled in paper, I knew to have come from N. O. w$ place he left on the 8$ Sept$ when he s$d the city was healthy for the sea-
son.

In consequence of no cases the last two days & no deaths for four, the panic has so far subsided that many talk of returning home & there will be some difficulty to restrain them.

New York, 4$ Octo$, 1819. Monday

. . . Your narrative of the decease of your new friend Mrs Whyer $ affected me much. Dear good lady who to cherish the life of a beloved son sacrificed her own. . . . Will people never learn prudence. Must ex-

periment after experiment be tried to teach them wisdom. The Quarantine system, sanctioned by the usages of all Europe for ages, is decried in Balt & Boston as a relic of barbarous unenlightened ages. Such appears to be the foolish prejudice of y" city, w[h] w[d] sacrifice its inhabitants to commercial cupididity. We think better here. But the long interval of 14 years had rendered us forgetful that such a scourge as the Yellow Fever c[d] again revisit us. Our Quarantine system was relaxed, and the fatal consequences are now experienced. Had it not been for the prompt energetic measures adopted & executed by our vigilant B[d] of Health, this city might have been desolated by the pestilence that walketh at noon day. Public sentiment being in favour of vigorous measures rendered their execution less difficult.

Tuesday 5th Octo[r]. I rec'd by D[r] Francis on his return from commencement letters from y[r] dear Mother & Sister. They had a tedious passage to Princeton both by water & land, owing to the rain &c. but were landed safe at Mr Bayards at 1/2 past 8, dark & raining. Poor Mother had undergone excessive fatigue in packing up her valuables for removal & exercise of spirits on leaving me. The consequence was a very high fever the morning after her arrival & a dread of alarming the family & town by a surmise of having brought with her our malig[z] fever. You know her firmness. She kept her room and after the operation of a smart dose of Rochelle, was better on Monday & came down stairs recruited. Sister had taken out a new fashioned vest pattern for each of the boys & employed herself in making them up. Also in fitting the girls hats &ca. in the newest style. So that her talent for mantuamaking, tayloring & millinery, render her useful wherever she goes, and like a good girl she is not backward in assisting her friends.

Yest[r] I rec'd a very excellent letter from my protege Ja[z] Henry Clinton, now on board the Constellation ready to sail from Hampton roads & destined to have been
placed under the command of Com. Perry of whose premature death at Trinidad the public papers have informed you. The expedition is deferred until the appointment of a new Commander, w'h afforded James an op° to write & me a chance of sending an answer, w'h I have done this morning, fraught with all the intelligence & good advice due from me to the promising child of my excellent friend. James is a fine youth, but of pretty stubborn materials, and at a period when he must be kept afloat, for the son of a Governor & indulgent father, he was getting restive. However, thro' the kindness of Com. Chauncey & of the Navy Board, Master James is once more on his own element, & care must be taken not to let him remain long in port, at least in this port. . . . My good friend M'r Hogan has been app'd Commercial Agent at Havanna, where he is to go in all this month. I know not whether it will be in the Doctors way or power to recommend business to him. But it w'd be most flattering to me, as this good man, broken down from a very ample fortune, has been materially injured by poor Uncle Marsden. An opp° of a good word may possibly occurr, w'h I hope will not be lost, in such case a line from the Doctor thro my solicitation, will be a proof of my regard for my worthy friend Michael Hogan. . . . Y'r friend M'r Townsend arrived about 6 days ago at Boston after a long passage. A gent'n died on the passage, w'h I presume subjects the vessel to quarantine. . . .

Wed'r 6th Oct. . . . I rec'd a line from Aunt Betsey, inclosing $30, her second deposit of the like sum in the Savings Bank. She laments, too justly, having deferred being prudent, so long but if she has the means & will persevere laying aside $25 a quarter, she may live to receive a comfortable addition to her income. But I believe poor soul that now her Father is gone, her whole support is the Hundred pounds a year allowed by my good old uncle, a sum barely suff't to pay her board. The Trustees have very liberally granted an additional quarters salary, to his family, since the Doctors decease, and
the occupation of the House, until next May, w* will afford Aunt Betsey & Mrs Salomon time to look round for other quarters. Aunt Helen desires to be aff* remem-

bered to you. She is exceedingly kind & attentive to me. Grandmama is to dine with her to day. Good old lady she begins to decline perceptibly, more so than Aunt Hanson, who must be 84 . . . .

No new case occurred yest*. But the citizens from below will I hope not think of returning until we have had a black frost, w* we cannot look for till the last of this month. We are otherwise unusually healthy for the season. . . .

New York, Sat* 9 Octo*, 1819. A. M.

I purpose at 3 to go over to Newark to pay my re-
spects to Doctor Boudinot who is there on a visit with Mr Bradford to his brother who is languishing on the bed of sickness. I shall put up at the Rev. Mr Bayards & return tomorrow P. M. or Monday morn*. This will be the only excursion from the city, not even a mile, that I have made since I went there last Whitsunday. But instead of relaxation my visit will be to aged & departing friends, the Boudinots & my good friend J. Gifford who still exists in the last stages of paralysis.

Tuesday 12th Oct*. I paid my visit to Newark as I proposed, but found no moment to devote, but in thoughts, to my beloved daughter. It was past 5 & near close of day when I arrived. The Rector & family were all from home & I proceeded imm* to Judge Boudinots. Cousin Bradford meet me at the door and I found her good father sitting in the dining room & looking full as well as he did last spring. I staid till 9 o'clock, but c* not see my friend his brother who is very much op-

pressed with something like a dropsy, & can retain noth-
ing on his stomach except fluids which he swallows by drops, being subject to violent reachings that wreck &
agonize him exceedingly. The sight of an old friend affects him so much as to bring on spasms almost to suffocation. He sent his love to me & begged that I w'd excuse not being invited to his chamber. Alas! it was far from my wish to rend the feelings of my early & once intimate friend. That intimacy was interrupted by Aunt Rachel,\(^3^1\) who knew not Joseph. Emerging from my difficulties, she apprehended perhaps that I might call on Mr. B. for pecuniary assistance. But she knew not my proud heart. On his marriage with the present Mrs. B.\(^3^2\) my friend formed an entire new set of acquaintances and I became a still greater stranger & all intercourse was cut off for many years. I could not however forget his kindness to me, when the world forsook me, and my heart has often bled on reflecting that my first & only friend had apparently forsaken me. I could not, humbled as I was, obtrude myself on a new and strange lady, cold as the grave & wrapped up in her own self & her darling plants, for her delight was in her collection of exotics, with no mind nor cultivation beyond the civilities of life. All our family friends felt & experienced the change of atmosphere, which was too chilling to keep alive & cheer domestic amities. But so it was, & unless I went over with my ever honoured & dear Uncle & father to see him safe across the ferry, and who still put up at Uncle Elishas where I called of course, except this formal annual call, we seldom met. . . . But nothing can ever obliterate from my mind the obligations I owe to my once & I dare say still sincere friend. You know my dearest daughter what sufferings I have gone thro' but you were too young to judge of the bitter anguish of my heart. How often have I impiously cursed the hour of my birth and the day that a man-child was born in this world. But a gracious Providence has prolonged my days and granted me ere too late to

\(^3^1\) Rachel Bradford married Elisha Boudinot as his second wife. J. J. Boudinot, Life of Elias Boudinot, I. 33.

\(^3^2\) Elisha Boudinot married, as his third wife, Catharine Beekman, on December 17, 1805. Ibid., I. 33; [N. Y.] Com. Advertiser, Dec. 20, 1805.
see & repent of, at least, this error: and among the
infinite obligations w^ I confess and owe to my good
friend, the influence of his religious example and affect^
advice were not the least. Fascinated with the pride
of Reason, & wishing to reduce every thing to the stand-
ard of my feeble erring judgment, I roved in the de-
lusive fields of philosophical scepticism & folly, until by
the infinite mercy of God and the influence of his Holy
Spirit I trod back the paths of aberration & returned
once more to the good old ways of my pious fore-
fathers. . . .

On Sunday I attended my Rev^d young friend Mr
Bayards Church. He improves, and is a very zealous
& excellent parochial minister, & held in high estimation
by his congregation, the best proof of a pastors merits.
But he is getting overwhelmed by an increasing family.
Hie wife now near her confinement with her 4^th child.
She is one of your sickly companions & might have
made a good subject for a medical husband to have practised upon. But this is a heavy drawback, with
other indulgences to w^ she has been accustomed in an
extravagant fathers hospitable family, on a country cu-
rates slender salary. He has $1000, & his fuel, finds his
own house, the rent $110, w^ may be remunerated by the
usual presents, still fortunately existing, in country
parishes, a species of willing tythes, w^ puritanic zeal
abolished, much to the detriment of modern ministers.
They eradicated, what was indeed an odious privilege,
but provided no substitute. . . . In the afternoon a
young gentleman by the name of Cumming (a Yankee)
preached a very neat discourse and with great anima-
tion, indeed oratory, not a prevailing defect in Episcopal
pulpits, for really our priests are too lifeless & monoto-
 nous. In the ev^ I took tea with my friend J. Giffords
family: that I might pass as much of my time as possible
with this poor man, who is reduced to a mere shadow
and cannot articulate so as to be understood. He cried
vehemently when I approached, & I am sure my heart

33 Trinity Church, Newark, N. J.
was also broken to see my once hale & rugged friend every thing but his former self. I took, most probably, my final leave of him, tho' his gigantic frame may long struggle ere it yields to fate. The family were very glad to receive this mark of attention to their father. I cannot forget nor forsake an old friend. At 6, I went to Mr Bs where I staid with the Doctor till past 10 & apparently he w'd have kept me all night, such were his life & spirits. When I took my leave, it was with a probable hope of seeing him next spring at the annual meeting of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety]. . . . After an early breakfast, I returned once more to my daily duties, & was kindly welcomed home by yr good Aunt, in whose family I am quite niched. On entering my office, I found it crowded with business. It was moreover Savings Bank day. The Bulletin of the morning, in consequence of my absence was missed & called for, and in the midst of my business, I had to sit down & draw it up hastily & as well as I c'd. . . . My time is very much occupied as my busy season is at hand. This afternoon is the Historical at 4, and a comm' of the Pauperism So meet at 5 to prepare the Annual Report, w'h shall be sent when printed. Tomorrow 4 P. M. is the monthly meeting of the Trustees of the Savings Bank. In all these departments I am one of the oarsmen, and as I have probably often observed, all my relaxations are like taking a spell at the pump after serving my trick at the helm. In short tis labour all. . . .

Wedr 13th Octo'. We had 2 new cases, 2 females in a family, Aymar, that remained in their house in South Street directly facing the east river, but very near Old Slip, a fine exposure, no shipping nor neighbours nor any local impurity to annoy them. The causes of this pestilential disease is an inscrutable mystery. The subject is daily agitated in our papers, but there appears to be too much love of system to elicit truth. I had a letter from Mr Bayard on Monday. Mama & Sister are well & in fine spirits. They are to visit Burlington, if Mr Boudinot sh'd return as he proposes on next Mon-
day. This will keep them from home until Nov. when all danger from Yellow Fever will be over. . . .

N York, Sat\(^7\) 16\(^{th}\) Oct\(^3\), 1819

I have ret\(^d\) from the post office sadly grieved that the penny post has taken out your (probable) letter w\(^n\) I anxiously expected to receive in time to have added a short p. s. to Mama's letter, & have relieved her solicitude about the state of you & y\(^r\) dear family's health. I shall be kept in painful suspense, until this afternoon, when the carrier reaches this end of the town. I rec\(^d\) a letter from Mama yest\(^y\) of 14\(^{th}\). Your dear sister has been confined for 6 days with a fever 2 to her bed. Her case must have been critical as D\(^r\) Van Cleef was called in. . . . Louise has a very delicate constitution & I fear that she has been unguardedly exposed to the damp chilling dews & the attenuated atmosphere of Princeton. M\(^r\) Bayards house is low in site & springs flow in the cellar. It must be unwholesome, and I apprehend that poor Susan owed her early decline & death to these causes. Samuel is very hectic, & it is doubtful whether he will recover his stamina. William is very hale & both remarkable fine boys & preeminent as orators. . . . It does appear to me most ext\(^\gamma\) that y\(^r\) Gov\(^r\) sh\(^d\) revoke his proclam\(^n\) quarantining [sic] infected ships. The city is on fire, and instead of withdrawing the fuel, fresh combustibles are thrown in to augment the conflagration. What madness! I suppose next year, in consequence of the benefits enjoyed this, you will have no quarantine laws at all. To my surprize as I stopped at Kirk & Merceins to seal my letter to Mama, I saw M\(^r\) Levy, who sailed this week in the Tom Hazard w\(^n\) sprung a leak, & put back. He is to sail again next week in the Arethusa. In consequence of the favourable state of our city, the merchants are opening their stores & we shall probably remove all the Insurance Offices on Monday, of w\(^n\) event I shall of course apprize you before closing this.

Monday 18\(^{th}\). . . . What a miserable police you are
curst with. Will not the devastation of this season awaken them to more energetic measures. One may eat off the streets of our city since our visitation, & certainly another year, the earliest precautions will be adopted to prevent, as far as human means can extend, the calamity w'h has occasioned so much loss of time & expenditure, this autumn, for as to deaths by the Fever the whole does not exceed 50. The report however of our B'd of Health will give all the facts, w'h please God you will live to see, and possibly it may suggest useful hints, if your wise ones are not to[o] haughty & self sufficient to improve upon our experience. I find that you had not as yet heard of the state of our city. As I have written weekly after the 15" w'h letter I presume you rec'd last week, you will have become regularly informed of the rise, progress, & thank God termination of the Fever, in all six weeks duration, for an early black frost is bringing back the citizens to their former abodes. The offices are all going in & ours goes tomorrow morn². I sh'd have gone to day, But propose going in the afternoon to see the ascension of the Balloon that is to take place at Delacroix's ³⁴ in the Bowery. I sh'd like to have gone early to have witnessed the process of inflation, but cannot, & must content myself with being an outside passenger & gaze at the venturous aeronaut as he ascends in his car. May he escape the fate of Madame Blanchard. On my return to my office I found M't Townsend y'r friend, who arrived a day or two since from Boston. I had but a moment to say how do'ye, but he is to stay 2 or 3 weeks in w'h time I shall hope frequently to enjoy the pleasure of seeing him & conversing about you. I will endeavour to arrange an oyster supper for Sat'y or dinner on Sunday . . .

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

Wed'y 20 Oct. 7 A. M. I am now at my Office having come down thro' a smart shower to make my fire, Tamar

³⁴ Joseph Delacroix's Vauxhall Garden, Fourth Avenue, south of Astor Place. I. N. P. Stokes, Iconography of Manhattan Island, III, 981.
not being yet returned. Yest\(^{y}\) morning I rec\(^{d}\) a letter from our venerable kinsman Dr. Boudinot, informing of the decease of his brother \(^{35}\) on Sunday, the person charged with the delivery of this & other letters of invitation to the funeral, put them all in the post office. Very fortunately I obtained my letter before 9, & in great haste had to set off at 10 in the latest morn\(^{s}\) stage. Mr. & Mrs. Harrison were passengers. We arrived at 12 & I immed\(^{y}\) went up stairs to Dr. Boudinots apartment, where was Mr. Boudinot & her sisters, the family of Uncle Elisha sitting in another room, as the friends of the family were very numerous, the Stocktons from Princeton & Trenton &c: My dearest child, how feebly can I express the anguish of my heart, tho' my friends death was to be expected, still he might have lingered, it burst upon me like a clap of thunder. All the circumstances of our early friendship revived with a thousand agonizing recollections of my long & painful residence in Newark. I confess I was overpowered, and sunk under the oppression of my spirits. I had no kind Mama near me to sustain them, but after giving way to the weakness of my poor effeminate heart, I sought and found consolation in my silent prayers to the Father of all mercies to grant me patience & resignation to his holy will and grace to improve the solemn occasion, and resolution to prepare to follow my early, my long and constant friend. At 3 the funeral took place. A prayer was delivered in the House by the Rev\(^{d}\) Dr. Richards. I supported Mr. Boudinot during the awful trial of affliction. The Venerable Dr. Boudinot seated in a chair near the Minister, looked like a Patriarch & endured the solemn scene like a Christian philosopher. Mr. R. made a pathetic supplication that it \(w^{d}\) please God to smooth his descent to the grave and to grant him an easy tranquil departure. The procession was larger probably than ever appeared at a funeral in Newark. it reached from Mr. Bs House to the Church & the concomitants on each side were more numerous than those who walked in

\(^{35}\) Elisha Boudinot.
procession. The Church was filled below & above. There service was a psalm, prayer by Dr Griffin I believe, again a Psalm & Dr Richards preached the funeral discourse, containing a brief but faithful character of the deceased. It was 40 minutes, the whole 2 hours. After attending the remains of my dear & ever to be remembered friend to the family tomb, as I came in front of the Church, the stage driver of a post coach stepped up & told me that he had waited for me. I jumped in, almost without knowing what I did, & without bidding adieu to any one, took an abrupt departure all alone for Powlas Hook, where on arrival I had to pay extra for a passage in cockle shell boat. The wind happily was gentle & the river tolerably smooth & I landed safe thank God at 7 & Aunt Helen kindly prepared a roast potatoe & some high seasoned broiled roast beef, & I made a refreshing meal for I had scarcely tasted a mouthful since breakfast. I dined with Aunt Patty & M's Bayard who with Caroline had arrived just after me. I saw them of course, but a moment. They left Mama & Sister quite well & hearty. I had expected to have passed the evening with them, but my departure from town was as abrupt as my return. I had removed the office the preceding afternoon, and books & every thing were in disorder. Had there been a 6 o'clock stage I sh'd have remained. But hail, rain or shine, I must have returned this morn & luckily for me I escaped a smart shower. The day is still lowering & every appearance of rain after many days drought.

When in the day of trouble & affliction & who is so happy as to be without a share of them, where are we to look here below for consolation but in the bosom of our family. Ours was always linked together, and I am sure that I regard Doctor Boudinot the last that remains of my ancestral stock, as a Father & cousin Bradford as a sister. My good friends age was 71. He was born on the 2d Jan 1749 Old style w'h is 13th New & died on Sunday 17 Oct. 1819.
While we, in this city, are rejoicing at the setting in of cold weather, for this day is more like the 23rd of Nov than Oct & portending a snow storm, you may in N. Orleans be still contending with disease & death. I took the liberty of transcribing your account of the state of your city for publication, so much solicitude exists respecting N. Orleans, that every authentic advice is eagerly sought after. Since my last of 20th I have the pleasure of a letter from your dear mother filled with precautionary instructions respecting my health, which make me smile, for it seem that at Princeton, N. York & N. Orleans are identified, so strangely do people in the country exaggerate reports. Notwithstanding the candor & fidelity of our Bd of Health, no confidence was inspired in the interior, where it was insisted that we were dying by dozens & that the hearse was constantly employed at night to prevent alarm.

Yest we recd an account of another mortality in our family, Aunt Cortland, who died on Friday 15th inst. aged 74 of a paralytic stroke the day before. She was in town in Aug very much emaciated. Dear good Aunty, she has experienced much affliction during the long period of her pilgrimage. Uncle Cortland still lives & bitterly laments the loss of his partner. Your cousin Eliza Ricketts will probably remove, very reluctantly to the Manor next spring, for poor William cannot make out to support his increasing family in this city. He is a hard working creature as ever lived, & she about as thoughtless & extravagant as ever.

Wed 27th. On Sunday ev our friend M' Townsend took coffee with me at Aunt Helens. I need not say what indescribable pleasure it afforded me to hear him dwell on the virtues of my dearest Eliza & the character of her sweet babes. My heart overflowed with

36 Mrs. William Ricketts Van Cortlandt (Elizabeth Kortright), sister of Mrs. John Pintard's mother, Helena (Kortright) Brasher.
joy, and I am sure that I reposed with more serenity than has fallen to my lot since the prevalence of the Fever, especially when he told me that he had rec'd a letter of the 25th mentioning that the Fever had abated & had yielded to medical treatment confirming my beloved daughters account. But this morning I fear has dashed the cup of Joy from my lips forever. I was just writing to Mama, delicately suggesting the propriety of her return next week, on acc't of good Grandma, who has had several relapses of her faintings & whose alteration of countenance evinces that her stay cannot be much longer among us, when Mr. Townsend came into my office & enquired whether I had any letter this morn' from N. Orleans. I replied no, and asked him if he had. He said that he had just rec'd one of the 27th from his young man who observed that he had heard "that Mr. Davidson was ill." Alas! my children can this be the case and no tidings, or does the Doctor await the crisis of my dearest Daughters symptoms before he ventures to inform her fond father. . . . But I must endeavour to suppress feelings that harrow up my soul. It is a beautiful October day to all but me. I rose with the dawn, went to my office to make my fire as usual, opened the windows above stairs to air the chambers & returned to Aunt Helens to breakfast with all the alertness of manhood, instead of the decrepitude the lot of many of my contemporaries. But I shall go back to dinner with what appetite I can. Tamar has returned this morn' & I felt alleviated at seeing one who has lived so long with us, and as if I had some one of my family to whom I could speak once more. But my poor heart!

Thurs' 28th Oct. . . . Grandmama yesterday was again bled by Dr. Nelson. She is very weak. I was there last ev'. She sits up & is cheerful & perfectly resigned. I acquitted myself of a painful task to tell her that if agreeable, her remains sh'd be deposited in our family vault. This afforded her great consolation & has

37 Probably John Neilson, M.D., of 133 Greenwich Street.
relieved my mind. . . . Tamar is now fitting out the upper rooms, taking up the straw mats, so as to lay the carpets tomorrow morn. The windows are all open from garret to cellar & the weather is moderate. Mama left every thing so clean that there is little necessity for purification. Liming the cellars before shutting them up has render them drier & sweeter than ever they were before, there will be no hazard therefore in returning.

Friday 29th. I called on Grandma, at 5 yest. She declines perceptibly, w. may be owing to her course of depletion to relieve her head w. has been for some time very painful. Her sight weakens, & he[rr] memory is very much impaired. . . . I hope to receive a line from Mama this morn. announcing her return, for I apprehend that poor Grandmas symptoms are lethargic & that she may not be conscious of her daughters presence. Aunt Hanson who is 4 years older, Grandma being in her 81st year, sits like Patience, but distressed at her sisters flightiness. . . .

On coming down Broadway, I walked with a Mr Osborne, who enquired for documents relating to our Savings Bank, written for by his brother Mr O, a merchant of y. city for the purpose of setting up a similar institution. I told him that I sh. send (as I believe I have) all the pamphlets to D. D. to whom I begged he w. refer his brother. This gent is a brother of the late Doc. Osborn an eminent practitioner in this city. The whole family are distinguished for talents, but unhappily some of them intemperate. If Mr O. sh. call the Doctor may find an agreeable acquaintance & useful co-adjutor. I wish him to participate in this affair.

Saturday 30th Oct. In what terms can I express my gratitude to the Father of all mercies for having spared my dearest beloved daughter. The Doctors letter of 29th announcing y. illness & hope of recovery & your letter advising of that recovery in y. own handwriting, are just recd by the same mail & have relieved me from a weight

of anxiety that has bowed my mind & body to the ground. . . .

On coming down to the office I called at Grandmamas & found her sitting up in her bed taking her breakfast. A blister was applied last ev^s between her shoulder to relieve the distressing pain in her head. Her flightiness was not so great but her memory is so impaired that she forgets the question & answer within a few minutes. Her sight is also nearly lost. . . .

New York, 5th Nov. 1819. Friday

I wish not my dearest daughter that the newspaper sh^d anticipate the advice of the decease of your venerable g^d mother who departed this life on Wed^f night at ½ past 11 in the 81st year of her age. Mama had gone on to Burlington from whence she ret^d on Sat^ last & met my letters at Princeton. She hired a convey^e & set off at daylight on Monday, but did not get in till past 6. I had not yet returned home from Aunt Helens. After taking a hasty refreshment we went up to Grandma’s near St Pauls, who was by this time completely deprived of sight, her hearing however continued very acute & she knew y^r Mama & Sister, whose arrival afforded her great consolation, as she rested satisfied that every attention w^d be bestowed by y^r good mother. Being for the first time confined to her bed, this night Eliza Ricketts sat up. On Tuesday G^d ma took a hearty breakfast sitting up & in the ev^s appeared so much revived, that I had a hope that she w^d be able to leave her bed. In the morn^s She was so strong as to raise herself with ease & adjust her pillow. Cousin Mary Brasher sat up this night. At 8 next morn^s Wed^f Mama was sent for. A spasmodic attack of short duration deprived poor G^d mama of all sensibility. . . . It pleased God to hear her last prayer that this might be her last visitation & that she might not long continue troublesome to her family. At 11 a short spasm consigned her to rest, and in the morn^s yest^ when I called at 7, I was overwhelmed
to see her stretched a lifeless corpse, attired with becoming decency by her own daughter your dear mother who performed with her own hands all the essential duties on these occasions. In the evening she was brought to our residence from whence the funeral is to take place this afternoon at 4 o'clock. The family relations being chiefly invited, together with the Revd Doctor Kuypers & Milledoler of the Dutch Church, and my Revd Rector. The pall bearers are among the most respectable characters of our city, Messrs Robt Benson, Egbert Benson, Col. Varick, Danl McCormick, Corns Ray, Gen. Clarkson, Henry Remsen & my worthy Pres't Mr Furman.

It has for some time been talked of to retrench the superfluous expense of giving scarves to Pall bearers, & only to the Ministers & Physicians and to enter into an association for the purpose. In concurrence with some of my particular friends, Gen. Clarkson, Col. Varick & Mr Furman, I have concluded to set the example & that no sordid motives shall be ascribed, I will give $50, about the price of 8 fine scarves to the Society for the Support of Poor Widows w'h will be more benefitted than any rich individual, who does not want an additional shirt. You may be sure that this very reasonable proposition was not relished upstairs where it was warmly repelled by Mama & Sister. What w'd the world say? What the relations? Who if a suit sh'd be brought against me by the shopkeeper, w'd be the first to exclaim, & justly, at my extravagance & folly. Where c'd be my influence? Let Gen. Clarkson begin first,—and all such nugatory remarks. The result undoubtedly of tender feelings & even warrantable pride. But I left the subject for reflection, and this morn's thank God, Mama & Sister have subscribed to my opinion & are now preparing scarves for the Ministers & Physician. I am now breaking off at 1, to attend to the opening of our family tomb & to assign the place for dear g'mamas remains. . . . With all these subjects on my mind, I have been obliged to attend to my office duties, to the meeting of the Man-
TO HIS DAUGHTER, 1819

agers of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] & to every de-
tail of preparation for the funeral & to write by dawn this morn*
my usual letter to D* Boudinot of the proceedings
of the Managers.

