

Goshen Sept. 17, 1806

My ever Dear Friend,

Favored with the prospect of an unexpected conveyance, the hand of your friend with a borrowed pen addresses you, O my dear! that I could this moment fly to you! but if this might be where should I find you? fondly I hope I should find you in the abode of happiness undisturbed by any unfriendly guest and unmolested by any bold intruder on your felicity. For two or three days past, my time has been wholly devoted to visiting and I have been constantly surrounded with friends. (I trust) and agreeable acquaintances --nothing has seemed lacking to complete my happiness but a want of a disposition to seize and enjoy the favors which were even put into my hand and happiness indeed I think I have seized and enjoyed them in a degree and have not been entirely destitute of happiness. But my dear how often in the midst of my best enjoyments surrounded with the good, the accomplished, the kind, and the virtuous, the friendly and the wise, indeed how often when in the possession of all that happiness which so pleasing and valuable a society could bestow have my thoughts reverted to my dear absent friend, and left all the enjoyments which I then possessed the sweeter pleasure of musing on that dearest subject of my meditations, the friend of my heart! And while my thoughts are pleasingly employed. sweet hope kindly promises a return of that happiness which I lost when you, my dear, were torn from arms but let me not too fondly anticipate uncertain bliss. But may Heaven grant that my most anxious hopes may not be blunted by the cruel hand of unrelenting fate. I have left a company of ladies in another room for the sake of thus silently conversing with you and I must not be much longer absent from them. They are employed in singing with my Brother James and another gentleman which so distracts my attention that I cannot write. I believe with much propriety - but I have the confidence in your friendship to believe that a line from your friend will be acceptable, though very incorrect and incoherent and that you will cast or out of friendship over every error. My brother Joseph safely arrived at Cummington on Monday evening and at Plainfield on Tuesday, much pleased with his journey and his new acquaintances. Your letters he presented and your handkerchief pen I will leave you to judge how highly I prized hem. O my dear! I have written almost nothing, but I must write no more. In haste with much affection and love with you every good in this life and in that which is to come. I subscribe you. P.S. My love to Miss A and your sister's friend.

L. Richards

Miss Charity Bryant

Pelham