

Hammington 2^d of May 1819

My Dear Nicholas

I received yours of the 17 April last evening to hear from you always gives me pleasure, but your long silence argu'd no good to my eyes, the natural conclusion was that you were either sick or indolent for I could not suspect you of want of feeling towards a friend. Nathan whose chief happiness is centered in the only representative of a beloved husband and son, and I am sorry to tell you that your letter was not calculated to give joy to my heart. I had flattered my self that your diligence and general conduct would have done honor to your name but you appear to be indifferent to the good opinion of the Masters and hold those in contempt who are assiduous in their attention. Their tutors now can conceive it degrading so to do. you ought to take into consideration that every one has not had the advantages that you have had, in seeing good Company & to their going there for the advantage of getting an education. Instructors, the Seminary was established for that purpose and we are on a footing in that respect, perhaps the Parents of these young Gentlemen may have borne arms in defence of their Country and altho they may be ignorant in many respects they must have some talents to gain the good will of the Professors and believe me my Dear Child that ~~an~~ arrogant supercilious manner can never insure respect, to behave with propriety is essential to your own respectability, in all seminaries you must

be subordinate to those who are placed over you and that school
being a military establishment may perhaps be ruled with
more strictness than is common in most colleges. but as
you were not forced to go there you shoud make it a point
to conduct your self in a manner to give satisfaction to
annoyate nothing for having been born in Virginia it is very
immaterial what our birth or birth place we have any thing to
boast of, with regard to family or connections and a persons
own merit must insure him respect on he will never obtain
it, I am sorry that Mr Elcott has withdrawn his attention because
I believe he felt interested in you from the knowledge he had of
your Father who always obtained the approbation of all the
tutors that he had any thing to do with Mr Elcott is advanced
in years and may be capricious but he certainly has a claim
to the respect and attention of every one the general character
of the Virginians as students are not very much admired or
respected and the Carolinians still less their extravagance
and dissipation brought Princeton into disrepute no student
ought to feel him self independent no more than a apprentice
who is bound to learn a trade, it grieves me that you should
adopt those high notions of independence especially while you
are so backward in your learning, it mortified me in the
list you sent your Brother to see your name among the lowest
in the ranks of Students I am sorry to be inform'd by your self that
that you have not employ'd your time to much advantage lately
your time for improvement will be quickly pass'd the 2^d of next
month you will enter your eighteenth year and if you are
not industrious I fear that you will make but a poor figure
there one hard times and I fear it will be difficult for your
Father to meet his expences even if he makes a good crop, how

much do you expend beside what you are allowed from the
establishment, I never heard any thing about the Stockings you
left with Mr Brown for me I was at the Store about 2
weeks since your Brother was in Charlottesville yesterday is still
at the Mountain Connerdie and James accompanied their
Grand Father to Poplar Forest and they returned yesterday
the Colonel Ellen, and Virginia, were not at home yesterday
unless they returned in the evening which is probable as the
Cant City to morrow I make no doubt your Brother writes
to you after, I wrote to you on the 9th of Feb'y and on the 24th
also on the 9th of March and the 9th of April, Mr Dime's is getting
quite hearty Mrs Dime's also, my own health is not the most firm
in the world being as the Negroes say very sanified but I can eat my
allowance I want very much to go to the Mountain and Thos to
be there in the course of this month your Cousin Mary and the
family were well on the 5th of this month Rachel wrote an
affectionate letter to your Brother in answer to one he
to him I wish could find time to write to them, I begin to long
to go to Bedford tho I know I shall not be as well accommodated as
I am here, but I am always afraid of meaning out welcome the
I have no reason to be dissatisfied every body treats me kindly
but it increases my expenses being here if only in giving the servants
who are attentive to me it is a great misfortune to have a disposition
to be liberal when one has not the means to gratify it. I should be
sorry to incubate those feelings in my Grand Sons which was
injurious to their Father and indeed to all my family but it is the
least of the evils to be too liberal rather than too parsimonious, I got
a letter from Mrs Freeman to day she mention'd that Capt'n
Reynolds has become quite a maniac have unfortunately has
those three sisters been, poor Carmick Rags and Reynolds
the latter I have understood was brought on by immoderate God bless
you and give you firmness to resist all evil propensities in my fervent prayer
E. Grist.

I saw in the papers that De Witt Clinton Governor of New York
is married to a Miss Jones. I want to know if it is one
of your Father Phil's sisters Mr. and Mrs. Dixons being
to be remembered to you, and I wish you would present my
respectful remembrance to Mr. Ellicott

2^d May 1814

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Mr. Nicholas - P. Trist
West Point
New York

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