Saturday morn*. Last afternoon at ½ p. 4 we con-
signed the remains of your venerable grandmother to mingle with the kindred dust of our forefathers. The
Rev. Doctor Milledoler offered the prayer in the church, and after placing the Coffin in its assigned place returned home for a few moments, & then went to pay my re-
spects to Dear good Aunt Hanson, with whom were M*r Hillegar 39 & M*r Judge Livingston, the latter ex-
ceeding attached to Aunt. How she is to be disposed of is a subject for consideration. She is not fit at 84
to be left alone. In the ev* we had our few family
friends at tea. M*r & M*r Craig & Davis, John Brasher,
his sister Mary & Cousin Polly 40 when we conversed on
subjects suitable to the solemn scene of the day and
retired early to rest for Mama & Sister were completely
worn out having had little comfort during the whole
week. Samuel Bayard attended them, not a pleasant
visit to him at this juncture. He returns to day. After
breakfast, your letter of 9th Octo* was delivered. I am
exceedingly relieved by the report of the favourable
state of the health of N. O., more esp* of y* escape &
the general health of your family. The Doctors preser-
vation is wonderful, & I hope if the Quarantine Law
sh* be reenacted that, if agreeable to him, he may be
reappointed resident Physician. Our tolerably ener-
getic system will be perfected by the experience of this
season, during the next session of our Legislature. All
concur in supporting a rigid Quarantine, & in more early
attention to the purification of the city, in w* you are
so lamentably deficient.

I am glad that the little books arrived safe & that
Eliza has a taste for reading them. They are well cal-

39 Mrs. John Heyleger (Sarah Kortright).
40 Mary Abeel.
culated for her age, to expand her mind & faculties. The Boys as natural take to out door sports. Full well do I remember when on Saturday afternoon, your Uncle Marsden & me when of Pintards age used to take a mug of molasses to Aunt Lydias, who lived in the back street, & while it was boiling listening with delight to the Voyages of Sinbad the Sailor & the Adventures of Haroun Al Raschid, from the Arabian Nights entertainments w\textsuperscript{b} ravished our youngling minds & kept us quiet until the long wished for candy was prepared. . . .

I hope under the Doctors care to hear that Mr Howard has recovered. His life is all important to the education of y\textsuperscript{r} children. What ravages this fatal fever has caused among y\textsuperscript{r} particular friends. . . .

I shall find out Mr Townsend & ask him to coffee to morrow afternoon & introduce him to Mama & Sister, who this day are unpacking their travelling trunks & making some necessary changes in their dresses. . . .

New York, 22\textsuperscript{d} Nov\textsuperscript{r}, 1819

Your letter my dearest daughter, of 20\textsuperscript{th} Octo\textsuperscript{r} was received on Saturday. Its contents quite cheer my spirits as, without presumption, we may hope that all danger from Fever has subsided at N[ew] O[leans] excepting in the case of imprudent & too early returns. . . .

Tuesday morn\textsuperscript{g} 23\textsuperscript{d}. We were thrown in a flutter yest\textsuperscript{r} at dinner time by a message from Mr\textsuperscript{s} Hedden that Aunt Hanson was indisposed. . . . She had a very slight attack of paralysis & fainting, but recovered & was better, about 2 she had another fainting in the evening\textsuperscript{1}, however she sat up, quite erect but complained of numbness. She spoke\textsuperscript{1} well & gave answers to all y\textsuperscript{r} provident good mothers enquiries, where she w\textsuperscript{d} wish to be laid in case of decease, w\textsuperscript{h} she desires may be in her brother Kort\textsuperscript{r}ights vault in St Georges. . . .

9 o’clock. On going up to breakfast I found my cousin Samuel Pintards wife in the parlour, just arrived
having been all night on the water. Mama & Sister passed a week there summer before last. Our country cousins are too often backward in calling, but I hope in future they will be convinced of the sincerity of our invitations. The Rev. Mr Bayard preached at N Rochelle Sunday before last. He arrived on Saturday in time to attend the funeral of good Mr Bartow, who died worn out, not so much by age as age as a life of care & misery, brought on by his childrens misconduct. He was a pious man & tho of very humble talents & uneducated, he had great merit in collecting & reviving our poor little church in that place. Westchester County, during the revolutionary war, lay between the lines & the inhabitants were deprived for 8 years of all worship, & their children grew up without schools. It was a task of no small labour to reclaim them from every vice & lawless spirit & to civilize them. But the generation has almost passed away that knew his services & merits, w'h I can never forget. On the preceding Sunday he lost his only daughter, Wilhelmina, Minchee as the Dutch called her, who died after a short & severe illness. You knew this faithful stay & hope of her parents. The good old mother sits like a resigned Christian under these afflicting privations, & will probably go to her son Doctor Bartow in Georgia, who is doing very well.

... . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

New York, 6th Dec. 1819

... . . . Aunt Hanson still continues with us, but grows feebler. . . . Your sisters health is very delicate since her return home, but I hope with good care she may pass thro the winter, a season so trying to female constitutions. . . . Your sister is a dear good girl, possessed of intrinsic merit as a housekeeper. This summer she made her first essay & has been peculiarly successful in preparing her confectionary. Thro' fear of failure, as she

was determined to do all herself, her experiment was on a small scale. She will however send you a trifling sample of each kind by Mr. Townsend, and another year I hope to be able, if you find them passable, prepare as much as you may wish of our northern fruits, to give a little variety to your more abundant kinds. She likewise has made, agreeably to our family receipts, Cherry & Raspberry Brandy Noyau & Persico, all to my taste exquisitely fine & superior to any imported, and this entirely herself, as she insisted on preparing compounding & infusing all the ingredients with her own hands. Last ev^ Gov. Clinton, Drs' Hosack & Francis took coffee & passed the ev^ & extolled their flavour. She is equally successful with her pastry & is very fond of the kitchen department, & enjoys the peculiar felicity of not only seeing to a good dish but relishing it when dressed. Mama however objects, and properly to her exposing herself to the consequences of superintending the kitchen. She carves a Turky, Goose, or duck with the dexterity of a Surgeon and with her needle she is very dexterous in millinery, mantuamaking, Tayloring & fancy work. She is making two as beautiful caps, a bridesmaids present to her Cousin Julia, as any that I see in the shops, & being her own work, ought to be considered a more valuable present. . . . This week, according to yr calculation is the period of your accouchement. I hope yr time may be easy, and that you may be blessed with a chopping perfect son to gladden the heart of his Father and bear his name. . . .

Tuesday morn^ 7th Dec^Yesterday afternoon I shipped on board the Brig White Oak, Cap' Betts, a Firkin of our choicest Goshen Butter, w^ by way of experiment I have had carefully packed in a Flour Barrel, surrounded with Salt to protect it from external air & preserve it cool on the passage. It is of very superior quality as Mr Hartman, who has supplied me with my winter butter for 10 Years selected it from the best dairy. Should it arrive safe & prove good, it will gratify me. I w'd recommend for preservation in yr hot city, that
after opening the head, to drive the hoops & replace it in the Barrel of Salt. Then make a pickel to bear a potatoe, add ½ oz. of Saltpetre & a little brown sugar, skim it very clear, & when cold, fill the firkin, so as to keep the surface of the butter below the pickle, by w'h means no air can come to it. In this way you may keep it sweet till the very last, and as it is intended for breakfast & tea, may last till March. Sh'd this experiment succeed, another season I will execute y'r order for y'r winters supply, & perhaps Mr. Smith & Chew might wish a supply also, for the trouble will be no more to send half a doz. Firkins than a single one. Not to enhance the value of this trifling gift, but to show the cost, that you may judge whether it be worth y'r while to send for any next year, I give the price viz

84 lb. n't @ 1/10. $19.70  Firk. 2/............ 19.95
2½ Bushell Salt 6/.  Bar’d & packing &c..... 1.87½
Cartage ......................................... .25

$22. 7½

The freight $1.  primage 5 p’t c’t............. 1. 5

The whole $23.12½

I did not pay least the Capt. might be careless about the delivery. I left my letter & Bill lading to go by the Brig.

. . . . Notwithstanding my wishes to the contrary you have my dearest daughter gratified your own good heart by sending 2 Bbs. Oranges to Mama Aunt &c. w'h will I hope arrive safe, & be doubly delicious as coming from you. . . . I have 6 Dwights Psalm ready to send, finely gilt in blue morocco, with y'r name & the 5 children on the covers. The size is rather larger than I c'd have wished, but were the smallest, of good quality that
I was able to find after the search of many days. There is also a beautiful little Bible for Eliza as a reward for her having obtained a premium last summer. It is so handsome that I have had a red morocco case made for its preservation. I have also put up 8 Vols. of the History of England for the Doctors Library, a handsome American Edition with plates, of Hume Smollet & Bissett, w I will send by y friend Townsend. The unsettled life Mama has led since our return has prevented our hospitality to him. We purpose some evs this week to ask him to an Oyster supper for an evening these short & busy days, is all that I can call my own. Even those are few. For instance this ev & Friday I have to attend the Stand Com. of the Am. Bib. S, tomorrow 4 P. M. the Trustees of the Savings Bank, 7 P. M. the Pauperism S, Thur 7 P. M. Phil S, Satur from 5 to 10 P. M. the Savings Bank, but I will endeavour to get rid of the Philosophical Bank so as [to] meet Mr T. for next week, I shall have to ring all these changes over, in Committees, preparing applications to the Legislature. In short my active hours find full employ. I shall decline a reelection as Record Sec of the Historical S w I have filled 15 years from its commencement. The Pauperism S I shall serve another year & afterwards confine myself if life be spared to the Savings Bank. But what can a sexaginary contemplate of length of days. Within one week 2 persons younger than myself Mr Kimberly & last ev Ald Mesier, both died sitting in their chair. It has been a season of unusual mortality, & at N. Rochelle Cap Lecount who carried Marsden in his arms on y tedious passage up died last week, the third decease in that small town in less than a month. This has also been the season of marriages in this city, among the great folks, Mr Leroy Jun & Miss Emmet, Mr Ray Jun & Miss Prime, Young Colden & Miss Wilkes, besides several of inferior note. My humble Lily of the Valley is born to blush unseen, for partners are only to be found among the gay & venal. Let me not be thought splenetic.
TO HIS DAUGHTER, 1819

Wed's 8th. On reflection I will deliver the package of books to be put up in the next case of reviews, for Mr Levy, so as not to encumber Mr T. They may moreover get to hand shortly after New Year as a present for our darlings when they accompany their dear Mama to Church with their little books in their hands. I wish the size had been smaller. . . . I flatter myself that in consequence of the Doctors success thro' the late season that his practice will increase & that he begins to take a prominent situation among the Faculty. Docr Hosack told me that he had rec'd a letter from him w'h he sh'd answer at a future day. I gave a line of introduc'n to a Mr Earl 42 a portrait painter going to y'r city. Merely that on reference the Docr may say that he comes respectably recommended. He has merit & modesty. . . .

New York, Monday 20th Decr, 1819. 9 o'clock

We rec'd our dearest daughters letter of 13th Novr inclosing Bill lading of 5 Barrels Oranges shipped by the Schooner Catherine w'h I regret to say has not yet arrived, but may possibly in time for the Holidays & I hope in safety esp'y the 2 Barrels for Doctor Hosack.

(2. p. m.) Judge of the interruption with which I lay down & take up my pen. At 11 this day the Anniversary discourse of the N Y. Historical Soc by the Rev. Doctor Jarvis (of which I will send a copy for I did not hear a word) was delivered in the Hall of the College of Physicians, very injudiciously for a set of young draw-cansirs, in the midst of the discourse rushed in & interrupted the Rev. Orator. Savages would have observed more decorum. The discourse occupied above an hour & a half. I had scarcely & luckily returned to my office, when two gentlemen drove up in a carriage & asked for Mr Pintard. I announced myself and asked who did me the honour of a call. He said Judge But-

ler, with Dr. Davidsons comp. On enquiry I find he is a representative to Congress, leaves town early tomorrow, & knowing his friendship for you, requested as a particular favour that he w'd honour me with a call on his return next spring, w'h he promised. I c'd do no more for his visit was very transient & momentary. Believe me my dearest child that y' friend sh'd not stay at the City Hotel c'd I entertain him worthy of his rank & merits. Requested by some friends I went to the Bank Coffee H' at 2 to congratulate Mr. Niblo proprietor on the celebration of his marriage with a pretty daughter of David King his old master who kept a porter House near the City Hall & who used to prepare the Corporation dinners in my day, & with whom I was well acquainted. I partook of a glass of the real Corporation Arrack punch another of rare old wine, gave three or four broadside laughs & came off to my office, leaving the whole posse in an uproar. The profusion of good things was unexampled, and a good workman for half an hour might have spoiled his dinner, to which 3 p. m. I am called.

Tuesday 21st. Just returned from market, to provide for our Thanksgiving dinner tomorrow, on exploring the Gazette for arrivals I find the long expected Catherine has arrived in 37 days from N. Orleans and 15 from Havana, w'h accounts for her long passage. . . . I see the bill lading marked, in bad order, owing probably to the Barrels being indifferent. Why did the Doctor pay the freight, w'h I did not notice before. This is very wrong. I purposed to have paid the freight myself on Dr. Hosacks barrels, as I shall do the cartage, that he may receive y' present, whatever may be the condition, free of expense. I took Tea with him on Sunday ev' when he enquired about the Doctor, and congratulated me on having obtained the degree last Spring as the rule was now absolute, to confer it on no person whatever, unless he shall have gone thro' the course of Lectures presented by the College. . . . I was extremely mortified yesterday

43 Thomas Butler.
that I c'd not ask y' friend Judge Butler upstairs, But Mama & Sister were busily employed preparing their pastry &c. for the Holidays & you know what a job this is where all is done so methodically as by y' Mother, altho' your Sister now takes the labour on herself. . . . Sh'd he return home this way, you may rely on it that I will exert myself to show him what is worthy of notice in this city.

12 P. M. I must drive my pen with all Diligence to draw this unsatisfactory letter to a close. For tomorrow being Thanksgiving is thus appropriated. French Church A. M., a compliment to the Rev. M' Schaeffer of the Lutheran Church. P. M. in the evening at 6 to 10, at the Society for the prevention of pauperism, when a very elaborate Report for the Annual Meeting will be presented for final concurrence. It is drawn up by a M'r Haines a young man only 24 from N Hampshire, whose abilities are most transcendent. You shall have a copy. I am engaged, moreover, on the Library Committee of the Society, in forming a collection of works on Statistics & Political economy, the whole task of w's almost falls exclusively on myself. But I have succeeded in obtaining some handsome donations, as will appear in the Catalogue. I am also on the Com. of Publication. This with my Savings Bank duties, almost bear me down these short days. Tomorrow Aunt Helen dines with us, M'r Craig having set off yest' at this inclement season to visit his lands & collect some payments & to make I presume more sales. Alas! how contracted will our former Annual festival circle appear this year. Good Aunt Hanson yet survives, recovered to her usual state of health for her advanced period. She does not however leave her chamber but Mama sends an ample share of the good things on our table. . . . Sisters health tho' delicate, is I trust not so critical as I foreboded. She is

very lively, and I forbore to say that her intellectual faculties are not deficient. Tho’ wanting the varnish of modern education her remarks are judicious, savouring a little of her fathers acrimony w’h I hope may not increase. She is quick in reply & among some of her relatives may pass for a wit, & certainly has no small share of humour, of w’h I am less a judge in consequence of that restraint w’h a child always feel in presence of a parent.

Wed. 22d. Yest’y afternoon I went in quest of the Schooner & found her. The Captain was not on board. The Mate informed me that they had encountered severe weather & after running by Cuba were obliged to put back to Havanna to repair. He thinks no great damage was done to the cargo, that the Barrels lay uppermost & I gave him my direction to put them on a cart tomorrow & send them to me. I shall however call again after Church this day, least they sh’d be discharging. The City was all in consternation yest’y afternoon, owing to the following event. A rencontre took place, about 3 o’clock in B’dway corner of Cortland Street between a M’ Rob. M. Goodwin of Baltimore and James Stoughton, att’y son of Don Thomas Stoughton, Spanish Consul. In the issue Goodwin drew his sword from a cane & thrust into Stoughtons side, who instantly expired; and strange to add altho’ in the full face of multitudes passing, walked deliberately off, stepped into a hat store, purchased & paid for a new hat, leaving the one he wore w’h had been dirtied in the scuffle by falling in the gutter, said he w’d call again for it, proceeded down Broadway to the Ferry, embarked in the Steamboat & arrived at Elizabethtown, where he was apprehended before he c’d take his departure by two of our vigilant police officers, & brought back last evening & is in safe custody for trial. The cause was that in a prosecution by the Span. Consul, on some suit relative to Spanish prizes, Goodwin considered himself ill treated by young S. sent a challenge w’h he refused & on meeting him yest’y up-
braided him for a coward. S. gave G. a blow & the consequence was as related. Mr S. was very high spirited and of very eminent attainments as a scholar & a lawyer. A dreadful event for his parents for I believe he was their only child. How uncertain life is. For the honour of our city, I believe this to be the first fatal assault that has ever occurred in it.
1820

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

NEW YORK, 31st Decr, 1819

... I mentioned in my last the arrival of the Oranges, \( W \) I am extremely sorry, owing to the tedious passage of the Schooner, obliged to put back to the Havanna to refit, were so damaged as to afford but a few dozen sound Oranges in the 3 Barrels for us & Aunt Craig. I had directed the Carman to leave them all at our house, except Dr. Hosacks. Not having seen him since, I fear his Barrels were in like bad conditions. On opening the first Barrel the Oranges were so rotten or damaged as to produce but 18 sound. Mama then opened the next \( W \) afforded a few dozen, & then the Barrel for Aunt Craig \( W \) was as bad as the first. So that out of the 3 there did not appear exceeding 10 or 12 doz. in good order, which Mama distributes accordingly. ... We do my dearest child partake largely, not estimating the quantity, but the kind heart & affections of you & your good husband. Do not regret therefore the disappointment, \( W \) I fear may vex you, as something similar, tho' not so total a loss I hope does me. I had yr. Psalmbooks for the children, packed up & waiting Mr. Townse...
inscribing a Grandfathers gift, w^h you or the Doctor can do more legibly. I hope the firkin will arrive safe & prove acceptable. On Monday I deposited a half Eagle apiece in the Savings Bank for my dear g^dchildren, with one for the little Stranger, & 30 D^r for Aunt Louise to keep all even. This must be in lieu of my New Years gift. But Mama & Aunt have some little presents to go by Mr Townsend, who is absent at N Haven but may return I hope to take his New Years dinner with us tomorrow. In this I fear we shall be disappointed for a most violent snow storm has set in, w^h will I presume prevent his travelling, for it blows a tempest.

Monday 3^d Jan^r 1820. . . . It is so intensely cold that the ink congeals in my pen at the fireside in my office. On Saturday, New Years day, our little family circle, only Aunt Helen, Davis & ourselves dined together and according to good old custom drank your health particularly and that of our family relatives wheresoever assembled. I confess that the contrast of our table with the last year quite destroyed all my enjoyment. I did not stay long to mar the pleasure of the family. It was not till near 4 when we sat down, owing to the visits of the day, and at half after, I was glad to relieve my spirits by going to the Savings Bank, from w^h I did not return till near 10. So that I commenced the New Year with good works. We had a very great run 107 Depositers, w^h kept us actively employed, a great number of young children, with their New Years gifts. This is becoming a very important institution. We received the first six months, closing with December, $153,000, three times the amount that I durst anticipate. If my life be spared & vigour, I shall nurse it till it reaches a million, which it will do within my destined period of 7 years. During these six months I have never been absent of a Saturday ev^r but once when at Newark, & have drawn up the weekly reports throughout the same time, with one exception, some of w^h have probably reached you in the Spectator, in which my farewell has I presume appeared. On New Years day I received for the first time since
my boyhood, a gift from my good & sincere friend Doctor Francis—"The Comforts of Old Age," by Sir T. Bernard and a life of that benevolent character, 2 Books, superbly bound & gilt, with a complimentary notice, above my merits. The present was very appropriate, & being wholly unlooked for, was the more acceptable, not for the cost, but the goodness of the giver. Dr F. is a man of uncommon attainments in his profession, extremely well informed & tho' not classical an elegant belles lettres scholar, possessing great acumen & taste, with a memory that retains all he reads. If one of your boys sh'd be destined to a medical education, & Francis sh'd live, he w'd be the professor of my choice for his instructor. It will not be long ere he takes a preeminent rank among the Faculty, and eclipse them all. Yest' Mama read a large part of the Treatise on Old Age & thinks more of its comforts than she supposed it c'd be able to afford. A great many passages are marked for my instruction, and reproof no doubt. . . .

(4 p. m.) Alas! my dearest daughter I fear that you have passed thro' a great deal of trouble and distress on acc't of Mr Townsends son. Yr' friend had gone to N. Haven. We intended asking him to our New Years festival. He returned this morning & about noon called in the office, presuming as I supposed to hear tidings of his son, when on enquiring if he had any news he replied that he had rec'd a letter dated 6th Dec advising the decease of his Son. I took him up stairs, his heart overflowing. Sister was there & Mama as usual engaged & c'd not appear. He talks of sailing in 10 days, & we will have him to dine or sup ere his departure. Mama will pack the toys for our dear g'children & have all ready for him. What a sad reverse. . . .

(Tuesday morn*) The cold has got so into the house, that altho' I have been up, with a warm fire in my office an hour, shavd &c. still the ink will hardly keep from freezing in my pen. What vicissitudes, my dearest daughter has passed thro, in a few days, the death of young Townsend, marriage of yr' Rev. friend Mr Larned
& your happy (I trust) accouchement. I wait with much anxiety advice of this last event. By the way, your Cousin Julia Weeks expects to be confined this month. M'r T. informed me of the name of the lady to whom M'r L. was engaged, Miss Weir,¹ before you announced it, which I never mentioned until your letter put the match out of doubt. The disappointed ladies of Princeton seemed to think y'r friend was a male coquette, owing probably to their own forwardness. . . . I wish he c'd be fixed in this city, but I believe the discordance between the Rev. M'r Whelpley & his magnates has subsided, and being a young man there is no prospect of an opening for a call in that church. We have sustained a loss in our Church by the Rev. D'r Brownhill ² being consecrated Bishop of Connect. He was very & deservedly popular in Trinity, where his place is supplied by the Rev. M'r Wainwright from Hartford, who is well spoken of. Bishop Hobart preached a Charity Sermon on Sunday ev' in Trinity for the Orphan Asylum, & tho the weather was extremely rigorous, the Church was overflowing, and he collected $601.10 & a gentleman threw in the plate an order for a piece of bombazet value $18, a very handsome collection considering time, and the constance recurrence of Charity Sermons at this season. Highly creditable to our city.

New York, Sat¹ 15th Jan², 1820

I . . . now avail myself of an interval before dinner to commence my letter to my beloved daughter and congratulate her on the birth of a fine son. Bold Richard,³ his fathers namesake. . . . Indeed the Doctors letter of

³This son was named, instead of Richard. Larned Davidson, for the Rev. Sylvester Larned. See post, letter of March 14, 1820.
15th Dec, the birthday of his namesake afforded me the highest gratification. Yr cousin Julia (Brasher) Weeks was safely put to bed with a fine son the morning of the 7th inst., Yr good mother attending on the occasion.

Monday morn's 17th. With difficulty I got thus far on Sat generally a pretty busy day, and always at eve's from 5 to 10, I am at the Savings Bank w'h goes on most prosperously. On Friday eve's yr friend Mr Townsend took an old fashioned hospitable friendly oyster supper with us. . . . He is to sail weather permitting in all this week (Wedn sailing day) in the Brig Phoebe Ann for N. Orleans. Mama on Sat was engaged in packing up some toys &c. for the children to go by him with some little articles for yourself.

. . .

I shall take some opp° of examining the Queer Fish, w'h our Learned Mitchell has decided to be the dorsal vertebra of a Whale, as on slight inspection it appeared to me. It can easily be sawn in two to ascertain the fact. Might not the rippling of the water & bubbles of froth, have given to the vulgar eye an appearance of animation. Altho' our Doctor has his peculiarities and is an insufferable Egoist, still he is a learned man, esp' in Nat. His. with which he has been long & intimately conversant, tho' far inferior in respect of general Science in that department to Governor Clinton, who is probably out of the [profession, the most eminent natURALIST in this country. The malignant prejudice of his political personal foes would strip him of every excellence. But his fame will last, when the carping critics will be buried in oblivion. I have not time nor space to say all that w'd amuse you on this head, nor at present to give an account of the shameful intrigues [at] the election of the Historical & Philoso Societies which have recoiled on [the] heads of his envenomed impotent foes. The result of the Majority tim favour of the administration, in our Legislature has confounded [the] malice of his political enemies, and I confidently trust that the I[des] of April, of wh. they vaunt so much, will be equally
favourable to his reelection as Governor. Tho' sequestred and retiring gradually from participation in associations that have helped to diversify a monotonous existence, I prepare myself for that awful & solemn change that cannot be far distant, still I take a lively concern in the fate of my country and the fortunes of a man that I am proud to think & know is my personal friend. He is [a] magnanimous Chief Magistrate, and his course will be distinguished in an Epoch in our national history for the important improvements which he has promoted and the permanent benefits that will result to our State. All that can be laid to his charge is that he has promoted capable & honorable men to office & disappointed intriguing characters who wd subvert the foundations of Society to wreck their resentment on him. We have Jacobins as rank & radical as any in France or England whom no Government can satisfy nor no God can please. May the Lord blast & discomfit all their malignant combinations. But en’º of politics. A snow storm last night & a violent Gale & Rain this morning has given me, for the first time in Years, a silent office. Not a soul has entered, now near 1 o’clock. Having made out my bulletin of the Savings Bank & carried it to the Printer, at the risk of my neck, for the streets are a glare of ice (after breakfast) & adjusting some office papers, I took up my pen & behold without laying it down, I have travelled in delightful colloquy, to myself at least, with my dear children.

New York, 27th Janº, 1820

My dearest daughters letter of 29th Ultº written by herself afforded me yestº the most grateful sensations. You have indeed been highly favoured on the occasion of the birth of your 6º child, who is not only by your description a perfect, but a beautiful boy. . . .

. . . a call towards Broadway led me to stop at Mr Dummers, to enquire after Mr Townsend & was mortified to find that he sailed this morning, at 9, without calling
for the childrens box. . . . Luckily, I hope, on Monday p. m. I took the package sewed up, containing Mama & Sisters letters &c. with a note requesting him to put it in his trunk which I hope he has done. Mama did not like to send the box, from overprecaution, for fear it might be left exposed in Mr Dummers entry, & possibly stolen, as we are infested with robbers of cloaks, hats &c. and all that can be found exposed. On returning with the mortifying tidings, and examining the papers I find a prompt opp for N. O. positively to sail on Sunday 30th inst. the Schooner Alert, Cap Teshew, by which I shall send the Box with a letter inclosing Bill lading & take it on board this afternoon. . . .

Friday 9 A. M. You see how late we breakfast to what you do. . . . I rise with the dawn, late enough these short days, and find always a good fire in my office made by Tamar. Last winter I performed this drudgery myself. We cannot be too thankful for our domestic comfort. At breakfast I rec'd a note from Mr Townsend by the Pilot, accounting for the omission of the Box by his hasty departure. My compliments to him, that I supposed it was owing to this circumstance. I hope he will be with you ere this comes to hand. In consequence of the dreadful conflagration at Savanna, Committees were appointed at a meeting of citizens on Tuesday ev to collect subscriptions for the relief of the sufferers. I belong to that of the 1st Ward, and with my associates, shall commence the duty this day at 12. Last ev we waited on our Corporation in hopes of obtain a liberal grant, But our wise Gothamites recollected, all at once, that it was beyond their corporate powers to extend other than local benefactions, forgetting for the nonce the many portraits they have ordered of American Heros, the grant to Capt. Lawrences children of $2000, and the public dinners, wth cost at least a $1000 each, to Gen. Jackson and others. The procedings you will see in the papers. The fact is that this city is excessively burthened by redundant paupers, & support to indigent fam-
TO HIS DAUGHTER, 1820

The paupers in the alms House exceed 2000. This city will suffer extremely by the Savanna disaster. It is probable that our Insurance Offices will lose at least $150,000, and the losses of the traders in Savanna uninsured will fall principally on our merchants, many of whom may fail in consequence. The estimation is that from these causes, this city will be the worse by $750,000, No small participation in this dreadful calamity. If we succeed in raising $10,000 it will be a great effort after all the collections, usual at this season for our numerous religious & benevolent societies. We have moreover just levied a contribution of $4 to 5000 for the sufferers in Schen[e]ctady. Notwithstanding the depression of Commerce & dullness of the times, the hand of charity has not waxed cold, and the Acts of Charity have been fully equal in proportion to more prosperous seasons. A memorial soliciting relief is to be sent to the Legislature but with what chance of success is very doubtful. Retrenchment & reduction of salaries is the order of the day at Albany. Besides the Country has very little sympathy for the commercial cities. So that little hope can be entertained of much aid from that quarter. It was a duty however which the Committee considered themselves bound to discharge. National Calamities demand national relief.

