

But though I do not enjoy myself in these respects as much as I did when
with you, yet I trust that you will find the same pleasure as formerly in
my amusement that is innocent. The time will come too however when you
will be disposed to say of these things what you delight, and you will be moved
to tears when you look back on past days, and see those whom you loved dearly -
some gone altogether, by the unfeeling hand of death, thus in situations in which
from their very nature they can afford you no enjoyment. What still is written in
living characters upon every thing earthly, Memory alone of all the powers of the
mind seems to keep the most faithful impression of every thing that is presented to
it, but alas! it never is often calculated to give pain, though the former seems more pleasant.

1844

Woodbury July 12

My Cousin S. Sewall
Middlebury
Vermont
Virginia



Under some circumstances it is to me the most agreeable, for to see the
truth I have had over with you all as many over years, as ever I did and ever, but
I find I ought not to write thus, I hope you will not think that though I have delayed so
long, that I have forgotten you, the fact is, that to you I owe many a pleasant hour often
I feel want to be quiet, and before the family, was what it is now, as well as often that
and for this I will ever gratefully remember you. Give my love to your Father & Mother,
to the Ladies, Miss Lizzy and Charles, and to the friends on the hill. Tell Charles
to give my compliments to his Grandpa and tell him that on the day of which he
spoke it rained very hard here in the morning, and indeed it rained nearly the whole week
except my kindest regards for yourself. I remain yours &c. R. S. Wood

My C. S. Sewall

Summer Mount 16 R. S. Wood

Woodbury N. Jersey July 12th 1843.

S. Sewall Dear,

I will have to thank myself upon your clemency in order that I may be
excused for so long neglecting to write to you, after you were so good as to let me know
that you wished to hear from me. When Charles informs me of your desire to determine
to write in a very few days, but I was placed in such a situation as to be altogether
unable to do exactly as I desired; and I have had to change my location so often
since that I have hitherto neglected it, but now I am determined to redeem my
promise, and trust to your kindness of disposition to overlook all my former negli-
gence. I feel my own conduct the more, inasmuch as it is contrary to my estab-
lished practice to delay any thing of the kind for one moment longer than I
think I ought; and I sincerely trust that you will not consider my actions in
the present case any criterion by which to shape your own conduct in an-
swering this; for you may rest assured that I respect an answer to every letter I
write. And now I suppose that according to the established practice of letter writ-
ing it is incumbent upon me to give you some account of myself; at least I
suppose that this is what our friends expect of another. When I left Princeton
at the end of our session I came here and engaged to teach for Mrs. Wright for the
space of fourteen weeks, probably I shall stay there or four weeks longer. After
engaging with her I paid a visit to my native place, and was so happy as
to find my friends all enjoying their usual degree of health, except my brother,
he was very unwell; much more so than when I last saw him. He had, as I
think you were aware, a stroke of paralysis during the time I was being with
you, and has been unwell ever since; laboring not only under that affection,
but also under consumption. It has however pleased our kind Father to ease
him of all his pains. He died on the 26th day of last month. Another

for us all to be prepared to take our departure from earth when in his providence
he sees fit to call us away. After remaining a week and a half at home, enjoying
the society of those whom I love very much, I returned to S.bury, and commenced
my labours as an assistant. I teach three hours every afternoon. I have had excellent
health since I came here, but I have met with one slight calamity, some weeks after I came
in letting down one of the windows of the school room I slipped from my grasp, and my left
hand went violently through one of the panes, cutting it so severely that for some time
I was deprived of the use of it. The principal wound was on the tip of the thumb, between the
first and second joints, and I presume it severed the muscle which raises the thumb, for
it was cut to the bone, and the consequence is that my thumb is crooked. I am not able
by any effort to raise the point of it, from the first joint: nor will I ever be able, I think,
there has nothing of any interest transpired since my arrival. We had a Sabbath School as-
sessment on the 4th July, and it, according to request, adopted the following, and all the
assembled, for the space of twenty minutes. Then I succeeded in speaking those who
heard, I cannot say. As to the people amongst whom I have fallen, they are I think
acquainted enough. Some of the members of the family in which I reside are somewhat
singular, and all very fond of talking, - especially the woman part. This however
ought not to be wondered at, as you know it is proverbial of your sex. There is how-
ever a kind of talk in which, as Stamon says, there is no profit, and this unfor-
tunately is the kind they appear to be most fond of. Woodbury is full of ladies
with scarcely a gentleman, so that there is an excellent opportunity for per-
suading one. We have no boys than two in our house, the major Chapman, both
pretty good looking. One of them however is rather tacit, and the other an oddity in
some respects. She hardly ever makes her appearance before tea time. What she
does during the day I cannot say. As you see she is rather a night bird, for she
generally makes out to sit up till near the turning hour of the night if she has any
one to talk to. What is her object in conversing herself all day, and talking com-
ing out only in the evening I cannot say. I presume however that she thinks

