

Baltimore 26th October 1816. I thank you from the very bottom of
my heart my dear mother for your letter. it proves to me
what indeed I had no doubt of, that my mother never
what ^{would} distrust me ----- yet at the same time it has [erased]
poured out an error that I fear cannot now be rectified
— your statement is right my dear mo. I do owe you 100.39
more than my books show besides interest. that is not so
come it I shall try to make it so, if I do not you know
while I have heart & life I shall be responsible, and money
could not be safer than in my hands whether I ever paid
it or not, but to be serious my credit I believe could
raise the whole sum any moment if my mother wanted it
therefore if you do only mention it the money shall be
obtained for you before the entire adjustment of my con-
cern — If I do go into business again my mother
I shall have no partner, if I can avoid it depend upon
it — for I do not hesitate to say if I had had none
since my arrival in Baltimore, that I should have been
now in prosperous business . . . not that I reproach my
best friends T & L — we have been unfortunate perhaps
imprudent, but never dishonest — what should
I have been but for them? could I have deserted them
in distress after the sacrifices they had made to me
when I was a stranger — my attachment to them
was obligation. theirs to me at first was generosity —
— when I came to Baltimore they were the real owners
of all my property. — I could I have denied my assistance
even if had known this result — never, I would
died first. —

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Moody and family arrived yesterday all well — I received
the four shirts but find one of them mark'd no
g — a mistake I suppose. as I recd 3 before.
making 7. & that would be as many as the price
could make — so you like the Portico — well, I am glad
of it for it really makes me proud — I am daily gaining
a reputation here. I have thank'd Rachel for her
letters & the nice manner of the shirts. I wonder at
your observing my Parent that your name was not
mention'd when I always consider. If I write that I am
addressing you both as much as if I were conversing —
— first then in reply to your question. I am succeeding
well in French. I write it & read it readily but do not speak
it — for I cannot appear foppish. — There is not an indi-
vidual in all Baltimore of the name of Gantz, tell Ramsey
— I have a directory. There is no such name — can it be
possible that Moses is not happy — well Heaven prosper him —
— we are all too precipitate in that momentous engagement, de-
pend upon it tho' I can love and have lov'd — dearly —
bitterly — tenderly yet. I shall never love foolishly — I can not
be a school boy —
" tis true — I cannot whine or sigh
" I know but to obtain — or die —
I never will risk my own good opinion on slight grounds
— willing to die for the being I should love my mother
but that being must deserve it — my friends here
wish me to study law — Pierpont has a plan on foot which
— is yet a secret. — If he succeeds I think he will — I
shall undoubtedly — some great men here have been
to see me since the last number of the Portico in
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writing — a criticism — and that too on a creature who
is almost unpalpable — who cannot be criticised — Lord By
ron — they tell me I shall be fitted for the bar in ^{two} ~~three~~
years, a long time — & but that I shall be the American
Baltimore Bar — It is amusing to hear these predic-
tions. but these men are considered our Greatest — &
they really believe it — but they do not know my spirit
— pant. I can be eloquent — I can be great — but
I can not submit to the drudgery of preparation. those
long — long years — I'd ask them how I am to support
myself in the mean time — they all offer to support
me — but if my spirit be too proud for that. —
I can support myself by my pen — better & better.
— these men must think me a prodigy! — but the
truth is mother I have astonish'd them — & myself
by my success. & they do not know where to
stop in their approbation, nor I in my credu-
lity — would you believe. I am writing a novel
— it will be soon finish'd & publish'd directly.
— my friends too. you see I must quote their
opinion for I certainly do prefer it to my enemies'
— they say I should succeed. — I hope earnestly that
I may, for I would rather earn our proud hundred
by my writing than a thousand by common
employments — This mood I dare see will be gone
with my present embarrassment, & if I dont turn ac-
tor — or soldier, nether of which is very likely — I may
be "retailing tape" again — Nodeath. John

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ron

— they tell me I shall be fitted for the bar in ^{two} ~~three~~

years, a long time — [marked out] but that I shall be the American
human [?] in 5 years more — & at the head of our
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I lately had two whole suits of clothes come out from London
that I ordered in the spring, besides some extra articles — which
together would have cost me here at least 200\$. & they only
stand me in about 80\$ with a little smuggling — so I am
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[sideways]

Mrs. R W Neal
Portland

26th October
1816

Ball Cost 04 25
Syring dalt 76
26th Oct 1816
10006
John + W. Neal

Portland
Mrs R W Neal