2 p.m. I have just returned from the first essay made by the Committee. Our reception has been favourable, and as the visit was to our very first rate gentry they generally requested a little time for deliberation. Nothing dispiriting. Of course we shall renew our applications with unabated hope and vigour. I drive my letter you see, to get it out of the way, for really, such is the constant succession of calls to contribute my services, that I verily believe that I have scarcely had an evening a week, to myself since the coming in of the year, and I do not see but that I get along pretty well, all except my reading, which is entirely cut up, for I do not call the ephemeral productions of the day any
thing, I mean the substantial matter of fact study and
have to lament the loss sustained.

Saturday 29th Jan⁷. A snowy day. The winter has
been more uniform & like an old fashioned winter, that
[sic] any that has occurred in many years. Tho not so
severe as the years 1739-40 & 1779-80. This year will
long be memorable for the multiplied disasters by "flood
& field." Shipwrecks along our coasts, Tempest & con-
flagrations have distinguished this beyond all former sea-
sions. Pray God that the sword of the avenging Angel
may be stayed. I rec'd on Wedr a letter from yr friend
Col. Hamilton, who seems to have his share of vis in-
ertiae. It was in reply to mine of Septr before the yel-
low fever respecting the sale of his house. Such is
the depreciation of property, that his price $3500, w⁷ c⁷
have been easily had last year will be unobtainable, I
fear, this spring, and again retard the sale. . . .

New York, 7th Feb⁷, 1820

It is a long time my dearest daughter since I have
amused you with the polities of our State. The present
is an interesting crisis with us, in consequence of a charge
brought against Judge Wⁿ W. Van Ness of bribery in
the case of incorporating the Bank of America in this
city some 8 years ago. The American is a violent party
paper set up last May to write down the administration
of Governor Clinton, edited by Charles King, son of
Rufus, Jaⁿ A. Hamilton & Johnson [sic] Verplanck, half
brother ⁴ of Gulian C. a bitter foe to Mr Clinton in con-
sequence of a fine imposed on him of $400, as principal
in a riot at a public commencement in Trinity Church
antecedent to the late war, and some literary collision.
The crying sin of Mr Clintons adminisⁿ is the non ap-
pointment of certain characters to office. Among others

⁴ Cousin, rather. See Wm. E. Ver Planck, The History of Abraham
Isaacse Ver Planck and His Male Descendants in America (1892), pp.
163, 169 et al.
Josiah Ogden Hoffman, as Recorder of this city, formerly a prominent fiery federalist & active in promoting the election of M'r C. to the Presidency of the U. States, as also to the seat of government. It was the first year of M'r C's administration when I was at Albany & when M'r H challenged & claimed the office of Recorder, still holding his rank among the Federalists. Such was the violent state of parties & the Democrats charging M'r C. as being supported by the Federalists, that it was impossible for him to make a federal appointment, nor did the Democrats dare to put M'r H. in nomination, in w'h case he w'd not have been opposed by the friends of Gov'r C. in the Council of Appointment. Desperate in fortune, growing old at the Bar, H. threatened vengeance in case of disappointment & has redeemed his pledge. Advised to lay quiet for another year till the fell spirit of party sh'd subside, for M'r C. was personally friendly to him, he w'd not listen to sober council, but instigated by his brother in law G. C. Verplanck, who from a young intemperate federalist had turned Coody, & after his visit to Europe came back a red hot Jacobin & radical, he threw himself into the hostile ranks, joined the Bucktails & fomented the most vindictive charges against the Governor, disclosing all he knew, w'h amounted to nothing, of the intrigues for the Federal election of president, and in consequence lost all pretensions to favour & last year M'r Jay son of John Jay, a decided Federalist was appointed Recorder, w'h post Hoffman w'd have rec'd could he have kept his patience. This circumstance rendered him outrageous, and influencing the minds of a number of young federalists & lawyers, the American was set up for the purpose of attacking Gov'r C. & his friends. Among others Judge Van Ness has been grossly & I trust falsely assailed, and in a recent paper he is charged directly with being bribed, for w'h he has instituted a suit against the Editors, and a Committee of the H' of Assembly is appointed to investigate the charge, for w'h purpose the Editors & those concerned in soliciting the Act of Incorporation of the Bank of Amer-
ica have all been subpoenaed to attend at Albany, where the investigation is now going on. The friends of Judge Van Ness assert that the charge cannot be substantiated. We are all alive to the issue. Mr. C. has been assailed by the powers of ridicule, a satyrical poem by John Duer, called the Bucktail Bards, with annotations by G. C. Verplanck has appeared with all the inveterate malice of malignant impotent envy. Doctor Hosack is likewise caricatured and our Literary Institutions held up to public contempt. Of all species of writing Satire is the easiest & most contemptible. These ebullitions rise & fall like meteors, dazzle & vanish in total oblivion. An appetite for slander vitiates the mind, and a polemical writer, whether political or theological views every opponent with jaundiced eyes, and sinks his real worth in the mire of his own polluted imagination. No Governor has sustained the character of our State more than the present, nor has rendered more service to every species of improvement literary or local. The Grand Canal will immortalize his name, was predicted to be worse than a bubble the expence of w^h w^d overwhelm the state and its frustration sink & condemn the projector to eternal execration. Now that it is likely to succeed his enemies wish to rob him of the glory but posterity will do him justice, and the Clinton Canal like the great wall of China will form an everlasting distinction on the map of the world. While our State will be enriched, Millions in the western country will enjoy the benefit of this unparralled enterprize. With the subjects alluded to in this hasty sketch I am better informed that prudence or modesty w^d justify me to boast. Rely on it that Governor Clinton will rise superior to all these attacks & will be reelected next Spring by a handsome majority.

... My fondness for children is owing besides paternal or kindred affection to the delightful contrast between their tender innocence and the crafts & wiles, if not villanies of maturer years. Altho' I do believe that the world is, or must be growing better, as a reward for
the toils of so much benevolence as engrosses & exercises the present period, in all parts of Christendom; still we are reaping the whirlwind sown by the blasting wind of the French revolution & the Age of Reason, and until the generation of those times is swept away, the world must suffer from their diabolical crimes. This together with the propagation thro' our multiplied presses, of every incident that disgraces humanity, will account for the phenomenon, that in a country so educated & civilized as our own, our national character appears so contaminated & reproachful. A better state of things will I trust arise when my dear g^' children take their places in Society, when even N. Orleans, the Pandemonium of the U States may be purified and be no longer a reproach to our Nation.

Tuesday 8th. Yesterday I rec'd a letter from Burlington, informing me that Doctor Boudinot had been very ill, & that Cousin Bradford for 2 days was much alarmed about his situation. He was easier, & they hoped that the crisis was past & that he w^d recover. His malady is violent attacks of the gout in his stomach w^h must eventually prove fatal, otherwise he enjoys his usual vigour of intellect, and his last letter to me, on the Missouri question I shall preserve as an evidence of the strength & soundness of his mental faculties & judgment.

I shall take the liberty of giving a line of introduction to your tea civilities, an amiable young gentleman Mr. Woolsey,5 son of W^m W. Woolsey Esq^ & partner, who is going to N. Orleans to look after their concerns. He is acquainted with Mr Townsend, is very correct & pious, & will only expect to be favoured with an acquaintance in y^r city where he can sociably call, after the business of the day, and enjoy something like American comfort in a foreign land, for such N. O. must long be to us Northerns. You will of course introduce him to the Rev. Mr. Larned to whose denomination he belongs. By way of a wonder, I have had a few evenings

5 John M. Woolsey.
in the course of 2 or 3 past weeks w[d] I c[d] devote to something like intellectual gratification. I took up Symonds's life of Milton, and revived all the delightful feelings of my early days in his criticisms on the classical & other Poetry of that stupendous genius. With Milton I formed, perforce, a very early acquaintance, for my good old uncle, according to the discipline of the Old School w[d] permit no reading on Sundays but the Bible. By good luck an edition of Newtons Paradise Lost was in the family, and being analogous to Scripture I was indulged with diverting the tedious evening hours of a gloomy Calvinistic Sabbath by reading Milton, which I did over & over again until I acquired a taste & relish for this sublime poem. I cannot forget that when my youthful judgment lead me to read Addisons beautiful criticisms on this Heroic poem that my Uncles scruples interposed, until by dint of persuasion I was permitted to read a profane author on the Lord's day. The high gratification that I have enjoyed in the perusal of Symonds the powerful advocate of Milton against Warton Johnson &c. has recalled all the traces of my juvenile readings, that can never be obliterated. What delightful reminiscences! I see myself ptered on my chair along side the stand with Milton expanded on it, and Addison in my hand, poring with all the gravity of a pedant over a work beyond my feeble comprehensions.

Wed 9th Feb. We have this morn another snow storm, but without a gale. Yesterday was mild and the streets inundated. We shall be again deluged for this snow will turn to rain. We have not much news. The Committee of the Legislature have begun their examination of the charges ag[t] Judge Van Ness, which it is confidently believed cannot be supported. The reduction of salaries is the order of the day, and retrenchments both in Congress & the several States engross public attention. It is possible that this principle may extend to the salaries of Bank & Insurance Offices, but mine is so humble that I hope not to be touched. "Tho

6 Charles Symmons.
it w'd not surprize if it sh'd be the case. The chance of removing my family is out of the question at present, as the demand for offices has so far lessened that many in Wall Street must remain unoccupied. We must be content therefore & happily Mama is quite easy on this head.

New York, 26th Feb'y, 1820

From oversight I have passed by the regular day devoted to corresponding with my beloved daughter. Your favour of 15th Jan'y came safe to hand, the mails have been very regular this winter, tho at present in consequence of our unusually mild weather, the roads must begin to be less passable. I am glad that the Firkin of butter arrived so opportune and in good condition. This article, in consequence of the quantities shipped from this port, must have been reasonable with you, thro' the winter, and will probably be so hereafter, for in consequence of the restrictions on our trade, it is difficult to find a market for the immense quantity of Butter made in this state, particularly Goshen, which supplies our choicest winter butter, of w'h y' firkin was a sample. Next Autumn, please God, you shall receive another firkin and if acceptable a Barrel of Buckwheat meal to gratify your dear children. Well supplied with your excellent Molasses, it is a wholesome diet for them.

One cause for passing by my regular post day, is the more frequent correspondence in which I have been engaged, in consequence of my connection with the pauperism Society, the Report of which the Doctor will receive, with a line of introduction, by Mr Woolsey, who sailed last Wed'y 23d. In times of profound peace, it behoves us to make those improvements in our Laws & Institutions, as ever changing times & manners & experience dictate. The few who bestow their attention on defects obvious to all, must be at some pains to devise and apply a remedy. All that an individual can do, whose time is
officially occupied, can be but little. I am willing however and disposed to contribute my mite. To act understandingly, requires more reading than I have time to bestow, for I am among those that cannot boast of inward light by inspiration & have frequently to drudge thro many pages & different authors to mature my judgment. Our So[ciety] is now engaged on a topic of wide range & full of difficulties, the improvement of our poor laws, w[hich] are radically defective, and from the results in Eng[land] we have become alarmed, ere it be too late, of being overwhelmed with all the oppressive demoralizing evils of that system. To provide a remedy, it is proposed that the Legislature sh[ould] appoint Commissioners to investigate this intricate subject, and to report at the next session such modifications & amendments, of which it may be susceptible. This, being one of the Committee, has led me into much reflection, & correspondence with Mr. J. T. Irving, the most intelligent & independent representative from our city in the house of Assembly. Another and equally interesting subject has also engaged my attention, the improvement of our Criminal Code. The present system of penitentiaries is radically defective, however consonant with the feelings of philanthropy. The mitigated punishments of our existing laws do not operate either as a terror to evil doers, or to reform offenders, indeed culprits whose times expire, come out of our State prison more daring & accomplished villains than when they entered. The numbers yearly convicted are so great, that the walls of the prisons can no longers contain them, hence the necessity of reiterated pardons, and punishment becomes ideal and has totally lost its influence. It is also suggested, that Comm[r]s sh[ould] be appointed to revise the penal statutes, to graduate crimes, and to render punishment certain & awful. Were prisoners sentenced for life to be kept in a distinct prison, debarred from all intercourse except of their keepers, with an absolute certainty that on entering the gate of this gloomy penitentiary, they w[ould]...
never come out alive, what an awful impression w'd be made on the minds of offenders when they sh'd behold and read the dreadful inscription of Dante over the gate of Hell; *Hope that comes to all com[es] not here!* Until something awful like this shall be substituted in place of our too relaxed system, the end of punishment, to deter & reform, can never be expected. But I am writing to my dear good daughter, prosing on subjects foreign from her life & conversation, & better adapted to her partner's ear. After all I begin to think myself something like the Astronomer in Rasselas who worked himself into the belief that the seasons depended on his unremitted vigilance. The world in all probability would go on full as well without me, at least, I shall endeavour to reconcile myself to this humiliating reflection, when increasing years shall incapacitate me from intermeddling longer with its concerns. In the mean time like the fly on the coach wheel, I am astonished to find at what a rate we drive. Another project is on the carpet for the original idea of w'h we are indebted, as well as for many others, to Boston, the establishment of a Library for the use of Apprentices. This subject was brought up at the last meeting of the Pauperism S'o but will be transferred to the Mechanic Society of this city.

Tuesday 29th Feb'. I find by looking over the post office regulations, that the mails for N. O. close on Tuesday, Thur' & Sat', so that I must conform thereto. The Rev. M'r Bayard was with us last evg. He went up this morn' to N Rochelle, where he has a wish to remove & by setting up an Academy to instruct about a dozen or 15 Boys for College. He will be able to purchase the premises now offered for $8,000 a little more than half $15000 at which his g'd father estimated it, so low have country seats fallen. His Father does not approve his plan, but I think well of it myself. His salary at Newark is reduced to $800, without a house, having now *five* children, it behoves him to look about, to be up and stirring. . . .
New York, 7th March, 1820

Your letter my beloved daughter of 2d Febr has been duly received, also the Doctors of 6th by Ship Lucy Ann, Arnold, inclosing Bill lading of a Barrel Sugar, which I expect to get this afternoon, and for which you will accept my affect thanks. . . . We are now supplied with Sugar at least for two years, all from your bounty, enough for Coffee & plenty for Sisters confectionary. . . . I shall take care to send you, if spared, next fall, your Firkin of butter and Barrel of Buckwheat meal, the latter will go farther in your large family and will make finer, lighter cakes by mixing \( \frac{2}{3} \) Indian to \( \frac{1}{3} \) Buckwheat. Mama & Sister could not partake of them otherwise prepared. . . .

He \(^7\) deserves credit, for having resisted the Baltimore call, which came rather too soon. I regret to hear the recent affliction \(^8\) w'h Mrs L. has sustained, a loss that must embitter her residence with you. The reflection is dreadful that a strange land, for strange it is to her, sh'd be the early grave of a beloved mother & affectionate brother. . . .

Wedr 8th March. Yesterday afternoon I got the Bl. of Sugar from on board Capt Arnold, who w'd take no primage, w'h I offered on paying freight, as he said the Doctor had attended him early last summer when ill with the yellow fever. It gratified me to exchange a few words with one who had seen him so lately. I recalled good Cap't Hunt who took such a lively interest in your happiness & welfare. I wish that we c'd substitute some regular master in the trade between this & N. Orleans, who w'd occasionally take such little packages as I may have to send & see them safe to hand. I am thinking that the Captain of the White Oak may be made a substitute for kind Cap't Hunt. Yesterday Mama rec'd a letter from your Aunt Betsey who forwarded some old

\(^7\) Rev. Sylvester Larned.

plate to be sold and invested in our Savings Bank where she has already laid up $100. She regrets, too late, her improvident life. But may with prudence lay by a little, tho I believe the $250 from the old gentlemans estate is all she has to depend on. . . . I know not whether I mentioned in my last that the Rev. L. Bayard contemplated the purchase of his grandfather’s place at N. Rochelle and to set up a private Academy for educating young gentlemen for College. His father has consented and has set the price at $7500, just half what my dear good uncle estimated it. Such is the depreciation of country seats since his decease. The place is let for another year, and the person in possession, who has it on very moderate terms will not probably relinquish the premises, so that the Rev. Rector must continue where he is another year. As Bishop Hobart countenances the measure, and can recommend scholars, it is probable that he will succeed, if he obtains a dozen lads at $300 each it will afford him a handsome revenue. He purposes also to take charge of the Church, the income of which does not exceed $250, without parsonage or perquisites. He has now 5 children, with a wife of sickly complaining habits, who requires every indulgence, a sorry helpmate to a poor parson. C'est le premier pas qui coute, too early a marriage has marred his prospects thro' life. It would be a good general Canon, that no Ecclesiastic sh’d be permitted to marry till thirty, for we almost universally see them journeying thro' life weary & heavy laden with the intolerable load of matrimony. In our prayer book the Ordination & Matrimonial services are very near each other, and it is well if the latter does not precede the former. I have a sincere regard for Lewis, whose dear grandfather enjoined it on me not to forsake him. He looks to me in his difficulties and I have only to regret that my power to serve him is so limited. I exerted myself on one or two

9 The home of Lewis Pintard (1732-1818), still standing near Marvin Place, east of Pintard Avenue, New Rochelle; now the manse of the First Presbyterian Church. Seacord and Hadaway, Historical Landmarks of New Rochelle (1938), pp. 52-55.
occasions to get him introduced into this city. All vacancies are now supplied & there is no further hope.

Thurs' [March] 9\textsuperscript{th} . . . . . . . . . . . . .

The Missouri decision has quite unhinged me. The base desertion of the traitors among the Free States whether bribed or intimidated by the bravado etc. of the antient dominion, has sown the germ of our future disunion. The Free States will not nor can not submit to be ruled by Slaves. We shall have a violent contested election for Governor, but I cannot forego the hope that Mr Clinton will be reelected. Doctor Hosack showed me a letter from Dr D. inclosing an acc\' by Dr Rogers I think, of the late yellow fever, w'h I did not read . . .

\underline{New York, 14\textsuperscript{th} March, 1820}

A circumstance has occurred with regard to our City Subscription for the relief of Savanna that has excited uncommon sensation. It seems the Georgian Slave Owners feel their sensibility and humanity exceedingly hurt by a resolution of our General Committee as to the application of the monies sent to all persons \textit{without distinction of colour}, reduced to want by the late calamitous Fire. The history of that resolution is briefly thus. On two former occasions considerable contributions had been made towards the relief of Portsmouth, N. Hampshire suffering by a similar calamity, and it was understood that the contributions were divided, pro rata, among all who lost by the Fires, whereby the indigent, & who were principally entitled to relief, received but a very moderate share. The same was said, with respect to Schenectady, but this has been contradicted. To guard against misapplication of our bounty, the Resolution was passed, without the most remote apprehension of its giving offence. Unfortunately it proves otherwise, and the money & effects have been returned with remarks grossly indecorous and irritating. These Southerns have supposed that the Resolution was dictated with a view to the Missouri question. On the contrary, that question
operated in their favour, as uncommon exertions were made to augment the collection, that no political collisions sh'd be supposed to interfere with our sympathy & humanity towards a suffering sister city. To show how little impression c'd have been made on our city, by the resolutions, it is sufficient to remark that the Messrs Bolton of this city partners of the same Firm, the richest House in Savanna, subscribed $700, which they paid to the Committee, & w'h constituted part of the remittance. Now, if these gentlemen would have imagined that the resolution was improper, they w'd have been the Almoners of their own bounty, & assigned the cause. For myself I wish the resolution had not passed. Innocent in itself, it has given rise to jealousies that may distort the good understanding & harmony hitherto existing between two Cities intimately connected in trade. A torrent of abuse has been discharged against Mr King, who is called a Traitor & Moral Hypocrite, by the immaculate Saints of the South. The Missouri Bill which has been carried by the defection of unprincipled Members of the Free States, is a blot which will not soon be effaced, and, if I am not mistaken, has sown the germ of future dissensions & eventual disunion. Free men never can submit to the extension of the rights of Slavery.

I have just heard this morning of the arrival of the Phoebe Ann which took out Mr Townsend who sailed 27 Jan, so that she has made her passage out & home in 46 days. . . . On Sunday last, the 2d in March, my mind was with you, hoping that you carried your good resolution into effect of attending the Church & partaking of the Holy Sacrament on that day, and thus qualifying y'self according to the discipline of the Rev. Mr Larned's Church, to have your children baptized. . . . It pleases me to understand that Master Richard was to be named after him, at his own desire. It is a delicate circumstance to ask a favour of this kind, which imposes, if properly estimated, something like friendship & protection of the young namesake.
Wed’s 15. To go on with my diary. The Gen. Committee met this morn’ & appointed the Chairmen of the several Ward Committees, together with the Mayor, to report at a future meeting how the monies ret’d from Savanna are to be applied. I presume that every Subscriber will be allowed to withdraw his subscription, & any unclaimed balance to be appropriated to some of the public charitable Societies. Our Mayor Colden has sent a very dignified & sarcastic answer to the uncourteous letter of the resentful Mayor of Savanna, w’ you will see in the Spectator. After a great dearth, we are flooded with news. The demise of the old King of England has reconciled the few of the surviving Tories, who felt a warm attachment to their Sovereign, to the Independence of America, w’ they could not cordially acknowledge during his life. The Trial of Robert Goodwin who was the cause of Mr Stoughtons death, for manslaughter commenced yest’ & from the nature of the evidence already given, it is anticipated that he will be acquitted. The event may be known ere closing this.

Tuesday 21st. I had intended to have closed this for last Saturdays post, but here I am & shall be happy to conclude it for Thursday. The Trial of Goodwin was concluded on Saturday night, when by Law our Court of Sessions terminated. No Verdict was found, 9 Jurors being against & 3 for acquitting him. A new Trial is to take place. I shall send a slender report of it, which gives all the leading circumstances & will spare my repetition. I have no doubt in my own mind that the stroke inflicted was intentional & that Goodwin is guilty of Murder. Uncommon pains have been taken to possess the public mind in his favour, indeed to make it a party affair, that he is a good patriot supporting the revolution in S° America & that he has been persecuted on that account. There are certainly some mitigating circumstances in his favour, the overbearing conduct of Mr Stoughton who treated him contemptuously. Attempts are made by his Counsel to bail him, w’ the
Mayor refuses & has recommended an application to the Judges of the Supreme Court, his own opinion being so conclusive to the contrary. As this event has been so uncommon, thank God, among all the particulars are published, of course you will have seen them ere this reaches you. It is to be lamented that the course of public justice sh'd be diverted by popular opinion, w'h evidently influenced, at least one of the Jurors, all of whom are obscure men. Mr. Colden, our Mayor has gained the applause of all the soberminded class of our Community, for the impartiality & strict exercise of his judicial power, whilst the miscreants who w'd level, to serve a party turn, accuse him as having given a sanguinary charge to the Jury. No trial, in my day, has arrested so much attention. Even Ladies, to give it effect, no doubt, & operate on humanity in favour of the prisoner, attended.

Wed'y 22d March 12 o'clock. I have just put a small package on board the Brig Phoebe Ann Capt. Holmes, containing a new edition of Thomas' Practice, presented by Doc' Hosack, Rev. Dr. Jarvis' Discourse before the Hist. S', the Report of the Canal Comm'r's and a pocket Map of Louisiana, w'h I hope will come safe to hand & be acceptable to the Doctor. A very fine Steam Boat Ship the Rob't Fulton is nearly finished to sail as a packet between this & y'r city, which sh'd it succeed will make intercourse very certain & easy. She is a remarkable fine ship of 750 Tons, with elegant accommodations as you will see when she shall lie along side y'r Levée.

Thurs'y 23rd. This is the first fine morn'd we have had since March set in. I took my first spring walk before 7 round the Battery. The air was keen but the chirping of the Birds quite enlivened me.
LETTERS FROM JOHN PINTARD

NEW YORK, 31st March, 1820. Good Friday

(Near 2) Returned from my French Church where my pious ancestors who fled from the fire of persecution so often offered up their devout prayers. I pray that the exercises of this day may be sanctified to me and my dear dear family. In former times the whole of this, emphatically styled, passion week was dedicated to the service of God, But alas in modern times, it is not only a week but this day also, a day of business. From the service of the Sanctuary I am, for the sins & misfortunes of my life doomed to descend to those of my office, and interrupt my devotional feelings with the eternal cant of money changers, of profit & loss, rise & fall of Stocks and every thing else but what relates to our eternal salvation. This, I fondly hope, is a state of purgatory for me, that may wean me by disgust, if not from higher motives, from the love of filthy lucre, and grovelling attachment to this world, the concerns of which engross so much of time, labour & conversation that ought to be, in part, better employed.

Saturday 1st April. I am going thro' a process to remedy or rather recover the hearing in my right ear, which for many years antecedent to your visit, has gradually become more & more defective, until finally it became so deaf as to be useless and in a great degree incapacitating me for business. Messrs Agnel & Gautier, two French, in the course of the winter advertised that a discovery had been made in France of an infallible remedy, in all ordinary cases, which they possessed, and in the course of the season, have performed such cures as to remove all doubt of the efficacy. Mama's notice was of course attracted & she waited on a young lady who had been restored to hearing & returned perfectly satisfied. She also called on the operators. As the subject was a topic of general conversation, Doctor Hosack

advised me to try the following recipe. To a glass full of warm rich soapsuds, add $\frac{1}{3}$ Brandy, & syringe the ear night & morning for a week. Mama did this with an Ivory syringe but not suff$^e$ either in quantity or force. The 2nd week I applied 5 drops of Sweet Oil & Spirits of Turpentine night & morning. No sensible benefit appearing, on Tuesday last I commenced with Messrs Agnel & Gautier, describing my case to the best of my judgment, that the meatus was free from obstruction, & no secretion of wax, the auditory nerves weak or totally lost in the right ear, my left ear somewhat indistinct. The process is as follows. An injection thro' a small pewter syringe of a liquid preparation, as warm as can be endured, & as forcibly as possible. On the 2nd morning I think Mr Gautier said that there was an obstruction, wth after the 4th injection came out, the patient sitting upright & the injection flowing back into a saucer. It proved to be a small membrane or pellicule, which extended across the surface of the tympanum & thus prevented my hearing. I presume that the operation had been favoured by the first process. Mr G. immed$^f$ decided that he would accomplish a cure, & my hearing in the affected ear is partially restored & perceptibly improving. I attend at ½ past 7 in the morning & 5 in the afternoon, about 9 or 10 injections, the liquor, heated, every 3 or 4 injections. My right ear has also been injected & is rendered more acute. I am thus particular for the following reason. That possibly it may be an object for the Doctor to purchase the privilege for the State of Louisiana. They ask 500 Dollars, with security in a bond for $8000, not to practice out of the State. The terms demanded here are an immediate payment of $10. for the first week, $8. for the second, 6 the 3rd, 4 the 4th & 2 for each successive week, $16 if the patient is visited. Now it remains for the Doctor to ascertain whether this matter deserves his attention, & whether your milder climate affords a suff$^e$ of subjects to make it an object. Of the efficacy of the remedy, satisfactory certificates can be obtained. There is no quackery in
the business. No pretentions to miracles, but very reasonable assurance of a favourable result.

