

Beekhill March 25-1844

My dear Catharine

William has just arrived here with the two Quarters of Seal - I had expected that Givore would have been up at The Village I rode down there expecting that he had brought the Seal and on asking him he told me he had forgot it. I confess I was mortified that he would disregard my wishes - I intended then to get a Quarter from the Butchers but there was none -

I Thank you for your Attention to me and which I have always found & There is nothing in my power I will leave undone to gratify you & your dear Children which lies in my power.

Givore said that the Children were going to New York to morrow - I ask whether it would not be better to leave them at home until the weather is more pleasant & settled -

Mrs Barnard leaves Albany on Wednesday Afternoon remain in New York Thursday & go to Washington on Friday - This my dear Children for me & believe me to be most Affectionately

Yours
Ben Cortland

Mrs Van Cortlandt

I am sorry that you have given yourself so much trouble & business about the Seal -

I intended to have gone down this afternoon to
Croton, but I met some person here during the day
or to morrow morning to pay me some money that
I have concluded to forgo the pleasure of seeing you
this day — — a *remittance*

I had a letter to John General Washington
from Goddard, I called on the General on
Sunday just before sunset. It was in the year 1799
he took me from his office led me by the hand
in the drawing room or tea room introduced me
to Mrs Washington & the young ladies. When I returned
he took me again by the hand & walked through the
entry. asked me to dine with him the next day.
I told him that I had to go several miles to the north
branch of Paritan to engage Logging, to go to College
will say he if you return time enough I shall expect
you, I bowed as much as to say I would — I so happened
on my return the General was riding into his gate
he beckoned me & I made my obeisance — from
which he knew I was in time to come to his dinner

But I did not go — being young & unacquainted
with company I felt too awkward. Although preceded by
Dorothy Hardinbergh & the Jeffray his wife where
I was a domestic — The next day Mr Washington
paid a visit to the family where I was staying —

The General did not arrive there until night as
he was much engaged — I was sitting on the front
step with Miss Hardinbergh — The General as he came
on the step immediately beckoned me took me
by the hand & addressed me in this way — Martha
don't forget you did not come & dine with me
yesterday agreeable to your engagements — I began to
apologize that the riding was very muddy & I thought

that I should be too late — He then observed that
I was a young man just entering into life & I should
be very observant of my conduct, as you begin so
it will remain — Take my advice I give it to you
as a friend — Whenever you make a promise
fulfill it at all hazards & possible — I do not ~~make~~
in your power to perform it under an apology
How do you know but that I had kept my
dinner waiting for you — But that is not
my practice I am punctual in all my actions
Take this my advice to you my dear
young gentleman as your guide through life
Good night, God bless you — This was
from General Washington —

I mention this to inculcate to your dear
children —

Deane

Mrs Jan Cortlandt
Manor House
Croton River

about the washing the
reprimand to him -

