Newcastle October 1st, 1836

If time passes slowly with you, and does with me, my dear sister, I fear you will think I have been a great deal silent, and I must confess four weeks is a long time not to have written a single letter to you, longer much longer than I wished or intended it should be when I parted with you, but independent of my dislike which for some months past has amounted to an aversion, for writing, housekeeping, and company, every day has left me little or no control of my own time to day. I have laid down my brother's orders to take up another which I am afraid, besides being as disagreeable will occupy me as completely as the old one, it is a piece of writing to be done immediately, and much will take me I know not how long. I received it yesterday and but glanced my eye over it so that I do not even know what it is, but I know by bad experience that to one who writes as bad a hand as I do, copying is the slowest and most fatiguing thing in the world. I hope however I have perseverance enough to carry me through the job which practice will perhaps make less irksome and difficult to if it does anything towards re-forming the scratch I write at present it will be subject of rejoicing to myself and my correspondent as well as a great advantage to me in future by enabling me to take a larger share of the writing that we wish if possible to divide amongst us. I am sorry to tell you dear sister that our present prospects look anything as they will can, the receipt of the lottery is extremely doubtful; it is put off till the 6th of December to allow a longer time for the disposal of the ticket, but there is great cause to fear that it will be impossible to sell half of the number by that time which would alone warrant the drawing of the lottery, would it fail...
The Bedford property will be offered for sale on the first of January and the furniture here with a part of the negroes, on the 15th; as the place itself cannot be sold without a decree of the chancellor which it will take some time to obtain, perhaps till the ensuing summer or fall; it will be necessary to retain negroes enough to keep up the plantation. While this obstacle is removed, I should these things take place, mama’s plan is to propose proposals immediately for starting a school which will be opened as soon as the returns from Boston will be closed, to stay until her returns. The left which has hitherto been rented, the store room is to be fitted up and made to accommodate Will and his successors, and Ellen & Delia. Mrs. Frist and Aunt Martha will be obliged to occupy the same room and the rest of us are to be stowed away in the remaining rooms. This removal will take place as soon as mama is gone and you may suppose how unwilling we are to leave our home in a few weeks perhaps never again to return to it and how much we should prefer lingering here till the last moment under any circumstances, of lodging & discomfort, but the argument that it will be too expensive for us all to form one family then if we were still divided in two, is to us unsayable and makes us feel at once that we must sacrifice our own inclinations without hesitation whatever the sacrifice may cost us and gothin off thinks it better that the public should be at once informed of the real state of our affairs, as it seems an idea has got abroad that we shall still be independent after our debts are paid, and he thinks in coming up here to stay would tend to confirm people in that opinion, as it might be supposed he would not take such a step unless we expected to retain possession of the place, whereas our
abandoning it as we shall do (perhaps in the course of this month) will be sufficient evidence of the contrary. I hope Mama will soon be with you, she has been seriously preparing for her visit ever since you left us and expects to get out I believe about the twentieth, we shall all feel and enough at parting with her under such circumstances but we also hope for the happiest effects on her health and spirits from her journey north and should be unceasing at the idea of her spending this winter in Baltimore besides this consideration so important to us all the pleasure her society will afford you is a great consolation to us, and one which help to lighten our regret at the separation from her. after what I have said of our plan of keeping a school and the great probability there is of its being soon put in execution you will understand what a necessity these exists for my applying myself closely this winter to those things which will best fit me for bearing my part in it, and I cannot help thinking with regret that I am so little perfect in what constitutes the usual school routine to be myself in need of schooling in most of its branches, perhaps I might with truth add to say in all of them. I began to write two days ago but got no further than the first page since when I have received your letter and rejoice most heartily to learn that you are safe in your own house in Boston again and that baby is well and shows no signs of the enooping cough which we have been a little uneasy about. Mrs Madison is here and will probably remain some days as it is thought the present region (of the winter) will last a week I have written in such haste that I scarcely hope my
letter will be intelligible. Love to Joseph and help to baby from
her aunt. Will send first book her aunt made its appearance
of new born cousin sister your most affectionate
friend & sister M. J. B.

Mary Oct 14 1825
Boston

with propriety of the
marchioness family.
New plan for the wide
the future...