Wrentham, Oct 15th, 1826

Dear Mother and Sister!

These lines are to acquaint you with the news that Mr. Charles Fisk, a beloved friend of mine and son of the Rev. Elisha Fisk of this town, seeks to entertain himself as my friend, and you will confer a favor on him, if you can. He is on a tour in pursuit of subscribers for a work entitled the Christian Magazine by the Mendon Association, an excellent work. He will get as many as he can in Framingham and then proceed to Harvard.

Dear Mother, you probably have just received my last letter but why should that prevent my embarking on this opportunity of sending you a few lines as they will cost you but the reading of them? My health is good with the exception of a cold with which I have been troubled a few days but trust that I shall get better of it soon. I have this day heard two most penetrating sermons by the Rev. Mr. Fisher of Harvard, one in Sawyers' Hall, the other in the morning from Joel, chap 29, verse 13, 14, from which he made to appear the character, hope, condition of the hypocrite. He showed how that although he sometimes prays yet he will not always call upon God, his prayers are not a willing and voluntary service, but the reverse, for prays come from selfish motives not because he delights in prayer, but that he may still the conscience, or that he may seem more pious than he is. And since prayer is not a delight to him, he soon becomes negligent and inconsistent in the duty. By delineating the character of the hypocrite, he concluded many traits of my own character. The affect of the sermon has been to lead me to serious and prayerful self-examination, which I am enabled to assert, that although I have often acted an hypocritical part, yet I have a right to trust that I have been actuated by some higher principles than those which inspire the breast of the hypocrite, and do humbly resolve to suit my path in future, and seek the way of righteousness in which I am called to walk.

All that I have written is the production of a very few minutes. Do not blame it with a critics eye.

NB Write to me as soon as you can.

Peter Parker
Mr. Catherine Parker
Framingham
Mass.