

Washington February 2^d 1842.

My dear Son

We give you credit for your punctuality in writing to us and perceive with pleasure that you are improving in composition - Your last letter, received day before yesterday, was very well expressed. Bessie too writes to us quite often and her last was written - not printed. As I answer the letters of both of you separately, you do not get them quite so often. I never sit down to write a letter, unless it be after nine o'clock at night, that I am not interrupted. We have a very agreeable family, and the ladies, when they happen to be at home, are much in the habit of visiting each others rooms - Yesterday morning I walked to the Capitol to see the funeral procession of Senator Dixon - It was quite an imposing scene, as it wound slowly around the hill. The Chaplains of both Houses of Congress - the attending Physician of the Senators and the Officers of both Houses with white hat bands and scarfs, the Delegation from Rhode Island with black silk scarfs and caps on their arms and hats - the pall bearers - the Judges of the Supreme Court in their robes of office, the President and his Cabinet - and the members of the House of Representatives made an array which evinced to all beholders that a man of high station had gone to his long resting place. After the funeral we walked to Mr Websters, the distance of more than a mile, to pay our respects after the party of last Thursday. The Winter has been so fine

that the ladies very generally prefer paying their visits
on foot, to riding - In the evening all the drawing rooms of
the White House were opened for the reception of Company, in
honour of Miss Tyler who was married on the evening previous in
presence of her family friends and the ~~assisted~~ ^{of the cabinet} gentlemen & ladies.
We had an invitation from Mrs General Gaines to a party on the
same evening and intended to have passed an hour at each place.
We found a brilliant assemblage at the White House and were
so well amused with the gaiety of the scene and
the fine promenade the East room afforded and the good
music, that it was quite too late when we left, for quiet
Country people to mingle again in another gay thing -
To-morrow night Mrs Michliffe gives another party - but I
do not like these late hours, nor a round of fashionable eve-
ning parties - and shall not go -

Tell Miss Hull I shall always like Boston for the sake of
Governor Armstrong who is boarding with us - He is a warm
hearted Christian, a polite gentleman and a great friend
with us ladies. He beams us about at the parties and is
always ready to sit & chat with us in the drawing room.
We shall be sorry enough when he takes his departure -
I was in the library of the Capitol some ~~time~~ ^{time} since and
opened a book which contained the life of Michael Angelo
(a celebrated Italian painter and Sculptor) - in which I found
this anecdote. He was employed by the Pope to execute a
mausoleum which was to be placed in St Peter's Church.
The conception and execution of this work was magnificent;
but it was found too large to be placed in that part of the

church for which it was designed - It was therefore proposed to take down and rebuild that part of the Church. It was found however that this would be so expensive and would not when completed harmonize with the rest of the building, that the Pope concluded to rebuild the whole Church in its present magnificent form - Many years elapsed before this great work could be finished and so immense was the expense of it that it was necessary to resort to some unusual means to raise money. The sale of indulgences was undertaken which led to the Reformation - Such was the remote cause of that great event which agitated all Europe & overthrew the vast power of the Romish Church -

Your letters are written in so cheerful a tone and you seem so well contented that we have few anxious feelings about you - Be very careful not to add to your Colds & thus increase your cough - If it be frequent or troublesome use liquorice ball - If that will not allay it I think Laudanum and molasses will - We hope, in your next letter to hear that you are quite free from it - It seems a long time since we parted from you and we think and speak often of the pleasure of seeing our little family assembled again in our own pleasant home - From my heart I pity people who have no home they can call their own - It is the spot where all our best affections centre and where our happiest hours are passed - Be thankful my dear Son that you have a home and Parents and friends who love you dearly and cherish you fondly - You will find nothing like it when you come to struggle and act in the busy world.

I have written you a long letter - too long - I will try to write
often and shorter - Love to Miss Hull and all - Father
sends his best love - Tell George he has not performed his
promise to his Aunt - Good night my dear Son -

Your affectionate Mother

E. U. Osborne

Master Arthur Osborne

Fairfield

Connecticut