Savannah Jany 5th 1827

Dear Henrietta

Though perhaps unexpected, I trust a few lines from me will not be regarded as otherwise, in fact, I am so vain as to think they will meet with a kind welcome, I already consider you as a sister, & feel for you a warm paternal interest — perhaps it is reciprocated by you, I am sure it is to such an extent, as to feel an anxiety for my welfare, & a curiosity to know how I am faring — But I send these few lines more particularly with the view of making them serve as a kind of bait to elicit an answer, & thus prove the prelude to a correspondence wh I hope we may be able to keep up. — Girls you know are famous for their tact at writing letters, & as I am no stranger, you can without any ceremony or reserve put y accomplishment in practice. It will be gratifying to me & perhaps instructive to

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Miss Henrietta Whittelsey

New Haven

you. It certainly is a very important part of education, & as you have been heretofore averse to it — suppose you practise it more — Give me such a proof then of your regard for me, as to answer this.

Savannah is a perfect Eden, & even your Aunt Betsey, if she were to see it, wd concur with me. I am confident she would be pleased with the manners of the people, for they possess all that sociability & warmth of feeling which characterises the south —

The weather has been extremely cold for some days past — in fact I have felt the cold more sensibly, than I ever did at the North — the transition from heat to cold is not so gradual as with you, which is the reason why it is more perceptible.

On my arrival here, every thing wore a novel aspect — the verdure of the orange trees laden with their golden fruit — the full blown roses & flowers of every kind which bedecked the woods, presented a strong & pleasing contrast to the barren scenery of a northern winter — still with all its beauties & advantages, my thoughts & wishes are at the north — until I have Caroline here, I shall be discontented with every thing. I received a letter from her a few days since, she was very well, but under the necessity of taking daily potions of Bark to keep off the Chills — She informed me that your mother had reached Trenton — I should like to know if your Aunt Betsey had any difficulty with that man in Norwalk from whom she had a note — let me know what what was the issue —

This is thanksgiving day — I suppose it is a matter of astonishment that we are grateful enough to observe such a day — there is less ostentation here than in some other parts of the world, but full as much piety — the place does not deserve the reputation for bad morals that it has acquired at the nor[illegible] I trust that one of these days [illegible] may be [illegible] to judge in person [illegible] its me[illegible]

Let me know what studies you & Lucy are pursuing — every little incident respecting y[illegible] both & your Aunt Betsey will be very gratifying — I am very sure that were I a relation, I could not feel a greater interest for you all — Give my love to your Aunt & Lucy. & believe me Dr Henrietta

Yours affectionately

J G Seymour

Troy 19 February 1836

My Dear Sister

It is nearly a month since your affectionate letter of 1st Jany. came to hand; and I am really ashamed of myself for not having answered it before. It would have been done immediately, were it not that I expected, in the course of a week, to be able to inform you something definite about my business prospects; as a negociation was then going on, for me to go into business with Mr. Knox, and a third person - but owing to several causes, it has lingered along, expecting that every coming day, or at least a week longer, we should come to some final decision in regard to the third person, at whose instance we have delayed thus long. In this state of affairs I have put off writing you from time to time, until I can delay no longer - Although I cannot now tell you the name of this third partner, I can tell you that next month will see me established with Mr. Knox, in the Wholesale dry goods business with as fair prospects before me, as I could desire. This connection is one that I have long wished to form - could I not have effected it this Spring, my purpose was to have gone to New York, where a salary of $1000.- a year was offered me by a very respectable house, to go as Book-keeper. - I was determined not to clerk it any longer in this city at least - My friend Danl. Peck is going to New York as clerk in Stewarts wholesale

have seen the subjects of the lectures - The two last papers sent, contain our report of our Executive Committee, showing the state of our affairs, and ~~the~~ other the names of officers Elected for this coming year - You wished to know about Mrs. Bliss - She has spent the winter at her Sisters, Mrs. Heaths, (in Troy) but has been confined to the house entirely - her health has hardly improved by the long continued confinement and cold weather - Miss Bliss is well - Mrs. Fitch also is well & sends love to you & Care - Miss Mary Heath also desired me to give her love to you when I wrote - Met her a few evenings since at a party - was very well - Do you & Care think of coming to the North this Spring? - I have tried hard to get Sister Mary to send Eliza to Troy to School - hope she has concluded to do so - I expect to go to Jamaica next month & if she has, shall bring her up with me - I am satisfied it will be much for her benefit - Recd. a letter from little Sam, a short time ago - he had just been home on a visit. - Shall commence taking our inventory in a day or two - not a very pleasant work I assure you - Give great deal of love to dear Sister Care & to the children, reserving a share for yourself & believe me as ever your affectionate brother John.