Monday 3d April. Yest'r Easter Sunday. We had a small snow storm all day from the N. East & the morning was as cold as Jan'r. Mama & Sister communed at Grace Church, myself at St' Esprit. This separation on this solemn occasion is unpleasant, But I cannot forsake the sanctuary of my Forefathers. Every blessing was implored, spiritual & temporal, on my dear absent daughter & family, whose health we commemo-rated at dinner. On the two great epochs in the History of our blessed Redeemer, his Incarnation & Resurrection I wish to do some charitable or benevolent deed, as a token of my Xt'n gratitude for the infinite mercies I enjoy. This morn'r I qualified myself as Member for life of the Union Miss'y S'o in this city, for the conversion of the Indians. Altho' under Presbyterian management, still as the S'o pursues the true mode, in my opinion, of civilizing & evangelizing, I considered it my duty to contribute my mite of $30. A few families of Ministers & Artisans go out this spring to settle among the Osages. God speed them. I also, not to forget my own denomi-nation paid an add'l $10 to qualify me as a Manager of the Episcopal Sunday School, having been a member before, as also of the Union Sunday School. I consider it best to discharge all these dues, whenever I have the power, as I trust I shall always have the inclination. This afternoon a sermon is to be preached in St' Pauls when probably there will appear in procession 750 Scholars. You have a Sunday School I think, which under the auspices of your popular Minister will I hope suc-cceed. These Schools are the basis of the morality of the rising generation and deserve the countenance & support of every good person. As in acts of benevolence & charity the right hand ought not to know what the left hand doth, no comment is necessary on a subject only imparted for an example to my dearest daughter whenever she may have an opp'o of following it.
TO HIS DAUGHTER, 1820

Wedr 5th. By the Courier 11 arrived last ev^ from Liverpool, came passenger Don Vives the long expected Spanish Minister. Congress determined not to proceed against Florida until the next session, and it is sincerely to be expected that ere then every thing will be amicably settled with Spain. Yesterday R. Goodwin, the murderer of Mr Stoughton was admitted to bail. The next effort to release him entirely will be an argument whether he can be brought to Trial again, and, according to the spirit that has prevailed throughout the whole of this affair, I shall not be surprized should he be discharged. I have no more doubt of his guilt than of my existence. Unaccountably, when I put up the parcel by Cap^ Holmes I mistook some other pamphlet for the brief sketch of his trial. A more full & satisfactory one will be published by Counsellor Sampson, for w^ I have subscribed & when printed will forward to you. At no period since Christianity has been revealed, has the march of the Gospel by means of Bible Societies, Missionaries &c. been so universal and extensive as the present; and at no former period have more atrocious crimes been perpetrated both in Europe & this country than at this juncture. The Devil & his Agents are actively employed to counteract the spread of the Gospel. It behoves every good Christian therefore to be more vigilant and strenuous in the discharge of his duty. This zeal is abundantly manifested in this city, as well as elsewhere.

Thursday, 6th April. . . . . . . . . . . .

My hearing perceptibly improves. This is my second week. Altho' from my years I cannot hope for a perfect cure, still I fondly anticipate great relief, of w^ my next will apprise you.

11 It was the packet ship James Monroe in which Don Francisco Vives arrived, according to the New-York Gazette of April 5, 1820, and the Commercial Advertiser of the same date.
New York, 14th April, 1820

It is highly gratifying to Sister to understand that her first attempt at making liqueurs agreeably to our old fashioned family receipts has met the approbation of her dear Sister & her friends. She is quite a mistress of her business, & really goes thro' all the processes with little noise or trouble, wth is every thing for some persons, when cakes or confectionary are to be made, set the whole house in an uproar. It will gratify her to send fresh proof of her skill. By the way, the Doctor, to improve his chemical science, can employ his talents in making some liqueurs. The wild cherry abounds with you, & is, tho' small, high flavoured. Our receipts cannot be improved by addition or variation. Has the Doctor ever made a bottle of Turlington, so useful in a family, & so cheap & superior compared with the Apothecarys. As Lady Bountiful, I recommend you to take this department under your care, & make your own Lavender &c. all which ought to be at command in case of exigencies. From my good old uncles example I inherit a disposition to provide every thing in due season, & imagine that what is made in the family is superior in quality to what is bought & certainly much more economical. In pursuance of the force of example, Mama is now in the cellar, wth is all cleaned out, for the reception of our next winters wood. This is literally as the old woman said, taking time by the Firelock.

Saturday 15th. As usual my epistle advances by fits & starts, and it might be as well for you to repose at every stage, & refresh your eyes after the fatigue of decyphering my abominable writing, owing to the insuperable difficulty of mending my pens. I shall do better in future I hope & have the aid of a penmaker, having engaged a little lad, one of our Free School monitors, who writes a beautiful hand, to attend my office in the after-

noon so as to permit my going out without censure, & relieve me in a degree from the incessant confinement that I have endured for 11 long years. He probably may be able to refresh my pens & enable me to write a little more legibly, so that my next letter will not be quite so hieroglyphical. I am happy to find that your Rev. pastor shows a disposition superior to mercenary views, by declining the very honourable & lucrative call to Savanna. I think my last informed you that Mr. Bayard mentioned that a call had also been sent from Balt.° These are very flattering marks of distinction enough to make a common man vain. But I trust Mr. Larned is superior to vanity.

We have had an unpleasant incident in Grace Church. The Rev. Mr. Montgomery, once a lawyer in Phil.° (not above mediocrity) was called by the vestry two years since to succeed Bishop Bowen, without the least deference to the opinion of the congregation, before w° he had never preached but once. Conscious of incapacity, He indulged himself in preaching others sermons than his own. This excited great disapprobation. His congregation declined, & this year, his second, a run was made to elect a new Vestry, which came within a vote of succeeding. Altho' I do not attend Grace Church, from my difficulty of hearing, I gave my conscientious ballot for the new Vestry. Mr. M. has, as he ought, sent in his resignation. The place is vacant, & will probably be supplied by a Mr. Wainwright from Hartford who filled the vacancy in Trinity, by the removal of Bishop Brownell to Connecticut. It w° have gratified me to have offered our kinsman, Mr. Bayard. But his name has never been uttered, & I cannot with propriety bring it forward, thro' fear of disapprobation. He has often preached in Grace, lives near & is known, the presumption is that he is considered too young & inexperienced.

Monday 17th. A moments chit chat before the duties of the week commence, having just despatched the Bulletin of the Savings Bank, w° proceeds most prosper-
ously. I believe I forgot to mention that I deposited $2.50 the 1st for each of y° dear children w hen I shall do quarterly, as Interest will then accrue faster. They have now $12.50 ea. exclusive of interest, w h after a year will begin to count a little. A few years, if I am spared, please God will bring them up to $100 each. But is life or years at my period, a reflection that oft arises, & is more forcibly excited by the sudden decease of Miss Isabella W. Ogden, daughter of the late Col. S. Ogden & who you may possibly remember at Newark. She was a remarkable fine woman, Sec'y of the Orphan Assylum, of which & of the House of Industry she had been an eminently distinguished & efficient Directress. This day is the anniv. of the Orphan Assylum, to have been held at the City Hotel, & w hen is postponed to attend this excellent Lady to her grave this afternoon. She died on Sat' even after 3 days severe illness of a bilious cholic, on Sat' evening, cut off in the prime of life & in the midst of usefulness. She was much esteemed and universally regretted. Her loss leaves a blank that will not soon be supplied.

Mama & Sister will seek better air in some adjoining country village & while away the heat of Summer. It is better to go to lodgings than to oppress the hospitality of private friends. The cost is not widely different considering the presents made on these occasions.

(Tuesday 18th) I attended the funeral of the late excellent Miss Ogden. The Burial Service was performed by Bishop Hobart, who excels on these solemn occasions, a very large procession, and the galleries, quite unusual, filled by Ladies, for Miss O. was highly esteemed & respected. She departed conscious & reconciled to her early [death].

Yest'y I terminated my course of Lectures on the ear. My hearing is restored in my right as well as my left ear, but the faculty is not acute & impaired by age. After all I believe the nostrum consists in a powerful
application of the syringe, w'h in the first place removes obstructions, if any, & in the next invigorates the organ. I think if the Doctor wishes to try the experiment & will use the recipe in Thomas, Article Deaf, as follows, Heat the fluid, the patient sits erect, pour it in a saucer, to be held under the ear, examine the cavity, introduce the pipe of a small leaden syringe as far as it can go, inject forcibly, as tepid as can be borne, the composition runs back into the saucer, on the surface of which, any wax, film &c. will appear, repeat the injection 5 or 6 times, warm the lotion over, & as many more times, close the ear with cotton. Do this for a fortnight night & morn*. The process will be shorter or longer according to circumstances & relief or certain cure will be effected. The Doctor can find some patient of a humble class on whom to experiment & practise & if successful, he can boldly pursue the cure.

Wed^r 19th. Mama & Sister walked out with me yest^r afternoon to see Aunt Helen, who is comfortably & delightfully settled. The day, as also this was extremely warm, considering we are yet in winter clothing, for the season is too variable to admit of changing flannels &c. without hazard. Mrs Talbot took tea with us on Monday. . . .

Thur^r 20th. By a letter from Princeton, Aunt Patty with her two daughters & William set off for Newark tomorrow & will come over next Monday & pass the week with us. Sister has prepared yest^r all her cake for the occasion. The Steam Ship Fulton was to sail this day but is to go on Sunday, for Havanna & N. Orleans. It will be worth your while, with your Ladies, to visit this splendid Steam Ship & see her ample accommodations. We have had nothing like it before. . . .

New York, 2d May, 1820

Whether I shall be able to conclude this letter in season for Thursdays mail, is doubtful, this being my
very busy period & as usual every thing crowding on me together. . . .

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

We have been favoured & gratified the past week with a visit from Aunt Patty her two daughters & William. Julia has been at Boarding School in Phil" last winter. She will be tall, has a very genteel slender person & is handsome. She behaves with great propriety. Caroline is younger & pretty, remarkably shrewd in her remarks, both uncommon fine girls, and William is a very handsome boy, unobtrusive, judicious and not without dry humour. He is in his junior year. Samuel remained at home with his father. He takes his degree next fall, and if in my power, I shall do myself the pleasure of attending at Commencement, which I have not done since 1783, 37 years ago. The Rev. Mr Bayard came over on Saturday and preached in Grace Church, both services. His morning discourse on the reciprocal duties of pastor & flock was exceedingly well digested & composed, and evinces mind & improvement. He does not want talents, but does not study, as one determined to excel, ought. But this is somewhat a family failing. William shrewdly remarked that Brother can write very well if he pleases, but that he is too fond of playing with his children in the Nursery. . . . Superficial education has too long been the order of the day in this country, which like plated ware may dazzle, but has no intrinsic value. We begin to know this and measures are taken to elevate the qualifications for Academical honours, but alas! how far short do we fall of the requisites in English & even in Scottish Universities. The Grammar Schools in this city are on the rise & begin to equal the School in which I was instructed by the Rev. Mr Cutting an Etonian, which comprehends all that can be said in praise of a classical Scholar. . . . What impression my young friend has made on the congregation of Grace I have not heard. The Bishop is his sincere friend, which is much and will do all in his power to get him a call. My influence
is very small and being so closely connected my opinion must be regarded partial. My exertions shall not be wanting tho I doubt of success. After passing a week, Aunt Patty & Co left us for Newark yestą afternoon, much to the regret of the young folks, who were to have gone with Mama & Sister to the Theatre, Mr & Mrs Bartletts 13 benefit. The only time they have been this season, & w’d not have gone but for the girls, for whom seats were engaged on Saturday. A letter from Mr Bayard by the mornings mail advised his sending on the carriage yestą to Newark, & urge their being home this day, as Doctor Boudinot & Mrs Bradford were to be at Princeton last night, on their way to his city to attend the Anniversary of the Am. B[ible] S[ociety] on the 11th at which, please God, our venerable president will preside for the 3d & probably the last time. . . . By the bye Mrs Bayard said that it had been mentioned at Princeton, that in consequence of the times Mr Larneds salary had been reduced one half and that he had broken up housekeeping & had taken lodgings. I told her that I doubted the truth of this report as you had made no mention of it.

(Wedą 3d) We have just passed thro the tumult of election. The Bucktails, or apostate Federalists, have carried all before them in this city & given the defaulter Vice president Tompkins an overwhelming majority, w’h was increased by those compunctious Federalists who w’d not vote for either candidate, this day giving a negative vote in favour of Tompkins. The opposition Ticket has prevailed for the Assembly & will have a decided majority at the next Session. Of course a general turn out without regard to Age or merit, of all now in office. The issue of the Governor’s election is not yet decided, but the presumption is that Governor Clinton will be re-elected by a majority short of 1000. As to the comparative talents, between the two, Tompkins is a taper to the Sun, being very mediocre indeed, but he is popular in his manner, Mr C. not only reserved

13 Sic for Bartley.
but stern & forbidding. He has however improved, but it is constitutional. His foes are most bitter & can never pardon him for arresting the mad course of democracy. His mind & talents are of the first order, too elevated to submit or to be controlled by the Vox populi. You know my friendship for him, but as I am past all political expectations my judgment is unbiassed. His administration has elevated our State.

Thursday 4th. . . . I am always thinking of you and your dear babes without repining, at what is irremediable, our distance from each other. Better that you shd enjoy the independence of a mistress of a family, abroad, than to be immured as Sister is at home. For such is the state of Society here, that a young lady, without money, has a hopeless prospect of a settlement, no personal merits can compensate for this deficiency.

½ past 8. I am just down from breakfast Mama & Sister having risen early to complete the upper part of the house which was begun whitewashing yesterday & will be finished to day. The middle floor will be left until after Fires have ceased, towards the middle of the month. We expect Doctor Boudinot certainly next week. Altho' he puts up at the City Hotel, Mama spends a great deal of her time there with Mrs Bradford. As the scrubbing will be over thus far to day, they will have some time to repose. Casting my eye over your last letter, I feel happy that you joined your church on Communion day.

The Fulton Steam boat sailed in high style, as you will have seen in the papers on the 23 Ap. I was invited to be of the party, but c'd not leave my office.

New York, 16th May, 1820

I know not when I commence whether it will be possible to conclude my letter to my dearest daughter in season for Thursday's post. My time last week has been as usual, when preparing for the meeting of my Directors last Saturday to declare Dividend, and to attend
the meeting & business of the Am. Bible Society, occupied from early dawn till late at night, and after a very oppressive weeks duty I was detained at the Savings Bank till after 10 at night, our deposits being very numerous. I was incessantly occupied 16 hours on Saturday. This gives you an idea of my industry, perforce, and thank God, my continued health & strength enable me to endure it. The 4th Anniversary went off with great eclat. Our Venerable President Doctor Boudinot arrived in town Monday afternoon. I devoted my evenings to him. The meeting was held in the Assembly room, City Hotel. The morning proved rainy, still however the Audience was more numerous than on any former occasion, and great was the Company of the preachers. My list makes 44, & probably some names are omitted. Owing to the weakness of his voice, the Presidents address was read by the Rev. Dr' Romeyn. It made a sensible impression. It was the voice of one on the brink of eternity, exhorting to noble deeds in promoting the interests of his Sovereign Lord & Master. The Report by Doctor Milnor who drafted it, occupied an hour & a half, & was read by him with great effect and long as it was, patiently listened to. When printed you will find it worthy the attention of the audience. I cannot attempt an analysis of the 8 addresses by the movers & seconders of the four resolutions. All were excellent, exceeding any former occasion, but the Rev. Mr Stansbury of Albany in my estimation bore the palm. He drew an admirable contrast of the state of the world before & after the Christian dispensation, and identified most forcibly the horrid practices of antient & modern pagan rites & superstition with the feelings of his hearers, exhibiting in a powerful manner the benign influence of Christianity on the condition of Society. It would be a tribute due to the Speakers, to publish portions of their exquisite addresses in our Quarterly extracts. But there seems to be a fastidious scrupulosity with some of our Managers on this subject, not reconcilable in my view to the rules of propriety nor the interests of
the Society. The fear of giving exceptions almost pre-
dominates over the duty of doing what is right. The
meeting commenced precisely at 10, and was dismissed
at half past two, a sitting of 4 & a half hours, which
was full too long. The Ladies as usual affording a
laudable example of patient attention. The utmost
decorum prevailed, and when the speeches were deliv-
ered the silence was profound.

The last week was peculiarly appropriated to the
Christian Charities & duties in this city. On Tuesday
9th was the Anniv^ of the Union Sunday School S° when
2500 Children (boys & some grown persons) walked in
procession, attended by their Instructors, from the Park
to the Circus, about ¾ of a mile up Broadway. After
an appropriate address, the scholars sung hymns suitable
to the occasion, with most impressive effect, and
before they were dismissed Baskets of Cakes were car-
rried round & distributed to each scholar. In the evening
the Society met in the Methodist Church, John Street,
where the annual Report was read and addresses de-
ivered in presence of a numerous overflowing audience.
By the report it appears that upwards of 9000 chil-
dren are gratuitously educated in our Sunday & Charity
Schools equal to 1/13th part of our whole population, a
fact highly honourable to the character of our City.
The next day Wed^ 10th was the Anniv^ of the Union
Foreign Miss^ S° of which, as well as the former, I am
a member. The Report was very interesting as well
as the addresses & in the Evening the Missionary Ser-
mon was preached. When published I will forward
copies. Such were my avocations, that I c^d not attend,
& in the evenings I was constrained to pass an hour or
two with my venerable kinsman D^ Boudinot. On
Thur^ was the Ann^ of the Am. Bible S° & on Friday that
of the S° for the conversion of the Jews. By this you
will perceive that a great excitement prevails, and I
have every confidence that the Spirit will increase with
revolving years. I have reason to rejoice for having lived
to see this period, & of being a very humble instrument
in promoting these great objects of Ch^n benevolence. This is an Ecclesiastical week. In Phil^n are assembled the General Assembly of the Presbyterian & Associate (Scotch) Reformed Churches, of the Baptist Church, & the triennial Convention of the Episcopal Church, so that, that City is all life & animation also. It w^d have gratified me to have been there, but I am thankful for the participation I have enjoyed the past week.

Wed^y 17th. We have had a cold N. Easterly rain yest^ & to day & are obliged to rekindle fires, to the great annoyance of Mama, who this morning has disrobed the parlour chimney of the beautiful display of Lilacs, Snowballs &c. to give place to a seacoal fire. But what is more trying to ones frame is the laying aside winter flannels on the bursting forth of the hot weather in spring, & then to suffer these alterations of cold & moisture. I suffered yest^ but have returned to a portion of my winter attire & am more comfortable this morning. I am chagrined that I could not fulfil your Rev. parsons order to obtain a new certificate of a Director for life of the A. B. S. signed by our venerable President. Notwithstanding the precaution I took, months ago, to request M^ Nitchie the Agent to have some blanks thrown off, there being none, but what were signed by D^ Romeyn. He told me that there was a sufficient number in the Office, but when he came to look for them, there were none, as I was too well assured. A new set will be printed, when, if M^ Boudinot be living and an opp^ offers I will certainly obtain one as y^ Rev. friend desires. . . .

By the papers I observe that Gen. Wilkinson is in nomination for Mayor. I hope he may succeed, in which case he may be useful, possibly, to the Doctor, at any rate his residence in the city will add to y^ circle of acquaintance. Present my respects to him, and tell him that I have often occasion to resort to his memoirs for historical facts. I wish it were in my power with his work in my hand to go over the battle grounds of Ti- conderoga, Saratoga &c. Pray does the Doctor ever treat
his boys to a ride & show them the famous lines of N. Orleans & rehearse the events of that ever memorable siege & imprint them on their tender minds? 

Since my last letter, the event of our election for Governor is ascertained & my friend Gov" Clinton has been reelected by a majority of about 2500, a subject of exultation to every well wisher of the interest & importance of this State. The Assembly is probably against him, this to be determined however when it meets, for there are always, in every public body, some of John Randolph's dough faces, who reserve their votes as may be most for their private interests. Should however the next Council be hostile however unfortunate for M'r Clintons friends in office, it will eventually be better for him, as the disappointed expectants will turn short round & by a new struggle for a change, hope to succeed better another session. Such is the baleful influence of rotation in Office. The public weal is entirely sacrificed in the lust for power & enjoyment of the loaves & fishes. There is no perfection here below. Republics, Monarchies even despotic, have all their evils & their excellencies, & we must be content to enjoy existence on such terms as our various situations & allotments prescribe.

Thur" 18th May. This is the anniv" of my birth day which completes my 61st year.

New York, 24th May, 1820

Friday 26th. On Wednesday night our Theatre 14 was reduced in less than 2 hours to ashes. This makes the 4th that has been destroyed by fire the past season, Philadelphia, Washington, Montreal & the most spacious & splendid of all N. York. On Wed" evs 24th the Siege of Tripoli was represented for the benefit of M'r Noah the Author & Editor of the Advocate & implacable foe

14 The Park Theatre.
of Gov' Clinton. The House was uncommonly crowded by all the Tammany men & Buck tail renegadoes. Altho' the firing of Musquetry by the Marine [...] might have discharged blank cartridges, containing unextinguished sparks, the cause of the Fire is not imputed to this circumstance, but probably to some carelessness in the Carpenters room in the upper story, S. E. corner, very remote from the Stage, where it first broke out about ½ past 1 o'clock. Fortunately it was very calm, & a light rain preserved the roofs of the adjoining buildings, so that, excepting the Commercial Public House adjoining the Cupola & roof of which was as high as the Theatre, and destroyed, no other material injury was sustained. Mr Stephen [...] only was insured to the am of $12,000 in the Eagle office. The Actors & Actresses lost all their Wardrobes, & individual losses are estimated at $40,000, besides the building which is the property of Messrs. John Jac. Astor & J. K. Beekman, both rich & able to sustain the loss. This Theatre was built about 24 years since by subscription & cost $179,000. After languishing & sinking a great deal of money to the subscribers, it was sold to the present proprietors for $50,000, who have been more than reimbursed for their purchase. About 200 dependents are thrown out of employment, most of them, like thoughtless heedless creatures without a shilling or other means of support. The friends of the Drama are to meet this ev [...] at Washington Hall, & no doubt their liberality will be extended to the relief of the sufferers, among whom are some very decent characters. The proprietors it is said, intend to rebuild immed'. There are many pious folks who rejoice at this event. But for myself I do not, regarding Theatres in populous cities affording a means of rational amusement and alluring many from taverns & gambling houses. From my own experience I do not see the evil tendency of dramatic exhibitions, corrected & restrained as in modern times. Undoubtedly the light & the gay assemble there, and the severity of austere rigid piety re-

15 Stephen Price, manager of the Park Theatre.
gards all light amusements and indeed almost every pleasureable indulgence sinful. This is an extreme an excess of gloomy zeal that in my opinion is not essential to Christianity. I speak not from any partiality or fondness for these pleasures at this period of my life. But I cannot forget that I was once young, & that these pleasures were once very dear to me. . . .

Saturday 27th. Yesterday afternoon a young gentleman called with a package of letters from N. Orleans, addressed by M's Gardiner. It rained hard, or Mama w'd have called immed'y on her. I find she is the daughter of Mr Center, merch't w'h you omitted to mention, with whom I have no particular acquaintance. He is from the Eastward. We shall be attentive to y'r friend. . . . This morning I called on board Capt Holmes & brought home the 250 Loaves of refined sugar, which are very elegant. Are they manufactured in N. Orleans or imported from France. In the olden time the Madame had preserved some few loaves of the same kind w'h long remained, & possibly till her decease, at N Rochelle, so careful were the old folks of these fancy articles of their day, w'h were occasionally exhibited to delight the wondering younglings. The Phoebe Ann is to return next week. Mama calls on Mrs G. this morning & will immed'y purchase y'r dresses & put them in hand, in hopes of getting them ready to go by Capt H. which is problematical.

Monday 29th May. Mama & Sister waited on y'r friend Mrs G. on Sat'y & were gratified to hear her acc't of y'r family, & that you enjoy more comfort than any female in y'r city. Mama has put y'r dresses in Mrs Barbers hands, who is mightily flattered at being honoured with orders from N. Orleans. I hope the Phoebe Ann will not go until the dresses are completed, in w'h case you will probably receive them ere this gets to hand.

Tuesday 30th. The Phoebe Ann is advertised to sail on Thursday 1st June positively. Mama has sent notice to Mrs Barber who promises to have your dresses done in time to put them on board Thur'y morn'y which I hope
TO HIS DAUGHTER, 1820

will be the case. So that you may receive ere the mail conveys this letter. This day the first Ship of the line, a 74, ever built in this port, is to be launched. It is a superb day, and everybody is gone in Steamboats, Sailboats, Sloops, carriages & on foot to witness the Spectacle. Mama & Sister have little curiosity this way & are at home. I am alone in my office & Wall Street is as deserted and silent as on Sunday. The Ship is named the Ohio by an arrangement at Washington of drawing lots for the names of the several States. This prevents all jealousies, and we are content. She is a proud Ship and will I hope when necessary defend her colours with bravery & honour. Com° McDonough is to command her. I stepped down to the end of Pine Street wharf. The river swarms with boats & vessels. The Hornet lies off Wallabout bay, most superbly dressed, and the shores and hills on L. Island & at Corlaer's hook are crowded with spectators, the whole forming a most beautiful panorama. The launch was to take place at 11, & now 20 minutes after the welkin rings with the firing of Cannon on this event which has taken place with astonishing precision. I enquired of the Phoebe Ann, as I shall again, & hope on Thurs^ before breakfast to put the package for my dearest daughter into the Stewards care.

Thursday 1st June. . . 10 o'clock. Thank God I have embarked your little Box, and the Atlas for Eliza carefully put up, with a letter of advice to the Doctor and paid 2/ freight. . . .

NEW YORK, 6th June, 1820

Among the means pursuing here to improve the morals of seamen, a Church,¹⁶ for their use, has been erected, a neat Brick Building in Roosevelt Street, which was opened by three services last Sunday, and collec-

¹⁶ Mariners' Methodist Episcopal Church.
tions made to defray the expense incurred. $386 were received. I attended in the evening and was highly gratified by the imposing scene of a full congregation of weather beaten sailors, all serious, attentive and decent in their attire & behaviour. An old Tar who sat near me enquired whether he could not be favoured with a Bible. I asked if he could read, he said yes & that when on b'd Comm' M'Donnough's fleet, last war, that each mess had a Bible & that he read in it a great deal. After service was over, an officer of the Marine Bible S' announced, that any Seaman who wanted a Bible sh'd receive one by calling on him next day. No doubt much good will ensue from this liberal Institution and if well adapted discourses are delivered the spirit of mutiny & disposition to embark in any expedition, however unlawful, for the sake of plunder, will be checked. Among the many religious & benevolent exertions so creditable to our city this stands pre-eminent, & is an honour to its patrons.