she appears to rather greater advantage by candlelight than by the light of
day. You see I take it for granted that the great object of the ladies at all times
is to make as good an appearance as possible; if I am wrong in my con-
clusions you will have to correct me. I think however that notwithstanding all
the charms of these "fair ones," that I will be able to pass through the summer un-
scathed. I have not heard any thing of your having pursued another teacher since
I left, so that I suppose you have not been going to school any since; and if as I
have no doubt that before this time you are bravely tired of peddling. Now will not,
I think, at least you ought not, to neglect doing as much yourself as you possibly
can. Remember that in a few more years you will not have so much opportunity
for acquiring knowledge, if indeed you have the disposition. Young ladies, like young
Gentlemen, after a certain time generally lose all relish for study, thinking more
of how they shall adorn the body rather than the mind. Mrs. Street, will not be
the course that you will ^{pursue}. You may rest assured that she always appears
most advantage who has paid most attention to her education. I should
in soap is a more pleasing sight, than folly in a galadrops. I may never have
the pleasure of speaking you again, but I hope often to hear of you, and to hear that
you have made good use of your time. I would love very much to visit you of air, and
I think I would have done so this summer had I not been engaged in teaching. I often fan-
cy to myself the scene that is passing in your house, similar in some respects to what it
was when I made one of the party. It is true I made but a poor addition to it, not
that I did not prevent me from enjoying it. These pleasant walks of which I was so very, my
friends are now among the things that were, at present all my walks are solitary. Since
since I came here I have hardly been myself. I suppose that twenty times I have risen
from my seat to go to speak to some one, fancying myself to be in Southfield; and some-
times it really required an effort to do away the impression. As I know not the cause un-
less it is that a new change is calculated to bring back, upon the principles of association,
ideas experienced in a former one somewhat similar.

I often picture to myself the passing scenes amongst my dear relations in Va. but I do not allow myself to look at the picture long at a time, neither do I dwell upon the long distance between us, and the mountains; it is more agreeable to consider the facility of traveling & the generosity of my brothers, which may enable me to go some

distance. I cannot say when he will not recover his health until he takes trip to Va. I think he might take me there just as well as not. I will not give him any peace until he consents to do so. I cannot say much about the future, with regard to myself, every thing is so uncertain. I have engaged to stay at Dr. Shelby's until Aug, but after that time, (should he spare) I do not know where I will be. It is hardly probable I shall remain here as long as the boys children

are to be sent to boarding-school, the others are quite small. Then it is so uncertain about the children, John & Joseph. The former may remain at the Seminary a long time, it is impossible to say, but the latter, I am almost certain will not stay more than a year or two longer. I wish John what you said, he says I would like very much to be with Cousin George & Cousin Anne, but I cannot think of leaving the Seminary. You had it was in course to think of visiting us, then

I forgot to give you the St. James news. The St. James news says a very long letter on the subject. The name is of James at Grand George has a daughter born on the 5th of Dec. George's health is very delicate. I received a letter from Mrs. Shannon. The children are very well. I was to write to you but have not time to answer. I have to write to you from a letter of my mother. I have to write to you from a letter of my mother. I have to write to you from a letter of my mother.

I received your very welcome letter accompanied by the Christmas box (appropos) a few minutes after dinner on Christmas day. I appreciated the gift thought it was in it appreciated, and so most heartily thank you, and all the contributors, for the contents of the box. The articles are all, both beautiful & useful, and of terrible value coming as they do, from my dear friends, and only think, all the way from Virginia, I take considerable pride in showing them. I have already bound my collar, hemmed the boys handkerchiefs, (with which they are very much pleased) and I am dressed in my velvet, fastened with a gold button, which I shall wear all this week, as Mrs. Shelby has a good deal of company during the holy days. You see Deacon I am not perfectly indifferent about my appearance, though if you were to see me sometimes, you might think I did not care much about it. But I think of my children, of their

