

Bentivar

Nov. 26. '18

Dearest Nic

I was expecting a letter from you for some time but my expectations were not realized until yesterday, when by the same mail I received your letters of Nov 26th & 29th. My Grandmother had been rendered uneasy by your letter from New York in which you complained of the head ach, ~~fever~~ ^{fever} & the deuce knows what; I pray you when you feel slightly indisposed not to mention it to her as it makes her very unhappy. I was very glad to hear that you reached the place of your destination without much damage (except that which you suffered in the top of your portmanteau) & that your situation pleased you tolerably well. you may be sure I was delighted with the attempt you were going to make of finishing in one year the course which commonly takes up two, it shows that your resolution is made up for studying, & if so I will ensure you success in the undertaking because I feel confident that your talents are sufficient for accomplishing it. in the meantime take care of your health Mr Jefferson says that a strong body makes the head strong I took a copy of two letters written by Mr L. to Peter Carr [the former was in France] replete with excellent advice, in that concerning his health. he advised him to rise at an early & fixed hour & go to bed at an early and fixed hour, & recommended him to appropriate all the time he could spare from his studies, to walking which he considered as the best possible exercise, one could take. & to take it, when it would give least interruption to the studies, that is in the evening

55500

I feel anxious about your health, knowing that the climate is much colder there than any you have experienced for a long time, your breast is not very strong & you will have to rough it more this winter than common. therefore buy up a good stock of warm woollen cloathing.

Since your departure I have been, ^{to Mont^g} I think, twice; Mrs Randolph having been so kind as to send for me whenever James was sent for. They have always enquired after you and spoken of you in the kindest manner possible. I think Miss F. appeared somewhat affected the day after your departure. (pray never show this) Miss C. and herself are now on a visit to Carysbrook and Mead writes me that Mrs Randolph intends getting me to go for them which I shall do with the greatest pleasure. I expect you would like to be in my place. Grandmother is still at Mrs Figgins bothams, who had not pised the last time I was there. Mead wrote to me two or three days ago and mentioned that he intended moving his quarters in the first stage that left here. Grandmother is in better health than I ever ~~to~~ have seen her in. she has a dull time of it, though, at Mr F^o's

