



C. H. February 1st 1800

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My dear Dorothy

I had the pleasure of receiving a letter from you ~~sent~~ ^{sent} ~~by Mrs. Deming~~ ^{by Mrs. Deming} and as you see I have begun to answer it as quick as possible. I hope you will not think me very ignorant for the future. I have written several times ^{in vain} for some opportunity of sending the precious things, ^{I have destroyed them} perhaps I shall this so that if it reaches you, you may preserve it with all imaginable care. I will give you the catalogue of books which you sent me I can give you another of my own recollection. I'll give Charles 12th Robertson's Universal Geography, Human History the 2 first volumes of them besides many novels & poems too tedious to mention. I wish you could see me my dear Dorothy with my heart tingling with in my hands and a book in my lap while I attempt to talk in such a manner as is a sufficient reputation of it. I don't judge a position that we can do but one thing at a time.

As you prophesied Mary Deming did not come to C. H. with me. but do not begin to pique yourself on your sagacity. She got ready & we were waiting waiting with the utmost impatience for Harry to make his appearance when lo! a gentleman from this place who had some business at Hartford came along with a commission from Papa to take me home. As there was not quite room enough for us all in the carriage & as it was feared that it would worry Miss Charlotte (the name of our beast) to take us all Mary was obliged to defer her visit till a more convenient opportunity.

Feb 3rd

I have been tearing Mama ever since the snow fell to go to Canterbury - however I may as well set my heart at rest for she tells me that if she goes she shall not take me with her. By the way Betty though you gave me no great encouragement to expect you here this winter yet the prospect of sleighing induces me to hope you will come. Frederic can drive a sleigh well enough or if you do not chuse to risk your neck with him why cannot you jump in with B. Champion? for she told me she intended coming down the first sleighing - oh! I could think of a hundred plans if any body would ever execute them but "She who talks much will talk in vain."

Lucretia's instrument arrived about 3 weeks after I came home and you may be assured that it is continually sounding in my ears. The day it came I could hear nothing but "Oh! beautiful & more keys than I ever saw before - elegant - charming" The tea-table was knocked one side to make way for the precious thing which now occupies

its place - We hear that Orpheus used to call the brutes together with his music which I find is no miracle, ^{at least} for I have known several brutes run together at the sound of Lucretia's piano forte.

Jonathan C Moseley Esquire is to deliver an Eulogy on the 22 of this month - all the oratory of C Haddam will be exerted then - As proper Dolly I have written an eulogy myself for the occasion but it is too lengthy to be inserted in a letter. Perhaps I may favor you with a sight of it some future day.

I wrote Nabby a long letter a few days after I came home but the turkey has not yet answered it - by the way I have a small anecdote to tell you of this same Abigail - You may remember that she intended going to ^{when she left L -} York, and she continued in the same resolution till she got prepared to leave home when she said she did not chuse to go and accordingly enjoys all her fine things at home - A fine scheme Dolly - I had thoughts of trying it myself till I recollected that it was extremely improbable I should meet with the same success. There is a report that Henry Champion who has I think reached his 18th year is to be married soon to a Miss Worthington a young lady about 25.

As you do not attend Miss Sally's school this winter I suppose Lucy Sirenet will win the prize if S Leavenworth has not returned - Phoebe Moseley told me she should try for it but she has I believe relinquished her design of going to L - this winter and entertains some thoughts of attending the school at Norwich to learn French as she says - If she lost some of her flesh last summer she has recovered it with interest since her return inasmuch that her Papa finding it utterly impracticable to reduce her by starvation on account of the impossibility of restraining her appetite has resolved to keep her abroad. She spent one or two days her last week and when he came to carry her home he was in great agonies to find her as many feet thick as ever.

Feb 5th

I have just finished reading a long account of the proceedings of that wonder of wonders Buonaparte - fine overhauling among the directory - really I don't know what some people would find to talk about if such news did not come now & then to put the the politicians in a ferment. - Pray have you yet exercised your poetic genius in honor of the great W A S H I N G T O N ? I intended to exert mine & should doubtless have produced something equal to "Now might he did not I see that every scribbler raked his brainless skull on the occasion & I thought with great justice that nobody would have taste enough to distinguish music from the common hash of which we have such abundance.

A few days ago I finished reading Moore's Edward - well enough for a novel - some parts of it are pretty entertaining but others are dull enough to counterbalance it

February 15th

Upon looking over this scrawl which was written some days ago I was in a great quandary whether to destroy or to preserve it - I finally concluded on the latter and have resolved to continue writing till some opportunity offers of sending my remarks even if I should tax your patience with several sheets. - - Don't you want to hear some poesy on the famous BULLOCK APARTÉ - the other evening we made some capital as you may suppose - I was to compose one or 2 lines & then Lucretia - but take a sample of it

C - Awake my muse and sing your hero's praise
In flowing numbers and harmonious lays.