Miss Amanthia M. Whitlock
Care of Saml. J. Seymour Esq.
Macon
Geo.

store in Broadway, next month – that is, he is to attend to the Whole-sale department in the store (which Stewart has added this year). So our "gude" folks at Jamaica will probably have frequent visits from him. Our Mr. Morgan too, is going to New York very soon, to establish himself in business there. I shall be the only gentleman boarder left at Mr. Fitch's – I am sorry to see by the papers, that you are to be deprived of brother Isaac's company (for a short time at least) whilst he and his brave companions go to the assistance of their brethren in Florida – A very short time, no doubt, will suffice to bring the Indians to terms – so that his absence will not be long – still sister Caro & you must miss him very much – at the same time you cannot but commend, as I do, his patriotic spirit. I see the name of Mr. Day, among others who have generously contributed means for the comfort of the Macon Volunteers – I was very much pleased indeed with the short acquaintance I made with him last Summer, & esteem him & also his lady very highly – please make my best regards to them, and give little Charley a kiss for me. – Billy Seymour, you say, attends School at the Academy – better put him in Mayor during the absence of his father! Lucy Ann has no doubt informed you of the intelligence rec.d from brother William – that his health and spirits were much improved – I was rejoiced to hear it, & shall expect soon to hear again, as there is a packet now in from Havre – You wished to know how I passed New Year day & how many calls made – Well it was passed right merrily I assure you: in company with three other gentlemen, I made ninety seven calls! but at some of these places I never called before, and never expect to again – So much for the custom – There was an unusual number of gentlemen out making an unusual number of calls this day, as you may well suppose – Our party accomplished more, perhaps, than did many others, owing to our having a sleigh in attendance, into which we tumbled whenever any considerable distance intervened between one stopping place and the next. Troy has been quite gay this winter, notwithstanding the extreme severity of the weather – only think of turning out to attend parties, the thermometer at 18 and 22 degrees below zero! but this has been done repeatedly – While you perhaps are complaining of the heat – if you are, this I hope will cool you. And then the snow in which we are litterally buried, must not be forgotten – its average depth is at least 6 feet – our streets present an extraordinary appearance, where, in many places, the snow has been shovelled from the side walks, it lie
piled up to the height of 10 or 15 feet. This will make a terrible fres
it causes to go off suddenly in the Spring – Snow has fallen every Sun
year – and eve Monday morning following, has found me
work, sho from the side walks around our sto.
parties and Sociables that have been given this winter,
up the circulation of bloo in our veins – though I have
of them. Numerous parti & concerts have also contri
severity of this unprecedent inter – Mrs. Willard's exam
ended – I attended three ternoons – saw Mr. Baldwin's
scholars (but not to spea to her) She appeared in goo
to be a concert at the Seminary tomorrow evening. so a gran
concert is to be given Monday evening next in one of our churches, where the best musical talents of our city will be brought forth – I shall attend both – You know I seldom allow entertainments of this kind to pass unimproved. The lectures delivered before the "Young men's association", this winter have been remarkably well attended as well as uncommonly interesting – I have frequently sent you papers, by which you must

doors and the rest of the things when I go in the fall if I am well enough everything seems a burthen to me I can not bear fatigue as I once could May expects next Month without any preparation no nurse engaged how she will do I know not Mrs Vanranstalin has a fine Daughter all very well - give my best love to Isaac and tell him he must take care of himself love to all friends and accept a great deal to yourself from your ever

affec - Mother E W -

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Miss Henrietta M. Whitlock
Care of Isaac G. Seymour Esq
Macon
Geo.

JAMAICA
JUL 7
N.Y.

Dear Sis - As they have left me a little corner only to fill up - I can but say I am very well & enjoying myself very much in the Society of our dear family - all that's wanting to complete my happiness, is the presence of the rest of you who are in Macon. I hope another Summer will see you at the North - I sent my portrait last Saturday week pr Ship Celia from N. York to the care of L. Baldwin & Co. Savannah to whom I wrote notifying of the same & requesting them to forw. it as soon as received - Give my best love to all & believe me ever yr. aff brother W. H. W.

All's well! Jamaica July 6th 1835

My dearest Het.

