

Monticello Sep. 24<sup>th</sup> 1817  
Miss Virginia F. Randolph at 16 years of age  
"Warm Springs" Bath County Va

Your very welcome packet My Dear Virginia  
was safely delivered by a party of gentlemen of whom Mr Taylor  
was one, and whilst preparing my best acco and thanks to receive  
them, to my great mortification saw them leave the house —  
your Walker who brought the letter in to me, said he should  
ask them to dinner, but as he departed with them I could not  
ascertain whether they would return with him or not. I shall  
be much mortified if they do not, as I should be loath to appear  
even, to neglect the smallest <sup>wish</sup> of your Aunt's wishes. Mr Lives  
has spread the fame of your journal far and wide. and people will  
soon begin to examine the papers with much curiosity to see ~~the~~  
interesting extracts. the ground has been already much beaten before  
you, but to the eyes of genius these will allways remain interesting  
subjects of observation, which escape your every day traveller  
Ann arrived the Sunday after you left us, and your Grand Father  
and the girls the Sunday following. I find by the light way in  
which you speak of Mr B — that you have not been the object  
of his attention. from his known character, your Aunt I am  
determined at once that he would court one, or perhaps both of  
you. your Father think, Elizabeth has made another conquest  
he desired me to inform her that at 2 o'clock on the 16<sup>th</sup>

he saw a gentleman elegantly mounted, enquiring the way to Ashton  
whom ~~near~~ his ~~kindly~~ countenance bespoke the lover, and  
one not destitute of poise. being much of a gossip, I went  
to Ashton on purpose to learn his name, which it arrives  
will give you, with other interesting particulars—  
Ann has also made many conquests. I hear her spoken of in  
a manner that fills me with spleen and envy on your accounts  
alas my Daughter! what have you been about, that even with  
the advantage of your promised 30 cents per annum, you can  
not cope with these. tell Sister A— that I have seen her  
favourite Mr Miverson, at least he spoke in such terms of  
her, that I presumed he must be <sup>far</sup> in her good graces. we were  
all much pleased with him here, he appears to be sensible and  
well informed; and you know it is said of our young countrymen  
in general, that they are so well satisfied with nature's liberality  
to them, that few think it worth their while to cultivate  
her gifts ~~by~~ ~~again~~ and add to them the acquired advantage  
of a good education. adieu My Dear Daughter I have twice  
had the misfortune to sit down to write to you in cloudy  
weather, which allways add greatly to my natural dullness, and  
indeed the neighbourhood appears as stupid as I am. there is  
nothing new, nothing to prevent ~~the~~ animal spirits

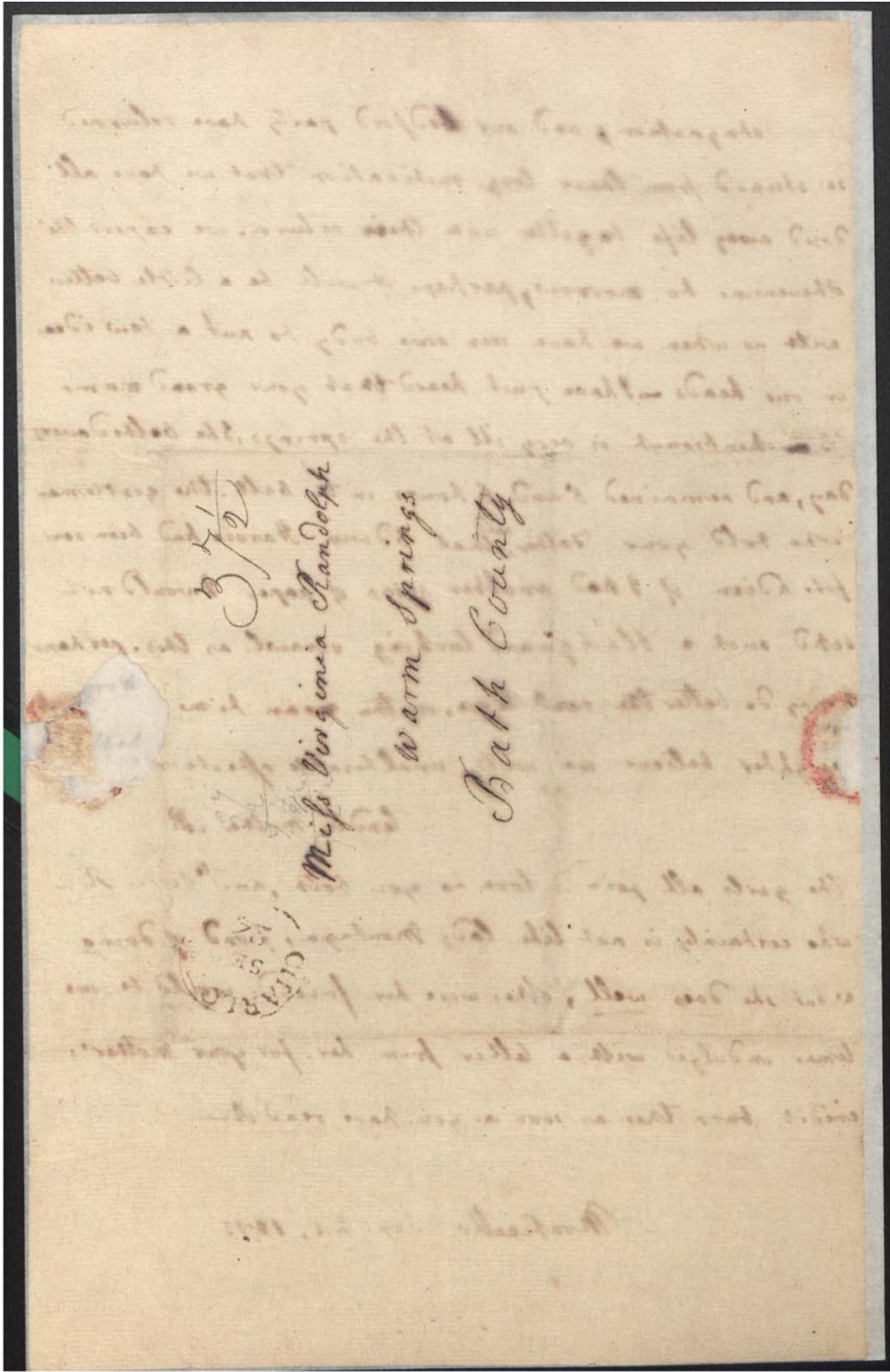


from stagnation; and our Bedford party have returned  
so stupid from their long rustication that we have all  
dozed away life together since their return. we expect the  
Shewensons to morrow, perhaps it will be a little better  
with us when we have seen some body to put a few ideas  
in our heads - I have just heard that your grand mamma  
~~B. Kembrought~~ is very ill at the springs, she bathed every  
day, and remained 5 and 6 hours in the bath. the gentlemen  
who told your father, <sup>said</sup> that Edwin Harvie had been sent  
for adieu if I had another scrap of paper I would not  
scribble such a blackguard looking scrawl as this. perhaps  
I may do better the next time, in the mean time  
perhaps believe me with unalterable affection

tender mother M

the girls all join in love to you both, and <sup>to</sup> sister R -  
who certainly is not like Lady Montagna, fond of doing  
what she does well, other wise her friends would be some  
times indulged with a letter from her. for your mother's  
credit burn this as soon as you have read it

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