

Edgely Hill Aug 22nd 1831

This is your birth day, dear Virginia,
and sorry am I that you are not here with us as you hoped
you would be. I should have liked so much if we could have
all spent it up at Monticello together, as it is when we do go
there I fear it will be after Dr Barclay has taken possession
& it will be a sad sad visit to us; I rode up there yesterday with
Hannah & Lewis & I felt so sick at heart I was sorry I had gone; indeed
while I am in this neighbourhood I feel so constantly a painful
excitement that I am impatient to go away beautiful as every
thing is here & so suited to my taste, & then being the very scenes
where my youth has been spent. I found daddy cutting a
head stone to put at mammy's grave; there is something affecting
to me in these constant thoughts of her; he talks of her incessantly
tells one & over again her last sickness & death, detailing the min-
utest circumstances & with his odd manner & gesticulation; his health
too has been very bad & once or twice the idea crossed my mind
that he was not in his right mind. The servants do not hesitate
to say that he drinks (tho this he positively denies) & that all the

things he tells about her knowledge of her approaching end & the speeches she made on the occasion are mere romancing or else that he misunderstood her. I imagined what was not really so. I do not know how it is but this much is true that he certainly does think incessantly of her. He has given up work & does nothing I believe.

Old Bet is a greater sissy than ever. Mary is with her at present & Brown & herself wish old Bet to go to Lexington to live & that mama should support her there but we could not afford that & I suppose she will be in a fury when she hears it. Mama says if she goes to Washington to live with Melinda she will assist in her support there; but poor Melinda, I really should be very sorry that the comfort & happiness of her family should be destroyed by this vixen's tongue. Dr Barclay they tell me means to make his fortune by the cultivation of the vine & the rearing of silkworms at Monticello; people here are turning their attention to making wine & silk; brother Jeff. has a cask of wine which he is waiting patiently four years to see if it will be good; at present it is most nauseous to the taste tho pleasant to the smell. sister Jane intends rearing silk worms; I forget whether I asked Nicholas to enquire when & how the eggs can be procured. In our golden dreams before the sale of Monticello, silk worms & a grape farm were what we had determined

on when we were sick enough to buy it & want them to live but
alas! alas!

Hannah wrote you her determination to go to
Washington with Mr Kane & Dr Langdon; we have not heard
from them since she wrote, so do not know whether they still
continue in their plan of setting out day after to-morrow; brother
Jeff. is gone to the University to dine to day & I will keep my
letter open untill he returns when we shall learn what they
are going to do. it will not go out by tomorrow's mail in con-
-sequence & if they go wednesday Hannah will take it.

How very impatient for you to come; it will not be
more than a few months now before some of us return; I shall
write first & one or both of the girls with me & I think you had
better let us take one of the children & you can follow after
with mama when we have got the house ready to receive
you. adieu dearest Virginia I promised to draw something
in Hannah's album & have to write a letter to Mary Stearns
also & it is late in the day. kisses to your family & love & accom-
-panies to other friends. We have not heard any thing of the
Cuthb's since soon after their arrival at Montpelier.

G. F. H.

The dutch dictionary is on the lower shelf of the book shelves as at
the door opening into the passage & on that side next the sun door.
Bring your childrens patterns also. M^{rs} Funglison is to stay
with us while the Dr is away. We have been thinking of J^{ames}
trying to get a cler's ship - keeping it only until he had sufficient-
ly studied his profession. Since I wrote this mamma told me she has
sent a messenger to P. about it.

V D²
Cavertown
August 25th
By

M^{rs} M. P. Trist

Washington.

D. B.

Mama
will assist

24. Hannah will be with you on Sunday morning; Dr. D. has
given up going farther than Mt. Madison.
Mary Ann Wyden was married last Saturday, (this is Wednesday).
Jim says will you look in the bottom drawer of the chest of drawers
in the little room & bring her work basket to her.