Richmond, April 3, 1819

After a fortnight silence, my dear

Then I have taken up my pen to address you. If my letter
go by the very stage, in which I expected to have gone up to
myself, I am beginning to get weary of Richmond, or rather of the
disipated life I lead at present. I have never a moment to
play for reading, writing, or any other useful employment, my time
is divided between the business of drafting of the care of entertain-
ing company; I have been visited by almost every lady in Town:
Mrs. Wickham has called on me several times and given me a sol-

did party, I have also had parties given me by Mr. Mayer,
Mrs. Barbary, Mrs. Marx, Mrs. Price, Mrs. Page, Mrs. Nicholas, Mrs. Anthony,
and, Mrs. Hancock & others. Aunt Randolph has generally ac-
companied me to these parties which were all of them large & brilliant
except one or two), I have occasionally gone with Mrs. Riddle. At sometimes
at no lady but under a strong guard of gentlemen; I must not
forget to mention that I have been frequently attended by the
elgant Barksdale, and as that is an honor which he has never
yet paid to any other Lady, the Town has decided that my arms
I have throned his joy heart. Since these reports have been in circulation he has withdrawn himself almost wholly from my society. This does not distress me greatly, for although a young man of fine talents, excellent education & one of the most graceful persons of very beautiful faces I have ever seen, yet so inanimate & so perfectly the victim of amnesia that it destroys every attraction she might otherwise have, there are many young men in town with whom I had not rather associate than with.

Bardsdale, I never look on his beautiful but inanimate features that look as if they had been carved out of marble without remembrance lines in the Grecian

So coldly sweet, so deadly fair,
The start--for soul is wanting there.

I have become completely disgusted with William Rice, Charles Hays, Frederick Gilmer & John Barnwell are not first cousins.

Francis Gilmer & Mr. Upshaw are the first young men in Richmond, perhaps in the State.

There are two present in the house, a family from Philadelphia of the name of Ridgeway consisting of Mr. & Mrs. Ridgeway of two days. So little say, the oldest Mrs. Ridgeway is pretty, that is "coldly sweet, so deadly fair." I hope to leave this place on Thursday. I am so delighted, I shall be to see you my dearest mother once more, I never will leave you for so long a time again, for I cannot be happy without you. I have written in a great hurry if in some precipitation for Maude has stolen my inroads & I have stolen some Banknotes which must be replaced before he returns or the theft will be discovered.

Ation my dearest Mother, remember me to all. E.W.R.