education &c. and cannot find it in my
heart to buy much for myself. Thus far I
have great comfort in my dear boys, but it
is impossible to know what they may be, though
I hope for the best. I am told they are popular
at the Seminary, and are doing well. John is
piously inclined, but Joseph likes to get along
with very few prayers. They are both here
this week. They came last Sunday evening
and will remain until Saturday. Joseph spends much
of his time skating. You would be surprised to
see how beautifully the little fellow can skate.
Dr. Shelby made him a present of a pair of
skates as a Christmas gift. I was quite un-
easy about John last summer he was so thin
and pale. Yet, he seemed to be perfectly well & happy
when at vacation and ~~seemingly~~ before he weighed
only 60 pounds. Now he weighs 80, and is looking
rosy and healthy. Joseph is growing very stout.
John's over-coat which was made, quite large,
the winter before I left Va. fits Joseph now, only
it is rather too long for the fashion. But you
will think I am never to stop talking about
these fits, suffice it say, I will send their baggage
repacked to Va. should we all live to go to St. Louis

next summer. I do not think they have changed
much in their looks. As for myself, I think I look
more than three years older than I did when
I left Va. though some say I look much younger
than I did when I came to St. but I am not
inclined to believe it. My health, thanks to a
Providence, is perfectly good. I have a slight
cough. — They say you are changed by mal-
imony, but I suspect, not for the worse, unless
you have lost some of your bloom and your
curls. Let me ask Mr. Moore about it. I know
he will say you are much more beautiful
than you were before you were married.
Ask Miss Mc.arty; "What is the blooming thin-
ture of the skin &c." If she has conceived a
house of matrimony I suppose she will be
contented with single steps. How fortunate that
she happened to see you, before it was too late!
I can imagine what kind of a house-keeper
you are my dear Eleanor, and how things look
about your house. No doubt you partake somewhat
of the character of Martha but not altogether. I
feel more inclined to call you, Mary Martha.

I have my hands in the
writing business and am at night
writing my letters in the
evening

My dear Eleanor
I have my hands in the
writing business and am at night
writing my letters in the
evening

Miss Ellen Scollay
Smithfield
Pa

request, I do not presume it has them
 we are in the way. Mamma
 had a little more than I am
 and I shall be glad to talk I never
 as much as you had the pleasure
 of writing to me. I have some
 succeeding what you acquaintances among
 the gentlemen of the town I like
 exceedingly perhaps associating
 with em. maturation.
 as you wish of my form
 acquaintance among the gentlemen as
 a few is not a new set
 a few ladies. So
 pleasant as you know
 the old bachelor who
 was waiting you
 supposed of old
 with whom
 present all my
 at a party. Good by
 I am glad to hear of your
 attend to my domestic duties. (Mamma)

My dear Cousin Ellen

Uncle Lloyd informed me to day
 that he was writing to Mr. Moore and there would be
 room in the envelope for a half sheet to you if I
 wished to narrate any of the doings and sayings of Clarks-
 bury; I have waited myself of his generous offer and
 carefully selecting a half page I have fixed myself cozily
 in a deep window of the old parlour to have a chat with you.

I had been promising Uncle Lloyd a visit since fall and
 I coaxed Mamma to bring come with me for I could not consent
 to being left so lonely as I was before during my visit; As Mamma
 Bessie and myself are all here now and after a trial of four
 weeks Mamma has decided that she likes Clarksbury
 very well and possibly we may remain till after (March 2nd)

When did you see any of the Bessie people?

return from the east, which will not be before April.
I have spent my time quite pleasantly; have had four serenades interspersed with flowers and a basket of apples now and then. Apropos of flowers, tell Cousin Charles that Mr. B. Adams is not in Clarksburg now that I miss him very much and pitton is at a premium. Last night we had tableaux, at the acquaintance of mine, and I was chief manager. They seemed to give great satisfaction and we were much complimented upon our success. I am invited to spend the evening out but as it is raining I am afraid there are but faint hopes of my acceding to the invitation, we have also an invitation for Thursday evening so you see we have some signs of life. Oh! do not know how anxious I am to see you baby dear Ellen. Will you not write and daguerotype it upon paper for Mamma and myself? Is it like Mr. Brown or you? but you know I think you so much alike. Where is Lina now? I owe her a letter but I will shortly be out of her debt. I do wish she was here with me, we could derive hours of amusement from some of the people. I hope all are well in Smithfield and remember me most affectionately to them and also to Mr. Brown. Do you like your present abode as well as you did Charlestown? This being the last line I must turn to the first page

