

Lucy Knox to Henry Knox

Boston, Massachusetts, May 1777.

Autograph letter signed, 3 pages + address leaf, docket.

Boston May –

As I can think of no address which would convey an idea of my affection and esteem, I will [*inserted: it*] omit intirely, rather than do injustice to my heart, a heart wholly absorbed [*struck: if*] [*inserted: in*] love and anxiety for you – I cannot at this time tell where you are nor form any judgment where you are going – we hear both Armys are in motion, but what thier rout is, we cannot hear. [*struck: nor form any judgment*], nor have we yet been able to conjecture – what a situation, for us who are at such a distance – how much more we suffer for you than you for yourselves – all my hopes are that it will not, cannot last, – A french general, who stiles himself commander in Chief of the Continetal Artillery, is now in town, he says his appointment is from M^r Dean - that he is going immediately to head quarters to take the command. that he is a major gen.^l and a deal [?] of it. who knows but I may have my Harry again – this I am sure of he will never suffer any [*strikeout: but*] one to command him in that department. – if he does he has not that Soul. which I now think him possessed of—

Billy is very unwell – he has a terrible breaking out [*strikeout*] which D^r [Bullfich] says is very like a leprosy, D^r Gardiner thinks it the itch, which has lain so long in his blood, as to [*strikeout*] [*inserted: corrupt*] it to that degree that the cure will be difficult – he is as thin as gabriel Johonnot now but in good spirits, and says he has an appetite – but that he is not permitted to indulge. I am very anxious about him, and at times fear we shall lose him, or at least that the humour in the blood, has taken such deep root as to embitter [2] his future days — this will be handed you by Cap^l Searjant who will also deliver you your box of [*struck: pic*][*inserted: k*]les pickles – I have got seven yards of linnen for breeches for you, am affraid to have it made up here, for fear it should [*struck: not*] be spoiled, as it cost twenty shillings p^r yard – sure there must be a tailor in morristown – if there is not dont scold at me – seven pound lawful – for two pair of breeches is a great deal of money – too much not to have them made neat – the pretty waiscoat I wrote you of upon examining I found to be painted – that the first washing would have spoiled – but I [*inserted: will*] be upon the look out for you — I

wrote you last thursday by Col^o Henley – and the same day by the post – can you not get some covers franked, it would save us a very great expence – an object at this day. when the price of every thing is so exorbitant indeed it is difficult to get the necessarys of life here, at any price – the evil increases daily – beef is at eaight pence a pound [*struck: of*] if you will take half an ox neck, skins, and all you may get it for seven pence – for butter we give two shillings a pound – for eggs two pence a [*struck: peaiice peice peaiice*] [*inserted: piece*] – and for very ordinary lisbon wine, twenty shillings a gallon – as for flour it is not to be had at any price, nor cyder; nor Spirit – a pretty box we are in – this and the behaviour of our town meeting has almost made me a tory – will you believe me when I tell you that old M^r Erving is among the number who they have passed a vote to confine in close jail untill they can determine what farther is to be done with them – this upon the suspicion of thier being torys – I do not mean to blame them for rid[*inserted: d*]ing themselves of those persons – who in case of an attack, would take a part against them, but there meddling with that old gentleman who has been superanuated this ten years can be from no other motive but to share his estate – the Colonels – Crafts, Revere & Sears [3] are the three leading men of the place – the first of these motioned to dissolve the meeting, and lett the people revenge their own cause – quite military was it not – in short the mob have so much the up[*inserted: p*]er hand at present – that there was a man to have been shot on thursday next – and the gen^l dare not execute him, for fear of the consequences he is [one] brother to D^r Olivers wife Son to Col^o Frye of Salem – but so much for the present. my hand trembles to such a degree that it has been as much trouble to me to write what I have, as it will be to you to read it, I believe my nerves are much

weakened by the mercury I have taken, in the true meaning of the

word Adieu

Your own

Lucy Knox –

our lovely baby sends her pap – par – (as she calls him) a kiss –

I want much to know, if your Soup is good for any thing – do [*inserted: not*]

mortify me by saying no

[*address leaf*]

Henry Knox Esq^r

at

Head Quarters

favord by Cap^t Searjent

[*docket*]

M^{rs} Knox's Letter by

Capt Sarjent and

answerd 6th June

1777