

My Dear William,

Augusta (Maine) July 12.1821

[page torn] Your acceptable favour of the 18 inst. was handed me [unreadable] long since [page torn]
[page torn] all be preserved from any involving evils, from that source.

I hope you will not count with too much confidence on your flattering prospects. All things in this delusive world, are uncertain & unsubstantial. I pray that your future destination & sphere of action & usefulness may be divinely directed. – The general subject of your letter, I believe is known here; but no particulars of it, except the name of the lady, & the intended period for consummating the connexion, to your sister D. has been communicated from me; but will remain with your M. & myself.

When you shall have come to a decision to remove to your native place, it may be necessary to decide with regard to bringing any number of slaves. For it is very questionable whether they can be managed to advantage here. The freedom which the blacks here possess, will be readily seen – a companion will however – & they will not long be contented to be slaves. This remark will apply with more force, perhaps, to males than females. It is suggested however for your consideration, as substantially correct.

Notwithstanding my present composure of health, I am admonished by ^{the} goal of three score & ten, which looms in full view – but especially by the frequent instances of mortality among my acquaintance, associates, competitors & even juniors in life – of my own exit, which cannot be very distant! The much esteemed Dr. Worcester, whose praise is in all the churches, & who has greatly distinguished himself as Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions, is gone to reap the reward of his labours & enter into the joy of his Lord! In ^{July} last, on account of ill health he took a water voyage to New Orleans, by advice of the physicians – had a very rough passage to that

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February

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[page torn] as soon as he was able, proceeded [^] by land to our most southern missionary station among the Indians, [page torn] intention of visiting all the missionary stations among our red brethren, in his way homeward. He was able to proceed no farther than Brainerd. And there, “with victory in his ear & heaven in his eye,” he laid down his life, the 7 inst. as a valiant soldier of the Cross, in the great cause of Missions – on the consecrated spot, where

taken

the standard of Immanuel has been triumphantly displayed, & actual possession [^] of the enemy’s strong holds. – In view of this solemn dispensation of divine Providence – it may truly be said, “A great man has fallen in the camp of Israel!” The breach seems almost irreparable! . But He, who in his inscrutable wisdom has made it,

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very thankful for that measure of health & strength which enables me so to do.

As to the bond of M. D. It was by no means a desirable thing to me, to sustain so much responsibility. But after much deliberation, it seemed to be providentially required. No other means appeared for the support of his family. — And having got safely through with the business of two deputations (under Howard & Robbins) I could not well decline standing for him again under Robinson, the present Shff. To have refused, would apparently deprive his family of a support — for he could not obtain sufficient security without my name.

Now. Your letter to Susan also by Mr. Vose, passed through my hands but a few days ago, & I presume you have received her answer before this time. She has ^{been} absent from us ever since, teaching a school at Kents hill in Readfield, as probably you may have been informed.

With respect to the subject of procuring a farm or other situation for Charles. I can form no estimate or conclusion — it being uncertain what course he may incline to pursue: He has this season, let his farm for specific quantities of hay, corn, oats, potatoes, &c. to be delivered in the fall. & has engaged with Capt. Joshua Heath, in a coasting sloop, which ^{will} between this & Eastport, for sixteen dollars & month. His family are removed to & occupy a part of our old mansion. — On his quitting that old house of Judge Cony, I have had to settle with the J. & he holds my note for 25 dollars payable the first of September. & Ch. cannot refund me. Nor have I any resources on which I can rely, for taking up the note. Is that demand against Mr. Otis, at Washington, desperate? And what has become of those copies? — The money would be very acceptable, could it be obtained.

The business of the direct taxes, which devolved on me, has not proved so favourable as was hoped. I had expected that my moiety of the fees for the deeds which would be applied for at Mr. Jones' office, for the unredeemed lands, would have compensated me for my trouble in the premises. Instead of that, I obtain so little from that source, ^{more than} I have been obliged to borrow of the Bank here ^{for this sum} \$100.00 to enable me to meet the demands of purchasers which may apply. And this will soon be expended & perhaps exceeded. And I have no resources to refund this loan.

And although we manage our little farm so as to furnish a supply of its productions, yet with the rigid economy, small debts for other necessaries will accumulate. My office of Town Clerk enables me to discharge a considerable part of the annual taxes, but not the whole. And I have hitherto been obliged to pay those assessed on Ch.'s farm. The ^{hay} ^{to be cut on shares} on my home lot, has this year been let ^{two thirds} the hay has been put into my barn for the other third — & the crop is pretty good. And my little patches of corn & potatoes, together with my garden, I have cultivated principally myself. And I desire to be

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You have doubtless before this had the account of the death of Rev. Mr. Colby's second wife. A fresh instance of the transient nature of all earth-born comforts! And a severe stroke to her bereaved, surviving partner.

