

Glocester May 15 1783

Well really - was ever poor artless Woman so treated, so cheated,  
and so baited before! here was I, unconscious of plots or contrivances, sitting in my Parlour,  
as serene as some very pleasing events could render me - when behold in comes a letter -  
so whimsically are my nerves consorted, that a folded paper, with a seal upon it, unexpected-  
ly presented, is at all times capable of putting them in a flutter - however, when I re-  
cognized the characters of my quondam friend, my spirits were most agreeably elated  
surely thought I this can produce nothing less than a full confession - guilty he will  
certainly plead, and in suppliant language throw himself upon the mercy of the  
Court - Now I, in the magnitude of my clemency, had determined to extend the [torn]ptor  
of forgiveness, and, as I hinted before, to reinstate the Culprit, in all his high Offices, and  
immunities - I began to read! O the incorrigible obstinacy of Man! how prone to error!  
and how resolute in perseverance! I proceeded to the close - jumped from my Chair -  
Nancy, Mary, Polly, (had the house contained half a score more they would all upon  
this occasion have been summonsed) Run, fly, to Doctor Plammers, Mr David Plum-  
-mers, and to every tavern in town - inquire for Mr Theodor Barrell, and pre-  
-sent him my request, that he would honor this house, by his residence during his abode  
in Glocester - both Mr Stevens, and Mr Murray were absent, so that these females  
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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society  
(Coll. 2129, Box 1/3)  
Date: May 15, 1783  
Description: Mrs. Stevens to Nathaniel Barrell

-man was to be found - how are offences accumulated, what a plot to disappoint me! how ingenious in mischief, and how determined its assistant.

Now my good Sir, I would not have you conclude, that I was thus solicitous for the presence of your Brother, by way of performing the condition which you, so audaciously presumed to dictate, as the terms of our reconciliation - by no means - I rather sought to make a party in your family against you - I conceived if I could bring this Gentleman to a knowledge of the turpitude of your crime; he would assist in clothing you in the garb of repentance - to this wish I was prompted, by some remains of regard, but a refusal of your letter, leads me to conclude, it best to consign you over to the Class of impenitents - never saw I any thing so obdurate - positive - by you impute the whole transgression to me!!! I to be sure, am the primary cause of all!! - Well, well, I could say on this head - Yet I will not render railing for railing, but contrariwise blessing - You shall (however you may determine) be every thing to me that you was - And I (make a part) will be, En verity, Dear Sir, yours sincerely

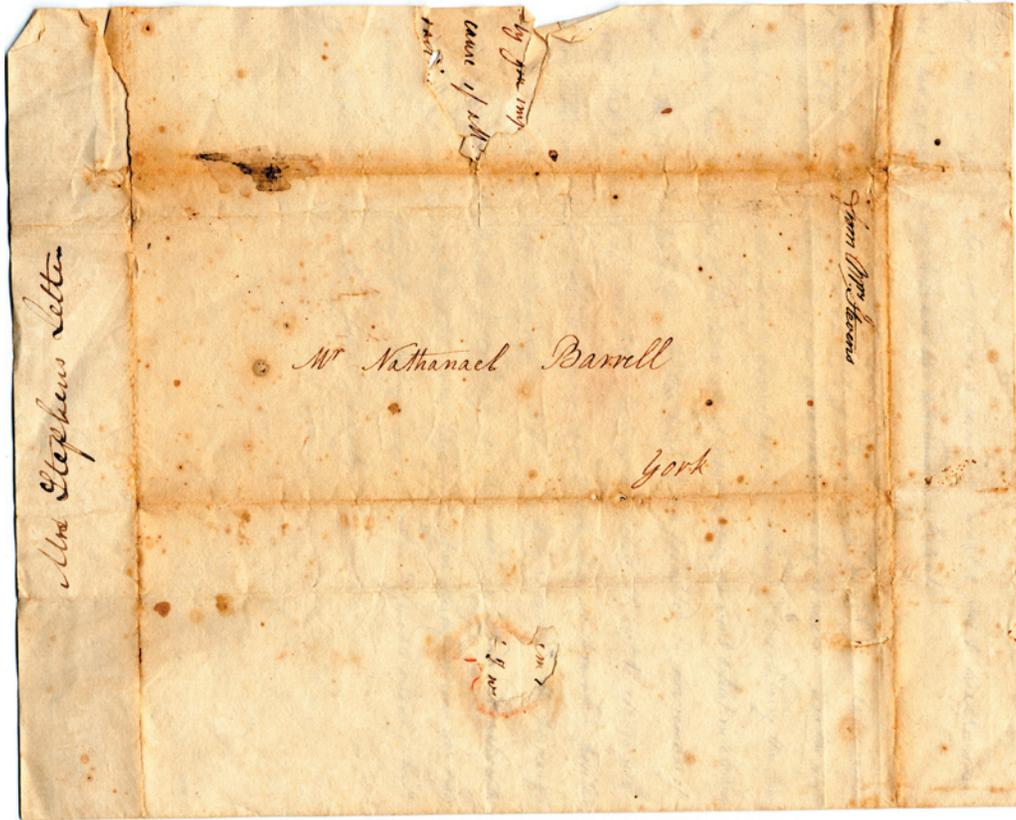
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M<sup>r</sup> Nathanael Barrell

York

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Mrs Stephens Letter  
[right edge]