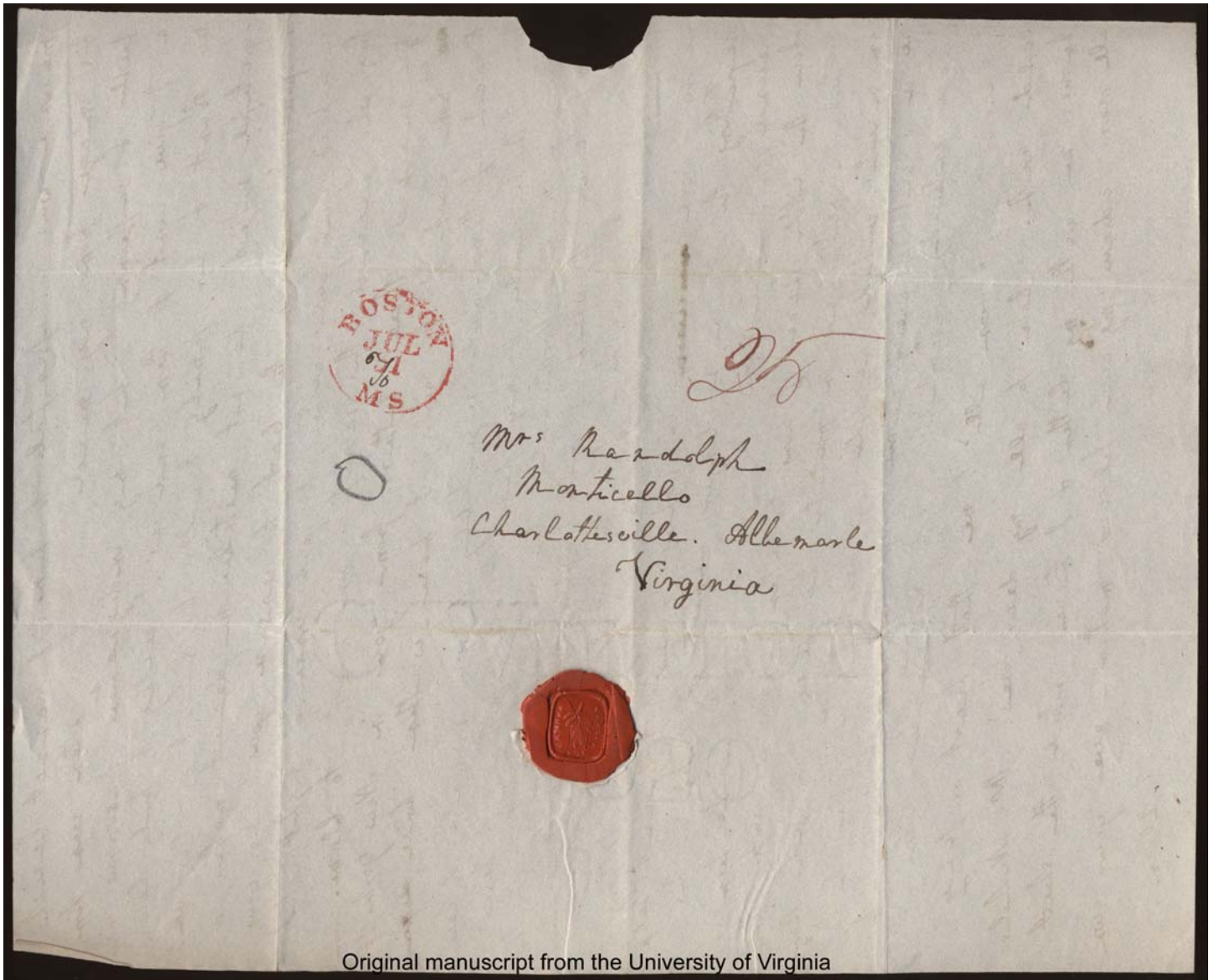


NH
Boston July 31. 25.

