My ever dear Antonio

you may as well smile as frown on receiving another little scold from me, one would really think your Lordship was in the noble range of old Batchelors instead of enjoying the sweet sollicitudes of a parents heart - for you feel no more for mine so far away from the dearest part of myself—-but never mind, your turn may come—Yet seriously I re-
joice you will never know my pains, for your children—perhaps you are so happy as not to deserve them, I hope so. After your intire si-
ence to all my letters which was reasonable enough as you have a great deal to do, and I had no right to expect you to write except from necessity, I now beg you by the dear Crucifix at which I look while making the request, that you will tell me something about William and what may be the possible event of his present situation I do not wish you to make me promises which it would be too bad for me to ask after all you have done for us—his disposition is of that turn that I can gather nothing from his letters but the constant kindness he recieves, and the lit[tle] that falls to his share in the way of employment or use-
fulness to you, who I suppose could at any time command a dog in his place, his mortification at having weak fingers which he gained when a baby, by his then sweet temper, sucking them when I was ill instead of crying for his nurse—but I do intreat you dear Antonio tell me if you are satisfied with him, and intend he shall remain for any length of time with you—

My sweet little Rebeccas lame leg has taken her home at last¹ - so that dear one is provided for - the separation nothing when they go in peace to God, but the pang is bitter indeed when they must turn out in

¹Rebecca died November 3, 1816.
the world—however I have every hope that William will preserve his religion and that is the point above all.—Will I turn this paper and plague you more, no, only I will remind you that you brought us into the Ark\textsuperscript{2} and therefore must forgive all my boldness—it is unnecessary to say how daily, continually, your excellent Brother [Filippo] is remembered before the altar with all your dear family—and yourself ever imprinted on the grateful heart—of your EAS\textsuperscript{ton}

William writes me your Amabilia [Filicchi] is as a tender mother to him, think then what my heart is to her—you cannot guess because you are not a Mother—do do write me 5 lines Antonio - I ask you by the 5 Sacred Wounds of Mercy—

your EAS.

\section*{7.69 To William Seton}

[early 1817]

My own William,

Your most precious letter of _____ was siezed by Sweet Kit and I with such joy she had charged me when she went in the morning to the Mount (it being Sunday)\textsuperscript{1} not to open Willys letter if it came for we have been watching the post so long and truly it came just as she returned and we sat down in smiles but ended it with tears plenty - the thought of you being so melancholy on the subject of future days, and the certainty that about this time Your dear heart is aching for our Angels departure\textsuperscript{2} pierces to my bones—alas alas—yet I would not have had you here when she went for all the world both for your sake and hers—her Adieus to Richard were hard enough to bear, had they been

\footnote{The Catholic church

7.69 AMSV 110:10, 13

\textsuperscript{1}St. Mary's Church on the Mountain is where Elizabeth and the first sisters came on Sundays for prayer, Mass, and Vespers at "the old church on the hill." They also provided its music and tended the sacristy.

\textsuperscript{2}Rebecca’s recent death}
to you for whom she had double the affection they would have been
too tearing—little beloved—you cannot conceive her loveliness of
mind and countenance on which the very soul was pictured, as differ­
ent from what you left her as can be - but you will see her I trust far
lovelier still—you must My Souls dear one for how can you help
minding your Soul so precious to us, besides the better reason—

Your questions about your future prospects\(^3\) go to my Very Soul,
and I will tell you all I know—when you arrived in Leghorn Mr.
F[ilippo] Filichi wrote me (as I then related to you but the letter may
have been lost) that he was well satisfied with your promising disposi­
tions, and as he was growing old and indisposed for business, if you
would make yourself acquainted with the duties Which then fell on
him, you would not have reason to repent your Voyage—that is all I
ever heard from him and nothing from Mr. Antonio [Filicchi] who
however has always acted most nobly to us and it would be most un­
grateful in me to suppose he would fall short of his uniform and most
generous conduct from the day I first knew him, in June last Bishop
[John] Cheverus the very dear friend of Mr. Antonio wrote me, from a
kind consideration of my anxiety, the following “Captain Ralph
Linzee of the town is lately returned from Leghorn. during his stay in
that city which was of several weeks he was almost every day at Mr.
Filocchis, dined there 3 times a week, saw much of our dear William,
and is loud in his praise, was repeatedly told by Mr. Filicchi that Wil­
liam was every thing he could wish, high in the confidene and love of
the whole family, and would be advantageously provided for”

So you see my beloved how my wild Mother heart must have
danced at such an account—but it does not dance now however as
sweet Kit said when we were hanging on each other reading your dear
letter, “did you never take notice dearest Mother that when we think
things are at the worst they always change for the best,” and we must
hope; I will write Mr. Antonio immediately and beg him to give me
some little insight of what may be the possible event of your present
situation—

\(^3\)William had written that he was unhappy in his position in the mercantile business.
as to Richard—how much I would give to be able to show you every thing as it stands, but I cannot, only must say he does not give poor Kit and I as much comfort in a year as one of your letters, though so far away—his heart is not turned like yours my Son, and I dread yet hope every thing - you could not guess half the trials we have had with him in Baltimore through his childish thoughtless disposition—Yet the Tiernans⁴ say continually every thing in his favour—Mr. Williamson Mr. Tiernans Son in law who lives in the house with him says “he is a fine young man but will be lost for want of employment, and by company”—not that he keeps any out of the house that I ever heard, but there is so much in it, and they send him to wait on this one and that one, and he must be dressed etc. etc.—Mr. Tiernan that easy way, that every one does as they please—so and so and so, you may guess if I have any other hopes but to look up to God Your Father and Mine.

and yet I never can lament your not having property to set out with, for out of hundreds of young men whom I have happened to know with something before their beginning the world, I never saw one succeed in any comparison with the thousands who have their character to support and bread to earn the first set out—the destruction of all your grandfathers family has evidently happened through their dependance on their Father,⁵ he used to delight in saying “let all come to my strong box while I am alive, and when I am gone you will take care of each other”—You know the event, Your dear Papa having indeed to take care of Brothers and Sisters till his children wanted bread at last,⁶ if God had not given uncommon friends—and for me you know well how it has been—but it is all a reason more for you my Son to keep well with Him who turns every heart as he pleases, and will bring you forward with honor and credit if you make him your friend, and if you do not, friends and good prospects are as variable as the Seasons and if you suffer my beloved through this painful Separation, then I must, who look on this life as a moment, and have so many fears about our eternal settlement - a Mothers heart I can truly say has one continual agony—you

⁴Richard lived with the Tiernans in Baltimore.
⁵Several of William Seton, Sr.’s younger sons experienced financial difficulties.
⁶William Magee Seton became responsible for providing for his seven younger half-brothers and half-sisters after his father’s death in 1798.
have a hundred ways of forgetting me, but I not one moment can forget you, when ever so busy the pressing heart is always there and you uppermost being so far away, and perhaps already gone all is decided—that is so striking while we are under the most painful, or happy impression reading each others letters, at that very time all is different where they came from—

Oh My—God is God - that the daily hourly strength of our heart my William and you must take courage with me and push on, and do not let your mind rest on the sad thought of future prospects since the providence of God turns out so often quite different from our calculations—Leo Post I believe is not doing so well as we expected—your aunt [Mary Bayley Post] speaks much of your advantage of having a friend to help you forward, “the point essentially wanted” she says “as Leo has proved”—You are but 20 my beloved, too young yet to begin the world, if you even had means - so be patient, and trust.

Richard has certainly written you a multitude of letters, 4 or 5 at a time, I know of, indeed so many that I often hesitate sending them for fear you might have Dollars postage—Your own own who carries you forever in her heart


7.70 To Robert Goodloe Harper

26th January 1817

My dear Sir,

I reproach myself for not having written you by the last mail as you may be uneasy about Elizabeth 1 two days after you left her the tooth being still troublesome Dr. Moon 2 attempted to extract it, but through the

7 A note from Catherine Seton follows.

7.70 AAB 12W7

1 His daughter Elizabeth Harper entered St. Joseph’s Academy in 1817, and her name also appears on the list of 1820-1821.

2 Dr. Moon may have been an itinerant dentist. It was not until until 1861 that a resident dentist, Dr. J. W. Berry of Virginia, set up a practice in Emmitsburg.
impossibility to keep her still long enough to take a good hold on the
tooth he was not successful as to the extraction, but succeeded at least
(probably) in breaking the nerve, for the darling has since been quite
free from pain—I can give you no just representation of his pleadings
coaxing, and resistance, when you visit her again perhaps the operation
may be completed, but we really have not the courage to go beyond the
efforts which have been made, especially as the pain is past—

I write you my dear Sir as Mrs. [Catherine Carroll] Harper might be
uneasy if she knew this circumstance, be assured if any thing painful
occurs you shall immediately know it—

Elizabeth is really improving in her writing and I hope will soon
write for your grateful friend and Servant EASeton

I am very desirous dear Sir with my Josephine to be remembered
most Affectionately to your Mary [Diana Harper] when you write to
her—

7.71 To Julia Scott

4th February 1817

I ought to mind my pen dearest friend for so nice a little paper as
this but in truth my memory is now come to so miserable a point that I
cannot make out by reflections, retrospections or any of the ons
whether I even acknowledged your last 50 dollar note with the pen I
mean Julia, for my whole soul acknowledges before our God. I cannot
but admire how he gives you the constancy so long to persevere in a
sacrifice which even so tender a friend might become weary of from
its long continuance, however be assured that Kit and I have the real
comfort in it you intend and our best part of the comfort is that he who
will account with you for it, will return you guineas1 for dollars

--- 7.71 ASJPH 1-3-3-6:114 ---
1A guinea was an English gold coin worth one pound and one shilling. The banking, currency, and
financial situation in the United States had been chaotic since the demise of the First Bank of the
United States in 1811. A second bank was chartered in 1816.
we are well - making our mind up to part one of these days, but for
the present she is a truly happy child living on the smile of her doating
mother—

Ah my Julia—I should not have said that to you, but be assured I
shall hardly enjoy one dear one as long as you did yours, though now
as with all her lovely forerunners\(^2\) who went so swiftly she is the pic­
ture of health at 16—Your J[ohn] Scotts absence\(^3\) even though with
his beloved must be very painful to you - what a life of parting part­ing—and I do feel deeply mine from my boys so dear - but so it goes
until it will finish dearest friend and what can I add but love and still love

your EASETOn.

7.72 To Eliza Sadler

+ [February 1817]

My own dear Eliza, my poor cheek began to burn the moment I saw
the well known, long loved writing from your dear hand, and after
reading, my quiet heart began to shake at the thought that your first
impression at my long silence was so far from the true cause, but I si­
lence it by an appealing look to the dear crucifix so long the book of
my dying Bec that so far from religion being a source of coldness or
neglect towards you, that it is that very identical point in your and my
little compass of life that brings my thoughts and often liveliest imagi­
nation closest to you, not as you might suppose ever dear friend as it
relates to our Views of Faith (for that most delicate and sacred subject
I have long since learned to leave to God except where my duty is ex­
licit) but as it relates to our taste and habits of life - mine being so ex­
actly what you would most fondly delight in, that over and over I have

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\(^2\) Elizabeth was comparing her two other daughters and Julia’s daughter Maria, all now deceased, with Catherine, age sixteen.

\(^3\) John Scott was engaged to Mary Emlen of Philadelphia.
said and most frequently now say to myself if only dear Sad could see it and know it - for your Matron step and quiet look and independent intention are now precisely the rule of my life—since dearest Bec is gone particularly and I am free from so many painful cares, and able to fulfil so many more duties in the little service of our little world contained in St. Josephs, every thing seems to wear a new colour and life has a charm for me which I often wondered you found in it. so far from the world, surrounded by All the sweets of the country and retirement, an old woman to whom the nearly 100 souls in our house look for their daily solace of a Mothers smile, incapacitated by my want of capacity to manage and bustle, from taking any other part, but to try and keep off the evil spirits which always would steal in such a multitude, and turn every thing to the account of peace and order - writing and translating, my ever darling passtime now as ever, with the knitting always on the small table with the pen to show the visitors they are not unwelcome, for one of the sinews of my left leg is contracted by so long sitting with my sweet Bec, and of course I go but little and slowly—

dear Eliza what a half unmeaning picture of what! wish to say to you in one word that my very heart and soul thanked you for your letter, that I am well and at Peace, but did not say the deep point, that I am gathering strength to send my most lovely last one [Catherine] after her Sisters—Dué will tell you—but she may even now be better.

—and my Helen [Bayley Craig], and Mary [Fitch Bayley], and all, all, it is useless to say the least part of what passes in my head and heart in remembrances - to give you only one thought of the power of Absence, I really feel to this little lively Mrs. Skiddy and the good Mr. McCarty from New York as if they had a claim on my very affection—very well—that a wild word, but a true one—

7 or 8 letters to write now at once so dear dear Eliza be blessed and love

your EAS
7.73 To Robert Goodloe Harper

5th February 1817

You would have doated on your Elizabeth [Harper] my dear Sir could you have seen her patience and sweetness in putting her little letters together for Josephine—every endearing quality is united in her, and be assured we really take delight in improving her—her health is excellent, she however is obliged to go earlier to bed than our other children, and sleeps in a room with a fire for the winter—

Mr. [Samuel] Cooper¹ has written us dear Sir of your truly Benevolent exertions for us in the point which interested him so much, and I beg you to recieve the thanks of our Sisters included with the grateful acknowledgments of

Your friend and servant EASeton

7.74 To B. U. Campbell¹

+[February 1817]

My Kind friend

the word with which you finish your few lines would be very Afflicting if I did not hope it was dictated by your Humility—Our God will surely bless your pious regard for our House - we unite to beg this favour of him—have the goodness to thank the gentleman in his Name for the gift you procured us—and please to tell our Rev. Father [John]

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¹Samuel Cooper, donor of the land, John Dubois, and the Council of the Sisters of Charity at St. Joseph’s petitioned the state of Maryland for an act of incorporation. With Harper’s assistance the bill was passed and approved by both the Senate and House of Delegates in late January 1817. See A-7.73a for an excerpt from the Acts of Incorporation, the By-Laws, and the Minutes of the Corporation for July 23, 1817.

¹The addressee is probably Colonel Bernard U. Campbell, a prominent Catholic Baltimore layman. A Catherine Campbell was a student at St. Joseph’s Academy in 1816.
Moranville he will hear from us the first opportunity I write this in hast[e] as the notice of the respected Mr. O'Donald was so short

Your friend and Servant in Xst EASeton

7.75 Copy to William Seton

St. Valentine 1817

My Souls own William

the bitter freezing North wind is now always rattling and they write me on every side New York and Baltimore that the ice will let no Vessel go to you, yet my head and heart is so full of you that though letters for you are waiting at both ports I must write, if I wake in the night I think it is your Angel wakes me to pray for you and last night I found myself actually dropping asleep repeating your name over and over, and appealing to our Lord with the Agony of a Mothers love for our long and dear and everlasting reunion—

7.76 To Julianna White

+[February 1817]

My ever dear Julia

- your little word about the pain on your heart went deep to mine which loves you with a double love seeing how much our Lord is pleased to try your fortitude and piety, and my hope always remaining that at last seeing our changeable life in its true colours you will be

7.75 AUND MSVY M41 (typed copy) No original exists.
1Rev. Charles Souvay, C. M., wrote below: "the rest is cut off—"
7.76 ASJPH 1-3-3-3:7,1
1Written at the top right: "Juliana White afterwards Mrs. T. P. Scott." The reference to Ellen Wiseman suggests that she was a student at the same time as Julianna White.
better able to make a choice. Perhaps of the *better part* which can never be taken away and suffers no change but in getting closer and closer to the fountain of all good—

Your sweet Mary was just in my dear Sepulchre room for my cross and kiss after Communion—many thoughts of you, but all in our God that you may but do *his Will*. Mary has more of the worldly and lively turn than she used to have, but I am sure if Bec is happy she will be a Guardian Angel to her she loved her so tenderly—tell your dearest Father that if there should be any thing like ingratitude as to the appearance of Richards neglect of him he must overlook and allow for his youth, I say in *appearance* for he has spoken his heart too plainly to me to leave a doubt how much he is attached to your family

I think of [Joseph] Wiseman reading the prophecies yesterday in the sanctuary with all Ellens tones and stops so exactly that he wakened many feelings of dear remembrance besides the joy and admiration of seeing him in the Sanctuary with expression of unfeigned Piety which he proves so well by his whole conduct Alleluia Alleluia

*BLESSED YOU* my Julia ever dear Pray for your *EASeton* with best love to dear Nancy

**7.77 To Rev. Simon Bruté, S.S.**

[February 1817]

Are we not ashamed to exercise enmity in so short a life

= has he displeased thee once, how many good offices he has done thee.

= is he wise, then it was not done without reason. is he Simple, he deserves Compassion

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3At least seven pupils at St. Joseph’s Academy were named Mary at this time.

4The room where Elizabeth lived because of her lameness due to holding Rebecca or her room where she expected to die because of her declining health

7.77 AS, JPH 1-3-3-12:43
who ever bit a dog because he is himself bitten—or entered in combat of kicking with a mule

= is he angry let him come to himself. is he a Superior suffer then what God has set over thee

= is he an inferior make him not thy equal by contention

—God endures so much without thundering, shall my ears be so delicate—shall a silly word, a cold countenance

—PATIENCE is the Virtue of the Perfect

—God has taken for his symbol of Reconciliation a bow without arrows says St. Ambrose to instruct us that his divine Majesty is Sweet and Peaceful—

= will not pardon? - oh worse that Turk or Moor for Turks have their feast called Behiram wherein all injured are pardoned, so then go out from Gods church if thou wilt not pardon or at least open not thy mouth before the Wounds of Christ which bleed against thee

What mean you by bowing to the head and adoring while you refuse to acknowledge the members if any one while he is paying low obeysance to thee with his head tread on thy foot, in the midst of his Compliment you would cry out, Sir you hurt me.

+ delighting in this old book called Holy Court how often I wish you could enjoy its drole excellence, so filled with strong figures of speech, too much alas to my Vagrant taste

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1Bow refers to the rainbow given by God after the flood. Cf. Gen 9:13-14. This marks the first covenant made by God with humankind.

2The last paragraph is written vertically beside the above quotations. La Cour St.e by Nicholas Caussin, S.J., (Barcelona, 1718) was available in several English translations as The Holy Court (London, 1767 and Dublin, 1810). The Holy Court, translated by Sir Thomas Hawkins, contained five parts: motives which should excite people to Christian perfection; the prelate, soldier, statesman, and lady; maxims of Christianity against profaneness; reason’s command over the passions; and lives of illustrious courtiers.
My ever dear Antonio

—I have written you often lately, and enclose this letter to you because it will hurt William sorely to know his little darling Sister [Rebecca] is gone—*that all in the blessed will we adore*, and so it is also that Richard can stay no longer at Mr. [Luke] Tiernans than till May or June next, as Mr. Tiernan is going to enter a partnership and his own son is to return from Europe, and there will be no possible employment for Richard in his counting house—who on this Earth can I ask but yourself what to do with him, he is of an age now surely to earn all for himself yet to my true mortification I find Mr. Tiernan only gives him his board and I have been obliged again to call on Messrs. Murrey for your 200 Dollars to pay his cloting of this year and the last, Mrs. [Julia] Scotts having gone for poor Rebeccas physician and all that, not my will but Mrs. Scott herself insisting—yet dearest Antonio I still hope it is the last—

Would you perhaps ask some merchant of your friends in Europe or America to take Richard, he has gained a good deal of information from what I understand at Mr. Tiernans, but I suppose what is thought something here is nothing with Europeans—It would be ungrateful in me after all our God has done for me and mine to be discouraged now distrusting his future goodness so I try not to look on the dark side, but if really you are not tired of us it will be indeed a miracle of mercy—to take a look at all the tender care of Providence from the first happy moment I met you Antonio is enough to encourage the Soul of your [poor] little Sister—

the blessed Bishop [John] Chevrous, has been again to see us and leaving Benediction everywhere—he is so delighted with our

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7.78 AMSJ A 111 063

1 Filicchi’s financial agent in the United States
2 Dr. Philip Syng Physic of Philadelphia
3 He visited Emmitsburg December 7-8, 1816.
community that he has adopted it in his very heart—what a glorious thing for our [church] of America if he should succeed in the charge of our Venerable Archbishop—it is said he will, Bishop Neale being now so incapable thro’ old age—

When this letter will get to you I know not, all our ports frozen up, but I must trust—With every kindest tenderest rememberance to your Amabilia [Filicchi] and sweet girls—

Your ever devoted EASeton.

7.79 To Antonio Filicchi

—26 February 1817

My ever dear Antonio

I have written you very often lately, and now in my blessed order of Providence I see no way clear for me but to write you again as Mr. [Luke] Tieman writes me he is entering into partnership with his son in law, expects his own son from Europe in a month or two, who will take the place my Richard now holds in his counting house, and consequently there will be no possible employment for Richard with him—so little I may [kiss] my cross quietly, as the poor boy when that takes place, has neither house or home, and to my great mortification I find Mr. Tieman only gives their board to his clerks so that as [Julia] Scott has this year given her usual bounty to Rebeccas [phys]icians in the hope that she might be cured, I have been obliged [to call] for your 200 Dollars, but as they say Messrs. Murrey are broke perhaps that door is also shut—dearest Antonio have patience with me and my poor ones, I hope at last your love to God in us will bring a double

4Rev. Leonard Neale, S.J., (1746-1817) was president of Georgetown College (1791-1806) and his brother, Rev. Charles Neale, served as vice-president of the college. He was named coadjutor for Bishop John Carroll in 1800 and second archbishop of Baltimore (1815-1817). His successor to the see of Baltimore was Archbishop Ambrose Maréchal, S.S.

7.79 AMSJ A 111 064

1This letter, similar to the previous one [#7.78], was written two days later.
treble blessing on your own dear children through life, though they will never be in the case of mine—

Will you perhaps ask some Merchant of your many correspondants to take Richard he has gained considerably at Mr. Tiernans they say in the kind of information which might make him useful, but your judgment in Europe of those points is so different from what is thought here in our America—well as usual I trust All to him who never fails where all trust is in him and he has put so much charity in your heart for us that I still hope every thing much as your patience has been tried—with a thousand loves to your dear family I am your own unworthy Sister Your cross now, but a good Jewel in your crown above hereafter

EASeton.—

7.80 To Rev. Simon Bruté, S.S.

ANNUNCIATION [March 25]—1817—

one day of my poor life without a cloud—the most singular Peace from the Vespers of Mary the most singular Peace from the Vespers of Mary when drawing <from your meditation> a meditation for our Vows the very Soul melted before him—then this Mornings awaking at 4 [a.m.] with the AVE sung to waken the dormitories—our Meditation, office of B[lessed] V[irgin] M[ary] for preparation, Mass - Vows so Peaceable—then all day so so sweetly so gently among all the little duties of hearing, reading, speaking, singing Vespers and hymns and my dear old holy court making many extracts anniversary of my dear first Communion

7.80 ASJPH 1-3-3-12:71

1Evening prayer recognizing the feast of the day, the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
2The Sisters of Charity renewed their annual vows on the feast of the Annunciation, usually celebrated on March 25.
3Probably the Ave Maria (Hail Mary) set to music
4The Holy Court by Nicholas Caussin, S. J.
5Elizabeth made her First Communion as a Catholic March 25, 1805.
7.81 To Antonio Filicchi

My ever dear Antonio

You will make an act of patience at my so frequent writings, but the case is now really a matter of conscience with me—By the Scioto my William writes me as usual of the unbounded kindness he receives, the noble and most generous treatment he has always met with in your family, but he adds he is conscious of having been entirely useless perhaps for want of capacity and Judgment—his own words are “If I was only of sufficient use to spare one clerk in the counting house I might still, though under every debt of gratitude to Mr. Filicchi, say I earned my bread but that is far from being the case” and he adds “do not suppose dearest mother I speak though any whimsical or boyish notions, or through any disappointment for I meet every sort of kindness beyond what I could even hope, but it is a duty to tell you my heart which I submit to you for your direction, but determined only to do your will in this case and every other.” I must hope dearest Antonio that William writes from a sense of duty he being now in his 21st year, and we have so long been on your hands, besides that at that age he ought as he says to be earning his bread - if you see that Willian has not the requisite qualifications for a Merchant, which he always doubted himself, will you not speak to him about it, and let him take up the course of life he is eventually to follow, or if it should be a misjudging disposition on his part you will point it out to him. if William should not be fit for a commercial life I dread the attraction of the Navy so powerful to our young Americans but you with God are the Father of the Fatherless and will direct my William for the best.

the greatest pain I have in this new trial is the fear that you may not be pleased, yet you will be the first to see my difficulty - our God is pleased to hammer me like a truly poor sinner, my comfort is that we must have already added a good lustre to your Philippos eternity.¹ and

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¹Filippo Filicchi had died the previous year.
we will surely brighten your crown *there* though we are but rust to you *here*—oh if *my* son could have taken off the least part of your heavy burden and daily care it would have been too great an honour and happiness to me—pity us dear Antonio and present me to your dearest Amabilia [Filicchi] and family with unalterable affection and gratitude.

Your EASeton

7.82 To William Seton

+April 4, 1817

My own William

If any thing in this world could endear you more to the soul and heart of your Mother it would be your letter by the *Scioto*—far indeed be it from me to hold so dear and generous a Son by any tie of duty to me in a situation which does not meet the best of his wishes. Yet your own Mother is obliged both by duty and love to entreat you to have yet a little patience that we may judge for the best with more safety. I wrote Mr. [Antonio] Filicchi earnestly some months ago, on the subject of your future prospects in Commerce, and twice since most pressingly on the situation of Richard, and now a letter accompanies this with a statement of your sentiments in your own words, which do you the greatest honour my Son, and fill your Mothers heart through all our painful trials with inexpressible consolation, for by them I see well that integrity and filial love overrules all your youthful and natural feelings and I can but be most grateful to our God and you, that they have so long held you under circumstances so painful to you—for now I have gained my main object in parting with you my beloved Son which was not so much to fix you with affluent friends, or in a tide of fortune, as to give you time to know yourself a little, to know the world a little, and to overcome your *first* ardent propensity for the Navy;
which I know is even now the passion of your heart; yet I would be unjust to our tender affection if I withheld my whole mind from you, my fear not for your dear person, my darling Son, but for the dear immortal Object which your Nina and Bec would now solicit you for,¹ even more earnestly than your Poor Mother and Kit—

My Soul’s William I need not tell you to rise above the clouds that surround us, you know well enough that we must pass our course of trials with the rest of human beings, those who have least of them are not the most enviable, for my part I would think all the pains I ever endured fully rewarded by the sweet and unspeakable pleasure I received in reading your sentiments of love and duty contained in your last letters, and as to those of independance and honour I see only what every honest man ought to feel and I glory in them, instead of differing <from> with you, quite sure that in your case I should feel <as> exactly as you do.

