

August 19, 1799

My worthy friend,

Agreeable to your desire expressed in your letter which I received today about half past nine, I embrace the first opportunity of writing to you and inform you that I enjoy my health today very well - and let me ask you why you are so anxious to know of my welfare and are not so kind as to let me know of your own. I hope you will be so indulgent my dear as to write to me the first opportunity and to inform me of your welfare for I assure you that a correspondence is very agreeable to me except that I am unable to write suitably to such a person as yourself.

I believe I shall wait with impatience til I shall have an opportunity to take you by the hand and embrace you as a friend I think the liberty and freedom \_\_\_\_\_ in your letter \_\_\_ forgiving or sincere. Please to excuse my freedom and other failings and accept this from your sincere and hearty friend,

Lydia Richards

August 21, 1799

My worthy friend,

Having a few minutes leisure I think the most agreeable way that I can spend them will be to sit down and write a few lines to my dear Miss Bryan. Tho it is only one day since I saw you, I have not forgotten you but still remember you with love and esteem and I could have no greater pleasure than to enjoy your company. I felt very much \_\_\_\_\_ in spirit yesterday especially about the middle of the day and often thought of you but the thought that I must part with you rather tended to aggravate my feelings. The hope of seeing you next Sabbath is now cut off for since I saw you I have recollected that there will be no meeting at Plainfield. I have not written half as much as I intended to write but it is now school time and I must conclude asking your forgiveness for all failings and imperfections and desiring you to let me hear from you as soon as possible. This from your affectionate friend,

Lydia Richards