

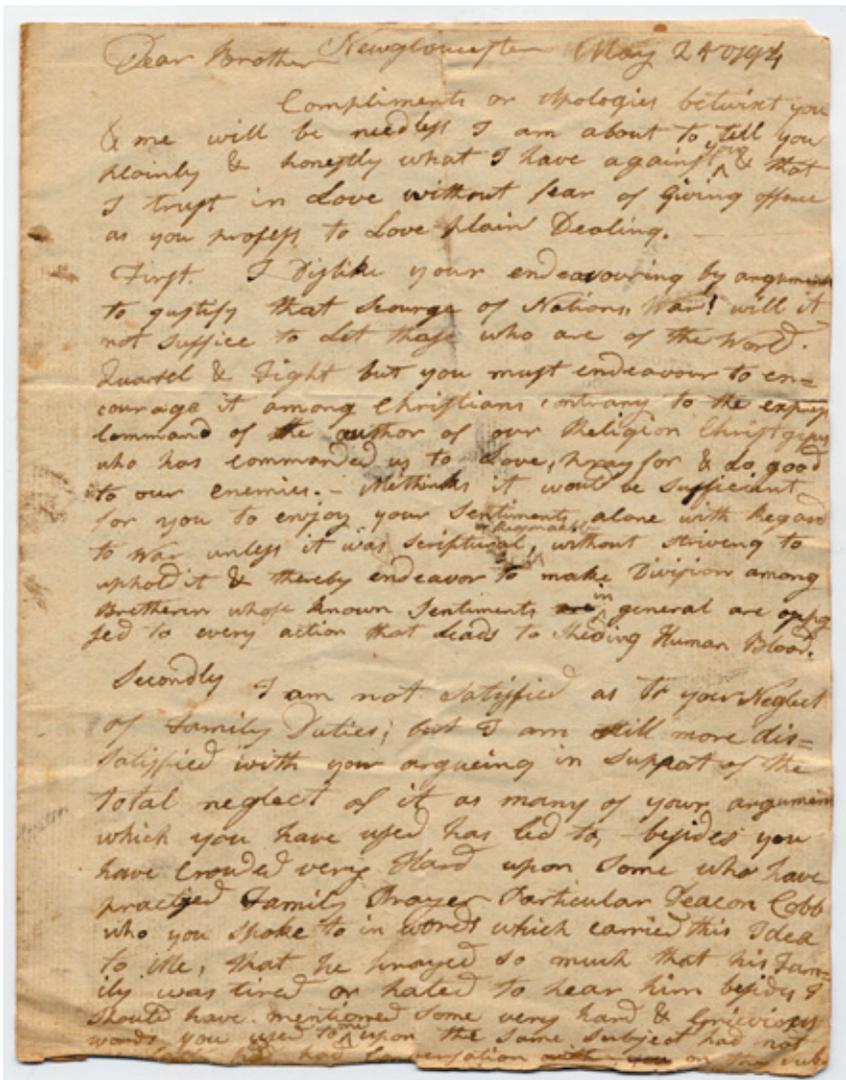
Newgloucester May 21 1794

Dear Brother

Compliments or Apologies betwixt you & me will be needless I am about to tell you you plainly & honestly what I have against ^ & that I trust in Love without fear of giving offence as you profess to Love plain Dealing. -----

First. I dislike your endeavoring by argument to justify that Scourge of Nations, War! will it not suffice to let those who are of the World. Quarrel & Fight but you must endeavour to encourage it among Christians contrary to the express command of the author of our Religion Christ Jesus who has commanded us to Love, pray for & do good to our enemies. - Methinks it would be sufficient for you to enjoy your Sentiments alone with regard or Reasonable to War unless it was Scriptural, ^ without striving to uphold it & thereby endeavor to make Division among in Bretheren whose known Sentiments are ^ general are opposed to every action that leads to Shedding Human Blood.

Secondly, I am not satisfied as to your Neglect of Family Duties; but I am still more dissatisfied with your arguing in support of the total neglect of it as many of your arguments which you have used has led to, besides you have crowded very Hard upon Some who have practised Family Prayer Particular Deacon Cobb who you spoke to in words which carried this Idea to Me, that he prayed so much that his Family was tired or hated to hear him besides I should have mentioned some very hard & Grievous me words you used to ^upon the same subject had not [?] has had conversation with you on the Sub=



Contributed to Maine Memory Network by the Maine Historical Society (Coll. 44 Box 1/1) Date: May 21, 1784 Description: Letter to a "Dear Brother" from Ephraim Stinchfield.

