

Springfield, Ill  
Mar. 9<sup>th</sup> 176.

My Dear Friend Your letter came to hand in due time, should have been answered forthwith but for my inability to write, owing to sickness. I am sorry to say that I have not been able to get to see your mother, my last effort to see her was before Christmas, since then I have not been able to go out, and for some very trivial cause, she does not come

here which I regret so much, had hoped to see her often. Mr Smith never meets her, but commissions me to say to you, altho your mother does not seem to require the care of a Hospital, she is entirely unfit to transact business, his opinion is that in one year she would indiscriminately spend much of her means - her infatuation is buy, buy, without any object, save to pack away, and Mrs E says she does it very clandestinely not letting them see or know what her purchases are, she bonds &c, she is extremely anxious to have control of &c, Your uncle



would be glad to see you, before  
or immediately he returns from East  
I think in relation to placing her bonds  
securely in Mr Bunni's hands. You  
will understand what I mean, better  
than I can express it. You speak  
of your poor Mother's distracted mind  
in relation to you. another instance of  
her weakness, I think unless it could  
be with some one whose advice she  
could respect, and who could influence  
her in relation to you, it would only  
give you pain to meet her, before I did  
not feel that I could tell you — to me  
she has spoken mildly, but in my presence  
she often alluded to you bitterly  
but my dear friend in her present  
state of mind she is certainly not  
accountable for what she does or says  
Your aunt and family seem devoted  
to her, and are uniting in their kindness  
but even they, have much to bear, and  
in the goodness of their hearts they are  
uncomplaining — Your uncle says to  
avoid meeting your poor Mother in  
her present state of mind, come to his  
house quietly — he seems anxious to see  
you. Remember me kindly to your  
dear good little wife. Sincerely your  
friend  
W. A. P. Garrison