

March 1815

Although I have not time to answer your letter at length my dearest Mother yet the subjects of it are so interesting, that I write a few lines merely to let you know that I have received it. thank god the most urgent of my dear fathers debts can now be paid off, and after the sale of Varina we may yet look forward to years of peace and comfort. the seal with the little cupids struck me when I first saw it & knowing how much you admired ~~little~~ devices of the kind I made use of it on purpose that you might remark the impression. I little thought that your mind was in ~~sueh~~ a melancholy state as to make you hail as ominous what was almost accidental; if I had had any suspicion of the kind, the childlike joy with which I ~~stampred~~ ^{my letter} would have given place to feelings of alarm and anxiety, that your tenderness has saved me from ~~such~~ in every ^{happy} circumstance of my life I can trace your influence, every virtuous feeling, every correct principle seem to be derived from your maxims and example; to you I am indebted for every thing, & I can only repay you by an affection better conceived than described.

I am quite recovered from my rheumatism, although the attack was severe and confined me some days to my room. - write to me again dearest Mother, for your letters afford me a much greater pleasure than any that can be derived from the gay scenes in which I can or ~~act~~; they produce a beneficial effect upon my mind, they strengthen and confirm ~~my~~ good resolutions, they comfort me for every trifling mortification & banish every uneasy feeling

by making me remember, that although I'm seeking for amusement ~~see~~ I may be sometimes disappointed, I am not dependent for happiness upon any of those by whom I am, at present, surrounded. —

I have hitherto neglected poor Cornelius' request of making out a list of the books which I read under Grandpapa's direction & have not time for it now but by the next post she shall receive it. Adieu - a great deal of love to all the family, not forgetting "Dolly lots" and her charming mama -

I will look for the music book for V. and in case I should not be able to procure ~~one~~, Maria Lindsay has ^{one} ^{I think} which belonged to her sister Mrs Waddell. Virginia might borrow it and copy whatever she wanted. Farewell dearest Mother I write in a very great hurry and have only time to assure you once more of my affection.