Litchfield February 27th 1827

1827

My dear Laura.

I recd. yours of Feby 18th in season. I hope Colo. Gibbs has returned before now & that found all your connections and dear Wolcott in usual health & that he has been able to leave his Interests in a satisfactory situation. I rejoice that you and the dear Children are well. The Winter has been by far the most severe of any since the year 1779 [illegible] was colder: the British army then transported Artillery from Newyork to Staten Island on the Ice: & the Snow was then much deeper.

But this Season has been generally healthy and though adverse to many Interests, it has not been so distressing as that of the year 1780:— Then Continental money exploded and we had no money:— the people were more honest than many are now: we were in danger of perishing from want of Clothing and Provisions and of being conquered by a foreign merciless Enemy. Now, we in no danger except of being cheated out of our Property, by rogues or by the Machinations of selfish & wrongheaded Politicians. These times are bad, but they are not the worst I have seen and we shall survive and our Children will prosper.—

I have not settled my affairs, with the Bank, but I have got things in a train which I like, & shall get through without being ruined, though I shall lose probably more, than I ought. but it is a good lesson for Oliver & John. & I think they will take heed and be the better & richer for it.