

Theodore Sedgwick to Pamela Sedgwick

Immediately after I wrote you on Friday last I set off for a jaunt to Pesaic falls [*New Jersey*]. We dined on the other side the river and afterwards had a delightful ride as far that evening as Hackingsack [*New Jersey*], The company was composed of Benson, Smith of S. Carolina, Ames, Mr. [*Martin?*] Hoffman whom you know, and Mr. Nicholas Low. The exchange of the polluted air of the city, for the sweet fragrance of the country, the delightful verdure, luxuriance vegetation, the enchanting musick of the birds, the prospect of well cultivated fields and the good humour of the company gave me a flow of spirits which I have not enjoyed since I left the bosom of my family. The evening passed delightfully, and I was refreshed by an undisturbed repose during the night, which I rarely experience. The next day we went to the falls, which are indeed worth veiwing. The stream glides gently on over the

surface of a smoth rock till it comes to a fissure of from one to fifteen feet over and about as it is said eighty feet deep, into this opening it enters and descends dashing against each side of the opening with furious violence. The roaring of the water is heard at considerable distance, and adds greatly to the pleasing horror which the scene inspires. The water as soon as it reaches the bottom takes the direction of the aperture in the rocks and is hurried throug it till it comes to an opening. This stoped at the distance of 12 or 15 rods by a high shore and a basen is formed where the water is reduced to a dead calm. This place is said to be unfathomable. From it the water takes a direction nearly the same as before the fall, and glides gently down between its banks. The water in quantity is probably about equal to our [*Housatonic*] river at Stockbridge. Below the fissure into which the column of water enters, are three or four others of unequal width from twelve inches to three feet, and of about 70 or 80 feet deep. From every appearance one would be inclined to suppose that it is not as it was created. Into one of these rents I was determined to enter and desend to the bottom, hoping to have got a veiw of the water as it was falling. I went down to the bottom but I could not gratify my wish in going down, not being able to take the veiw I had promised myself without going into water more than knee deep, which I dare not do as I had made myself exceeding warm in the descent. The other gentlemen prefered being above, and indeed I found the assent very fatiguing. During the time we were making our veiw and indeed the whole day it rained violently, which deprived us of part of our pleasure. after dinner we went down to Newark [*New Jersey*], where the whole company was treated with great hospitality. We were not permitted to go to a tavern; and the the gentry of the village seemed to exert themselves to make us happy The distinction shewn to me perticularly though flatering, was yet painful. On Sunday I went to meeting and we returned home in the evening. The Tour I find has been of great benefit to my health. Indeed I cannot and I will not submit myself much longer to the continuance in this painful situation.

Will you my dear love tell Mr. Woodbridge that it will be necessary for him to procure some good wine for the New York commissioners who will be there on the 5th. of July.<sup>1</sup> He can get it of MacMechen of Kinderhook [*New York*].

I am happy to have it in my power to inform you that I have at last settled my defaulter account.<sup>2</sup> There is a very considerable ballance due to me which I am affraid it will never be in my power to realise.

I have some time since written Mr. [*Ephraim*] Williams on the subject of his removal—he has as yet returned no answer.