—I would be too happy to enclose your letters to Mr. Filicchi, but feared you might not approve it though every word speaks but gratitude and purest sentiments of virtue. could you but take confidence and speak your mind to him freely, point out your consciousness of not earning your bread as you say, and even consult him on the change you would desire—All I can say is that you will never want every nerve of my heart to exert itself for you in whatever path you enter—what more can your own Mother say, I would write, or even go to any one on earth I could reach, if I might but help you my William, if a Mother’s love could be a fortune to you, you would be rich indeed, alas, it is poor coin in this world, but be assured it will have its interest in heaven where it solicits I may truly say day and night for every blessing on you.—

April 4, 1817

dearest William fearing some delay or accident to the original letter Sweet Kit run off the copy of a part of it—nothing new - the more I think of it the happier I am you have spoken your dear heart out—Mr. Filicchi himself must surely be pleased, for how could you have passed 2 years in a way so unfruitful without himself being sensible of it—I send this by way of New York I suppose—

¹Elizabeth was concerned about the eternal salvation of her children.
Oh my William if it was but I who could be so near you as this letter will, that I might tell you, do not be fearful of making me unhappy, and hear from yourself what possible step I can take to make you happier - I can only repeat the desire of my heart to you.

here our second Good Friday of separation - Oh the heart of a Mother in that hour united with the Mother of our God—bless bless you a thousand thousand times—

7.83 To Ellen Wiseman

+[April 6 1817]

My own dear Ellen

Truly had I thought you would have had one uneasy moment about my not writing I should have written long ago, but sure that you knew a poor heart attached to you forever, and that you would put the best construction on my silence I let it pass along especially as there are so many of our most dear girls around you who I should give the same attention to, as to the affection our Lord who sees the deep heart knows with what pleasure I would give my life to prove my true love to any of you, much less one who has bound my very Soul to her as you have in so many ways—this great day of St. Joseph is past,¹ we never saw to gather so many fervent and most simple hearts of first Communion—as I opened the book to present the sweet little soul who was to read them the renewal of Baptismal Vows my eye dropt on the name Ellen in the list of the Communions of former days—days of such dear remembrance - only the thought brings tears—but to look up is all—

—what delight to hear Sister Angela [Brady] who lives at the Mountain and is never weary telling the heavenly conduct of your brother [Joseph V. Wiseman], she says to see him with the first Communion band round him in a room quite separate where he assists

7.83 ASJPH 1-3-12:B9

¹The feast of St. Joseph, patron of the Sisters of Charity, was celebrated with great solemnity on March 19.
them to prepare their general confessions, and instructs and encourages them with so much love and attention over them at all times—she says he is so remarkable for always turning every conversation with every body to some pious meaning, and he laughs at every inconvenience or suffering he goes through saying something always about how much worse he deserves—

oh Ellen how marked is the hand of our God on him - how grateful you must be and what must be the heart of your dear Mother since mine feels such joy at his conversion—how I would wish to know every thing about Sarah, Catherine, and dear Kitty—they can never know how dear they are to me - nor you either my Ellen—Jose loves you dearly too - you would delight to see her this retreat preparing for Death in her quiet way as earnestly as sweet Bec was this time last year—Jos has a little hack cough night and day which keeps us on the look out for her turn to come next and follow after in the beautiful footsteps gone before her—but my Ellen pray for me.

EASTER—Bless you again and again Mrs. Roach is come she will take this—every yours EAS.

if my Sarah and the Catherines are with you or near you, tell them I love and remember them with my Whole Soul—Kindest respects to your dear Mother whose heart I so well share

7.84 To Julia Scott

+April 10th 1817

Truly my dear loved Julia

I have been imagining you in all the cheerful change, which must be a consequence of your dear John Scotts happy union, for I know that nothing can be so interesting to loving little mothers as you and I to see a son settled to his mind for men are so difficult, that an old story, and re-

2Sarah Cauffman attended St. Joseph’s Academy in 1811, Catherine Cauffman and Catherine Roach in 1812 and 1813, and Catherine “Kitty” Wiseman in 1812.

3Probably the mother of Catherine Roach

7.84 ASJPH 1-3-3-6:115

1John Scott was to marry Mary Emlen May 15, 1817.
ally I was so well engaged in the affair that I found myself in a dream examining the most beautiful artificial flowers which were to compose the - the - I forget even the name, but the top of your curtains, and advising with you whether they should be brought more forward or more regularly placed, and remember in sleep the little regret that Bec was not there to make a bunch which seemed wanting, as she had a great delight in making them and dying the silk and crape they are made with—drole enough the little woman has fresher flowers I hope to play with—and you your bunches without any deficiency for the occasion now in question—how it goes to my heart to hear you say you are so alone I look at Kit and think really for my part of natures trial I could resign her to prove my true love to you, but for her part she clings to me with almost the folly of Romance, and more of late than ever since she has some little hac cough which looks a little like following her sweet sisters, and who will be alone then Julia for my poor boys have not yet made a first step for their settlement as your beloved one has—

but I see Nothing better than to keep to my old business of looking up for truly suppose I had enjoyed all Sister C[harlotte]'s fertility it is there at last all must tend—my passion for babys would be quite gratified if I was her nursery woman and I repeat that would have been my delight though I suppose you do not believe me, a good nursery woman is next to being a good Mother you know.

I hear many little whispers that William is going to surprise us with a visit—Richard goes on as usual, I hope he may continue with the kind and excellent family of Tiernans - but the partner of the house is dead and an intention of giving up business, so I may be in a difficulty soon but trust all—by the turn of all Williams letters I see he retains his first bent for the Navy - poor fellow - but we will see how it will conclude I have written Filicchi to beg him not to keep him in the toils of a merchant unless he has the requisite disposition—

I wish you could enjoy this beautiful spring as I do, - if any little word of my being lame comes to you in any way dont mind, it is only a contraction of a sinew² sitting so long with sweet Bec, and very little inconvenience

²A tendon
do write me your summer plan I hardly dare hope it could turn a moment this way—the 50 dollars came safe, be blessed—and may he bless you forever.

Your EASeton

7.85 To William Seton

[25 April 1817]

My own William

here the 25th April and Richard writes me that not only my letters to you sent two weeks ago are not gone but they will not leave Baltimore these 3 weeks - so then I hasten this duplicate to New York hoping better success there and will beg Aunt [Mary] Post to see to it.—how I shall long long to hear from you again - but many a day must pass first—Richard is very busy he says this spring time - but his remaining or not at Mr. [Luke] Tiernans yet undecided—you two boys are the whole World to me - Sweet Kit like a little dove in the nest—but you two out on the wide Ocean what a difference -

My dearest one I make you an extract of the page I write Mr. Antonio [Filicchi] that you may know what I have said to him and I hope and trust it will not give you more pain - and you will know how to act in consequence.

“By the Scioto my William writes me an opening of his heart in a manner that would have pleased you from a Son as it did me—after repeating as he does in all his letters the most generous treatment, he says that since he is in Leghorn he is conscious of not having saved you the least expence in the counting house, his own words are ‘if I was only of sufficent use to spare one clerk I might say [I g]ained my Bread though still under every obligation for every kindness beyond what [you h]ave hoped’”—
I then remind Mr. A[ntonio] that you are 21 and ought at your age [to be]gin the course of life you are eventually to follow, if you have talents for a merchant he will judge, and at all events advise you for the best. I tell him also my fear of your attraction for the Navy, but still that fear My Son shall never bind you to any course of life you do not willingly embrace—Mr. Antonio may perhaps tell you William I did not recieve you in the counting house to save us expence but to serve yourself—of course you will then beg him to make the case his own, and appeal to him if he thinks you have yet advanced in the necessary merchantile knowledge—be prudent my own William and keep also in mind the uniform friendship of Filicchi to your dear Father and both grandfathers¹ and his continual losses with the firm of Seton and Maitland. consequently while the sentiments of justice impel you on one side, you will equally be guided by them on the other—what more can your Mother say my beloved not to remind you of what they have been to me and to us, that is quite unnecessary.

Your Kit is not strong she will pass some time with Mrs. [Marie Françoise] Chatard in Baltimore for the ride and change of air - it being so near me she consents to it though most reluctantly, answering me with tears when I begged her *for your sake* to go (as she is also so attached to Mrs. Chatard) “here is air exercise fresh milk every thing, and *My Mother* more than every thing how can I leave you” [but] do not be uneasy about her my William - there is nothing particular only loving her almost too much we watch and fear she should be *exhaled* and off so soon yet that I fear only for you, for my part I live so much with those that are gone I mind for nothing in this world but yourself etc.—love your own Mother as she does you unspeakably - remember me always to our friends

Your EASeton

¹William Magee Seton had spent time learning the mercantile business by visiting counting houses in Europe, including that of the Filicchis in Leghorn (Livorno). The grandfathers to whom Elizabeth is referring are her husband’s father and maternal grandfather. William Seton, Sr., and Richard Curson, Sr., were in a mercantile partnership in the 1780s.
the poor Miss Yates\textsuperscript{1} frantic to get away "no one can stay in this house without being a Catholic and my Sister will die with distress if I am a Catholic—oh let me go I shall be a Catholic," and she cries really night and day, tells of her fathers distress when in his last agony, at the declaration of her young sister who was at Mr. Baconas school that she wished to be a Catholic—she walk[s] the hall and dormitory like a frantic woman

oh then pity and pray for such poor blind ones incessantly—can you lift the blessed chalice\textsuperscript{2} without thinking of them—I would say nothing to him but Thy Kingdom come\textsuperscript{3} all life along—our God - our all - and we enjoying his fullness with but dreadful account if not improved.

7.87 To Antonio Filicchi

1st June 1817

My ever ever dear Antonio

this will be handed to you by the Mr. [Samuel] Cooper whose conversion no doubt you long ago heard of from Mr. [William] Dubourg, and of his being the founder of our house of St. Josephs, which in his meaning and my hopes was to have been a nursery only for our Saviour’s poor country children, but it seems it is to be the means of forming city girls to Faith and piety as wives and mothers with a blessing and success which is the work of God alone and your great consolation I know who love and adore religion so truly -

\textsuperscript{1}\textit{Catherine Yates was a pupil at St. Joseph’s Academy in 1817.}
\textsuperscript{2}\textit{The elevation of the chalice at Mass}
\textsuperscript{3}\textit{Cf. Matt. 6:10.}
I know nothing of Mr. Coopers intentions in your happy land, I only know how much it is respected by all who love our God in this.

Rev. Mr. [Nicholas] Zocchi has written me of your gift most welcome of 100 Dollars—words are all unmeaning to thank you for your continual goodness to your American Sister but GOD SEES, that is my consolation—

With every affectionate remembrance to your dearest Amabilia and family

Your EASETON.

7.88 To Rev. Simon Bruté, S.S.

Trinity Sunday—[June 1817]

MAGNIFICENT DAY for the Soul—Mine swells the poor Atom—Mr. Kenney the old buried at Emitsburg this Evening and poor Jo[seph] Elder at the Mount¹—Oh!!—I not buried yet - “wretch” as says Ma [Bridget] Farrel Will you blessed G please to give or send this to Mr. [Samuel] Cooper if he is not gone, and if he is gone will you please to open it and take out William and Filicchis letter and send them to Pere Grassy² if he is not gone—and will you please to bless the happiest of women in the Holy Trinity this day (always excepting those who love better) and be your dear Reverence blessed—here a little St. Gabriel³ for your breviary fallen accidentally in the hands of Sister Margaret [George] who begs you to remember Tuesday is St. Margarets⁴ day and that you will bless—

AND THURSDAY is Thursday I wish you so much to have this St. Bernard⁵

7.88 ASJPH 1-3-12:77

¹A James Kerney was buried at this time. Joseph Elder died May 29.
²Rev. John Grassi, S.J., was traveling to Europe at the same time as Samuel Cooper.
³Probably a holy card of St. Gabriel, the archangel, a patron saint of Rev. Simon Bruté, S.S.
⁴St. Margaret of Scotland (1045-1093) was a married woman known for her great personal piety expressed in prayer, austerities, and fasting, her great concern for the poor and the needy, and for her royal benefactions.
⁵Possibly something Elizabeth copied from St. Bernard’s writings. St. Bernard (1090-1153) was a noted Cistercian monk, renowned for his mystical writings which had a profound effect on Catholic spirituality. Recognized as a Doctor of the Church, his feast is celebrated August 20.
Our Reverend Father will be pleased to know the Valiant little Mary arrived safe at St. Josephs, but our Lord has permitted her to be very much tried since her coming—She has had three attacks of some kind of fits which weaken her very much—so that if after her three month trial she cannot be received what can be done for so young and simple a Soul—you will think of it, earnestly begging to bless us all,

your devoted Servant EAseton

Before I write one sentence even to Kit I will thank and bless you my son for Your Attention in writing me the two good letters Mr. Sweeney bring with his good hearted smile—alas for your sake and his own I would have wished to have given him as big a bowl of milk as to your little Ann whom I loved because you love her, but the good man seemed earnest to be gone and I on my part could give but smile for smile and good bye to You—your farming plan may perhaps turn out, but since we have a little time before us, we will see if a new leaf does not turn over—What a foolish Mother should I be to be troubled

7.89 To Archbishop Ambrose Maréchal, S.S.¹

[June 1817]

7.90 Copy to Richard Seton

+[1817]

7.89 AAB 20N4

¹Ambrose Maréchal, S.S., (1768-1828), born in France, was ordained in France in 1792 and left to join the Sulpicians in Baltimore. He taught at St. Mary’s in Baltimore and at Georgetown. He served as coadjutor to Archbishop Leonard Neal, S.J., before becoming archbishop of Baltimore December 14, 1817. He died January 29, 1828.

²Recommended by Archbishop Ambrose Maréchal, Mary Kelly was admitted by the Council as a candidate February 7, 1817, but by September 11 the Council determined that a longer trial would be useless because she did not appear to have a religious vocation and apparently had poor health.

7.90 AMSV Seton-Jevons #304-306 (photocopy) No original exists.
while my own boys are what they are in integrity and conduct, I am sure all will turn well at last rough as the way may be

Jo Smith' with his sun burnt face possessing a good farm and abundance sighs and longs for a city life - “Oh that I could exchange with Richard” he said—Oh that you could thought I—but had you the farm without the experience probably you would like it no better than he does my son—

// Thursday

So anxious your Mother is that Williams letters should go, but your Aunt P[ost] found not opportunity from New York—so Patience—and bless you a thousand times - Mr. [John] Hickey asked after you so kindly this morning.

—A stranger detained your own Mother so I lost the time I had expected to write you my son so dear—

Your EAS.

7.91 To Catherine Seton'

+After dinner our first day [June 9, 1817]

Watched my darling till past the little parting woods then staid a while in silence before Him we had one hour before been so closely united with—came to our room, put away the last little flowers you gave me - Kissed our sweet Foxes in silence and starting tears - Ellen Hickey too sharing the passing look had a long look too at the carriage passing over by the brick house—Sat down opposite the tabernacle in choir to write meditations—Jo Smith came and brought you

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1This may be Joseph L. Smith of Carroll Manor who was a student at Mount St. Mary’s 1810-1811

7.91 AMSV 110:10,11

1This letter is addressed to Catherine at the Chatards in Baltimore.

2Mary, Jane, and Eliza Fox, daughters of Robert Fox of New York, were pupils at St. Joseph’s Academy.

3Eleanor Hickey (1801-1858), a younger sister of Rev. John Hickey, S.S., was a student in the Academy, but eventually she was sent home in 1819 by Elizabeth for misconduct. Later in 1830, at the age of 29, she became a Sister of Charity and was known as Sister William Anna. In 1846 she became a founding member of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul of New York.
Chateaubriands lives of Martyrs⁴—Refectory tickets, I fed the cat with many a thought nothing remarked tho’ not a name mentioned I believe except Good Pilch⁵ and Mc W.—

3 girls to see me—all starting tears - We look at the cloudy sky and beg Jose may not have rain—gave Maria C[lar]y and Jane F[ox] one of your little white flowers out of the tumbler—sweet souls they looked over at my little bed—yet tried to be so lively—

// 2 oclock Adoration

- Sacred heart beads—My heart travelling indeed—Bec Winnull so desolate and young and worldly, a long Visit—chapter—and what pleasure after ever dear good Mrs. Tiernan and Williamson⁶ and the little babe Dick loves and dances—and beads after Magnificate and O, Memoré—after supper dear 5 Jane Eliza Mame Carroll Burns⁷ came the Evening Visit for grandmothers Kiss and blessing given for Mother—O my!—little white violets put in my tumbler—

// Night

—the Kisses of your Mother on the crucifix for you - committing you to his care with 10000 blessings—little sighs for travellers on my solitary bed—4 oclock the birds seemed all cracking their throats I thought for inviting the holy ghost—Now after Mass, at our little table, blue sky and heart all in him wrapping your dear 3 up I take station for the day to write to Willy—there Mr. [Robert Goodloe] Harpers carriage say they Bless bless forever—Love to All⁸

Your Own

⁴Vicomte François-René de Chateaubriand (1768-1848) was an outstanding literary genius of the early nineteenth century. His Les Martyrs, ou le Triomphe de la Religion Chrétienne (1809), a prose epic in twenty-four books, was designed to show Christianity triumphing over paganism in the third century during the Emperor Diocletian’s persecution of the Christians.
⁵Eliza Pilch was a student from Baltimore.
⁶Mr. Williamson was a son-in-law of the Tiernans.
⁷Probably students at St. Joseph’s
⁸“All” is underlined three times.
My ever loved

I find a good little opportunity to tell you I am alive and often thinking of you—that dearest Kit has been very sick, and in the midst of her sickness our good friend Madame [Marie Françoise] Chatard came from Baltimore and took the darling to consult her Physician and change air, diet etc etc and so I am gazing at the clouds alone, and making up my accounts—if she is taken I shall be like a sparrow on the house top - where are you - what doing—something I saw in one of our childrens letters of a grand fete to J[ohn] Scott and his bride so thought I maybe my Julia dear is in her delight of etc etc etc You understand—and as it was at Purveyances in Baltimore did not know but you was so much nearer me—

bless your dear heart I kiss it 100 times - and smell my roses on my little table and wish you had them, and look up at the blue sky and wish we were there and wish and wish—all life is but a wish, mine indeed to be off if I may [be] ready but I may sit these 40 years yet in Bec’s chair, poor creature lame of one leg and blind of an eye, a poor old bit of broken furniture good only to frighten the crows away—why are my thoughts so playful when I write to you but SERIOUSLY ETERNITY Miss Gloriana—it is such a long day—make ready—I carry you always in my heart if that would help you along—dear dear friend A dieu - there is an old lady waiting for this ever ever Your EASeton

two days before you recieve it—
7.93 To Catherine Seton

[June 1817]

My Soul's Dear

—here goes poor Liza Pilch and she will kiss you but not wrap you in her heart as I would— dear dear dearest Jose I know not what to say of my heart to you in the midst of the branches of Roses from Bec and Nin they have with so much love and play adorned our little table—tell Madame [Marie Françoise] Chatard I am the happiest of mothers now she has cured my darling—love her for me, love Em[ily]¹ for me and be devoted in your care to return all that you can for such kindness as we receive, above all every little possible attention to the doctor [Pierre Chatard] so wearied and tired with duty and cares—but you will do all without reminding—say every thing to Lotte and Ann [Tiernan] for me and all—they will not wait, though it is raining hard what a world—happily here the dear girls letters ready—and my 3 scraps—

Bless you my Jose
Bless you my Richard
here two of our sweet Bec and Nin Roses for you²

7.94 To Catherine Seton

Tuesday [June 1817]

Yesterday the dear dear children¹ parted with their Mother but without sobs or tears, and returned to me with such love and sweetness that it brought mine plenty

—She is a precious Mother indeed, and Eliza a true angel.

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7.93 AMPH Seton-Jevons #458-59
¹Either Emily Harper or Emily Chatard
²Written on the address side of the letter: “has my Richard new shirts—does he yet like frils - I have 3 with and 3 without will send if he has not been supplied by Mrs. T[iernan] - tell your mother”
7.94 ASJPH 1-3-3-9:55b
¹Probably the Fox children, students at the academy
Afternoon—My darlings letter oh the sweet joy, and to so many more than to me. Dear children how they enjoyed while I read them a little here and there—

—and our dearest Dicks letters true curiosities - and most pleasing to his Mother—and Madame [Marie Françoise] Chatards words of you, all that could delight a mothers heart—Oh you dear dear one there the bell bless bless - forever

7.95 To Catherine Seton

+[June 1817]

Wednesday -

and good Madame Ducass\(^1\) goes tomorrow and will take our J Roach with her—your frock will go, I know of nothing else unless your own mothers heart might be put in it as the poor Betsy Bayley in your shawl sent by Mrs. [Elizabeth] Fox and safe I hope. —Your precious Eliza goes to communion tomorrow the purest angel -

I am so well, and so peaceable in heart and soul this eve of the heavenly feast - My darling do as is best about bonnet etc. - if you stay to short a time it cannot be of much consequence—

—only be well only be happy. there is Madam Seguin\(^2\) singing Mama Mie la la la la—ah me—

love and thank and bless every one for me who is kind to you tell our dearest madame [Marie Françoise] C[hatard] her dear ones are well - all are well here except a fall of Sister Johanna [Smith] - Dr. Moore\(^3\) just bled her

Bless bless you forever—

\(7.95\) ASJPH 1-3-9:47c

\(^1\)Madame Ducass was probably the mother of Dominica Ducass, a student at the Academy as of 1816.

\(^2\)Madame Séguin, a widow with two children, taught music at St. Joseph’s Academy.

\(^3\)Dr. Samuel Moore was the attending physician at St. Joseph’s until his death in mid-1820 when Dr. Robert Moore assumed this role. He later witnessed Elizabeth’s last will and testament.
yesterday J Roach took your little bundle darling—now the General McDonald¹ come, and Josepha so happy, but they dont know how to love as we do - Nobody knows a Mothers love but our God—We had full BENEDICTION this afternoon, Adoremus and Mrs. Seguin opened the whole Piano - how I thought of you but can never separate William and Richard from you and the angels above strewing roses as I see them all these beautiful days—

Superior [John Dubois] begs you so to choose his carpet that a part of my confession visit - so pray dont forget—Your Eliza speaks of you with her eyes every time she can catch mine - many a little slip she takes in my room and I open both arms wide to give her Mother Kits kiss—she is a true angel—bless you my Souls darling - blind with tears at adoramus of so many remembrances

You never told me if you saw Mrs. [Elizabeth] Fox and if you loved her as I did—tell my dear Madame [Marie Françoise] C[hatard] one of her darlings¹ served in the Sanctuary yesterday, Sister Betsy [Boyle] could not remember which one—but all are well—

love to my Ellen Julia—all—tell Père [Babade] we beg him to bless—

¹General McDonald was probably the parent of Josephine McDonald, a pupil at St. Joseph's Academy in 1817.

¹Either Henry or Frederick Chatard, students at Mount St. Mary's
of what you have seen, in a sacred confidence which I little ex­
pected could have been so grossly betrayed however - let it all pass as
the world does—yet dear Madam make the case your own and your
heart would revolt as mine does at having your most private sacred
thoughts made public—

however I assure you my becoming a Catholic was a very simple
consequence of going to a Catholic country where it was impossible
for any one interested in any religion, not to see the wide difference
between the first established Faith given and founded by our Lord and
his apostles, and the various forms it has since taken and as I had al­
ways delighted in reading the Scriptures I had so deep an impression
of the mysteries of Divine revelation, that though full of the sweet
thought that every good and well meaning Soul was right, I deter­
mined when I came home both in duty to my children and my own
Soul to learn all I was capable of understanding on the subject—if
ever a Soul did make a fair enquiry, our God knows that mine did and
every day of life more and more increases my gratitude to him for hav­
ing made me what I am

—certainly though it was the Knowledge of the Protestant Doc­
trine with regard to Faith, which made me a Catholic - for as soon as
on enquiry I found that Episcopalians did not think everybody right, I
was convinced my safe plan was to unite with the church in which at
all events they admitted that I would find salvation, and where also I
would be secure of the Apostolic Succession, as well as of the many

7.98 ASJPH 1-3-3-7:72

1Mrs. Raborg was in Philadelphia. The first page of this draft is missing. When Catherine Seton
was in Baltimore in 1817, she examined a copy of the version of her mother’s Leghorn (Livorno)^
journal, The Memoirs of Mrs. S . . . (Elizabeth, NJ: Isaac Kollock, 1817). Elizabeth was upset by this
publication because the journal did not reflect her current Catholic beliefs. Catherine assured her
mother that there was nothing recognizably Protestant in the journal. Rev. Simon Bruté, S.S.,
believed that Elizabeth had trusted Rev. Henry Hobart and had given the journal to him, but he had
betrayed her trust by having it published. However, Hobart denied it.

2Italy

3The direct line of ecclesiastical authority of the hierarchy from St. Peter through the pope
consolations which no other religion but the Catholic can afford—the whole is that with the convictions of my Conscience, my Salvation depended on embracing the Catholic Faith—I never obtrude my thoughts on the subject but leave all to their own light and grace while I enjoy mine—a true joy to me indeed the daily morning Sacrifice and our frequent, and daily communion, when prepared—what a contrast to the morning sleep in former days. it has been my Wealth in Poverty, and joy in deepest afflictions

You will wish you had rather said nothing, than to have indeed me to say so much—but I finish - bless you forever with love to your dear children

Your true friend in Christ EASeton

7.99 To Elizabeth Fox

+29th June 1817

My dear Mrs. Fox

your precious children' had these letters ready for Mr. McDonald and they were accidently left behind—They are very well - and as usual truly good children and more and more beloved by all who know them.

—my dearest Kit will come home I hope next week which will please them very much—She wrote me that she never in her life felt towards a stranger the affection she did for you. I think the daughter and the mother have a sympathy in that point. —with every affectionate regard to Mr. [Robert] Fox and your dear family, and kindest rememberance to Mrs. Skiddy and our dear Margaret -

I am your devoted friend in Christ EASeton

4Mass was customarily offered in the early morning.

7.99 ASJPH 1-3-3-4:66

Mary, Jane, and Eliza Fox attended St. Joseph’s Academy.
My Souls Darling

Alas the months I have not heard from you—February your last date and here 25th July—eyes fill and heart aches, but our God is God and the hardest penance I can pay in this life is separation from you, and I must bear it - oh if but at last to be FOREVER UNITED—

Mrs. [Marie Françoise] Chatard writes me there is a Vessel for Leghorn and I write earnestly hoping to be in time—our own dear Richard is here¹—he will write you himself all about it, but can never tell you my anxiety seeing him displaced unsettled and not the least prospect before him—never did I know the true love of a mothers heart till now - and never could mother see her child in so trying a moment as this for him without one helping hand, yet I trust and look up with a quiet expectation that something will turn up—his mind is bent on a country life, but I believe it is only to preserve himself from the distroction of bad company and the dangers he has past in Baltimore - how you would pity the dear fellow if you saw his yet so innocent sim­ple heart with Kit and I as pleased and loving as when in happier days you both—sat by us on our dear Wednesdays²—but—we must hope and hope and hope to the last—have written you all the different ways I could find, and hope you are not so long without letters from us—wrote you that your sweet Kits health was mended, that I am as well as you ever saw me, that your Aunt and uncle P[ost] and Mary [Fitch Bayley] and Catherine [Post] had been to see us³—but how dearly and tenderly you are loved by all I can never tell you—
dear dear dearest William—could I know that you had recievied my letters in answer to the one on your present situation, and hear Mr.