L - He came to Paris
And took in a glass
And then he went
And turned out Barras.

C - Relate those deeds that raised his noble name
And gave new laurels to the victor's fame

Hail Buonaparte exalted name who gave

To millions freedom and thy country saved

How quick five hundred felt thy reasons right

When grenadiers in armour stuck thy sight

And great directors vanish at thy will

Urged with the eloquence of pointed steel &c. &c.

too lengthy to write but I think you will have a great curiosity to see the rest. - I have also written a song on the same subject to go the tune of Yankee Doodle. -

When Buonaparte from Egypt came
As mad as skin could hold Sir &c.

Clarissa Deming said that Mary had learned to pronounce Sax & Star I enquired very minutely into the little creature's improvements.

Mary Brauerd spent Christmas & St Johns here - there was a most superb & magnificent ball on the evening of the latter - Mrs. Moseley was down to the landing that day & greatly raised the expectations of the public by her descriptions of Miss Phebe's head which she said would be dressed in the most elegant & fashionable style. Night at length came and we had the pleasure of seeing this famous head - She had all her hair cut off at St Haven about 2 inches short & the aforesaid 2 inches of hair had been so ingeniously curled & frizzled that it all stood on end so that as Mrs. Moseley had prophesied Miss Phebe's head greatly exceeded that of any of company & in-

Eliza told me that Ab. Strong was to be married to some Seymour or other - that girl seems to be always supplied with abundance of sweethearts nor do I wonder at it for I really think her very amiable & pleasing.

I should be infinitely obliged to you if you would take the trouble to get me 4 or 5 ^{small} hair pencils to send Mr. Tupa if Dr. Smith has any that are good for anything - I have worn out and lost all of Lucretia's and am wonderfully at a loss how to employ myself for I have nothing to read at present - Not long ago for want of something else to do I resolved to read Smith's Wealth of Nations which by the way is a mighty favorite with my Father - well I waded through two chapters when the book was thrown aside & I believe will not be resumed very soon.

I hear that in Litchfield you suffered the 22^d of Feb to pass unnoticed - You may imagine my astonishment on hearing this when I tell you that it deprived me of the power of speech for 2 minutes & a half - I dare say you never knew such a thing happen - Here every body wore a countenance half a yard long - the galleries of the meeting-house were hung with black of divers kinds of cloth some pieces of which were considerably wider than others - every person present except myself was dressed in mourning and 2 fiddlers which I suppose the performers thought they could tune in the entry without being heard accompanied the prayer. I am surprised at your remembrance at L - and wish you would inform me of the cause of so singular a phenomenon.

Lavinia Ferring I am told is to be married to Mr. E. Miller whom I dare say you remember - he lived there when I was at W - but I believe he is now keeping school somewhere or other.

Really Lolly I lead a tiresome kind of a life here - don't you remember all the fine projects I had formed for the winter? but the farming was the last of them - my eyes too begin to grow weak which is a great vexation - Mama tells me it is because I am continually reading but I am of opinion that it is owing to the smoke with which our room is commonly filled on the morning about an hour after the fire is made & so have resolved to keep my bed untill it is dispersed.

I think it is quite time to put an end to this monstrous long letter - I will not be so unreasonable as to ask a proportionable answer for you will see by the date that I have been several weeks about this & I do not suppose that Papa will stay long enough to give you many minutes to answer it but I shall expect one as long as the time will permit - I should write to Mr. Wadsworth & A. Baldwin but if they have forgotten their promise of beginning a correspondence I still remember it. Make my respects to your Parents & love to your Brothers & Sisters - kiss Chariza & Mary for me - My love to Mr. Wadsworth, A. Baldwin, J. Tracy, Cornelia Adams, Lydia Williams and abundance of others whose names I may have forgotten - Lucretia desires her love to you

Yours &c.
Chariza.