Wed' 7th. The state of our climate compared with yours may be ascertained by our gardens. The first green peas appeared on Sat' at 5/ a half peck. The price last year was a dollar. Yesterday our first mess was 2/6 & this morning 1/9 the half peck. They will be very abundant & very cheap this season. We have had rain more or less, for a whole month & it is still very cold for this period. Mama avails herself of this temperate weather to clean, & I hope our house will be all in order this week. . . .

Thur' 8th. Mama & Sister have made a second call on y' friend Mrs Gardiner who will not, except perhaps on an ev' return it, until after her confinement. This Lady is very communicative, & has given Mama a fuller account of all that relates to your state of society, in one interview, than she has ever heard since y' residence in N. O. There is one circumstance that excites some disquietude, that is, the pecuniary embarrassments of your rev'd friend, in w'h the Doctor was or is implicated. Young, ardent & inexperienced, this gentleman may rely
on more friendship from his parishioners than can be depended upon, in the hour of need. The first to applaud the conduct of a minister when independent of favours, are the first to censure in case anything goes wrong. A clergyman cannot be too circumspect in his conduct, even in the management of his domestic concerns. . . . But my business is not with him, but your *good natured* husband, as Mrs. G. justly calls him, & who I understand has been an indorser on the note given for the purchase of the furniture, last autumn the discharge or procrastination of w[h] has caused pain & difficulty. Every man is wise by his own experience, or I w[ould] press on his consideration my adverse fate, w[h] owing to the same unbounded cause, hurled me from the top to the lowest grade of society, and has embittered & almost rendered useless my whole life. . . . I am gratified to learn that the Doctor rises in estimation & practice. . . .

Friday 9th. Yesterday some excitement prevailed in consequence of a death at the Quarantine by Yellow Fever, of a person from Havanna, where this dreadful disease has appeared thus early. Our Board of health has commenced its duties & having a very vigilant Health Officer Doctor Bailey,17 I trust we shall escape this season. Doctor Hosack has been app[ointed] resident physician, of no great emolument, $1000, but gratifying to his pride & feelings. I begin to tremble for you my dearest child & your family unprotected as y[our] extrad[b]ed Legislature has been pleased to leave y[ou] very exposed port. The Steam boat Fulton, if she stops at Havanna will be quaranteened.

Thursday 15 June. I am gratified to add that the Steam ship Robert Fulton arrived from Charleston at Quarantine yest[er]day afternoon. She was 9 days from N. Orleans to that city & 90 hours from Havanna. She has been about 74 hours on her passage from Charleston. She is to make another trip & to sail next week. This

17 Joseph Bayley.
will prove her safety & shorten the time between our cities, as well as increase the comfort of intercourse.

New York, 15\textsuperscript{th} June, 1820. Thurs\textsuperscript{y}

We have recently had in this city a convention of the manufacturing interest, to concert early measures for congressional support. Certainly we ought to be independent of a Foreign country for some essential articles of wear & tear, particularly Cotton, that immense staple of the Southern States. But I believe, without any oppressive shackles on Commerce, that we are beginning to rival the manufactures of G. Britain in this article, & that the present duties, freight & Insurance are a sufficient bounty in favour of the coarser commodities at least. The cotton goods of low prices are totally excluded as objects of India trade, for we can undersell them from 33 to 50 p\textsuperscript{c} & our fabrics more substantial than either British or India. This I know to be the fact from actual investigation, & the demand is daily increasing with the spirit for encouraging home manufactures.

Friday 16\textsuperscript{th}. This morn\textsuperscript{x} I rec\textsuperscript{d} y\textsuperscript{r} favour of 27\textsuperscript{th} by the Steam ship Fulton w\textsuperscript{h} arrived on Wed\textsuperscript{y} ev\textsuperscript{z} at Quarantine, performing her passage in 10 sailing days from N. O. stopping 2 at Havanna & 4 at Ch\textsuperscript{ton}. She is obliged to perform a Quarantine of 8 days, w\textsuperscript{h} will retard her return, probably this will go by her.

Saturday 17\textsuperscript{th}. I am doing all in my power to persuade Mama to visit you. In case of succeeding inform me what bedding it may be necess\textsuperscript{y} to take with her. I presume 2 cots with beds for Mama & Sister & blankets &ca. Will mousticares be essential during the winter. I mean to make provision for the increase of y\textsuperscript{r} family, in w\textsuperscript{h} case intimate what w\textsuperscript{d} be important to send, a few hams, Butter, Buckwheat, a barrel or 2 of Potatoes, w\textsuperscript{h} I believe are not good with you, or do they come
down the river, if so it will be useless to pay freight. Be free in yr list of requisites, for thank God your parent will not go down into Egypt on acct of famine in our land, neither to devour you. . . .

Wed 21st. The Fulton is not yet up from Quarantine, so that yr orange twig will I fear perish before it comes to hand. The will for the deed must console us. The Fulton is advertised to sail on Sunday 25th if possible, certainly on the 28th to touch at Charleston & Havanna if passengers offer, otherwise for N. O. direct. I shall therefore send this by her, wh will reach you earlier than by post. . . .

Thurs 22d. We have had a considerable Fire at the upper part of Bway between White & Walker Streets this morn at 4 occasioned by a Distillery, 10 or 12 Fine Buildings consumed or damaged. The Loss heavy on some offices, but mine escapes. The Albany Steam boat brings an account of a tremendous fire in Troy, on Tuesday afternoon at 4, wh has burned down 130 Houses &c. We have also escaped unhurt, thank God. No tidings yet of the Fulton Steam Ship coming up.

Saturday 24th. The Steam Ship is to sail from the Quarantine ground next Wed 28th. I shall pack up a little box with books entirely for the children. You must make the distribution, for I wd not for the world excite any jealousy or heartburnings by injudicious preference. Berquin, wh I have not opened & wh lay at Mr Eastburns ever since last year, is a valuable elementary series for children & will no doubt be beneficial for the instruction, in progression of all your little folks. I hope a careful use will be made of them. The work L'ami des enfans is in great repute in France. In 1778 the Author obtained the prize of the French Academy for the most useful publication of that year. I have likewise sent a beautiful little Bible illustrated with 300 cuts, the beauties of the Old & N. Testament in the original text versified by the Rev. Mr Wesley father of the eminent John Wesley founder of the Methodists a proselyting sect extending over every region of G. Britain
& America. It is in 3 Vol* which I have had handsomely bound to render them more valuable & acceptable. This must I believe be in common, but Eliza will commit some of the stories & parables to memory. I have written Ma'amselle a long letter, w* I hope is not above her capacity, To excite her ambition to excel. The Hydrographic table will instruct the boys mechanically in the great outlines of geography & is eminently adapted for the use of public Schools, for w* purpose they are made on a larger scale. The inventor is the Teacher of the African School, among whose scholars are prodigies of genius. . . . The dissected map of the world, has lost a piece or two I think, But the Doctors mechanical skill can supply the deficiency. It affords one of the aids towards acquiring a knowledge of geography, but the very best mode after all is tracing maps, which rivets the outlines, principal rivers cities &c. on the mind more indelibly than any other mode. With all these not trifling gifts, I have employed a young amanuensis to transcribe an interesting comment by some of the eminent Divines of the Church of England, on the important Text, Train up a Child &c. which I will thank you, to requite me for the trouble, to read some Sunday afternoon, as an instructive lesson, to your husband & his little flock, it being a complete summary of the duties incumbent on both, which contains nothing incompatible with the doctrines or dogmas of any Christian sect. . . .

It did not occur to me till this instant that to enable Eliza to trace her maps some colours were necessary to wash them. I have bought a neat little box, to serve her purpose for the present, and I trust that all these presents will stimulate her to excel. You must excuse Mama & Sisters not writing. They are really exhausted with putting our house in order from garret to cellar, even to whitewashing the fences to kill offensive odours. This afternoon by way of tranquillity they go out to Aunt Helens to pass the night & tomorrow, Sunday, & to return at 6 to prepare Coffee for Gov* Clinton & some
friends who are to pass the evening with me. I shall go out in the morn to breakfast & pass the day also, quite a recreation. We have had two or three oppressive days w prostrate me beyond description. My arm feels a lassitude in scrawling these lines.

New York, Wed 5th July, 1820

On Sunday 2d the Fulton Steamship sailed for N. Orleans to stop off Havanna & land & take in any passengers, & proceed direct for her destination, where probably she will arrive in a fortnight on Sunday 16th.

Saturday 8th July. A cool refreshing day, after excessive prostrating heat. Repining is a folly, but carbonading is dreadful. Sister is employed in making raspberry & cherries conserves, part for you. The worst is being over the fire at this season. Tamar has no knack at these things, and ye Sister wishes I presume that your portion shall not discredit her. I do not know but that her heart will fail her, as much as mine, when the period of seperation shall approach. I shd feel more reconciled if Mama w'd consent to accompany her, but this is entirely out of the question. The Steam ship, shd encouragement favour her, affords such facility, comfort & rapidity in communication, that intercourse in future will be very short & easy. I find that another steam vessel, called the Quiroga, has just been launched to ply between Havana & Matanzas w lies eastward of the former. The extension of this new mode of navigation is beyond all calculation.

Monday 10th. 8 a. m. A slight shower is refreshing our parched earth. No rain for some weeks. Sister was favoured with a cool morn on Satur for making her sweetmeats in w she is very lucky, & finished before dinner. I looked with complacency on the pots of cherries & raspberries set apart for you, hoping you wd both meet to partake of them. Sister & Mama also employed
last week in making me a set of beautiful white jane vests & pantaloons, the last I shall ever want, as I can only wear them on Sundays. They are exquisitely neat & to me invaluable. This week is allotted to their own sewing with the assistance of Miss Brower. The weather is more temperate, nor shall we probably in succession again experience the prostrating caloric of the last & first weeks of June & July. I have by refraining from bathing my head & feet in cold water escaped the dangerous excitement in my head w'h alarmed me so much last year. My general temperament is more uniform & moderate than heretofore, and I scrupulously abstain from all stimulants even to a glass of wine & water when the heat predominates. We refrain from Coffee at breakfast, except on Sunday, when it is quite a treat, esp't to Mama. I see by the morn's paper that another fire has occurred in N. O., the dwelling house of Col. Thomas, supposed to be by design. . . .

On the 1st I made my quarterly deposit for your dear children [in the Bank for Savings] & I will send you a sketch of their accounts in a future letter. The eventual am't will depend on my life & ability & may prove a trifling remembrance when they come of age. The high price of Stocks paralyze us so much that we are obliged [to refuse?] every thing like a large deposit. The wise-acres in our Legislature refused our application to be permitted to loan on Bond & Mortgage & we are now literally suffering.

Tuesday 11th. Another unpleasant explosion has taken place in one of our City Banks, the Phænix. Yesterday the resignation of Mr David I. Greene, Cashier was announced in the morning papers. Mr Greenes character stood so fair that I was gratified to understand, that his resignation proceeded from chagrin on the reduction of his salary, & that it was accepted by the Directors without hesitation. This morn's however it is asserted that he is a defaulter to the am't of $147,000 more that 1/5'th of the capital of the Bank, which had been reduced to $500,000. It is said that he made the dis-
TO HIS DAUGHTER, 1820

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closure himself, without which, detection c'd not have
taken place. Mysterious as this may seem, such is the
confidence necessarily reposed in a Cashier that if he be
unfaithful a system of fraud may be practised for years
without discovery. M'r Greene stood very high in public
estimation as a man of principle & integrity, and the
shock given to public confidence is very great. . . . This
is the third instance in our city since the peace. The
Mechanics $120,000, The Merchants 210,000, & now the
Phoenix. But happily this is the very first instance of
breach of trust on the part of a Cashier. Faith in Bank
Stock becomes daily lessened, and really a Testator will
shudder to invest & leave his funds, esp'y for young pos-
terity in Bank Stock. For however faithfully managed
at the present, there is no knowing what a year, nay
what a day may bring forth. . . .

Wed'y 12th. It appears that M'r Green left the city
on Sat'y morn's presumed for Canada, with a letter be-
hind him to the Directors making the disclosure. On
Thursday he loaned from M'r Prime on his own note
$5000 & sent to him a Bond with a confession of judg-
ment on Saturday, when M'r P. levied an execution on
the Furniture. M'rs G. & family went up to Hudson in
the afternoon. She was a Miss Depeyster daughter of
Captain Pierre Depeyster dee'd a proud woman, has a
sister M'rs Jacob Van Rensselaer at Hudson. It seems
that this fraud has been carried on for 6 years without
discovery. M'r David B. Ogden his Att'y sent a propo-
sition yesterday to the Directors that M'r G. w'd assign
assets to the am't of $129,000 provided they w'd discharge
him. The presumption is that the assets may yield
$50,000, but the determination is not yet made. I
thought that these dull times & lack of more interesting
matter, that this detail might amuse you. A painful
& discreditable one at best to our city, w'h has excited
more sensation than any thing of the kind that has
hitherto occurred.

Thurs'y 13th. Had I foreseen that the papers w'd have
contained the particulars respecting the Phoenix Bank I
LETTERS FROM JOHN PINTARD

sh’d not have trespassed so much on y’r patience with this painful subject. . . .

New York, 15th July, 1820. Saturday

Yesterday at 10, Mr. Woolsey called with my beloved daughters letter of 13th Ult. He had a long passage & arrived at New Haven. . . . I suffer so much from heat & am so prostrated by its continuance as almost to render existence a burthen. I c’d not exist in y’r torrid zone & lament most sincerely the hardship of y’r being bound down to such a climate. It is lucky that the Doctor can endure it. I observe what you say about a man servant being essential to him. Why does he not employ an Apprentice? I do not see how he gets along without one. No physician so humble in this city but what has a lad to carry pills, boiluses & lavements for him. I regret that y’r friend Mrs. Larned has been unfortunate in presenting her partner with an heir, but rejoice that she is out of danger. . . .

Monday 17th Sister called on Mrs. Gardiner on Sat’y afternoon, who was indisposed & c’d not be seen. Her confinement is expected in August, her health very delicate. The Rev’d Mr. Bayard was with us on his way to N Rochelle where he preached yesterday & will preach in Grace Church next Sunday. He informs us that his brother Samuels health is so impaired, that he is obliged to suspend his Studies, & is going with his Mama to Long branch. . . .

Tuesday 18th Yest’y Samuel Bayard visited us he came from Long branch where he had been a week, without experiencing benefit. He is very thin, & cannot pursue his studies for the pain in his breast. He stays this week. In the evening Aunt Helen visited, Davis brought his copy book. He writes elegantly & begins to speak French fluently. . . .

Wed. 19th By the morning papers I see that Miss Caroline Stockton was married last Monday ev’s to Mr. Wm R. Rotch, of New Bedford, Mas. a very favourable
match. Mr. R. is of a Quaker family, very rich, engaged principally in the Whale fishery, very extensively. The concern is very extensive, the family very respectable & hospitable, and the young lady has every prospect of happiness before her. Mr. R. is quite the gentleman & not of the rigid class of his sect. . . .

Thurs' 20. . . My clerk is so ill that he cannot attend the office, the business of which is not very urgent but I am more confined, that I cannot step out for a moment. Altho' there is little to be done, one must be always present to do that little. I have engaged a decent little lad from the Free School, Andrew Warner, who comes in the afternoons to keep shop for me, which enables me to go up to my dinner, without leaving my office alone. I give him every Saturday a Dollar, he also does some copying for me. I have always led a very confined & irksome life for want of an attending lad, and as the office w'd not afford the expense, necessity compelled me to meet it. . . .

Friday 21 July. Yest' afternoon the Managers of the A[merican] B[ible] S[ociety] met to receive the resignation of the Rev. Doctor Mason as Sec'y for foreign correspondence, whose ill health no longer permits him to discharge the duties. The Rev. Doctor Milnor was elected in his place & the Rev. Mr. Woodhull of Brooklyn L.I. Sec'y for dom. correspondence. In every instance of change of officers that has occurred, the choice has been for the better, w'h flatters me with the hope that when my turn comes to resign my place also will be better supplied. Indeed the duties are so mechanical, that the only difficulty may be in the choice of a successor for a pay office that will excite some competition. After the meeting I called to see my clerk Mr. Jay, at the upper end of Greenwich Street. He lay in a burning fever, was sensible & had a clear eye. I thought him dangerous, but little expected that his death w'd be announced this morning. We have stood at each others

18 John Jay, who died July 21, 1820, in the 49th year of his age, according to the death notice in the Commercial Advertiser of that date.
side in my office upwards of 11 years. He was Clerk to the Mutual Insur. Co. more than [blank in MS.] years. His character was immoral, his talents excellent, & was retained much longer than he w'd have been, in regard to his wife, a notable good women. He has left a grown up son, journeyman to a sadler, who will I hope be her stay & comfort as he is a good youth. I feel depressed, But trust that in this office I shall be able to procure a more confidential & respectable substitute.

Saturday 22\textsuperscript{d}. I called this morning very early to see about the funeral of M'r Jay who is to be interred at 5 o'clock this afternoon in St Pauls Church Yard.

3 P. M. By the ev\textsuperscript{h} paper just come in, I am mortified to find that the Steam Ship Fulton has been obliged to return. She sailed Sunday 2\textsuperscript{d} & on Tuesday 11\textsuperscript{th} 10 A. M. off the double headed shot, & within 40 miles of Matanzas (Cuba) carried away the head beam of the Engine, caused by breaking the pinion wheel. This accident not being repairable at Havanna or N. Orleans, she put back for N York which she reached in 8 days, depending on her sails. Alas poor Steam Ship. Her character for safety & expedition will be lost to the great joy of the Packets. My dear grandchildrens little box must take another chance. No help.

Monday 24\textsuperscript{th}. On Saturday aft.noon I attended the funeral of my late clerk M'r Jay who was interred in St Pauls cemetery, from whence I went to the Savings Bank & did not get home till 10, much exhausted. I had risen at ½ past 4, in order to bring up the business of the office w'h had got behind in consequence of M'r Jays illness, having to do his business & my own. I declare that I am sometimes so jaded out that I c'd willingly lie down & die. I found the Rev. M'r Bayard who came over in the afternoon. He officiated in Grace Church in the morn\textsuperscript{e} & at St Pauls p. m. where I went to hear him & was gratified. He returns this morn\textsuperscript{g}. His father came over on Friday & dined with us to take Samuel home, who is recruited. He is a very fine youth, but of erratic genius & too much fire for a Lawyer, for w'h profession
he is intended. I shall not attend commencement this year, indeed a new clerk to be initiated will confine me the first 3 months, more than ever. I have an excellent one, Mr Tilley,\textsuperscript{19} Accountant of the Savings Bank in my eye. He is to call at 9 to examine the duties & see whether they are compatible with those of the Bank, from w\textsuperscript{h} he must not be abstracted.

Wed\textsuperscript{y} 26\textsuperscript{th} . . . What is nearest to my comfort in the office has been accomplished & with some arrangem\textsuperscript{t} as to his Savings Bank duties on Mondays weekly, when he must be absent, he will assume the clerkship & I trust be a useful, at any rate confidential co-adjutor. On Monday afternoon I went on board the Steam Ship, to enquire for the little box, w\textsuperscript{h} I got home yest\textsuperscript{r}. I examined into the cause of the accident, w\textsuperscript{h} I cannot explain but w\textsuperscript{h} no wise interfered with the safety of the ship or passengers [& to] guard against which, provision will be made in future, by having a spare lever as well as pinion wheels, on board so as to repair the damages. Cap\textsuperscript{t} Mott informed me that had the number of passengers been suff\textsuperscript{t} he sh\textsuperscript{d} have proceeded direct to N. Orleans & worked his way back with sails. This circumstance will injure the character of the ship for safety, but I declare when refitted I sh\textsuperscript{d} myself not hesitate to embark in her. What may be right as regards y\textsuperscript{r} sister is another consideration.

Thur\textsuperscript{y} 27\textsuperscript{th} . . . I was surprized to find by a Mr Collins who has just returned via Pittsburgh that one of the Steam boats on y\textsuperscript{r} river is of 700 tons. He says that there were 150 passengers on board that in w\textsuperscript{h} he sailed.

\textbf{NEW YORK, Sat\textsuperscript{y} 29\textsuperscript{th} July, 1820}

10 o'clock. As good luck w\textsuperscript{d} have it on searching for a Ship to N. Orleans I noticed the Ship Mary Augusta,

\textsuperscript{19} Sic for Tylee: Daniel E. Tylee.
Cap't Miller to sail tomorrow & immed' ran to the pier, to ascertain her berth, & have despatched the *Fulton Box*, once more & hope it will arrive safe about the period when this will get to hand.

Tuesday 1st Aug'. A piping hot day & a toasting night the last. By the Ev's Post I observe, with great anxiety, an arrival on the 5th Ult' from Matanzas of a vessel at yr port, the Cap't & Mate of wh had died of the Yellow fever on the passage. I dread the consequences to yr ill fated misguided city, the health of wh, what little it can boast, is thus jeopardized by the miscalculating cupidity of the merchants supported by the discordant opinions of the faculty.

This day, my new assistant, a Mr. Daniel E. Tylee, a very competent accountant, excellent character & decent man, about 35, is to take the place of my late ungracious, immoral debauchee of a clerk Mr. Jay. I promise myself much comfort with my new associate. We have lately had introduced into our city a new sect, to us, Socinian, from Boston, & strange to tell the professors of Harvard University, instead of attending to the duties for wh they receive redundant salaries, have gone about the U States, making proselytes. They have so far succeeded in this city, as to attract a congregation, chiefly of their countrymen, migrated here, & are now building a *Chapple of ease* in Chamber Street, a half way house to rank infidelity. I hope that I have Christian charity for every denomination of believing Christians however differing from my own Church, but the baleful effects of this rational system, as the Socinians please to call it are so certain, that I confess, I cannot patiently endure them, altho' when I come in contact with these deluded men, altho I do not choose to mask my orthodox opinions, I avoid all disputation or acrimony of remark. Let them alone, is the best rule. To fortify myself against their

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mistaken dogmas, I have found it necessary to take down & scour my old armour, with w'h in the days of Priestly & Tom Paine I had successfully combatted. On Sunday I commence my 3^d & most likely, last reading of Bishop Pearson on the Creed, an elaborate & profound exposition to comprehend which, in 1797, I with much labour, recovered the little & very moderate share of my schoolboy Greek & w'h by constantly reading a Chapter in the Greek Testament I have retained to this day. What with the preceding Sat° ev° after my return from the Savings Bank & commencing again after morning Church & diligently persevering until 11 at night, I accomplished the 1^st article, 68 pages with the extensive notes & was pleased to find, by bending my strength to it, that my Greek stood me in better stead than I expected. This was too severe reading, however this intemperate weather. Sh'd y'r Rev. Pastor possess this invaluable treasure, by looking into it, y'r learned husband may estimate the difficulty of my task. My course of reading, w'h will occupy all my spare time till spring if life & health be spared, on this important subject will be, Pearson, & Bishop Bull & Jones of Nayland on the Trinity, Mayer on the atonement & a posterior work by the same in 2 Vols w'h I have sent for, and this will most likely be my last reading, but I shall revive much useful knowledge. This is a great day in England the coronation of George 4^th an imposing pompous ceremonial. It is Commencement day here & tho' in Trinity Church we know no more of it than if it were at Nootka Sound. Only 12 graduates, not much in favour of our college, but it is a brilliant class. Union College at Schenectady has turned out 65, many of whom are a disgrace I am told to their degree. So various are the systems of education in these U'd States.

Wed^y 2^d Aug^t. An instance of sudden mortality occurred this morning that has shocked me very much. Yest^y my friend & kinsman W'm Cutting who resides at Brooklyn, called on me at 9 to receive his Dividend in the Brooklyn Ferry Steamboat C° & this morn. at 5
expired without a groan. At 6 M's C. sent to inform me. I crossed over at 10 to render my services, & he is to be entombed tomorrow at 5 A. M. in our family Vault, where the remains of his Father 21 Mother & two brothers lie. He died broken hearted having got involved by the notorious Isaac Riley. Possessed at one time of a very pretty income, he leaves an amiable wife & family of 6 children almost destitute. She was a daughter of Walter Livingston, sister to M's Fulton & M's Juhel, a proud race. My poor friend c'd not sustain adversity. How oft have I counselled him & endeavoured to cheer his spirits. He kindly helped me to the station of Secr to the Steamboat Co. a place of much responsibility & but trifling benefit. But for w'h I was I trust duly grateful. These sudden calls all warn me that my hour is at hand, & that it behoves me to put my house [in] order as I shall surely die.

Thurs' 3d. The last duties have been rendered to my departed friend at 6 this morn & I descended once more into the family tomb to see his remains properly deposited and to contemplate the spot that is shortly to contain mine. A dear little boy whom I took by the hand was broken hearted. A few friends accompanied the hearse & the service was performed by my French Minister M. Penneveyre. Mama kindly made the only two scarves, for the minister & physician. . . .

Saturday 5th. The vestry of Grace Church gave a call to the Rev. M'r Wainwright of Trinity recently appointed ass't Minister of that Church to supply the vacancy by the removal of the R't Rev. Bishop Brownhill to Connecticut. I was accidentally introduced to M'r W. in Swords' bookstore, last week, where I called to borrow

21 William Cutting (d. 1820) was a son of the Rev. Leonard Cutting and of Ann Frances (Gombauld) Cutting, a grandson of Ann (Pintard) Gombauld, and a great-grandson of Antoine Pintard, the Huguenot founder of the Pintard family in America. Antoine Pintard was John Pintard's great-grandfather also. According to memoranda made by John Pintard in 1831, of which The New-York Historical Society has a transcript, the two brothers of William Cutting who had been interred in the Pintard family tomb in the cemetery of the French Church of Saint-Esprit were Leonard Cutting (Jr.) and James Cutting.
Bp Pearson on the Creed, w\(^h\) he kindly offered to lend me, but I declined borrowing & happily Mama found my own amid the rubbish of Books that overwhelm my closet. We entered into a short conversation on the subject of Socinianism, and I soon discovered that he was a scholar & a man of mind. If there be fire in the Flint a single stroke will bring it out, but you pulverize pummice and not elicit a spark. So sequestered is my life and so incessantly occupied that I did not hear of his call until Thur\(^y\) ev\(^z\) when I determined to wait on him the next day. Reflecting however that I might not meet with him at home, or at an inconvenient moment, I took the freedom & a great one it was considering the slightness of acquaintance, to write to him stating the superior advantages of being Rector of an independent Church, than a subordinate in Trinity, with many reflections the result of long experience. In the evening, Mr W. called on me sat an hour, & thanked me for my candid [letter], but added that the excitement occasioned in the congregation of Trinity had determined him to decline the call, of which he presumed, as was really the fact, that I was ignorant. Apologizing for my freedom I could not but applaud for sacrificing his interests to his feelings. My letter made a strong impression on him, and to acknowledge he called in person, and I do believe, had he rec'd it in season, it might have led to a different decision. The pulpit of Grace is thus again vacant, a new choice to be made. I shall use my efforts in behalf of Mr Bayard, but with little prospect or hope of success.

