

Beaufort August 8th 1806

D^r Brother

As the season approaches wherein I usually make my visits among you, (like the bird of passage), my attention is turned toward you with a friendly wish to enjoy, once more, the satisfaction of social conversation with my beloved Brethren, Sisters and Friends. The day of life with me, must be far spent and as I advance in years I find myself more attached to home and less capable of traveling, and therefore have but small hopes of ever seeing my native place again. It is the lot of human nature to be subject to many infirmities, and altho' I seldom trouble my friends with an acct of my complaints, yet as I have lately had some uncommon visitations and have but little else of consequence to relate, perhaps the change I have had of my approaching dissolution may prove acceptable. About 4 months ago I went to bed in good health and after a sleep of some hours I awoke in a situation which I cannot well describe, I had a very unusual feeling but on reflection found myself free from pain. I could breathe without difficulty, yet it did not seem to answer the end of respiration, my feet felt cold and I could perceive no pulsation in my arms, and I was impressed with the Idea that the spiritual part which I call myself was in the action of quitting its clay tenement. I endeavored to raise my head but finding it very giddy rested it on my pillow again and was at a loss to know whether it was best to awake my wife or to push myself in a posture to die in secret, but after one or two efforts more I raised myself and sat on the bed side, and my wife awaking asked what was the matter, I told her I had been thinking that the Father of mercies was about to grant the request I had often made (that is) that when it was his good pleasure, I might be removed hence without tedious pain and sickness to myself, and trouble to my friends. I was restless the remainder of the night, and continued indisposed for some time - had frequent returns of same disorder at irregular periods, which gradually growing ^{milder} at length recovered my health, I continued

tolerably well till about the last of May when after a comfortable night's rest I arose with no other complaint than a sensation of numbness in some parts of my face which I paid no attention to until I went to wash my mouth agreeable to my usual custom, when I found I could not sip the water and when I attempted to discharge it, it ran down my bosom, I repeated the attempt but found I had lost the use of the muscles of my mouth and one eye and could perceive a slight swelling on one side of my face but without any pain, I continued in this state for several days - I could not chew my food nor drink any other way than by pouring a small quantity into my mouth and holding my hand to my mouth until I swallowed it and I could only make use of food that could be taken in this way. After a few days the disorder removed from the right to the left side of my face and chiefly in my left eye - I could not close my eyelids - the eye ball became exquisitely tender so that I could neither bear the wind nor sunshine and I found great difficulty in covering it as the least touch was attended with pain. After continuing some weeks in this state I began to have some use of my lips & I have been mending but the recovery has been so slow that it is not yet complete - the disorder in my eye has been more obstinate - I cannot close my eyelids - my eye is extremely weak and my sight much impaired, so that I read and write with difficulty. I conclude my tedious narrative by devoutly praising the giver of all good for the use of my senses so long and for the comfortable hope of a sufficiency to answer my necessary purposes for the few days I have yet to live.

Dear Brother, I heartily wish you could make it agreeable to take George under your Guardianship and endeavour to put him in some way to learn to earn his living,

this

this would certainly be doing a charitable and friend-
-ly act for the poor boy and perhaps with but little
prevent disadvantage you might live to experience
that satisfaction which is often the reward of good
actions. As I have several boys under my care and
find myself almost unfit for any business, I tho't
as you have no children of your own and seem
by your letters to have a good opinion of George
you might agree to this proposal and thereby
greatly oblige an aged brother and an orphan child.

There follows an account of my third visitation.

Intend, it is written on a separate paper, and
-ed my friends in New York to see if I inclos-
Van Rostand desiring him, after reading it, to for-
you with this. Desiring to be remem-

Friends I am with sincere affection,

Sept 13th 1806

Sam^l.

1810

Sabrey & Co. N.Y.

Mr. John Lefferts

Delivered by
Capt. Duncan

Hempstead

Long Island