

Say March 4 1830

My Dear Isaac

I received yours of the 14. I will not attempt ^{a description} of my feelings, but must say that the Bridal eve was but a faint picture of them - firstly because I knew not the joys of a conjugal life, and secondly, by reason of a kind of natural diffidence which I could not hide I had so long been striving against my affections and fearing that you would discover the strength of them that it was, out of my power, all of a sudden to turn and give scope to the joy I felt. I must say that the distant manner which you have ever maintained in our family has given me pain. I supposed however that it was stamped in your nature and therefore you was not aware of differing from others; it has been a source of regret to me since our children have come to the years of man and womanhood because I see it given them and especially the girls you remember how affectionate they were when small and have heard them a short time since talking of the same things, how they used to kiss you when you had been gone but said they dare not do it now they believed you disliked that childish fondness. Harriet ^{too} tells the girls of the meeting of M^r Williams and his children at M^r Slater and how affectionate they were. I could plainly read what was passing in their minds and often tell them that people were not all a like and it was not the difference in the love but in the manner of showing it. yet I must say that when I have looked at the children when all here together and thought to my self you little thought how much information you might give them by being a little more familiar in your manner. I hope you will be firm in your resolution and that we shall all be permitted to meet and participate in all those benefits which we have so often shared together through the mercy of the great wise God. often do I think that it is my duty much more than yours to acknowledge my errors in disposition but will not attempt at this time; we have the measles in the family and five of our children is to have it excepting Carl P. you will hardly know our little son he runs all over and begins to talk he has never had a sick hour yet. I hear that M^r Slater continues to gain he has not returned from Wilmington. I believe M^{rs} Sanford expects the Major this evening I think I rejoice for her it has been a matter of doubt whether they ever met here his health is very poor we have nothing of importance respecting our domestic concerns we have 2 Calves and one Lamb very smart we have had no Lambs but this is a week at

the Town officers I suppose Josh has mentioned I know but little
about them I believe however that the Edge of white masonry
is rather dabb'd in this Town and you will join with me when you
are told that they have taken in to the Baptist Church one
of the Fraternity without a renunciation the man is Capt John
the you may make your own comments
I must close it is again a time to go to the office

I remain your ever true and constant
Martha Finch

From Isaac Finch