

Bowd Coll. Sunday July 24

Harriet I give you my warmest thanks for your kind letters and thank you the more when I consider the trouble with such an exertion in your situation must be attended. How more welcome too; for being the first communication of any kind, which I have received from home this term. You must be mistaken about not having had but one letter from me, I have written two before this, which makes one in every fortnight—this is agreeable to father's request and though you are well acquainted with my antipathy to letter writing, I should not hesitate as much oftener as you desire.

I am glad to hear the favourable effects of the proscription which you were following when I left home; it encourages me in the hope which I have ever entertained of your final recovery. I often think ^{with} sadness on your misfortunes, and if you do not receive letters from me so often as you ought do not attribute to any cold-heartedness, but to the reason above mentioned. My dislike to writing letters is certainly a kind of instinct, for I write more than most boys of my age that I am acquainted with. Indeed I have for a long time been in a habit of making my remarks on every book I read, and preserving them in a common place book. I have too, in one or

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two instances written newspaper essays.

I almost envy you the pleasure which perhaps you are this very moment enjoying, in the company of Francis Lewis — but you know my opinion of her too well, to need any remarks about her beauty or amiability.

My health has been very good this term, and I should have nothing to complain of, if my eyes were as well and strong as when I entered college, at times I feel a little frightened about them, but there is probably no danger of my ever losing my sight. It would be a calamity to meet to be with my present long reading and no use & scenery, there is scarce conceivable, a more miserable condition than a blind man's. I have an invitation to visit Portsmouth next vacation, from my friend Mason, at whose fathers I shall stay if I go. I should like it much if our father should think best, in case he approves of it I shall wish to come home a week before the end of the term to prepare some clothes for the journey, I wish he would write or some other of the family and let me know his opinion. I regret that Josiah has accepted and will deliver the oration before

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all the family not forgetting cousin Rebecca, to whom
I mean soon to write. Give too my love to Frances and Daniel
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