



Acton, Sept 15, 1821.

My very dear friends,

I send you a few curiosities from this my outlandish country. The first and largest is a rocking-chair, not a very splendid article, but such as they are commonly made. This I send for the use and benefit of your father and mother, with the warning to be careful not to tilt it too far back, or an overthrow may be the consequence. Such accidents having happened to your humble servant, when too deeply engaged in his own meditations, during the process of rocking; you may imagine their effect. There is also a box and basket for you, ornamented with porcupine quills by our Indians; and of the neatest patterns I could find. Such boxes are now much more scarce, than formerly, in consequence of the destruction of the porcupines. If the large

box be useful to you in its present form,
you may remove the top, and use
it as a table mat, for holding any
ornaments &c; a purpose for which they
are often employed, (They won't do to
put hot dishes upon) You will also
find a head of Indian corn, the produce
of your garden last summer, I wish I could
send it green that you might taste
that American luxury. I also take
the liberty of enclosing a parcel of stones
to Mr Rose, and another to Mr Boyd,
which you will much oblige me by
sending. I have filled up the box
with a kind of wild everlasting flower,
You must write to me on receiving
this, as I shall feel anxious to
hear of its safe arrival. As an in-
crement to which, I hereby give
the choice of the boxes, as well as
this letter, of course far more valu-
able, to whoever first answers it.

The summer has been gliding
away very quietly with me. Most of
my time has been occupied by my
business, but in spare hours I have
been variously employed, gathering and
collect preserving minerals or insects or
wild flowers, and of the latter I had be-
fore no idea that we had so many
so beautiful; or collecting a few notes
to send with your birds next summer,
which birds are now flying no one
knows where. I have also taken a
few sketches and tried to finish them
with ink, which I now like very much
as a drawing material. I would advise
you to use it instead of pencil. I have
of course been reading and, by way
of relaxation from Aeyer studies, some
old subjects. A few days ago I glanced
through two or three books for the
use of young ladies, entitled "Guides
to Etiquette" "Monitors" &c, and found in

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them some amusing things. Among
other subjects, I was much pleased
by an attack upon waltzing, which
I hope will soon go out of fashion.

If writing against it however could
have any effect, what Byron has
said of it, would long ago have an-
nihilated it. I have also been reading
Barnaby Rudge, although I have lost
the first part. There is a beautiful
little sketch both in words and a wood-
cut, where Barnaby talks of the gold
among the sunset clouds. I can
fancy you and I reading and ad-
miring it together, and that makes
me like it the more.

I am afraid I am a sad hand
for writing silly letters, for I fill up
my paper before I well know what
I am going to say. You will however
I know give me the credit of at least
meaning to do well.

P.S. I will write to you next by post. I am affectional friend
announcing the shipment of the first
letter than I do
G. Dawson