

God bless you again and again Dear Ellen. excuse & burn this slowly & send  
Washington Feb. 22. 1831

You have some reason to complain of us Dear Ellen but not as much as you seem to think. a slight sketch of our family matters will explain the thing better than any other way that I can devise, and would force even Miss Brigitina to acknowledge that there may be cases in which "energy can not do every thing". I staid from church on Sunday for the express purpose of writing to you, I began a letter that was so often interrupted that some of the news you could be for it was finished, some circumstances changed the posture of our affairs, & finally a visit of a part of the family to Alexandria and a rainy day coming to gether, I have ventured to throw it in the fire and risk a new one. Dear little Jefferson has been dangerously ill as are many other children of the city at this time. they say it is cold, but the lungs are much affected, I cannot help suspecting it is what you call a lung fever. this is the 6<sup>th</sup> day with him, a dose of calomel on the 4<sup>th</sup> broke the alarm violence of the disorder, but he is still though better, ~~and~~ extremely ill. he has had many attacks this winter and always requires as much nursing as a baby in the first year. we have but two female servants one a ~~cook~~ washwoman who has an assistant every Monday only. Ellen the nurse is rendered still more slothful & helpless by ill health, we apprehend pregnancy, she is our sole chamber maid, & nurse. we have kept only one fire below stairs, <sup>in</sup> our little dining room in which also we have received our company, and a fire in my room & the nursery. Harriet sleeps with me, Cornelia upon the sofa in my room & Mary & Septimia in the little room, Doeping & undreaping in my room, which operation is also repeated one or oftener for morning visits received or paid, parties occasionally & &, you remember that we are without closets or furniture for putting away our clothes, all these circumstances



in a family of eight grown persons going pretty much in the company with few servants and two sickly children crowded together in a nutshell of a house are certainly very unfriendly to regular habits of any kind, particularly in letter writing that requires some thing like quiet. I mention these circumstances not from impatience or to complain, the thing is irremediable while the cold weather lasts, and we seem by habit consent to bear patiently with them as a transient evil which the return of spring will considerably lessen, but to show you Dear Daughter how without any indifference to what you we have been prevented from expressing <sup>by letter</sup> the thoughts and affections constantly recurring and talked of, though not committed to paper. — I received a letter from Mrs Morris a few days since, in answer to two of mine, ~~bravely~~ acknowledging the receipt, <sup>of them</sup> but carefully forbearing to allude to the subject of them (Mr Sparks's request to see Mrs M's papers) ~~but~~ enclosing one from Dr Hopack, alluding to some conversation between them, in consequence of which he advises her to employ him, <sup>Mr Sparks</sup> to write Mrs Morris's life as a person entirely competent &c. we may infer from that that she took the subject into consideration at least, but what the result of her ~~undetermined~~ <sup>undetermined</sup> ~~might~~ be, no one could pretend to determine.

Mr M. Cleod's school is for boys, less advanced than George's; but he recommended very highly a Mr Hughes as entirely competent to prepare him for West point or the University, and I determined to send him there, but Jefferson has pressed so much his going to Virginia that when the term commences again the first of March I shall send him. I have been strongly advised to chuse the navy in preference to the army for him, as a more certain provision, and infinitely more respectable & agreeable. what Mr Archer who pressed it very much upon me said, <sup>was</sup> that in the army he would probably be sent to some post to the westward to waste his youth in the road



and always, liable <sup>contrast</sup> to bad habits from idleness & bad company  
 delectable manner ~~subject to fall in~~ to bad habits from idleness & bad company  
 where as in the navy they were generally in service, and had opportunities  
 of visiting every part of the world. & he, George inclines for the latter. time &  
 circumstances will I presume decide the question for him, in the meantime I will  
 try and give him a good education and leave the rest to him who cares for us all  
 a paragraph appeared in the Telegraph, headed "a Memorial from Mrs Martha  
 Randolph sole surviving descendant of G. Jefferson praying relief &c." you may  
 conceive the horror it excited in the family. Nicholas went immediately to  
 enquire in to the thing & have it contradicted. he was told that Mr Poinceter  
 meant to bring forward a bill to that effect that he would himself explain  
 the error, and have it rectified in the paper. he made a very handsome speech  
 really, mentioned the case of M. De la Fayette, and proposed a donation of \$  
 7000 ships. — it was referred to a committee every member of whom are decidedly  
 friendly to the family, but Mrs Decatur's claim or Col. Monroe's, both very  
 unpopular here, were brought forward with increased clamour & the whole  
 thing dropped. I was told by many persons that the members said they would at any  
 time, rather give me the money than Mrs Decatur &c, but still I have no idea that any  
 thing will come of it — Harriet is much admired and Tim is generally thought a  
 beauty the girls all look fresh & well and are all of them stylish handsome girls  
 when I repled for a party. Septimia was the "Mormonia" of a certain little party  
 of usion, but that folly has repled away; Harriet was the reigning favorite of the  
 day, but that also is nearly gone by; B. is one of those who is always ankle  
 deep in love, as he says himself, but never deeper. the monster of the day is Mr Mid  
 dleton of D.C., lately from Prussia. his whiskers, <sup>the most important part about him</sup> meet to form a bush ~~extra~~  
 the tip of his chin a little longer than the rest; a fringe about half an inch  
 wide unites them again over the upper lip, and encloses his mouth very ridiculous-  
 ly; his collar is black and the affair below it of the same colour, so that not a particle  
 of linen shows any where. they say he was followed in Prussia from a fancied resemblance  
 to the pictures of our Saviour. he is staying at General Varnep's, where he  
 seems to be completely the lord of the ascendant. — I think we are "gaining ground"  
 and making friends though the girls are too reserved & poor to be as great  
 belles as many infinitely inferior to them, but more forward & confident. ~~are~~



the thermometer is ready and will go with the Olives Cromwell by some of the members. they might have been sent by Mr Gotham but he went off in great haste to a sick son without our hearing of it until he was gone remember me most affectionately to dear Joseph and my darling Nell dont let her forget me you dear sweet little fellows will have lost all recollection of me when I see them again, Bet will be a reasonable well behaved little lady & the girls running about as "making confusion worse confounded" in their nursery. poor Mrs Cook how I shall pity her in the midst of her noisy little crew. Do remember me most kindly to her, and say something kind to ~~all~~ of the servants, to each of whom

DD

1831.

WASHINGTON  
FEB 25  
CITY OF MARYLAND

Mrs J. Coolidge Junr  
to the care of Joseph Coolidge Junr

Boston  
Massachusetts

Printed by  
J. C. Smith

For as warm terms as propriety will permit / you will do  
to the other members of the Society, Mrs Olin Mrs Astor  
Mrs Drake the Nichols Aps, and all who think enough about  
me to ask, for certain by their are many in Cambridge  
and Boston that I love more than the narrow narrowness of  
the North would approve of my expressing  
Dear little Nell. in most better. Feb 23 The Cong. Hall -  
was carried away a few weeks. but George & the girls had not  
over

I feel indebted for many little acts of attention and civility for which to my sorrow I had it not in my power to make any return - I dont know what I have a right to use as strong a term as affection to Mrs Coolidge & Mrs Shaw and yet a weaker one would not do justice to my feelings, for them, pray remember me to them