

Washington Jan. 22<sup>d</sup> 1821

(18)  
My dear Eunice,

The last account I have received from Craftsberry was contained in Samuel's letter dated Jan. 3<sup>d</sup>, which gives me a more encouraging account of his health than I had been prepared to receive. Besides that I had one from Mr Young and one also from Mr Clarke, each of which speak of Samuel's situation, and Mr Clarke particularly informs me he has conversed with the Physicians, who he says speak with much assurance, that he will eventually get the better of his disease - It is natural for a parent to seize upon every favorable circumstance, which shall attend the sickness of a child, and there is no person, perhaps, less likely to despair so long as there is the least favorable prospect, to build upon, than myself. I am not however insensible that sickness and death must sooner or later overtake us all, and separate us from each other - which of us is to be the first victim is known only to omniscience. If it should be my fortune to survive any of my dear and beloved family, I hope I shall be able to submit to the stroke as becomes a rational and reflecting being - God grant that we may be long spared this trial!

Now I must enquire what is the state of your health? I greatly fear that watching care and anxiety will impair what little health and strength you have heretofore possessed, and I tremble lest I shall hear that, in addition to Samuel's sickness, you also are on a sick bed. I must conjure you to spare yourself from fatigue and care as much as you possibly can; I say nothing of anxiety because that is beyond your control - You can procure as much help as you may desire, & I beg you not to ~~take~~ undertake too much ~~upon~~ yourself.