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Eliza Livingston to Susan Livingston

Elizabeth Livingston

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Recommended Citation

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Penderhook Sep-4th 1785

Thus far have we arrived in safety on our journey towards New York. Every step that brings me nearer home affords renewed satisfaction. If I could give you any pleasing accounts of myself, I should be doubly rejoiced, but in truth I am not sensible of any advantage accruing from ^{the journey} it, unless it was that change of air heightened my appetite & made almost gourmandize. But this in my present state was far from being desirable, as it led me to eat of things that I am sure are prejudicial, as I am confident that the whole of my disorder proceeds from the acrimony of my blood, which is far from being corrected. It will require time & attention to eradicate the vitiated humor, & if this not speedily accomplished, I fear the remainder of my life will be quite a burthen to me. Last night at Poles I past nearly as an uncomfortable a time as when I was there before the pain in my head was very acute, & I am alarmed at having violent rheumatic pains in the joints of my fingers. I am still more anxious to get home on this account, as I can't nurse myself properly any where else. My complexion is not mended either, so that the fruits of my journey by no means agrees with our expectations. — Aunt has not been able to use the water for some time, & cousin has scarcely recovered the fatigues of her ~~journey~~ ^{attendance} so we are at best a hackney'd set. We dined to-day at Cornelius Van Schaek's in our way hither, I had no idea Dutch people were so hospitable, but nothing could exceed our friendly treatment. My father is well known to this gentleman, & he begged

his compliments might be presented to him. We were welcomed here
by M^r Sylvester as part of his own family - tomorrow we expect to see
our friends at the Landing & the next day visit Hudson, & if fortunate
favors us arrive at the Manor. Thus far for ourselves, now to a more
pleasing subject - Your letters arrived yesterday by the waygoner who came
to transport us hither, & I believe you will not doubt my veracity when I
tell you I was never more delighted, then at that instant. But still I fear,
part of your intelligence is premature, the paper that mentions (otempren
arrival mentions nothing of Otto - I sure he ought not be passed over
in silence - Is he come? Have you yourself seen him? Expectation has
been so long excited, that I can scarcely credit what I so much wish - For
heaven sake where has this letter by the Mentor droped from? I am amazed
it did not reach me before. - You accuse me unjustly my dear sister, no oppor-
tunity have I omitted - when you mention the stage, you forget that we were
two & twenty miles from Kinderhook, & opportunities from so remote a place
are not often found. You ought to have eleven letters from me already,
& I have not neglected my other friends - I was much disappointed at not
sending letters here by the last night's stage, but perhaps they are at the
Manor - You may write me once more by the stage, & after that I shall
expect to have the satisfaction of hearing all your accounts verbally -
I have written this in full Assembly, in M^r Sylvesters parlour, here
is an inundation of conversation, they do not spare my incivility, Cousin
Kitty & Peter Van Schaack particularly rally me so that I hasten to conclude.
Return Mary Bayard, Eliza, & M^r Marton my thanks for their attention
I cannot say more at present, but that I beg love & compliments may be properly
distributed - adieu! my dear girl -

Miss Susan Livingston

N^o. 3 Hanover Square

New York