

Apr. 1816

I cannot express to you my dearest Mother the delight your letter gave me. I had not heard from you for such a length of time that my spirits were beginning to fail and I was preparing with a heavy heart for a splendid party at Mr. Leslie's to night when your welcome packet arrived and dispelled all my fears and all my uneasiness. Its contents were extremely acceptable, when I left Washington I packed my funds very ample but my travelling expenses, a thousand little articles of dress indispensable in Philadelphia with many little unforeseen expenses nearly exhausted them in a short time and I had the horrors of poverty staring me in the face in a strange country far from "my dear friends and clan". — Mr. Baché at whose house I am staying is a brother of the doctors with whom you were so well acquainted and is one of the most pleasing and amiable men I have ever known. He married Mr. Dallas's eldest daughter and although not very wealthy they move in the first circle in Philadelphia. Mrs. Baché is a charming woman, whom I think you would like very much; she has been truly kind to me, and indeed although strangers have generally complained of the want of hospitality in Philadelphia I have had no cause to do so, for I have met with much polite attention from young and old. one of the most fashionable beauties has attached himself particularly to me and is constantly at my elbow. He is not remarkably clever, and I should not consider his attentions very flattering in my own state but here be the magic of fashion produces the same effects as in London and as Lady Jane Grandville says "acts like the goddess of Venus." This gentleman has the reputation of talents and is certainly not without them although they have been overrated. — Grand Papa's friends have been uniformly attentive to me. Mr. Corseau particularly so - he has been to see me, offered me his services as an escort to Baltimore when I wished to return, and also to ~~accompany~~ any where in Philadelphia or its neighbourhood, where I could find amusement or instruction. He is besides in the habit of speaking of me in a very flattering manner.

Mr Hart has been twice to see me. Dr Weston called and invited me to his house. I spent last evening with him and when I was going away he gave me a most affectionate kiss. Mr John Vaughan is spite of my remonstrances has worried himself by hunting half the city to find Spanish books for my amusements, which will never be looked into until I return home. These attentions from my Grandfather's friends flatter me exceedingly. Three or four nights after my arrival some young men gave Melinda Dallas and myself a serenade. The band played two or three airs which they ~~yesterday~~ knew were her favorites, and then suddenly struck up Jefferson's March this compliment was the most acceptable they could have paid me —

I visited the Academy of Fine Arts and saw Mr Blitzen's celebrated picture which has been the subject of conversation for several weeks past in the fashionable world. It is very large and has a great many figures; you must have seen a description of it in the newspapers. I was not disappointed in it but Mr Corcoran's remark will give you a better idea of its merits than any thing I could say. He says "each figure taken separately is good but that the artist has grouped them badly, and by so doing destroyed the effect of the picture. — The Museum I have visited once and mean to go again accompanied by Mr Corcoran when I shall probably gain a few more ideas than from my last visit. I enclose you my profile taken there, and said to be an excellent likeness. I have been more than a fortnight in Philadelphia and shall not leave it for some days. My visit to Baltimore shall be as short as possible ~~for I do not know~~ begin to long for home. To think that on the third of May I shall have been separated from you four months —

I walked yesterday evening with Mrs Sergeant to see the house you lived in with Mrs Hopkinson. It is occupied by tradespeople and to the eyes of common observers has nothing to distinguish it but its air of antiquity. For mine it had many attractions, and I gazed on it with mixed

feelings of pleasure and melancholy. I next visited Mrs. Horace's boarding house, and then the spot where my grandfather lived as secretary of state. I strained my eyes to get a distant view of his lodgings while Vice President, and I do not think that I ~~have~~ been as much gratified by my short sight of any thing in Philadelphia (not even the Museum, Academy, Schuylkill bridges and Pratt's superb green house,) as there now ~~handsome~~ plain building, which recalls so many recollections of former times and are associated in my mind with those on whom my fondest affections are placed. I have written as usual in haste and although the fashionable hour for visiting is past I am interrupted by the arrival of one of Matilda Dallas's bears when it is deorous in me to see. Give a great deal of love to the whole family and thank my dear father for his present. Adieu my dearest Mother excuse this hurried scrawl and believe me truly & affectionately yours that the first wish of my heart is to be with you again. E.W.A.

M<sup>r</sup>. T. M. Randolph

Monticello