Subject which gave me some small Degree of Satisfaction
as far as it regards my own person. -----

Thirdly- What I am about to mention now I have
often mentioned to you & you have as often confessed
but not him that confesseth (only) findeth Mercy
also what I mean
but he that Forsaken ^ ____ it ^ is what the apostle calls
foolish Talking & jesting - I have heard of some of the
world who
have been
are ^ intimate with you saying, [crossed out] when he is with
us he will Laugh & Joke & carry on as fast as any of
us - My Brother these things ought not to be so more
especially among those who ought to be examples to the
Flock, among those who ought to shine as lights in
the world: & be like a city set on a hill which cannot
be hid. - we ought ever to remember the high & holy
calling where by we are called, children of God!
if this is the name we call ourselves what Manner
of persons ought we to be in all holy conversation
& Godliness ever letting our conduct ^{at all times & in all cases} carry a
convincing & distinguishing evidence to those without
whom we are & whom we mean to serve.

Fourthly using dissimulation How often do you
feel yourself guilty of this? Let Conscience Make the
Answer. Implicitly conforming to any thing and almost
every Bodys principle & conduct rather than be a man
as you say of offending any one: it looks to me like
holding with the Hare & running with the Hounds this
makes every one jealous of you who knows this to be the
case. - It looks to me like conformity to the World whh
you never can surely this is always the case
way will you Suffer persecution. - The Foreship of the
Word is enmity against God whosever Therefore would be
a Friend to the World is an Enemy to God. Weigh these
Things My Brother in your Mind & yourself in Ball
=one of Eternal Truth & see whether you will not be
found wanting.

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Again Fifthly & Lastly, _____ This is a delicate point I do not like to concern with it because it particular concerns myself; shall I be silent or proceed? I promised to tell you what I had against you I will proceed. it is endeavouring to reproach, Mud, Dirt, & Scandalize me both in private & publice before Bretheren & before the World all that lay in your Power.

This at the first look you may deny but if you search the Matter you will find it really so - Look at yourself carrying Elder merrills Dirt after him. - View yourself publishing to the World things that I have mentioned to you & to you only in private. How much pains have you taken to make ^{the world} people believe I was proud High Minded, - Zealous not accord to Knowledge, _____ But I must stop there I beg you would look back Six Months & view your conduct toward me in a candid ^{Manner} & christian manner & I believe I may be silent & never need to mention a word more to you about it Think not I am silent for want of Matter I might have wrote a small Volume but wisdom is profitable to direct I am not angry with you nor ever have been but have been often grieved & could say in singularity with Job "O that my grief was Thoroughly weighed" Had an enemy done this then could I have borne it: but it was a Proffest Friend a Brother but has become mine enemy because I tell him the Truth. _____ One or two notorious instances of your antipathy ^{against me} I cannot in conscience omit to mention before I conclude. - one was the Friendship you made with Elder Merrill at the Time you first came out against me which was I

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 to unite all the strength you possibly could to
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 have since your Friendship was grounded on no
 firmer Basis at that time than way Harrods &
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 The other instance I must mention is the strong
 efforts you have made to endeavor to cajole & De-
 ceive the committes who have been chosen to Labor
 with our chh & to make them believe they were in
 union & Fellowship & for no other reason that I
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 you certainly know better - You certainly have
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 it nor was ^{there} any likelihood of it ever being in any
 situation without a Miracle How often in the most
 pathetic Terms have you lamented the situation of
 the chh & without an alteration you must leave it &
 just for ^{the} sake of quelling the insurrection that I had made
 & deceive Bretheren from a Distance you would wrap
 it all up & say ^{in effect} every body was right but just me
 But my Dear Brother I know thou God will not
 be shocked neither will he be deceived like our fellow
 Men: His eye penetrates over thickest covering &
 knows who have covered themselves with a veil of Hypo-
 =crisy = Lord God undecieve such as are deceiving
 themselves & crying Peace & Safty; before sudden Destruction
 cometh _____ but you will say I know I am right for
 I am often assisted from the Spirit of Truth in Speaking
 to my fellow Mortals this will not argue all your
 conduct is right Ballam was dictated by the Spirit
 of Truth & yet foretold his own Destruction Many shall
 say unto me in that Day Lord have we not perhaps

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