Reading Oct. 5th 1819

I am, my dear Françoise, reminded of the
handwriting of one, whom she once admired by the ever-present
feelings of friends; or has a separation of these years elapsed
that friend from her remembrance? Though that be the
case yet be avoided, neither time nor absence have abated my
affection, and frequently do I refer to memory the many plea-
ning hours we have spent in each other's society, while in
Bradford. How pleasant it was then to pursue together the
same studies, and range the pleasing paths of literature!
I am convinced that the happiest part of my life was spent
in the pursuit of knowledge, and the recollection of that per-
fect time which I spent with you is intermingled with
most agreeable sensations. One of our deceased, your much
loved and ever lamented Cousin, has kissed your soul of nature.
What a love to her Parents, Husband, & Friends. For myself,
I shall consent to the intense grief, and cherish her memory
with affection.

Pardon me, my dear, for recalling to remembrance
quietly, the past, may my own feelings plead my excuse.
Have you not as yet paid your vows at the altar of Phoebe? be honest Daniel, I have heard that Mrs. Payson was selected in marriage by a certain gentleman, and now frankly acknowledge if you are the identical person. Your honor will ever be among my best wishes, and in choosing a partner I hope your choice be directed by wisdom. You will smile no doubt at the advice of a young and inexperienced friend, but I assure you that in friendship there should be no reserve.

As I shall send this by Mr. Nichols, and hope soon to receive an answer for it is my earnest wish that this correspondence be hastily commenced may be lasting, and the means of securing and strengthening that friendship which formerly subsisted between us. If not observe economy, it is incompatible with true affection, but prove by frequently writing that the love of Daniel Payson is not less sincere than that of her truly affectionate,

Mary Parker

Miss Daniel Payson