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Thilad 12th April 1800 Saturday money Juid my dear Stiza of roth with incloping One to Henry , which vas forwarded to him - agreably to her define. Jun Marrier in a Sub. Jegnent Letter, thinks Henry may be "dissipated". I have written to him very planely on the Evil confe quenes of Disorpation whope, ifhe is so, it will affect him to good pur. pope. However I have get a hope That he is not so dissiputed as your mamer fear. But it is a vice that most eafily befets youth -Such is his Somplishity of the Love he bean for his Parents or Family, that I hope forthe

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by the Maine Historical Society (Local Code: Coll. S-1247)

Date: April 12, 1800

Description: Letter from Peleg Wadsworth regarding his daughter Elizabeth Wadsworth and his son, Henry Wadsworth, and mentioning Eliza's request for a lock of George Washington's hair.

Philad^a 12th April 1800 Saturday Morng

I rec'd my dear Elizas of 20th ulto inclosing One to Henry, ¹ & which, was forwarded to him—agreably to her desire. Your Mama in a subsequent Letter, thinks Henry may be "dissipated." I have written to him very plainly on the Evil consequences of Dissipation & hope, if he is so, it will affect him to good purpose. However I have yet a hope that he is not so dissipated as your—Mama—fears. But---it is a vice that most easily besets youth—Such is his sensibility & the Love he bears for to his Parents & Family, that I hope for the best.

1. Henry Wadsworth, Peleg Wadsworth's son.

Now my Dear for another Subject In a former Letter of 19th Jany zonen proper a strong with for some relie of Gent Washington - "either his Name or a Lock offis Hair" - ever Save, I cast about, for some Time how Ithould gratify your carnestreps to the full - I dane not let you howor my plan till its accomplishment - so here you have it from beginning to lind in the inclosed. I know you would have been in the themors had you not known the End at the same time you was appured of the means - now, as it has surede (- as lease it) so well, Ihope my dear Elign. you will forgive the terrently of your Papa in his easernes to deve you -

Now my Dear for another Subject— In a former Letter of 19th Jany You expressed a strong wish for some relic of Genl Washington—"either his Name or a Lock of his Hair"—ever holding the laudible wishes of my Children sacred, I cast about in my mind for some time how I should gratify your earnestness to the full- I dare not let You know my plan till its accomplishment—so here You have it from begining to End in the inclosed. I know You would have been in the tremors had You not known the End at the same time You was apprized of the means—now, as it has succeeded (-as I call it-) so well, I hope my dear Eliza. You will forgive the temerity of your Papa in his eagerness to serve YouI will not detain you longer but leave you to mafold the Secret-Admir my dear lage says your affectionate prapa

I will not detain You longer but
leave You to unfold the Secret—
Adieu my dear Eliza says
Your affectionate papa
P Wadsworth



Read This first

Eliza