ans.d Feby 24th 1823

Sunswick Sunday wey. Feby 17th

1823

Dear Papa –

I have nothing interesting to communicate but the continued health of the children & myself. but I know that you wish to hear from us occasionally – we have had a week of intense cold which redeems the character of the winter. & has enabled me to see both the houses & sell hay to advantage in [illegible] absence. I have been entirely alone the last three weeks the death of Dr. Stevens wife & affliction of the family depriving me of their society. the General fails gradually. the attacks of Dropsy are more frequent, & the family are depressed unusually, as they have never had any sickness or death among them.

I devote all my time to the children. George studies daily but is not fond of application to the drier branches. he will prefer science – & reads a vast deal. he would astonish our boys with his knowledge of natural history. his health is robust. you would have no occasion to repress my quackery. I have not had advice or medicine but once for the family this winter & that was for Wolcott – As for him he is so much like you that I laugh to see him look old & wise & he is so different from the other children that I wonder at him, I have never had a child so forward & independent. he beats Elma & though never fretful or cross will have his way. he would suit Oliver exactly. I almost wish he had him. as I find my cares increase so much – I expect to be confined in may & though I am very well it seems a hardship.