

1818+

W^o John Lefferts

Hempstead

Long Island

6th September 1818

6th



Strait near Beaufort Sept^r 6th 1818

Dear Brother, Sister & Niece,

With weak nerves, dim Eyes & a trembling hand I undertake this joint, and last, address to you my ever dear relatives and friends, On the 2nd Sept^r instant I rec^d your Letters of the 12th & 15th of July last which I read with usual satisfaction. I return my grateful acknowledgments for this and all other favours of every kind which you have from time to time confided upon me, In a former Letter I believe I informed you of the uncommon degree of health I had been blessed with for a number of years past, this continued without ^{much} interruption till Sept^r last when I was somewhat indisposed for some days which was followed by a privation of strength & loss of appetite & a slight fever I nevertheless walked about house for a week when my fever & weakness confined ^{me} to my bed and progressively increased until I verily thought myself dying and took my leave of my friends who were present, nevertheless it pleased God to continue ^{me} longer in this world altho' my hearts desire daily prayer was to depart, during the course of this fever I never had any pain ^{or} other distressing symptoms but ^{enjoyed} perfect quietness & composure both of body and mind but while in a state of recovery I endured much pain and disquiet, but altho much weaker and infirm than I have usually been I have enjoyed a tolerable degree of health during the ^{summer}, but have had an impression on my mind ever since my recovery that I should not survive more than 1 year, if so much, this

this impression still continues, and as I feel nearly the same
symptoms with which my sickness commenced last year I have reason to think
that my pilgrimage on earth is nearly at an end, I am still re-
conciled to my fate and sincerely pray that Gods will may be
done. My grandson John Shellen died last fall the rest of
my family here are I believe in health, I have lived to be so
much a ^{stranger} to the world that I know but very little of ^{what} papers even
in the neighbourhood where I live and am so hard of hearing
that I do not understand a word of what is said in the key
of common discourse even in the house where I reside,
When you I have made you a visit I have always considered that
biding you farewell was the most affecting scene that happened
I, lived to bid a final farewell ^{here} the far greatest part of my relations
and friends and I think I am the oldest person living of all
our family connections, why my life is spun out so far
beyond my wishes I cannot conceive but I cheerfully sub-
mit to the wise disposer of events knowing that I must
shortly bid a final adieu to the world and all that inhabit it,
and how much soever the tender feelings are excited I shall
conclude this my last Epistle by bidding you all an affec-
tionate and final Farewell. -- Farewell my dear brother
my Dear Sister & Niece -- Farewell for ever.

I am &c. - Saml. Leffers