Your most affectionate and welcome letters, My ever dear Eliza, have been almost the only pleasures of the most affecting winter. Your separation from us has been a comfort even as it has spared me the anguish of witnessing your sorrow and when I have been most oppressed I have looked to your sweet and cheerful home as the heaven where one of my heart's treasures was beloved in happy ignorance of the misfortunes which threatened her family, but which part are perhaps gone by so far as relates to the pecuniary difficulties of your dear Grandfather. This lottery will certainly relieve them for the present. It will pay his debts and leave him Monticello for his life and the maintenance of his family, for which he says the crops of the year, great or small, must suffice upon that subject I have no doubts. The mill, the only certain source of profit, will be given up at once, and if the whole did not suffice, how with the same expensive establishment (for the negroes all remain) can a part only do? But enough for the day are the evils there of. we have had so many years 5000 $ per annum, interest to pay with out that, clear of debt, and a year before had, when the sum of the lottery will give us, we will see what can be done. I am very sorry the girls did not mention this scheme to you, but it was put in execution as soon as conceived, and besides being altogether engaged by more immediate and better causes of distress, we had no little confidence on any measure that was to change the steadily declining fortunes of our (seemingly) devoted family, without being sensible of it. I believe we had all become fatalists. My father never speaks of his affairs and if ever being about, the first hint excepted, we heard nothing more till we saw the petition in the papers. My last letter gave you some account of your father's air but in my anxiety about our immediate friends, who were involved with and for him I omitted then circumstances which in justice to My Dear and excellent son ought to have mentioned. your father's creditors had become so dissatisfied at the repeated delay, and deep pointment, which his low sanguine temper had occasioned (for it was evident to every body else that he was totally ruined and that the most judicious sale in the present state of the country would only pay his debts) that the most vigorous measures were about to be adopted. He secured his mortgages and deeds of trust and by the whole property, and forced sales would have swept the whole without discharging half of the debt over it. at this juncture my dear Eliza was chosen by all parties whose interest it was that the property should fetch enough to pay as much as possible. the creditors gave him a year to work
up the affairs of the estate and sell property, and such was their entire and absolute confidence in his honor that when from a most false and ill-judged calculation your father obtained an injunction and prevented the sale at the appointed time, they remained quiet, relying upon his integrity, and execution to sit the matter right; and he considered his honor so entirely pledged to them that if he had not succeeded in getting the injunction raised, he would immediately have brought every atom of his own property to the hammer, and prepared the documents. The case was so plain that the chancellor did not hesitate a moment in releasing the property by determined, however, instead of attempting to conduct the sale himself or with his father, which would have saved the Marshall's fees 2000$, to pay them and give up the whole business in his hands. The land was so injudiciously located in new row slips from the mountain to the road that although some of them would have sold at 20$ an acre yet the greatest part could neither have been sold or cultivated, under those difficulties, it was sold for 1000$ at 16$ an acre, and the rest would have been obtained for 10000$ or 20000$. Now the first sale was forced in consequence of the agreement entered into by him with the enforcers, with your father's consent and apparent approbation, and two of the agents, by having foreseen to foreclose the mortgage, as they were directed by the principals, and rendered themselves liable for the debt, 6000$, and the other 2000$, they willingly threw themselves upon the honor of granting the 12 months. Wickham and Stanwood were the two who gave him that proof of confidence, could he have acted otherwise than he did, without blame, but the sure sign, and he has been represented no more taking advantage of his father's desire to get possession of his property for half price and turning him adrift in his old age penniless. If, when he was first married he had taken his little property and gone off, his family would have lived in elegance and been now prosperous and wealthy, as is their family, who have struggled...