Monday 7\(^{th}\) Aug\(^t\). My French Church being closed as usual at this season, for a few Sundays, I went to S\(^t\) George's to hear the Honorable & Rev\(^d\) Mr Stuart, an English minister from Canada. Of high birth, he took orders from the purest motives & settled himself in Canada, from whence he went to England a few years since to solicit aid towards the building of Churches in that province, & he is again on his way for the same purpose. It was Sacrament Sunday & I remained. Mr S.
gave a very good plain discourse adapted to the occasion, but he is uncouth, all the while in agitation as tho' he were affected by S't Vitus's dance. Mama & Sister passed a cool refreshing day with Aunt Helen. I dined at Dr Hosacks in company with my friend Gov'r Clinton, who is in town for a few days attending to his private concerns, w'h are exceedingly embarrassed, tho' he does not trouble me with them. Almost all our Statesmen have sacrificed their private fortunes in the pursuit of public honours, the precarious fruition of w'h must be embittered by the most poignant reflections [on] their pecuniary thralldom.

New York, Friday 11th Aug', 1820. intensely hot.

Sat'r 12th. ½ p. 1. I have just closed my office duties for the week & acknowledge rec'd this morn's of y'r letter of 14th July by mail. I know not that I ever received a line from you, w'h I hesitated to take instantly upstairs. But I am at a loss on this occasion. You have written in a state of irritation in reply to what both Mama & myself may have communicated respecting Mrs Gardiner. I think you construe her intelligence too harshly. It is the nature of gossips male & female to amplify & embellish, without intending to hurt the feelings of friends, & I am sorry that on my part, any repetition has been made, but I was too apprehensive that y'r friend, the Rev. Mr Larned had incautiously involved himself & had implicated the Doctor, w'h gave rise to my remarks & suggestions. Let the whole pass I beseech you & do not comment on it at M's G's return, esp'y I hope no hint may drop to give her husband pain. Our weather is intensely hot, & we begin to tremble for the health of our city. Advices are unfavourable from Phil. These precursors thus early, are ominous. What must be your state?

Monday 14th. We were thrown quite into a quan-
dary on Sat\(^7\) when Mr Russell owner of the Phoebe Ann told me that the Captain said there was no box nor Fans on board for us. Your Sister lamented for the probably loss of the Spencer, w\(^h\) I am surprized you sh\(^d\) return. This morn\(^g\) at 6 I made short work of it & crossed over to Brooklyn & went on board the Brig where the Box presented itself, but no fans, w\(^h\) on searching however were found safe in the after birth. I soon whipped the box under my arm & was at home before Mama & Sister were up. Such is the facility of intercourse that I left home & marketted precisely at 6, was lucky to get on board the Steam boat just on departure, hopped ashore & went to the Phoebe Ann about a quarter of a mile below, accomplished my errand & sprung aboard the Boat just as she was casting off & was out & home within the hour to the great joy of Sister & Mama who despaired of the Box. This expedition was owing to the favourable change in the weather. We have had 3 most volcanic days, Sat\(^7\) inclusive. To have died & gone to purgatory, Sat\(^n\) night esp\(^s\) w\(^d\) have been quite refreshing. Such was the pestilential heat that we c\(^d\) not retire till midnight, to allow the upper rooms to cool a little. On Saturday ev\(^s\) until 10 we had a violent Thunder Storm with very vivid lightening, w\(^h\) set fire to a Barn on Bergen the light of which alarmed us about 9 with shouts of Fire, Fire, amidst the war of elements. It broke away about 11, with a fresh wind at west. About 3, I arose dripping wet threw open the doors & windows, aired my mattrass, changed my linen turned in & got about 3 hours refreshing rest, the first in as many nights. Yesterday was cool & pleasant & to day an easterly wind with a threatening rain, has quite changed the atmosphere. I trembled for the city's health, but thank God we are as yet safe. We have unhappily a set of system mongers who go about to hunt up cases of domestic origin, in order to oppugn the foreign system and as our Quarantine system is most rigidly administered, these gentry w\(^d\) exult to find or make a sporadic case in order to mortify
D'r Hosack, so that no reports concerning us are to be believed, but what emanate from our B'd of Health, which is pledge to promulge the first decided case. . . .

Tuesday 15th. Wind easterly & cool. Mama & Sister are better pleased with the beautiful white fans, chaste & the emblem of purity, than if they were painted. You know not how I am gratified at the recovery of the box. The scents are useful but the pomatum will last for generations with us. . . .

Thurs' 17. This city is much alarmed at the prevalence of the Fever in Phila whose B'd of Health has withheld all official disclosures of the existence until yest' when a communication was made w'h reached us this morn', as also a report of 3 new cases. Last ev' it is understood that our Board interdicted intercourse last ev' w'h does not however appear in the morn' papers. It is so dreadful an evil to break up the commerce & industry of a city by the necessity of suspending business & removing that we cannot be too vigilant in securing, as far as human means extend, the health of our population.

Saturday 19th. . . . To the papers I refer for Fever news, merely stating that we have been blessed with favourable weather yest' & this day, wind at N. W. & very cool. D'r Hosack informed last ev' that all was safe & the city uncommonly healthy. Thank God. How ardently my dearest daughter you appear to anticipate a visit from Mama & Sister. Alas! that so many obstacles interpose as to totally forbid one from me, & without me Mama will not go, altho' I urge it & am willing to make any sacrifice of comfort on my part. This therefore must be however reluctantly, abandoned, and all that can be expected is a visit from Sister. Dear girl, it will be a severing of heart strings on all sides, but if M's Gardiner goes out or any other female friend, I shall insist on her going, for your mutual gratification, altho' she will return, after the gaiety & sociability of N. Orleans with less resignation to our sequestered life than she feels at present. We talk of going to New
Haven on the 7th Sept. when I wish to pay a compliment to the Episcopal Theological Seminary that has been transferred to that place, at its opening with an Inaugural address from Professor Turner with whom I am acquainted. We propose going on Wed 6th possibly, return on Friday evening. If however I should be induced to extend my furlough to visit the Asylum for deaf & dumb at Hartford, we shall proceed there & pass Saturday & Sunday return to New Haven on Monday & breakfast at home Tuesday 12th.

What combinations are requisite on my part to accomplish this tour. My office duties to accommodate, as also my absence from the meeting of the Board of Managers of the Am. Bible Society on the 7th. What is more disagreeable is that this jaunt anticipates the great Jubilee or Carnival of Commencement week, the 2nd Wednesday 13th. Without me Mama & Sister cannot remain behind, for we have not a solitary acquaintance [in] New Haven. This I regret. I have got entangled once more, with the Episcopal Theological Seminary, having without my knowledge or consent been appointed one of the Agents for collecting subscriptions in this city & having, not unwarily, consented to serve. Having this Institution much at heart, I am willing to contribute my services. But unfortunately this brings me in collision with my Right Reverend friend Bishop Hobart, who is for setting up a dioecesan Theological Seminary for this state. It is a long story & not interesting to you Presbyterians who manage things better but I regret all collisions in church or state at a period of life when I wish not to sever former amities. But crossing each others path we sometimes must jostle.

Monday 21st I often regard your mother with astonishment, as a prodigy of industry & neatness. After a weeks close application to her needle, on Saturday afternoon, she must needs undertake to clean out the closets in my back office, which were stuffed with the accumulation of all the trash of pamphlets for 11 years. It was an Augean stable. Obliged to go to the Savings Bank & glad to get out of the dust, I left your Mama, in all
her glory. She had everything spread on the floor for my inspection, the walls of the closets whitewashed, and yest\(^r\) instead of going to Church I was employed in assorting & sending upstairs articles, w\(^h\) had long encumbered the office, in all w\(^h\) y\(^r\) Mother assisted with all the alacrity & energy of her\(^r\) very active period. Indeed her vigilance & industry are incessant.

Tuesday 22\(^d\). By what short stages I travel. I almost forget what precedes in my journal. I have been industriously engaged in preparing an index to the correspondence of the Am. Bible S\(^o\) for the last year, which is bound up in two large volumes, and it often requires a perusal of a whole letter to know under what head to bring it. This day concludes a task which has made my head snap this hot weather.

Thur\(^y\) 24\(^th\) Aug\(^t\). In closing this letter I must advert to the very favorable state of our health Yest\(^y\) was full moon, with the usual tide, a N. Easterly storm has been very usual with us in this month w\(^h\) occasioning a flood of back water commonly inundated the wharves & cellars of the lower parts of the city & brought on Fever more or less malignant. We have please God happily escaped this visitation & hope that all imminent danger is over. Accounts from Phil\(^a\) announces a more favourable state, & having adopted our rule of last year, of evacuating the infected district, the late alarm subsides.

New York, Saturday 26\(^th\) August, 1820

My beloved daughters letter of 29\(^th\) July has just been rec\(^d\) and my mind is relieved at this very anxious juncture. . . . I have given an extract from y\(^r\) letter to the Commercial of this afternoon, considering it as good authority, & w\(^h\) may correct vague rumours. But these cases indicate what I fear is to be y\(^r\) destiny, and at this moment probably, the Fever is raging in all its virulence.
Monday 28\textsuperscript{th}. You speak of the abundance but dearness of your Market, in consequence of forestalling, w\textsuperscript{h} altho we have laws & penalties to restrain are the practice here to a gross extent. But such has been the uncommon productiveness of the season, that Fruits & vegetables, Peaches excepted, have been very cheap. For instance, on Sat\textsuperscript{y} I bought 24 large ears of Indian Corn, for one shilling, a peck of Sky beans, small Lima beans, for \textit{ninepence}. Eight musk melons for one shilling! each as large as I have paid eighteen pence a piece three years ago. A powerful watermelon at least 10 pounds for eighteen pence, w\textsuperscript{h} w\textsuperscript{d} have been cheap formerly for half a dollar. But Butchers meat is high, 10d. for the prime pieces. Poultry is excessively dear. Aunt Helen dined with us yest\textsuperscript{y} & y\textsuperscript{r} Sister wished to make a chicken pye. I paid five shillings for a very handsome pair w\textsuperscript{h} is exorbitant. Our Bread is very large. Butter however is $1/9$ pr\textsuperscript{r} lb. I mean the choicest, for breakfast & tea, by the piggen 1/3. Fall butter I expect will be at one shilling the best down to ninepence. So that the substantial comforts of life are very reasonable. A Dollar goes as far as two formerly.

Wed\textsuperscript{y} 30\textsuperscript{th} I rec\textsuperscript{d} by mail the Louisiana Advertiser of 24\textsuperscript{th} July, so soiled with moisture as to be barely legible. I have attentively read the Editorial Article respecting the Pirates executed at N. O. having before seen in the National Gazette a refutation of the report respecting the horrible fate of M\textsuperscript{rs} Alston.\textsuperscript{22} I do not think that the writer takes a fair view of this subject, nor is he candid to infer that our detestation of piracy arises from a spirit of calumny. Surely all must allow that this crime has extended to an alarming degree, especially in your vicinity & that it was full time to check it by exemplary punishment, & vindicate the character of the U States. \ldots What a miscreant must that man be who could harrow up the feelings of surviving relatives & friends by the dreadful account of the fate of the Pa-

triot, that for the sake of gratifying his inventive powers & exciting public curiosity he sh'd tear open wounds scarcely cicatrized, and agonize the Father & the Wife, of M's Alston & M' Green. I am sure that as an acquaintance I shuddered at a recital, that I c'd scarcely believe to be credible & therefore wrote to the Doctor to trace a tale of blood & murder now happily proved to be totally false.

We have been favoured this week with very temperate weather & have a fair prospect of passing thro' the season without being visited by that awful scourge the Yellow Fever. The Philadelphians have appointed tomorrow to be observed as a day of Thanksgiving, that the sword of the Avenging Angel is sheathed. Flattered with the appearance of abatement and a radical extirpation their hopes are withered by the reappearance of new cases. Nothing but Black Frost is a radical cure, and the consequence of this Thanksgiving may by inspiring prematur confidence call back citizens to fall a sacrifice to be sacrificed, who otherwise w'd have escaped. But Phil's is dreadfully depressed in its commercial concerns, and the fear that a large portion of its Fall trade may be diverted to Balt's has been the cause no doubt of this imprudent measure. They are much incensed at our interdiction of intercourse w'h a has been abridged to ten days. They certainly ought not to be angry. We are bound to take every precaution against the introduction of a disease that unhinges as well as distresses our citizens both as to life & estate. It is a terrible thing to abandon even a portion of a commercial capital. Our preventive measures strictly enforced, have been productive of the most salutary effects. Only two persons have died at the Quarantine ground, one from Havanna & M' King from Phil's. So much in favour of our strict vigilant system. "But we must not halloo till we get thro' the woods." Should we be so fortunate as to escape until the middle of September, we may begin to sing Te Deum.

... At 11 I am to attend the Agents of the
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Th[eological] Sem⁷ to wait on the Subscribers to see whether they will continue their Subscriptions or withdraw them, agreeably to the resolution of the Gen. Convention, they being released from all prior obligations. The influence of Bishop Hobart is so great, that I have little hope of success & many will take advantage of this circumstance to withhold altogether any benefaction to either Seminary. I confess that I feel all the delicacy possible in acting against the Bishops judgment, But I have deliberately reflected & consider myself pursuing the right path the same on w⁴ I originally set out & am too old a Bird to learn to whistle a new tune. It is always painful however to act in oppugnation to the head of ones Church, w⁵ is oftener construed into the vain motive of being singular & affecting to know more & to be wiser than ones neighbours. Episcopalians generally, trouble themselves very little about dogmas or Church matters, their duty is prescribed and they follow implicitly the Bell weather of the Flock. A few restive old rams however choose to look before they leap, of whom I am one & expected of course to be anathematized. So be it. Thank God, acting scrupulously & conscientiously, I have no compunctions of conscience. The Huguenot Blood of my Forefathers still run in my veins, and I cannot act by blind impulse. The Bishop wrote me a candid letter, dehorting me from having any thing to do with the Gen¹ Sem⁷. This was a compliment I neither expected nor considered myself entitled to. In respect to his particular notice I have deliberated, & decided to march forward with the fear of God alone & not dreading any improper motives being imputed to me. Of one thing I stand perfectly clear, seeking no honour nor reward. Were it offered to me I w⁴ peremptorily decline serving as a Trustee, for w⁵ I am disqualified, in the first place for want of adequate talents, in the next that my humble lot in Society does not permit an intercourse with high & mighty, in Church or State. Indeed I begin to be too old to assume new offices, & shall, after tthae dis-
LETTERS FROM JOHN PINTARD

charge of this Agency regard myself entitled to decline any future impositions.

Wed's P. M. A very busy day. Having called with Mr Lawrence on several subscribers, we met with some hope & some rebuffs. At 1, I had to attend a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, where communications from the Merchants of Boston & Phila were read & referred, on the subject of opposing the new Tariff of Duties. This took an hour & as the month closes my office duties press & will be concluded tomorrow. Mama has rec'd a very affec't letter from Aunt Patty to spend commencement day. Our plan is to go to N. Haven next week. I shall return on Friday, possibly if acquaintance can be found leave Mama & Sister to attend commencement there on the 13th & return 16 & the fortnight following go to Princeton, w'h will afford a little change, as well as some cost. Mr Bayard writes that it is proposed to send Samuel to pass the winter with his uncle Nicholas in Georgia, for the benefit of his health. I feared that his destination might be N. Orleans and Natchez, no place for a youth inclined to dissipation.

Thur's 31. Have you Dufief's Nature Displayed. If not I will get mine bound & sent, as the best introduction to the French language I ever knew.

N York, Sat's 2d Sept's, 1820

Before this reaches you, you will have heard of the decease of your friend Mrs Gardener.23 I know not when I was more shocked than at seeing the notice of her death in last evenings paper, after my return home from attending the Standing Com of the Am. Bible So that meets every 2d Friday afternoon to audit the accounts of the printers &c & transact such business as may be referred to them. Otherwise I sh'd certainly have attended her funeral as your acquaintance.

23 The death of Mrs. Charles Gardiner (Gardner) of New Orleans, daughter of Robert Center, was announced in the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser, Sept. 1, 1820.
Tuesday 5th Sept. I am now preparing for my trip to New haven, nearly a European Voyage. In old times so rare was the intercourse between town & town, that the Albanians, it is said, who seldom made more than [one] visit or at most two in their lives, to the Manhadoes as they called N York by its original Indian name, used to make their wills & take leave of their families with all the solemnity as tho' they were going to Vader's land, Holland. Indeed the intercourse was attended with difficulty & delays from contrary winds & slow passages. An Albany Sloop seldom made more than 4 or 5 trips the season. It is related that two brothers, Cuylers, of Albany, the one bound to England, the other home, took leave of each other & sailed the same day. They both arrived, the one at Falmouth Eng'd & the other at Albany on the same day. One was 24 days crossing the Atlantic, the other, what with head winds, & running on the Over-slaugh, it was the month of Novem'r was the same time on his passage home. What an astonishing difference since the invention of Steam Boats, when the same course has been run in 18, & seldom exceeding 24 hours. Such marvels are likewise to be instanced on y'r stupendous rivers.

Monday 11th Sept'. On Sat' ½ past 5 A. M. I arrived home after being positively steamed to prostration, & without a wink of sleep. Your letter of 13th Aug' greeted me on my return & relieved my mind thus far from apprehensions for your safety. I left Mama & Sister at New Haven to attend commencement on Wed'y 13th and inclosed y'r letter by this mornings Steamboat w' she will receive at 5. We embarked at 6 o'clock on Wed'y last 6th & all things considered Mama & Sister who rose at ½ p. 4 were ready in due season, w' relieved my too usual impatience. We had a very pleasant passage, not overthronged, & arrived at ½ p. 4 p. m. at our quarters, Motts, in the city, where, having proceeded in the first Hackney, Mama secured the best apartment with an adjoining chamber for Sister. Our travelling companions
were the Rev. Mr. Turner,\textsuperscript{24} professor in the Theological Seminary, Rev. Mr. Johnson \textsuperscript{25} of Newtown, L. I. who took with him his two young brothers in law \textsuperscript{26} graduates of Columbia College to enter as Students of Divinity, Mr. Isaac Lawrence, Pres\textsuperscript{t} of the Ud S Branch bank, in this city, late Trustee of the Seminary for N York, a Mr. Lambert & myself agents for collecting subscriptions in this city, our copartners unable to attend from business. Shortly after Mr. Lawrence & her 3 daughters arrived, w\textsuperscript{h} made quite a party at our Inn, & we were accommodated with a separate table. Fatigued, the Ladies did not walk, the weather being oppressively hot, & streets very dusty. I rambled till dusk, astonished & delighted with the neatness and air of comfort that pervades the whole city. Excepting in the trading streets all the buildings have a plot of ground well cultivated as gardens a pretty court yard & pale fencing, far exceeding the appearance of Newark for elegance.

(Tuesday 12\textsuperscript{th}) In the evening we went to Church, where a missionary sermon was preached by a young Divine of the name of Francis, I think, of Massachusetts, & a collection made for the African mission. His mother it is said has a formd predelection in favour of that mission, and educated this son espec\textsuperscript{y} for a missionary to that inhospitable deadly clime. I c\textsuperscript{d} not but feel with the hearers of St. Paul who were sore distressed that they sh\textsuperscript{d} see his face & hear him no more. This fatal climate is the grave of almost every European as well as American sent to it. Next morn\textsuperscript{e} Thurs\textsuperscript{y} 7\textsuperscript{th} I rose with the dawn, & viewed the town. As the sun peeped above the horizon I was strolling in the most elegant burial ground I ever beheld, a square of about 20 Acres, as level as a prairie, appropriated for the use of the whole city without distinction of sect. It is laid out in

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parallel & intersecting walks & compartments, with many obelisks, urns & tombstones tastely cut & classically inscribed to perpetuate the memories of the deceased. I regret that I did not copy a beautifully tender & pathetic inscription on the tomb of M"s Woolsey 27 mother of the young gentleman introduced to you. I have sent to obtain it & will send you a copy. In the even Mama & Sister accompanied me to view. My feelings were excited to the highest pitch & nearly two hours glided away as a minute whilst I traced the frail memorials of the dead. I left the spot indulging sober reflections until I arrived at the Inn to an excellent breakfast, where I found Bishop Brownell & several other clergymen, who had come to attend the meeting of the Trustees, who assembled at 9, & sent an invitation to the Agents, w^h was accepted. When the business of the Trustees was concluded, by permission I was allowed to address them on the propriety of making collections of books for the Theological Library, being you know quite in my way, and I promised to set an example. I have had an eye to this purpose for some years, & while I have gratified & improved myself by collecting & reading some very valuable ecclesiastical works, I shall be able, without feeling it, to place on the shelves books that I need not blush to offer, or the Seminary to accept, and I hope what I remarked made a suitable impression. At 11 Divine Service was performed by the Rev. Doctor Jarvis, now of Boston, after w^h Professor Turner delivered an appropriate inaugural address of an hour & a quarter, copy of w^h shall be sent to you. A trifling arrangement gave much effect to the occasion. Ten young gentlemen appeared to enter as Students. I asked Bishop Brownell if seats were appropriated for them. He pointed to 2 side pews. On remarking that they w"d appear more conspicuous if they sat on 2 settees on each side, & fronting the reading desk, he immed" concurred, & of course they were conspicuous to the whole audience w^h was large & respectable. After service we

27 Mrs. William Walton Woolsey (Elizabeth Dwight).
to the Hotel, where the Clergy of N Haven, together with the President & Professors of Yale College, were invited to dine with us. With the ladies, our party was near 50. I had as usual ordered Wine in the cooler, after the pies & custards, the ladies took their leave & all the clergy filed off after them, w h broke up the dinner. On entering the Hall Dr Jarvis whispered that this was not like a New York dinner party, no wine, I replied that it was not my fault, that some had been ordered, & enquired of Mr Lawrence who sat at the head of the table, why it had not been called for. He said that Bishop Brownell & the clergy declined it. The fact turned out, that at the last meeting of the Trustees Wine was circulated, & a remark had been made that the Episcopal clergy could not convene & dine without wine, w h is not usual to give in that frugal place on these occasions. To avoid similar imputation was the cause. It was as well, for the weather was intemperately hot, & we had to go to business again at 4. At 5 I returned to wait on Mama & Sister to the cemetery & at 7 in the even w we went again to Church. They sing enchantingly in New haven & respond till all echoes. The Episcopal Church is a very elegant, exact proportioned Gothic structure. We have nothing equal to it in this city. The congregation is large & respectable & very zealous. Perhaps there is too much bigotry in the N. England clergy, but they live in the hot bed of polemics. We had at our Inn Col. Talmadge28 and his Lady, of the Hallet family, and we soon renewed acquaintance. The Colonel I knew & he had been an active Com' of Horse during the Rev' war. He was on the lines at the capture of André, from whom I obtained many interesting facts respecting that event. On Friday morn. I went down to the Connecticut Hotel to procure an apartment for Mama & Sister, & wandered over the Wapping part of the City, prized the Markets, every thing cheap, Beef, best 6d. Fish & Lobsters 5 Cents. Butter 12½. Living

28 Benjamin Talmadge (1754-1835) and his second wife, Maria (Hallett) Talmadge. *Dict. Amer. Biog.*, XVIII, 285.
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is very cheap in New Haven, & a $1000 a year w'd include every comfort. I sh'd like if agreeable to Mama, to retire there; genteel society, frugal manners & intellectual intercourse, a Church of y's own. What c'd one wish more? But this is ideal & depends on Sisters fate tho' I think Mama w'd not h[ear] to it. Our business concluded on Friday morn's. We dined, paid our Bill—a dollar a day each—drove down to the Con't Hotel 1/2 p. 4, saw Mama comfortably fixed, & at 6, embarked to be sweated to death on b'd the Steamboat. On Sunday, went to Church, intolerably hot, dined with Aunt Helen, passed the ev' with the Rev. D's Milnor of S' Georges, & returned home to Tamar & solitude, having written a letter to Mama in the morn's inclosing yours w'h I delivered to my friend M't Dwight who set off on Monday & gave no doubt my despatch to Mama at 5 P. M. I have a letter from her written on Sunday, the hottest day experienced this year in N. haven. Therm° 90°. She went to Church A. M. & is to return on Friday ev's. She says that M't Butler & lady from N. O. are in the Hotel, have separate apartments. But that M't B. never appears. I had tho't that he was a bachelor. We have a fine refreshing rain, the first in some weeks, with every appearance of a Storm to spoil the holliday commencem't tomorrow. But thank God it has changed the atmosphere, & I can once more bear cloth. The fate of the Fulton has I find prepared y's mind for being disappointed in Sister's visit. I have urged Mama in vain, to accompany her, but she knows me better than I know myself & so long an absence w'd almost kill me; even this short parting quite unhinges me. No one to cheer me in the ev's. I retire early and forlorn.

Thurs' 14th. Post day. On Tuesday we had a Gale & rain with every appearance of a N. East storm to mar the Commencem't at N Haven. It cleared off in the afternoon with a fresh N. Wester w'h has completely changed the atmosphere, & rendered yesterday as delightful as heart could wish. The ev's was delightful and I hope Sister enjoyed herself at the Ball, as I shall
learn on Mama's return on Satv mornv. I trust her passage will be more comfortable than mine, wv was suf-
focating.

Unless Mama shd urge it I do not feel much inclined to make another excursion but reserve myself, if spared until William Bayard takes his degree next year. Sam-
uels health has been so delicate that he has been obliged to intermit his studies. He will however receive his baculareate, owing to his respectable standing in his class. Both these young gentlemen however bend their strength rather to oratory than the classics. In the former they excel & bear the palm from all their competitors. I wd not chose to sacrifice the solid to the brilliant were the course of education left to my direction. . . .

New York, 16th Septemr, 1820. Saturday

This morning at 6, Mama & Sister arrived safe from New Haven.

Sunday mornv 17th. I was diverted from continuing my letter yestv by the following circumstance. The pre-
ceding evv I had called on the Rev. Docv Milnor Rector of St George's and Chairman of the Agents for collecting subscriptions in this city for the General Theological Semv of the Epis. Church, to suggest to him to raise by subscription of $25 each, among a few gentlemen $330, for the purchase of the only set of the Fathers now for sale in America. He heartily concurred & I drew up a subscription which was led by himself at $50, & sent round at 9 o'clock yestv mornv and before 12, the whole sum was subscribed and paid by me into the hands of Mr Eastburn bookseller, who himself gave $50. The books were packed up, & at 6 in the afternoon embarked, together with my private donation on board of a Sloop for New Haven, to sail at 7 and this evening or tomorrow mornv at day light will safely arrive please God and be sent to Professor Turner's Door by the time he receives my letter by post enclosing the Invoices, and without the least anticipation on his part of the very valuable
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donation to the Seminary. I know not when I have been so gratified by any effort of my life. The sums were so cordially given by Eleven gentlemen several of whom viewed the works, in the highest condition, & all expressed their highest satisfaction. The Fathers as your Revd Learned friend can explain is a collection of the Writings of St Chrysostom, Augustine, Jerome &c. &c. which appeared in the earliest ages of Christianity, and are all important in a Theological Library, esp for the use of professors. These ponderous Tomes were purchased for less than half price, being the plunder of the public Libraries in France during the French Revolution. May they never be plundered from a similar cause in our country. They could not be procured at the present day for $700. These with the books I have sent will form a proud commencement of a Library & set a favourable example to others to go and do likewise. I thought this incident worthy of communication to my beloved daughter. The Works consist of 55 Folios, to which was add the princeps editio, most esteemed of Luthers works in 4 vols., making 59 volumes.

Sister brought home with her the beautiful tender and pathetic lines inscribed on Mrs Woolsey tombstone, as mentioned in my last.