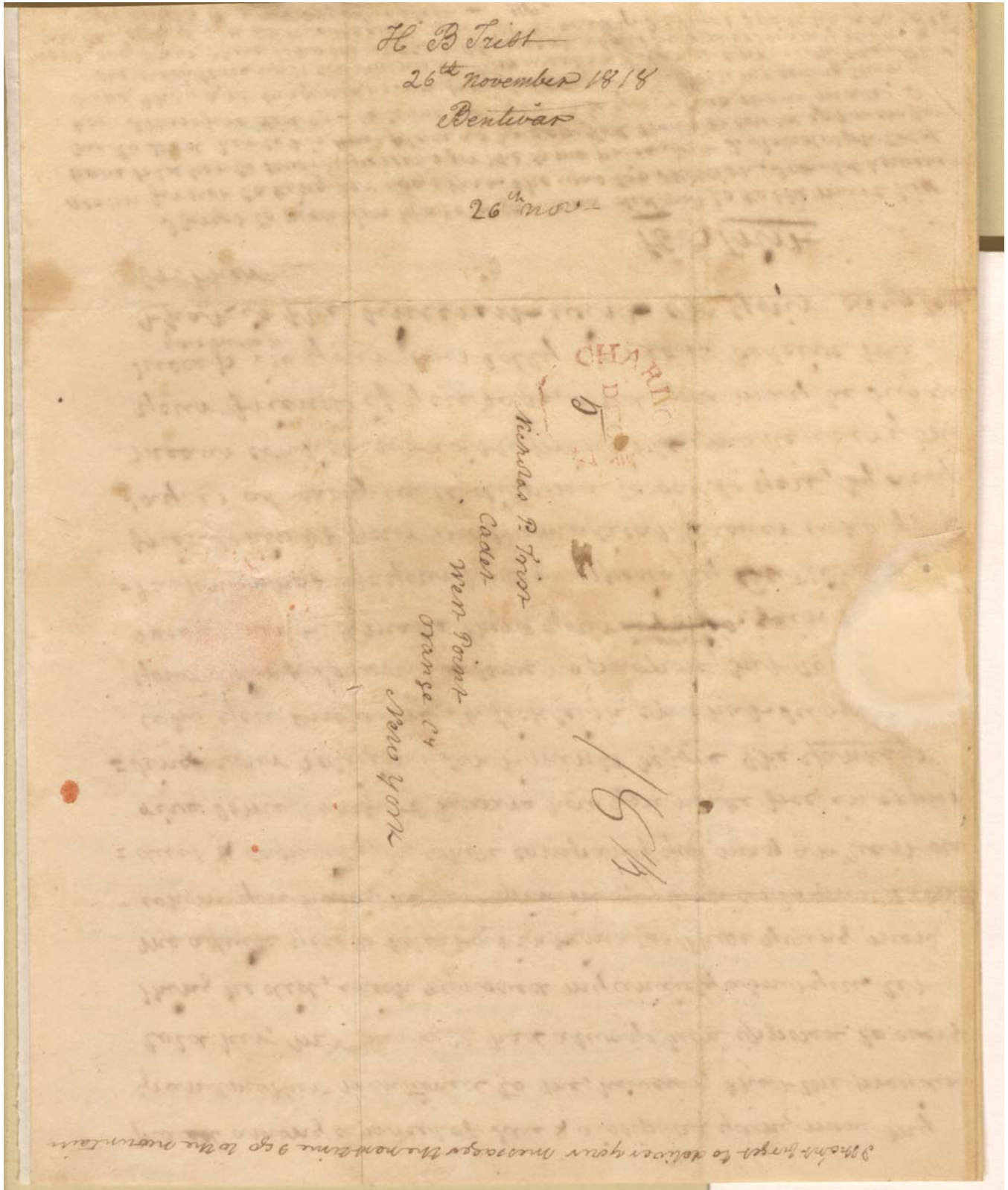
Mrs Randolph mentioned to me the last time I was there, that Mr Burrell had informed her that West point was a very dissolute & dissipated place, pray inform me if that is ~~the~~ the case. I should be very sorry if I thought that you were

placed among a parcel of Idle & dissipated young men My
 grandmother mentioned to me, however, that the president
 told her, Mr Burrell had always been opposed to every
 thing he did, which removed my anxiety about you. Let
 me advise you to select as intimates those young men
 whom you have the best opinion of, both as to moral con-
 = duct & capacity, in whose company you may at least de-
 = rive some benefit. Beware how you make free, in expres-
 = sing your religious sentiments before the Yankees
 who you know are so ticklish on that subject as
 your doing so would serve no purpose. but to e-
 = resentment; & make them your ~~enemies~~^{enemies}. gain the
 = attachment of all your tutors especially Curtis & the
 friendship of your mathematical teacher who you
 say is already well disposed towards you, by any
 means consistent with principle. make every one
 your friend if you can, and you may be sure of
 success in your worldly career. believe me
 that is the sincerest wish of your devoted
 brother —

55501

H. P. Trist

I forgot to mention that old Garland did not take the mare his
 reason for not taking her was that she was too skittish. I could however
 have sold her to several persons for the same price. but J. Randolph told
 me to send her to his ~~own~~ place as he expected that he could get more for
 her. I therefore did so - tell me how you like your two room make. I
 hope they are Virginians. write me long letters and tell me every thing.
 The vacation will commence in two weeks & I do not know whether to di-
 = cret my steps. there is no school that I know of about here worth any thing & as
 for the college god knows when that will be ready. I expect I will have to go to
 the north yet for my education - HPT



Original manuscript in the Nicholas P. Trist Papers, Library of Congress