

Washington Janry 15th 1831

Dear Mother

As none but ^{an} anxious Parent, can duly appreciate the inestimable blessing, of a child grown to the years of Womanhood, without giving Rise to an bitter pang, in the beaming Bosom, or extorting our warm regret from the darting eye, of perhaps a too Indulgent Father; it would be vanity in me, to attempt to describe to your understanding the grateful, and pleasing sensations, which the renewed pledges of your Filial Affections, inspired in the Parental bosom; whilst this blessing is perpetuated; no Father can be comfortless, strip of every flattering prospect which Wealth could promise, or Ambition inspire. Deploring the embarrassed condition of his Financial concerns: either from misfortune; or perhaps his own Indiscretion; which may eventually result in a privation of all the luxuries, and perhaps of many of the comforts of life, descending at the same time all the horrors of a detestable Prison, and a Family in want! The throbbing heart and the sleepless eye, upon the midnight Pillow, suddenly find sweet Repose from the consideration, that even in poverty and distress (being unconscious of an honest heart in his own bosom) he can find a safe Retreat in the confidence and Affections of a virtuous Family; such is the blessing which Heaven in Mercy hath bestowed on me, and which is in some Measure in your power to perpetuate and notwithstanding the firm confidence which I repose in your stern Virtue, still I tremble when I reflect upon the excitements which are daily presenting

met with in the streets of this dear City, for in the his-
tory of Individuals composing these Groups of wretched Females
there are thousands whom we can trace back to an eminence
as high as that which you now hold in Community, or in
the confidence and affections of your stony Parents, which in
an evil hour, by one imprudent act, or an unguarded step
have in that fatal moment been hurried from their enviable
condition, into the Verst ^{of} Ruin and disgrace, and sealed to
Perdition. And there is nothing could have given me
more pleasure than ^{to} learn in this most critical, and I may
add, most dangerous period of your life, that common
prudence, hath dictated an Appeal to the counsels of your
Father, and I can assure you dear Mother that at the many
may be found more adequate to the important Task. Yet none
can ~~do it~~ ^{counsel you} with greater sincerity or more pleasure than him
whose life has thus far been devoted to his Friends, and
who still considers the duty he owes to his Family
paramount to every other Earthly consideration, and last
-ingly connected with that which is due to his God

Perhaps you may be somewhat surprised when I state
that from in view of the foregoing considerations in regard
to the critical period of life through which you are now
passing, ~~you have no cause for alarm~~, for as long as you
suffer Reason to Reign over the Empire of your heart, and
permit Prudence, Modesty, Virtue, humility, & self-denial
to constitute its cabinet counsel, you will find no
difficulty in suppressing Insurrection within or Repel-
-ling Invasion, of the enemy without. Prudence the

handmaid of Virtue, and the Prime Minister
of Reason; standing upon the Watch Tower of this
Republic of Moral Virtues, will never fail. like a
faithful Sentinel. to give timely notice of every
approaching danger. and her Faithful Associates
in arms, will ever be found ~~standing~~ ^{standing} around the Stan-
-dard of Blessing Innocence, at the first alarm, rea-
-dy to Repel, the united effort of all the enemies of virtue
in their united attacks upon the Object of their
special charge, and at the same ^{time}, their Foes are
so judiciously disposed, as not to leave any point
of attack Vulnerable. If Pride should assail you
with all his train of Avarice, Armed with the quiv-
-ering Weapons of Wealth and haughty parade. Humil-
-ity at one look, puts him to flight. If sensual
pleasure, attempts to stir up an insurrection among
the inordinate passions, ^{wisdom} stern virtue will crush them
to dust, should dissimulation attempt to enter the
 recesses of the heart Modesty and honor, would meet
her at the threshold, and forbid an entrance, and thus you
will perceive that with so wise an Executioner, as Reason
and so skillful a Commander, ^{(with} all the Moral
Virtues at his command) as Prudence, that you have
nothing to fear, so long as you permit them to
govern the Empire of your heart. and which, as you
you beyond the happiness of your soul and estate,
Parents, the welfare and Reputation of your Relations and
Friends. The counsels of the wise, and the precepts

of our Holy Religion, and as you wish happiness
here and Salvation hereafter, I have the fullest con-
fidence you will do, in preference of the short
lived pleasures which time and sense can bestow, in
the gratifications ^{of every} sensual propensity, of the human
heart which will end in wretchedness here, and
Eternal misery hereafter.

With all the Counsels I impart
you, find you obtain a humble share
of those affections of the heart
that spring, but, from Paternal love

Your Obedient Parent

Catharine Finch

Isaac Finch