Richmond, Jan. 3rd, 1816

Miss is just leaving town, my dearest

Mother, and I detain him a few moments while I can write a few lines to let you know that we arrived safe last evening. The first days journey was a very disagreeable one, the roads rough and the carriage very uneasy, next Goodland Court House where we stopped to break last yesterday, we were so fortunate as to meet Gen. Cocke coming down with Mrs. Nancy Moreland and a gentleman of his acquaintance. Since he insisted that Jane & myself should get in his carriage and his friend and himself take our places in the stage, we were very unwilling at first to turn him out of his warm delightful birth, into ours, which was so uncomfortable, but he insisted, and we made the exchange. His carriage was close and warm, very easy, with a good driver and four strong horses we soon left the stage behind us, and proceeded with no escort but Sam. Cocke’s son, a boy of about twelve. We did not stop to dine, but reached Richmond a little before sunset; Jane stopped at the Governor’s, and I came quite recovered, and Mr. Randolph still with her. I am not much fatigued, and Jane bore the journey very well. I have not seen either Mr. Jefferson this morning, as yet. We found grand bargain for delightful. I do not know what we should have done without it. For we were out until past eight Wednesday evening, and off again an hour before day the next morning.
We had reason to blame Gen. Calhoun's kindness for owing to  
the frequent delays at the different post offices &c. the stage  
did not arrive here until after seven o'clock. Besides, I write  
in a great hurry as Bill who is now waiting can tell you  
Bent Randolph and cousin Ann send their love.

Adieu, my dearest Mother, since my  
love to every body, and write to let me know how my  
dear Papa is.