

Philad<sup>a</sup> - 3 May 1800

Well did I know the sensibility of my dear Eliza & therefore intentionally kept back every intimation of the means pursued for the gratification of her "greatest wish." But having so perfectly succeeded, I could not but enjoy the mingled conflict of passions which the full Disclosure would produce. I was sure that the anxieties could remain but a short time & perhaps would soon be overbalanced—

Yours of the 24<sup>th</sup> ulto acknowledging the receipt of the Relic, well portrayed your feelings— & permit a parent to indulge— your Goodness, my dear Daughter!

We will provide for the safe keeping—

Philad<sup>a</sup> 3d May 1800

Well did I know the sensibility of my dear Eliza & therefore intentionally kept back every intimation of the means pursued for the gratification of her "greatest wish." But having so perfectly succeeded, I could not but enjoy the mingled conflict of passions which the full Disclosure would produce since I was sure that the anxieties could remain but a short time & perhaps would soon be overbalanced—

Yours of the 24<sup>th</sup> ulto acknowledging [sic] the receipt of the relic, well portrayed your feelings--& permit a parent to indulge --your Goodness, my dear Daughter!

We will provide for the Safe keeping--

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by the Maine Historical Society (Local Code: Coll. s-1247 MS-00-448 Vol. 1 Misc. Box 5/5)

Date: May 3, 1800

Description: Letter from Peleg Wadsworth to his daughter, Elizabeth, about the lock of George Washington's hair received from Martha Washington

On my return, which will now be soon.  
— but don't give it all away—hair by  
hair— Isabella must not have more  
than One—

I was gratify'd when you made  
use of the Word "delicacy" in speaking  
of the process of obtaining this favour  
of Mr W— that was my greatest  
concern— tho I had early written  
my Letter, I waited a while in com-  
pliance <sup>with</sup> Her Grief— too long— again  
would have marr'd the design—  
how to put it on a decent footing  
was a puzzle— in short I had two  
minds some times— One to send it—  
the Other not— however as it has ended  
I am contented & am glad it is over  
— so well — affectionately adieu PW

On my return, which will now be soon.  
--but don't give it all away—hair by  
hair—Isabella must not have more  
than One—

I was gratify'd when you made  
use of the word "delicacy" in speaking  
of the process of obtaining this favour  
of Mrs W-- that was my greatest  
concern – tho I had early written  
my Letter I waited a while in com-  
pliance with her grief—too long – again  
would have marr'd the design—  
how to put it on a decent footing  
was a puzzle—in short I had two  
minds sometimes – One to send it –  
the Other not—however as it has Ended  
I am contented & am glad it is over  
---so well—affectionately adieu PW

M50-478

Wm. L. Linn  
1847

Eliza

X

Eliza