

Baltimore 9th October 1816

I would not reproach you my Sister, or you my mother, but I do believe you have both forgotten me, however, I shall continue to do my duty. Accompanying this, you will receive a Portico, containing part of my criticisms on Lord Byron, some few errors occur in printing, and some alterations were made while I was in the Country. I have marked them & you will judge if they were improvements — some lines at the end of the Volume over my usual signature, A, you have seen, before, or rather part of them, what you have not I think are the best that I have ever written — my object was to represent, a mingled [?] but all light, nieghing, & tingling. — You will find another Review over the same signature, but that is not mine, it is written by Doctor Watkins the Editor, who is considered one of the first scholars & writers of our Country — I mention this my dear, because he paid me lately a most unequivocal complement. — said he I have used the same signature with you in this number, but if you do not care about it I am sure I do not" — he is justly proud of his writings Altho' he certainly does

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(Coll. 2125, Ser. 1, Box 1/4)
Date: 1816
Description: John Neal letter to his mother and sister

Stuff me. yet that simple remark afforded me more real pleasure than anything he ever before said to me. Pierpont even goes so far as to say the 16 lines beginning ^{now a silvery sob, &c} in a different measure contain the best finished poetry of that kind that he ever saw — Several persons have lately interested themselves very much for me they say I must never return to my old business — thank you say I, Gentlemen can't write always. — I am praised now because of my freshness & because I write for amusement, but let me continue it, let me write for a support & I shall find few less flexible critics. . . . However I have done something towards this winters support — I have begun & if my patience holds out, shall finish what I mean to call a novel! — Yes I am very serious & I do not doubt that I shall do myself credit, if I make no money — otherwise should be idle & unhappy. such employment, with my pen will serve to beguile this tedious winter. In the Spring if I be not entirely extricated from my embarrassments I shall leave the country. — Speaking of French, I have lately had a most affecting proof of Generosity and attachment in my old master. — some time since I dismissed him, because I could not afford to pay his services . . . he lately came & insisted on teaching me for nothing — Still I have one friend, one person who loves me. this man is old & poor. to such persons

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There can be but little pleasure in teaching. & though the good
old man declares, that he only does it for the "pleasure of teaching"
Yet I know better, he can have 25\$ twenty five dolls
per Quarter for the very moments which he gives to me.
Heaven bless him! I do certainly make valuable proficien-
cy. — can translate as fast as I can speak english — write
it very tolerably & shall now try to speak it. as there are
two french Gentlemen board with me. The shirts I have at
last arrived. they were too long by about three or three & a
half inches. ruffles were right, send me the remainder by
Mr Heow if you can — The friends have been to see me
and I told them honestly, that I could not claim the
protection of their society when I was not at my heart
& a Quaker. They were really sorry to [torn] for I
know they respect my talents but they [torn] I did
what a man of principle ought to do. they could not
support an argument against me at all — I respect
these professors of Peace I love them, but I cannot feel
yet as they do. when I do, I shall confess it openly &
fly to their society for comfort & protection — You must
do as you please about writing me — now I have become poor
— almost solitary — my enjoyments have been always limited, but
if you please, you may ^{still} make them more so — I shall not complain John

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a very worthy man an obligation. -- John

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