

Letter from Martha Washington to Hannah S. Boudinot, January 15, 1784

Mount Vernon 15th Jan 84

My Dear Madam

Your polite and affectionate congratulatory Letter on the termination of our troubles, and the return of the General to domestic life, would, under any circumstances, have been highly pleasing to me; but the value of it was particularly enhanced by the friendly terms in which you have conveyed them to us.

In return, permit me to offer you my sincere compliments on your restoration to your own House, after an exile of seven years – and on miss Boudenots better state of health; which, with much pleasure I learnt from the general was considerably amended, if he might be allowed to form a judgement of it from her improved looks. – The difficulties, and distresses to which we have been exposed during the war must now be forgotten. We must endeavor to let our ways be the ways of pleasantness and all our paths Peace.

It would give me infinite pleasure to see you Mr and miss Boudenot at this place – without which I almost despair of ever enjoying that happiness, as my frequent long Journeys have not only left me without inclination to undertake another, but almost disqualified me from doing it, as I find the fatigue is too much for me to bear.

My little family are all with me; and have been very well till with in these few days, that they have been taken with the measles. – The worst I hope is over, and that I shall soon have them prattling about me again. – with best respects to Mr Boudenot, and love to miss Susan and your self – in which the General joins – I am my dear Madam with much esteem

Your most affectionate

Friend –

Martha Washington

Document Source: The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History