My Dear sister
as I cannot come out to see ^{you tomorrow} I must write you a little
note to tell you how I want to see you and brother
Sam and the dear ~~the~~ little baby, and I cannot
even go for sister Lizzie, Father got a letter from
Miss Mary & Ann Myers telling him of a teacher a sister
to one of the teachers in the female seminary in
Frederick. but she did not teach music I want to see the
dear little baby very much. every thing in the green
house looks so pretty and green. some of your slips
are growing and some are dead. give my love to
brother Sam and kiss the dear little baby for
Molly and I and all the children ^{I and Father} mama Father
join me in love to all. I shall expect and
answer to this I remain your

affectionate sister Harriot
Scollay

Harriot Scollay

Mrs Ellen G Moore
Summit point

to expect you Ellen
come next Sunday
prepared to stay with
me now I know
you can do so
give my best love
to all Smithfield
friends Tell Giggie
she must be sure and
come - I do hope
this note will fall
into no other hands
but yours - I would
never hear the end
of it if such should
be its fate

good-bye do come down
and see you fondly
attached friend Betty



Charles town August 1/25

My Dear Ellen

I have just
received my budget from
Smithfield and am
much obliged to you
for sending it together
with the song "Oh would
I were a boy again" which
I have been asked for
very often since Miss
Jessie Brown
made it so fashionable
How have you been
and what of the pain
in your side by this time

I think you had better
go to Rattle for if you
don't get well very soon
Mr M - will become
desperate - Ellen I can
tell you impudence
is raging here ~~how~~
to manage these
creatures you call
man is a most
difficult task; How
did you pass last
evening - you see
I am informed
as to a certain young
gentleman's
more ments and
deeply interested too

I saw "Sam and I"
taking a ride together
the other evening - Do
pray Ellen say not
a word to Mr Moore
of the impertinent
way I speak of him
I am sure if his friends
knew it I would not
have any rest; Ellen
when are you and
Figgie coming to see
me I want to see you
very much I have
many things to tell
you Do come soon
now write and let
me know when



Dear Ellen

I have been trying to get to see you ever since your return but have been prevented by various things and have determined to write and beg you not to be ceremonious but come and spend next Thursday evening with me. I hope that you and Lizzie will certainly come and shall be happy to see Miss Fanny Nelson the young lady that is staying with you and Mr. Scollay; we are not

going to have a party
merely a few young persons
you must come
prepared to stay all night
Love to Figgie

yours affectionately
Betty Banson

July 13th

Mrs Allen Moore

Summit Point

Vt

Don't show this note for
the world

in haste yours affectionately
Bettie Ransom



July 22d

My Dear Ellen

I expect the
"bridal party" will spend next
Friday evening with me
and I should be very happy if
you and Fizzie and Miss Fanning
would meet them here -

It is not to be a large party
only a sociable - I heard that
you expected your friends this
week if they come you
must certainly bring them
with you - I shall be in
Winchester the first part of
this week and will not
have an opportunity of hearing



of their arrival; Ellen you
must certainly come so there
are not many young girls
invited and you can have
an opportunity of meeting
your partners as a flirt - that
new character you have
assumed - I am astonished
at you Ellen - I had flattered
myself that the good example
I had set you would be
followed - you know how
I avoid everything of the kind
you are the only one left
now that Cousin Sally has
taken leave of her freedom,
I suppose you heard that

you two had been pronounced
the greatest flirts in the County
give it up my dear what is
the name of your Mr Taylor is it
"Pat" I expect Sue Clarke will
remain some time with me
after the girls from Baltimore
leave and Ellen I should
be very happy if you would
come and stay some with
me - I also expect my
cousin the Payer my dear
beloved Mary will be here
and I expect to lose my
heart with fascinating Cousin
John give my love to
Cousin Annie and Cousin George
tell them they must come
to my little party tell Cousin
Annie to put on the white
dress and illuminate well

Dear Ellen

I expect you think me the most
inconsistent person in the world but this time it is not my
fault that I do not fulfil my promise; all at once I've found
out that I am a very important personage about the house
Pa is going from home this week and expects to be about some
time and has requested me to remain at home and have
the house in order by his return as he expects some friends
at "May Court"; - Ellen I think you might come and stay
with me now that you see I cannot possibly leave home for the
present. Don't be so unreasonable but come and stay with
me. - I really want to see you very very much
give my love to Lettie and Shannon and believe me
your affectionate friend

Miss Ellen - Scobley
Smithfield