

Dear Mary Ann,

Little Cam: Nov^r 16th 1801

After many unsuccessful attempts to begin and finish
a Letter, I now make one more essay, and thank you for
your last; — a total want of incident here, renders it impos-
sible to give you anything entertaining or amusing —
our rooms have been painting and we have been confi-
ned very much to the Southeast room — we have had no
company, and do not see even a traveller. We did expect
to have been settled in Town by this time. but the days are
so short, and there has been so much work and so many plans
in hand, that are not yet accomplished, it remains yet uncer-
tain when we shall remove. The trees and shrubs are wholly
stripped of their "leafy honors", but the place has so many
endearing recollections & associations, it does not seem that
lonely spot it once did. — ~~I think you may have~~
~~many of the same feelings~~ ^{in a} thousand in a thousand instances
"remembrance wakes with all her busy train," to soothe
and delight, or harass and distress one, in a residence
of two years. — with the first sensation yours and your
Sisters image continually arises, and I cannot but
indulge the hope that while you remain with none but

filial ties, they will by mutual consent be so far loosened
that I may have the same pleasure in every coming
Summer as the last has given. - for ^{with} an upright heart those
ties do not lose strength from relaxation. -

I have not seen either of your Brothers for a fortnight, and
in that time you have probably heard from themselves they
are both well. - Will^m has disposed of ^{his} horse which is a reason
for his absence - and Tom's only business you know M^r C -
likes should be spent with him; when we are in the neighbour-
hood we shall see him every day I trust. -

Polly who is going to leave me to learn a trade of Betsey
will probably take this. - she has lived with me 9 years
"to acceptance" and I know not what to do in parting
with her, it quite deranges the whole of my household plan
especially as I have no one engaged, or in prospect to take
the place which is vacant. - and Mary is so unfaithful
mischievous and perverse. - I do not think I can retain
her longer than I can find one to fill the place. - if you or
your Mama & Sister know of ~~one~~ a girl of good disposition
and habits I would thank them to take her for me, as I am
much in want. It grieves me to return Mary, ^{but} nothing
in such a family as mine will answer, I cannot be with

her myself when her services are most wanted, and then
she is most obstinate and willful. - a good girl will
do very well here, but a wilful one has no chance, for
she arms the whole house against her at once.

"passive obedience and nonresistance" are general laws here
from the head downward, you know, but the laws are so gene-
rally known I think nothing is found unreasonable in
them.

M^r Parsons joins me in every respectful and affectionate
remembrance to your Father Mother Aunt Ray & Hannah,
to the latter I mean to write soon. but I felt myself
indebted for several letters from you, and she has not
even given me line for line, when as a single Lady to a
Married one who is immersed in family cares, it ought to
be ten for one at least.

I have not time to comment on the information you gave
me. but am amazed to find how soon the charm of single life
is dissolved with Miss J. and she has consented to become
subject to that "odious dear sweet creature man". -

in haste yours affectionately Parsons

Miss Mary Anna Sawyer

At Doctor Micajah Sawyer's

Newburyport