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7.100 To William Seton

[July 24 or 25, 1817]

1Richard ended his position with Luke Tieman in early summer and returned to Emmitsburg.
2When Elizabeth’s sons were at Mount St. Mary’s, they visited her and her daughters at St. Joseph’s on Wednesdays.
3In May 1817 some of Elizabeth’s relatives visited Emmitsburg. This was the second and last time Wright and Mary Bayley Post visited Emmitsburg.
[Antonio] Filicchis opinion of what measures you had best take what a true consolation that would be—and could I hear that you still love and revere your God and religion and sometimes Approach the Sacraments with the fidelity of a Christian what delight it would be—but all must be in the dark still for a long while perhaps for your poor little mother—

July 24th here a carriage so—let it not slip by—Bless bless you forever—every love and rememberance to the dear Filicchis—

Your EASeton

7.101 To Julia Scott

+24th July 1817

My ever dear Julia

—Your most kind letter is safe, just as I was on the point of writing you to tell you my sweet Josephine is again safe with me, not strong, yet as well as she has ever been - we both are pretty much in the vocatives just now Richard being displaced from that good situation he had in Baltimore by the return of Mr. [Luke] Tiernans own son from Europe and his taking his son in law in partnership and my dear fellow is so truly out of humour with a city life, that he says he would envy a plowman who can make his bread in innocence and peace of a farmers life—he is at the Seminary now waiting to hear his Brothers future plan as we expect letters daily—Your 50 dollars were so seasonable for the particular moment that I could hardly keep my tears before Kit when it came - she feels so much her Brothers situation—a helping hand so much wanted and neither Father, or means of his advancement—but our God is God—and I know all will turn well at last—William too I fear makes too great a sacrifice to my wish in embracing a merchants life, his true calling poor darling was the Navy, which now I could not oppose since he is old enough to judge for

7.101 ASJPH 1-3-6:117
himself but was very very unwilling he should throw himself in a life of such hardship blindly—so my Julia as we must travel on through our pains—Your sickness is not surprising dearest friend, the wonder to me is rather that so weak and slight a little form should have borne the last great shock the force of which our God alone could know, while his own dear hand brought you through it—he alone can know a Mothers heart, that I have been long assured

—Oh dearest one now your J[ohn] M[orin] S[cott] is married if we could spend our last days together, if I could nurse you and you me—but no—our course is so different—for me I begin to be again attached to life since I see the position of my boys, and as to my manner of life every day increases my interest in it, and for that Religion you think folly, madness, bigotry, superstition etc etc etc, I find it a source of every consolation—so say you is your Julias to her—but that I deny, as to the comparison, since I know both so well, but that too is in the hands of our God. —yet if you had ever embraced a religion through as many obstacles as I have mine, I should have said I know her too well to think it could be a matter of fancy or indulgence of any human feelings, and I must suppose some reason as sacred as the Judgment after death in which it must be accounted, has induced my friend to act so, and I should surely have long ago said with old Mr. Pope1 If I am right oh teach my heart still in the right to stay, if I am wrong thy grace impart to find the better way—but you think there can be nothing wrong in religion, and that all the myriads of dividers and sub dividers under so many names are all right, while yet you read in most express terms that without a right Faith no one can please God.

—Well dearest one I carry you constantly in my heart before him who loved us, and so much more than any friend can love a friend—may he bless you, strengthen you, and make you truly pleasing to him own dear friend of my heart—

ever ever yours EAS.

1Elizabeth Seton was quoting the eighth stanza of Alexander Pope's poem “The Universal Prayer.”
7.102 To Robert Fox

25th July 1817

My dear Sir

We received the Rev. Bishops' letters with yours - our Superior the Rev. Mr. [John] Dubois has answered him—we will be too happy if your plan succeeds. —if you should come for the Sisters what pleasure it would be to your dear children and myself—they are in perfect health and all that your heart could wish—

every affectionate remembrance to Mrs. [Elizabeth] Fox and your dear family—will you tell your Rev. Bishop I will have the pleasure of writing him when our Sisters go to him—

ever your friend and servant in Christ EASeton.

7.102 ASJPH 1-3-3-4:66b

1Bishop John Connolly, O.P., (1747/48 or 1751-1825) was a native of Ireland who was ordained in 1774. He was consecrated second bishop of New York in 1814. A Catholic orphanage was incorporated by laymen April 15, 1817. In July of that year Bishop Connolly requested Sisters of Charity to staff it. Rev. John Dubois, S.S., the superior, wrote to the bishop July 24 (AMSV 400:1.5, copy) setting down the conditions under which the sisters would accept the mission: that the trustees manage the financial affairs and the sisters manage the interior operations of the house, that an Association of Ladies of Charity be formed to assist the sisters, that the sisters receive an annual allotment for clothing, that the sister in charge be consulted to prevent assigning the sisters excessive responsibilities, and that the trustees agree to pay the sisters’ transportation costs under specific conditions. Elizabeth’s choice to head the new mission was Sister Rose White.

2Escorted by Robert Fox, Sisters Rose White, Cecilia O’Conway, and Felicita Brady left Emmitsburg August 13, 1817, to begin the first foundation of the Sisters of Charity in New York.

Margaret Brady (1784-1883), from Emmitsburg, was known as Sister Felicitas (or Felicity) Brady after entering the novitiate in 1814. She went with Rose White in 1817 to open the first mission in New York where she spent much of her time on infirmary duties. Sometime prior to 1832, she returned to Emmitsburg but left for service in Philadelphia (1832) and became Sister Servant at St. Mary’s School there in 1833. She also served as Sister Servant in Frederick, Maryland (1834), and at Mount St. Mary’s, Emmitsburg (1840). Sister Felicita withdrew from the Sisters of Charity November 2, 1846, but her request to be buried in the community cemetery at St. Joseph’s Valley was honored. Her own sister was Sister Ellen Brady (d.1818), also a Sister of Charity.
May you be spared the agony of heart to see the poor good Lipp who once adorned Your Sanctuary in Baltimore where I had last seen him, now with wife and child—I burst in tears at the sad Reverse and now 3 hours after the tears to our Jesus redouble—Oh his Kingdom—labourers for his vineyard—My poor poor poor Richard William—my God Oh if the bleeding of a Mothers heart can obtain—poor poor poor blind ones such a Lord, such a master, such a divine and glorious service - but blind blind and lost to love and duty, groping along through the bright heavenly light which shines so lovely to the happy ones who comprehend

blessed blessed G most blessed You are his and in that at least [the] grateful Soul of your own Mother rejoices, and oh remember those who are not—

== the poor Lipp tells me Sister Rose [White] is much better—I write her earnestly about New York—the desire of my heart and Soul for her going to New York has been long pressing for so much must depend as says the good gentlemen who write about it on who is sent to my “native city” they say, not knowing that I am a citizen of the world—the Bishop [John Connolly] also writes about it asking 3 Sisters for such an orphan asylum as in Philadelphia to begin on a small plan—excellent - the little mustard seed—oh if my Rose can go I shall be proud, she will keep so well the dignity of rules and pure intentions—

but the only will for his atoms who builds upon nothing—I rest in Silence - with his President in his adorable heart

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7.103 ASJPH 1-3-3-12:73
2Sister Rose White was the Sister Servant at St. Joseph’s Asylum, Philadelphia, but was about to be named to head the new mission in New York.
3Elizabeth Seton was born in New York.
5Rev. Simon Bruté, S.S., was president of St. Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore.
To Rev. Simon Brûte, S.S.

[August 1817]

and now the so well meaning Miss Cochman sister of the wealthy man and all wealth herself insists to tread on it all and be a Sister, I laugh at her as if she would build a tower to the Skies, but she persists all things are possible with God\(^1\) and with such a gravity that I can but bid her wait the return of the Pope—

and two most blessed Souls from Philadelphia\(^2\) one an accomplished musician which sets Mrs. Seguin\(^3\) quite wild—in vain I assure her no one can rival her in affection of St. Joseph’s family and my devoted heart, she is fairly sick and in the infirmary—so, so, so—enough recreation for a sinner my Ellen Hamiltons distress in pages about an offer of marriage also—and our poor good Boarman\(^4\)

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7.104 To Rev. Simon Brûte, S.S.


\(^2\)The two new candidates from Philadelphia were Mary Decount and her niece Eliza Butcher. Mary Decount (1786-1870), an accomplished musician, was admitted to the novitiate October 2, 1817. The Council also allowed that her mother, a widow in her eightieth year, come to live at St. Joseph’s, but if she were not willing to accept the offer, she would be granted $200 per year from the profits resulting from Mary Decount’s services as a teacher of music. Apparently though, different arrangements were made. Known as Sister Mary Augustine, she was elected Procuratrix (1820) and Mother (1827). She served at St. Matthew’s School, Washington DC (1825); St. Mary’s Asylum, Mobile, Alabama; Donaldsonville, Louisiana (1848); and St. Joseph’s Central House, Emmitsburg (1855) where she died. She is buried in the original community cemetery.

Eliza Butcher (1800-1849) was known as Sister Martina after entering the novitiate October 2, 1817. She was the niece of Mother Mary Augustine Decount, SC, the third superior of the Sisters of Charity. Sister Martina opened the first Catholic hospital west of the Mississippi in St. Louis in 1828 and served at New Orleans (1833), Frederick (1834?), Baltimore Infirmary and Asylum (1834), the Washington Asylum (1834), Martinsburg, Virginia [now West Virginia], as Sister Servant (1837), Emmitsburg (1839), and Mobile, Alabama (1841) where she died of yellow fever August 7, 1849, the day after visiting someone ill with that disease.

\(^3\)The music teacher

\(^4\)Probably George Boarman of Charleston, South Carolina, who had been a seminarian at Mount St. Mary’s, 1811-1814 but discontinued his preparation for the priesthood at the Mount. His two orphan sisters became Sisters of Charity. Catherine Boarman (1804-1832) was admitted as a candidate in 1824 and made her vows in 1828. Known as Sister Mary Catherine, she served at the Baltimore Infirmary (prior to 1828), Emmitsburg (1828), Harrisburg (1830), and was the Sister Servant of the Baltimore Infirmary (1832) where she died August 30, 1832, as a result of serving in the cholera epidemic there. Sister Mary Catherine is buried in the New Cathedral Cemetery, Baltimore. Sophia Boarman of Georgetown was admitted as a candidate in 1832 and entered the novitiate the following year when she also was on mission at the Asylum and School in Frederick, Maryland, and was known as Sister Zosnia. She withdrew from the community in 1833.
beside himself with distress at separation from "the dwellings of Peace and innocence" he says offers all his shares of the paternal estate if we will take his two "orphan sisters," and Mr. [John] Dubois recieve him as a boarder at the Mountain to do all he can for the service of the Seminary—your heart would ach at his letter—alas alas alas—how many obstacles when the Kingdom of our Jesus is in question—

Again pressing letters for the Sisters for New York—Mary Ann Patton - supplicating to be received a Sister.⁵ L.J.C.

7.105 To William Seton

+[August 9, 1817]

So much your little Mother wishes to hear from you my love, but no letters since last of February, and this 9th August—I see you recieving my letters and carrying them to Mr. [Antonio] Filicchi saying Sir my Mother puts no obstacle to my pursuing the life of my own choice—and you enter some ship or couirer and my William my Souls William is gone . . . how often imagination has pictured you even in the chains of Slavery . . . I shed my tears over you continually, appealing to him who alone knows and pities the whole of a Mothers heart, who sees also such thoughts are not wilfully indulged, and at the worst are always mixed with bright hope and confidence in his goodness. I have written so often in different ways, New York . Baltimore . France.

— it strikes me now Mr. [George] Grover¹ going to Philadelphia to send this line there as a vessel may go from that port—last week Kit and I wrote by one, Madame [Marie Françoise] C[hatard] wrote us [one] was going from Baltimore—

Richard is so bent on hearing from you before he takes any new

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⁵There is no record in the Council Minutes of Mary Ann Patton applying as a candidate in 1817.

7.105 ASCH Seton-Jevons #145-146

¹The owner of the grocery store in Emmitsburg
step—he is much beloved by M. Hickey, Mullen, Doyle, Elders etc.\(^2\) at the Mountain and passes his time with them fishing gunning etc. till vacations pass—by that time surely we will hear how it is with you—if you give up your merchant life he will give it up too I think. poor fellow how I feel for him but we must see it out, he always sticks to his thought of [becoming] a farmer—We are very well - Kit told you of her trip to Baltimore—if you could imagine the kindness of Madame C[hatard] and the Doctor [Chatard]—they invited and entertained Kits acquaintances as their own - every body admiring and seeking her—We have no kind of news dearest - bless you Your own own own EAS.

I need not repeat, every kind and grateful remembrance to our friends—will write next week again by Baltimore—the next week by New York as Mr. [Robert] Fox is coming to [the Valley]

\[7.106\] To Rev. Simon Bruté, S.S.

[August 1817]

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What an enjoyment to recieve a good Dutch girl\(^1\) one eyed, yellow, and all the stiff dignity of what the world calls old maid - out of the heart of a Luther[an] family - “los’ los’ los’” she says “it is good to be here - Mammy cried enough and she would say ‘Mary what do you go to St. Josephs for, here is plenty of every thing and a gigg to ride in and a black girl to wait on you’”—“Yes Mammy” I said “but if I do not lay up treasure in heaven” Mammy—I would rather work hard at the Sisters and have church every day than walk on gold here Mammy—then

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\(^2\)Rev. John Hickey, S.S., James I. Mullen of Emmitsburg, and other seminarians and students at Mount St. Mary’s

\[7.106\] ASJPH 1-3-3-12:48

\(^1\)Mary Wagner (d. 1818), born in Germany, was admitted to the novitiate October 2, 1817, and became known as Sister Mary Elizabeth. A zealous convert whose health was never good, she died at St. Joseph’s fourteen months after entering the novitiate and is buried in the original community cemetery.

she said ‘come child with me to the Lutharians’ and I said Mammy I wants to go to the church which the apostles founded Luther is Luther and Calvin is Calvin and Knox is Knox. Mammy, but I wants the church of the Apostles begun by them.”

to be sure my dear to be sure you shall be in the church of the apostles

—and she repeats over and over “oh 30 years and I have lived so without sacraments or church but it is not my fault that Lord knows it is not my fault”

—She strikes my chord there G—Alas—my God it was perhaps my fault by abuse of grace and my crimes

7.107 To Sister Cecilia O’Conway

+[before August 13, 1817]

My own Cecilia

- going on her heavenly errand and to crucify Self—bad wicked thing you owe it a good grudge, pay it well—my child often I shall say in my solitude among a 100, my Cicil is with you my God I find her in you. every moment she will be serving and loving you with me—

be a friend, Sister, comfort and support to Rose [White], and let Felicite [Brady] see that you go all on Faith and that she will find her true grace in a full confidence in Rose.—love your Mother above in her also my dear one

I do not feel the least uneasy about you—if you suffer so much the better for our high journey above—the only fear I have is that you will

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3Martin Luther (1483-1546) initiated the Protestant Reformation, John Calvin (1509-1564) was a French theologian and church reformer, and John Knox (1513?-1572) founded Presbyterianism in Scotland.

4Elizabeth was reminded of her feelings at the time of her own conversion to Catholicism.

7.107 UAQ #6

1Sister Cecilia O’Conway was one of the sisters going to New York. She had been serving as Treasurer of the community and was replaced by Sister Margaret George.
let the old string pull too hard for solitude and silence, but look to the Kingdom of souls—the few to work in the little Vineyard, this is not a country my dear one for Solitude and Silence, but of warfare and crucifixion—You are not to stay in his silent agonies of the garden at night, but go from post to pillar to the very fastening on the cross and mind my lady how you dare glance a thought at pulling out the nail which he put in with my hand while his own so dear will hammer it up to the very head I expect—I beg him with a mothers agony to do it softly and tenderly—would wish so to hold your dear head while he does it, but he answers no one held his and . . . but yet he will hold himself supporting with one hand, and fastening with the other—My Celia—child of my Soul to OUR GOD I commit you

7.108 To Rev. Simon Bruté, S.S.

[August 1817]

—went down the chapel steps holding the dying fainting heart in the hand to our God, to meet a carriage supposing William there—but Mrs. [Rachel] Montgomery—very well—poor Lady - and a protestant lady with her—when I see all the people so various my head and heart goes wild, with joy that he is God - and our God - and we his poorest creatures—served indeed so badly yet he sees the poor heart and I hope the constant fear of offending - and the thirst to see him better served and loved—

how your heart would ach for this Mrs. Walker—Now mine recoils from the human details she makes it while it presses our Lord, insists even that he will pity her, the most completely blind of any I yet saw, not for Faith indeed since she has rather enough to condemn her, but the absolute ignorance of common principle of “Forgive as we

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2Cecilia had a penchant for contemplation and the cloister. Eventually, in 1823, she transferred to the Ursulines in Montreal and was known as Mother Marie of the Incarnation until her death there.
7.108 ASJPH 1-3-3-12:67
1Probably Rachel Montgomery’s companion
forgive"—such obstacles to grace in one who values herself on *piety*—oh our God—incredible if she did not herself speak it. such is the religion of dear protestants the most enlightened—our poorest coar­est Catholic sees so clear compared with them on this essential point of charity—We have had a deal of fuss for your recreation when you come—poor Mr. [Charles] Duhamel mad -

7.109 To Rev. Simon Bruté, S.S.

+[18 August 1817]

after passing a day with this poor Mrs. W[alker] and hearing her sentiments on her family affairs and affections, I see plainly why so many Souls remain in their deep darkness why the light shines so full in darkness and yet is not perceived¹—our God—they think they know him and love him, but have not the least glimpse of what Spirit he is of or their direct contradiction to it—

—Oh the deep sad impression to my soul—but we must pray this lady declares the Catholic Faith is the true Faith—but I see plainly she has obstacles to grace which our God alone can remove—Oh then to pray pray is all I see—She kept my heart so well under the press shewing all her oppositions to the reign of our Jesus (herself obsti­nately bent to support them) that I spent truly a day of tears and interior cry to him, to see how they bind his blessed hands, pervert his word, and yet hold up the head in boast that they are true Christians - let my heart then bleed with yours


7.109 AS]PH 1-3-3-12:75

¹Cf. John 1:5.
7.110 To Elizabeth Fox

23rd August 1817

My ever dear Mrs. Fox

you receive three beings most dear to me in our God, in his name you will I know do all for them—your darlings here as they will tell you, are as good and endearing as ever - Mary more easy in the little point I told you of—their dear Papa seemed much satisfied with them. Remember your promise to think of me sometimes before God as I often do of you—

Your grateful friend EASeton

7.111 To Ellen Gottsberger

+23rd August 1817

My dearest Ellen

Since you and your George are one, it will be your place to thank him for me for his handsome and kind letter which I will answer to you as I know that will please him best—I wish very much to know if you make a good obedient wife studying the happiness of your husband, as you wish him to study yours, and as a true Christian setting him the first example of a humble heart, and forbearing temper, if you take care of the Soul As well as the body of your servants who must find a Mother as well as a mistress in you—and if you prepare yourself to

7.110 ASJPH 1-3-3-4:67
1The three sisters going to New York were Sisters Rose White, Cecilia O’Conway, and Felicitas Brady.
2Jane, Eliza, and Mary Fox attended St. Joseph’s Academy.

7.111 AMSV 110:10,17
1The former Ellen Buckley who had attended St. Joseph’s Academy. She would later have three daughters who attended a Sister of Charity school in New York.
2The husband of the addressee
become a happy Mother of souls you will bring up to God by the faithful discharge of every domestic Virtue—All this Mr. George ought to have told, but not a word of it in his letter, he leaves me to guess it all, and I do guess all that is good in my dear Ellen whose principles I know to be so upright and pure—Mind my Lady, Wedlock will not Keep old Mr. Death away, so be good, that when he comes he may find you on the watch

how much you will be pleased to see Sister Cecilia [O’Conway] I can imagine what your meeting will be, and how Kind you will be to the poor Strangers—truly what you do for them you may do as to our Lord himself—You know so much of the sacred principles of our rules which seem so odd to strangers, that you can take their part, and often show the truth in her beautiful colours—ask them who speak about it, what would a life in the Service of God be without rules - to be sure that will do for those who belong to the world, but not for those who are consecrated to God—

dearest child we can send you but part of your things at a time the carriage is so crowded—unless the driver will consent to tie them on with the trunks which we will see when the Hack comes pray present me respectfully to Mr. Heeny, and affectionately to your dear George—

May our God bless you both forever is the heart felt prayer of Your friend EASeton

My dearest Ellen Rev. Mr. [John] Dubois just steps out of the confessional to charge me with every expression of regard for you and your Husband—he is now so busy he cannot write, but will he says as soon as possible—

EAS.\(^6\)


\(^5\)Cornelius Heeny (1754-1848) was born in Ireland and emigrated to New York in 1784 where he became a merchant and philanthropist. In 1785 he helped organize St. Peter’s Church and donated much time and money to Catholic charities. He furnished the building for the orphanage in St. Patrick’s parish staffed by the Sisters of Charity.

\(^6\)Written at the bottom: “Presented to the Mother House of the Sisters of Charity, Mount St. Vincent, by Francis Gottsberger, seventh child of John George and Ellen Gottsberger Brooklyn November 1st 1906.”
7.112 To Eliza Sadler

24th August 1817

My ever dear Eliza

Your letter was as always most welcome - and added a pleasure more to a moment of life so sweet to me that I know not how to be grateful enough for it, for my William is here,¹ the same dear amiable dutiful child he left me with the additional polish and grace of conversation and manner so of course in the two years spent abroad—he cannot pursue the merchant life it seems through the double impediment of weak fingers, I think I mentioned [to] you in consequence of my long illness when I nursed him and he sucked fingers instead of poor Mother, and a set of his heart so absolutely on the Navy that he is bent on procuring a place in it - he reasons so deliberately on all that can be alleged against it that it must even be so especially as it is the time of Peace, when he says a man should learn what he is to do in war. Richard takes the place he left in Leghorn, if he only goes through it with as good a name as was sent back with his Brother all well be well.

Your news of dearest Helen [Bayley Craig] is delightful - may she be blest forever—and our lovely Mary² with whom I was inexpressibly delighted—Will you tell our dearest Dué for me that the Sister Cecilia [O’Conway], who has been these eight years what Dué herself would have wished to have been to me in our sick room and death bed scenes, is with Sister Rose [White]. I hope she will see them as soon as she can, perhaps you too dearest Eliza would call with her a moment, as they themselves cannot call on you—you may suppose what both are to my heart after so many years and cares and pains and comforts together—

My Kit is very well for the present, loves all in New York both of friends and relatives with an enthusiasm, almost indeed amusing in

¹William had recently returned from spending over two years in Leghorn (Livorno), Italy, at the Filicchi counting house.
²Mary Fitch Bayley, Elizabeth’s half-sister, married Sir Robert Henry Bunch in 1817.
one otherways so cool and gentle. So goes this World—Peace and Patience and let all pass—

with every kindest remembrance to all ever your EASeton.

7.113 To Mary Diana Harper

+26th August 1817

My ever dear little Friend

I understand you have written me therefore cannot allow your dear Charles¹ to go to you without the assurance of tenderest Remembrance and Affection from your old Mother and Josephine—Your friend Bec being long since Safe we hope in our high home, I can only tell you she remembered you to the last, and left us in such dispositions as gave us every assurance of her happiness—

All your old companions have left us I believe or at least the greater number—Your dear Papa² brought us the little details respecting your present situation - extremely interesting to me, but since that time no doubt you are much advanced in your education especially the main point I pressed you so often about, the controul of your quick feelings . . . You see plainly now that unless they are subdued you can have no rest with yourself or others—precious child how much Pain I have given you on that point, but do not let memory exaggerate it—rather do justice to a heart which wished only your true happiness.

how delighted you will be to see your darling amiable Brother Charles, and your favourite cousin

—my Mary dear do not let your beloved Soul be buried in this low world, look very often above it - keep account of the many Particular graces it has been adorned with, and I hope still possesses . . . it is not easy for me to express to you my interest in you, and the event of the

7.113 MHS MS 430, pp. 127-8

¹Charles C. Harper, a brother of the addressee, was a student at Mount St. Mary’s, 1811-1817.
²Robert Goodloe Harper
first scene of your early days at St. Josephs—probably I will only see it from that world where I hope to meet you triumphant over all the obstacles to your happy Eternity—Bless you forever

Your EASeton

7.114 To William Seton

+Monday morning [August 1817]

My own William

Joseph] Wiseman says you are come - that joy to us that we shall see you, (but not to day I beg in this Storm) and you will again see our own Dick before he is off, much I fear the opportunity of Purvenance’s Vessel will be lost as it was to have sailed the 12th.
—a 100000 loves from Kit and Your Mother to both of you—Mr. [Robert] Fox’s letters etc came by yesterday’s post.

7.115 To Archbishop Ambrose Maréchal, S.S.¹

+September 1817

Our Reverend Father

Our Council of Sisters² request me to inform You that the Child you sent on trial Mary Kelly, being found after the expiration of the

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³Mary Diana Harper, a daughter of Robert Goodloe and Catherine Carroll Harper, was an early student at St. Joseph’s Academy until around 1815. She was sent to France in 1816 for further education.

7.114 AMSV 110:10,10

¹When William arrived home from Italy in August, he brought a letter from Antonio Filicchi offering to have Richard come to work in the Filicchi firm.

7.115 AAB 20N5

¹Archbishop Leonard Neale, S.J., of Baltimore died June 1, 1817. Bishop Ambrose Maréchal, S.S., had been coadjutor and was named archbishop of Baltimore November 10, 1817.

²The governing body of the Sisters of Charity
three months candidateship not suited to the object of our institution, will return to Baltimore the first favourable opportunity—

I assure you our dear Father that the greatest care has been taken to turn this little wild head to some account but in vain, she cannot be depended on a moment nor remain half an hour in adoration without so much complaining and restlessness that we fear she should be seen by children or strangers—our Rev. Superior [John Dubois] does not think she can be prepared for her first Communion while she is so thoughtless—begging your blessing on our community

I am always your devoted servant in Christ

7.116 To Sister Cecilia O’Conway

[September 1817]

My Souls Cicil

—I take a laugh and cry at your flannel and plaister - never mind—God is God, in it all—if you are to do his work the strength will be given, if not my Cis, someone else will do it and you come again to your corner—no great affair where his dear Atom is, if only his will is done—Say all you can to Philadelphia1 for me—Peace dearest Soul from our Jesus, I look a long look at our dear crucifix for you—this 9 at night.

William gone to Washington - Richard next week for Leghorn2 - Jos[ephine] just so, I just so, all much as you left it—our FAITHFUL GOD the same—Mary Decount and Eliza3 very well and happy—Susan T[orney]4 + retreat over she quite happy—[paper torn] and fear5

7.116 UAQ #2b
1Sister Cecilia O’Conway’s family, who Elizabeth knew well, lived in Philadelphia.
2William was seeking an appointment in the United States Navy while Richard’s departure for Italy was imminent.
3Mary Decount and her niece Eliza Butcher were both candidates for the Sisters of Charity and would enter the novitiate the following month.
4Susan Torney (d. 1818) was admitted to the novitiate October 2, 1817. Known as Sister Mary Ignatia, she died at St. Joseph’s November 20, 1818, and is buried in the original community cemetery.
5The rest of this page is torn off; “of Natia”is written up the side.
My ever dear Antonio

- Here is my Richard, you said a good will, and good hand writing would be enough I hope he will soon show you [he] has both, and also a heart burning with desire to represent the love and gratitude of us all for you. Your sending for him is a singular Providence since it appears that there never was so much difficulty as now in placing young men. Mr. [Robert] Barry writes me he is obliged to send his own son away from the singular dulness of the times, and the depravity of the young people of our cities—

I know not (being at such a distance from Baltimore) what arrangement he will be able to make with Mr. Purveyance for Richards passage as after long delay in New York I find no possibility of getting the money for his expence—you must think it very hard my dear Antonio that the whole falls on you, but I depend on your repeated and so generous injunctions to call for the absolutely necessary, every year hoping it is the last, but that is in the hands of our God—if only we could be so happy that Richard in the course of time should take any part of the burden of your business and cares, but that is too bright a hope for me in this world where it seems the cross is my only safety too happy would I be to take from yours instead of adding to it.

