

November 1, 1800

Abington (MA)

My Dear Friend,

I now retire for a moment and call the pen to assist me in my present employment for while my heart is so firmly attached to you while I regard you peace and felicity and while I feel interested in your welfare and have reason to believe that any production of my pen will meet a kind reception by one from whom it is my greatest pleasure to receive even a line _____ than by her hand it every opportunity which presents for me to write. Ten have been the hours since I saw you in which my thanks have not been employed either directly or indirectly on you. May my dear all my thoughts and solicitation are _____ they cannot restore to your mind its former tranquility.

But could my most earnest request but be granted your _____ should no more leave with sighs your heart should no more be oppressed with someone's misfortunes, should no more be heavy on you but on me. Should they light in my heart should the arrows of affection rest and you should _____ be _____ and with anguish . Then, alas, when fruitless wishes they remove not one _____ _____ and relieve not the aching heart.

Then I must be content to sigh in vain for your misfortune all my entreaties and direction must be in vain and the secret silent tears of sympathy must be shed in vain. Then, consolation is lost that envy and malevolence shall not always _____ virtue and innocence shall not always be _____ but the innocent and the guilty shall _____ me their _____

Oh that it could be in my power to speak out but one consilatory word but I feel my insufficiency may heaven help you and may your future days be free from misfortune. May peace and uninterrupted felicity be your future promise and may your eternity be blissful in the constant prayers of your sincere friend, Lydia Richards.

P.S. I still hope not to be denied the favor of _____ I arrived at Uncle Stanley's in the twilight near _____ from me _____ dangerous. Discovered your letter to Miss Shan Sunday noon and interceded in your behalf and I fear in essence every error. I concluded _____ for I fear I shall _____ of an opportunity to send as I designed by _____ _____. Do not fail to write the first opportunity. My compliments to Mrs. Florence and the other good people. Ado _____ Lydia