

Washington, March 20, 1833.

Dear Martha

The pleasing sensations produced in my mind, (by anticipating the pleasure, that it was in my power to produce, in your sensitive heart, by a description of the Beauties exhibited at the ushering in of this sacred Morning, and the precious doctrines taught in a most interesting Sermon, which I had that moment returned from hearing, and about to resume my pen, to attempt to describe were in a moment dissipated, by a sudden gleam, which the Receipt of Harriet's Letter, containing your story, cast over every pleasing prospect, and the buoyant heart that had been basking in the sunshine of anticipated pleasure, sunk at once into my desponding Bosom. Distracting thoughts succeeded; and for a while, that fortitude of soul which has hitherto sustained me through every trial, in disappointment, and in danger, seem to seek Refuge in some frigid Bosom, and leave me to contemplate, through the remaining span of life, ~~at~~ the darkest scenes, of human wretchedness! - but these scenes are over, for in that most unhappy condition of man left to his own Reflection, the interfering thought of a special Protecting Providence; dissipated the Gleam, and restored me again to Reason; and I again view with delight, by the eye of Faith, the Bow of promise behind the storm; and altho' I am deprived of the pleasure of participating; in the administration of comfort, to your wants in this critical moment. Still I humbly submit to the trying dispensation, when I reflect that in



addition to all the kind assistance, which the Filial  
affections of our Beloved Children, will prompt them to be-  
-stow, and the well known Benevolence, of our Friends &  
Neighbours, will induce them to offer; that we have the most  
Cheering promise of our Blessed Lord, in whom I know you  
Trust. that "he will never forsake them, that Trust in him  
"and that he will make their Beds in sickness," and that  
you are as safe in his hands in my absence, as you could  
be, were I constantly watching at your Bed side; but still  
notwithstanding "I know the Judge of all the Earth will do  
Right," the weakness of human Nature is such, that I shall  
Break the seal of every letter, with a trembling hand, until  
I receive the pleasing intelligence of your Recovery, but  
give yourself no uneasiness on any account. Harriet  
wished to know when it was probable that I should Return  
we have passed a Resolution to adjourn on the seventeenth  
of May, and sent it to the Senate, should they pass it. which  
I think probable, we shall adjourn on that day, and in ten  
days after I hope to see home; my Narratives hereafter will  
of necessity be few and short, as I have but a little time  
to write, we meet at eleven o'clock and frequently sit  
until six, the mornings I have to spend at the public  
offices, to transact business, which is daily accumulating  
on my hands, and the evening, is the only time I can devote  
to the answering <sup>of</sup> the many letters, which I receive daily  
out of which time I have occasionally to steal a few moments  
from my constituents, for your Benefit; The weather still  
continues warm, the Fields are quite green, and the Birds are  
opening upon the Trees, this is like a summer evening in  
the North; I wrote to Justice my wishes respecting the



Business of the Farm, and will answer him fully  
to any enquiry he may wish to make, Respecting the  
Spring crops &c, but as the clock has announced the approach  
of another Morning, I must close for the present, and the  
-ten "I am ever well, so wishes he  
that is more yours than he may seem to be,"

Murtha Finch

Isaac Finch

P.S. my health is still good