Miss Ferring

I find this letter will not be quite long enough without adding a P
I would send Uira some painting as I promised her if I had any brushes
that were paintable (a new word of my own coining) If there is any excellent
pencils in L. I would thank you to send me one or two - I have not yet
done with my commissions - enclosed is a letter for Levensworth which
ought to have been written 6 months ago - As she expected to return to L.
I have directed there but if she is at Waterbury you can hand it to L. Susier
who will send it on sometime or other I suppose or if she is not at L. - you
may burn the letter or keep it as you think proper - so much for this impor-
tant affair -

Don't you this curious writing? but when you send such
abominable long letters you must not mind the penmanship.
I don't

C. Chapman

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S. W. Moore

1802.
Clarissa Chapman

EH [East Haddam] February 1st 1800

My dear Dorothy

I had the pleasure of receiving a letter from you last evening by Mrs Deming and as you see I have begun to answer it as quick as possible I hope you will not think me negligent for the future I have written several scrawls but after waiting in vain for some opportunity of sending the precious things^{^I have destroyed them} as perhaps I shall this so that if it reaches you, you may preserve it with all imaginable care In return for the catalogue of books which you sent me I can give you another of my own creating Voltaire's Charles 12th Robertson's America Goldsmith's Roman history the 2 first volumes of Hume besides many novels & plays too tedious to mention. I wish you could see me my dear Dolly with my knitting [weth] in my hands and a book in my lap while I attend to both in such a manner as is a sufficient refutation of Mr. Wood-bridge's assertion that we can do but one thing at a time.---- As you prophesied Mary Deming did not come to EH with me-but do not begin to pique yourself on your sagacity. She got ready & we were waiting ~~waiting~~ with the utmost impatience for Harry to make his appearance when lo! a gentleman from this place who had some business at Hartford came along with a commission from Papa to take me home. As there was not quite room enough for us all in the carriage & as it was feared that it would worry Miss Charlotte (the name of our beast) to take us all Mary was obliged to defer her visit till a more convenient opportunity.

Feb 3rd

I have been teasing Mama ever since the snow fell to go to Canter-bury-however I may as well set my heart at rest for she tells me that if she goes she shall not take me with her. By the way Dolly though you gave me no great encouragement to expect you here this winter yet the prospect of sleighing induces me to hope you will come. Frederic can drive a sleigh well enough or if you do not chuse to risk your neck with him why cannot you jump in with B Champion? for she told me she intended coming down the first sleighing- Oh! I could think of a

hundred plans if any body would ever execute them but "She who talks much will talk in vain."

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I wrote Nabby a long letter a few days after I came home but the hussey has not yet answered it -by the way I have a small anecdote to tell you of this same Abigail. You may remember that she intended going to N York ^{^when she left L-}and she continued in the same resolution till she got prepared to leave home when she said she did not chuse to go and accordingly enjoys all her fine things at home. A fine scheme Dolly -I had thoughts of trying it myself till I recollected that it was extremely improbable I should meet with the same success. There is a report that Henry Champion who has I think reached his 18th year is to be married soon to a Miss Worthington a young lady about 25. As you do not attend Miss Sally's school this winter I suppose Lucy Russel will win the prize if L Leavenworth has not returned. Phebe Moseley told me she should try for it but she has I believe relinquished her design of going to L-this winter and entertains some thoughts of attending the school at Norwich to learn French as she says. -If she lost some of her flesh last summer she has recovered it with interest since her return insomuch that her Papa finding it utterly impracticable to reduce her by starvation on account of the impossibility of restraining her appetite has resolved to keep her abroad. She spent one or two days her last week and when he came to carry her home he was in great agonies

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[Page 3]

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When Buonaparte from Egypt came
As mad as skin could hold Sir &c.

Clarissa Deming said that Mary had learned to pronounce Par & Mar I enquired very minutely into the little creatures improvements.-- Mary Brainerd spent Christmas & St Johns here -there was a most superb & magnificent ball on the evening of the latter -Mrs Moseley was down to the landing that day & greatly raised the expectations of the public by her descriptions of Miss Phebe's head which she said would be dressed in the most elegant & fashionable stile. Night at length came and we had the pleasure of seeing this famous head. She had all her hair cut off at N Haven about 2 inches short & the aforesaid 2 inches of hair had been so ingeniously curled & frizzled that it all stood on end so that as Mrs Moseley had prophesied Miss Phebe's head greatly exceeded that of any of company & in [Page 4]

deed any 2 of the company put together. We were in some doubt whether to give the credit of so bright an invention to her or to her Mama till we recollected that as they had a mulatto lady in the house for a model to copy from it could not with justice be imputed to either -we cannot however deny that they are complete copyists.

Lucretia's pictures which were sent to N York to be framed before I came home arrived to day -they are landscapes -one of them is the same as that representation of Wisdom & Innocence in Stephen's miscellany. I was really glad when the things ^{^came} safe and sound for I was obliged to be witness to all her lamentations on the subject "The man had certainly ruined her pictures" -"The glass was broken" -"She should never have them again" and the like mournful eloquence was continually repeated.