Faith Stranger
Whose Feet have wandered
To this Land of silence,
Contemplate this stone;
Beneath it is interred the Dust
Which was once a lovely form
Inhabited by a mind
Superior in Intelligence
Worth and Amiableness
To most of thy Sex:
As a Daughter, Sister and Friend
As a Wife and Mother
Few, whom she left behind
Can boast so bright a name
This is one side of the base of a pyramidal marble monument, the east, I think, and which was politely copied by a M'r Lyman of Boston who with his Lady were visitors at New Haven, and put up at the Connect. Hotel. He rode out with Sister for the purpose, last Friday morn⁴ 15ᵗʰ and was very attentive to her & mama, attending them on Wed⁵ to Commencement, and in the even⁶ to the Ball. I shall be happy to requite his attention. He is Cousin to a M'r Lyman ²⁹ who presented the panorama of Athens to the University of Cambridge, & who is going to marry Miss Henderson of this city, very handsome & very proud 'tis said, a match not over agreeable to the friends of M'r L. Here is Death & Courtship side by side.

Friday 2²⁴. I have often determined never more to have any thing to do with building up public Institutions. But I have engaged once more, and the last I trust, in promoting the Gen. Theol. Sem⁸. It is but a sequel however of former efforts, and I do consider it propitious that the Agency was sent to me without being consulted or I sh⁴ indubitably have declined. Unpropitious as the times are, we shall I hope glean $18,000 from this city, a tythe of what might have been expected had the Sem⁷ met with the encouragement it ought, & had remained in this city. Since my return I have had the honour of an interview with Bishop Hobart, for which I am glad, as it offered me an opp⁹ of explaining the motives for my conduct, however unsatisfactory to him. He is very sore at any interference with his diocese. But surely, as I told him, every one was at liberty to patronize which institution he preferred, and how was that patronage to be obtained unless by personal application. His oppugnation will not extend its influence beyond his own & the diocese of N Jersey w⁶ is absolutely under his control, and what we lose here, will please God, be abundantly supplied elsewhere. Out of the abundance

of the heart the mouth speaketh, and I fear that I trespass on y'r patience. We are blest thank God with cold weather. On Tuesday we had the equinoctial storm w'h accompanied with rain, lasted only 24 hours. It cleared off with a northwester, that has sent the yellow fever spirits into the Atlantic. The intercourse with Phil a by land is renewed, in consequence of the improved state of health of that city. But we have unfavourable tidings from N. Orleans aggrandized I hope in the letter advising the indisposition of Mr. Sampson. Tomorrow I shall look for y'r report w'h will set me at rest. Sister has had an attack of the influenza that has so generally prevailed in this quarter. Luckily she arrived home first, & with Mama has escaped the late storm & now cold weather.

Monday 25th. We spent a very pleasant [afternoon] at Helens, but Mama has been much indisposed since, having taken a cold from attending to the cleaning of the yards & the borders w'h were overgrown with plants. She was better yest' but c'd not go to Church. Aunt Helen & family dined with us on one of our old fashioned rounds of Alamode beef, w'h the weather being cool, was highly relished, as also the pastry prepared by y'r Sister who is quite in her element in the culinary department and what is in her favour does not lose her appetite nor relish by superintending. Your letter my dearest daughter of 26th of Aug. was rec'd on Sat'morn & has relieved my anxious solicitude for you, thus far. I believe in the doctrine of seasoning to a certain extent, w'h the state of your familys health confirms, but how happens it that Mr. Ge° Pollock who has resided I believe ever since 1802 in N. Orleans has at last fallen a sacrifice to the Fever. Surely he must have been well seasoned, or like his brother Carlisle, a very gentlemanly person, has he fallen a victim to intemperance. They were both very proud, but George had not much intellect & was, in

his day, insufferably arrogant. They married Sisters, Miss Yates. I think it was George's wife who died in N. O. a martyr to too free use of wine.

Poeor young John Philpot Curran Sampson. Hard is his fate. He had too much vivacity to plod thro' life. He was at the head of the Forum in this city, & built himself on the Irish School of eloquence, & like young ardent imitators rather copied the faults than perfections of Curran & Philips, but time might have cured his exuberance. He likewise had a sufficient share of his countrymens modesty. He was the son of Counsellor Sampson, who with Emmet & M' Nevan Irish patriots were obliged to leave Ireland, & after being prisoners in Scotland emigrated the beginning of this century to this city. Young S. was volatile & erratic & caused his father great anxiety. The case of M' Ogden is very distressing. . . . Can there be any doubt of the Fever being introduced from Havanna. My belief is that we have the seeds within our cities, but that if the match from abroad be prevented from being set to the Gunpowder Cask, there is little danger of explosion. Our dear Marsden has been sick in consequence of running from home without leave & go a swimming. Tell him that this has been a slight punishment for disobedience & that I hope it will never happen again. As I cant go to tell it myself repeat this little story.

1. There were three boys asliding went
   On one long summers day
   The ice grew thin, they all fell in
   And the rest they run away.

2. Now had these boys at school a been
   Or sliding on dry ground
   Ten thousand pounds to a penny
   They would not all been drown'd.

3. Ye parents that have children dear
   And eke ye that have none
   If you would have them safe abroad
   Pray keep them all at home.
This ditty made an awful impression on my mind when I was an urchin like your boys, and you see the sad story has not been effaced by time.

Wednesday 27\textsuperscript{th}. Commencement at Princeton. A most brilliant day. Sister is regretting that she is not there as Samuel is to be a Manager of the Ball & she was to have danced with him. But the overflowing of the Bayards w\textsuperscript{d} have overwhelmed my small flock. Mr Boyd who accompanied Mrs B. to Brunswick on Sat\textsuperscript{y} with the intention of going on informed, this morn\textsuperscript{g} that he returned, as there w\textsuperscript{d} be 14 without him, w\textsuperscript{h} w\textsuperscript{d} require at least 6 extra beds. It w\textsuperscript{d} never have done to have intruded, altho Aunt Patty very pressingly importuned Mama, but she c\textsuperscript{d} not at the time have anticipated such a host.

My sight has become so defective that yest\textsuperscript{y} after noon I purchased a pair of concave spectacles and mounted them for the first time, awkwardly en\textsuperscript{o}. The Dandies & young parsons esp\textsuperscript{y} Episcopal are distinguished for short sightedness, the one from fashion, the other we must charitably suppose, from wearing out their eyes by intense applications to their studies. I refrained from using spectacles, until I c\textsuperscript{d} hardly distinguish the countenances of my acquaintances, until they passed me without salutation w\textsuperscript{h} in some instances has given unintentional offence, to avoid w\textsuperscript{h} I shall in future promenade à la Dandy.

Thurs\textsuperscript{y} 28\textsuperscript{th} Sept. . . . The Southerns are all congregating in this city like swallows to take their flight to a more genial clime. They are a wonderful migratory race. The Fulton Steam Ship is advertised to sail for Charleston on Thur\textsuperscript{y} the 5\textsuperscript{th} Oct\textsuperscript{r} next week, and to ply henceforth, if encouraged, as a packet between the two cities. Experience only prove the result. I sh\textsuperscript{d} hardly suppose that in winter there is intercourse suff\textsuperscript{t} to defray expenses. I sh\textsuperscript{d} not fear to embark in her on account of safety. . . .
My dearest daughter,

I am much agitated by a report, w*h I just heard from Mr Dwight of the Daily Advertiser, that he was informed last evening by some account from N. Orleans, of the death of the Rev. Mr Larned. There has been no arrival from y*r city, yest*r, nor does any thing appear in any of the morning papers. But these rumors are too frequently the harbingers of dreadful tidings. My fears are the more excited, because you mentioned in y*r letter of 26th Aug t that Mr L. was still in the city & talked of remaining in consequence of the Doctors opinion that with prudence he might escape, and that Mr's L. had gone thro her seasoning the preceding year. . . .

Saturd*r 30th. Alas my beloved daughter how fatally prophetic was the rumour of yest*r. As soon as the penny post dropped your letter of the 2d on my table, I anticipated its mournful contents. What a short distance of time between the 26th & 30th of August has effected. How apt we are, on the first impulse, to arraign the ways of Providence, that a young Christian Minister, of so great utility to the cause of Religion, and esp*r in such a quarter as N. Orleans, sh*d be so immed*y arrested in his course, is among those inscrutable mysteries to which we must implicitly submit, and against which it w*d be impious to repine. . . . How poignant must have been the feelings of your good husband when he found all his medical skill and fondest attention baffled by that most insidious & fatal disease, yellow fever. . . . . . . . . .

This being the closing day of the month, when all my office duties pressed hard upon me, & having moreover an engagement with the Agents of the Thel° Sem*r at 12, which kept me till near 2, I had not time to acknowledge by this days post rec*t of y*r letter. . . . An extract from your letter will appear in the Commercial of this even*s. I was obliged to yield it & confide it to the care of the Editor, who I hope will only make such a transcript as ought to be published.

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
Thurs’ 5th Oct. I am all gratitude that no accounts by any arrivals from your ill fated city appear of further deaths. A letter of the 3d mentions the death of Mr Latrobe the Architect, with whom I was acquainted. It also says that most of the strangers had left the city, wh must of course lessen if not stop entirely the progress of the Fever. It is said that few or none of the natives have fallen victims this season. Should the Doctor survive, it certainly behoves him & the Faculty to investigate the causes of the fatal effects among our countrymen, and to point out a remedy. The lower classes I presume must live in over crowded filthy houses, be addicted to intemperance & expose themselves to the alternations of the Fogs & vertical Sun. N. Orelans at best is a very hazardous abode for strangers, but the malignancy, from whatever cause appears to have increased since it has become a part of the U States, & more fully populated by Americans. . . .

New York, 14th Oct’, 1820. 9 A. M.

. . . The tender age of your dear sweet infant, & freedom from all constitutional inflammatory disposition will I fervently hope & pray carry her thro’ her trial. Yet so dreadfully malignant & fatal has the Fever proved this season, that I shall be prepared to open your next letter with a trembling hand, sh’d one appear next week. . . .

Is it not possible for the Doctor, without injuring his chance of custom, to change your residence to a less loathsome quarter than the present, surrounded by such vile corrupted exhalations that must contaminate the very principles of life. Will not the price of rents be somewhat checked, as well by the depression of commerce, as possible check to emigrations by the dread of falling sacrifice to your pestiferous climate. . . .

Monday 16 Oct. . . We expect Mr Bayard in town,

tomorrow, with his son Samuel who is to embark next Sunday with his cousin Nicholas, for Georgia, to spend the winter with his Uncle who has a plantation, I think, on Cumberland island. This is far preferable to the first plan of going to Natchez. Samuels health is very delicate, but by escaping our northern winters, a year or two, he may confirm his constitution & outgrow his present weakness, provided his Lungs be not affected. What a terrible insidious canker is the Consumption. I attended the funeral yesterday week of a beautiful young lady, the daughter \(^{32}\) of my friend General Clarkson, whose soul was wrapped up in her, and who in the prime of youth was cut off in a few short months by a malady, unknown I believe in your quarter, that wants no greater curse than the Yellow Fever. . . . I hope please God that your sweet little Mary has passed thro the ordeal of her seasoning & shall anxiously open y\(^{r}\) next w\(^{h}\) must ascertain her fate. The Rev. Mr Bayard is also to pass the week with us, he comes over tomorrow to attend our Epis. Convention, Ministers being admitted by courtesy. The question of a Diocesan Sem\(^{v}\) will be discussed & carried, thro' the influence of Bishop Hobart, who did not intend to bring it before the Convention where it will be opposed, but to have set up a School of his own, thro' his personal influence & under his personal control. But this, to his friends, was not quite palatable & however pliant, they could not submit to so despotic a control. This Sem\(^{v}\) is in direct opposition to the Gen. Sem\(^{v}\) in the promotion & success of w\(^{h}\) I take a more efficient part than otherwise w\(^{d}\) have been the case. The oppugnation of this diocese will tend to greater exertions in the other states, and in the issue will, I confidently believe do more good than harm. I sincerely regret the measure as it will tend to lessen that influence which a Bishop of this State ought to possess in the General Convention. But a truce to a subject that in the heat of conflict too much engrosses that share of my page w\(^{h}\) ought to be devoted to more interesting topics. Mama

\(^{32}\) Eliza Clarkson, daughter of General Matthew Clarkson.
& Sister have been industriously employed last week in getting the parlour &c. in order for winter. . . . Sister is this morn⁴ employed in making up her Quince Sweet-meats, of w⁴ you are to partake. The latter end of next Monday [sic] when our winter butter comes to market I shall forw⁵ a Firkin of the best & a barrel of Buckwheat for your dear Children, the most nutritious food they can take. The effect is evident in their appearance as soon as winter sets in, but children with us, do not live so much on Indian as with you, a sweeter & I believe more nourishing food for them than wheaten bread.

(Wed⁴ 18ᵗʰ) The day is too short for yᵉ father. . . . A good woman in the market this morn⁴ from whom I was purchasing some thyme for winters use, when I told her the price was high, remarked that Time was scarce. I told her, that was too true with me. . . . Little of news is in circulation. The infamous trial of the Queen of England has for some time engrossed all attention. In the ordinary ranks of Society, the barefaced impudence of a Female who wᵈ appear thus in full front of her accusers and listen to such scenes of turpitude as are charged against her, would be charged as the most unprincipelled and abandoned of her sex. Even if the charges be false, delicacy & regard to the common rules of decency require that she shᵈ retire at the recital of circumstances that wᵈ disgrace a brothel. But such is the virulence of party spirit, that what wᵈ sink a private individual to the lowest abyss of infamy passes like idle wind over a crowned head. But there is a Court where splendid vice will rank no higher than the vilest corruption. The whole of this transaction is an abomination and reflection on the British nation, on whom the sins of a profligate prince are visited. . . .

Thurs⁵ 19ᵗʰ. Yest⁴ Mᵉ Bayard & his son Samuel arrived & stay with us, the former attends the meeting of the Synod in this city. I asked him what measures were adopted to supply the place of Mᵉ Larned, ignorant or thoughtless, that your congregation were competent to this duty. He speaks in high terms of the progress of
the Theological Seminary at Princeton, particularly of a young eleve a Mr Davison, who has devoted his time in the Southern States to make collections for the Seminary. He has been successful in procuring the foundation of [3] Scholarships at $2500 each is 7500, and is now engaged in obtaining subscriptions to found a professorship, $25,000, and has collected $12,500, besides remitting $500 towards defraying the expense of erecting a House for Dr Alexander. The zeal and success attending this young gentleman, whose manners are admirably adapted for soliciting contributions merits distinguished praise; and must excite others to go and do likewise. The Presbyterians certainly excel us in liberality, in every effort & good work that can promote the temporal or spiritual interests of their denomination. Instead of emulating the example of these good people and concentrating all our strength and combining all our resources, Bishop Hobart has succeeded in the Convention now sitting to detach this diocese from the General Seminary, w't he thus weakens tho' thank God he cannot paralyse it any longer by his deleterious influence. After breakfast, strange to tell I have just learned, that on the appointment of Trustees for the local Seminary, yesterday that my name, without my concurrence, and those of other Agents in this city, of the General Sem', have been inserted. This in undoubtedly a finesse, which will not take with me, as I trust not with my co-adjutors, nor detach us from the duty we have assumed. I cannot see the consistency of blowing hot & cold nor the propriety or indeed possibility of serving two masters. But the subject will meet my serious deliberation. As far as to this day, I have been most zealously engaged in obtaining donations of books to the Gen. Sem', & with unparralled success. Between 6 & 700 Volumes have been given, estimated at $3000 value, of the most valuable works in Theology & Eccles' History. One individual last week presented 366 Volumes valued at 1500 Drs and with uncommon modesty declines being known. There are good evidences of the disposition of many in
this city in favour of the General Seminary. God speed it. You shall no more be troubled with my effusions on a subject that for 2 months has engrossed all my thoughts and efforts. . . .

New York, 23rd Octo\textsuperscript{r}, 1820

Your very acceptable letter of 23\textsuperscript{d} Sept: my dearest daughter has quite relieved my anxious mind; it was rec\textsuperscript{d} this day. . . . Thankful indeed I am to learn that yr sweet little Mary has passed the ordeal, & that Eliza & Marsden have recovered. . . . Indeed I do rejoice most sincerely that the Doctor's practice has been so successful, esp\textsuperscript{r} in a French family, who are generally so desperately prejudiced ag\textsuperscript{t} American practitioners.

M\textsuperscript{r} Bayard of Princeton has just left us, to whom I had time to impart the joyful news of your safety, & told him of the call given to M\textsuperscript{r} Cornelius, who he says will not accept, as he is most eligibly situated in Salem, in conjunction with the Rev. Doctor Worcester, with whom he lives in the greatest harmony. . . . I observe that you are flattering yourself with a visit from yr dear Sister. Her mind was once fully made up to have accompanied poor M\textsuperscript{rs} Gardiner, but on her decease and the accident attending the Steamboat, she prudently abandoned the idea, & my late letters will have reconciled you I hope to the disappointment.

Every attention shall be paid to your kind orders, brooms & all, and I will send the 1\textsuperscript{st} firkin of butter by the first conveyance after our best winter butter comes to market, and a 2\textsuperscript{d} firkin a month or 6 weeks after, as it will keep fresher here than in yr warm city. I am glad that the salt has procured a successful experiment, so that I shall know how to manage in future. What a luxury a roll of best butter is & what a dreadful price you pay for rancid grease.

Tuesday 24\textsuperscript{th}. This day Master Samuel sails for Sa-
vanna to pass the winter with his uncle Mr. Nicholas Bayard. His health is extremely delicate, tho to us small eaters his appetite appears to be voracious. He does not eat but devours butter, certainly uses more than all of us together. Indeed this is a family accomplishment, for it w'd be uncivil to call it failing, owing entirely to his Father, who, to the great annoyance of my dear good Uncle, used to gorge his children. I have more than once I think reprobated this practice, the consequences of exciting appetite instead of restraining it tends to gluttony. Simplicity in food is easier preached than practice[d], & I confess I like mine a little piquant, without w'd my appetite w'd fail me, but I never eat to satiety, and seldom have to complain of dispepsy a fashionable malady esp' among high luxurious livers, who riot all winter and go to the Springs in Summer to disgorge and prepare for another campaign. In your Southern climate esp' heavy rich sauces, must engender bile & create a feverish excitement, and predisposition to typhus at least. Some think moderation consists in sobriety, but abstinence in diet is also requisite to health. More, says the old proverb, dig their graves with their Teeth than their Tankard. Probably in the olden time, the Lenten fast was instituted to work off the ill effects of the Festive season of Xmas and New Year, and did we pursue the weekly abstinence on Fridays, enjoined by Holy Church, I am persuaded there w'd be less of the modern acute diseases.

I shall be glad when a week or two more shall be over. My spirits have been kept in a constant state of excitation and some exacerbation for a month or more, and I almost regret my having taken an active part in the establishment of the Gen. Theol' Sem'y. We had a boisterous & acrimonious Convention of the Episcopal Clergy last week. Bishop Hobarts overwhelming influence has established "A Protestant Episcopal Theological Education Society" consisting of himself ex officio president, 45 Vice Presidents and 150 Trustees, all officers to tickle their vanity. I was honoured with an ap-
pointment as Trustee, but peremptorily declined, as I c'd not serve two masters. Nor can I blow hot & cold. The collision however must soon be over, for we, the Agents cannot look for much support here, where every local feeling & every malignant passion are excited, as well as every unchristian animosity against other denominations. We have however many friends, and I do hope that our u'd efforts may be able to endow a professorship, in the course of a few years, that is to raise $20,000, w'h may be done in 4 or 5 years. To say that I work with heart & soul is needless. I rather overdo than fall short of my full share of duty.

Wed' 25th. Yest' afternoon I went to look after our winter butter, which begins to come in in Nov'. I have directed one Firkin to be put up, as that of last year, and shall send it by the first ship, w'h may probably reach you in December, and a month after I will send the other as it may keep sweeter here than with you. . . . Sister sighs to be with you, but her heart fails her as I am sure mine does when I think of the distance & ocean that divides us. The Fulton Steamship may probably return to N. O. Her outward passage to Charleston has been very fortunate. She is expected back shortly, and if she sh'd return in safety will establish her character. Whether there may be encouragement en'o for she must entirely depend on passengers, to proceed to N. Orleans is very doubtful. . . . This is again my very busy period, w'h comes round semiannually & will last with little interruption until Xmas, when I shall have please God some respite, and by w'h time the super-added burthen of the Theol Sem'y will be bro't to a conclusion, when all that we can do will be accomplished, I mean in this city, where our Bishop carries all before him.

On Sunday my friend Gov'r Clinton took coffee with us as also his lady, who is a very elegant person & quite courtly. We passed an agreeable evening. She is very affable & regards me as Mr. C's friend. She deports herself with great dignity & has given elevation to his
domestic character. She is quite the politician & enters warmly into all that concerns him. The Legislature meets in Novem'r to appoint Electors for President and will probably elect our Council of Appointment, w'h will be hostile to Mr C. His friends of course will be displaced. He will have an easier time, relieved from intrigue & importunity for offices. The disappointed seekers will join the Clintonians next Spring, for the chance of a change, New Council & new appointments. Patriotism has nothing to do, and private ends, masked under whatever guise, is the unblushing order of the day throughout the U'd States. For what I see there is as much intrigue among Churchmen as politicians, and as great inveteracy, indeed the *Odium Theologicum* is proverbial & for what I see the Odium Medicum also. When passion gets the better of Judgment, a rein is given to licentiousness of Tongue, which leads among statesmen to duels, & among gownsmen to vindictive hatred & malice.

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**New York, Thurs'y 2d Nov', 1820**

By later accounts, than your last, I find that the sickness was abating in y'r ill fated city, w'h however has suffered comparatively less than Savanna. Whether your wise Legislature will adopt preventive measures remains to be seen. By the vigilance of our health officer, Doctor Bailey at Quarantine, & of the resid' Phy'n D' Hosack, we have totally escaped. Yet such is the perversity of public bodies, that in the probable event of a new Council of Appointment opposed to Gov. Clinton, it is more than likely that Doctor H. will be removed, if not D' B. likewise. The latter however is so popular, and has been so long in the health department, nearly 20 years, off & on, assistant & principal, that it will excite great discontent in this city sh'd he be displaced. But rank politicians, only consult the interest of their party, to w'h
the public good must yield. We shall soon be immersed in the vortex of politics by the approaching meeting of Congress, when the manufactur' interests will make the greatest exertions to increase the restrictions on imports, to counteract w'h the mercantile body, are now assembled by delegation in Phila. Let us however leave statesmen to conduct their own affairs, w'h we can neither control nor promote. I believe you know General Bloomfield my old friend of Burlington. He married last week the beautiful widow Macomb of our city with 4 Children, with whom he became acquainted last winter at Washington. He is near 70 and she about 45. The General is very good natured, comfortable if not affluent, delightfully situated in Burlington and without progeny. He paid his addresses to Miss Hetty Reed, of keen sarcastic memory, an old maid, who had so often played off her jokes & wit on the old general, that she e'd not, it is supposed, with regard to her own charact' receive them. I have understood that in consequence, it is supposed of the importunity of her friends to marry the general & her violent repugnance, she has become melancholly. You know her former vivacity, and such is the deplorable allotment of humanity that the most refined and sublimated minds are prone to this dreadful misfortune. The marriage of the good old general, who had a command in the late war, & was distinguished as Granny Bloomfield, has excited much merriment among the gay world. He is asthmatical withal, pretty rotund. Peter Pindar says "Love, almighty Love, likes not your fat fellows, puffing & blowing like a blacksmith's bellows."

Sat' 4th. By the Ship Pacific you will receive I hope as advised in my letter by Cap' Smith 2 Firkins choice butter packed in Salt, 1 Bar. buckwheat, 2 d° Newtown pippins, 1 Box Sweetmeats & 1 bundle Brooms. I attended bright & early to put these articles on board w'h will probably arrive as soon as this letter. It gratifies me to find that the experiment of the butter succeeded last winter, & will again. By leaving the 2d Firkin un-
opened I mean the barrel, until the 1st is used you will have the luxury of good sweet butter throughout the winter, & if the Buckwheat meal, shd not get heated on the passage, I shall have afforded a delicious regale to your darlings. Do you mix it with Indian Meal? w Mama considers a great addition to the excellence of the cakes, half of each, I think, but this to your palate. I suppose your hominy husband does not relish this northern luxury. The apples, shd they arrive sound, will be a fine treat for the children, a reward for good lessons. The pippins are not the largest, but being hand picked, promise to keep better than those that are shaken. Cheap as they are, I gave the best price to ensure the best fruit. At all events eno may arrive sound to gratify the bairns. If apples have been as redundant on the Ohio as in this quarter, you will have them in any quantity & very reasonable. Indeed great quantities are shipped I see on board of every vessel distined for N. O. so that you can afford to treat your little ones with apple dumplings & molasses, a wholesome diet, every week. In old times in my good uncles family, and I suppose every other, there were stated days for every dish, salt fish on Saturv, roast Turkey Sunday, the remainder of Saturdays salt, or dumb fish, hashed up with vegetables & warmed in the Frying pan for Monday, Roast beef Wednesday, pease porridge & sausages on Thurv, Apple dumplings Friday, Pancakes Tuesday. This was pretty much the winter course, and always Alamode on Saturday in summer, wh was served up cold on Sunday to prevent cooking, or else veal forced meat ball pie. Hasty pudding all winter long for supper, & buckwheat cakes, wh came into vogue just before the revolv war, for breakfast. In Phil this article is or used to be considered such a treat, as to be served up at tea in large domestic parties, where they are always prepared the size of the griddle, and cut into quarters. Thus you have the courses of old fashion good feeding when abundance of the best was afforded at a very cheap rate. I have heard my good old uncle repeatedly say that an excel-
lent dinner of the best of the market could be provided within the compass of a single dollar, and that there were not many persons who could afford to give so extravagant a dinner!

Tuesday 7th Novr. . . . . . . . . . . . . .

We have two deaths of some interest, Old Mr Wm Edgar aged 84, and Thomas Pearsall 52. The former one of our wealthiest citizens. Wm Edgar and Alex' Macomb during the revolutionary war were contractors for the British army at Detroit and supplied all Upper Canada. They made a great fortune in the turn of 7 years, divided their profits and settled the partnership concerns, by burning their Books of Accounts, such mutual confidence had they in each other. They came and settled in this city after the peace and built the large range of 4 Storey Houses in Bway at that period, indeed at present the most magnificent in N York. After an East India expedition or two, a joint concern, Mr Edgar retired from all business, invested his capital in the Funds and buildings, and has died worth a million. Mr Macomb living on his capital, went into speculation with Mr Duer and was ruined. He was generous & profuse, his old partner penurious and retired. Mr Pearsall was the Son of an opulent Quaker Merchant. He lived on his income w' he accumulated it is said to half a million. A bon vivant, who gave the best dinners & best wines, but never performed a single act of benevolent duty, to occupy his time and fell a sacrifice to high living. Neither of these wealthy citizens have left a cent, it is said, to pious, benevolent or scientific institutions. We are not like the Bostonians givers that way.

Wed' 8th. The Pacific still lies by the wharf waiting for a wind, w' has been southerly for some days. It is now beginning to rain, and will clear off with a northwester. Beecher is the name of the [captain] a smart young man. He has 8 Cabin & 20 Steerage passengers

33 Thomas Cornell Pearsall, who died Nov. 5, 1820, was son of Thomas Pearsall. C. E. Pearsall, History and Genealogy of the Pearsall Family (1928), II, 1125.
and a deck loaded to the booms, a jolly time they will have of it. . . . Yesterday was a very fine day, the first of the great Fair, at the 4 mile stone. I sh'd have been happy to have attended this first Cattle Show ever held on this island. The crowd was immense.

