

Philadelphia Jan 3rd 1811-

The New Year has found me your debtor, My Dear Friend but it has not brought me funds to discharge my account with the liberality I could wish. so you must draw for the balance out of the old stock of everlasting fellowship, we two have sworn to maintain through the beginnings & endings of all our years, and give me credit for having thought of you as often, and as kindly as ever I did in my life. tho' I remember the time when I could not have rested in my bed if I had omitted to write two days after the receipt of a letter from you - but the days of enthusiasm, and ^{the} beautiful artificial decoration with which we draped up our friendship are fading away together as in the course of nature they must - but do not look grave about it - there were only the raddling bands its infancy required, now it has grown to strength enough to be supported without them, we should only look on them as other beautiful little ornaments fancy has invented to disguise weaknesses or defects which ought not to meet the eye.

After all this you will not expect me to be unhappy with fears that you have supposed I had forgotten you - and that you have returned the compliment, or that I should apologise for all the hours I have wildly wasted, when I might have employed them in writing - Alas! when I am brought to this account, I shall be badly off indeed, but apology & subterfuge will then be of no avail and I seem to take advantage of my friend & my conscience, because nature affords me

a veil before them, which is punishable and ~~would~~ one day fall
and disprove all the deists I practice under it.

Washington & Brewster are making a great figure here, they
are ^{with every body} pleased, and every body are pleased with them. I never saw W.
more animated or agreeable, but I believe they will separate here.
Brewster is obliged to return home instead of going to The City, unless
something should come to call Washington back or detain him in Phil.
he will fulfil his intention tho' I do not believe he expects to be much
gratified in his northern jaunt. Ann is in high spirits with
the expectation of seeing Mary Fawcett, and Eliza is not absolutely
miserable from a hint she has received that the fashion
of visiting Phil.^a is likely to extend itself a little farther in to her
circle of friends. She is very well and appears to be happy & contented
tho' our retired manner of life does not afford her ^{an} opportunity to
shine where she is fitter to be admired.

Our friend Isabella Boden is in town, but in such miserable spirits
that she refuses to go out, except to church, she has not even been
here, tho' she knows we are as retired as she is at her sister's. I really
apprehend that her health will be sacrificed. When the Old Lady comes
to town I will pay my love to her, and tell her I am endeavoring
to get names to her subscription paper, but will thank her
to let me know when she wishes to have it returned.

Washington will not let us see the picture, he says it has
been spoiled & is in the finishing, and means to have it altered on his
return. I hope yours is more fortunate. Mr Brewster will tell

Jan 3 1811

Ph



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