species of discomfort, and have submitted to affectionately and cheerfully to the privations which we have cost them, and have by no means shared with them. That almost as much gratitude is due for the manner as for the act itself, conceives if you can the complicated distress of my poor fellow under the circumstances, I have related dedicated to the most by cause of which you are partly aware to be distracted by the approaching ruin of his Grandfather. The property in Bedford upon which it was ascended could not be sold without a sacrifice so great as to defeat the object intended. It became necessary to sell the only property that would probably command a price and Monticello was devoted. I was so much delighted with the house at Poplar Forest that I offered it to Jefferson for $5000 to be paid in land or money, the arrangement made by him and fully executed as by me, was that we should go to Bedford, retaining only the necessary furniture for that house, and a small but effective household of horses and sell the whole property here and as many negroes as would pay the debt. It was a most bitter sacrifice to me all, but nothing to the amount of seeing my dear father turn out of his house and deprived in his old age of the few pleasures he was capable of enjoying, and to know his few remaining years would be emblazoned and shortened by the made an record from the cruel hand of pronouncing it to him; but the crisis was at hand, the thing would no longer go on in the town. They were, the consequence of a delay would have been complete ruin a few years later, when we should no longer have possessed a house to shelter us. It was paying too much for the privilege of living a few years longer at Monticello. I never saw Jefferson so much agitated as he was, and the situation of the rest of the family even down to the little children was really as if a recent death had taken place. To my father the shock was as we foresaw dreadful. He said he had lived too long that his death would be an advantage to his family, but Jefferson early convinced him that under existing circumstances it would independent of our love for him, be a calamity of frightful magnitude. That his life was as necessary to the interests of his grandchildren and myself, as it was precious to our hearts. The first shock over he became reconciled and we were trying to look forward to plans of future comfort and improve-ment although the subject was always uppermost in our thoughts yet we were led to communicate.
First intelligence of such an unwelcome subject as you dearest Ellen. To whom our affection has spared so much unnecessary sorrow for at this precise juncture. claying awake one night from painful thoughts the idea of the letting came like an inspiration from the realities of life. The moment it was light he got up and sent for Jefferson who immediately saw in all its bearing the immense advantage of the scheme. property enough sold at a fair value to pay his debts a maintenance for the family. The means of educating the boys, and a home for my self and children that might be unprovided for and last not least the undistracted presence of Monticello during his precious life. All that will be ensured and he make the crops adequate to our necessary expenses we must look to that being his to whom under heaven we are indebted for every comfort we enjoy, and to the lengthened life of my dearest dearest father who but for that precious gift of heaven Jefferson would have had his heart broken by his difficulties and ourselves reduced to abject want. I went to see your aunt Jane a week ago she is horribly altered but Harriet has proposed a plan which is also strongly advocated by Francis that may arrest the ruin to which they have been steadily advancing. She has this winter devoted her self to French and Spanish and has written to urge Lucy to apply her self to writing and the English grammar house rent in new London is cheap and provision also they propose taking a house the old academy and opening a school there Mr. Radford thinks that a good female school will command every young lady in two miles round or more Harriet is so confident and urgent that both father and mother have entered into her plans she proposes as soon as the weather is settled that Mary who will be the house keeper and her mother will go to Poplar forest Lucy and her self will remain at Ash ton and wind up matters there retaining only what will be necessary in their new calling and new abode every thing can be settled and disposed of and they will open school the first of October C. will be with you almost as soon as this letter she left Richmond yesterday and will stop only 2 days in Baltimore 1 in New York and both may.
To New York where also they will stay two more days after which you will see them both. Advise my beloved child, burn this miserable scrawl as soon as you have read it and do not at first sight throw it in the fire as the production of young old enemy. From one who is as usual in fair health and spirits and would certainly have neglected her self better than I have, but the letter is too long to write over again, I will do better the next time if I can, in the mean time perpendicular me with all a mother’s love to my dear Joseph and accept the same from your ever affectionate mother.

Dear Ellen,

I was so busy with self in my letter to Joseph that I forgot to ask him to procure me Hillier the prize of the following works, strongly bound in calf, and of a color other than the white he has lately lent us our law books dealt in. It does not suit our rough usage.

Chitty’s pleading—Chitty’s Criminal Law—Cruxell’s Digest of the laws of real property—
also to order for me from England the following:—Katham’s Dictionary of Norman French, 1774, 1vo. 8vo—
Law French & Latin Dictionary, 1798, 1vo. 8vo—Sidman’s Law Terms, 1854, 1vo. 12mo—
French Descriptive Chart—
with your best wishes to Joseph. By the way, Respects to Miss Cornell who
wrote your about the time this gets to Boston.

Monticello Apr. 5. 1826.

My dear mother in law,

to love this letter has not been delayed. We do not in prison,
care to contain a full justification of my brother’s sufferings from the
unfound claims of his enemies.

E. S. C.
My dearest male

April 1826

Mrs. Joseph Coolidge jun.

Boston

Massachusetts.

(My brother Jabez.)