Your letter was a great heartease to me for I had thought that Brother Isaac would certainly write as soon as he got home but it is as I expected his business prevents him and your engagements you, from writing - so I will not worry about you - we were all delighted to hear that little Cara was so much better I suppose she has cut all the teeth that she will have for some time and can consequently expect better health you are now I suppose in the Country enjoying yourselves - I do not know that I shall ever get your box ready Mama says I shall not let Miss Clements make your dresses and Miss Irwin is very busy - Miss Simmson confines herself to her Millinery has dismissed all her girls - as soon as I can get them made I will box & send - tell Mrs Higgins I have searched the city & cannot find any linen camb. trimming - of muslin & lace edgings there is a most miserable assortment there was some difficulty in the importation and most of that kind of goods were sent back to England or France from whence they came - I was in Town four times last week and know the contents of most of the stores in Maiden Lane Broadway & William St. Oh what a horrible work this shopping business is I would rather go without clothes than to have to buy them - tell Cara there is nothing there that comes in the place of berage they buy nothing but the Challys & Muslins or Cambrics I have got her a blue painted cambric & you a purple one & also white dresses for both, they wear surplice waists a great deal - but you will scold if I tell you much more about the fashions before telling you that Brother John is with us and has been here a week yesterday evening - looks tolerably well - two of his Troy friends dined with us the other day a Miss Farmer & her Aunt the former was the young lady that he kept playing so continually for him when he was crazed she is a very agreeable sociable young lady & rather pretty - On the fourth we had our fair made seventy dollars - went to hear the Oration by William Cogswell Esq pretty shallow was as much as I had expected from him but you have not had an introduction to the said gentleman — he has black hair, eyes & whiskers a very good figure, that is all — he can make himself indifferently interesting — Mr Cogswell, Miss Whittocke — we have had two little tea fights at home and Mrs Gracie has given one Mrs Shelton will give another first of this week — John Shelton is now here — quite an agreeable little fellow — we can muster quite a number of beaux this summer — Jamaica is coming out. we have a dancing school Master Mr Whale — a band of music almost as good as yours and a company of cavalry that could trample yours into nothing — all the girls look about the same — have grown much more sociable than they were — Your little Henry lies on the bed before me I do not believe you would own him I really do not think the child has "good sense" it is impossible to make him learn any thing he will stand before you and wink his great big blue eyes with no more expression in them than the same quantity of blue china I have not seen any eyes that could be thought of in the same day with Will's since I left you — you must give him a heap of kisses from me & my little sweetest of all Twinks — I have got a little Hat for her hope I shall be able to send it before long — you can't think how much I've wanted to see her — I have been not a little troubled with the blue devils since I've been here but shall try to conquer them — I shall not expect any more letters from any of you — but when they come (if such should be the case) shall allow myself to be agreeably disappointed — it seems so long. so very very long since I left you and have received but one letter — Mama wishes to write & as it is time that I should be equipped for church I must bid you good bye — remember me to all inquiring friends — you cannot imagine how lonely I am at times I did not think I could miss you so much so very much — just at evening when we were accustomed to promenade through the hall I go down stairs Ma & Mary is with the children Aunt in her room or visiting and leave me all alone — then it is that the eyes begin to ~~overflow~~ & I think of you all & almost wish myself with you — I must bid you good bye or Aunt B. will look wondering if I am not ready — shall try & make her write — Love to each and all. do write often to your

affectionate sister Lucy —

Tell Brother Isaac I do not call postscripts writing. has Carr been on

[illegible] Mary [illegible] Lucy

My Dearest Children

we were all rejoiced to hear from you but I have been distressed to think how much poor little Lucy must suffer this extreme hot weather I am afraid you will get sick with the fatigue you must necessarily have and in your situation is doubly trying. I wish I could be with you — but I do not know as I could be of much service to you as the hot weather prostrates my strength entirely the thermometer stood yesterday [illegible] to day is still very hot I do not feel well enough to go to Church. I feel very much concerned about Isaac Lucy says he is not well he must Doct. himself insist upon it before he is so reduced that medicine will have no effect. do write often we shall feel anxious to hear from you — we have had a fatiguing summer and for the last week more particularly so, as you know the fourth of July is our great fair I expected every day that Mary would give out as most of the preparation for it came upon her but she has stood it remarkably well the children are all well. I do not think Lucy has given a correct account of Henry what child would not be stupid that was suffered to let their mind run to waste without any discipline as he is, but I am in hopes they will have a good school for him. we have been troubled for servants as usual and seems as if we could not get time to do anything but housework I am in hopes Lucy will be able to get the things that are most necessary ready to send