We have had an article in the Recorder, within a few weeks, stating, that there was a very general attention to religion in Georgetown (Dist. of Columbia) & also, in a smaller degree, at Washington. This we considered important as it would have a salutary influence on the Capital of the nation -- & by cleansing the fountain, favourable [page torn] affect the [unreadable] make full the friend of Zion [unreadable]

Thus I have written you a considerable letter - unconnected indeed in its members - for I put do[page torn] the subjects as they occurred to mind, without regard to order or symmetry. Whether you will be able to afford me any reasonable relief, is entirely problematical. - I leave all in the divine hands. And am very affectionately, your aged parent

H. Sewall

P. S. How ^{far} from Washington is the situation in Fauquier county, Va. which you mention? Write me soon.

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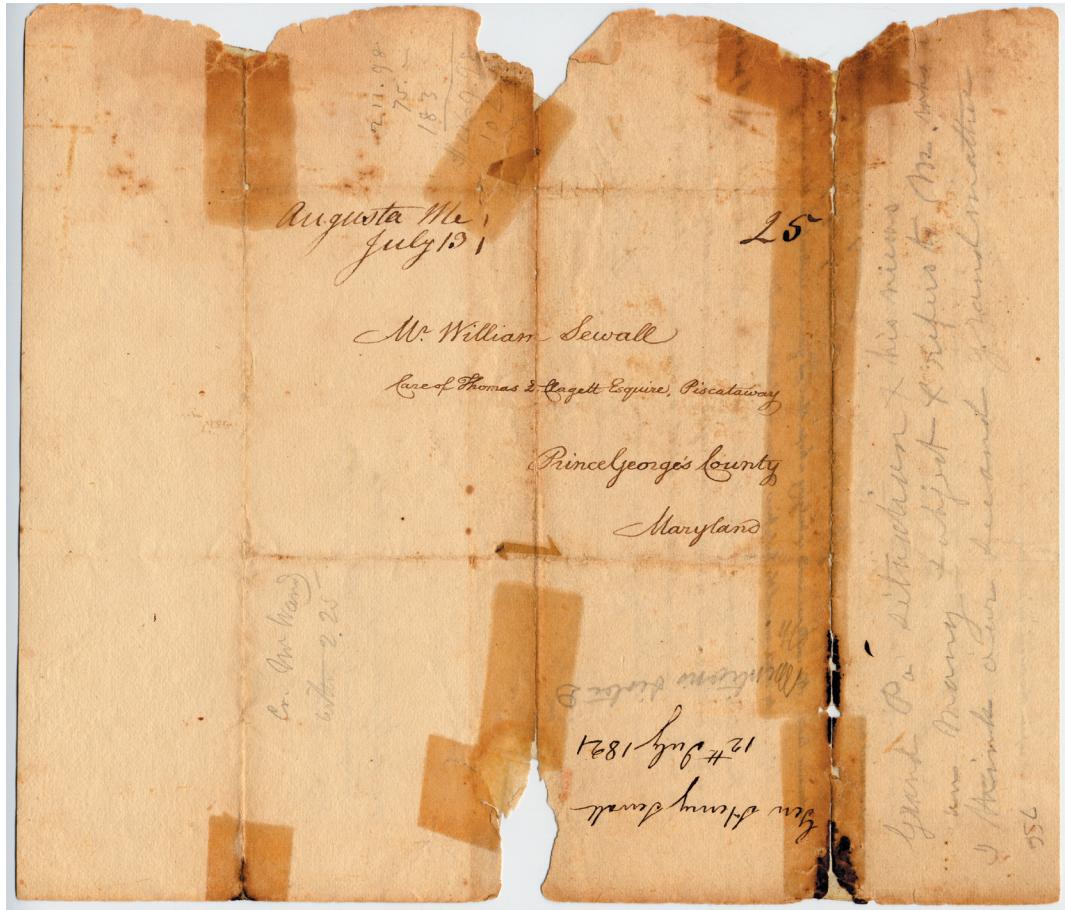
extensive land. Nor could we avoid indulging a hope that ^ [word crossed out] you are resident in that region, you [page torn] be so happy as to catch some of the holy fire to your everlasting benefit.

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Augusta Me,
July 13, 25

Mr. William Sewall
Care of Thomas L. Clagett Esquire, Piscataway
Prince George's County
Maryland