

Mary Badger Hopes to See her Mother Again, 15 March 1784 (excerpt)

Honored Madam,

In all Probability you have not heard from me for some time past which I fear you will Impute to my Negligence in not writeing but am sure you will Excuse me when I tell you it is Owing Intirely to the severity of the Season Which has been greater then ever was known by the oldest Person in this Place it has been such as to cut of all Communication between us & Every other Part of the globe for some time past [...]

People in General in this Place are much Reduced by the War Being invested by British Ships during the Seige of Boston & soon after by the Continental army then by the British army for near three years then by the French fleet & army for upwards of a year. this succession of military armaments has drove Numbers of the most Wealthy from there homes to which they Never mean to Return. the Houses in this town were originally well built but are now going to ruin as fast as Possible every thing has the Appearance of Poverty the only Publick Building here that has been kept in decent Repair is the English Church & this happend from accidental Curcumstances not from the wealth of the People who Worship in that house as thay are not ble at Present to give any Person the smallest Consideration for officiateing for them [...]

I should not have been so Particular in giveing you an Acount of this Place but am sure you will be Anxious to know Whether whether we mean to Remain here or know not from the hints I have given you will Naturally Conclude it will not answer I think it more likely then not I may spend the Summer here myself [...]

My Dear mother do not allow Yourself to be distressed about me or mine we shall all do very well I have not the least Doubt let the World go as it will. give yourself no pain concerning us but endeavour by all means to make your Life as Comfortable & happy as possible & rest assured that nothing can give me more Real pleasure than to hear of your being contented in your Present Situation Acquiescing in that Dispensation of Providence Which keeps you seperated from some part of your family. I am Determind to Indulge the Pleasing Idea that we Shall not always be at this Unhapy Distance from Each other. Whatever is my Lot I Shall Endeavour to Reconcile myself to it. you may Depend Upon it I shall not go from this Place till I have seen you Either in Boston or Haverhill [...]

While we are Indulgd With this Blessing we shall think ourselves very happy although Seperated from our nearest Connections. the Distress of the People at Newyork on account of Wood this

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winter has been beyond Description. Mr. Badger received a Letter from a friend there a few Days ago Who Says the Common Price was forty Dollors a Cord & it had been sold for Fifty & the Price of other articles were in Proportion thay do not Experience the sweets of Peace yet it was fortunate for us that we did not remain there. it has been sold hear for Eight Dollors which is a great Price the most that we have give has not Exceeded five as we layd in Sufficent in the fall but the Distress of the many poor People in this Place has been greater than any thing of the kind I ever knew before or hope I ever shall again & had not the harbour Opened as it did the Inhabitants in genneral Would have been Obliged to have burnt there Furniture I am afraid I shall tire your Patience With this long Letter for that Reason shall Conclude after beging you to give my kind love to My Brother & his Wife & my Compliments to Every friend.

Your Dutyfull Daughter,
Mary Badger
Newport, Rhode Island March 5th 1784

[Read the full letter.](#)