

Berlin March 24 1819

Dearest Nicholas

This is to acquaint you <sup>with</sup> the receipt of your letter of the 12 of the month, containing the check which I immediately paid to Litch taking a receipt for the amount. About 144 dollars remain to be paid. your next remittance will therefore clear you, & leave you a few dollars in pocket. I am sure your heart will feel lighter when this debt is cancelled, & you will feel much more at your ease; do not however contract others.

I wrote to you on the 22 and gave you all the news I could muster.

But I did not tell you how domestic affairs were proceeding, that you may judge for yourself I enclose Fathers letter. I sincerely wish that he would purchase a sugar plantation or that he would convert his into one, as I feel convinced that cotton will be his vocation if he continues to cultivate it. I heard Mr Randolph say that cotton might be exported from the East Indies and sold here for 10 cents. The cause of this diminution, he attributed to the invention of the gin, the use of which in this was unknown until lately, which makes me think that we Americans, are the most ingenious & most inventive race in the world. I had no news that you had received but one letter from home since your stay at West Point. I think you must be mistaken, ~~but~~ number 4 is pretty near the same total of all that I have received during the same space of time. we cannot however impute their negligence to want of attachment. that has been proved to be of the purest and most sincere.

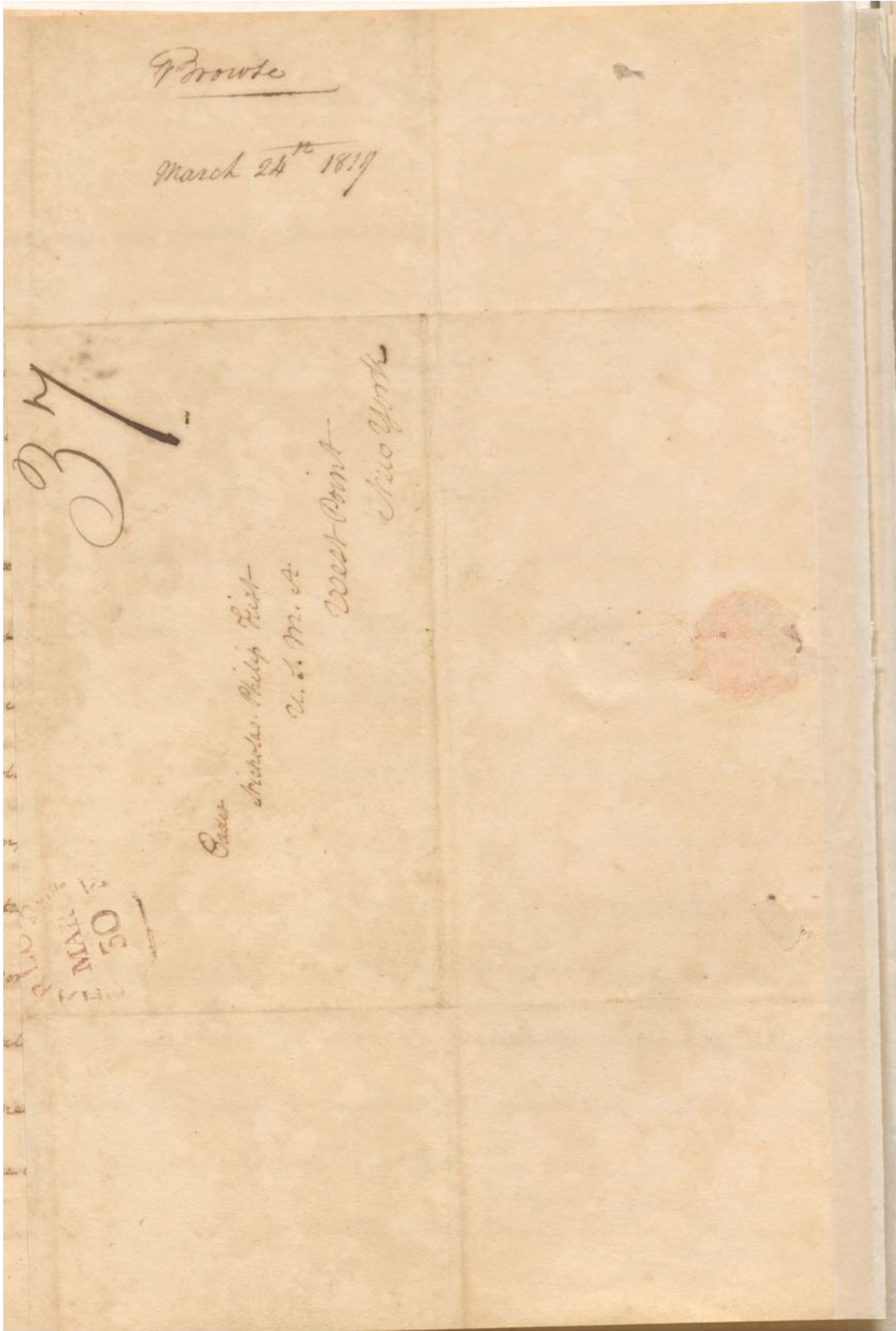
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I am glad that you are well pleased with your school & that you are going on so well in Mathe-  
matics, for which I believe you have a real taste and talent. I wish I could say the same  
of myself in the case of arithmetic, for which I affirm that I have neither genius nor taste  
but I hope the other branches of mathematics may accord better with my capacity. Tell me  
why you give the preference to Hutton over the great Bezout whom Mr Jefferson admires so  
much, is he more plain, more perspicuous, does he throw more light on the subject or what? I  
would be satisfied if I could form any reasonable expectations of going through arithmetic  
by next June, but curse the stuff I always get "les vapours noirs" when I look at it by one  
end of June, Princeton will I hope contain your most obedient servant who is heartily tired  
with waiting for the university of Virginia, situated as I am in this house with a parcel  
of fools, fools, blockheads, numskulls, asses, any epithet for them which can express my hearty  
contempt and hatred (I learnest) no more chance for studying here, than there is in the  
habitations of Satan. I how I will bless that day which will see me in some good room  
at some good college. The fact is that the university will not be ready in less than 5 years  
as all the funds are to be appropriated to building. I have heard nothing of Gage  
Cooper for a long time. I must end as I have nothing more to say - These hell cats will  
come in presently and drive every idea out of my head.

Vale at present

J. P. Trist





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