Richard’s disposition is quite different from Williams if he does not fall into bad company I am sure he will do well, for all the turn of his mind is for business and activity, but with his quick temper and want of experience, he is in continual dangers which his Brother escapes—Oh with what a deep heart of sorrow and hope I commit them to God who so far has so well protected us,—we find William so improved, and with such excellent dispositions that we can have no uneasiness for him, he has set his heart on the sea life, and I can now put no more obstacles but trust it all to God, if he is not offended I will be

7.117 AMSJ A 111 067

1Richard had sailed for Italy and was the bearer of this letter.
satisfied, but there is the point the Navy is so dangerous for soul and
body—the President of the Navy Department\textsuperscript{2} has promised him an
appointment before Christmas—Alas—

all our affairs at St Joseph go on with the blessing of God, Sisters
are just now established in New York as in Philadelphia for the care of
orphans, three branches are gone from our house to sow the little mus­
tard seed\textsuperscript{3}—and religion smiles on our poor country in many
ways—the arrival of Bishop Dubourg with his 40 missioners\textsuperscript{4} is a
great benediction, the interior settlements being many some wholly
without priests to break the bread of life\textsuperscript{5} to them—

Dearest Brother love and pity your little poor little American Sister
I need not tell you how much I pray for you and yours and procure
many prayers of the best souls for you when I say pity me, I only mean
in point of the danger of my two sons as to their so dearly bought souls,
and the long expence to you of their otherways so unfriended situ­a­
tion.

If a Mr. Doyle\textsuperscript{6} should go in the same vessel with Richard for his
health, I must beg you on my knees to befriend him, he is of the first
merit and piety, and talents in our Seminary—quite independent I be­
lieve for property, but still will be a stranger in your land ever your de­
voted in Christ \textit{EASeton}

I have sealed your dear Amabilia’s [Filicchi] letter and forgot to
tell her my Josephine begs a little share in her and your sweet daugh­
ters affection in the place of one so good and dear departed Anina.

\textsuperscript{2}Daniel Brent had presented William to the Acting Secretary of the Navy, Benjamin W.
Crowninshield.

\textsuperscript{3}The three missions beyond St. Joseph’s Valley were Philadelphia, Mount St. Mary’s, and New

\textsuperscript{4}As first bishop of Louisiana and the Floridas, Rev. William Dubourg, S.S., invited numerous
missionaries to America, including the Congregation of the Mission, founded by St. Vincent de
Paul.

\textsuperscript{5}Cf. John 6:35.

\textsuperscript{6}A faculty member at St. Mary’s College, Baltimore
My dear Sir

I just received your letter with Mr. Tompkins—William delivered the one to Captain Stewart\(^1\) and received the kindest encouragement but all is uncertain for the event - at least it will not be your fault if the poor fellow is not provided . . . I can only beg our God to be to your children what you are to mine—Richard has sailed - the Brig *Strong* Captain Perry - I begged Mr. [Robert] Barry who had the goodness to take charge of his outfit to count on you for the amount, but if he has not done so this week - will beg you to forward him the whole through his merchantile firm in New York (Mr. Hefferman I believe)\(^2\) who can give the receipt for me—

O my kind friend my grateful heart hangs over your sweet children,\(^3\) most happy will I be to prove my gratitude in them - they are as I wrote you last week all your heart could wish, Eliza was taking a little cry to day at some fancy she took that you were not all well at home, Jane cried because Eliza cried, and Mary began to keep both company but in two minutes I made all 3 laugh and gave them over with a little scold to their beloved Josephine who doats on them more than ever—a thousand loves to my ever dear Mrs. [Elizabeth] Fox - and will you tell our Sisters when you see them they shall hear from us next week—Y[ou]r devoted fri[en]d and Serv[an]t in [Christ], 

\(\text{EASeton}\)

all our New Yorkers are very well—

if Mr. McCarty comes next week perhaps it w[oul]d be the shortest way to send the little funds *to me*, by him -

---

\(^1\)Captain Charles Stewart, commander of the Mediterranean squadron from 1817 to 1820, was involved in securing a naval appointment for William.

\(^2\)Probably an agent for Robert Barry.

\(^3\)Eliza, Jane, and Mary Fox were students at St. Joseph’s Academy.
My ever dear

Your precious letter and note are safe in my hands, and I hasten to tell you that William was not 24 hours in your city where his good angel had delayed Captain [Charles] Stewart to the very moment or he would have missed him - having delivered his letters to him, and received every kind assurance of his interest in his behalf, found you gone to New York, and left my letter at your house, he hastened back to Baltimore to see Richard off who sailed a day after, but left me a thorn in the heart poor fellow which now no doubt he feels more than ever though his tears and sobs in his acknowledgments to me were enough to move a stronger mother than I am, for we find when too late that the good and most respectable Mr. [Luke] Tiernan with whose family he made his home made no account of his expences, and poor Dick not having fortitude or good sense to keep himself in the character of Son of a poor widow, spent not only the 200 dollars Mr. [Antonio] Filicchi allowed for his regular wants, but all that poor Kit had saved by her piano lessons and your constant remittances - indeed her loving heart wanted it only for her Brothers but we are hurt and mortified enough that he should have been playing the fool in that way—yet on tracing it we find he has been imposed on just like the poor countryman in the fable, for a more innocent simple young man can scarcely be met with and we must hope he will do well in the event with a little more experience and Judgment—

William is a solid old gentleman, and has so prepossessing an appearance and manner that he has obtained the most effectual recommendations for his dear Navy, and his name it seems is at the head of a list of fourteen hundred who applied before him with state recommendations—dear dear William how you would love him my Julia—now
he is going over his mathematics at the mountain Seminary,\textsuperscript{1} till called for.

—Kits health is much better than usual - my old heart made of leather and not to be broken it seems, keeps up—You say nothing of your health, but I trust our dear old New York air has braced it—my dear dear Julia I sigh deeply over your letter - dont set your heart too much on the opening career of your dear J[ohn] M[orin] S[cott]\textsuperscript{2}—I say so, for I think had it pleased God I could have been a Grandmother I would have been more tied to this life by a 2nd generation than a first.

—pray for me as I do for you—my own dear Julia be blessed—

Your EASeton

7.120 To Robert Fox

+10th October 1817

our ever kind friend

the money came safe of course by such safe hands—and the letter for William for which you will still offer my heartfelt thanks to Mr. [Samuel] Cooper—William has little hope of getting out this winter and is quietly getting what more he can of Mathematics and Navigation at the Seminary where he is very happy. —poor fellow he would lay his life down to show his gratitude to you - but our God will do what we cannot—

Your dear family will be much disappointed I fear at the short letters of the girls,\textsuperscript{1} Mr. McCartys visit makes so much joy for them that they play away in little chat the time they might write, but be assured they are not only well and happy but truly good children and generally very diligent in their Education We will do every thing for their comfort this winter, so their dearest Mother need not be uneasy - they are

\textsuperscript{1}In addition to concentrating on mathematics at this time, William also studied navigation.
\textsuperscript{2}Julia’s son had been elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.
7.120 ASJPH 1-3-3-4:68b
\textsuperscript{1}Eliza, Jane, and Mary Fox
obliged to have each two new stuff frocks, but it is as good and cheap here probably as in New York
—tell dear Phoebe please not to write too much about the wedding, it makes Jane wild, and think too much about home, which as it is, is I believe seldom out of their minds dear children - never did we meet more Affectionate hearts, and never among the 100's passing through our house, see children so generally beloved
—with Affectionate regards to my dear Mrs. [Elizabeth] Fox,

I am ever your gratefully devoted EASeton

7.121 To Rev. Simon Bruté, S.S.

+[October 1817] SUNDAY

while I say our Te deum in union with your thanksgiving my heart fills at “O Lord save thy people”¹ thinking how things are shared in this world, I see a quiet moderate experienced man put in the center of a Congregation who is not “SAVED” for want of an active zealous driving man, because they must have “fire” cried in their ears—and I see a zealous driving man without experience, put in a Seminary where he will “SAVE” none because he cannot wait to gain a heart, or unfold a temper and his zeal instead of bedewing the plant in the thirsty ground crushes it under foot— alas, well if he does not root it out forever²

Oh Lord then “SAVE” save the Redeemed of thy precious blood, and send “wisdom from above”—“blessed” I am truly down hearted this day, poor Leper,³ yet Glory to the Father Son and Holy Ghost has been my incessant prayer with 100 meanings—too sick to do any thing but pray—and COMMUNION tomorrow will pray better—

7.121 ASJPH 1-3-3-12:56

¹Cf. Joel 2:17.
²The men referred to here are probably Rev. Charles Duhamel, the pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Emmitsburg from 1809 to 1818, and Rev. Simon Bruté, S.S., the president of St. Mary's College in Baltimore.
7.122 To Matthias O’Conway

+3rd October 1817

My dear Mr. Oconway

The good Lady you so charitably recommend, has settled her affair with our Reverend Superior [John Dubois], to whom we referred it since it was not in the order of the common rules of the House.

—I have a very cheerful letter from our beloved Cecilia [O’Conway] as probably you have also by the same hand, Sister Rose [White] also writes that Cecilia’s health is now as usual—

With affectionate regards to your dear family I am always your friend and Serv[an]t in Christ

EASETon

7.123 To Sister Cecilia O’Conway

+[October 1817]

My Cecil

—One heart in our All every thing goes quiet - pretty nearly as when you were with us—My heart and Soul comforted by your letters—Courage dearest child of Eternity.—Be Faithful

I am trying my very best—Sign your little Joseph for me—I am deeply engaged with our St. Joseph and Teresa as last year you will remember—am to have 3 days before All Saints to stir up the Ashes. I mind you unite well with your poor Mother William and Josephine will join our COMMUNION I trust sweet Bec’s aniversary

7.122 PAHRC MC 44: 1,7

1The 1812 Regulations for the Sisters of Charity in the United States of America
2The date received, “Friday 10 September 1817,” is marked on the address.

7.123 UAQ #1

1Possibly Elizabeth was probably making three days of prayerful reflection or retreat prior to All Saints Day, November 1.
2Rebecca’s first anniversary of death was November 3.
Peace to you I wrote your dear Father [Matthias O’Conway] a few affectionate lines the other day to answer to a letter of introduction he gave a poor woman—trust all to our God my own one as I must and do

Your EASeton

7.124 Copy to Robert Fox

4th November 1817

My dear Sir,

William left this letter on my table last week to go with mine to the office, and mortified he would be, indeed if he knew it was forgotten, but the involuntary neglect of his mother will enable her to give you a real pleasure, I know when I tell you that this day’s post brought him the commission¹ you solicited. Poor fellow! how it would delight you to see his joy after so many years hope. He has only the appointment though, no destination designated as yet. All my prayer is that your goodness to him may be returned on your own dear children. Jane, Eliza and Mary [Fox] are my daily mementos of gratitude. They are very well and happy, hoping for a letter from home by next post. Pray, if you please, unite mine with their thousand loves to their dear Mamma [Elizabeth Fox]

Devoted E.A.Seton

7.125 To Archbishop Ambrose Maréchal, S.S.

+6th November 1817

Right Reverend Father.

A favourable opportunity occurs to send Mary,¹ and it is thought best it should be embraced -

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7.124 ASJPH 1-3-3-4:69 (Copy) No original exists.
7.125 AAB 20N6

¹William received an appointment to the United States Navy as midshipman.

¹Mary Kelly had been recommended by Archbishop Maréchal, but the Council had judged that she was not a suitable candidate, and she was being sent back home.
She is more and more thoughtless and careless in her conduct, therefore it has been very difficult to keep her so long in community where you know every action is noticed—

much pains has been taken to prepare her for her first Communion, you will Judge how far they have been successful—Your reverence will remark I say only that Mary is careless and appears to have no thought of a religious Vocation, and I believe though she is a harmless child—

With earnest intreaties for your prayers and blessing on our House

I am ever your devoted Servant in Christ EASeton.

7.126 To Sister Cecilia O’Conway

+[November 1817]

a word to my own loved Celia

You know well how useless all words are on our business at such a distance—mine goes on very peaceably—yours too I hope. alas if it does not how unfaithful must you be to our faithful ONE for what can truly grieve if all is well with him. Sister Rose [White] says the kind-est words of you in her last and the one you alluded to about your sermon to her spoke only as of her own fault thinking from your word that you expected she was changed that we thought so too and perhaps was deceived in her, but who does not know that we are miserable enough to our good whatever little fits of Amendment may be shown—

all goes very quiet here—Sus[an Clossy] is reforming her best—Josephine as you left her, William every day dearer and always on the go—Sister Jane [Frances Gartland] and I one heart the little zealot fighting well and overcoming much with many a knock and grace too I hope—pray much for all Cicil dear I do not hear a word of your dear family, Janes is in extremity We have gained permission to send for Eliza here.—

Your heart must be high up and quiet Cicil so must mine or we are undone—think of my poor poor ones how much worse than yours—
BUT ONE GOD IS ALL—

Caroline\(^1\) stands by me—her poor heart fills when I ask her what I shall say to Sister Cecil—they all do better and are not pushed so hard as when you grumbled so—

Bless you forever love your poor poor poorest Mother,

\textit{dear leg just so.}

\textbf{7.127 To Robert Goodloe Harper}

+9 December 1817

My dear Sir

Here is your sweet Elizabeths\(^1\) letter to her sister, will you have the goodness to send mine with it—Elizabeth is in perfect health, and has all she wants—

My son William recieved the Midshipman warrant he so much desired since I had the pleasure of seeing you, perhaps the kindness you offered will be not less advantageous to him, in case he is not called away before January, than if he had not received it, but that will be as you say—

With every grateful affectionate remembrance to Mrs.[Catherine Carroll] Harper

Your obliged \textit{EASeton}

\textbf{7.128 To Mary Diana Harper}

+9 December 1817

My ever dear Mary

—How many remembrances pressed on my heart on reading your letter of 20th May - and when your dear Mama related the difficulty

\(^1\)Caroline Eislen was a pupil at St. Joseph’s Academy in 1817.
\textbf{7.127 MHS MS 1304, #3}
\(^1\)Elizabeth Harper was a pupil at St. Joseph’s Academy. The letters in question were for Mary Diana Harper, a former student who was another daughter of the addressee.
\textbf{7.128 MHS MS 430, pp 151-3}
you had had to reconcile yourself with the separation so truly painful . . . but you know all that is in order, a part of our fine Education in this pretty World where the first step to happiness is to subdue our feelings - by this time I am sure you are well convinced that your situation affords you a thousand advantages you could never meet in our American Schools, with the exercise of religion as a part of your Education, while here you know it would be considered but as an extra duty . . . and mind my Mary I repeat you my old prophecy if you do not give religion its proper place in your heart, you will be truly wretched since any one of your passions (and you know how well I am acquainted with the little torments) are enough to destroy your Peace, while the whole of them under the controul of sweet Piety, may be even turned to good account, as your little dear Bec used to say, "I am so proud Mother, I must be proud of my crutch, since it is a mark that I will go to heaven"

—she was more lively and playful to the last than you ever saw her, after sitting up so many months night and day, never able to lie down, and the three last days of her life in expectation of Death every moment she yet had so much peace and fortitude that when we offered her paragoric to lull her pain, she said “may be I shall get away in my sleep if I take it, so I will bid you all good bye, give my love to everybody”—yet she had made such earnest preparation for Death and was in such truly heavenly dispositions of mind that her cheerfulness evidently was but the effect of a pure heart and good conscience—she dozed away her life like a sweet baby; returning from a stupor which had lasted some time, she said “it seemed to me I have been with our dear Lord and he showed me my little cup almost full, only a few drops more can go in it dearest Mother”—She breathed her dear Soul on her Mothers bosom I hope indeed in fullest security of Eternal rest for the dear one had so little rest in this world and united so constantly with the sufferings of our Saviour.

dearest Mary how different your life from hers, her early hopes crushed in the bud - yours all cherished with the fairest promise - every hour of hers marked with pain yours a succession of ease and

1Mary Diana Harper, who had been a student at St. Joseph’s Academy, was now in France.
pleasure—sweet Bec - the crucifix which she had always before her was her strength and support to the last, in her severest pains she would look at it with rolling tears and press my hand in silence—that crucifix you will sometimes blush to own, and find it oftener your reproach than your consolation—Yet through all your dangers of Salvation, God will be a faithful God to you, if you are faithful to him as you well know.

Your Elizabeth [Harper] is a sweet little angel, your own temper when she is displeased, but not so easily made angry as you were at her age. Your Father [Robert Goodloe Harper] was here a short time ago, in his usual health - how happy are you my Mary in such a Father, remember how his best hopes are placed in you—

Josephine's most affectionate remembrance to you. When you write your Aunt Louisa² tell her I never forget her—My William is writing at the same table with me and speaks of you with the Affection of a Brother—he has just entered the Navy—Richard is gone to Italy in his place—

Shall we ever meet Again my Diana dear, I mean before our great meeting above—we know not, but must pray for each other, I do for you with my whole heart—

Elizabeth will tell you how she loves her Sister Margaret [George] who is always the favourite, and truly a most useful and true friend to the little darling who promises every thing your heart can wish

—Our establishment increases continually I have the happiness to see a good settlement of Sisters in New York who have the charge of a multitude of Poor children—what a joy to me—Sister Fanny [Jordan] has charge of the orphans in Philadelphia³ and succeeds admirably

—You are dearly remembered here by many my dear Mary and ever most tenderly loved by your own friend in best hopes of our eternal reunion—

Your EASETON

²Louisa Caton, the wife of Sir Felton Bathurst
³Three sisters had gone to New York to take charge of the Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum. The sisters had gone to Philadelphia in 1814.
7.129 To Rev. Simon Bruté, S.S.

[January 12, 1818]

—and poor Dedde¹ who yet said the last word after telling “Sister Sus[an Clossy] pray hard I have such a hard fight”—then a minute before going “Sister Sus[an] I have peace now”—his constant use of holy water and the Crucifix a great comfort to us and like Anina it was Jesus, Mary, Joseph all day and all night.

7.130 To Julia Scott

19th January 1818

+ 

My own loved Julia

every post that comes I say surely this time there will be a letter. this is my 3rd since hearing from you, and now I write a little in haste for this weeks mail as Kit and I have formed a little plan of parting for a while, and it is to you dearest Julia I would commit my darling—your frequent invitations of so many years dear friend assures her welcome unless some unusual circumstances should have altered your family arrangements—if so she will remain a little while in your neighborhood with a family loved and esteemed by your friend for every reason human and divine and the eldest of the young Cauffmans more than loved, even doated on through particular circumstances of


¹Sarah Cauffman
confidence and affection through which she had my Annas heart as well as mine.

the reason of Kits breaking her resolution not to go out of my reach is that every month of April and May she poor Darling has been sick since the critical moment of life, and we think it may be owing to her want of exercise here as the roads of a country place like this are almost impassible in the spring you know—she will have no Brother now in Baltimore to draw her there, and so we concluded that she would go to you dearest friend if it is perfectly convenient for you to recieve her, and if not to our amiable Cauffmans who have been always begging for her since we knew them.

Perhaps before this reaches you my own William may recieve his orders of destination, if so and they lead him towards Philadelphia she will take the good opportunity and go with him, as it may be the only one in our power this winter. longing to hear from you

your own EASeton

7.131 To Robert Goodloe Harper

25th January 1818—

My dear sir,

Your little darling has received your most interesting letter relative to our ever dear Mary. I hope you will have the goodness to write the particulars which the next arrivals will bring—I am much pained at Mrs. [Catherine Carroll] Harpers indisposition and share her joys on the joyful event of Mrs. [Emily] McTavishes safety and the arrival of

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2The beginning of puberty
3Richard was no longer living in Baltimore with the Tiernans.
7.131 MHS MS 1304, #4
1His daughter Elizabeth was a pupil at St. Joseph’s Academy. Another daughter Mary Diana had attended St. Joseph’s but was now in Europe.
your son in Europe\(^2\)—We sent to the village for Elizabeths box, but could not hear of it, probably it will come by the waggon of this week.

My William dear Sir thought it might not be proper to leave this place until he received the orders he had reason to expect, but as you mentioned your intention of going to Washington, and William has some business there, he will have the pleasure of seeing you in that city if you will be so kind as to say when you will be there yourself—then if you think proper you will give him the introduction you had the goodness to propose and if he finds no prospect of an immediate station in the Navy he will try to secure a voyage in a merchantman which if I remember right you thought would be of advantage to his future usefulness in the Navy.

Your Elizabeths answer to her dear Brothers letter, with which she was extremely pleased will be forwarded by next weeks post She is in perfect health, quite happy but application (except by the side of her favourite Sister Margaret [George]) is very tedious to her—she has all her classes in the dear Sisters room as much as possible in order to make this innocent fancy as useful as we can

May I beg you dear Sir to present my affectionate respects to Mrs. Harper—

—Your devoted and grateful EASETON

7.132 To Mary Smith (Sister Stanislaus of the Infant Jesus, O.C.D.)

January 1818

Dearest Stans . . .

the day on which we are to renew our dear consecration draws nigh the purification of our Blessed Mother\(^1\)—I renewed mine also on All Saints day with my whole heart - here is another week begun, let us try

\(^2\)This may refer to his son Charles C. Harper who studied at Mount St. Mary’s 1811-1817.

\(^1\)The feast of the Purification of Mary is February 2.
and make amends for all the faults we have committed the week before I will try my very best, and with our dear Lord’s grace I hope to fulfill my good resolutions. good bye, I must go in the chapel, I expect it is time

Your Sion

7.133 To Mr. B. U. Campbell

1st February 1818

My good friend,

Your sacred and valuable present came safe, and is very gratefully received by us, in our turn we will offer our Prayers for the object so near to you as your dear Parents happiness for this world and the next—the crucifix came quite safe and serves our Purpose very well, and is well enough executed for sincere Piety and just at the season' it will be most used, so that you have fully succeeded in the desire of your good heart - May all your good d[esires] be equally granted is the sincere wish of your friend in our Lord

EASeton.

7.134 To Robert Goodloe Harper

+3d February 1818

My William will hand you this dear Sir, I earnestly hope that your kind intentions toward him may be successful he has not a facility in expressing his feelings, but you will find he has a grateful heart.

7.133 AAB 22B-T3

1'The season of Lent which began that year February 4

7.134 MHS MS 1304, #5
The darling Elizabeth [Harper] is free from cold tho' it is a general complaint, and indeed a picture of health, her countenance dressed in smiles when I read your most welcome and delightful news of our Marys [Diana Harper] recovery. We imagine her joy in meeting the Charles’s [Harper] . . . what a moment for her affectionate heart. With the most grateful affectionate respect of mine I am dear Sir Your devoted EASeton

I write Mrs. [Catherine Carroll] Harper and enclose Elizabeths letter. We believe her box is at the Mountain and will send for it tomorrow—

7.135 To William Seton

[2/n.d.]

My Souls William

perhaps you may have something you would wish to pack in your little trunk before I close it¹ - if so send it by Wat when he come[s] this Evening—the trunks will go Monday probably ——bless you both a thousand times—Your Mother

I shall come to you tomorrow if the weather is good

7.136 To Mr. B.U. Campbell

[February 1818]

+ 

My Kind friend

the word with which you finish your few lines would be very Afflicting if I did not hope it was dictated by your Humility—Our God

¹The box (or trunk) for which Elizabeth Harper had been waiting since January may have arrived at Mount St. Mary’s.

7.135 AMSJ A 111 012

¹William was preparing to leave to assume his commission in the United States Navy.

7.136 AAB 22B-T4
will surely bless your pious regard for our House - we unite to beg this
favour of him—have the goodness to thank the gentleman in his Name
for the gift you procured us—and please to tell our Rev. Father [John]
Moranville he will hear from us the first opportunity I write this in
hast[e] as the notice of the respected Mr. O'Donald was so short

Your friend and Servant in Xst EASeton

7.137 To William Seton

10 Oclock Monday Night 16th February 1818

+ 

My Souls Darling

—You go - So adieu once more - with how much more more courage I
say it now than in 1815¹—You must fill a station and take a part in our
life of trial and all your own Mother can beg is that you may keep well
with your good pilot, and as says old Burns this correspondence fixed
with heaven will be your noble anchor—to go when you can to the
Sacraments as a child to his Father will be a main point for that and the
next best is to look to your Mothers old rule of intentions the comfort
of my life.

—you and I are too soft hearted about our friendships and
condescensions to circumstances of the moment - mind well the con­
sequence my beloved, in your situation they will go very far - but we
have talked that over - mind your promise to tell me all you can - dont
refuse that only comfit in my bitter draught of²

Mind your health—be prudent in exposing it when you cannot say
duty is in question—

I dare not stop with my fainting heart a moment—but look some­
times where “Passion would drive the gale,” at its incessant beatings

7.137 ASCSH Seton-Jevons #80-81
¹William had gone to Leghorn (Livorno) in 1815.
²A typescript copy of this letter at ASJPH in #1 Seton Hill Notebook adds the word “separation.”
for your true happiness, at the source from whence you drew the warm lifes blood of yours—O my William - You know all I would say. dearest dearest child of my Soul, mind we must be one day where we will part no more—

Your EAS.

7.138 To Robert Fox

+16th February 1818

My William will see you dear Sir if he is but an hour in New York and I hope he will also see Mr. [Samuel] Cooper—if he should not have time to go to Sister Rose [White] will you have the goodness to send her the package he will leave—

he will tell you how well your darlings look, and I can assure you they are doing [as] well as the heart of their fond parents can desire, they lose their dear Josephine for a while who goes with William to Philadelphia, it will be a sad pain to Eliza [Fox] particularly, and she will be my comfort in my Solitude now all are gone—

I dare say no more of our gratitude to you but be assured of our grateful Affection—with kindest remembrances to your family

Your devoted EASETOn.

7.139 To Sister Cecilia O’Conway

+[February 16, 1818]

My own loved Cis

[three words crossed out] the heart you spoke to when you said [three words crossed out] might be comforted [four words crossed out]
out] poor one, [nine words crossed out] me to introduce little Desaa, you would say that the less I wrote the better—yet to that I did give the most affectionate reply I could invent, but you forget that [one word crossed out] of a certain age after passing many trials and disappointments become [one word crossed out] and easily wounded—believe me dearest praying is a hundred times better than writing, the longer I live the surer I am of that... to prayers faithful enough indeed, the 30 days, in evening adoration and morning Mass so constant - truly it is the hardest of all trials to see souls so dear in pains we cannot remedy—My Cicil—our God!

and here goes William so dear to enter the tide,¹ and takes poor little Kit to Philadelphia. Alas - and I must adore, and be faithful, very thankful too indeed that what is so bad is not worse

All goes on sweetly here my dearest one, Peace in truth in my poor heart with all things and every body so habitually that as we must be on the look out I would almost think a storm is coming—yet this the only moment of life I ever looked too with desire when I would be left alone to my full duty far as I am or can be capable of it—all in our God whether cloudy or clear that is our comfort the world or any thing in it can neither give or take—

Your account of your dear part is the dearest comfort to me next to our God himself for never was my Soul so close with yours My Celia—Mrs. Clark² half steals a drop now and then of the cup you and I drank to-gether, but only a drop and that with the uncertainty of new things, but she promises to be the blessing of this house—

Mary Decount and her niece [Eliza Butcher] both treasures in their way—pray for perseverance and how your loving heart for the departed prays for our good Mr. Duhamel³—so blessed a death he died

¹William was en route to Boston to begin his career in the Navy.
²Mrs. Clark, a widow, was the former Mary Catherine Eugénie Mestezzer (1790?-1855) from Santo Domingo in the West Indies. She was admitted to the novitiate in April 1818, elected Treasurer (1820), and was Assistant of the community (1821-1834) when Mother Seton died. Called Sister Mary Xavier, she also served the community as Novice Mistress (1821-1829) before being missioned to St. Joseph’s Asylum, Philadelphia, (1834) from which she returned to St. Joseph’s in 1839 to assume the office of Mother. At the conclusion of her term in 1845, Mother Mary Xavier again became Novice Mistress until her death November 9. She is buried in the original community cemetery at Emmitsburg.
³Rev. Charles Duhamel had died one year ago in February.
of fear of Judgments and hopes of Mercy—Oh my Celia when our
time comes!—when you write say a word of Susans [Clossy] sis-
ter—bless you forever—how often tears gush in that place you once
had in the choir I often stop there morning and night and little intervals
of the day but, his Kingdom in all my Cis nothing else for our
thoughts—

here a little prayer of our Mother, a little letter rather—take it as
from herselfa—

Your little dear children a[re] more a great deal to me since you left
them—Carolineb does all my little charities, with many looks and
words of affection not given to Sextonc who is another turn, but Sexton
stays at night—Now my nest is empty. I shall have 3 or 4 of them with

me

Yours forever in Him

7.140 To Sarah Cauffman

+19th February 1818

My own loved Sa

By this time Sweet Kit is near you I hope, and I trust her main ob-
ject of duty to Mrs. S[cott] will still enable her to be a great deal with
you You will also see my Souls William a moment, the most excellent
and amiable of sons, and so true a Sympathy of heart with his Mother
that if he had a fortune to lay at the feet of Ellen [Wiseman] or you I
hardly know which would be chosen though certainly it would rest

aHere written in another hand: “St. Theresa’s letter.”
bCaroline Grace was a student at St. Joseph’s Academy in 1818.
cThis may refer to Mary Sexton (1805-1857), an orphan from Philadelphia who was a student at
St. Joseph’s Academy at this time. She was admitted as a candidate five months after Elizabeth
Seton’s death in 1821 and was known as Sister Maria. She was one of three sisters who opened the
Free School in Washington, D.C., (1826) as well as serving in Frederick (1827), Baltimore (1827),
Philadelphia, Richmond, Pottsville, New York, and Wilmington. She died in January 1857 while
serving at St. Vincent’s Asylum in Washington, D.C., and she is buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery
there.

