



Portland 25th Sept. 1796  
Sunday Even<sup>s</sup>

Dear Son,

Cap<sup>t</sup> Riggs by whom you sent a Letter & Hair powder was buried on Thursday forenoon. He died of the Yellow Fever as supposed. He lay only three days after he was taken — As the weather grows cool I hope no infection will be communicated. I did not receive your Letter & Powder till this day; tho I had yours of 14<sup>th</sup> Inst. per post some days ago.

I sent your French Dictionary by Cousin Nancy & trust you have rec'd it before now — I think it best for you to get the Taylor to supply you with such clothes as you may want & I will pay that & other Bills when I come on in November. If there is a necessity for them to be paid sooner let me know it. Is there a post office at Cambridge? I see all your Letters are stamped at Boston Office

By your Letters I perceive your

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society  
(Coll. 16, Box 2/11)  
MMN #22473  
Date: Sept. 25, 1796  
Description: Peleg Wadsworth letter to son, John.

COLL. 16 MS 153 21

College Exercises are very different from  
 that they were when I was an undergra-  
 duate - but I think they are improv'd -  
 I dare say by industry they will answer  
 very well - I like your associating for  
 the purpose of speaking, as I shall be much  
 gratify'd if you can attain to a good pro-  
 ficiency in that Art - It is a very ne-  
 cessary Qualification in such a Govern-  
 ment as ours - There has been a late  
 School Exhibition here - Harry ac-  
 quitted himself with great honour -  
 George & Lucia - very well indeed.  
 Harry would certainly make a very  
 handsome Speaker if he had Oppty -  
 If it should not come natural - more pains  
 must be taken - but it must be begun  
 early - the earlier the better - Early  
 habits take deep hold, & every one  
 is partial to the imperfections of youth.  
 If singing does not hurt you it is a pretty  
 Accomplishment & will serve as an Accom-  
 pany'd by others from the Family.  
 from your affectionate Papa  
 P Wadsworth

*Perhaps if you took a morsel of Bread before you went to Prayers in  
 the morn<sup>g</sup>, it would prevent your Head Ach, as it would stay your Stomach till Breakfast  
 The Health should be preserv'd, but not tamper'd with.*

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