I intend going to Haddam next week if the sleighing continues & Miss Charlotte is not lame & my Parents do not go to Canterbury & my father & mother are willing & Mary is at home.---

Paphro is still at Plainfield but he has paid us a visit since I returned.
(PART OF THIS IS INKED OUT)

Feb 27

Only think Dolly! here I have been immured in Moodus rocks for upwards of 4 months & the said 4 months have been most industriously spent I can assure you. Not a soul of any of my old acquaintances have I seen except the bodies of Eliza Storrs & Nabby C-for about 3 hours last Wednesday

day as they were on their voyage from Pine swamp to Midletown where Nabby went for a visit. Lucretia has been at Colchester about a fortnight. I was prevented from going to Dr Brainerd's last week by a most excruciating head-ache which put me to the most exquisite torture which said torture was exceedingly increased by beholding the snow decaying heavily. -My Father says he is going to L-in about a fortnight -I shall have a most precious packet to send by him --I suppose when you see the huge bundle you will conclude that I have sent you some very valuable present & open the packet with the utmost caution and then exert all your philosophy to bear your disappointment with becoming fortitude ---Oh! Mr Moseley's oration is to be printed -As I fancy you will have a most violent desire to read it I will send you a copy if I can.

[Page 5]

Eliza told me that M. Strong was to be married to some Seymour or other- that girl seems to be always supplied with abundance of sweethearts nor do I wonder at it for I really think her very amiable & pleasing.

I should be infinitely obliged to you if you would take the trouble to get me 4 or 5 ^{small} hair pencils to send by Papa if Dr. Smith has any that are good for anything. I have worn out and lost all of Lucretia's and am wonder fully at a loss how to employ myself for I have nothing to read at present. Not long ago for want of something else to do I resolved to read Smith's Wealth of Nations which by the way is a mighty favorite with my Father well waded through two chapters when the book was thrown aside & I believe will not be resumed very soon.

March 8th

I hear that in Litchfield you suffered the 22nd of Feb to pass unnoticed. You may imagine my astonishment on hearing this when I tell you that it deprived me of the power of speech for 2 minutes & a half -I dare say you never knew such a thing happen -Here every body wore a countenance half a yard long -the galleries of the meeting house were hung with black of divers kinds of cloth some pieces of which were considerably wider than others -every person present except myself was dressed in mourning and 2 fiddles which I suppose the performers thought they could tune in the entry without being heard accompanied the prayer. I am surprised at your remissness at L- and wish you would inform me of the cause of so singular a phenomenon.

Lavinia Deming I am told is to be married to Mr. E. Millar whom I dare say you remember -he lived there when I was at W-but I believe he is now keeping school somewhere or other.

Really Dolly I lead a lonesome kind of a life here -don't you remember all the fine projects I had formed for the winter? but the forming was the last of them -my eyes too begin to grow weak which is a great vexation -Mama tells me it is because I am continually reading but I am of opinion that it is owing to the smoke with which our room

is commonly filled in the morning about an hour after the fire is made & so have resolved to keep my bed until it is dispersed.

I think it is quite time to put an end to this monstrous long letter. I will not be so unreasonable as to ask a proportionable answer for you will see by the dates that I have been several weeks about this & I do not suppose that Papa will stay long enough to give you many minutes to answer it but I shall expect one as long as the time will permit. I should write to R Wadsworth + A Baldwin but if they have forgotten their promise of beginning a correspondence I still remember it. Make my respects to your Parents & love to your Brothers & Sisters -Miss Clarissa & Mary for me. My love to R Wadsworth, A Baldwin, J Tracy, Cornelia Adams, Lydia Williams and abundance of others whose names I may have forgotten -Lucretia desires her love to you

Yours &c
Clarissa

Miss Deming

PS I find this letter will not be quite long enough without adding a PS I would send Vira some painting as I promised her if I had any brushes that were paintable (a new word of my own coining.) If there is any excellent pencils in L_ I would thank you to send me one or two -I have not yet done with my commissions -enclosed is a letter for L Leavensworth which ought to have been written 6 months ago -As she expected to return to L- I have directed there but if she is at Waterbury you can hand it to L Russel who will send it on sometime or other I suppose or if she is not at L-you may burn the letter or keep it as you think proper -so much for this important affair –

Dont you this curious writing? but when one sends such abominable long letters you must not mind the penmanship----

I don't

Deming Perkins and Quincy Families Papers
Series 1, Subseries 3, Folder 1, Item 1
Clarissa Champion to Dolly Deming 1800 Feb 1