

Dearest Ellen

I wrote to Mrs Coolidge by the last mail, but really in a state of mind so unfit that if there had been any probability of ~~my~~ being more composed before the crisis of the 8th, ^{was papered} I would certainly not have sent the letter. but it had been already too long though unavoidably delayed, and any thing was better than an appearance of neglect to those who have been so kindly attentive to you—

The immediate cause of distress at the time was the parting with Susan she was so bad a servant so negligent, so heartless, and of a family of such bad dispositions generally, that there was no probability of her mending; and yet we could not resolve to sell her from her friends; but when the proposal came from herself and with some urgency, I acknowledge that I was well pleased and considered it a most happy riddance. it would enable V— to get little Betty and by lightening the burthen to My Dear Jefferson bring those that he had determined at any cost to retain from their attachment to the family, more within the compass of his means; ~~the arrangement~~ ^{the arrangement} pleased every body, particularly as she did entire justice to her mistress to whom she professed her self much attached, said she knew she should often regret her, and if she had been going to a house of her own shortly nothing on earth would have induced her to part with her but she believed her life in danger from her father who appeared to have taken an aversion to her and beat her most unmercifully, and her relations were all ill tempered and unkind; she said she would not live another year on the same plantation ^{with them} for any earthly consideration she had, and had exercised, her veto upon several plans more advantageous to her mistress than the one adopted. Nicholas had refused 600 \$ ^{per} week before because she objected to the purchaser, but after some conferences with Mr Cage, a Mispipi planter, she determined to go with him. ~~and~~ under those mitigating circumstances there appeared to be no cause for sorrow on our part, but V. was dreadfully distressed when it came to the point, as we all were—the distance however is really the only ^{rational} ground ~~for~~ regret, but the fate of sister A—s maid Sally has turned the head of every decent looking girl in the state

^{all} they look to New Orleans as a paradise where they have only to show
them selves to become at once ladies - that I really believe had much influence
with Susan to whom however I have given a very undue portion of my letters -
I am surprised at the account you give of the Saratoga Springs. I thought
that not only comfort, but elegance even, were to be found at all the watering
places of fashionable resort north of the Potomack; ours though I really believe
possessing more intrinsic ^{than any of them} virtues, are so badly kept that the sick ~~only~~ who
will submit to any thing for the recovery of health, and gamblers, whose every
feeling is swallowed up in that absorbing passion ~~for the passion~~, can
alone consent to the horrible discomfort of such places. the papers say there
were 900 persons at the Saratoga Spring, this year (at one time) that certainly
must have been the cause of the ~~inconvenience~~, for nothing less than a small town
can accommodate that number of persons in comfort. You say nothing of your Uncle
Mason's wife who has just had a son that must have been born ^{immediately} before or
while you were still in New York, where she was confined. Mrs Miller who has
at last made good her entrance here, told me that Mrs Gouverneur is dead,
that she died in May, leaving two children who are with her mother; is it
possible that such an event could have taken place without our hearing of it?
yet she insists upon the truth of her information and mentioned some particu-
lar, that give weight to it. Your Aunt Morris is delighted with Mr Coakly
and yourself, but I was very much mortified to learn that D. B. Ogden had been
served up to him with "satisfaction pieces," and the numberless wearing spectacles,
with which she dosed us seven years ago. there can never be any variety but
in the names of those brought in collision with her, the subject must ever be the
same. it is really a pity that the benevolent feelings natural to the youthful heart
should be so completely ~~obliterated~~ ^{as they must be in Gouverneur}, seeing human nature
through the distorted medium of her prejudices. yet she has ~~many~~ some excellent
qualities, when her passions sleep. she is kind hearted and liberal in the extreme to
those with whom she has not in discourse enough to ~~shatter~~ ^{shatter} for that reason her
friends are always, ~~her~~ "le plus loin le plus cher". Mr Bonny castle's brother
is the mathematician employed to superintend the cutting the canal through
the isthmus of Darien; the english are really a wonderful people, it is impossible
to contemplate their works in every quarter of the globe without admiration.

I leave to the girls to give you the news of the professor's courting expedition how he got thrown from his horse at the very outset, and soiled his new coat, the name of the lady is Tat, the result is not known. Septimia is in the predicament of Pasquin who was obliged to wear dirty linen because his wash woman had become a princeps. Mr Laune who has always had the reputation of being a gentleman, has the immediate prospect of recovering the family estates with a title. he is gone on to Washington to take measures with the minister for that effect. we have been liberally overwhelmed with company this summer. from one Monday to another we dined one day alone, the other days we had company every day. no dinner, ladies 4 days of the 6, and the Sunday I unexpected guests in addition to a party invited. to morrow we have Judge Carr's family with Peyton and his wife. I presume they will stay some days. besides all this, the Slauerton meeting breaking up, ^{and people going to the Spring} have kept us in the drawing room from 10 to 3, almost every day. I have been obliged to get up at 5 o'clock to write to you. Mr R returned from the meeting where as usual he took a very active part. he has obtained an injunction which will prevent the public sale of the 8th, but which exactly brings matter to the point I have been anxious to obtain. he has empowered Mr Gilmer one of the trustees to sell it at private sales. that will considerably alleviate the most distressing circumstances of the case; the negroes may be disposed of to people that we know, in many instances friends and neighbours my father no doubt being allowed time can also assist in the purchase. My mind is greatly relieved ^{by this arrangement.} the discomfort of slavery I have borne all my life, but it's sorrows in all their bitterness I had never before conceived. The sale of Susan was only a prelude in my imagination to the scenes which the 8th would exhibit in all their horrors, for the country is over-run with those traffickers in human blood the negro buyers, and that advertisement would have been the signal to have collected them from every part of the state. how much trouble and distress you have been spared my beloved Ellen by your removal, for nothing can prosper under such a system of injustice. Your dear Grandfather is getting better again but he suffers still a great deal still. Your friend Mrs Brockenbrough whom I saw the other day, talks incessantly of you, she says she is afraid to come to Monticello for fear of exposing herself by crying. every one sends their love to you and Mr Lungliffon with whom we have become acquainted lately, desires to be very particularly remembered to you. she regrets much not having had the means of becoming better acquainted with you but

seems to understand our situation exactly. The Doctor also gains very much upon acquaintance. I believe he is a very good Domestic character as well as a great man in his profession. adieu Dearest Ellen, I would not send such a scrawl if I had time to do better but not having finished my letter before the family were up, my interruptions have been incessant since. remembers me most affectionately to Joseph and accept
[unclear] the assurance of the unchangeable love of your own Mother

2 August 1825

[Large decorative flourish]

M^{rs} Joseph Coolidge Junior
to the care of Joseph Coolidge Esq^r

Boston

Massachusetts

scale of scales
by Mother, former of the
system of scales.
prop^r of company of
Monticello.
Nov 9. 1825

To

through

He says you may go as far as 250 \$ for a piano. the thermometer has been 91 1/2 here, 93 in Charlottesville and I think 94 at the university the air this morning has the equability and
Monticello August 2^d 1825
bracing coolness of our first and finest autumn weather
we hear nothing of the Marquis yet -