

Baltim^o 31st August 1815
My dear mother. I am just returned from
New York — my purchases were very res-
pectable — I carried no letters. Forc'd
no introduction . obtruded myself on nobody
— ask'd no favors . yet I could have
purchas'd half a million of goods If
I had wanted them — you will ask
how is it possible — This was my
secret my mother. I held my nose
high — walk'd as if the street was
my own . never bought till I was as-
sured I could make money on my
purchase — & look'd I am sensible
as if I had a couple of hundred
Thousand dolls in my pockets — this
was my secret — One of the finest mer-
chants in that city said to a stranger
& a gentleman who came to my store
on purpose to inform me of it — that
I was one of the smartest young men
he had ever seen — intelligent &
a most astonishing command of
language — you smile — mother
he had seen me in anger but not

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language — you smile — mother
he had seen me in anger but not

in a passion — I was illtreated —
but I behav'd like a gentleman — I
made ~~me~~ two of the first merchants
in the place take back some reports
about me that they had indiscreetly
circulated — I triumph'd — I remem-
bering this was my first visit as a free
slave to that city you may believe
I was much flatter'd by such attention
& good opinions — ask Lee if he remem-
bers Mr William Lang. Jim Hwetty
~~for~~ — tell him Lang entertains the
same of opinion of him (Lee) that
I do. Viz. that he is a princely fellow
& too fine a fellow to bed like an
oyster in Portland — he says our
cousin William Hall has improv'd won-
derfully since I have seen him — &
his partner is a capitalist & was decid'd
in his intentions of taking William as
a partner almost entirely by what
he (Lang) said of William — Will^m
is found to be also a manufacturer & Lang
says he will make Will^m fortune
if he conducts as he thinks he will

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God knows how anxiously I wished
William as a worthy fellow — his greatest
faults arose from the neglect of a nat-
urally good understanding — may
he feel its Value & cultivate it!
I love him — tho my conduct would
seem to contradict it — now I can
respect him — for Lang is a judge
of human nature & he speaks very
highly of him — he says he is no
fop — & no longer vain — mother!
Sister. I am doing well again — be-
lieves! — may Heaven be propitious to
my prayers. I have such a picture of fe-
licity to paint if I am fortunate enough
to carry the preliminaries into execution —
I won't call it fortune to succeed — If
I do not succeed I must be unfortunate
— if I succeed my beloved Relations
I can astonish you next fall — Sister Ra-
chel you must write me & my dear
mother so must you — and soon I
shall be so hurried you must not expect
anything from me for a long time — Lear-
ned has never appeared — now the letters —
P & L will open [?] & then I John

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[Postmark]: BALTIMORE AUG 27
paid

Miss^{rs} R W Neal
Portland
Maine