Dear Son

I am desired to inform thee that if thy jacket is returned to have a cape put on it there is stuff enough here to make one & that a pair of stockings & stuff for another coat will be sent by this Stage. The stuff for the coat is a remnant left of your former cloathing & it is supposed will, with management, be enough for the purpose.

Now as to thy queries - In the first place the partnership between thy Uncle & myself would would, by its own limitation expire on the 1st. of next year. We have latterly turned our attention to the reduction of our stock & Benj. Paxson being desirous of returning to the Store, we sold the remainder to him & he now has possession of the Store. I have however reserved the two upper Stories in one of which I mean to have a counting house. It was my intention to pursue a different branch of business, one connected with Ship owning - but whether the present situation of our maratime affairs may not cut me out of it, is doubtful - this brings me to thy other queries - It is certain that a British Squadron are now in the Cheaspeake & that they have acted hostily towards us. One of them attacked the Chesapeake Frigate, killed & wounded a number of her men & took out 4 of her crew whom they claimed as deserters, but who are declared by our government to be native Americans. The consequence of this proceeding is, that the inhabitants of Norfolk & its vicinity immediately passed resolutions interdicting all communication with the squadron & refusing them supplies - 200

casks of water which had been intended for them were destroyed by the enraged populace. The President has issued a proclamation forbidding all supplies to be granted not only to that Squadron, but to all British vessels of war until satisfaction is made for the outrage.

In the meantime it is believed that the Squadron is much in want of water & it is reported that their Commodore Douglass has threatened that unless he receives supplies, he will take them by force. Great preparations are making to resist him & the President has ordered loo, ooo militia to be immediately got in readiness to march at a moments notice. It is also stated that the English Ambassador Erskine has declared to our government that he believes this Squadron to be acting without the authority of his governemnt & has actually sent dispatches to the Commodore on the subject. Be the result as it may, we are in a considerable state of alarm and not without reason, for a war would ruin a large portion of our merchants & be a dreadful evil to the country. I should for one, suffer a large diminution of my present prosperity property - yet I am inclued to hope matters will not be suffered to go to this serious extremity, as I cannot but believe hostilities would in a great measure be ruinous to both countries.

A mob of sailors & others attacked a Brig lying at one of our wharves, supposing her to be owned by Englishmen & altho they were informed z she sailed under that flag merely as a cover in her trade to Hayti (St. Domingo) they did some injury to her rigging, overturned her guns & carried her rudder through the

streets before they could be persuaded to desist. In the fray a person collared the Mayor but no blows took place.

I have now given thee the particulars of these war proceedings - which I do in haste & with a bad pen which it is too dark to mend - besides I have a call to tea - but I must first mention that James Embree has just been to see us & says Caroline & William are well & happy.

Thine

Thos. P. Cope

Added in Mary Cope's writing Je tu remercie! tres obligee! mon chere Garcon! for thy letter, thy long & learned Letter 'but I fear I should make but a dull Scholar in the Science of the Mathematics, if all parts of them are as dry as the sample thou hast given of Algebra - Wert thou at my elbow, perhaps thou mightest make thy lessons more intelligible - however, keep on, be not discouragedperhaps in time my thick head may be able to comprehend a part of thy communications. It is late or I might chat a little more for I seem to have matter enough pressing on my mind in this line - but chit-chat must always give way to business I suppose so I proceed to tell thee that if thou find'st a deficiency in the stuff for thy coat in point of quantity, thou may st try to get something near the color there, that will answer for lining across the pockets to help it out & if the Vest is sent to share the fate of our poor city Mayor in the late nub-bub, do try to send it tomorrow - or else, I was soins to say, not

send some tape that thou may'st put strings to the stockings & trowsers in the manner that Francis's are, if thou chosest - Adieu ! * -