

Boston: Feb 8. 1820.

My dear Mother,

You will know by letter from Ellen how very anxious we are that Cornelia should visit us; and one act not long since, (from dear Virginia,) made us happy in the prospect of soon seeing her. our motives for refusing it, at this time, too, you well know; and then, I am sure, will excuse our importunity. we did indeed fear that some objection would be made to the escort we offered; but 'tis not unusual with us for a gentleman, and that a young one, too, to act as 'guide to ladies both married and single,' and this without infringing any of the 'convenances' of society. however, we were glad to hear that Jefferson himself would accompany his sister, both from the great pleasure his presence would give us, and because we well imagined that Cornelia would prefer him to a stranger. we had been looking forward, therefore, to more positive information as to the time of her departure, and were beginning to think of preparing the two chambers for their use, when Cornelia's letter of this morning removed all our uncertainty; for she speaks very seriously of her doubts whether she shall be able to come at all! as we earnestly desire her to do so, you will excuse me, my dear mother, if I presume upon your regard for me, and speak plainly. from what I hear from Ellen the objection to Cornelia's visit is the expense it would incur upon you, amounting you believe to 300. £.; and this is a great mistake. I am certain that 100. would be more than enough. the expense of journeying from Washington to Boston is not quite 24 £.; that is if you do not linger in the large towns on ye. way; how much it costs to go from Monticello to Washington, I know not, but suppose about 8 £.; so that one might comfortably pass from Monticello to Boston for less than 35 £., every thing included! on arriving, she would be in a sister's house, whose health does not permit her to go much abroad, and where every trinket and article of ornament or use would be entirely at her service; during the two or three days which she would be compelled to remain at home to recover from the fatigue of the journey, our milliners and mountebanklers could do for her whatever Ellen and herself should deem indispensable: and this would be, believe me, very very little - a bonnet, perhaps, and a shawl, which could be had cheaper with us than with you; and I suppose of a later fashion: very thing else might, and would be as if we were all at Monticello.

where they would not hesitate, I am sure, each to use the things of the other. But there is another difficulty — the tobacco, if sold for money, must be sacrificed: let it ~~do~~ ^{not} be stored in Richmond, or elsewhere, till Jefferson shall advise the sale, and be able to effect it without loss, and draw upon me, immediately on receipt of this, thro' Col. Peyton, for such sum as Cornelia may require, and while she is with us permit me to be her Banker; and, when we do return to Montreal, you shall reimburse me, if you please, or defer it longer; or, if you will not consent to this — consider the tobacco as a consignment to Thomas Bulfinch &c, of wh. thence, I am Principal, and do as all who make consignments, draw upon us for $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{4}{4}$ of the whole value; and, when it arrives, we will have it sold, or kept until it brings its full price: here, there is no chance of its being sacrificed; because, in a large city, there are always many ready to buy when an article is not above the current value. — In this way, we get rid of one difficulty: draw upon me, either in my own name or that of Thomas Bulfinch &c, and send the tobacco from Richmond, by the packet; or draw upon me, in my own name, and have the tobacco sold there, when an opportunity offers, and replace the money whenever you see fit; during the summer, or the next fall: more I could say, but dare not; 'tis the suspense of Cornelia which makes such a comfort to Ellen, and affords so much pleasure to myself, that the obligation would be wholly ours. One circumstance gives me great regret — that while we are waiting, back and forward, weeks end weeks days; and each day creates a new concert with that Cornelia was already with us —; for tho' (I speak truth!) Ellen's health and spirits are good, — better than I dared to hope — yet it would be a share to her, and a great relief, to have a letter from her: my own family are very solicitous that she should save the society of one so dear to her; and I do not believe that either Ellen or myself feel a more lively joy at the prospect of Cornelia's coming than my mother did, and my sister, and my Aunt: but there yet remains another difficulty which I did not foresee; Cornelia mentions it as by no means certain that Jefferson will come north on business; and, in this case, what can be done? my own Bro. writes me that, after viewing Nichol's letter at Washington, he wrote to him to again urge compliance with our request; and to offer to delay his return; but the answer to this letter, also, I fear was unanswerable, and — on this ^{case} — Thomas will come directly homeward, not less disappointed than all of us. — He had ^{the} ~~the~~ Copper Tax at a loss. —

What needed was written last night; and Ellen has since reminded me that her cousin Mann, and his wife, are to have a steamer for New York on board. If Cornelie will accompany them, I will provide her a suitable seat from New York; or, if unaccompany, will myself go and meet her.

I hope, my dearest mother, you will not think that we press this subject too far; we should be sorry to shew anything like a trifling degree of importance. but as we are very anxious to have Cornelie if she can be spared, our object is to do away such objections as exist only from a mistaken estimate of the necessary expense, or from the difficulty of immediately raising the small sum requisite. I would not have my dear girl sacrifice her little all for my selfish gratification, but if she can at once accomplish the end of making her visit to Boston & yet, by a little delay in the sale, get a fair price for her crop, it would give me such pleasure as will be understood by you my dear mother, & all who know what it is to be parted from home & family. If Cornelie's presence be necessary for your comfort & that of your family I will not urge her coming to me by another word, but if she can be spared I should much regret that any last obstacle which can be got over, should deprive me of the comfort of her society, & her of the change of scene which will add at least some variety in her life. E.W.C.

I change the subject abruptly to say that the piano is about to arrive in Richmond, (the vessel wh. brought us the ship men, "dick" &c) and is insured. That a box aboard the same vessel contains the kick, tongue & sounds for Grand Rose, and a fine tierce. The cask of Mandy wh. he ordered, of very good quality: a smaller box contains books for him Ellen, and a small cask contains another cask containing about 12 gallons of very excellent old French brandy, such as is ready to be procured, and which is an offering from 3d P. to 4d P. and Nickleas. If I am not deceived in its quality it is too good to make today for the things of third could also last at Ponticello, and should be wanted for those who need it there. The vessel has not yet sailed, but I have written to Col. P., and sent bill of lading - and now, dear mother, venture to breathe again, having done all I could to insure the safe arrival of these in Richmond -; but Nickleas had better write to Col. P. and direct whether it shall be sent by land or water; and whether the casks shall be enclosed each in a third, to prevent suspicion: I am now as anxious to hear of the safe arrival of these things, as ever suspicion used to be told that the piano was done, and on its way. addio, si c'è la benedica, made mia.