The post goes out immediately, dearest mother, but I will if possible write a line to let you know of our safe arrival here. We reached Boston in the stage coach between ten & eleven o'clock last night; the family had given up expecting us for that day & had all retired except Joseph's father who was still in the drawing room. His mother & sister were down however in left time then it would have been possible for my Virginia lady to accompany such a business - the whole family received me affectionately, but I remained with them a few moments only before Joseph & Thomas sent me off to bed; this morning I felt fatigued & feverish & determined not to rise by Elizabeth's advice until towards noon & I write this to you from my bed. I am not at all ill but only tired. This being Sunday the whole family have gone to Church leaving me in charge of the "bonne" a very respectable looking old lady. Elizabeth wished to remain with me herself, but this I would by no means consent to. I can as yet form no sort of opinion concerning Mr & Mrs Coolidge having seen them, & with my bad eyes only for a few moments by candle light. Her voice is exceedingly soft & her manner frank & nearly with Elizabeth I am quite charmed; she is not ^{perhaps} what we should call handsome, but the sweetest expression of countenance, the kindest voice, & the gentlest manners, I ever remember to have met with. She has been in to see me several times this morning & has quite won my heart. Susan & Anna will have nothing to say to me; Joseph brought Anna in & put her on my bed, but she turned her back & kept her head buried in the clothes until he took her away again. Thomas has been very kind to me on the journey. He is a strange, capricious boy; full of generous & gentlemanly feelings & principles but wayward & irritable;

quite a spoiled child - he will make an excellent husband
for he is good hearted & good-tempered, & his faults are nothing
in comparison with his virtues. I do not think he is fond of
me, but he treats me kindly, for I seem anxious that I should
be well accommodated. I found here a letter from
you of the 14. & one from Correlia of the 13. these have
made me very uneasy on my dear grandfather's account
& I shall feel low-spirited until I hear again. do not
leave him, my dearest mother; no possible claim which
Elizabeth can have on you, can stand for a second in
comparison with his health & happiness. I think the
Ash-ton family are exorbitant in their demands whenever
they would sacrifice his comfort & peace of mind to any
personal or selfish considerations. I would drain the blood
from my own heart to pay our pecuniary obligations
then, but I would not diminish my grandfather's
few pleasures old & sick & sad as he is not to clear
the debts of the congregated world, nor repay any earthly
obligation which we can owe to any earthly being. I can
scarcely forgive Francis for nor any of the rest of them
for their extravagant demands on your time & attention.
But enough - this is a subject which excites unkindly
feeling, & I wish to have none such towards any
I have left behind me; only I cannot help thinking
that domestic love itself may be carried too far when
it instigates us to sacrifice the good of others to selfish
considerations for ~~the~~ ^{our} objects of attachment.
had been necessary at Ash-ton, & it was necessary at
Monticello, & the fever into which Elizabeth had
been cooked, was a poor excuse for dragging you from
your sick & aged father at a time when your

presence was so essential to him. I cannot banish
his image from my mind, as I have often seen him
suffer & suffering, - but my indignation & sorrow rise
as I give vent to them and as I really & truly love
my Aunt & her family, I will be silent on this un-
-grateful subject - do not mistake me dearest mother, or
suppose I mean in the least to censure you! no you
sacrificed your own wishes to your sense of right, but
they who exacted this sacrifice are surely to blame. -
we received three letters from you in New York, &
^{of one} from each of the girls; I have written twice replies
to each of them and repeatedly to you. as soon as I have
time I shall write to my dearest grandfather, to Jane
Ellis & Maria Woodward. thank my dear C - for her
kind letter to which I will reply as soon as I can.
Aunt is at church - it is the first time I have been
separated so long from him & tired as I am of travelling,
weary & worn ~~and~~ & sighing for rest I cannot help
regretting that I can no longer expect to live in his
presence as I have done for some time past. he has been so
above the little shame of being too attentive to his wife, that
neither in public nor in private has he ever for more than
ten minutes quitted my side. he has set by ^{me} at table, lifted
me in & out of every carriage or steam boat in which
I have entered, escorted me to my chamber wherever
I retired to it, & been all to me that heart or fancy
could wish. love to all my dear ones. Mrs Nichols
kisses me with my letter & I have inked the sheet
all over. adieu my own beloved mother - ever your own
Ellen.



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