

Philad. Jan. 25 1839

Dear Mother

Being rather well at times than usual I am disposed to answer a thing in the form of a letter which I received with your initials dated 23<sup>d</sup> but was so badly written that (as is said sometimes) I could scarcely make head or tail of it - but I perceived at the commencement that the expressions used were rather satirical in their meaning therefore I have no reason to complain of this but shall expect all future communications to be written in a more eligible hand. I have enjoyed very good food the since I came to Philad. but as there is a reason for every thing else there is a reason for this. I cannot get hold of any thing to make me sick - I am a perfect stranger to cakes-pies and even to warm biscuits. It is rather a tough case barely to eat to live all the time and never <sup>time to eat</sup> - well (meaning those who board at the boarding houses) never get any apples or any thing of that kind except when some friend gives through pity and I assure you that is but seldom - But I except as us being invited to watch

with our cups (which we accepted) —  
took the advantage of the time — being  
left alone we commenced our operations  
by a slice of bread and butter pie  
and apples so sufficient to make a  
meal for a half a dozen men if they  
could not eat to much — We began upon  
the apples and soon devoured them  
without making the <sup>least</sup> impression towards  
appeasing our appetites — but rather  
invigorated them to call for more we there  
fore commenced upon the pie — (We went upon  
the principle of having the best all time  
as the man bid his pork) and dispatched that  
we get was our ravenous appetites satisfied  
we then had recourse to the bread which  
after toasting and buttering well, we eat  
and finally cleared the plate — But we were  
still with a conceiving appetite so that by  
morning our hunger became so intense as to  
be beyond endurance — therefore as we would  
be naturally suppose we began to look for  
something to eat — one going to cellar the  
other to the cupboard & pantry &c but to our  
disappointment found nothing but knowing  
that we could not stand it till morning  
my comrad started off for something — and  
I began to ramage about me placard and other

and accidentally found tea sugar and milk  
in abundance my mate soon returned with a  
few pies and some cakes - then our materials  
being collected we proceeded to business and  
passed the balance of the night in a convivial  
city of the first order - This being the first  
trip that I have been in - have not lost  
~~any~~ but little time from my studies - I  
have had invitations to two balls <sup>one at</sup>  
Huron - the other here at Wilson - and also  
invitations to several evening visits -  
The school is in a prosperous condition it  
contains between seventy and eighty -  
pupils about twenty young men and  
about as many young ladies and  
ballance children - I have examined  
my former studies - and am now attending  
to Algebra - Astronomy and Bookkeeping  
I expect take up Surveying next term  
if there is a class - I should like to  
know if Pa will support ~~me~~  
me here next term if I should wish  
to stay - Give my respects to all inquirers

Wm Johnson

P.S. I should like to have my best black  
~~handkerchief~~ handkerchief brought out to Lyons  
and left at the Seymours