

My Dear Children

Nothing could have given me more
pleasure
than the rec^t of your Father's letter last Evening covering
one from you my Ann. I beg you will write often to me,
to hear of the welfare of those we tenderly love, is all we
say, pleasing, I assure it is now the greatest consolation
you have, as I fear I shall not be able to visit you this
year. I have been for three long weeks confined up stairs
attending on your poor Grandpa, his situation has
been truly distressing, at present his bodily health
is mending fast, his mind is still very weak, & much
impaired, tho' vastly better than it was. I am myself
perfectly well, & although I have ^{had} a vast deal of
anxiety both of mind & ^{fatigue of} body, I thank God, I have been
able through the whole scene to stay with him, my wishes
are, that I may have health & strength sufficient, to contin-
ue to him every aid & comfort his Malady may require
~~he~~ Often speaks of you all, & appears very happy at the
idea of seeing your Father. I wish I could say but he was
better, but she remains much in the same way - Betsy is
Aunt Selon & family well. I rejoice to hear your Aunt
better. I most ardently pray she may continue mending

Will let health in quite restored may a merciful God
 long spare her to remain a blessing to my children &
 all her connections. I am glad to find you both have
 school let me hear at you my children in your
 your present time spend not an hour in idleness
 when you have leisure from your brother's company
 your services at your needle, Maria's Susan's & Anne's
 will be pleased to instruct you, to whom with Patience
 my love: I beg you kiss my little Mary & God bless me
 & don't let them forget me, take the same kind of joy
 you remember your grandmama whose heart beats
 on you all, tell your Father I thank him for his
 letter, the next I write how I shall be
 employed in writing to him, that heaven may
 preserve & bless you all in the wisest & dearest

of your truly affectionate

Mary Ann Smith Matilda Hoffman
 June 26th