

dear M.

I doubt not your anxiety to hear from an new comer will make a letter welcome altho. it dated but two days after the one announcing his first arrival. Ellen is quite well, and her expectations - although he did make his appearance three weeks ^{too} late is thriving - being what our Christiana calls "an uncommon strong child" ! He is at present no beauty - has dark hair, & blue eyes, and like Papa a thick neck - when they get his form I know not. Ellen is long enough, and my own does not require stretching; but this boy has absolutely none at all ! tant pis pour lui ! - We have not given him a name: my own I dislike - what with Joseph Surface, and the other Josephs, it has a disagreeable sound and association: it is not so bad as many others - but twenty years ago names which now are ridiculous were then well enough - viz, Timothy, Eleazer, Israel &c &c. and twenty years hence, that of mine will be as bad as Peter or David are now - We call the boy Tommy: He goes about the house whispering mamma's sick, mamma's sick; Tommy's sleep - (Tommy is asleep) - so that the people seem to have given ^{him} a name, of their own accord. As for myself, tho' E. is strenuous to have him called after my Father, I cannot yet consent - it seems disagreeable that where I am thinking about changing my own name I should give to another that which I reject myself. So that I wish you all to give me a list of the names which the several members of the family prefer - beginning with your own and then following through the

whole easy. The appearance of a boy, so contrary to our fears, so much better than our hopes - must excuse my saying so much about a name: there will be time enough for you all to make up your minds, as he will not be baptized for two months or there. My sister E. will be confined in Feb. and we mean to carry both the babies to Dr Freeman, that his venerable hands may confer upon them the Christian rite. In closing then this matter I will only add that I prefer some family name, such as shall be well sounding, when united with my own, and of an agreeable association! My sister, if she has a boy, meant to call him Godolphin Mott. We are in a terrible ferment here: failed our frequent and heavy - at least there have been two considerable ones - we have turned out Mr Quincy from the magistracy and he is in the street. Of this I am glad as it comes at a time when the crowd clamors about the Hartford Convention had been ten weeks, (but it has been met here as it merits -) they are also trying to put in Ticknor as president of Harvard College, against the will of the community - I know not if they will dare trifle so far with the decided wishes of the intelligent many, who have grown up and are advocates for a state of things very different from that which once existed: we are moreover full of a proposed Fair track - and mean to turn our old theater into an Opera House, and are already with a French company from New Orleans - Our new Hotel is up - that is the walk - and looked and slated - it has a fine front, moreover the Athenaeum holds its annual meeting and yr. unworthy son-in-law and his conditors are again arrayed against

Ticken Ho. We have a trial - too - Webster against Theodore Lyman - which has caught the community to take sides - and a ladies Fair in addition which produced \$2680. clear profits! add to this annuals & Souvenirs and new years presents and new publications and last of all the lighting of the town, and the shops with gas, and the opening of the ^{new} bridges and one or two grand parlors on Beacon St, and one or two residences - and you have all the news. I wish, if you meet with Prof. Lomax, you would tell him that I shall send him a Law Journal - the first no of which has just been published here - and I beg of you to offer also our good wishes to Prof. Fisher on his marriage! Nicholas wrote me that news state culminated with the paper - advise him. I pray you, to take out at a copy if necessary. he cannot prudently carry on a boarding house at Charlottesville while he is himself in Washington: if it does not injure him in a pecuniary view, it will distract his mind and keep him in an anxious and agitated state. He wrote me that he should send me copies of a book just published on Charlottesville, to be distributed here among Editors and Reviewers: he had better do so! as there are works of the same description just published in New York by Prof. Austin. I close my dear Mr. with renewed assurances of Allen's well-doing, and of her boys - the doctor and herself and my own eyes conspire to tell me that you have no cause for alarm or anxiety on her account - ever yrs. W. J.

our beautiful Hospital has been on fire, and was with difficulty saved



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Rudolph

Monticello,
Charlottesville, Albemarle Co
Virginia.

