

Albany October 28th 1817-

My dear Friend,

I would have performed my promise ^{before} of giving you a particular account of Margaret and Pierre from the time you left them if I had not been prevented by unfortunately hurting my foot the very morning you went in consequence of which I have been obliged to stay at home until this morning - I prevailed on Margaret to spend Thursday afternoon with me and was delighted with her behaviour she was as cheerful and looked as well as I have ever seen her - I am inclined to think that if she was among strangers entirely she would soon recover; because the constant anxiety which her relations express about her situation prevents her thoughts from taking another course - if she was with strangers she would be obliged to talk upon indifferent subjects and her mind would be insensibly brought back to its natural state - she was not so lively this morning as I expected to find her but Catharine says she appears in a different character in the company of her spouse elect which proves that she can be cheerful if she will only endeavour to be so - Mrs Stevenson desired me to give her love to you and say that Pierre is a very good child - he is very little trouble to her - extravagantly fond of Catharine who understands managing as well as his mother - she is very attentive to him both night and day -

I cannot flatter you by telling you how anxious he is to see you
for strange as it may seem he has not asked for you at all
indeed he is so engaged with his horses and little Jack that he
would not even speak to me. — Whenever the weather is fine
I will urge Margaret to walk with me and try to make her
assist more than she has done. — My love to Mr Van Courtlandt
Marg- sends her love to you. your affectionate friend Eliza

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Mrs Ann Van Courtlandt
Care of Gen: Perie Van Courtlandt
Peekskill.

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to Ann S. H.