

Washington Jan 22^d 1825

My dearest friend,

I have received your kind and very acceptable letter dated the 11th but mailed the 15th for which I sincerely thank you - and hope you will continue to write as often as you can find it convenient. I am sorry to find that you have experienced a return of the bowell complaint, which has heretofore been so troublesome to you - yet I flatter myself that the skill of your brother will ~~think~~^{point out} of some remedy that will remove it, or at least check it. Your health has been in such an unsettled state so long, that I have felt great anxiety on your account - I, however, take some courage, from the account you have given me of a general improvement in it, to hope that it yet may become more permanently good. I have had no letter from Mary since I wrote last to you. I have however had one from Jacob Mason, dated about a week after Marys letter to me - in this he observes, generally, that it is a time of health in Concord - without even mentioning our family at all - which I presume he would have done, if any thing uncommon had befallen them - I have also lately had a letter from Ephraim Paddock - he informs me that he had recovered from his late sickness, and thought himself felt as well as he was before he went to Montpelier. This is much better news than I ever expected to hear of him, after the unpardonable accounts we received of his situation before we left home - I am pleased to hear from you that the friends of President Haskell propose to remove him to Hartford - and hope that it may be the means of restoring to him the use of those faculties which formerly rendered him so interesting and useful a member of society. I believe, if his case is susceptible of a cure, of which I have some doubts, his friends could not have selected a more favorable place to make the trial.