

Levi Cohen was a young Charlestonian who left for London in 1815 to live with a half brother. Before he left home, his older half sister, Judith, wrote these rules for his guidance. ¶ This ethical letter is taken from a copy in the Charles J. Cohen Collection, in the AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES.

RULES

FOR LEVI COHEN'S PERUSAL

WHEN HE HAS LEISURE

Fear God and keep His commandments and He will ever protect and guard you from evil. Honor your superiors and they will love you. Be particular in keeping the Law you were brought up to. Keep truth in all your doings and you will never be brought to shame. Let your actions be such that you will always deserve praise without pride. Keep no vicious company. If you can not keep company with your superiors or equals, keep none at all. And be sure when, please God, you arrive at Liverpool to inquire for one of your own persuasion, and go to them, or him; tell without falsehood your story. Ask the Captain's permission as soon as you arrive to let you go ashore, and be care-ful of your cloaths, and do not be too communicative to inquisitive people.

The first house you get to, be sure to write to your brother [in London] and wait for an answer to know how you are to come to him. Be grateful to your benefactors, and treat them with that respect that is due to their reverence.

Do not forget the aged parent you have left behind, but keep in your memory the many troubles he has undergone for you, the anxiety he will be in untill he hears of your arrival.

Do not forget to write to us by the first opportunity; make yourself as agreeable to your shipmates as you can be, and do anything in your power to oblige them.

Let virtue be your guide, and remember these are the sentiments of your affectionate sister.

April 20th, 1815

JUDITH COHEN