Monticello, August 15th, 1828.

Our late dinner has barely left me time to write this letter to you before it grew dark, but having delayed writing till evening, I have no alternative but making the best use of the little daylight that is left me and to infringe on the morrow morning which being Monday, I consequently must do to other purposes. I should be unwilling to do especially as I am just very industriously engaged in making up the cloth sent me by Joseph, for which I again return thanks. It is much better than the calico we got in Charlottesville. I think, with which it will render it cooler and more pleasant in this warm weather, and therefore I am impatient to get it made. Mrs. Mongirow is with us and will continue here some time longer, as her servants are all sick, and most of them with the measles, which she is anxiously keeping her children out of the way of. This complaint which has been prevailing through the neighborhood all the summer, has generally been followed by dysentery, but terminated fatally in a great many cases. The mortality from this cause alone has been much greater than usual, as these things are always exaggerated by report. Charlottesville and its vicinity are considered by people not more than twenty or thirty miles above of fever disease to be avoided as you would a pestilence. People are actually afrai! I have been told to pass through them.
on their way to the springs. There have been three deaths among the
students at the university. These three have been magnified to such
an extent, that it is thought the interests of the institution will be
seriously affected thereby. Though known we have kept clear of the
measles so far. I hope we shall escape the danger entirely, at any rate they
have been equally fortunate. Mrs. Dunford has two pretty children, and
the youngest is... The finest baby of eight months old, I almost
even saw. He is so sprightly & so good humoured, has such deep blue
eyes & such a fair complexion, and a quantity of curling auburn
hair that you rarely see on the head of an infant. How often I
wish I could see your two sweet babies added to the four that
are now about the house or roll & tumble on the floor in the
green house, which serves as a very pleasant little sitting room
for us. During a part of the day (when the sun does not shine
upon the windows) it is at all times a favourite play place for
the children. I do not remember whether we ever told you of the
change that has been made in the rooms which were once
filled with my dear grandfather’s books. A very slight change in
the apartments themselves has made a great one in our comfort
simply filling up the smaller of the two arches in a very rough
way, but in a manner however to do no injury to the arch
itself, has given us a delightful sleeping room, large enough

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to hold two beds & furniture enough to accommodate three persons
with ease & comfort; then we have the sitting room adjoining in
which two more can be comfortably lodged if the green-house, a
very convenient little appendage to our bed-rooms, the rooms
are laid off in a manner to suit our circumstance precisely I con-
siders very pleasant in themselves. I shall be pleased to give them
up when we go, and have thought with the pleasure of the probability
of possibility rather of pursing another winter here & watching the
enfolding of another beautiful spring over this delightful land.

spring is now my favorite season & has taken the place of yellow autumn
in my affection, I can scarcely tell from what cause, but
the face of nature, when the deeper herself in smiling loveliness
as she does here so often, inspires a feeling of interest that all
other things have ceased to excite, a feeling that approaches more
nearly to pleasure than any other sensation. I am capable of
my brother seems to think it uncertain whether this place can be either
sold or rented, and if it cannot be, we shall remain here I suppose
until another year, we are expecting a visit from Harriet & Lucy
this month but aunt Jane has given up all thoughts of coming
to Albemarle. their prospects are so gloomy & they are evidently
so very unhappy that it makes me sad to think of them. indeed
there is nothing in their future that themselves or their friends
can turn to with any hope, the desperate state of aunt Jane's
Health must be a source of unhappiness to her children which admits of no alleviation. poverty and hardships they might bear with patience but the too probable loss of a mother is a misfortune which nothing could enable them to look upon with calmness — mama desires to know of Joseph. He has received this letter will answer it. this I believe is the sum of all the messages I am desired to deliver. we are hoping dear that you are so well. John Colton told us you were looking very well when he saw you. he was much pleased with the attention he received in Boston. he seems actually in love with Aunt Coolidge. we have seen him but once since his return home though he promised to invite a very good neighbor your acquaintance Miss McMorris Smith. Mr. Dana Monroe called on us before the house was cleaned one morning & stayed twenty hours. I must bid you good night.