Leicester May 26, 1776

My dear Daughter,

I have hoped to hear from you by every post, and to learn how your health is. I have not heard from the valley since the 22d of April. Williams's account then of his father's health kept me anxious for him; he wrote me, that as soon as his father was able, he designed taking a house, or lodgings at Utica, he will then be near to you, and in the midst of a society, which may enable him to recover his spirits, and restore his health; for two years past, he has held a branch upon branch. The ties of affection are losing upon earth, thing after thing is severed from the heart, and may we be supplied with pleasures, and more durable pleasures from above. While we are paying off the stage, a new generation, succeeds, to supply our places, and your own family are not happy in this respect.

I have to acquaint you by sundry desires, that there is an officer, a Leint from the U.S. Independent with whom she became acquainted at Hingham, who first saw her at a ball there, neither as dancer himself, it seems he was seriously smitten, as the good Hingham folks say, got introduced to her, and whenever she retired from the dance, pursued himself by her, entering into conversation with her, while she remained at Hingham, he repeated his visits there; there and permission to visit here, after repeating his visits here several weeks, he has declared his attachment, and she referred him to me. His name is Clarke, native of New York, his whole deportment, has been solid, modest and pleasing.