



## **Case #3: Pickering Household**

Letter #1: Thomas Pickering to Dr. Benjamin Rush,  
"Sunday evening" (No Date), Page 1

Dear Sir

Sunday evening.

Mr. Cope has probably told you of the low condition of our servant maid. She has all along been sick at her stomach, and generally pushes up whatever she drinks to quench her insatiable thirst. A little while ago she vehemently desired cold water - saying that her insides were burning up. ~~She had refused~~ I directed a little to be given her by tea-spoonfuls; but she refused to receive it in that manner, and drank up at once a small tea cup full, which has stayed on her stomach. - Her pulse was so low, Mr. Cope order wine whey, spiced wine, and every hour or two five drops of laudanum, in a little sugar and water. The wine whey she threw up. Then some wine whey with a little nutmeg grated in it was given by tea-spoonfuls, and it stayed. But she was so impatient for drink that camomile tea was given her. This she has drunk freely during her illness, & she likes to drink it - but she generally <sup>(as well as other drinks)</sup> throws it up, with violent reaching, and pitious groans. - Soon after five drops of laudanum had been given her she puked. The dose has not been repeated.

→ She appears to me in great danger. The whites of her eyes & the skin of her face (no other part has been noticed) are a little yellow. Some beef tea was given her in the forenoon: but she did not like it, and ejected what (a very little) had been

Text:

[Beginning at First Arrow]

Sunday evening.

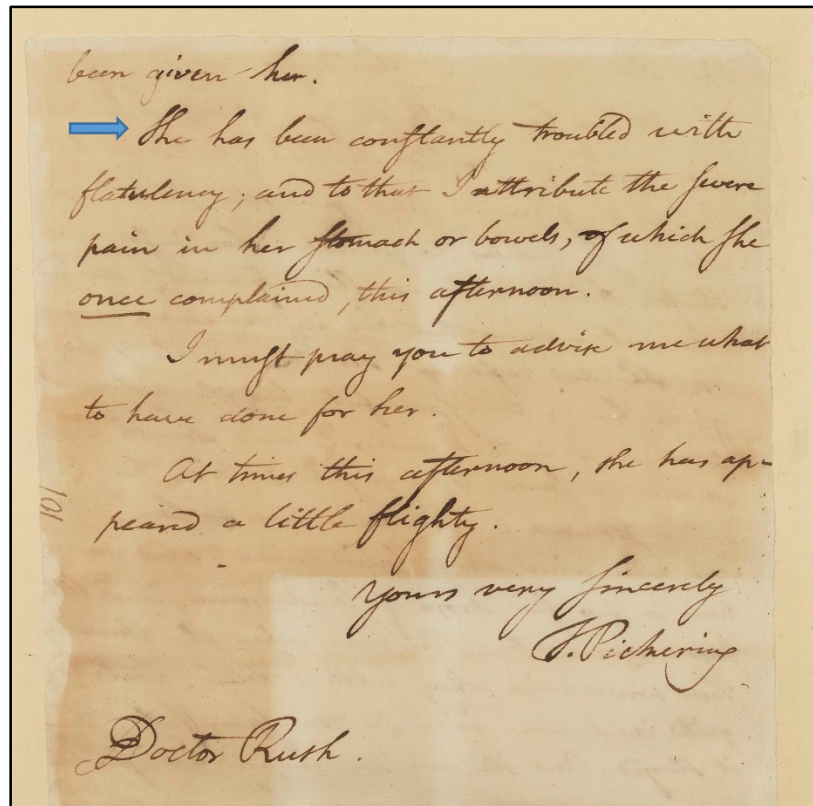
Dear Sir,

Mr. Coxe has probably told you of the low condition of our servant maid. She has all along been sick at her stomach, and generally pukes up whatever she drinks to quench her insatiable thirst. A little while ago she vehemently desired cold water – saying that her insides were burning up. I directed a little to be given her by tea-spoonfuls; but she refused to receive it in that manner, and drank up at once a small tea cup full, which has stayed on her stomach.....

[Beginning at Second Arrow]

She appears to me in great danger. The whites of her eyes & the skin of her face (no other part has been noticed) are a little yellow....

**Letter #1: Thomas Pickering to Dr. Benjamin Rush,  
"Sunday evening" (No Date), Page 2**



Text:

[Beginning at Arrow]

She has been constantly troubled with flatulency; and to that I attribute the severe pain in her stomach or bowels, of which she once complained, this afternoon.

I must pray you to advise me what to have done for her.

At times this afternoon, she has appeared a little flighty.

Yours very sincerely

T. Pickering

Doctor Rush

Letter #2: Thomas Pickering to Dr. Benjamin Rush,  
October 4, 1793, Page 1

Dear Sir,  
Friday Evening Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>  
Our maid-servant whom you saw yesterday  
appeared to pass the last night very uncom-  
fortably - from a distressing flatulency. But  
she is so apt to groan loudly, we make  
some allowance for her disposition. (My wife  
says the girl has heretofore been troubled  
with hysterics.) She complained last  
night & to-day of great sickness at the  
stomach. Just now she vomited, and  
brought up matter strongly coloured with  
bile, and offensive to the smell. During  
the last 24 hours she has appeared very  
dry, & drank plentifully of balm tea  
& camomile tea. This morning she drank  
some bohea tea - and drank two small cups.  
When she vomited just now, she groaned  
dimly - but with great strength of lungs.  
She

