

Quincy July 23^d 1811

Dear Abbe

Your mother has been so constant in writing that I have been the more remiss. I am glad to find that you are content, and happy & hope. I was in Boston on Saturday, and bought for you a box of paints, and ~~was~~ Bennett's Letters. I sent them to Mrs. Minerva Foster with a request that ~~you~~ ^{she} would take them to Haverhill for you. Charles Welch who understands paints pronounced them very good. and in the one new box, all the colours you have occasion for; I also bought four brushes for you. if any thing more is wanting, you must let me know. with respect to your studies it would have your hand writing and Arithmetic and Grammar particularly attended to, make yourself mistress of each branch. you may find them necessary to you to procure you a living, we know not what we may be called to pass through in this world, if you are not thus obliged to improve them. no lady is qualified to pass through life with credit to herself and useful help to others without some knowledge of them all. and why when you undertake a thing should you not excel in it? it requires only steady habits, and application to obtain the prize set before you.

Your Aunt Smith, and Caroline are here and well your Aunt Conner gets along but slowly, she is very weak, and has a bad cough which troubles her very much. She has rode out a little way several times. but is obliged to crawl up stairs upon her hands when she returns - riding suits her. she thinks she