

Boston March 20th 1827.

Four weeks have nearly elapsed since I received my dear Virginia's letter which I meant to have answered sooner, but have had not a moment to leisure. (as usual,) for my life is a very troublesome one & my time so frittered away in little occupations & interruptions that I have scarce a moment to devote to any species of recreation or pleasant employment. my servants torment me to death by their laziness, insolence, ingratitude & pickiness. I have changed my coach three times since mamma has been with me, and am at this moment preparing to part peacefully with every domestic in the house. my good Fanny has fallen into weak health & is going into the country - Sarah having petted herself & me almost into cox-summptions has at last resolved to try her powers of tearing a home see else, whilst I scarce know whether to rejoice most in my deliverance from her ill-humors or to regret the loss of a very good nurse for my baby. The Cook being engaged to another lady, only came to me pro tem & he not more than a month to stay, & Wilder (whom you must know, I think, by name) thinks he cannot do better than marry Fanny & fix himself in the country upon his father's farm, so that soon, he too will be taking his departure. now is not such a prospect of domestic trouble & fluttering ~~see~~ for any woman with one brat hanging at her heels & another in expectation. however it does no good to complain, & "How to make the best of it" is a lesson which sooner or later must be learned by all who wish to pass through life without losing sight of it's slipping whilst gazing too intensely on it's troubles. my present poppet is such a source of hopes & comfort to me that I do not allow myself to rejoice at the thought of another, although I should certainly have preferred to defer the arrival of the little sister another year. Talbird of babies

reminds me to tell Correlia that Mrs Sam Eliot (who was married during her visit to Boston) is the joyful mother of a young Keiseff. Joseph's father has returned from Washington having made acquaintance ^{there} with Aunt M. & my friends the Vails. He arrived on the 14th & the 15th, being his birth day, the whole family dined by invitation with us, & the next night mama & myself went to the theatre to see the celebrated Mackeys in Macbeth; I rose against my will, for I have lost all relish for such pastimes. Mrs Mackey was however great & mama much pleased & this ^{being} was the only satisfaction I anticipated I was not disappointed. Mama is just now reading a letter from Papa dated ^{During} in Georgia; he is staying at the house of a Mr Spalding with whom he is much delighted so far. He speaks of the oranges already in leaf, of asparagus served at table, with several other ^{a rich man of the country} ~~stateras~~ of this delicious climate, whilst I, who am so ^{thoroughly} ~~thoroughly~~ alive to this species of enjoyment, look out upon the ground covered with new fallen snow & ring the bell for fresh coal upon the fire. to give the old one his due however we have had passable weather enough for the last two or three weeks, & I hope soon mama will be able to take something like regular exercise - her health is decidedly much better than in the beginning of the ^{winter} ~~weather~~. the great drawback to her comfort has been I think the wrangling of the children whose incessant disputes keep her vexed & uneasy. it is strange that behaving so well as they do at school, they should resume all the Randolph as soon as they get home. Septimia has I think been seriously injured by the society & example of Susan Coolidge who is a very bad girl at a very bad age; I fear you will all find that ^{Septimia's} ~~her~~ winter in Boston, along with a portion of geography & arithmetic, has given her a great many bad habits of self-sufficiency & insubordination - this of course is between ~~yourself~~ ourselves -

(I hope & believe ^{A her dose} the senate of Louisiana should have confirmed to mama the gift made her by the House of Delegates, this second \$10,000 with the success of the Lottery Bill, will I hope put an end to all receipts for the school which I have never been able to ~~procure~~ ^{consider as so inevitable as you all suggest to do,} ~~procure~~ ^{procure} for. at the same time the preparations you have ~~also~~ made for it will be useful to yourselves as well as to the little one you have had under your care. The habit of mind induced by the hard campaign of the winter, the economy of time & the forced attention to unpleasant but useful details, will prove of eventual benefit to your ^{dearest} Virginia, & little Martha will ^{aptly} reap the harvest of your painful efforts. Thank Heaven this winter is over, & I trust we ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~at liberty~~ ^{are at liberty} to hope at least that the "winter of our discontent" may now be made summer by the glorious sun of better prospects.

We are waiting rather impatiently for old Willard to go on with work which is ~~truly~~ the best piece of workmanship I ever saw but I think ~~the~~ ^{the} convenience to the University, then of the ~~facility~~ ^{facility} afforded us of sending on the engravings for Harriet & Louisa & the books for that. but I am sadly disappointed in them last. I got materials for four, three calico & one white cambie. two only are ^{done} ~~finished~~ & they are made very indifferently & by no means answer my expectations, a third will I think be finished, but the fourth I doubt whether the superiors will be even put into it. The wretch of a marta maker has had them a month & the sketches of those that are done are out of hail of each other, what makes ~~the~~ ^{the} delay more insupportable is that they ~~are~~ ^{are} almost entirely plain, & have not an hour's work in them.

But the "canaille" of Boston think they honor you by doing anything for you at all, even though they are more heavily paid than any tradespeople upon earth, & there is no alternative but to submit to their insolence or dispense with their services. The books are I fear all too short unless ~~Martha~~ ^{Martha} continues to be something of a

pigmy; but should you find them so, an additional pill or letting down
the tucks (which are not half as deep as I ordered them) will proba-
bly make them of sufficient length. I am promised a pretty apron
pattern which I shall send along with the proths - my darling
suffers much in teething, she has six little pegs, which have cost
her six spells of sickness. (I hope you will be more fortunate
the rest of us are doing pretty well, I to be sure am always
ailing, but that of course. Farewell my dear girl, excuse this

Mrs Nicholas P. Fort.

Tahton
near Charlottesville
Allemande
Virginia



rumied, interrupted apology person letter. Mama is writing one
letter worth sending but it is unfortunately not half printed & the
post boy is blowing his horn. you were quite right to say nothing to
I about the outrageous table & to tell me what you did. I knew
not that mama had mentioned it to you - I never had a thought
of depriving her of it but was exceedingly anxious to obtain it in case
of it's being otherwise disposed of. I think I seem to forget the number of
mementos which he already possesses, all the manuscripts of every des-
-cription, the watch, gun, sword, with many presents received at different

if this is the only standard by which I estimate the value of these relics. I am very glad of the Washington particularly on acct of the crown, & the Franklin I am really delighted to have, & offer my sincerest & most grateful thanks to my old friend Mr. Nelson for this act of delicate attention & kindness. I am afraid my dear Nicholas will think from Joseph's letter that his exertions in our service have been ungraciously returned, but I assure him of our gratitude & warm affection. Farewell my dear sister, love to all & kisses for the babies. to the old ladies, remember me kindly. I shall write to C. & Mary as soon as I can. is not I am thinking about producing a little manuscript for

times. his rights however are certainly far
better than any body, else except mama's
own & I have at least the invaluable
writing desk, & the precious spectacles which
I owe to your disinterested affection. Dearest
Virginia, & prize above every thing I possess
all that I had myself received except
the desk & watch & a few letters are
buried in the ocean, but I picked up a few
trifling scraps of paper on which he had
written & an article or two of his writing
which constitute my treasures. the Presia
table I do not care so much about. it had
no particular connexion with him