My Dear Mother,

March 30th 1847

A slight indisposition, which serves as an excuse for me to withdraw from the hurry and bustle in which I live, for the short space of a few hours, gives me an opportunity to write to you, the dinner bell is ringing but I have obtained leave to dine in my own room, and the time which would otherwise have been employed in dressing or other fatiguing ceremonies will now be spent in a way much more agreeable to myself. I am glad to hear that my Dear Grandfather is getting so much better, ever since the receipt of your letter in which you mention his indisposition I have been constantly unhappy; that circumstance joined to the bad state of Farmer’s health has made me quite homesick.

I went last evening to a large party at Mrs. Marvis’s which I have understood was given to me, the company was gay and brilliant, the ladies were all splendidly dressed, Miss Mayes wore a brown silk, satin embroidered, and a robe of the waist, sleeves of bosom with gold, Mrs. MacKenzie the same, except the colour of her dress which was rose colour purple, Miss Smith had on white satin with a lace drape over it, Miss Maria Barber, Miss Carter of Mr. Cayley’s Randolphi in satin, the Miss March in gauged satin, Crooper, Miss Barber, Willy Ann Armstrong who is a belle, if myself was dress’d well but simply, Miss Mayes took occasion during the course of the evening to come up to me by one of the fire, I imagined that circumstances had
occurred, which rendered it impossible for her to visit me while I stayed where I now am; but hoped we should frequently meet at other houses, as she was extremely desirous to cultivate an acquaintance from which she supposed to derive so much pleasure. Of this you may suppose I post as much as much as I thought proper. I shall see very little of her for Aunt Randolph and herself have ceased to live on visiting terms. Our society has received a most agreeable addition in the person of Mr. Tinker (who married a Miss Telford), he appears to have taken a fancy to me for he has behaved towards me with as much affection as a brother could have done; he is very highly esteemed of every body regret that more than I do his determination to leave town tomorrow.

I have got pretty well acquainted with Mr. Baskendale, I am one of the few ladies whom he treats with attention; for he has been always remarkable for avoiding their society, not that he dislikes the sex but the great reserve of his manners & his diffidence renders it impossible for him to become acquainted with them. Aunt Randolph is his first favourite, Miss Riddle the second, if I do not believe that there are many other ladies in town to whom he is more attentive then he is to me. He is a very interesting young man, nature appears to have endowed him with talents, his education is very good, his temper mild, it seems totally free from vice & any description of his greatest fault is a want of stability, he has no principles of character if of course has been often mistaken, of Major Sea at one time engaged him in some acts of folly & dissipation of which I suspect Mr. Baskendale has been ashamed, his large fortune has been upon the whole a disadvantage to him, for as every wish is gratified as soon as it arises, he is never stimulated either by hope or fear; he has been from the age of eighteen completely his own master & has inherited habits of idleness which make him the victim of languor & idleness. He has nothing to do, nothing to think of.
and yet if any thing why the world should him it is not at these little

Thick the girls for their letter, I shall answer them as soon as I have

time to I hope they will continue to write to me occasionally, I am very

sorry I did not receive cornelia letter sooner for I could get a copy of

Popular Tales for two dollars a quarter; when I come away I can

spare the money I will bring them to her; I cannot

get a dale for less than two dollars it even then it would be a

mean thing.

I got a letter from Papa to day; he leaves it to my choice whether

I will return home in the stage to morrow or remain where I am some

time longer; I have decided to stay for the first 10 days of my visit were

misleading well, and the fun is (owing to I know not what cause) becoming

every day more gay if agreeable; I do not believe this circumstance would

prevent my return, but Aunt Randolph is so much distress at the

idea of my leaving her immediately, that I should be sorry to do it.

Give my love to all the family. Harry is done here at present.

and I shall send by him, the curtains for the end, all of Mrs.

Bums books except those which I must have bound, if the little things

for the children which I mentioned in my last letter.

My Tunisian shawl is the admiration of the whole town, and it is

allowed to be handsomer than one which is to be raffled off for

250 dollars which is woolen but not as fine a crimson as mine.

Papa says that if I do not return he will delay his own departure

untill Saturday the 20 of April to go up on horseback.

Adieu my dearest Mother, I am never happier than when engaged

in writing to you, and yet I am so hurried always that I have never

time to say all I wish to say or to tell you how sincerely I love you;

in fact I am completely my affection for you is the passion of my life,

I love

trifling away other feeling is in comparison with that

no human being ever loved a mother as much as I do you, but then

no one ever had such a mother, you shall hear from me again shortly

if I now remain your most affectionate daughter.

E. W. R.