Richmond Dec. 15th 1817

I am very glad my dear Jane, that you opened Miss Goodwin's letter as you thought it necessary to write yourself to explain the circumstance. My only regret is that I should own the only letter I ever received from you to an accident not having so great an overrun to romance as you professor. I admired the ring very much; the name that you object to, appears to me much better than any motto whatever & the ring would not well have been entirely plain. Miss Goodwin declines her visit to Richmond & although her company would give me a great deal of pleasure, I am not sorry for this change in her plans as the town is insufferably dull, and I do not wish her to see it under such disadvantages. There are so private parties & the public balls are little better than Indian wood dances. Louisiana is beginning to get sadly tried and frequently asks if there are the delights of a town life.

Margaret has been several times to see us, but owing to the situation of the streets we have been only once on the hill.
Your Mother I thought looked very well, and Sarah handsomer than ever.

Aunt Randolph is much distressed at having forgotten your dress. She found so much to do upon her return home, that the hurry of business made her forget that article of your memorandum. She were not aware to whom a four dollar note belonged which she found in her purse. The note reads the that you gave it to her. If that I might be certain of pleasing you the note Margaret to choose the dress you have no doubt received them by this time.

I am delighted to hear of the forbearance & disinterestedness which my dear Aunt Morris continues to shew. I have been preparing Aunt Randolph to receive as much pleasure from her visit here, as the communications in Alabama. I have made no exaggerated statement, but I thought it well to drop a few hints of what would be expected. I fear, the quiescence will not be so entire, nor the obedience as implicit as I could wish; but of this more hereafter. I have written a long letter in answer to your blot, which I hope was not made off the margin there.

Address my dear Jane, my love to Jefferson & Pares to the little ones, write if you have time and let me know how you all go on—most affectionately yours. Ellen W. Randolph.
Mrs. G. is a perfect can crow.