Text:

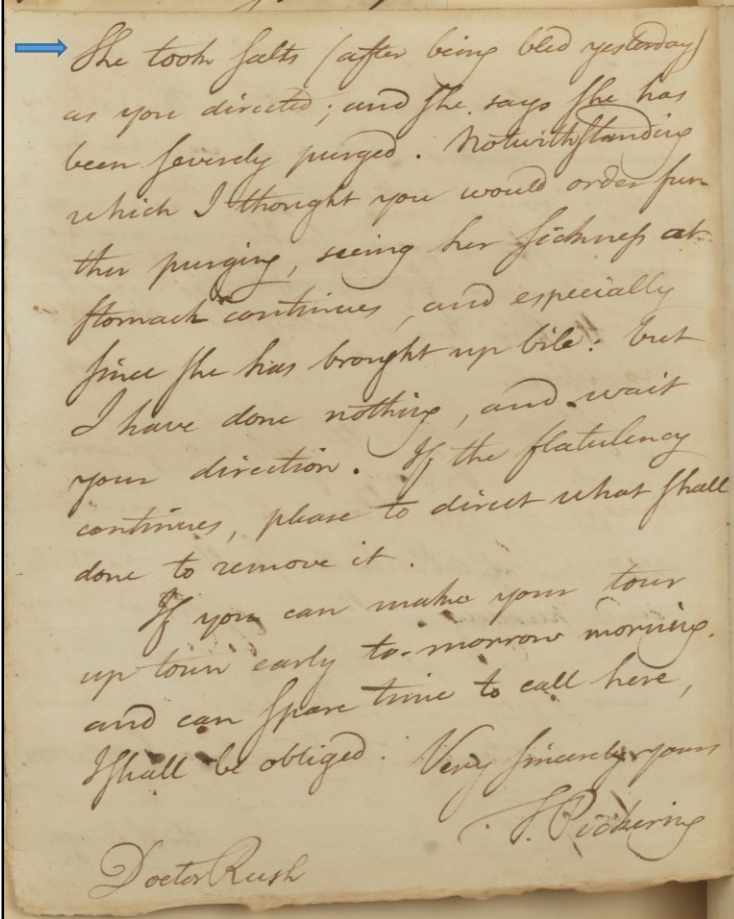
[Beginning at Arrow]

Friday Evening Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>

Dear Sir,

Our maid servant whom you saw yesterday appeared to pass the last night very uncomfortably – from a distressing flatulency. But she is so apt to groan loudly, we make some allowance for her disposition. (My wife says the Girl has heretofore been troubled with hysteria.) She complained last night & to-day of great sickness at the stomach. Just now she vomited, and brought up matter strongly coloured with bile, and offensive to the smell. During the last 24 hours she has appeared very dry, & drank plentifully of balm tea & camomile tea....

**Letter #2: Thomas Pickering to Dr. Benjamin Rush,  
October 4, 1793, Page 2**



→ She took salts (after being bled yesterday) as you directed; and she says she has been severely purged. Notwithstanding which I thought you would order further purging, seeing her sickness at stomach continues, and especially since she has brought up bile: but I have done nothing, and wait your direction. If the flatulency continues, please to direct what shall done to remove it.

If you can make your tour up town early to-morrow morning, and can spare time to call here, I shall be obliged. Very sincerely yours  
T. Pickering

Doctor Rush

Text:

[Beginning at Arrow]

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Letter #3: Thomas Pickering to Dr. Benjamin Rush,  
October 8, 1793

Dear Sir,

Tuesday Morning Oct. 8th

Glysters were administered last night to my son Edward - the third before he had a stool. Just at sunrise (the former having procured two discharges, with dark brown small lumps & grains mixed with the glyster) I administered a fourth, which was followed by several small evacuations. This minute he has puked a little dark matter - & it was followed by another dark coloured small stool. As soon as the glyster operated, he was sensibly relieved, and seemed better and better after every discharge. The matter puked just now has exceedingly alarmed my wife. He has not puked before, save twice, <sup>each time</sup> in the act of bleeding. I cannot judge in this case - having had no experience. I consider this as the critical moment - I pray you will have the goodness to hasten your visit this morning. My servant will go <sup>to call</sup> for your carriage, if this will expedite your visit.

Your anxious sincere friend  
T. Pickering

Doctor Rush



Text [Entire Page]:

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Dear Sir,

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Your anxious & sincere friend

T Pickering

Doctor Rush

Letter #4: Thomas Pickering to Dr. Benjamin  
Rush (No Date)

Dear Doctor,

I am afraid all is over with Edmund. Whilst I was gone to see you this morning, he refused to take any thing - ~~and~~ in answer to his mother's importunity, said his throat was stopped. I attempted just now to give him a tea spoonful of flaxseed tea, but he spit it out. Can any thing be done before you call? Shall I try to force down any <sup>thing</sup> by holding his nose, or in any other way, and what shall I attempt to give him? - His temples have been rubbed with camphorated spirits - also his hands & wrists - will friction of those limbs be useful? His legs and feet are agreeably warm. He is very restless withal. Will friction of his legs & feet be of any service? - Excuse my questions if trifling - Adieu!

J. Pickering

Doctor Rush

As he has had only the one stool I mentioned to you (which was this morning) would a glyster be useful? - of what sh<sup>d</sup> it consist?

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T. Pickering

Doctor Rush

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