June 25, 1855

Dear Robert:

The Newfields' Gazette you are engaged to deliver an address before the Literary Society of Newbury on the 3rd July. I take it then as a good fact that you will be with us about that time, and my object in writing is to arrange this when you will arrive at Newbury. I shall be so that I may have a convenient time to meet you. My duty as Rector of the College will carry me down on the morning of the 3rd, and I presume that I shall reach Williamsburg between 12 and one. Several of the Directors will be along with me. Will it assume you to come also to go down on that day, or will your presence be required at an earlier hour? I should think not, but you must be your own judge and advise me accordingly. I feel it urgent to accompany you, so I shall most probably see Mr. W and other friends there. He is a Director and will be in charge of the health of all the wires which I have learned will depart. I have instructions for the 5th to other...
We have but barely a meaning of our harvest which concerns many acres as I could read. The crop is a fair one, but the rains have of late been frequent and a continuance of them to any considerable extent would greatly weaken every thing.

Write me immediately as to your movements. I suppose your address will be chiefly read from the manuscript although you have so good a memory as to render it as difficultly liable for you to memorize forceable passages. What will be your theme? I hope Mrs. Ellis will be able to come with you and John also if he can do so. All unite in love.

Mr. Father

J. Hester

Let suppose of Norfolk will deliver an address in the evening of the 3rd before the Phi Beta Kappa. It is a subject in the convention of 1788 I believe, and will consist in a delineation of the character conferring that convention.