

Half past 4 Tuesday
morning, 28th

Aunt Marks died
this morning at
about ten minutes
before four. Having
been apparently
speechless & uncon-
scious ever since
yesterday mor-
ning. I kept
my letter open
until the last
day that I could
keep it to tell
you how she
was. We have
set up with
her the last
two nights or
rather in the
evening next to
her room. Since
we frequently want
to see her.

Monticello July 6 1828
~~August 6~~
~~September 6~~
~~October 6~~

We thought this morning, dear sister, that
Aunt Marks was dying, I did not think she had more than
a few minutes to live. They had taken her up as usual to dress
her & had completed what was absolutely necessary when
she became so faint, or rather so much like death that
Aunt Silla sent for Mauda who was not present at the
time; her eyes were fixed, her features distorted, her breath
came at ^{long} intervals her hands were cold & her pulse gone;
she has however revived & except that she is still lower
than usual we observe no difference, she cannot live. I think
longer than a few days I will probably go off to-morrow mor-
ning which is the time (the morning) she is usually worst; nor
is it desirable she should live; for some time past it has been
as if we were performing the offices of nurses to one who had been
a corpse for days, as if death had seized on the body before the
soul had left it, I do not know whether mortification has
taken place or whether it is the consequence of this most hor-
rible of all diseases. Aunt Silla has nursed her through the
whole with a care & attention as unweary as it is watchful,
bearing patiently with her petulance & ill-humour of disease & discomfort,
sleeping in her room at night & watching by her during the
greater part of the day; she has spared us much. it has not yet
been necessary for us to set up all night with Aunt Marks though

probably it will be to night. Mama wrote to you a week ago, dearest sister, & probably told you all about our poor father that you would like to know; it was a great comfort to us that he died among us all & had every thing that he desired or that could alleviate his sufferings. It was a comfort to him to be surrounded by his family, his wife administering to him, his daughters around his bed fanning him through the day & his sons through the night, he repeatedly expressed his satisfaction at it; but chiefly did we thank God that he was at peace with all the world & had subdued all his resentments; if from the force of habit he impatiently expressed dislike or displeasure, he checked himself instantly. He spoke of all his family frequently with great affection though he rarely separated us, only twice that I remember, once when he feared that Lewis had become so estranged from him that his heart could not then return to him which distressed Lewis much & that night he stood the whole night by his bedside fanning him; & once he said to Virginia "may you have such a child (as herself) in your old age" he seemed to retain his mind perfectly until the last sleep from which he never awoke.

I know not when our afflictions will end, I wonder we are not crushed to the earth by the weight of them; to become familiar with the face of death in our own family, to be driven from the home where the last melancholy pleasure we can enjoy, alone is found, the pleasure of contemplating these beautiful scenes where every thing is so strongly associated with our dear grand father that he seems yet to be present, I should have thought formerly was more than mortal could bear but we must bear all, 'that which our souls refused to touch has become as our sorrowful meat' all the other evils of poverty are nothing; of what consequence is it what do they wear, ~~and~~ what food they eat to those who care not for their looks or think not of their palates & as for hard work which begins with the rising sun & ends with the setting, I have given up all ambition & all pride & put down the dusting brush or the needle, smooth my hair & come out to receive company feeling as much a lady as I have done when I laid by my book or drawing for the same purpose.

This place never looked so lovely, the house never so beautiful as now

The very luxuriance of the wild things growing up in the yard has a beauty in it, the thickening shade of the unpruned trees ~~covering~~ round the house as if to conceal it from the profane eyes of those who respect no more the house of Thomas Jefferson than that of one of themselves & who would turn it into a boarding house probably if it was sold to them; to me this seems like profaning a temple. I had rather the weeds & wild animals ~~which~~ are fast taking possession of the grounds should grow and live in the house itself; when I come I was sad to see the negro cabins lying in little heaps of ruin every where but I would see the house itself in ruins before I would see it turned into a tavern. since the pictures have been taken down, & the rooms in grand papa's suite which we use have been opened, & the furniture is gone I have admired the house more than I ever did; the old furniture we had disfigured it. we could live here with much comfort & much trouble but I would take it as it comes rather than go away. Mama I think will go to Philadelphia, that place will be equally distant from her children is cheap, & besides she has an affection for it & if she is pleased shall all be so; thank god, her health is very good now. I cannot do any thing in Philadelphia I suppose to add to our ~~own~~ & I own for my own part I had rather be doing some ~~thing~~ ^{to effect this} keeping school, than set down quietly on our little, but mama is too old now to undertake any thing so different from her mode of life heretofore, & besides so sedentary an employment as schooling would not suit her health. I do not like the thoughts of living in Philadelphia to say truth. I should prefer Boston to any place but we could ^{not} make out to live there I suppose on our 12 hundred a year. I am afraid dearest sister my letter is very incoherent & perhaps a little bordering on extravagance but you must excuse it, I am sick with the fumes of the tobacco & vinegar we have been burning in aunt M's room. give my love & a kiss to my dear Joseph & to my own sweet Nell & Peps; dear little things mama pines for Nell now & I shall never love any child more than I do her. The babies here become more & more engaging & are our only amusement, they are very different from each other ^{improvingly} bold & manly with a very

intelligent face Pat is delicate itself weak & languid, her greatest delight is to "sweep bed with mudder" at any time in the day, & already begs to be put in the "yed chair" (the lamp chair) she is also very affectionate & very intelligent & very neat. Virginia's complaints I am afraid are not dissipated & that we shall have a little Thomas Jefferson added to our babies.

We received a visit the

Cornelia. 6 July. 1828.
a red, red letter!



Miss Joseph Coolidge from?

Aunt Mark, her & death.
merely state -
quantity of burnt paper -
Some particular of paper left
itself, beautiful materials,
copy of quilling etc. My father's &
the family - are they ever to see?
recollections of our dear grandpa's. His home to be profane.

Boston

Massachusetts.

other day from some of your Gayloe friends, two gentleman of that name, Mrs Julia Maria Dickenson Gayloe (who brought her album to get some of grand papa's & some of mama's writings this book proposed to be a book containing the hand writing of the great men of America) & Miss Virginia Gayloe. adieu dearest sister I will write certainly to the Bradfords & Lucy Ann Darby; I should like to know Isabel-la B's direction I wish you would tell it to me. your most affectionate sister. remember me to my friends & to Gose job's family.