Litchfield March 6th 1821.

1821

My dear Daughter

I have recd. your and Col. Gibbs's Letter of Feby 24th and learn with pleasure, that you and the Children & all friends are well. You do right in not thinking of leaving a warm house and good Society during this distressing cold weather & when you return, I must contrive some way of bringing you to this place, before you go to New York. George is mine and I must have him and I would also claim the little woman if I could in conscience deprive you of her company; on this subject we must compromise, as is the Fashion with politicians, when they cannot agree.

Oliver takes to the Farm in good earnest, he rises very early, draws his woolen cap over ~~the~~ his Ears and assists in tending the cattle, Sheep & pigs and is very regular & industrious:— if he perseveres, which I perceive no reason to doubt, he will make an active & intelligent Farmer, which after all, is the best profession— I like his wife well—

John is honest & intelligent, but unsettled; he reads enough, but in a desultory manner: he retains his knowledge of Mathematics, but has lost his military air & dislikes systematic labour. I believe boys of his age are ~~apt~~ apt to be lazy.

Col. Gibbs, answered every part of my Letter, except respecting the Lace, which he referred to you:— I wish to know whether it is manufactured in quantities:— whether it is fine & strong, like the Flanders Lace. whether the price is reasonable & whether the Machine for making it is an American invention?

I must leave of, to ~~thank~~ Mr Quincy for his Peace oration. With Love to all Friends, especially the Children I remain affectionately yrs

Mrs Laura Gibbs

Oliv. Wolcott

P.S. write as often as you can:— What is the fate of Mr. Read?