

My dear friend,

It has been so long since I have seen or  
heard from you that I know not how to address you.  
I presume you think it had better offer some apology  
for so long keeping silent.  
You have written to me before, but to my shame I have neglected  
answering. I have no excuse to offer, but I am exceedingly fond of  
receiving a letter from a friend. Although I am not so  
fond of writing myself long enough to write, but as  
I have an opportunity to send by Laura I thought I should  
let you know that you were not forgotten in the least if any  
neglected. As to the news of the Bazaar, I do not know as  
there is any thing worth relating. In fact I should have  
where to begin. I forbear. I never tell you we  
expecting to visit here soon, which I was very glad to hear  
of & should be pleased to see you. I think you would find  
it full as pleasant to visit here in about a week from  
now as any thing as the excitement comes off. It would put  
up some old times to attend our examination with  
them by your much honored & beloved mother.

Wm. Deming, Esq. Scholastic.  
Troutman.

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwriting at the bottom of the page, possibly a postscript or additional notes.]*

