

Samuel Ward to To: his Children
My dearest Children Philadelphia 8th June 1775

I have not had the Pleasure of one Line from You nor heard a Word relative to my Family save that your Bro[the]r has marched for Boston. I cannot conceive the Reason but whatever may have prevented hitherto I would have you write to me every Post for the future (the Post comes regularly now) for I long to know how & what you all do.

I am concerned about our Business. The little Boys must take great Care of the Garden and also that no Creatures trespass any where. I would wish such Horses as we dont want to keep over the Winter may be fat against my Return that I may dispose of them. What Wool you do not want sell for Cash. Your Potatoes I fear you will loose. Wash & dry & put into the Crib as many as you shall want to eat, the remainder put into the Barn & give the Cows & Hogs or if the fat Cattle had some at the other Farm it would be well. You should sow Turnips several Times and plant Pease & Beans so, be sure to have your Corn seasonably & well hoed. The Island I imagine will want mowing by 25th of this month at furthest probably sooner. Be sure to cut all your Grass seasonably & make it well. The spring Stack may be sett near the upper End of the Meadow had of Esqr. Hern. It should contain all the Hay the Island yeilds or rather more; they may cut a Path to the Pond. I hope your Wheat field is plowed.

The small Pox hath been extremely thick in all Parts of the Town but none of Us have taken it that We know of & as it now abates We have some Hopes that We may escape it, should it be otherwise that entire Confidence which We all ought to have in the Wisdom & Goodness of God will support us under it; Yesterday compleated half a Century with Me & I may yet say few & evil have been my Days, if my great Master hath any further Business for me to do he will certainly continue Me here & I hope enable Me to see and do it. When he has no farther Service for Me I hope I shall chearfully retire & you as chearfully resign Me & happily experience the Truth of that gracious Promise "when my Father & Mother forsake Me the Lord will take Me up." It is not in my Power to observe the Sabbath as I could wish but hope all of You will be careful of your Duty to God & your Father in that Respect. I am concerned about little Betsy. I hope her Sister will be careful of her in this as well as other Respects.

By two Ships which arrived yesterday & brought News to 20th April last I find the Administration are resolved to compel us to submit. The Kings Answer to the Petition of the Lord Mayor & Alderman in our Favor breathes nothing but Slaughter but I trust under God that the Unanimity & Fortitude of this Country will disappoint our Enemies & establish our Liberty.(1) I inclose You the Papers for the remaining News.

I want to write to your Bror. & Sister Greene & to your Aunts & your Uncle Greene but I have so many public Letters to write that I cannot this Opportunity. You must remember Me in the most affectionate Manner to them & other Friends.

Tell the Work People & those who serve Me that while I am here in continual Danger of my Life to preserve their Lives and Property They will surely be so grateful as to do Me all the Service in their Power.

May God of his infinite Mercy preserve my dear Children. Your very affectionate Father.

Sam Ward