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Washington Decr 24th 1821-

Dear Samuel,

Owing I suppose to the badness of the traveling, which at this season of the year often retards the mails, your letter of the 13th did not arrive until this day, it ought to have come to hand yesterday or the day before - I therefore postponed writing to you until this day in hopes of hearing from home. I am extremely sorry to learn by it that your old complaint, the rheumatism, still continues to afflict you; I hope, and cannot help believing, that, when the weather shall have become more steady and uniform, you will be relieved from it. It gives me some consolation to learn that the family are as well as when I left home, I did hope to hear that your Mamma was improving in her health; but at the same time I was fearful that it might become worse. I hope that Hannah Paddock will be prevailed upon to spend part of her time ~~at home~~ at our house. I believe it would be a great comfort to your Mamma, ~~and altho~~ ~~it~~

Your letters have come regularly once a week & I wish you to continue writing as you have begun - you need be under ^{no} ~~any~~ apprehension, that any thing you write will prove uninteresting to me - I see nothing by your letters, but that every thing relating to the business of the family, farm &c. goes on well - It seems that Mr Tolman has left the store, and William P. has taken charge of it - I am sorry for Tolman - for I can think of no business which he can engage in at present, by which he can support his family - And as it respects William, if he only tarrys this winter, it may