

October 9, 1800

Abington, MA

My Dear Friend,

Language is too feeble to employ my emotion. With what heartfelt delight and unexpected pleasure I was informed of your arrival at your father's and presented with a letter from your own hand. Perhaps you may more easily imagine than can represent by words or \_\_\_\_\_. Not less happy indeed nor I to have that you was at so small a distance than you could be. My dear, I hope you entertain not an idea that my friendship for you is not sincere. I rejoice that it is now come to the test I hope to evince my sincerity by neglecting to visit you. I should deny myself much happiness for now indeed than it is possible I could deny you.

Believe, my dear, that if it is possible for me to visit you before I return I shall not fail to do it. I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you within a few days but it is uncertain. I can only say that I shall do anything in my power to see you as soon as possible. I expect to tarry at Abington some weeks more with my relations here. My time I propose to devote chiefly to anything - all conditions in life. I am sensible and attended with mixed scenes of pleasure and pain and no state is free from anxiety and solicitude.

May you safely \_\_\_\_\_ pleasure at your father's home and enjoy the friendship of your acquaintances. My dear Miss Bryan, may ever believe that she retains a place in the affection of Lydia Richards.