

London 5th July 1796

My dear Children

Your letter came safe and gave me
great Pleasure. I have often lamented that all of
You have made us further progress in your Education.
I impute no blame to You, and the late distress of your
Country, involved in a wicked and cruel war will
excuse the ignorant People are shunned and
despised by those of knowledge and learning,
whose Company alone can improve you in what
is useful and necessary to be acquired. I sincerely
wish you to take a Pleasure in obtaining Learning,
and that you will diligently pursue your Studies,
always remembering that Time is precious, and
once lost can never be recalled, that Time is
short, and improperly applied is a Neglect of Duty
to your God, your Country, Family and friends.
You ought never to be idle, because Idleness
is the Mother of all Vices. You ought to be constantly
employed in such Studies, and Accomplishments as
are suitable to your Sex, Age, & Situation in life.
I wish you to possess the laudable Ambition of
acquiring Instruction and of surpassing your
School-fellows in learning, and I do not
desire you to bestow your whole Time & Attention
to your Education, but after appropriating the
greater Part to it, to give the Residue to innocent

Pleasures.

I expect you, my dear Nancy, will with great Diligence and Attention perfect yourself in Reading, and Writing well, and in learning Arithmetic. These three things are absolutely necessary, and on no account to be neglected. It is not necessary that you should be a Scholar, but it will be disgraceful for you to be unable to read intelligibly, with an audible voice, and with accuracy, and not to skip over, or mispronounce any word. Writing is merely mechanical; you must practice it till you write a plain & legible hand. Bad spelling is insupportable. You must endeavour to express yourself in a simple plain, and unadorned manner. Some knowledge of figures is easily acquired. As Books are the most valuable and best companions, you ought to devote Part of your Time in Reading such as are good and useful. To read bad is loss of Time, and will injure or destroy your Morals, as much as being had Company. Your Sister can point out, and furnish you with such Books as you ought to read. I need not recommend to you the Use of your Needle, and the acquiring domestic Knowledge. I consider Dancing as an Accomplishment, and Mr. Chappin's Examples. I consider Dancing as an Accomplishment, not to be omitted. Some Knowledge of Music, if you have any Taste for it, is well worth your

attaining. I have thus briefly pointed out the
essentials and principal objects of your study.
I shall only add that one thing further is
necessary, and without which all you learn
will be useless; I mean to be a good Christian.
which can only be by performing your duty
to your God, to yourself, and your fellow-creatures.

As to you, my dear Boy, I expect you will
acquire, by diligent Application, not only to
read and write well, but a complete knowledge
of figures, and a perfect and grammatical
knowledge of your own language, and of Latin.
I wish you also to be Master of the Greek Language,
and to be some what acquainted with French Authors.
The Education of every Man ought to be adapted to the
profession, or Business he is intended to pursue.
I wish you, both, to study the Law; if your abilities,
natural and acquired, will permit, and your
Inclinations shall correspond with my Desire.
If you should want Parts for the profession of
the Law I would not recommend the Business
of a Merchant. I would have your Studies
directed, and your Reading applied to the Subjects,
which lead to, and are connected with your intended
profession, or Business. I advise you therefore to acquire
a perfect knowledge of History and Geography, ancient
and modern. of all ancient Histories the Roman is
the most interesting and instructive. remember that

modern knowledge, that in of the three last centuries
is more useful, and necessary than ancient, with
History and Geography. You must learn Theology,
that is the Art of measuring and distinguishing Things,
to know when any remarkable Transient happens.
You ought to study Philosophy, and Metaphysics, and
acquire some Logic, with a little Geometry, and
a good general Notion of Astronomy. I must
insist that you learn to read, speak and write
the French Language perfectly. Be Law of Nature
and Nations, you must study and be Master of.
I think Dancing is as essential for you, as for your
Sister, to which I would have you add the Art of
Fencing. I advise you never to accept an Office
under Government, or a seat in the Legislature or
Council, unless you are fully convinced that your
Services are really necessary to promote the Good of
your Country. never seek to acquire Power or Property
from a public Station. In a private Character you
can discharge the Duties of a good Citizen by your
benevolence, Charity, and good Offices, and by your
Example of Virtue, Integrity and Honour. In your
Voice for your Rulers never give your Vote to a
Man of bad private Character, let his pretensions
to popular favour be ever so specious. - the first
Duty you are to learn and never forsake is your
Duty to God and Man, without which every thing
else is useless. the Duties of Religion, and Morality
are

~~It~~ never to be disposed with a Virtue alone ~~can~~
make you esteemed, or useful to Mankind. Follies
I may excuse, but certain Vices I will never pardon,
such as Intemperance, Gaming and Drunkenness, and
You under my affection avoid all low
Company of both Sexes. I advise you to devote
all your Mornings to serious and deep Study,
your Afternoons to ~~Study~~ that which requires
less Labour of the Mind, and your evenings to
good Company, and (some Years here) to liberal
Pleasures and decent Amusements, as Plays,
Assemblies, Balls and the like. I recommend to
You, both to study Oratory, as a Lawyer it
is absolutely necessary, as a Merchant & Gentleman
it is useful and agreeable. For this Purpose
I advise you to read Livestonian, Cicero de Oratore,
and the best English Authors, Dryden, Addison,
Swift, Addison, Bolingbroke, Junius, the Debates
in the House of Lords and Commons, and the best
Play, and Poets. If either ^{of you} incline to study
the Law, you will see the Course of Reading
directed to my Students. If you prefer the Study
of a Merchant, which I esteem very reasonable,
I advise the Study of Gas, Child & Poulleworth
My dear Children, I should not have wrote
in the Manner I have done, but from my absence

and great distance from you, and from the ~~Republic~~
of the Republic, that it may ^{with} please God to permit
Me to return to you, if I do I shall dedicate my
life to your Instructions, if I should not ~~perish~~
this as my last advice. I commend I entrust
I you the good, and then you may be assured of
the love of all ^{the} good ~~men~~ ^{men}, & the protection
of Providence, to which I have I have
committed you. farewell my ~~dear~~ friend,
the first and last wish of my heart is for
your temporal and eternal felicity

Your best friend and
most affectionate Father

Sam. L. Chase