Thur's 9th. . . . Our Legislature met on Tuesday, for the purpose of appointing presidential Electors. The Governor as usual gives a very excellent speech, w'h was published in the last evening papers. The Assembly chose a Tammany speaker, w'h decides the complexion of the next Council of Appointment, when all the present incumbents in office will be turned out, without regard to age or merit. Mr Clinto'n's friends will suffer but he himself will have an easier year, unperplexed with applications for office and a choice of difficulties in the preference of candidates of whom one only is obliged and all the rest rendered enemies. The honour & glory of presiding over a state is dearly earned. However, posterity will do that justice to the memory of great statemen whose intelligence and services have promoted the interests and elevated the character of their country. No man, Hamilton excepted, has been more vituperated by his political Foes, than Clinton. The former is now deified, as the latter will be when he is no more. At all events the great Canal cannot be stopped, and to prove that Gov'r C. has no merit in the project, the present Legislature will in all probability, double the work, & complete it sooner than was at first supposed possible. In 3 years more we may look for the junction of Lake Erie with the Hudson, a stupendous work for a single State, w'h exceeds in extent any thing similar in the old world. You will see the reference to this subject in the Governor's speech, & we may hope ere long that Ohio will interlock with Lake Erie when we may embark from this city and go by inland navigation to N. Orleans. This once visionary project will I trust be realized even in my day.
New York, Monday 13th Novr, 1820

Snow on the ground and every appearance of winter

Emerged from the duties of a severely oppressive week, I am glad to relax a few minutes in chit chat with my beloved daughter. On Thurs last I despatched my semi monthly diary, and on the afternoon of the same day 9th the weather cleared off with a westerly wind permitted the departure of the ship Pacific with the articles on board for your comfort. Friday the wind was fresh at N. West & she must have made I trust a good offing, to get out of hazard from a smart N. E. storm on Saturday, accompanied with snow that fell 6 inches which has given our streets every appearance of mid-winter. I recollect only one instance of so early a fall of snow. I think the autumn of 1800, when your uncle Gasherie & family who were out with us at Newark returned to N. York the beginning of Nov when a snow fell that night, Saturday, when it lay all winter. Yest according to old reckoning was the beginning of Indian Summer, called by the French L'Ete du St Martin, his festival coming on the 12th, But it looked like every thing else than Summer, when I went to Church. The Storm has cleared off, the Sun re appears & our Streets will soon be all afloat. Thank God, as usual we have all our Fuel and winter roots laid in. My Butter, Apples, Flour & Meal come home this week. To be provident in due season of the indisprependable wants of life, relieves ones mind from the horrors of approaching winter without provision for its comfort. Moreover, when you thus seasonably put up your fuel &c. the money cannot be misapplied to other purposes. In the worst of times I never knew what it was to be told that the last stick of wood was on the fire.

(Thur 16th 2 p. m.) I have just concluded the nicest task of my office duty, balancing my Stock Ledger consisting of 260 accounts all with came out right, at a single
addition of the Totals, much to my gratification. This department, as well as the Bonds & Mortgages w'h comprehends nearly half a million Dollars is solely in the charge of the Sec'y for the accuracy of w'h he is personally responsible. I earn my salary very hard, But thank God, it is subject to no rise & fall of trade. Since Monday I have been incessantly engaged & shall now respire a little. By the middle of December the heaviest will be over. We have taken great pains, having a new Clerk to go over all our work since the establishmt, 11½ years, an arduous task. We have disentangled every snarl, as the old spinsters say, & I hope with due care we shall never have such another job again, at least in my day. Our office has been very successful the losses only averaging about $5000 a year, and we leave off the last six months after providing for our Dividend $22,500, with nearly $53,000 surplus.

(Friday 17th ½ p. 2 p. m.) . . . At 4 I am engaged with some old affairs this p. m. To morrow comes Savings Bank & in the evening at 7 a meeting to attempt once more to restrain the cursed extension of Slavery, horrid imprecation to a southern ear, in the new State of Missouri. An evil wherever it exists that will one day be visited on Slaveholders or their Children with the vengeance of S't Domingo.

Saturday, 18th 9 a. m. I have just rec'd & sent upstairs my beloved daughters letter of 21 Ult°. With what scenes of death & desolation have you been encompassed around, & how grateful ought you & your parents to be, that you have escaped the perils of the late devouring pestilence. Tomorrow, I will be with you in spirit, when you attend the funeral discourse of your late friend & beloved pastor the Rev. M'r Larned, a trying scene w'h I hope you will sustain with becoming fortitude. Alas that you sh'd have sustained another afflicting loss in the untimely death of M'r & M'rs R. Butler, surrounded with every comfort to render life desireable & cut off in the midst of health & enjoyment. . . . This inst. whilst I
TO HIS DAUGHTER, 1820

I am writing I have rec'd an invitation to attend the funeral of an old family friend, Mr. David Coutant of N Rochelle, who you may remember, & who died after a very short illness in his 72d year. His wife Polly & Mrs. Pease, were the old ladys goddaughters & brò' up in her family, my early & long acquaintances.

Tuesday 21st. I do not well reconcile to myself the propriety of sending your boys Marsden espec'y to Latin School. It appears to me that their time w'd have been better employed in learning French, while their organs of speech are flexible and better adapted to acquire an accurate & nice pronunciation of a difficult language to all foreigners. . . . You have a teacher at present every way competent. He comes among you, no doubt, with the same views that actuate and allure every other adventurer to your pestilential city, the hope of rapid acquisition, & please God, to retreat with life, perhaps however in acclimating he dies or may recover, & alarmed at his narrow escape, thro' the importunity of friends & his own fears resolves like John Bunyan to escape from the city of destruction. Here then your boys are all afloat, their education interrupted . . . Again, the learned languages are a prelude to Collegiate instruction. A Boy may be very smart in committing all the rules of Grammar & Syntax to memory, construe & parse very well learn by rote every task assigned, & be ready to enter College at 12 or 13, as I was. But the studies of the higher classes require some maturity of judgment, without which a college education is a farce, makes a lad vain of his superficial knowledge & he turns out a sciolist for life. It is the fault of American education hitherto that it is begun & concluded too soon. I remember full well when in my junior class at 15, that I had all Watts' Logic at my fingers ends, could rattle it off as fast as I could utter without understanding its rationale. . . . I wish my dear g'd children to be moderns before they are antients, to become somewhat acquainted with their mother tongues, for such with you, are
English & French, before they enterprize the learned, the attainment of w\textsuperscript{h} will be facilitated by their former acquirements.

New York, 25\textsuperscript{th} Novem\textsuperscript{r}, 1820. Saturday

This is the 37\textsuperscript{th} Anniversary of the evacuation of this city by the British forces which consummated the American revolution, a day that restored our citizens to their desolated dwellings after a long & tedious exile of 7 years, during which many a patriot had died and left their remains in distant lands, among others your grandfather Abraham Brasher, who was among those who zealously promoted the revolution and tho' uneducated was distinguished for the soundness of his mind & judgment. He died at the early age of 46, of paralysis, at Morris Town in the winter of 1783, and did not live to see what he so ardently looked for, the glorious termination of our struggle to achieve the emancipation of America from the yoke of G. Britain. This day so dear to us, has long been celebrated by military honours, and I think that I have heretofore told you that the celebration was owing to my suggestion when a young member of the Corporation of this city before my going to Newark. Among the other orders of the day, the Apprentices Library, recently instituted, is to be opened with due solemnities at 1 o'clock, in the spacious School room of the N. Y. Free School in Chatham Street. . . . I have just completed a duty that has long rested on my mind, some repairs to our family Tomb in the French Church Cemetery, w\textsuperscript{h} is very old, having been built in 1704, now 116 years ago, and has served as a deposit for the remains of three generations. To make room for successors, it was necessary about 24 years ago to empty the decayed coffins of their contents, which were interred under the floor of the Vault. I have had it put in good order, the access rendered more easy, and the aperture closed with red cedar slabs, to prevent rapid decay, a circumstance
that was giving continual trouble. The spot that is to hold my remains and your dear mothers I have designated. She will lay on the coffin of her Mother, & mine is to rest on that of my dear & venerable uncles, for the floor is more than two deep of coffins. I did not mention the circumstance till all was completed, on Thur" & yest\(^r\), w\(^h\) Mama & Sister regretted, but I did not like that their minds sh\(^d\) be haunted with the sight of their last abode. To me it is familiar, and as I ascended last ev\(^s\) after viewing everything in order, the cieling, walls & passage, all being pointed anew, & whitewashed I felt the easier at the discharge of this duty, & I hope perfectly resigned & composed as I gave the Sexton, Mr Coutant, instruction, where to lay me. . . .

Monday 27. On Saturday there was a very brilliant military parade, notwithstanding the extreme humidity of the day. The Militia is in all probability, better organized & disciplined in this than any other State in the Union & the military air of our City uniform Regiments & companies w\(^d\) not disgrace a regular army. There were 3 new additional corps, one of Hussars, another of Riflemen, & a third w\(^h\) attracted much notice & looked extremely well, a Scotch company clad in Highland plaid, a neat & very cheap uniform, a fine rugged set of sturdy youth. The most interesting circumstance, however, was the opening of the Apprentices Library, at 1 o'cloke. A spacious stage was allotted for the officers of the Mechanic S\(^o\), the Mayor, Clergy, & Members of the Legislature & Corporation. The solemnities were opened & closed by prayers. The Rev. Doctor Milnor of the Episcopal & Rev. Doctor Mildoler of the Dutch Church officiated. An address was delivered by Mr Tho\(^s\) R. Mercein and 2 young pupils spoke with much propriety & effect. The audience was respectable and a large collection of decent young apprentices added greatly to the impression on [every] mind that reflected on the importance of the institution and of the moral effects of which it will be productive on the rising generation. In the evening about 400 apprentices attended
to receive books. I called at the Library w'h was thronged with applicants. The shelves contain upwards of 4000 volumes, exceeding in number both the Libraries of Boston & Phil'a together, w'h is highly creditable to our city. The School is exceedingly well arranged, has an excellent Instructor & already contains 70 pupils gratuitously educated at the expense of the Mechanic S'o a powerful & respectable body of citizens. Nearly 4000 children are annually educated in the several Free Schools, religious & public in this city, Besides as many more probably in the various Sunday Schools. The progress of education throughout the State is adverted to by Gov. Clinton in his last speech. . . .

Thurs'y 30th . . . Yest'y Mrs Talbot dined & passed the day with us, always ailing, but lively as ever. She is the very chronicle of all that is passing. Secluded as we are, her company is quite entertaining. She desires a great deal of love to you. The Theatrical Gentry are quite elated with the arrival of the celebrated Kean from London who performed for the first time in Richard 3d last evening. He is the first actor perhaps that ever has appeared in America. I c'd not but help reflecting as I walked up B'dway yest'y & noticed the throngs turning towards the Theatre in Anthony Street, That Old Age produced some placid comforts to mitigate its inevitable inconveniences. I am exempted by years, from serving in the Militia, on Juries, & now relieved from all solicitude or hankering after theatrical exhibitions. . . .

Fri'y 1st Dec'. Clear & Cold. This day begins the paym't of my Dividend. Every thing is prepared for active duty. Already I have laid down my pen to fill up checks. . . .

Sat'y 2d 10 a. m. My dear g'daughter's letter, to w'h I must first reply, of 4th Nov' is just rec'd at the commencement of my diurnal duties. I cannot refrain from stealing a moment as it offers to acknowledge my gratification at her epistolary talents. When I look back to my school boy days, I could not at 10 & 12 write any
thing to be compared with it. A Book called the Complete letter writer, was the guide of the youth of my day, and all our letters begun & ended alike, "Honoured parents, This comes hoping that you are well as it leaves me at this present" and then interlarding a few lines requesting a fresh supply of butter biscuits, the grand staple of all our wants. . . . I will forward by return of Cap' Holmes, who is a very clever man, the 2 first Nos of the Literary & Scientific Repository, for w'h I subscribed yest' purposely to send you, & w'h contains the Review, by General Armstrong, of Wilkinson's Memoirs, whom he flays alive. It contains many severe truths, & it must mortify the old General's vanity extremely. Return my compliments to him, without noticing this comment. . . .

Monday 4th Dec' mild & rain. Yest' was Sacrament Sunday at Grace Church, where I accompanied Mama & Sister. Young Mr Delancey,\(^{34}\) son of Cap' Delancey, who has officiated during the summer in Grace, has recently married a daughter of Peter Jay Munro Esq' of Mamaroneck, a favourable match. He is a young Deacon of promise, but feeble in his voice & unanimate in his delivery. He writes very well it is said, of which my increasing difficulty of hearing, renders me no judge. Near 3 on Saturday as I was running to the Bank to close my business, I met Mr Woolsey, accidentally, who told me that he was to sail for N. Orleans next morn's very short & not very friendly notice. Mama instantly put up a parcel of small shoes for the children, w'h she had by her, & I added to her parcel, the Repository & 2 Copies of the Orbis full of pictures, one each for the Romans, and I hope their Father will practice them in their vocabulary, w'h will be of infinite use to them in the acquirement of Latin, the illustrations serve to imprint the names on their memory, a work infinitely superior to the old London vocabulary, the class book

of my juvenile day. It ought to be in the hands of every Grammar boy. The only edition ever printed in this country is the present, by the Swords of this city, price one Dollar, for the information of the boys preceptor.

Wedr 6th Decr Sth Class (Sth Nicholas) day. Just returned from Church, I avail myself of a few moments before dinner, to bring my letter to a close. Aunt Helen & family dine with us on the abundant good things so plentifully and cheaply afforded by the Great Giver of all good gifts whose praises we have been celebrating this day with prayers & thanksgivings. Indeed this State, & this city have[es] great cause to rejoice. Blest with an unprecedented harvest & fruit season, enjoying uninterrupted health, whilst some of our sister cities, with yours have been swept with the besom of destruction. Surely something, under Providence, is to be ascribed to the vigilance of our Health department, and strict exercise of our Quarantine laws. Altho' umbrage has been given to Phil[a] by [s]topping intercourse, of the necessity of which we not they were the competents judges, the duty of guarding against the introduction of pestilence, by [and as well as by sea] was imperious & paramount to all considerations of [mere] courtesy.

I told you, I think[ed] that Master Sam'l Bayard [has] gone to pass the winter with his Uncle Nicholas at Savanna. I receiv'd a very affect. & descriptive letter from him depicting, in vivid colours, the first impression of southern manners & customs on the mind of a northern youth, wh as you know by experience are not the most favorable. The contrast between freedom & slavery is shocking to one totally unaccustomed to consider & treat a negro as inferior in the scale of creation; repugnant as these scenes are[es] to his sensibility, still he approves, & justly, the planters for their liberal genuine hospitality. The Georgians are outrageous about the Missouri & impute every thing, but justice & humanity, with conscious scruples of an outrageous violation of the national constitution, to us Northerns, as tho' we
were actuated by unworthy motives. In the justification of Slavery they wd extend the curse to every region of the Ud States, which God forbid.

Thurs'y 7th. Our little family party dined together yest'y and as usual drank your healths with hearty wishes for your happiness & prosperity. At 6 I attended the Pauperism Society for even festivity must not interfere with works of benevolence. At 8, by invitation I waited on Col. Varick president of the N. Y. State Society of Cincinnati, & supped with its standing Committee of the Veterans of the Revolutionary Army, an honour wh I can appreciate having witnessed their sufferings in provosts, hospitals & prison ships. I was the youngest man in company. We had an elegant supper, of wh I partook very lightly, for it was difficult to keep two thanksgivings in one day. After drinking several Memories, Washington, Hamilton, Green &c. we walked off at 10, as sober as Deacons. I returned home, to my dear family said our prayers thanking God for his numerous blessings on our happy land, retired to refreshing rest. . . .

New York, 8th Decem', 1820. Friday, 8 A. M.

. . . This morn's paper announces the arrival of the Phoebe Ann in 22 days with I presume a B of Oranges & some pecans for Mama. I will call on Mr Russel this morn for information.

Monday 11th. At 1/2 8. The 3 Barrels & box were safely delivered. The Bbs. are very dry & heavy, but as soon as they were set on end the juice began to leak out by quarts. I fear least the pecans, instead of a benefit have proved injurious, as Mama supposed that the sharp points wd penetrate the oranges. The barrels will be opened this morning to assort the contents. It rained so on Sat'y that the Brig cd not discharge, luckily they have been sent home just as a snow storm from the S. W. has commenced.
11 o'clock. I just ran up stairs & on opening the Barrels to our great mortification the pecans have played such havoc as probably to have ruined three fourths. The back room is afloat. This is provoking beyond expression, after your expense & trouble. . . .

12. It is provoking to see the heap of rotten oranges emptied into the street, & laughable to observe the hogs & boys sucking them, as they pass along.

Tuesday 12th. About a Barrel, perhaps or 1/3 of the whole were saved. It appears to me that the Casks were too tight. There was no difference Sister says between the two that had the pecans & the one without, the latter rather the worst. On opening this Barrel it appeared full, but on admitting the air, the contents instantly sunk to the middle of the cask & the juice ran out in pails full. Mama with her wonted care had the whole assorted, washed in tepid water, wiped dry & spread with the pecans on the parlour floor all day to get quite dry. The latter are the finest I ever saw, but appear to taste of the orange juice w'h has penetrated the shell, probably this taste will exhale. How is it that Boxes of Oranges arrive sound from St' Michaels, Lisbon &c. I must endeavour to ascertain the cause. I sh'd suppose that the cultivation of oranges at N. Orleans must become an object of exportation, & that the shippers w'd adopt some expedient to ensure their safety on the passage. I met Cap't Holmes who told me that he was equally unfortunate. Mr' Russel had not yet opened his.

Monday 18th Dec't. I have just concluded my letters to my dear g'dchildren, Louise & all, not to excite jealousies. Cap't Holmes on whom I called at 10, says that he is engaged about Church business this ev' & cannot sup with us, he promised to call at 1 & see Mama & Sister, w'h I hope he will do for your satisfaction that he may tell them as he did me that you have the finest flock of children in N. Orleans as well as tell you that he saw y'r Mother & Sister. We had invited Aunt Helen & family to pass the ev' that he might have seen us all.
So be it. I almost wish that there had been a Lady
going out to have embarked Sister in the Phoebe Ann.
... My letters to y" little folks may provoke a smile
at the grave advice w[h] for my soul I cannot help giving.
To qualify it, the boys will receive their guns, after w[a]
I have hunted the city thro', every French & German
store in vain & at last, on Sat[e] ev[g] returning from the
Savings Bank I lit by accident on an English shop in
Maiden lane, extravagantly dear, the Madam of which
about 4½ feet high & full as broad, rattled away at such
a rate, that I was glad to retreat with a promise of calling
again this afternoon. Unluckily my assistant Andrew, a
fine boy, has lost his father 35 & is absent. He has bound
the little gilt books for the youngest children & the copy
books with the picture covers for the eldest. He brought
a little box to pack them up w[h] he has ornamented as
you see. It is very pretty & G[d]mama says to prevent
all claims or contests must be for Eliza as her Casket,
being the oldest. ....

Tuesday 19th Dec[e] past 1 o'clock. I have devoted the
whole of this morn[g] almost to my dear g[d]children, having
with some difficulty procured from the Bank the bright
quarter Dollars inclosed in their letters to render them
more acceptable. I bought the Fusils from the silent
English lady. They are the best of the kind by far in
this city or that I ever saw. I fear they will come too
late for the boys to fire a salute on the anniversary of
the battle of New Orleans. Cap't Holmes disappointed
us by not being able to sup with us last evening. We
had Oysters for a prince & a right old fashioned oyster
supper, as hot to burn your mouth, superb Porter, a glass
of excellent wine to drink your healths, and topped off
with a glass of Noyau to keep all quiet. To me the most
delightful of all supper parties.

35 Jacob Warner, who died Dec. 15, 1820, in the 43rd year of his age.
[N. Y.] Commercial Advertiser, Dec. 18, 1820; Kelby, Memorial of
Colonel Andrew Warner, cited above.
LETTERS FROM JOHN PINTARD

NEW YORK, 22d Dec', 1820

Second Centennial Anniversary
of the landing of the First Settlers
at Plymouth, in Massachusetts bay.

. . . . The N. England Society in this city celebrate
the day with great distinction. A discourse analogous
to the occasion is to be delivered by the Rev. Doctor
Spring in the Presby" Brick Church, and a g'd supper is
to be given in the Evening at the City Hotel, a full ac-
count of w'h will undoubtedly appear in the Spectator
as well as the proceedings at Plymouth, where on the
very rock on w'h the Pilgrims landed an Oration is to be
delivered by the Hon. Mr Webster, and I presume hun-
dreds of sermons will be preached in the numerous
Churches of N. England. Indeed we have all cause to
rejoice for the liberties of this country are in a great
degree owing to the old Puritans. . . .

Wed' 27th . . . After Service on Christmas, we took
dinner with Aunt Craig. It was a bitter cold day &
Mama & Sister were almost frozen. I walked out. Sun-
day was a mild rainy morn* it cleared off at night with
a piping northwester, & we have had fair old fashioned
winter ever since. If cold weather keeps off till Xmas
the old folks used to say, no one has a right to complain.

Thurs' 28th Dec'. A winter's snow storm. I have just
returned from the Hall of the College of Physicians,
where the Anniv* Discourse of the Historical S° was
delivered at 11 o'clock by Mr Wheaton. A very elegant
but very dry subject on the rise & progress of the civil
Law, the barbarous State of the Ancient contrasted with
the more refined & perfect system of modern times. . . .
By an extract from your Governor's speech I find that
the care of the public health is recommended to y'r legis-
lature. Will the Quarantine system be revived & will
any thing drop into the Doctor's lap? or in case it sh'd
be are there too many applicants. Or will a public Office
interfere with his more lucrative private practice. The
circumstance of the health of the prisoners in yr climate is astonishing. Amid all the devastations of former years, & before much experience was had relating to the dreadful Fever w^h swept away our citizens by thousands, It is a singular fact, that the Fever never appeared in our Goal Bridewell, Hospital, nor Ahns House, altho' the B^d of Health constantly held its meetings in the latter, w^h was the resort for every application respecting the dying & the dead. I presume that the Faculty of yr city will urge the renewal of the Quarantine system. The Governor I find mentions their opinions with respect.

Saturday 30^th. This day closes the working period of the Old Year, and a working year it indeed has been to me. . . . I closed the year with at least one good Act which has given satisfaction to all concerned & gratification to myself that I have been the instrument of settling the concerns of my late humble friend David Coutant of N Rochelle, who died intestate, to mutual content of his Widow & his 3 sons & daughter, who attended on Thursday afternoon & all day yesterday when the whole was concluded & with more thanks than my services merited. Regarded as an old & common friend, some pretty nice settlements between the children for monies had in their father's lifetime, were submitted to without a murmur. I have consented to be the Trustee for the Mother, & all receipts & payments shall be made for old friendship sake, without fee or reward. Polly Coutant was one of the Mađdames god daughters & lived in the family from my earliest [word omitted], a plain, prudent good body & a faithful wife & mother. The daughter Maria about 22 or 3, is an uncommonly intelligent smart girl, comely, but slender. She speaks better & more to the purpose than many of superior rank & education & considering the obscurity in wh she has been bred & brought up, she merits the higher praise. . . .

New Years morn 1821. . . . I closed the old year by attending Divine Service last ev in the Lutheran
Church, where some elegant and appropriate Hymns and Music were performed. After a most delightful morn, the afternoon was clouded o'er and the evening threatned a snow storm, w'a prevented Mama & Sister from accompanying me. I had det'termined to rise early, in order to commence the New Year with the dawn, & to have a few moments chat with my dear daughter before breakfast. For this purpose I desired Tamar to kindle a fire in my office. She is a very early riser, but thro' fear of oversleeping herself, she had risen about half past four & went up stairs to look at the clock, for the time. Sisters room is directly over the back parlour, she heard some one take the Key & deliberately open the door, and called to Mama, who with her masculine spirit rose to light a candle by the lamp. I threw on my cloaths in haste & down we sallied, found the back parlour door ajar, but nothing out of place. We went down stairs to examine the street door, when Tamar explained the mystery. On retiring to rest again, the Bands of music, Bagpipes, Drums & fifes, boys bells &c pro-claiming Happy New Year interrupted all repose till day light, when I arose, leaving Mama & Sister to take a little rest till 9 when I shall call them. The day is beautiful. After Church, the ceremonial & friendly visits will take up my time till 3, when our little family party will assemble round our festive board, and when your healths will be drunk with all affection & old fashioned formality. Among other visits, the Trustees of the Savings Bank are to wait on Wm Bayard Esq' at ½ past 1, to pay the compliments of the day as a mark of respect for the faithful & diligent discharge of his duty as president of this benevolent Institution. I did not get home from the Bank on Saturday night till past 10. We took in $10,101, from 127 Depositors, & our receipts at the close of the last 18 mo amount to nearly Half a Million, half the sum w'h my warm anticipation had allowed to be deposited in 7 years. My dear little g'children were not forgotten. . . .

Monday 2d [sic for Tuesday]. New Years day being
TO HIS DAUGHTER, 1820

very fine, the old good custom of mutual visitings and cordial greetings was observed with unusual animation. After an excellent discourse from my French pasteur, I went to the Savings Bank which was crowded especially with children, with their gold pieces & bright Dollars, New Years gifts. We took in nearly $7000, & had to dismiss many who came too late, in order to wait, in a body, on our President Mr. Bayard the Mayor &c. I did not get home from my tour till past 3, when I found Aunt Helen, Mr Craig & Davis and we sat down to an excellent dinner of Venison, the first in many years at my father's table and drank all your healths individually, Mother, Father & children, wishing you every joy and comfort. Mince pies and all the assortments of pastry which your sister so well prepares, abundantly garnished the desert. We passed a social afternoon, grateful for the blessings we were enjoying. While a hand of whist amused our ladies, I read my sober books musing on the rapid flight of time, the fewness of my remaining years, and reflecting on departed friends and how few remain of the companions of my youth and of my immediate family. . . .

Wed'y 3'd Jan'y. 2 p. m. . . . The year commences actively. Last ev'y Chamber of Commerce, This ev'y 7 Meeting of the Agents of the Theol'y Sem'y & Pauperism Soc', tomorrow 4 P. M. Am. Bible Soc', Friday 7 P. M. Standing Comm' of the A. B. S. & Saturday my everlasting Spinning Wheel, the Savings Bank, and every ev'y next week has its appointment. . . .

Thurs'y 4th. We have very little of novelty in our city, political or social. The ratification of the Spanish Treaty is the topic of the day. A report is in circulation that an inadmissible condition is annexed, but this is not credit. The event will be probably communicated by the President to Congress in the course of a few days. I feel interested for the sake of our General Theological Sem'y as two gentlemen have promised in case the Treaty shall be ratified to subscribe $1000 each towards a professorship. This institution still en-
grows much of my attention. But the decided hostility of Bishop Hobart paralyzes our efforts in this city. His own school, by the way, drags but heavily. . . . Good old Aunt Hanson lingers on this side of the grave, and enjoys uncommon health & cheerfulness of spirits. She lives with Mrs. Hedden, secluded from her family friends, except occasional calls, a sad lot. . . .