7.140 ASJPH 1-3-3-3:22
between you - it delights me to see my children love you so as you two are certainly next to them in my heart—Richard really preferred Ellen to the whole world, poor fellow, but had to leave her with the rest of us—

How can you express or admit the least doubt of my delight in your opening your dear heart to me would I not share your every pain or pleasure as Josephines—Your letter by post this week is a double tie of affection, a soul so strong in Faith makes me glory to be called your mother—oh my Sa what a grace—yet how I wish this affair¹ was decided - do not fear that you over stepped the bound of prudence or delicacy while you shared the common attentions paid to your family, there would have indeed been a want of delicacy had you appeared to take anything to yourself before it was particularly declared, and the letter remaining with you was certainly not a matter of choice, and had it been, is it not more simple and consistent to hear and answer its contents with the respect and gratitude due to an amiable being who gives us an unmerited preference, than to play the part of a proud woman receiving an homage she thinks her due. if you must reject my precious child do it with reason and a candid statement of your reasons, then if they are approved or condemned you will have acted like a Christian, and your mind will be at peace however painful the exertion . . . and reject you will unless there is a fund of uncommon Virtue in the person in question. Your poor little mother can only pray for you my beloved - oh could I see you what heart felt delight it would be - but our God will do for the best and your sweet confidence in him makes me quite easy about you in this most interesting critical moment -

Mrs. [Mary Catherine] Clark cannot say enough of the boundless kindness of your dear family and her gratitude what a most truly amiable excellent soul she is—

the Sisters are all fond of you as ever my Sa but no one can love you like your own so tenderly attached EAS

Say everything to your dear aunts and the girls for me²—

¹Sarah had asked Elizabeth’s advice about a suitor.
²This may refer to other girls of the Cauffman family who had been pupils at St. Joseph’s Academy.
My own Julia

—What can I say but that I send you my darling one [Catherine] trusting and hoping she will be a comfort to you for the moment at least—it is now about the time she should be sick and I know you will not let her wear thinner clothing than she has been accustomed to - I thought it better to let her take back your 50 note¹ and get what was necessary under your direction than to provide here what might not be so suitable—

how I wish you may see William a few hours, but I fear the mail passes too quickly—dear and excellent child I esteem as much as love him, and that truly beyond expression—

Kit will tell you every thing—You will recommend her to Mrs. [Charlotte] Cox and [Mehitable] Marcoe so kind to dear Bec—I have told Kit that I fear some of the children of our school with all of whom she has been such a favorite may be troublesome calling to see her, but she will discourage it and it will be but once except my dear Sarah Cauffman, the most amiable child I know in the world, and whom I know you will not object to—

I will write you more fully next week—this moment pushes a little hard

Your EAS.

¹Money that Julia had sent
My Ellen dear

Your Kit and Willy gone - they were told that way of Lancaster\(^1\) was best and shortest and William was hastening to his post [with] Captain Bainbridge [at] Boston\(^2\) as the weather had delayed them some days—poor fellow the agony of his heart leaving me, but mine is full of confidence that our God will protect so pure a soul even in the flames he must pass through.\(^3\) I could not have believed there was such a young man in the world if 6 months daily experience of his beautiful Sentiments and conduct had not proved it. he is considered here as a model for those even in the Sanctuary, so dearest pray for him, and hope the best with me.

—No news from Daddy [Richard], but look for it daily, for our Lord surely would not cut him off so little prepared, that is my Confidence. a letter from Sa[rah Cauffman] passed thro’ you probably as it had the Baltimore mark—here the answer with a word to dear Kit perhaps you will find a private hand—precious Sa, how dear you two to my poor loving heart our God only knows, and to my children too, that is my comfort as it will last when I am gone unless my old tough car-case is to stand all out.

...do write me all about yourself my Ellen, I see Joseph [Wiseman] no more these winter times, and his prefect duty I suppose stand[s] in the way, but William says he is much beloved and very happy he thinks—what a blessing

—Give my best love to dear Julian tell her Francis came to see me Wednesday and made up my fire and sat a long hour by the stove with me, and when I went to spiritual reading I left his dear Cross and

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\(^{1}\)Catherine and William were en route to Philadelphia by way of Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

\(^{2}\)William was assigned to duty on the *USS Independence*, stationed as a guard ship in Boston harbor. Commodore William Bainbridge (1744-1833), the American naval officer who captured the British frigate *Java* in the War of 1812, was the commander of the ship.

\(^{3}\)Cf. Is. 43:2 and Dan. 3.
Brand with him—he is so full of his first communion it would do her heart good to hear him—he was very proud of Rosettas letter which I gave him—he says "I would not be William Seton for all the world Mother, if ever I am any thing I will be a priest"—sweet child how I do love him—

My grateful respects to your dear uncle my Ellen—Bless bless you forever your EAS

I open to take Kits letter out my love finding the young man does not go as soon as he expected

7.143 Draft to William Seton

+[1818]

Now my own love I must hope you are safe in your Birth¹—Your little ship left at home has had cloudy weather and dragged scarcely three [k]nots an hour . . . Madam reason preaches and insists, shows so plainly our order of duty, yet I miss you to such a degree that it seems my own Self is gone . . . the greatest comfort I can find is to be begging our God with every affection of my Soul to bless you continually, and calculate every night laying down where you may possibly be—

Your first letter is so longed for—Just now I have one from sweet Kit mentioning your safe arrival in Philadelphia and kind reception—but that you were to go on next day, and then I suppose but half a day in New York of course what fatigue . . . mind you tell me every every thing about it, and who you saw, and how it has all passed from the time you left Philadelphia—last night I had you ever so long drawing the life nourishment where you fed so long, where lies the heart that loves you so dearly dearly—

7.143 AUND II-1-A

¹William was in Boston and presumably on board the USS Independence.
Now my love I must hope that you are safe in your Birth—Your little ship left behind has had cloudy weather and dragged scarcely three Knots an hour—good Madam Reason argues and insists, show[s] so plainly our order of Duty that we must must separate, yet with all that she can say I miss you to such a degree that it seems my own self remains but as a poor shadow and its dearest part is gone—my best comfort is to be continually begging our God to bless you, or to be guessing and supposing where you may be—Your first letter is so longed for . . . just now I have one from Kit mentioning your safe arrival, kind reception and your determination to keep on the next day for New York and there to stop but a few hours too I suppose, of course what fatigue—mind you tell me every thing about it, and who you saw, and how it has all passed from the time you left Philadelphia—

last night I had you close where you used to lie so snug and warm when you drew the life stream 20 years ago, and where the heart still beats to love you dearly dearly till its last sigh which even then loved you best of all.

post after post and no letters from our wild boy [Richard] and March just at hand - poor dear fellow what would I give to hear he is happy - but Mrs. Patience it seems must be my companion the remainder of my fine life until as says [Joseph] Wiseman I back out of it . . . and then Willy my Willy . . . could we but go together and clear our coast to the high mountains—

Unite your dearest heart well with mine every morning at least - this I earnestly beg, you dont know how much it will help in some of the peculiarities of your situation and how much it will supply for what is so much easier for Me than for you—

You know there is no news here - those who were sick are better - every one speaking of you the strain a mother loves—another most
kind letter from Mr. [Robert] Harper—Kits children\(^1\) hanging about me to the great astonishment of little Bet’s who comes every day after dinner to read her little story book - little White\(^2\) came to see me the other day and told me there was a little boy at the Mountain who said now William Seton was gone he could never have any more pleasure, for he loved him better than any one in the world I shall have him to see me you may depend, as soon as the roads can be passed (for they are deep indeed) since we have so strong a Sympathy. I believe it is your little No.

write me if you see the good Bishop of Boston [John Cheverus]. Mrs. [Mary] Clark begins to find her way very often to our room, she and Mary Augustin[e Decount] are so moved to comfort me by the notes you loved best—Most amiable Souls—so truly good Ma [Bridget] Farrel says “tell William I remember him daily as I wake” - Sister Sus[an Clossy] is just confessing while she is pushing up my bed that she kissed your mark the other day with a full heart as she put by one of your Handkerchiefs

Bless bless you my Souls Darling - if you get a word from Dick hasten to send it - I would kiss your Commodores\(^3\) toe if he will but be good to you—

love your own own EAS.

7.145 To Ellen Wiseman

[2/n.d.]

My own dearest Ellen

one word of love and union and blessing from your poor friend who loves you inexpressibly—if you only could come for one day to

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\(^1\)Catherine taught small groups of the younger children at St. Joseph’s Academy.

\(^2\)Up to this year, at least four students at Mount St. Mary’s had the surname White. It is impossible to identify the one to whom Elizabeth referred from the nickname “No.”

\(^3\)Captain William Bainbridge, the captain of William’s ship

7.145 ASJPH 1-3-3-12:B2
us what a sweet pleasure it would be—but in this world no such gratifi-
cation I fear, Our dear Lord will must stand in the place of all to us -
and most of all to me

—My Ellen dear I need not beg you to be much with Julian, you
can support each other so much by good example—write me a little
how all things go with you. you cannot doubt a moment how dear you
are to the heart of your poor Mountain Mother I will write to dear Kate
at Philadelphia.

7.146 Copy to William Seton

10th of March two days from Nina’s anniv[ersary]¹

[March 10, 1818]

My own love

I debate in my mind whether to send you our Richards so welcome
letter because I know there are some little points you will laugh at, but
on the whole considering how you would wish to know All² the dear
fellow says I send it just so, and only beg you to encourage all his pres-
ent impressions of every kind,—we are sure at all events it is the safe
side in all respects.

Mr.[Antonio Filicchi] writes me a few lines that they are much
pleased with him far as they can judge and he will do every thing to ad-
vance him for Richards sake, for his own advantage [unclear] count-
ing house and for my comfort. These are his words - at the end of his
letter he says, “I wish William success in his new career” and that is
all. [He] speaks of the delight of the children on receiving the dolls.
[unclear] and kind remembrances of all the family to us. What a relief
to me to know the dear fellow is safe—He writes Kit almost the same
in substance as to me only a little more lively - Filicchy’s letter is dated
a fortnight later than his—

7.146 AMSV Seton-Jevons #86-87 (photocopy) No original exists.
¹Anna Maria Seton had died March 12, 1812.
²“All” is underlined twice.
—Sweet Kit writes all that would delight you on her position in Philadelphia—Many pleasures and delights you know for so innocent a creature “I wear many curles dear Mother a white Velvet bonnet and Rattinet dress too nice indeed but for company” She writes you I suppose about the Washington Hall decorations on the Birth day etc.—but her health from what she says has the same threat as when she went away—I look up—and how is it you do not write your own Mother—a letter from Sister Rose [White] mentioned you were in church with Dué the Sunday after you left me; so I had the sweet comfort to know you enjoyed a moment longer in New York than you had expected—I hope next week for letters from Aunt [Mary Bayley] Post and above all from you my beloved.

—I feel more your absence till I hear from you and hum my little song who cares if it rains or shines there is no Willy, dust or no dust, there is no Willy - fish or flesh - there is no Willy, sing this or that, there is no Willy.—let the world go round, if only my Willy is happy and remembers me in all his dangers, since he cannot remember me but the first wish of my Soul will be remembered too

—Bless bless you a thousand times my Souls darling I wrote you last week—every good heart here would say something to you, your name never mentioned but with love

You[r] own EASeton

7.147 To Rev. John Hickey, S.S.

+[before March 19, 1818]

My Brother,

Your letter came safe - the one of poor Mrs. French¹ alas I knew, yet I must believe we see the worst and something will come out in her favour or excuse—

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¹Adeline Frenche was a pupil at St. Joseph’s Academy in 1818.
I do not like your other letter, nor some things you wrote Ellen lately. You and I speak all for Eternity, but take an advice from your old mother I am a hundred to your thirty in experience, that cruel friend of our earthly journey. When you ask too much at first you often gain nothing at last - *and if the heart is lost all is lost*, if you use such language to your family they cannot love you, since they have not *our* Microscope to see things *as they are*. Your austere hard language was not understood by Ellen, who dear Soul considers your letters as mere curiosities, she loves and venerates you but do not push her away—as to your simple word “*Barber*” etc. for which I respect and love you tenfold, she could see but unfeeling reproach, and perhaps some disregard of the dear *COMMAND* of our God, gently gently my Father in God and son in heart, do you drive so in the tribunal,? I hope not - the faults of young people especially such faults as Elenors must be moved by prayers and tears because they are *constitutional* and cannot be frightened out—I have said much harder things to her than you do, but turning the tune in her own heart and not on her poor dear family quite as respectable even as to the point you press on so valliantly as half our Legislature Senate etc.—how can you in such a country as ours dwell on such a motive of humility—

a much stronger one I think is in the little secret I will carry to the grave - I once told you how I wished to do as you have done, and I will tell you *in return*, that all the illusioning and spider web of *earthly weaving* is broken, and nothing now more bright and steady than the *divine lamp* he feeds and trims himself® because as I suppose I staid in *Obedience*—Oh this Master and *Father* we serve, You in Your Glorious Embassy, I in my little errand! how can we be happy enough in his service—

and do not be rough with William® as with Ellenor - be his friend his Father - then when warm in his heart and your power secure, use it with the sweet Spirit of our tender Compassionate Saviour.

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2Eleanor Hickey, a younger sister of the addressee, attended St. Joseph’s Academy in 1817 and 1818.
3The confessional
5William was a younger brother of the addressee.
all goes on here as usual - Ellen is in retreat with our first communions for Saint Josephs day—

Pray for one who remembers you always. all your concerns mine You know in our dear Saviour and God. EAS

Do in compassion send your little Mother some beads and Agnus Dei

7.148 To Ellen Wiseman

+[March 21 or 22, 1818]

My own loved Ellen

do not be uneasy for me—My heart is quiet in our God¹ - though William writes me that his refuses comfort, and he can hardly hide his feelings, and not at all sometimes—Mr. [John] Cheverus is a kind friend and father to him - Commodore [William] Bainbridge very kind - was a particular friend of his father as it happens.

—Kit I think will go to New York, but am not sure—My own Richard writes every expression of the happiest fellow in the world and his redoubled resolves to mind all that I desire.

What would I give to see you at this very time—but that cannot be, so I look up, and implore for your final perseverance in the narrow path.²—love my dear Maria Bannahan for me her Soul is so dear to mine and I respect so truly. I cant express it, but you can.

Kitty says nothing can express the kindness of your family to her, but that I was sure of. O how good is our God—This little word I shut in Julians - and how much of my heart is with it. our blessed Saviour is stretched on the cross before me and I do beg him with all a mothers

7.148 ASJPH 1-3-3-12:B10

¹Cf. Ps. 131.
soul to bless you this sweet Easter eve and give you *his Peace* in every thing

your EAS

7.149 To Marie Françoise Chatard

+Wednesday Evening [March 1818]

What can I say to my dear friend from my couhee,¹ could you but share the peace of it and still enjoy the fruits of your present trials and cares—but he is OUR FATHER, and so will comfort and soothe your dear heart through all

We enter retreat next Sunday I hope - I shut you and yours all up with my own, to hold up in a heart before him daily, as truly devoted to you as mine, none on this earth can be more so, for all I am like a dry stick to you—one heart then dear friend with your EAS.

Bless and kiss your dear ones for me—

Your Ferdinand² will please to give this receipt to Rev. Mr. [John] Hickey but much rather you would give yourself dear Friend when suitable there is no hurry—

7.150 To William Seton

+[March 1818]

My own dear love

I have just received your 3rd dear letter and finding mine has not yet reached you it strikes me to inclose this to Bishop [John]

7.149 ASJPH 1-3-3-4:97

¹Elizabeth may be using the French word *la couche*, referring to her divan or bed where she spent much of her time because of ill health.

²Ferdinand Chatard was a student at Mount St. Mary's.

7.150 AMSV 110:10,20
Cheverous¹ as I write him on a little business—so while our good Anastasia [Nabbs] (who is all my night company now) goes to bed I draw our little basket of chips you so well remember make up a small blaze in your stove . . . for sleep I cannot my William . . . I never was as overpowered as by this sad parting—reasoning is in vain, or even religion, I look up a hundred times at the dear crucifix and resign but too often with such agony of heart that nothing stops it, but the fear that it will break before your return, or that my Death will make you unhappy—but this will not strengthen you whom I wish to strengthen—I should say my Son go on as you have begun . . . our love will not settle you in life, will not give you independence . . .

Your Mother ought to say many things, but can say nothing . . . look up to the pure heavens in your night watch my Souls beloved, and you will hear what that soul would say to you, what our beloved ones gone would say too—

That night watch is more in my mind at night than my sleep could you know the blessings invoked on you - - - - but it is too much indulgence to say so much of my poor heart dearest one—yet if only you would tell me if you have any little comforts - if your money held out - if you got all safe, and if Aunt [Mary Bayley] Post added anything - so many many little etc’s I wish so to know—she writes so loving a letter about you such earnest request too for dear Kit - but the robbing of the mail and treatment of the passengers last week makes me dread her going, yet she will go if Mrs. [Julia] Scott goes as was proposed—She has written you I am sure before this—Aunt Post tells the sad news of our beloved Williams death² in Batavia—dear dear Brother how much I had built on his good heart for you—but so it is

—I wrote you by the very mail I fear which was lost inclosed a very pleasing letter from our Richard, and telling you of Mr. [Antonio] Filicchis good dispositions towards him—[Robert] Barry writes he expects letters from Leghorn every day - so we will hear further—Mr. [Robert] Harper also writes the kindest letter inclosing one from your commodore with every fair promise for you my beloved—Speaking

¹None of Elizabeth’s letters to Bishop John Cheverus are extant.
²William Augustus Bayley, Elizabeth’s half-brother, died in Batavia.
of his friendship too for your dearest Father - oh the goodness of our God in every thing—

/Easter Tuesday Morning [March 24]—enter Sister Susan [Clossy] with my tin of coffee and two pieces of sweet bread she says oh that William had a piece eating and a piece in his pocket - quite a bountiful thought—Oh my William and how many thoughts for me - but let them pass—Our God will take care of you.

—the Boys of the Mount [St. Mary’s] in retreat till tomorrow their first Communion—I have had your heart in mine so close in the many I have made in these dear festivals—I am sure you can have no uneasy thought for me my beloved in any other point than separation from you dear ones - for they would rather kill me here with attention and kindness than any thing else—Mr. Barry has just sent 40 odd dollars of the little dividend—I send back 28 to the Taylor you know - 20 remains but sweet Kit writes that all is economy where she is and supplicates for 10 so she has it, and the other ten will wait for her next call, or go to good Mr. Grover towards our little affair with him—Yet I do intreat you my love apply to Mr. Cheverus if yours does not hold out - fear not, I will clear it some how or other—I write him that I am so afraid you should want that I have charged you to apply to him if necessary—did you get the quadrant of Mrs. Dougherty I never heard.

The little doves coo so loud at the dear graves it quite distracts me - how drole yet pleasing must be the scene around you - be good to your poor Jacks³ and give them tobacco. I will make up for it and save all I can—You say tide of fate my beloved and so the poet says, but I say tide of providence which [is] as infinite goodness, and I must think through your particular turn of mind (your great aversion to study and commerce) is carrying you my darling on the only trial of life you could well endure to pass through - yet in that trial my love, there are surely peculiar dangers which may so easily destroy our dearest future hope. heavy rains too these past nights gave me the strongest thought of the impossibility of your constitution resisting these night watchings soaked through with rain—however I repeat God is my

³A term for sailors working on ships
hope and to him I commit you incessantly—I write Aunt Post now, and will say every thing for you—Your own own EAS.

Anastasia says “tell William I never forget to say the little prayer for him”—Martha⁴ says “I am sure I remember him at my prayers as if he was my own Brother” - Ma [Bridget] Farral nodding her head says “I think of William now as if he was my Peter”⁵—so we make a wall around you darling.

do you think you will go soon - mind and answer me that (to the undetermined) and all my little questions to you, but so important to me Your little Mother so dear

7.151 To Julia Scott and Catherine Seton

[The date outside is 4th April 1818]

+ 

My ever loved and dear friend

I can see plainly my Kit wishes much to go to New York, as I should in her place—this saif affair called Nature being yet so backward perhaps the journey may be of use to her—if she went with you I would be quite happy about it, but as it is I can only leave the whole decision respecting the affair to you - you are as she writes me a Mother in tenderness and every kind attention to her, and as I well know her submission and wish to do for the best, I beg you my Julia to Judge that best for her since you now hold my place for my darling—Whatever is done I shall be contented.

⁴Louisa Daddisman (1797-1889) from Frederick County, Maryland, was admitted to the novitiate February 14, 1814. She was called Sister Martha and served in Philadelphia (1816), Washington, D.C., (1834), at the New York Asylum (1844), Rochester Asylum (1845), New York School (1846), St. Mary’s Asylum, Natchez (1846), Mobile Asylum (1849), in Donaldsonville, Louisiana (1854), and at St. Joseph’s Central House (1857) where she died. Sister Martha is buried in the original cemetery and was the last survivor among Elizabeth’s companions. She was present when James Cardinal Gibbons, ninth archbishop of Baltimore (1878-1921), suggested initiating the cause for Elizabeth’s canonization.

⁵Probably Peter Farrell, a son of Sister Bridget Farrell and brother to Sister Margaret George

7.151 ASJPH 1-3-3-6:121
how I am delighted with Kits account of your J[ohn] M[orin] S[cott]'s wife,¹ of their happiness and your better health - Mrs. [Charlotte] Cox, Mrs. [Mehitabel] Marcoe and her angels—I think I can see you all, and her little happy heart in the fairy scene to her, for I believe your way of life must be as great a novelty to her as Mrs. Knox’s used to be to Petsey Payley²—

Kits expenses pushes you a little hard dear friend - every year I always hope is the last, indeed it is time the last should come—if her Brothers had not been at a moment of life so difficult³ my Julia, I would not have pressed so hard on you alone of all our friends—but at least all looks fair for them now, and I must hope—

Richard is in full delight of his age and most sanguine temper—William not so easily delighted, but doing well I hope You cannot imagine how Mr. [Robert] Harper has befriended him - Mary Harper⁴ is going after my sweet Bec by the last accounts of doctors. Miss C[aton] and Mrs. P[atterson]⁵ to sail for America in April—poor Louisa . . . so goes this world. Peace to you Gloriana dear— ever your EAS

as I am a counter of pennies let me say a word to Kit the other side—

+  

My own loved darling⁶—my head is so forgetful I cannot tell if I wrote you about Aunt [Mary Bayley] Posts pressing letter for your journey to N ew Y ork - but to avoid plaguing or putting you in

¹Mary Emlen married John Scott May 15, 1817.
²This is a teasing reference to Betsy Bayley herself as a young woman who was fascinated by a Mrs. Henry Knox, a prominent matron whom she knew before her marriage.
³William had had expenses associated with his apprenticeship with the Filicchis in Leghorn (Livorno). Richard Seton was in financial difficulty when he left the apprenticeship with Luke Tieman of Baltimore who apparently paid him the full value of his services.
⁴Mary Diana Harper did die prematurely in France as Rebecca Seton had in Emmitsburg.
⁵Mrs. Mary Ann Patterson (1788-1853), the former Mary Ann Caton, was a daughter of Richard and Mary Carroll Caton. She married Robert Patterson (d. 1822) and became a sister-in-law to Eliza Patterson Bonaparte in 1806. Her second marriage was to Richard Coley Wellesley II, Earl of Mornington. She spent most of her life in Europe and was a benefactor to the Sisters of Charity. She may have been traveling with an unmarried sister Miss Caton at this time.
⁶This portion of the letter is to Catherine.
unnecessary hesitations I have written Aunt Scott begging her to do for the best—Mr. [Robert] Fox will be on I suppose in June Sister Rose [White] about the same time on charity business, so beloved if you go our separation need not be six months more as I feared, but all that even I leave in your hands for you know how unwilling I am to judge of things when not on the spot (even at home) and how much more at such a distance where you and I cannot pro and con it over th[em] and no wise William to put in his Vote - sweet fellow I wet my pillow for him last night, but that is all I can do pray and doat, doat and pray is poor Mothers all for her darlings I hope you have written Richard by this time, I sent Mr. [Robert] Barry a package last week—

all goes as usual—all love you dearly - the girls just now in a fine bustle going to Aunt Cloe’s for garden roots etc.

all the pussies have kits, the lambs in greater numbers than the sheep I believe, young calves etc etc Sisters all working in the garden—the whole place rejoicing in this lovely weather, I rejoicing too my way - Bress bless you forever your own forever.

O kissed by Louisa Eliza and Marie7 they have just taken a cap full of your nuts to crack and enjoy well you may be sure.

7.152 To Robert Goodloe Harper

+5th April 1818

I hesitate much my dear sir in daring to say a word to you at this moment yet your Mary1 was my own, more than you can imagine, and in her particular turn of temper had made her lovely Soul known to mine, more perhaps than even to her own parents—therefore my tears will flow with theirs and my heart feel as if I too was losing again a dear + darling child. but I am sure my dear Mr. Harper you will look at the consoling side of this deep affliction, and the painful uncertainties of our life of trial.

7Possibly Louisa Depestre, Marie Gillespie, and Eliza Harper

1His daughter Mary Diana, a former pupil, had died in France.
Your sweet Elizabeth [Harper] wept abundantly when we read your letter together, yet gently and peaceably, her little dear heart but half conscious of Marys danger but much moved at her dear Mamas sufferings which I trust are now over as to the affection of her chest, but dread in their Consequence when she will be made acquainted with our painful apprehensions—

Your Darling seemed so little inclined to write this evening that I begged her to say only a few words to you from my table, and they are few indeed—She was anxious to go for her five oclock luncheon a proof to you that she is very well

I am ever dear Sir your devoted EASETon

7.153 To William Seton

+[April 6, 1818]

My Souls own dear beloved

- Now do tell me what a Mother can say to so bad a child - you love me, but not one word will you ever say about my idol yourself—O my, I never can put it into you, so it is in vain to plague you about it - I may go on quietly gazing at the clouds where I can learn as much about your daily pains and pleasures, wants or comforts, as by your letters which yet are so extravagantly dear to me that I carry them on my heart, read, read, and con[sider] and con[sider], and weep and weep plenty over them be assured—I often ask, but what is this dear Rover to me so much more than all the world why do my heartstrings all wind around him so—that I cannot tell. let it pass for it depends not on me, you seem indeed my own William to be more present to me than my own Soul, and yours and its dear futurities are truly its very passion.

—What could have become of my first letter addressed to Boston perhaps it is well you did not recieve it for what I remember it was what you call truly romantic, though a deep reality to me, and the
common breathings of my poor foolish heart - I told you in it of Kits happiness, her handsome dress and the little etceteras she wrote me about her position, which surely now you know from herself the beloved mortal is I suppose now in New York it seems Aunt Scott offered the Rino to purchase her black dress for our loved William [Augustus Bayley] whom I wrote you died in Batavia, and Dué had send her 20 dollars so with the ten she had the darling is richer than you or I probably and in high spirits at the thought of the dear scenes of love and welcome that awaited her—but the main affair of Health no better—

only think our little Mary Harper¹ received the last Sacraments in January - Louisa [Caton] (Mrs. Harvey) writes me she was then like an Angel, and no doubt she is one now her poor Father [Robert Goodloe Harper] Mrs. [Emily Caton] McTavish writes me from Baltimore is weighed down with sorrow, which I deeply share with him, but how much deeper with the Parents of those two precious souls belonging to the Adams going indeed uncalled to their God—

I tell you my Son if you do so, you will also strike me Dead - the very possibility that it may happen is an insupportable thought - the thousand dangers you are in seem all small compared with that one - I charge you to beg our God daily to keep you from it—

the pen so rusty smarting eyes see not how it goes every body sleeps but old sorrow, and the comforter of the miserable - perhaps you are at this very hour on your watch thinking on the doating heart so near you and always hovering round you—

William my William you know so well what I would ask you, yet you wont tell me a word - so not to plague you I am silent, but put yourself a moment in my place who must look so far beyond the present scene, since the present scene can be but painful separation that separation so unavoidable for this world, even if it should be ever again sweetened by a momentary cessation—My Souls dear one pity my anxiety, I can no more hinder it than I can stop my desires for our eternal reunion—

Saturday 6th April -

¹Mary Diana Harper, recently deceased
Here a letter from Sister Fanny [Jordan] saying Leo Post was come for Kit - I wrote Mrs. [Julia] Scott that I left the whole to her whatever they did I should be contented, but it seems to me I am more in the grave than out of it already, though it would be unjust and unreasonable to expect Kit to stay with me as the world goes now.

—I sometimes feel a transport when pain or weakness comes over me, then one look at you dear children, and I see it is wrong, for I yet may comfort you in this world if even at a distance—we will see how it will go—50 years hence is the point.

Gardere came straight to our Hall door and asked for me very desirious to have particular news of you he has written you 3 or 4 letters, and mentioned the direction word for word as you wrote me to address your letters, so I hope you have some of them - I told him if you had received his letters you had so little time to write that it was only enough for me and excused you well as I could you dear lazy mortal—you will soon be gone and your tieze [tease] of writing letters over, but I alas shall miss them enough—I long to know the result of your application to Washington - but will it not be a disadvantage if you quit Commander [William] Bainbridge since he expressed himself as particularly interested for you and how you must long to be on your dear Ocean, and to take the look at our dearest Dick - it is always a delight even the thought of your meeting so far from home—

Gemin is in New York at last—poor fellow - if your case is hard how much worse is his—he is wild with attachment to you would never guess who unless he has told you—so much for the love of music—I dont know if you hear of your Andeuse from a word I heard dropt he is not very well contented -

but as you used to say he loves travelling - if I was a man all the world should not stop me. I w[oul]d go straight in [Saint Francis] Xaviers' footsteps [on the] waters of the abyss, and expanded sky should be well explored - but I must wait for liberty as sweet Bec used to say till I get higher than seas or skies—

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2Leo Post accompanied Catherine from Philadelphia to New York where she visited relatives and friends of her mother.
3Peter Gardere of New York was a student at Mount St. Mary's 1817-1818.
4St. Francis Xavier (1506-1552) was patron of foreign missions.
Do you meet your dear friend Green, I ask because I know it would be such a happiness to you - say always some kind word to my poor once so little Charles Wilkes (but now so big I suppose) for me - his Father I believe is really Dead, though I can hear no particulars whatever—you can now make a little return to his Son for his truly unwearied friendship to us—

they write me that your uncle William [Augustus Bayley] had every assistance, [medical] art and friendship could give and was so well in his senses that he even bade farewell to all his ship’s company—Our God what a moment—dearest love if you may but die with me or I with you—overflow poor heart at the thought, but be still and resign all to him who will pity—

remember my favourite Xaviers prayer when you are in the raging tempest—"Compassionate lover of souls save us."

soon as I know you are gone I shall put up my map of Boston, and care no more to look at its Harbour now so dear and always before my (our) little table where I write all day but still shall kiss as usual the dear + you cut at the foot of my bed, and fill my poor doating heart with love unceasing—little John waits to carry this for the post—

Bless bless you forever—

Remember to Mrs. [John] S[eton] and so venerated Mr. [John] Cheverous—

Determined you sh[oul]d have enough to con[sider] this time.

5th April 1818—

*Star of the Vast and howling main*  
*When dark and lone is all the sky*  
*and Mountain waves o’er oceans plain*  
*Erect their stormy heads on high*  
*When Mothers for their darlings sigh*  
*they raise their weeping eyes to thee*  
*the star of oceans heeds their cry*  
*and saves the foundering bark at sea.*  
*Ave Maris Stella*

5Both Francis and Samuel Green of Emmitsburg, along with William Seton, were students at Mount St. Mary’s prior to 1811.  
6Charles Wilkes was the son of John Wilkes, an old family friend of the Setons and supporter of Elizabeth, who died in 1818.  
7Charlotte Gorham Seton, Elizabeth’s sister-in-law, was the widow of John Curson Seton.  
8This portion is written on the reverse side.
7.154 To Robert Fox

13th April 1818

My dear Sir

—Your sweet children were very much gratified by the package they received from home by Mr. Gardners Brother—they have all a little touch of the mumps, Mary and Jane less than Eliza, but all enough to have confined them a little—they are very anxious for your coming every week seems a month to the New Yorkers and I cannot wonder at it—

I hope Mrs. [Elizabeth] Fox will see my little Kit she no doubt will call on her as soon as may depend on herself, after the first fatigue of her journey is over.

I have little expectation of seeing my dear Mrs. Fox again but will always love her sincerely - with affectionate regards to your family I am always your devotedly grateful friend and servant EASeton.

May I beg you dear Sir to send the enclosed to their respective directions—You will be glad to know that poor Richard is safe and well the note to Mr. McDonald it is of consequence to us he should recieve as soon as possible therefore I enclose it

7.155 To William Seton

21st April 1818

My Souls William,

I write earnestly and anxiously for this post to assure you sacredly that the 100 things I have said about my poor weak heart was only and solely from pain of our Separation not thoughts of your profession -
that never entered my head, for you may have seen from the beginning how I have rather been struck with what might very reasonably and probably be the designs of providence in it—I trust and hope you will think no more of the feeble expressions of my love than as directed to the only pains of our separation the necessity of which is so unavoidable in itself that I really felt a burr of thorn reading your last to find how selfish I had been in thus paining your dear heart - but forget the pain - and remember only the love my beloved

—No news from our Richard - sweet Kit will inclose you this little hurried word for my nerves are a little trembling - one of our good truly good Sisters' had last night the Death you think so enviable - eating a full dinner reading in the afternoon to a sick person herself no sign of sickness but a rheumatism in her ancles—senseless at 7 and gone forever at little after 9—quick enough - but such a pure heart - so all is well -

May you be blessed in life and in Death my beloved—

Your own own EAS.

7.156 To Rev. Simon Bruté, S.S.

April 21, 1818

not even little acts for obtaining fear or anxiety about this Death can move that strong hold of peace, thanksgiving and abandon of every atom of life and its belonging to him—even William I can see but in the great Whole—cannot cry even for edification and duty. you laugh

What life indeed! a grey headed carpenter whistling over the plank he measures for Ellens' coffin - just beyond the ground plowing to

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1Sister Ellen Brady (1798-1818) of Emmitsburg was admitted to the novitiate February 21, 1817. Although there was already another Sister Ellen Brady (1793-1825) in the community, the second to enter was also called Sister Ellen. She died the next year at Emmitsburg and is buried in the original community cemetery. Her own sister was Sister Felicita Brady (d.1883).

7.156 ASJPH 1-3-3-12:72

1Sister Ellen Brady (1798-1818) died.
plant *potatoes*, just beyond again good *Jo*² (I believe) making the pit to plant Ellen for her glorious Resurrection—beautiful life, the whole delight *in God* oh what relish in *that word* Sister Ellen Brady, 21st

7.157 To Robert Goodloe Harper

+26th April 1818

You may be sure my dear Sir that I would cheerfully give my life to save that of your precious Mrs. [Catherine Carroll] Harper, the mother of your dear little ones, but desire and wishes at last are all I can offer.

—Yet respecting the children should you send them as you purpose she may be sure of every kind of tenderness her own heart could wish for them from us all

All Elizabeths [Harper] clothes are sent, as they may be all wanting—

Recieve dear Sir the most affectionate farewell of a heart gratefully devoted to you and yours—

_EA Seton_

7.158 To Eliza Sadler

+5th May 1818

My ever dear Eliza

- You will easily put yourself in my heart about Kits staying or return - that she should stay would be so pleasing for many reasons, and above every other the wish of my Helen¹ - but that she should return seems to me to [be] every way in the order of common filial duty that

²Probably a laborer at St. Joseph’s
7.157 MHS MS 1304, #6
7.158 ASJPH 1-3-3-7:59
¹Helen Bayley Craig, Elizabeth’s half-sister
there can be no hesitation—When Our God takes my darlings it is no great exertion of Faith to be even glad of their escape, but a voluntary separation from my only one so delicate in health and most likely so soon to part like her sisters from my Solitary nest is a deed of Valor beyond my power—if the little soul desires to be off again next winter, let her go as she can take but little exercise here at that time; expence of journeys is to be sure a great deal, but she has been so little expence in any way since she has been born, that I would not make it a matter of conscience—

I long to hear of our Marys\textsuperscript{2} Health after her arrival at Nassau remembering the effect such sea sickness had on poor Mrs. Scotts Maria [Scott Pederson].

—Dearest Eliza I cannot say a word of my beloved William - to bow and Adore is all—how many hopes I had in him for my poor sailor boy - but God is God—

It seems to me Sister Rose [White] found some great relief in Rheumatism, I will write her to tell Dué, that our dear Craig\textsuperscript{3} may try it. I remember my dear Father [Dr. Richard Bayley] telling a person in that complaint to carry dry poke berrys\textsuperscript{4} in the pocket and eat them through the day, and here they have been found useful steeped in Brandy—

Oh bless you all I wish I had all your pains if God would give them to me—Your EAS.

tell Ellen\textsuperscript{5} to send me a little piece of the hair of each of her darlings, by Kit that I may at least have that to kiss.

\textsuperscript{2}Mary Fitch Bayley married Robert Bunch in 1817 and went to Nassau.
\textsuperscript{3}Probably Samuel Craig, brother of the addressee
\textsuperscript{4}Berries from the perennial herb pokeweed
\textsuperscript{5}Probably Mrs. Ellen Gottsberger, a former academy pupil
My loved Julia

I hardly know why I write you now as all is going in the old track, unless it is to excuse poor Kit to you when really there is not much excuse—poor darling—She will have many a pinch if she lives for her fruitless early days—so have I—and here I jog on to the grave patting my own back, and hushing up poor pride and sorrow, till both will go off with me by and by—

I hope you have not felt the cold spring as much as I have, I feel as old as good Mam[m]y Sante Crox¹ I used to tell you about whose chin and nose grew so near each other ... I feel mine to see how they stand, and would like to kiss yours if I could ... my head is as empty as a drum (not my heart) and has nothing to tell you—Kit will be home next month I hope, and then I must set a pair of stockings, which I shall be done knitting I suppose before half her wonders will be told.

Your dear J[ohn] M[orin] S[cott]'s wife seems to have made the greatest impression on her mind as yet—I shall rejoice to hear of her safety, and your happiness in having so dear a Birt[h]ling,² and dont lose the sweets of your office my Gloriana by sad retrospection which can mend nothing, and take away so much.

You say no more of S[ister] Charlotts multiplication - What is the matter—the tree is not dry I am sure—I have thought so often lately of Brother S[amuel]—is his health quite restored, and Mrs. [Mehitabel] Marcoe's little sweet nurslings all thriving.

—and how your dear self—and where going this Summer, with Emily [Caton] McTavish to Canada perhaps—perhaps—all perhaps in this world but a certainty that

I am ever your bad, but own EAS.

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¹Probably a servant in the Seton household
²Mary Emlen Scott was about to give birth to Sarah Emlen Scott, Julia’s first grandchild.
My own little Darling

both posts are in and no letter from you, so you most probably wait to hear from me - and I fear almost to press your dear heart too much by telling you mine that I do wish you so much to be again with your poor Mother at least for this summer—you will be able to return to New York with little Burns and Manghans’ family in the fall if you wish it, but the more I think of it at our bench in the choir, the more I see that your way to secure a more welcome reception among our friends when you will have no mother (and you must look for that my darling) [is] by being a shorter time with them now—Your return will be a great change to you from what you have been enjoying, but you will take it in the Providence of God my beloved that we are so circumstanced—it might be a great deal worse that you well know

It will be better for you to go again next winter (we will not mind the expence) in comparison with being again together this summer - fruit, milk etc will be plenty your health will not suffer, and your mothers I promise you will be enough better, for too often I rejoice to be in pain and food and sleep have no charm for me since all I love can be well without me—

Mrs. [Catherine Carroll] Harper having been at the point has sent for little Bess\(^2\) to take leave of her before she sails for England and France - how hard to go to that very shore poor Mary [Diana Harper] died on, Mr. [Robert Goodloe] Harper says to bring back her remains he hopes

no news from Richard nor William these 3 weeks - I think he may be gone to the Mediterranean as his last said he had written to

\(^{1}\)Neither Burns nor Manghans appears on the list of students of St. Joseph’s Academy for 1818.

\(^{2}\)Probably Elizabeth Harper, a student at St. Joseph’s Academy
Washington for permission—poor beloved he says only 3 times on shore since he entered the frigate not even—but we cant help it - I must swallow my heart—
—dearest child you that know something of eternity Pity me—and never never be a Mother.

Foxes well - *all well* - I think it will be easy for you to come in June with Sister Rose [White] or Mr. [Robert] Fox - *I think so* - but at last if you do not, I leave it all in your hands.

tell Aunt [Mary Bayley] Post and dear Catherine [Post] and my loved Brother [Wright Post] every thing for me - and Dué - and All [underlined three times] - and your dear self more than All³—

Your own own own EAS

7.161 To William Seton

9th May 1818

+ 

My own loved

I write to ease my own heart of the painful thoughts that *you might* perhaps be expecting to hear from your darling Mother and be disappointed—for what news has my old story to say—that we hear no more from our Richard—yet I write him in all directions so sooth any pain my first letters may have given—and a letter from Mrs. [Eliza] Sadler begging for sweet Kits stay with Ellen but my heart was so pushed by Mrs. [Julia] Scotts remarks of her “helplessness” etc and soured at the thought that perhaps where she is, though it would not be *said* so plainly it might be equally *thought*, (you know dearest my bit­ter experience) that I wrote last post a pressing letter to my Darling to return to me next month by some of the good opportunities and also some excuses to Mrs. Sadler—You must not blame your own Mother

³“All” is underlined three times.

7.161 AMSV 110:10,22
She can have here the best of summer produce which I will get on purpose for her and from the good Mr. [George] Grover a supply of crackers and red wine also, so that her health may not suffer, and in October or first of November there will be opportunities from New York again with which she can easily return—besides we must look to the time when she will make her home with these friends, not a visit—and to tell you all my weakness my William I cannot command myself to care for my poor life while you are all away—you have too good an opinion of your mother—I have never been able to look up since you are gone but to my final home, every thing round me wears the gloom of my own heart—look to it all, and you will excuse me though I should be ashamed to own it—

—no letter from you since ___ none yet from the good Bishop¹ -nor Mr. [Robert Goodloe] Harper and his dying wife [Catherine Carroll Harper] and by this I suppose sailed for Liverpool to go after to France and bring Mary’s [Diana Harper] remains—What a fancy—

Mr. [John] Dubois is in Baltimore and writes that Mr. Harper has made proposals for Josephine² (which if not accepted will yet show his unbounded friendship) but he was too sick to write them.

—Oh my beloved love me and write to me, and take care of what I love so much more than myself and the whole world besides

Your own own forever EAS.

7.162 To Robert Fox

+9th May 1818

My dear Mr. Fox

—my dear friend I cannot resist the desire of my heart this morning which has so often pushed me to intreat you to let your dear one come

¹Rev. John Cheverus, bishop of Boston
²Robert Goodloe Harper had suggested that Catherine come to live with his family should Elizabeth die.
7.162 AMSV 110:10,23
who has not made her first Communion for which she could prepare so well with us, and now there is so good a pretext to the world for her coming here on a visit with my Kitty, who will come home with Sister Rose [White] or yourself if you will do me so great a service as to take charge of her when you come for the girls—I know your situation and how extensive your family, but expence must not be in your way in this case, we will make it as small as you will, too happy that it should be none at all for such an object, and to show our gratitude to you.

—my Kitty will be returning to her aunt [Mary Bayley Post] in New York next fall I suppose, and then your dear daughter could return too, so much better fitted to meet this dangerous world, and the duties she may have to fulfil in it, and so much better able to preserve in the three dear ones now here, the happy and excellent disposition of soul they are in—Jane and Eliza [Fox] will be a great comfort to their dear Mother and yourself I trust, Mary is not yet well broken in, and I fear will easily lose what she has gained; Sister Margaret [George] is very anxious she should make her first Communion before you come for her but I dread that when she gets at home, having her liberty in many ways so unavoidable, she will not keep to her grace, and then it will be worse than if she had not made it.

If only my dear Mrs. [Elizabeth] Fox is happy in them what a blessing it will be, I give them continually lessons on the points of duty and filial love, and no children can have a better will - Jane will soon be an elegant woman in mind and person both. —you are truly a happy parent in them but do hear my prayer for their dear sister who has not had their good opportunity

—When we poor parents meet our beloved children in the great day of account and Judgment, how happy if we can present them to him from whom we recieved them without reproach at least on our part—I tremble often for my omissions and excessive indulgence to mine.

dont say I take too great a liberty saying all this to you, you will never <care> know in this world how tenderly I love your family—take my meaning dear friend, and forgive any fault in the manner—I am and ever will be Your devoted friend EASeton.
the children are very very well—Jane and Eliza at their Whitsunday Communion this morning

7.163 Copy to William Seton

10th I believe May 1818

My own Beloved

Your letter of 1st May this hour come to hand - I hasten to ease your dear heart, mine is far from troubled at the loss of our penies, but so grateful to our God for your escape of instant and (also perhaps) unprovided Death—oh my love not a word must I say on that point - that only point to my Soul

—I write Mr. [Robert] Barry pressingly to send you speedily as possibly the 100, and if I am so happy as to get it, surely it will be your own, and not for return, for to whom should it return, or who has had so small a share as your dear self of what has been going—I pray and trust that he will advance it, there is not now as high as a 5 d[ollar] bill in the house, and Mr. [George] Grover is pressing for the debt it ow[e]s him for Spring goods so I have no resource for the moment in either, but cannot think Mr. Barry will hesitate, if he does I will surely get it some where—

Mr. [John] Dubois is sick in Baltimore and they are over run with demands so I cannot apply there—Mr. [Robert] Harper is gone, (I suppose as his letter last week said he was to sail in a day or two) so our good hope for his application must turn I suppose to good Mr. Brent—tell me if it must be made immediately

/ Oh William - my William—
/ WhitSunday yesterday—

1Note on the outside: “to put in your pocket and read alone.”

7.163 AMSV Seton-Jevons #104-106 (photocopy) No original exists.

1William had been in an accident in which he had lost all his money.

2Daniel Brent, nephew of Archbishop Carroll, was a clerk in the Department of State.
/ Not a word from Kit these 2 weeks—nothing more of Richard—I told you I sent the last little dividend from Barry to settle with his Mr. Kelso without waiting to hear from him lest there should be any talk about it—
— I can write no more now without losing an immediate opportunity love and respect to our friends—
LOVE and blessing to you in every shape—

Your own own EAS³

7.164 To William Seton

27 May 1818

I know not why I cannot get it out of my head to write you by this post my beloved altho' neither hearing of any obstacle on the part of Mr. [Robert] Barry for sending you the $100, nor from you that you have not received it I ought to hope that all is well and your anxiety about it over, yet mine cannot be till I hear from you, and I intreat you my William if you have it not call on Mr. [John] Cheverus and tell him how it is and he will take the money on credit for you and may be certain of an immediate answer to the demand—you know my own I cannot write to him myself about it without letting out the accident which might pain you - do do only say too if I can do any good by writing Mr. [Daniel] Brent for you since by your so amiable letter to Gardner you seemed to have made an application from the best of sources the commander himself¹—

DO DO LET ME HEAR FROM YOU and do do go to your Voyage with the preparation your own would beg on her knees—and does beg

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³The original of this letter was destroyed in the 1951 fire at the motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Halifax.
7.164 ASCSH Seton-Jevons #107-110
¹William had requested a transfer to another ship, the Guerriere, which was to make a Mediterranean cruise.
for every day, that it may be well done—put yourself in such moments as you had going to France, and also in the moment when I may hear your Vessel is lost and my only possible comfort will be your having done what depended on you in that point

Kit well - every word of her last letter a wild desire to be with your and her own mother - not a word from Richard - they wait for this - I mistook the post day—Yours forever EAS.

a Lieutenancy\(^2\) was sent on to you from Washington to Baltimore in the comp[any] of Colonel Ripley—and order of 200 dollars sup- posing it had been received and accepted. one of Ann Nelsons drolls but very true—

7.165 To William Seton

+[June 1818]

My own own own love

- These ten days I have been calculating on and off what I could say to please you - that I am well, stronger every day, our long winter over and all a cheerful Spring around us, is to be balanced by saying, Sweet Kit\(^1\) is not so well, but yet not sick and jumping rope, walks and recre- ations which she takes very gaily will I trust be favourable. she will not consent to leave me, but I will get her off by surprise some day soon I hope, She had all her little things ready to go down in Mr. [Luke] Tiernans carriage to see poor Sally\(^2\) who is dying, but we both thought you two brothers would not like it, and she remained very cheerfully—

a person from Baltimore who had a Particular acquaintance with the Surgeon of the Independance brought us the high praise and

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\(^2\)According to records of the United States Navy, in late February 1826 William Seton was given his commission as a naval lieutenant.

7.165 AMSV 110: 10,25

\(^1\)Catherine had returned to Emmitsburg from New York, accompanied by Lionel Post, her cousin.

\(^2\)Sally Tierman attended St. Joseph's Academy and was a friend of Catherine.
encomiums lavished on him3 who! (every little nerve and fiber trembles only to write it)—I cannot—

Eternal God - he was saved then, I must hope and praise and thank to the last breath of life—and give up the very Passion of my Soul in his hands who turned such a Death aside, and the anguish and distraction it would have given me.

—a fine world we live in beloved, where such consequences may take place at any hour from its spirit and principles which trample every sacred right human and divine

I feel an inexpressible resentment against its barbarous laws—must say no more to one I respect as I do you my Son besides the extravagant love of my Soul for yours—

—it is time for me to be a little more Independent I think and try to harden a heart which may yet be trampled on so often, you smile and say it is too late my Mother, yes my beloved it is too late not to do at on you with a tenderness proportioned to my danger and fear of losing you FOREVER - for you know that the long long day to come is all I care for—

your friend Anduze4 yet at the mountain, I expect he has a strong conflict about that long long day—[Michael deBurgo] Eagan yet there but with his usual health - I believe Anduze from a word Mrs. Walker said is under some determination to see no one, so I have not seen him since the first Visit.

I wrote you by those letters thro’ Mr. Joice and two by Baltimore all are little news my Souls William, Richards constant repetition of his happiness and success - Mr. [Robert Goodloe] Harpers assurances—our New Yorkers all as usual. Philadelphia friends the same, I believe not a new thing any where among them—I have never heard from B[ishop John] Cheverus since you left Boston but good Mr. Joice must surely recieve my letters to you - this I send to Sam[uel] Seton who dear Soul wished so to forward you one and wrote there might soon be an opportunity—I look for you beloved and at you continually only in our great source, every possible of where or how you

3William was on duty aboard the USS Independence as a midshipman.
4This could refer to Matthew B. Anduze who was on the faculty at St. Mary’s College, Baltimore, or to a (Christian?) Anduze who knew William at Mount St. Mary’s.
may be is so completely in the dark - we count the flying days weeks and months with so much pleasure. Kit and I would jump over these two painful years of separation at any and every expence—but patience and hope our only support through them—

every body well here, enquiries continually about you. Kit and I keep our piercing news close enough. Bless Bless Bless you forever

7.166 To William Seton

+7th June 1818

My own love

It must seem quite strange to you that your Mother who has so long made every wish of your dear heart her own should in this case of your desire to go in the Guenier\(^1\) have taken no little step to promote it (unless to write you if I could do any thing in it) but the thing was that Master Peters letter mentioned this command and application which seemed best of all, and our good friend Mr. [Robert Goodloe] Harper little guessing I suppose the confinement of your situation, expressed so much his certainty of your speedy advancement if you remain with Commander [William] Bainbridge . . . so and so my beloved I felt afraid almost of your quitting, unless it had come in the evident order of our good Providence . . . how my heart and Soul feels for you every way, you know well

you will be pleased to know our Sweet Kit is with me - Leo [Post] brought her, and by the most painful circumstances of old Sultan\(^2\) jumping at him and grazing his leg considerably he has been delayed some days with us—poor Mr. [Simon] Bruté\(^3\) who is to be here as-

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7.166 ASJPH 1-3-3-18:47 (Seton-Jevons #476-477)

\(^1\)William wanted to be transferred to the Guerriere, a naval vessel on which his friend Charles Wilkes was stationed.

\(^2\)A community horse

\(^3\)Rev. Simon Bruté, S.S., had been in Emmitsburg for several months assisting Rev. John Dubois, S.S. After repeated requests, June 3 he was relieved of his duties as president of St. Mary's in Baltimore and assigned to Mount St. Mary's in Emmitsburg. He was replaced as president by Rev. Edward Daniphoux, S.S. (1788-1860).
sisting Mr. [John] Dubois in his Sickness still a week longer, went with a gig for the dear fellow, and taking him to the Mount soon cured him and he took such a delight in the place and our friend Peter [O’Conway], the fishing and shooting etc. that when he went away he said “Aunt S I will see you again this summer not for a few days but some weeks, Mr. Dubois says I must come back and I surely will” and it is probable as Kit says do everything to drive him from the city since he is in ill health—

My Darling Midshipman I must now make you laugh you may suppose what fears I was in lest Mr. [Robert] Barry had not sent you what you wanted as I hear from neither of you, well singular Providence of our God when Leo came he said “Aunt Seton I have brought you eighty odd dollars recovery of some mortgage on Mr. [John] Charltons estate and copy of a customs house bill which if you have the original among your papers will bring you several hundred”—in vain every paper is searched I find no original for I never had any of my [William] Setons papers but J[ames] Seton who took our counting House soon as we left it may find it if he looks—but the 83 was in hand and I sent by a safe hand to Mr. [Robert] Barry so if you had it not before you will have now

I give the pen to Kit to tell you all about dear Dicks letters

7.167 To Sarah Cauffman

10th June 1818

+ 

My own own Sa

tho’ not very able to write having both arms bandaged with bleeding yet I am too uneasy that you should be uneasy and too unhappy that Kit should have seemed so ungrateful, she is indeed a thoughtless child, but will probably soon know better the Value of such a friend as you are. She was scarcely one hour or rather part of one in Philadelphia and

4Elizabeth’s maternal uncle who had mentioned Elizabeth in his will
5The next two pages were written by Catherine.
was obliged to get a trunk provided and her things all gathered in it, or
else give me a good deal of pain she knew—I did not tell her I have a let-
ter from you but asked her had she written you when she was in New
York she said no she kept always putting off in hopes you would write to
her (saucy thing) but you never wrote a line she said, so dearest Sa it is
certain she never got your letters—

Say every thing to your dearest aunts of my gratitude for their ten-
der kindness which she says she can never describe. poor dear she will
be wiser by and by—

How can you be uneasy dearest about telling me that little thing, it
is but a simple act of friendship, which indeed I cannot make use of for
my poor boy¹ is every way out of my reach, it would be like beating the
air to say any thing to him, and surely give pain to no purpose if heard
of this side the water—I cannot but be pleased that the so interesting
affair finished so—but only for the present probably my darling—all
in the hands of our God so dear and infinitely good, that is my comfort.
Kit came exact at the right time I have been very sick, but am better.
tell my own Ellen [Wiseman] with my tenderest love and blessing I
will write her soon as I am able - this is by stealth—

Your own forever EAS.
with love to dear C and C²

7.168 To William Seton
+[June 15, 1818]

My Souls Darling,

I wrote you the last week to say the money had been sent Mr. [Rob-
ert] Barry, so I hope it is safe with you before any further painful appli-
cation—You are tired of hearing about it but that cannot be helped until
you can tell me the welcome news that you have it—we must not mind

¹William or Richard Seton
²Possibly Catherine Cauffman and Catherine Roach who both attended St. Joseph’s Academy
with the addressee
7.168 AMPH Seton-Jevons #111-114
these things dear one but I well remember when I was young how I hated them. Your letter of 3d June was immediately attended to - I had been bled in both arms for a slight inflammatory attack of the breast and I got Mr. [John] Dubois to write the very hour I received your letter, so I hope Mr. [Daniel] Brent has the petition long before this, and you will either get in the Guerner or Macedonia\(^1\) - tho as I told you good Mr. [Robert Goodloe] Harper wished you earnestly to remain under your present commodore—our God will direct it I trust—

sweet Kit came just in good time to save us both a deal of anxiety, but I am much recovered now eating green peas, strawberrys and cherries in great abundance but with the regular tears in the eyes at the thought of my Sailor who gets neither, nor smells our sweet roses, nor roves our green fields If I had not got so soon better how I should have intreated your Commodore [William Bainbridge] to let you come, but alas hard duty in this world takes the lead of every thing.

I beat my poor empty brain for news, but find none—I cannot tell you what pains I have taken to procure the picture books for our little No sending to Mr. [George] Grover and a commission to Baltimore by Mr. Hermange in vain , but I will persevere—there are plenty of worn abused things in the house , but I want them new and handsome as from you—

O my William my William if you could see my heart for you—but it would be in Vain—it is ever all yours, is all I can say—

your own EASeton.\(^2\)

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7.169 To William Seton

+1st July 1818

My Souls own loved Darling

- this will be a blank letter to you as for the news you wish, for Mr. [Daniel] Brent only writes his earnest desire to serve us, and promises

\(^{1}\)William was eventually transferred to the Macedonian.
\(^{2}\)A note from Catherine Seton follows.

7.169 ASJPH 1-3-3-18:48 (Seton-Jevons # 115-118)
of every exertion, yet remarks that there are probably many applica-
tions of the same kind and he may therefore be unsuccessful—what-
soever he writes next week you shall know immediately on the coming
of his letter - I can only look up as usual, poor little Mother who would
so gladly give her life for you—

I wrote Mr. [Robert] Barry immediately about your Yankee gentle-
man and no doubt he will see to it directly, I am so thankful you was
not forced to apply to any one else—we hear no more from Leo [Post],
if our providential paper produces any thing I shall hoard it up for
you—Kit has her remnants of travelling expences yet, and never
spends a penny. Sister Margaret [George] brings her daily her Basket
of cherries from old Nelly, Sister Sus[an Clossy] has always ginger
bread, sweet Bread or something in our little cupboard you remember
well my beloved, and we had some super excellent Port sent us for me,
 tho’ my cough will not let me use much of it.

Dick is wild with the desire of Rosettis¹ coming to the mountain as
Italian or French teacher—Mr. Dubois says “let him try it,” - poor fel-
low, I think it will be very hard for him. Your Anduse is to be back im-
mEDIATELY I understand, how I wish you could be there too this month
of August instead of between decks, yet I know not what to wish, if
you can get out in either of the frigates, nothing should stop you, if not
I must try to get permission for you coming this summer.

there I have pulled the ink cotton and made a big blot, but never
mind my love

—You have no idea how Kit is taken with the Setons,² poor Aunt
Helen [Bayley Craig] has seen so little of her the letter they write
about it is quite painful, (- here my lady comes from the garden with
Sister Sus with a basket of currents and strawberrys, O that you had
them in the place of your potato whisky) She is the Picture of health,
very lively, a good appetite and I hope and trust will live to comfort

¹Possibly a student at St. Mary’s Seminary, Baltimore, and also a friend of Samuel Sutherland
Cooper
²Catherine Seton had been only eight years old when she left New York. On her recent visit there
she had met a number of her relatives and family friends.
you my dear dear, a thousand times dearer than you can ever imagine.

Bless you forever. Mr. Dubois always begs so many rememberances to you - a most interesting scene took place here last week, the Sulpicians of Baltimore (except poor Mr. [Simon] Bruté) solicited Mr. Dubois Suppression of the Seminary, thinking he was rather getting in debt, and that the Masters he employed would be more useful in Baltimore and lo our good Emitsburgers came forward offered Mr. Dubois 8 or 10,000 in hand and to buy the Seminary for him if he chose if only he would not leave them - the Archbishop [Ambrose Maréchal] seeing how hard it would go, has directed all to be left as it was before—so much for the good “country peeps” as Mr. [Charles] Duhamel called them

You will hear again from Your own soon as Mr. [Daniel] Brent writes—EAS.5

Sarah [Cauffman] has dismissed her gentleman—Ellen [Wise­man] lives in Philadelphia with her sister who is like to die I believe.

7.170 To Rev. Simon Bruté, S.S.

+July 2, 1818

611 is our last number Blessed—mind not my health—Death grins broader in the pot every morning and I grin at him and show him his

3“de ar dear” is underlined three times.

4For some time the Society of St. Sulpice had been dissatisfied with affairs at Mount St. Mary’s for a variety of reasons, especially its indebtedness. Rev. John Dubois, S.S., and Rev. Simon Bruté, S.S., held different views from the Sulpicians in Baltimore, including Archbishop Ambrose Maréchal, S.S. Bruté left the presidency of St. Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore without the permission of Rev. John Mary Tessier, superior of the Society of St. Sulpice in the United States (1810-1829) and returned to Emmitsburg in 1818. In 1824 Bruté traveled to France to plead the case of Mount St. Mary’s with Sulpician superiors in Paris. His proposal was eventually rejected, and in January 1826 Mount St. Mary’s was deleted from the rolls of Sulpician institutions but continued as an independently governed Catholic seminary and college. As a result Bruté and Dubois withdrew from the Society of St. Sulpice.

5The following note is written along the left side of the first page.

7.170 ASJPH 1-3-3-12:78

1Probably refers to the number of students at St. Joseph’s Academy
Master—Oh be blessed blessed blessed I see nothing in this world but the blue sky and our altars, all the rest is so plainly not to be looked at, but all left to him, with tears only for Sin. we talk now all day long of my Death and how it will be Just like the rest of the house work—what is it else—what came in the world for—why in it so long—but this last great Eternal end—it seems to me so simple—when I look up at the crucifix simpler still—so that I went to sleep before I had made any thanksgiving but Te deum and Magnificat after communion

tomorrow first Friday in month, and Saturday is my own day—Oh be blessed as the poorest Sinner is -

Visitation—Magnificat at sunset this evening

7.171 To Sister Cecilia O’Conway

July 6, [1818]

My own precious

our dear [Mary Xavier] Clark has done her commission like a woman of the World, but she cannot help it . . . she could not tell you simply that the carcase is going to the dung hill to wait for the Resurrection—and the Soul my Cicil—oh pray much for it—Yet I may have many bargains before I go, and linger a long time—

ever since my breast was first attacked I have been like a Dead person almost, in the stillness and quiet of my mind, insensible to noise, or any other inconvenience—go to Communion almost every day, and keep on my dear translations and meditations,\(^1\) with the little talks, which can never last long as it is very difficult for me to speak—feet swoln a good deal so I go no further than choir or chapel—

and so it goes darling, dont speak about it to any body, for if I go on as fast as I began, Rose[White] will probably be kept at home to take

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\(^1\)On his return to Emmitsburg in June, Rev. Simon Bruté, S.S., had brought his library of several thousand volumes in French. Elizabeth borrowed books from him and translated excerpts to share with the sisters.
my place, and then perhaps you too may come and stand by the pillow of your Mother—but give all that up to our faithful God and don't mention this [four words crossed out] for probably the whole of the Superiors plans will depend on what Rose says about New York etc when she comes. Charles [White] is gone for her and she is expected next week. tell poor Philo I will love and bless her living or dying—and yourself "Mothers Soul" look up to them who are gone before us—live by Faith² dearest—it is time

—Sister Jane [Frances Gartland] wanted to write to you but I was afraid her imagination would work too much—dear Soul she is yet on the old page no new leaf turned over. poor little Jos³ . . . but she is full of hope that the immediate danger past I shall get well—our only beloved knows—I only know that I am his—and yours I trust forever

EASeton

7.172 To Sister Cecilia O'Conway

[July 20, 1818]

My own own dear Cecilia

be assured that all is well on the point you are anxious for—

There has been an Election¹ of the Dead to day, and I remain Mother, there the point of Judgment—but—our God will pity

—I can say nothing to you my beloved but what you understand without words—PEACE—The point of points I am so well in it about every thing, that while they were going and coming for Election this

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²Cf. Hab. 2:4 or Hebrews 10:38.
³Catherine was concerned about her mother's illness, which Elizabeth called an inflammation of the lungs.

7.172 UAQ #4

¹According to Chapter 3, Article 1 of the Constitutions of the Sisters of Charity in the United States, the community held elections every third year on the day after the feast of St. Vincent de Paul which was then celebrated July 19. Elizabeth referred to it as an election of the dead because of her poor health.
morning I forgot for a good while kneeling by the altar railing what was doing or to be done.

OUR FAITHFUL BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU\textsuperscript{2}—

I have no symptoms now of hastening Death as when I wrote you—slow, slow and sure—

St. Jerome Emiliana 1818\textsuperscript{3}

\textbf{7.173 To William Seton}

21st July 1818

My own beloved,

how I do long long to hear from you—Sometimes I think perhaps good Mr. [Daniel] Brent succeeded and sent you on an exchange as you wished and you may be even gone in your Guerrier or some other warrior; at others I feel the whole weight of the thought that you are still between decks in Harbour this hot weather—would I tell you half your mother thinks, Oh no, but all stops in one thought dearest, dearest, that I must be resigned to it all—“they that bear it best deserve it least” says the good true poet. Your Kit is as well as possible - very lively trying to persuade herself that she is yet to be happy even in this world with her beloved Brothers—we have no news of the good Harpers\textsuperscript{1} which I am sorry for as I wish her much to be with them as they propose, besides so many reasons we have to be interested for them as our truly best friends

. . . Dearest dear dear dear William - I could fill all my papers with that so unavailing repetition—good and dear Son and child of my

\textsuperscript{2}"Bless and Keep" is underlined three times. Cf. Numbers 6:24.

\textsuperscript{3}St. Jerome Emiliani (1481-1537), an Italian priest who ministered to orphans and troubled women, is the patron saint of orphans and abandoned children.

7.173 ASCSE Seton-Jevons #119-123

\textsuperscript{1}The family of Robert Goodloe Harper and his wife, Catherine Carroll Harper. Elizabeth had made plans that after her death Catherine Seton would live with the Harpers.
heart be comforted you never gave a pain to that heart but the pain for parting and separation - none indeed some fears that you are giving up All human views etc. yet all I judge from is the intire silence of Bishop [John] Cheverus who has never written me once since you are at Boston, and I have had so many full proofs of the kindness of his heart that I am sure if he could have said a word of your approach to our God he would have taken time from sleep to tell me.—but that and every­thing I give up and still hope and pray—all a poor little mother can do.

good Mr. [Robert] Fox is here and says some gentleman arrived in the Washington told him that he saw Richard, and he is very well—but we have not letters as yet—Sister Rose [White] too is here taking Charles [White] to Baltimore college - he will be happy there I hope—Gardener is in New York for vacation they say - Kit is out with her dear Foxes who are just on the start—tears plenty—but soon died.

Peace and blessing to you from

your own own own EAS.

7.174 To William Seton

1st August 1818

+ 

My Souls Darling

here your so long desired letter dated from your Macedonia arrived¹ - I was just going to sleep when little Dick put it in the window as he returned from town - we soon had the candle and Kit and I took thoughts enough from your purposed two years Voyage for the re­mainder of the night—You must not think of coming my beloved even if your Voyage is delayed to October or November - one only thing I

7.174 AMSJ A 111 011

¹In July William was assigned to the Macedonian which sailed from Boston later in the year on a cruise around Cape Horn, the southernmost tip of South America, to Valpariso, Chile, to protect American shipping and other interests endangered in the Chilean revolution. It was to make a two­year cruise in the Pacific.
cannot stand in this world, that is, *taking leave of you*, the little while
too you could stay, the fear of its being noticed that you were absent
the very moment you might be wanting—we must be firm—this
world it is certain is not the place you and I are to enjoy our love—dont
be uneasy about my health, at my time of life (45 as dear Bec said)
nothing can be more uncertain, the sickness I had (Inflation of
lungs) leaves a long weakness but there is nothing alarming my love I
*assure* you as to immediate consequence, I may live to welcome your
happy joyful return from many a cruise . . . Kit would be ready to
pound me for writing you not to come if she was not forced to see the
thing in reason, not our poor loving hearts I have taken measures for
your receiving at least a poor poor 50 Dollars my beloved, tears are
ready to start that that may be all you will have for your Voyage, and I
hope Mrs. J[ohn] Seton[^2] will get for you every comfort you may want
in clothes. I shall be sure to repay her - thats understood! I wrote her
and enclosed to the good Bishop [John Cheverus] who will know if
she is the kind of person who would meet the wish of a mothers heart
on such an occasion—take my intention and doating love dearest if I
plague you by applying to her I know not what else to do, as none but a
woman can do it

—a very pleasing letter of *May* from our Dick by Mr. [Samuel]
Cooper’s return - he mentions the death of his dearest friend by a
dagger (and I much fear it is poor Rosetti) - he says as he gave his last
gasp he said “Seton do not revenge me in any way but take care of my
sister, show you loved me by protecting her” and “at this moment as
he expired Paulina entered the room” says Dick “and judge what my
feelings were”—it seems it was for some defence of his sister the poor
fellow died, and his assassin is now in the galleys What scraps our
Daddy must often be in and what a scrape this Paulina *may be* for him?
he speaks much of the Filicchis persevering kindness in every
way—that is real comfort - he says it is so strange you do not write
him, and that he *had had* but one letter yet of mine dated a few days af
ther he left home, oh my, that is hard indeed—

[^2]: Charlotte Gorham Seton, an aunt by marriage of the addressee, lived in Boston.
Anduze is not yet here but coming, Doyle is at the Mount but I have not seen him, only good little Michael comes for serving Mass, and loves you so that his eyes glistened with tears when I showed him your rememberance of him—I told you I believe that [Charles] White is at Baltimore college—in my "shady retreat" (the little willow grows so handsomely) how I sigh for you, love, where sighs go not in vain happily—we will see—all our hope is there—I never say a word to you of how every body remembers and regrets you dear dearest and some unite their hearts with mine to love you as true Sisters—I told you how perfectly well Kit is - we have letters all affectionate enquiries about you from all that love us, Ellen [Wiseman] particularly, Mr. [John] Dubois never wearies speaking of you, his health is restored—I have never had a line from Bishop Cheverus since you are in Boston, perhaps he is on some circuit Visitation among his dear Indians—no more of the Posts coming or any news of them—

My own own William remember how I love you -

Your own EASETON.

7.175 To Antonio Filicchi

8th August 1818

My ever dear Antonio

It is some time since I have written you, but have had the consolation of frequently hearing of you and your most dear family by the letters of my dear Giant, who writes page on page (of what I never could doubt) your most generous and kind conduct to him, and the amiable

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3 Mr. Doyle of St. Mary’s College, Baltimore
4 Probably Michael Egan
5 The Native American peoples of the Eastern Woodlands who were living within the vicinity of the diocese of Boston would have included the Iroquois and a number of Algonquin-speaking tribes, especially the Micmac, Malectite, and Passamaquoddy.
6 Dr. Wright and Mary Bayley Post
7.175 AMSJ A 111 068
1 Richard was with Antonio Filicchi as an apprentice.
and cordial reception of your lovely family. if our God will but grant that he may succeed and persevere in his good desires of showing you our love and Gratitude how happy I should be - our world this side the waters I know no more of scarcely than you do, dear Filicchi. Your excellent friend Mr. Whitfield² (whom I did not know to be your friend when he was here but for a moment) will I suppose always give you everything interesting in news worth hearing, if indeed there is any, all I know is about my little world in St Josephs house, of about 100 precious souls,³ which we cherish and prepare in silence and under a rather common look of no pretention, to go over our cities like a good leaven.

it is rather suspected that I your poor little sister am about to go and meet your Philippo,⁴ but nothing of health can be certain and calculated at my age 45—I may recover and crack nuts yet with my nose and chin as they say—I know not, all I know is that we must all be ready for this dear dearest thief who is to come when least expected.⁵ I go almost every day to communion (as my good confessor and Superior [John Dubois] says, thro' condescension to my weakness), so if you good people are not very good over the water it is no fault of my prayers, and I hope I shall not be forgotten in yours to which I so well owe all that I possess, my beloved Faith.

Our orphan asylums in New York and Philadelphia promise more than we could have hoped - a letter lately from the good Bishop [John Connolly] of New York speaks very affectionately of you as well as the blessed Mr. [John] Cheverus.

William is on the Macedonian going to the Pacific Ocean—he is more and more pleased with the choice of a profession which seems to us so extraordinary. Say everything to your excellent Amabilia

²Rev. James Whitfield (1770-1834) was born in Liverpool and spent his early life as a merchant in Leghorn (Livorno), Italy. After being ordained a priest, he came to Baltimore in 1811. He became the archbishop of Baltimore in 1828.

³The approximate number of students and sisters who lived at St. Joseph's.

⁴Elizabeth had been seriously ill and was close to death. Philippo Filicchi had already died.

⁵Cf. Matt. 24:42-44.
[Filicchi] of my devoted gratitude and affection for her, and do you
dear Antonio love and bless you poor little sister to the last.

EASeton

7.176 To Ellen Wiseman

20th August 1818

What shall I say to my Souls dear Ellen

—I know your uneasiness for me, but that should not be . . . why
uneasy at the fulfilment of the merciful designs of so dear a Provi-
dence who left me to take care of my Bec, to bring Jos to an age to take
care of herself, and our dearest Boys to enter the way of life they were
to choose . . .

. . . St. Josephs House well established wants not even my Nominal
care what would you have darling why be anxious if your poor
tired friend goes to rest . . . I HOPE. to have you and my Sa[rah
Cauffman] here would be an extravagant wish - do not think of it but to
pray for one who has so long loved, loves now so dearly, and will love
and bless you both with her own children to her last breath—

Yet my complaint¹ may change only pray for our Peace with God
whenever we are called.

Your dearest Mamma’s health is not better Julian [Duncan] writes
me and how your dear heart must ach . . . but Oh look up Ellen look up,
in all.

let this little word be for my Sa too, I have to write so much

—Oh bless bless you both, and dear Kitty [Wiseman] and dear
Catherine [Cauffman] FOREVER—your EAS

Bec’s Birthday She would be 16. but counts time no more Sweet
darling—what a thought to go to her and our Nina to go to GOD

7.176 ASJPH 1-3-3-12:BI4

¹Tuberculosis
My ever dear Eliza

I have seen Rev. Mr. Taylor about four minutes, he had to go immediately to the mountain is to return before night (the sun is now near setting) and of course my few lines must be hurried indeed, yet let me tell you from the whole heart how I thank you for the little word of news painful as it is about our Mary [Fitch Bayley Bunch]—precious Helen [Bayley Craig] her life is to be like mine in point of Separations but I always remember with so much encouragement the strong piety of her heart that I trust she will push through all with the look up also—

I intreat as the greatest kindness to hear the event of our Mary’s voyage - I cannot be on the fearful side, since from what I have heard the Voyage, once survived, her weakness will be soon removed and health redoubled in the common course of things—our God grant it—poor darling what a situation. I remember that dear Mrs. Woolsey¹ was our Emma’s friend.

My health turns out a nothing at least for the present - the cough there and occasional pinch of the side when I run about, but Kit keeps me pretty well her prisoner—O Eliza - I am to stay—Very well—

Pour out my heart to my dear Craigs² big and little - pity the young giddy Kate - she will soon grow wiser poor dear one before she has half my whippings I hope, do remember me to every branch of the dear McVickers³—

Your own EAS

7.177 ASJPH 1-3-3-7:52

¹Mrs. Woolsey was a friend of Charlotte Amelia Bayley Craig, Elizabeth’s deceased half-sister.
²The addressee was a Craig by birth, and Elizabeth was very fond of the Craig family.
³Mrs. McVickers was a friend in New York.
My Souls William

—Laugh at your own for Laziness to go for paper I begin on this—no dear letter from you these last posts, but the good Bishop [John Cheverus] answering my last says “our dear William is well” that you hardly know Mrs. S[eton] but can easily find some one to do the needful about your linen etc. I would send you 40 dollars I have safe if I knew it would be sure to reach you by the mail, tell me in your next if it would, that we may not apply to the Merchants if we can help it. oh that I had enough to get you every comfort for such a long Voyage, but I charge you my love not to want any thing essential through unwillingness to apply to the Bishop whom you know I can safely repay from our little share in [Robert] Barrys hands . . . I charge you beloved child by all that is dear to us do not hesitate, or if you do not go before last of September you will have time to tell me and I will borrow it from the House¹ at all events and never fear but we will clear our way very quietly. if it is 3, 4, 500 dearest do not mind, but look at my poor heart whenever you hesitate, the 40 I have without borrowing and it is yours if I could but get it safe to you.

Kit is happy as the day is long these some weeks past and has no kind of complaint whatever. She has Rosalin, Charlotte, and Johanna Barry² singing, playing, drawing, working ruffs etc etc. not to omit the important point of story books—I have written Mrs. Mallon to beg for Rosalin a six months Visit to please the poor darlings as well as myself I love so to see them happy.

Mrs.[Mary Carroll] Caton writes the most affectionate letter with statements of every branch of her family and mentions that the good Mr. [Robert Goodloe] Harper and Madame will be back in November³

¹Accounts of St. Joseph’s House
²Pupils at St. Joseph’s. Rosalin Mallon attended St. Joseph’s Academy in 1812 and 1813.
³Robert Goodloe Harper and his ailing wife, Catherine Carroll Harper, had been in Europe.
which I wish much for themselves and for us—the more I see of Kit since the habits and ideas she acquired abroad, the more I could wish her to be with them.

[Charles] Wilkes told them in New York you were going with him in the Guenier, but it was only his hope I suppose—he expresses so much Affection and attachment for you—but they have a good joke against My William some good Soul wrote wonderful things of your singular goodness and example on board the Independence, and concluded by saying that you yourself had told him you were not conscious of having ever committed a fault in your whole life.—that you never said we know, but at least it showed the good fellow thought you perfect, and wished his merchant to think so. I had it from one who read the letter and offered to send it to me.

If you know how I am praying for your preparation! Nothing new here dearest all goes just so—I know no change of any day or hour but the delight of getting a letter from you—Dicks I do not mind much one day his is so happy, the next so doubtful, he will be of a firmer mind by and by I hope.⁴

Your own forever EAS.

7.180 To Robert Goodloe Harper¹

+20th September 1818

My dear Sir

I have had many regrets for not having written you fully the last month and hasten to be ready now for the first Vessel which may sail—In the first place your Emily here, is the same charming little being you must have ever found her at home and perhaps most so, as she has a greater number of persons round her on whom to bestow her

⁴See Appendix A-7.179, RSM II:277-78 for a September 8 letter to William Seton.
7.180 MHS MS 1304, #7
¹This letter is addressed to London.
sweet and cheerful smiles the first few days she was with her [us] she said “I wish I could get out of this house where they give us so much pye and milk,” but now her mind is quite changed and she says “Mover I like very much to be here”—to give you an idea of her attention at the Spiritual reading of the children, one evening they read of some child who said that she was sure her Papa would grant her any thing he loved her so much, Emily forgetting the time of silence and the number round her, jumped from her seat rubbing her little hands and exclaiming “just so my dear Papa loves me, just so”—she says in a transport of glee sometimes “oh when my Papa comes back how I will hang upon his neck and squeeze him squeeze him”

—No one can be more tractable if she has but a reason for whatever is required of her—her facility in every point is much greater than Elizabeth, but Elizabeth does very well and improves solidly I think, she is more Active and disposed to application since she is no longer the pet of our good Margaret [George] and appears even gratified by the preferences shown to Emily as a child—some days ago Elizabeth had to study in recreation for some minutes to make up for a neglect in her class, and Emily sat down too with her apron to her face and said “if sister dont play I can’t play”—She sends a long message to her dear mamma to make haste home, how dearly she loves her, her little letter so soon to be written etc Elizabeth has hers already finished I hope—

—My heart fills when I think I shall see you and my dear Mrs. [Catherine Carroll] Harper no more in this world, the complaint on my lungs is past human aid, but our God will order all for the best, and do not fear for a moment that your darlings will recieve less care or attention, if I find indeed I am near Death or unable to attend to my ordinary duties I will write you who is in my place, what the good Mr.[John] Dubois advises and leave all to your own consideration my dear and honoured Sir.

You will not I hope disapprove poor Williams removal from the Independance to the Macedonian Frigate which is at this moment as I suppose beginning a voyage of 3 years in our Northern and Western coast (the most interesting it is said that can be made)—he has written
you, but cannot express his heart of thanks, and desire of deserving your protection—

if you go to Florence I should wish so much you should see Mrs. Philip Filicchi (a widow) she would [be] a faithful and most serviceable friend to Mrs Harper in case of sickness, as would Mrs. Antonio Filicchi in Leghorn, and both most agreeable society in every case—you will probably have letters to them as they are the first family generally known to strangers of England or of our country. I write them now of your purposed visit, and to Richard² who will watch for you. Josephine is the picture of health, is as an elder sister to your sweet darlings—

I cannot say with how much affection I would be remembered to my dear Mrs. Harper and her amiable Sisters - or how truly I am

your devoted EASeton

7.181 To Antonio Filicchi¹

27th September 1818

My dearest Antonio

I wish so much that you may soon get this letter as I have just heard from Mr. [Robert Goodloe] Harper (who is son in law to old Mr. [Charles] Carroll of Baltimore) that he is with his Lady who left America last summer for her health, to pass the winter in Italy—to tell you the boundless kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Harper for my Individual family as well as for our Community would be impossible, and you may suppose how anxious I am that your beloved Amabilia should meet so elegant a woman from our country as well as that Mrs. Harper should meet so sweet and lovely a woman of yours—Surely though

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²Richard was in Leghorn (Livorno) with the Filicchis.

7.181 AMSJ A 111 069

¹This is the letter of introduction of the Harpers to Antonio Filicchi referred to in the previous letter.
they will have letters to you as I believe you receive all the English that visit Italy—

Your reverend friend Mr. Whitfield\(^2\) has just been here with our blessed Arch Bishop whom he accompanies in his rounds, we have been so happy to see them—Mr. Whitfield told me of your so kind remembrance of your poor little American sister - be blest Antonio, our God will bless you and yours. My dear Giant wrote me you were all well in May, but we have no letters from him since—This Mr. Whitfield promises will go by way of England to make it very short, if it waits a vessel from our Port for yours it may be a long while.—

Will you tell my Richard we are well (I at least as when I wrote him last which was very lately by a vessel of Mr. Purveyance I believe) - and all goes pretty well my dear Antonio for Religion - the Arch Bishop says he could never have believed the increase of the true Faith [to] be half what it is if he had not verified it in his tour—and I assure you if I had another house as large as the one we are in we could fill it with Sisters and children, we are obliged to refuse continually for want of room\(^3\)—

Your own devoted EASETON.

with tenderest love to your Amabilia and family—

7.182 To Robert Goodloe Harper\(^1\)

+29th September 1818

My dear Mr. Harper

forgive me if it is an intrusion, but really I have it so at heart that you should see my Filicchis if you go to Italy, that I cannot refrain

\(^2\)Rev. James Whitfield, assistant at the cathedral, accompanied Archbishop Ambrose Maréchal, S.S., who administered the sacrament of Confirmation to fifteen young women.

\(^3\)Archbishop Ambrose Maréchal’s diary notes: “Sisterhood fine and very precious institution. Sixteen vowed sisters, eighteen novices, two postulants—thirty-six plus three in New York and three in Philadelphia. Sixty-seven boarders.” (AMSV)

7.182 MHS MS 1304, #8

\(^1\)This letter is addressed to London.
from sending you letters for them. You have no idea what a comfort it would be to Mrs. [Catherine Carroll] Harper to know them if she should be sick in that country, or if well and enjoying herself how pleasing she would find the Society of Mrs. Maria Filicchi particularly in Florence—I have forgotten the name of her palace but it is one of the most considerable in that city, and if as I suppose you will go first to Leghorn as a sea port the Filicchis there will give a proper direction.

—a week ago I wrote you about your darlings who continue as well playful and lovely as can be enjoying the idea continually of when Papa and Mama will come home, and I never discourage their hope of soon seeing you, as it is the daily excitement to improvement, and such dear innocents make so little calculation of time—with devoted to Mrs. Harper [Yours and hers]

EASeton

7.183 To Julia Scott

+2nd October 1818—

My own dear friend

I know that you will be pleased to hear your Betsy Seton is not worse, my complaint has but little change, and I plod on my dear old track nearly the same as ever, only I cannot see the strangers who come to the house on account of the hoarsenes of my breast, which is a loss I am quite willing to bear—

Your Kit is as well as can be, and I believe you have inspired her for I noticed that having a common ging[h]am to make, she cut it out and made it as rapidly and neatly as could be—quite an astonishment to me—you know my old notions Julia about the needle, that if girls are once turned to a reasonable cultivation of the mind, their good Sense and Pride will afterwards make them needle women and every thing
necessary, especially where there is a natural turn for work as Kit has altho she practices so little
—do say \textit{I AM WELL} and no more since writing is such a plague to you, but I long to hear that dear item

William is gone his 3 year Voyage in the \textit{Macedonia} Frigate\textsuperscript{1}—far as Cape Horn perhaps—\textit{O MY!} as Kit says he will pay dear for his glory—

My, or rather our love for truly Kit loves your J[ohn] M[orin] S[cott] from her heart, and kiss the sweet pet for us, and tell the dear Mother\textsuperscript{2} my story that she may not fix her heart to much upon present happiness—Yet I wish she may only have as much as I enjoy and she will have no cause to complain.

do love and say one word soon to your EASeton

\textbf{7.184 To Ellen Wiseman}

+[October 1818]

My dear loved a thousand times more than ever loved Ellen - my child - dear friend of the dear ones loved so much more than \textit{self} . . . I have [no] words to say my heart to you who have seen its pains and pleasures so clearly . . . and shared them so tenderly—\textit{my Ellen}—here we hang over your letters just come by the Stinsons - to be sure your Josephine shall go to you, it would delight us both - but must all go gently - William first a final parting\textsuperscript{1} - then this Visit I expect to the dear Smiths\textsuperscript{2} who are to come for her . . . and our God knows the rest - poor darling

\textsuperscript{1}William sailed September 18, 1818, from Boston.
\textsuperscript{2}John and Mary Emlen Scott had one young child, Sarah, who was Julia’s first grandchild.

\textbf{7.184 ASJPH 1-3-3-12:B13}

\textsuperscript{1}Off the coast of Virginia, William’s ship ran into storms. The damage to the frigate was so severe that it put into Norfolk, Virginia, for repairs. William travelled to Emmitsburg for what was to be his last visit with his mother. He stayed for eight days.
\textsuperscript{2}The Smiths lived at Carrollton Manor. Their son, Joseph L. Smith, was a student at Mount St. Mary’s from 1810-11.
—583—

—I know he is all goodness and will pity my poor ones... could I but know if Richard went to Confession—alas alas!

—Mary White will tell you about our household fuss so pious about the good Bishop [Ambrose Maréchal]—William is too endearing, every day more and more so - how compleatly you have gained his heart and Sarah [Cauffman] too, he speaks of you two as nonpareils—

it is so pleasing to me that my 3 dear ones love the two I love so well with some of my own partial affection, for partial you may be sure it is—

do do do "be Good" and mind that so precious Soul - I feel uneasy about your being so hard pushed by our good Pere [Babade], and fear that it will keep you from frequenting the only strength of our Soul—Speak to him plainly if it is so, and tell him it keeps you back—what a triumph to old enemy it would be if you were kept from our Lord by the very means he appointed to bring you to him—

Love your own friend ever yours EAS

if you write Maria tell her I love and remember her with truest affection

7.185 To William Seton1

October 21, 1818

Extract from Log Book of the Shady retreat

21st October

- 6 1/2

lovely morning Communion for William asleep in

7.185 ASCSH Seton-Jevons #131-133

1William Seton’s frigate, the Macedonian, had sailed from Boston on September 18. Off the coast of Virginia, they encountered storms which damaged the frigate and forced them to put in to Norfolk for repairs. Consequently, William obtained leave to visit his mother. When Catherine wrote him October 24, after he had left Emmitsburg, his mother added the following journal she kept for William’s amusement. In it she and Catherine follow him in imagination on his journey back to the ship.
Gettysburg—heart and soul in it. - Sweet Kit appearing in black with crape trimmed cape, made us laugh and sigh out together We are poor Widows.

8 oclock

Talked of our beloved traveller Sisters, Rosalie—every heart blessing him

12

Mrs. Brand brought the good news of his cheerful look at Breakfast at Gettysburg—the lonely dinner at our little table.

1

- talk and love again with Rosa and Kit.

Sun set

- calculated our beloved to be safe in Baltimore

7

- Kit socked the crackers - we ate with many a dear remembrance—drole story of Anduse pretending to be a fool going to Baltimore - empty a plate of eggs in his cap, pocketing the landlords dollar, lighting his segar with his bill of fare and galloping off to confirm the opinion of his folly—still honestly leaving his friend to make their settlement for expences I hope he told you all this in the best manner

23rd

Clear and cold our little stove well warmed - wish after wish that our beloved traveller [shared] it - Kit spreading her bag of butter nuts [near] and round cries out “if Will was but here” - Sister Martha [Daddisman] says “dearest William I have said my beads for him since the first day he went”—and Mother says every thing for him all life along in the heart where he is as ever present as its life.

25

Sweet Kit has told you all my beloved of our cheerful news except that we got also your dear note from Gettysburg which I took to bed

2Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, was on William’s way back to Norfolk.
with me Our sympathy in the Arms of sleep amuses me so much—Oh
do my love write all your hopes and fears about going - how I long for
your next week letter.

Your own own own

Sunday morning

just from the dear Communion of my Soul with yours—

EAS.

7.186 To Julia Scott

25th October 1818

+ My own own loved Julia

What a truly pleasing thought, to see you! . . . but dearest friend I
have an ulcer in my breast (ugly word) which stops not night or day,
and it being a consequence of Inflammation on the lungs I must go in
the common cause of things—yet as I have an uncommon constitution
and am really well in all other respects (besides being 45 a critical mo­
ment of life) it may pass, or linger a long while.

—I could not leave my little common habits, comforts, and enjoy­
ments of book, pen etc, in my present state of health, besides the blow
it would be to the heart of my Sister [Mary Bayley Post] if I should
leave home, and not put myself under my Brother Posts skill and
care—yet go on your knees my beloved and thank our God that you
had the power of sending me such a relief as the 100 dollar bill—Wil­
liam had just left us after 8 days visit and I have been pushed to the ex­
tremity of a Mothers anxiety as it respected his commonest comforts
after his storms and loss little as he could lose . . . I never knew a mo­
ment of life before in which I would have prayed for money so fer­
vently, because of the uncommon reasonableness of his disposition,
and even his principles which would deter him from using one dollar (in our situation) but for real necessity—

Richard not so considerate, is growing wiser - we have most pleasing accounts of him continually - if those two dear young men ever become as (I trust they will) an honour to their country and society in their different lines of life, you may put your hand on your heart my Julia and say you have had your good and full part in it for your friendship indeed is unfailing—

do not think of me dearest but under the line of my beautiful Providence, which has done so well for us so many years - you keep me out of debt and that is the greatest trouble I could ever have and as to comforts pity knows I have them abundantly.

Kit is well and lively—such delight to have had William with us once more he could not have had leave of absence but that he thought me (by some report) very ill—

Bless you forever—how I enjoy your domestic picture of the sweet Babe, Mother and Father¹ and loved dear Grandmother Oh may they be blessed forever.

Your EASeton.

7.187 To Ellen Wiseman

+[October 1818]

My own Ellen

Our William has been, we have enjoyed!!! he is gone back to his Frigate every pleasing account of Richard—

my complaint is all uncertain, yet the ulcer in the breast stops not night or day—Our God knows, and we will and do delight that it is all in his dear hands.

¹Julia’s young grandchild, Sarah, and her parents, John and Mary Emlen Scott

7.187 ASJPH 1-3-3-12:81
—tenderest love to my Sarah Cauffman and the dear girls—Susan Clossy will tell you how well Joseph Wiseman looks—

Your own EASeton.

7.188 To Ellen Wiseman

+[October 1818]

My Ellen dear dear dear

Your letters of love are a sweeter pleasure to me than you can imagine—I have been anxious Kit or I should have written to you and it seems to me like a dream that it should have been put off so unintentionally—at least in this case I can answer for her heart as for my own that she loves you with uncommon tenderness and Sincerity—Surely I must have written you love of my happy moment with my Souls William—happy indeed - had I but once more the delight of reading his and Richards letters to you whose heart unites so well with my joys and Sorrows—think of poor Will the night of the so dreadful storm of the Macedonian being asleep after a long watch and dreaming that I stood by him with all the agony of heart asking Are you prepared My William—at that moment they came to tell him the Masts were going over and the gale tremendous, so that when he sprung from his hammock he was to the knees in water—dear dear William

== We have sumptuous urns for our 3 churches from Richard he writes every thing goes so well—Your loved Joseph Wiseman has not been here some time, but I hear every thing good and pleasing of him . . . let that one mercy of Our God lighten all your pains my beloved child—Oh that I could take them, but I can only carry them to our All in my poor heart that loves you dearly dearly

7.188 ASJPH 1-3-3-12:B11

1William Seton was a midshipman on the frigate the Macedonian.
2St. Mary's Church on the Mountain, St. Joseph's Church in the village of Emmitsburg, and the Sisters of Charity chapel at St. Joseph's House
—tell our Sa[rah Cauffman] I have shared all her pain and now will beg every blessing on her joy - sweet friend may she but be faithful thro’ all—

You would pity me if you knew the heap of letters I have on hand this opportunity to Philadelphia and New York—bless bless you forever—your EAS. 

Kindest remembrance to Miss C[auffman]s and our dear Catherines³—

7.189 To Rev. Simon Bruté, S.S. 

[November, 1818]

Understand blessed, and let not your too kind too patient heart in its turn "be sad"—the sadness of mine I cherish as a Grace, and do hope to have it to my last hour because it makes me so watchful that I cannot open my lips since St. Raphael’s day¹ without fear a blessed fear—

Would that I had had it these 40 years, how short my account would be—and be assured that sorrowful mixture which works in every prayer sleeping or waking and asks our God continually “am I indeed in full charity with ALL” pure, delicate, sincere charity is no work of temptation because after the looking, the whole and repeated act of contrition (such as poor I can offer) I give up all to our dear God of mercy and compassion—

besides it is a Community grace for I have said to our Betsy [Boyle] and Margaret [George] since, do you know what you do—mind - I have agonies of soul for less than that, they both are quite too easy as well as myself on this edge of mortal sin—

Oh my God—if he was not my God I should go crazy in heart as well as the poor Body

³Sarah Cauffman and Catherine Cauffman, Catherine Roach, and Catherine “Kitty” Wiseman

7.189 ASJPH 1-3-3-12:70

¹St. Raphael’s feast day is celebrated together with the archangels Michael and Gabriel September 29. Cf. Rev. 8:2.
My loved and dear a thousand times dear Cecilia

your good simple hearted happy Mary Elizabeth (M Wagner)\(^1\) is taking her last rest in the choir—She received Extreme Unction Eve of St. Elizabeth (St. John Baptists Mother)\(^2\) the holy Viaticum on her Festival, in the evening the last Indulgences, and departed between ten and eleven tell our good Sister Rose [White] (to whom I wrote last week and have nothing in particular to communicate) that your communions and beads for our departed Sister may begin—she was struck with Death between 3 and 4 in the morning and cried out directly for “Mother,” and I was with her till long after her last moments to give time for the *Solemn Silence.*

Mary Ignatia (Susan Torney) is watched at night continually she is like a walking corpse, but will keep up to the last,\(^3\) blessed child she was taken with a sort of convulsion the other day and all her trouble was when she got a little over it “What a bad example she had given the novices”—she and Mary Elizabeth seem sent to us just to prove and show how little we can do with in this world when we have our good GOD! but if you had been at the scene of Mary Elizabeths anointing, you could hardly have stood it, the Superior said *as usual* “do you my dear child ask pardon of all your dear Sisters” She interrupted him with a loud Voice “I asked their pardon *before I came from home*” “but my dear child” added the Superior “I mean your dear Sisters here around you, if you have given them any bad example, do you ask pardon,” “oh to be sure” said Mary (with a look round her) “if I have” when he asked her about forgiving her enemies “I have not an enemy in the world that I know of” said Mary, and her tones of voice and loud speaking she

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7.190 UAQ #9

\(^1\)Sister Mary Elizabeth Wagner had died November 6.
\(^3\)Sister Mary Ignatious (Ignatia?) Torney died November 20, 1818.
being a little deaf herself was the oddest that could be and made many around here *shake*—for me I felt my own case so *close*, they did not move me—

I have had my Souls William here once more, every thing to comfort and endear him to my heart—I will tell you a little Secret you must keep to yourself he left Boston without being able to overcome his so strange trial about going to the Sacraments, and when the dreadful storm overtook them he was asleep and dreaming that I stood by him *partly* in white, and saying with a *Mothers Voice* "Oh my William are you prepared," at that moment masts and all were going and he sprung up to his knees in water—poor darling—at least *now* he has time "to prepare" and if they refit and go the voyage round Cape Horn I have less to fear—indeed he lives among his ship company like the children in the furnace* 4* comparatively—

Richard well, and doing well—dearest Kit as usual—my poor health *not worse*, but Death hidden in my breast, as our blessed *Brother* says, making his sure tho' silent way—*I do*, and go as much as usual, only not to *refectory*—Not a word can I ever hear of your dear family, I hope you do my Cecilia. Oh how my heart would long to meet yours if *he* would will it so, but at least our Souls are inseparable in him. Say everything affectionate to our Sisters* 5* for me—look well to our long long dear Eternity—and all things here only for his Glory—Your own *EASeton*

Sister Ann [Gruber] and Sister Angela [Brady] just came in and send every kind remembrance to their New York Sisters. do dear one say every thing kind to our New York girls for me when you may see them—the [Robert] Fox family particularly—*our Venerated Bishop* [Rev. John Connolly, O.P.]

*4Cf. Daniel 3:24-97.*

*5Sisters who were on mission in New York*
My Blessed all is a true mystery to me in your disposition - much greater mystery than any of FAITH. A man of your particular principle on paper, who has evidently the most dear and special graces, not given drop by drop as to other souls but poured over your head in a daily torrent—Yet I seldom see you but in such wild enthusiasms of your own particular impression of the moment that you can see nothing, hear nothing but that one object, or else quite reserved hurt and anxious because you have not been consulted in things which spoke for themselves, or others which we would not dare take your advice about without knowing the Superiors will, or others again which like the poor German Smiths go over in our blind ignorance and I never even guess I have not done well 'till some one points it out
—how troubled too because Mr. [John] Dubois dont come, and what responsibility have you, is it your zeal and desire of the good you imagine he will do?, you ought to know our Rev. Superior by this time, and see that he is not to be pushed any where and your urging him cannot but keep him away—when any thing essential happens I always inform him of it, and if the thing is not essential his absence often hinders a fuss about nothing, and suffers pets and little passions to drop in Silence—
—You speak as if your Mothers confidence is deficient but it is surely not at this time I am to open your eyes on my Situation in this community—as to private concerns I have none unless it be my trials occasionally at the conduct of different Sisters and that you have forbid me speaking of and since you think proper and I am acquitted before God I am too happy it is so—
for the rest, as to confidence, devoted love and happy heart our dear Saviour is my witness that no Soul could be more blessed than mine with regard to you—too much, for few days of my life but I reflect with him in secret on my present willingness to live, so different
from the past nine years\(^1\) dragging, and the tranquil dispositions my continual feast, instead of the war of Nature which was so long my daily Bread—if you could feel as I do the Union of Betsey, Joanna and Margaret\(^2\) with me in the management, since you are home you would bless God as I do, in Peace instead of your restless desires blessed.

7.192 To Antonio Filicchi

November 11, 1818

My ever dear Antonio

you will say your little American sister is very fruitful in Introductions,\(^1\) but at least she has the happiness of returning in your own bosom what you have yourself procured her, an acquaintance (and that in our God himself) with the best of Christians and gentlemen Mr. Vespers [Francis Vespré] who will be the bearer of this is a most distinguished Christian—has whenever in his power proved himself a kind friend to me, so you must indulge me in the pleasure of introducing him to you and your amiable Amabilia.

he will tell you of the consideration and friendship your Mr. [James] Whitfield enjoys with our Venerated Archbishop. They were here this summer in their rounds through the Maryland Diocese, and left joy and Benediction far and near.

our Blessed Bishop [John] Cheverus has been in extreme distress at the Death of Dr. [Francis] Matignon\(^2\) who had been with him 25 years in his American Ministry—I will send you his most kind expressions of Paternal love in his letter before the last—the last mentioned Dr. Matignons most happy Death, and that a beautiful providence has

\(^1\)It had been nine years since Elizabeth had established St. Joseph’s July 31, 1809.  
\(^2\)Sisters Elizabeth Boyle, Margaret George, and Joanna Smith were all members of Elizabeth’s council.

7.192 AMSJ A 111 070

\(^1\)Elizabeth had sent a letter introducing the Harpers to Antonio Filicchi.  
\(^2\)Rev. Francis Matignon of Boston died September 19, 1818.
sent him a worthy assistant—but who can supply the loss of such a friend

We go on very well here—our school, and the orphan schools, show the hand of God continually in their success and progress—

Death has been some time past grinning at me, and threatening his visit, I show him his Master, and give it all in the hands of our God most cheerfully—if my Richard does but do well is my greatest anxiety—William has been here since his ship wreck in the Macedonia, and edified and delighted the friends of his early days by his most virtuous and christian conduct. Kitty, my only Daughter, is esteemed and cherished by everyone for her piety and good conduct, so then dearest Antonio I may well say with my whole heart “Thy will be done”—love and bless your little Sister, and devoted EASeton.

on consideration as this must go by post I fear it will be best not to send the blessed Bishops letter. Will you tell your Amabilia I have earnestly recommended Mrs. [Catherine Carroll] Harper to her, she will be delighted with her I am sure—

7.193 To Rev. Simon Bruté, S.S.

[November 1818]

Blessed you Your little Bête Mother¹ is lost these days past in your Canada letters²—O my—to see Man a wild Savage - a polished savage, Man in any state, what a Savage unless he be in Christ . . . Oh blessed I gasp with desires to him whom you are now carrying in and on your breast for your full whole accomplishment of his blessed will—I glance a fearful look at you and Mr. [Samuel] Cooper and say secretly if I was one or the other, then adore and think I know nothing about it, only it seems to me that those who have light and grace already might be trusted to keep it and I would not stop night or day till I

7.193 ASJPH 1-3-3-12:66
¹A foolish mother
²Rev. Simon Bruté, S.S., had talked of going to Canada to work among the native peoples.
reached the dry and dark wilderness where neither can be found where such horrid crimes go on for want of them and where there is such a glorious Death to be gained by carrying them—Oh G if I was light and life as you are I would shout like a madman alone to my God and roar and groan and sigh and be silent all together till I had baptized a 1000 and snatched these poor Victims from Hell—

—and pray Madame Bête say you, why does not your zeal make its flame through your own little Hemisphere? - true,—but rules, prudence, subjections, opinions etc dreadful walls to a burning SOUL wild as mine and sombodys—for me I am like a fiery Horse I had when a girl, whom they tried to break by making him drag a heavy cart, and the poor beast was so humbled that he could never more be inspired by whips or caresses, and wasted to a skeleton till he died... but you and Mr. Cooper might waste to Skeletons to some purpose, and after wasting be sent still living to the glories of the Kingdom

—in the meantime that Kingdom come—every day I ask my Bête Soul what I do for it in my little part assigned, and can see nothing but to smile, carress, be patient, write, pray and WAIT before him—

Oh G G G my blessed God thy Kingdom come

7.194 To Antonio Filicchi

[November 1818]

our Superior the Rev. Mr. [John] Dubois tells me to request the favour of you to send 1 dozen and half composition rims for the 3 altars of our settlement as he understood they could be had from 4 to 10 Dollars a pair—

I cannot refuse to make the request as I cannot make him sensible how disagreeable such commissions are, however as he has the money to remit your order he cannot see the pain of making the request—so I commit it all to God

Ever your EAS.

3Cf. Matt. 6:10.

7.194 AMSJ A 111 071
7.195 To Sister Cecilia O’Conway

[November 20, 1818]

My precious Cis

I write from the big book with many tears this morning the sentence “Good and faithful servant enter the Joy of thy Lord—thou hast been faithful over a little.”

Oh my Cis how little is all that passes with this life—yet my Mother you say they are of Eternal consequence—they are—and therefore we must be so careful to meet our grace—if mine depended on going to a place to which I had the most dreadful aversion, in that place there is a store of grace waiting for me—

What a comfort—the black clouds I forsee may pass by harmless, or if in that Providence of grace they fall on me, Providence has an IMMENSE PARAPLUI to hinder or break the force of the storm—what a comfort—

Isaac come forth—the wood and fire are here let not the Victim be wanting—poor Father Abraham in a black cap with limping leg is going up the hill, come along my son

7.196 To Matthias O’Conway

Immaculate Conception [December 8, 1818]

The rememberance of my friend and his dear family is always consoling and be assured I am most grateful for it - our beloved Cecilia [O’Conway] was well our last letters from New York, and doing Valliantly for the poor little orphans, no one could have ever believed but from the proof her excellent management of children Soul and

7.195 UAQ #5
2Umbrella
7.196 PAHRC MC 44: 1.8
Body—pray offer my affectionate remembrance to my ever dear Mrs. Oconway, Isabella and Anna,¹ I rejoice in what Mrs. Lipp tells me of my dear God-Son,² I trust some day to prove my love for him - now I can but Pray and assure you of my respect and affection

EASeton

7.197 To Archbishop Ambrose Maréchal, S.S.

[December 14, 1818]

My dear dear Father

—Let it come out, from the abundance of the heart, a heart so full of You with our God of Love and Mercy, who came this day (an hour ago only) to bless You in the hearts of All your family of St. Joseph, this must excuse this word of love all respect and veneration for you though so warm and full of confidence in your indulgence—the woman waits who is to take this - and therefore can can only implore your renewed Blessing on us all

and beg you to tell our Reverend friend Mr. [James] Whitfield that I have never forgotten him where he wishes to be best remembered—all goes on Smiling here, and all love and pray for you as your devoted children especially your poor unworthy EASeton

Octave of St. Ambrose¹

- most dear day of grace and blessing—

¹Matthias O'Conway’s wife and daughters
²Peter O'Conway

7.197 AAB 20N7

¹St. Ambrose’s feast day was December 7.
7.198 To Rev. Simon Bruté, S.S.

+[Christmas time, 1818]

Blessed

It will please your so kind heart to know that this week past or more our souls dear Baby has been much more present to me than the beloved Babes of former days when I carried and suckled them—He the Jesus Babe so unspeakable near, and close hugged by his poor Silently delighted wild one—this morning in every fibre of life! and tomorrow - and again, and again—

—surely the little clouds that pass over such a sun have not a name—Sin, Sin, and Sinners, the blind, poor misled souls that know not, love not, - that the only grief and sadness is it not so “blessed”

—I see my God himself in silence and love thro all

7.199 Memorandum

Xmas [Christmas] 1818

one of Cecilia's admirable lessons to me—do read it and pray for her

7.198 ASJPH 1-3-3-12:36

1The Infant Savior

7.199 ASJPH 1-3-3-4:119, 6

1On an undated letter Elizabeth received from Sister Cecilia O’Conway, she jotted this note in December 1818. In this letter Cecilia told Elizabeth:

“My beloved Mother, how [you] surprise me by your alarm on the duties of a Superior. Precious soul, what is the difference between it and those of a Christian parent? Not the common kind of cruel parent who destroy their children by their wicked tenderness, but to know how to vary correction according to different dispositions—always to treat the young, the stranger and the timid with gentleness until their true turn of mind is known. . . .

“Spiritual parent[s] must be both attentive to soul and body, attentive to keep the proud and self-willed under obedience, the same restrained as a spoiled child, yielding with parental indulgence where neither sin, fault nor breach of rules are in danger . . . .

“Be a mild, patient but firm MAMMA, and you need not tremble under the burden of superiority. Jesus can never give you a task above your courage, strength or ability. Come, precious darling, don’t let uneasiness and fear appear so plain to the weak. You must at least be the MOON, if the sun is too bright and too dignified a character. The more gentle and modest light will suit our valley in the growing fervor of your little company. I do not want you to dart the rays of the great St. Theresa [of Avila]. Times, places and circumstances change the order of this life. I will try to be good.” (ASJPH 1-3-3-4:119)