

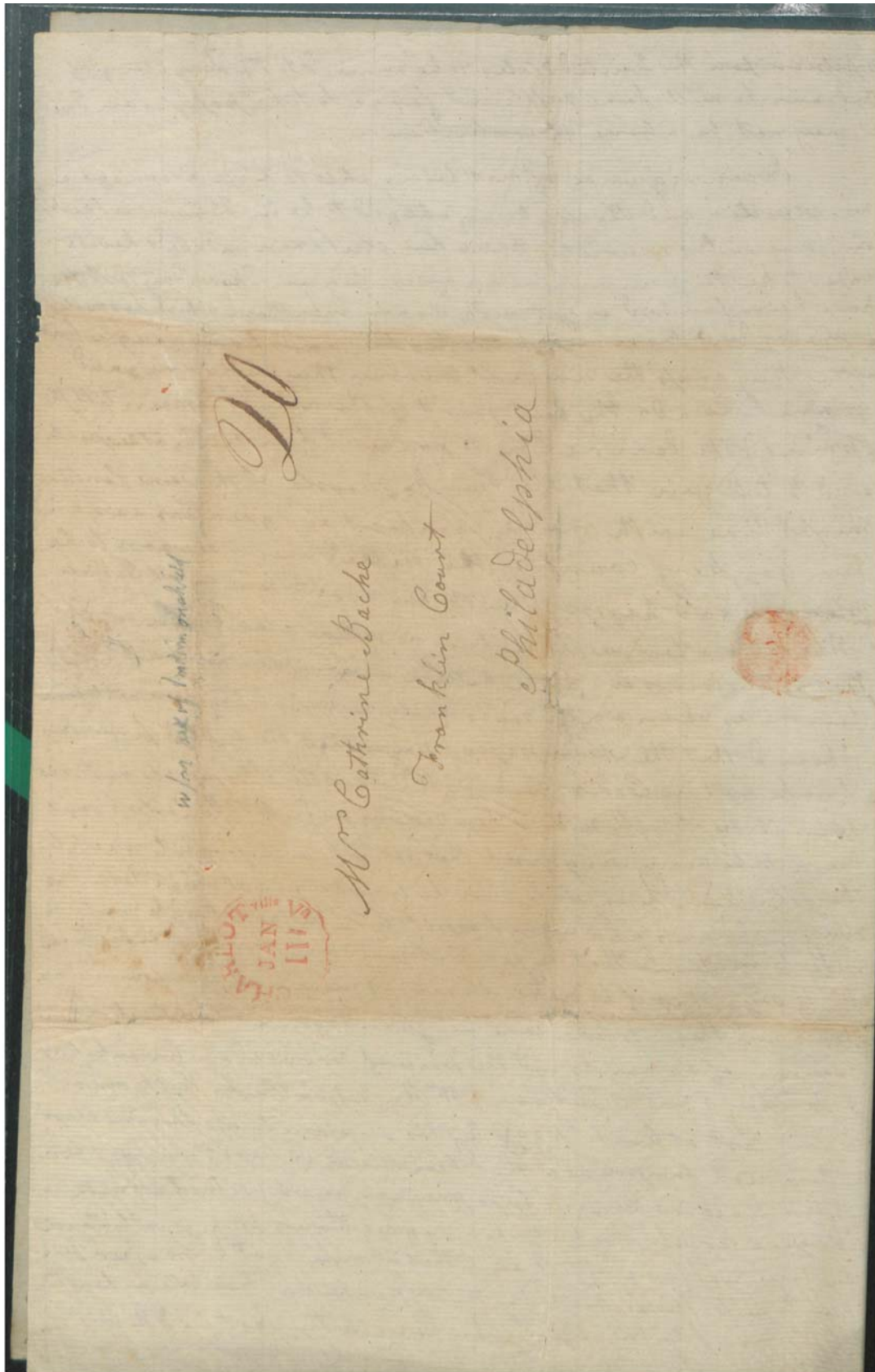
Monticella Jan 7<sup>th</sup> - 18

I am afraid My Dear friend that I shall tire  
your patience by forcing so many of <sup>my</sup> scribbles upon  
you, but good griefs after wounds it self - had you been  
less kind and discovered less feeling toward a distressed  
unfortunate family you might have escaped as well as  
many other of my acquaintance with only an occasional  
acknowledgement of my remembrance, but an admiration  
of sentiment on subjects that interest us, has an attractive  
power over the mind which makes it pleasing to converse  
the distant from you your kind favor covering me  
from my Darling Nicholas you may be sure gave me  
great pleasure now did it need an apology for I have  
no secrets that I would wish hid from you particularly from  
that quarter, I am not surpris'd that the great black seal  
alarm'd you for I felt some perturbation the display  
was his ambition to show the family seal which being  
the eldest has become his property - poor fellow if  
that is all his inheritance it won't benefit him much  
he was happy when he wrote and has undoubt'dly improved  
in his writing and if it pleases the Almighty disposer  
of all things to spare their Mother and prosper her  
undertakings I have hopes they will be respectable characters  
I think M<sup>r</sup> Paine must have allude'd to the Plantation  
at Watchet as there never was any dispute about that  
at Mansbach and the Original Deed must be in M<sup>r</sup> Mays  
possession for I saw them in his cabinet since Brousses Death

and the Spanish Government never granted any off it either  
a man has since located 200 acres of the tract. I should not  
suppose there could be any difficulty as many are yet living  
that knew it belonged to Mr Trist and if there had been any  
obstacle I presume many would have been apprised of it  
when she made her visit I wish Mr Pindexter by his  
negligence may not have lost the papers that Brouse left  
in his possession respecting the watches land Mr Trist made  
the purchase when that country was in possession of the British  
Government the deed was not to be given till Judge Bayhead  
of the payment of the Bill upon England the original Patent  
with a great seal was in Mr Trist's possession and was left  
with his Executors when I appointed Mr Dandour my Attorney  
I desired that he might have it as he was appointed  
General under the Spanish Government - Judge Bay sent  
the Deed of conveyance by his Brother who did not arrive  
till after Mr Trist's Death and by his carelessness the deed was  
lost, but he gave me a note in the presence of Mr Dandour  
acknowledging having been charge'd with it and a promise  
of its being renewed, a man settled upon it without any title  
want was under a Spanish Grant located by a friend of Mr  
Dandour's and he must have known when he surveyed it  
that it belonged to us as it joined his own plantation and the  
family were heirs to Mr Raps who took up a great deal of  
