

Richmond January 15<sup>th</sup> 1820

My Dear wife

Phil goes up to morrow on some business of the Coll and I can not miss the opportunity of writing since you complain in your letter to the girls that I have not written to them you wrote you had not received the letter I wrote by Wilson. I returned last night from W<sup>m</sup>burg and am mortified to say that the subject of your mother's Dower is still unsettled and I can not say how it will terminate; if we get anything it will be \$10,000. When I first come down the difficulty was to get them to allow anything at all. but after great difficulties and repeated & positive Denials I succeeded in convincing the creditors under the lien of Alexn, Sinton & co, that it was much to their interest & that \$10,000 out of the proceeds of the sale was not too much for them to allow and was as little as we could accept. This difficulty then arose. the college have the first lien and they are certain of receiving their money viz \$25,000 independent of the Dower, if they sell for cash the property, will not pay much more or so little that the next creditors will have no interest in making the compromise

for the Dowry. The <sup>Jefferson</sup> object of my visit to Wm Burg was to get the college to allow the property to be sold on a credit of one, two & three years from November next, this they will do if their interest of \$1750 every six months is punctually paid and this they expect from the creditor of the second lien to ~~do~~ which some of them say they will not, others are willing <sup>to do</sup> if from being all to the same mind the object may still be effected if it falls to the ground and your mother stands where she was

You can not conceive the trouble vexation & fatigue that I have had in this business and nothing but the most devoted affection & the warmest zeal in your mother's voice has enabled me to persevere in <sup>the</sup> teeth of difficulties which I have often thought ~~was~~ insurmountable. In addition to my troubles about the protracted negotiations for the Dowry, I found on my return from Wm Burg that Colt Cross horse had got entangled in the rope with which he was tied in the yard and threw himself on the hard gravel walk and I am afraid is utterly destroyed the accident happened last Monday and he has not walked one step since and if he ever is fit for any thing again it must be many months first.

Before I went to Wm Burg I was always in the expectation of getting out for home in two or three days at furthest and for that reason did not write and being at home sick as I was ~~still~~ and am still, your complaints to the girls about my not writing were very mortifying. When I have time to think of you and the