

My dear daughter

Quincy Jan^y 20th 1808

I will not delay a single hour to reply to your letter of Jan^y 18th just received, and to acknowledge the receipt of yours of Nov^r, which ought not to have lain so long unanswered. Since Mrs Smith has been with me, I have not been in the habit of writing much, and when ever a reluctance to the pen commences, it increases with time, until it becomes insurmountable. I know I ought to have written to you, but if my pen has not performed its duty, my mind has been occupied about you and yours, and your future prospects; equally, tho' not perhaps so anxiously; as for Mrs Smith and her Family; now destined to the wilderness: altho' from her natural disposition she will be disposed to consider the wilderness blossoming with roses, and determined to accommodate her mind to her situation. Her friends cannot view it, in any other light; than a deprivation, and sacrifice, of social enjoyment; and a seclusion from the world. Her good humour and that of your sister, who is to accompany her, will mitigate every sacrifice, and serve as a paradise to heal all the wounds the snubs and scoldings which they receive in passing through this rough world. Patience and fortitude will make a smooth road where the path was never levelled, the inequalities, as it will soften the mattress, and make a pillow of down to the contented mind. I strive to reconcile myself to the separation, but find it a very hard task.

If you have received Susans letter, you will find that your brother came on to Quincy with the first snow, and took Mrs Smith and Caroline with him to it was so late in the season before the house was completed, that I thought it best that Mrs Smith should pass the winter with me, and go in the spring. I had prevailed upon her to write thus, but your brother came as far as Albany and wished her to meet him there. but I could not consent that she should go on in the stage at this season. It was much better, that he took advantage of the first snow, and came himself for her - when that was the case, I could do no other ways