land in that neighbourhood however fortunately Judge  
Bay arrived at Watchee while Brouse was there  
and he wrote me that matters could be easily arranged  
the Commissioners on the disputed titles were then sitting  
and their award was in our favor I suppose we  
shall be chased out of that plantation by villainy or negligence  
but as to the other I can't entertain a doubt but Henry is  
in quiet possession, but am nevertheless anxious to hear from  
him I see that Skipwith is elected Governor of that District  
by the people but it will be like Sanchez's Government of short  
duration as Claiborne was vested with power to take an

possession for the United States to be annexed to the Territory of Orleans he will have sufficient force to take possession I think it may not be a house of contention -

In consequence of not being able to hire a carriage as we expected and Beachy being obliged to be in Henry on the 4<sup>th</sup> and my sisters anxiety to see her children induced her to undertake the journey in an open Gig on Thursday last they have been favored as yet with warm weather which has melted a pretty deep snow which makes the roads but a dangerous kind after they cross the river at Warsaw they will have good gravel roads the best part of the way I remain till the Spring I desire I me to present your kindest respects and to tell you that she thinks people of the same fortune might live with more comfort and greater ease in her Yankee country, tho she had every reason to be pleased and happy with her visit here and at Colonel Manwells for we have been no where else I mean that Mr Simons is a little better I expect they will send a few me as soon as the roads will be passable I have not before I heard that the News paper says that the yellow fever has broke out in Cadiz poor Mr Shackley I hope she will not been it as it will retard her recovery Mr Randolph dont seem to be very sanguine that Mr H. will profit much by the situation he is placed in he is not a man of much talent and very credulous and very hospitable the last letter he wrote his wife he mentioned that he had 10 Americans living in his house Mr H. says that if he made money it would all be consumed as she is not there to take care and guard against the extravagance and vagueness of servants and the price of provision is exorbitant a Turkey 5 and 6 Dollars Mr Randolph thinks that he must have lost at least 7000<sup>l</sup> by his shipments of Menino sheep I am not surpris'd that her mind is kept uneasy from it is a serious thing to be so precariously situated with so large a family but all her connections seem greatly interested in her welfare Mr R. says that it would not be proper for her to go to those keeping the expence and trouble in her state health would be dreadful My love to the Doct and the children and believe ever your affectionate friend C. Trist



Original manuscript in the Southern Historical Collection, Nicholas Philip Trist Papers, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill