

I have just been thinking of writing you, and I have
 now and then written all Poplar Forest Aug. 18th
 and now I feel that I have not done enough for
 My dear Mother - settled at Poplar Forest
 and I have now my strength as usual and I have
 decided on it now all there is a probability of Johnny's returning
 to me now I have determined to write a few lines to you
 although I have but scant materials for a letter - we
 as a family will probably give Virginia a detail of our tour
 up to the Natural Bridge - for me it was a complete
 chapter of accidents - my misfortunes began the day I left
 home and have not yet ceased, for a cold caught I
 believe in crossing the blue ridge settled upon my face
 and has kept me in almost constant agonies - I have
 not been free of pain, for the last eight and forty hours
 and although not a wife enough to confine me to my
 room it is yet sufficiently so to keep me constantly restless
 uneasy and nervous - I cannot however regret my trip
 for the wonder and delight I experienced at the sight
 of the bridge, which purely deserves the name of the
 most sublime of Nature's works was greater than I can
 describe. The limestone cavern near it was also a great
 curiosity for us, it is a fine cave in the solid limestone rock
 divided into ^{accessible} apartments by a curtain of stone. there
 is a passage large enough to admit the body of a man
 on all fours which probably communicates with the other
 apartments - never explored - the earth in it is so impreg-
 nated with salt pits that a pound has been got from a
 bushel of the dirt. under the bridge I lost your heart
 a full little picture with three or four others which I had
 carried with me and the little pocket telescope ^{given me}

by Aunt Jane gave me, and which I valued very highly -
 our trip independent of the bridge would have been as
 very pleasant ~~and~~ if the weather had been more favor-
 able and the accommodations better - the manners and
 character of the people are so different from any ^{thing} we are
 accustomed to and the scenery of the country so wild
 and picturesque, that we almost fancied ourselves in
 a new world. There is in the men a stern independence
 and a contempt for forms and appearances, in the women
 a bustling activity that we do not meet with lower down
 the country. That is, if it is fair to draw general conclusions
 from particular instances and if in a tour of three days
 it was possible to make any observations which ~~can~~ apply
 to more than the few individuals who came under our
 notice -

I brought so much work from home with me, and I
 have been so tormented by pain that I have not had
 time to commence my system of industry - as we shall
 be here for a month to come I hope to have it in my
 power to ~~do~~ something. If it is only to recover the Latin
 I have lost - we have as yet seen no one but Mrs
 Yaney - Mrs Clark is at the springs and the situation
 of Mrs Bradford's brother will probably prevent her
 from visiting us. Coralia and myself are not com-
 fortably fixed - our room has been pulled down and
 it will be some time before we get in it - probably
 a fortnight - in the mean time we are in that little
 close disagreeable room to the right of your entry
 the dining room, where we are so crowded ~~in~~ ^{by} ~~we~~ ^{we are} ~~carried~~
 turn - the weather hot and as Coralia abhors ^{we are} heat
~~up~~ from all ^{the} ~~but~~ the North east ~~blows~~ - Maria is the

some unfeeling savage you ^{formerly} knew and plagued us to death with her stupidity and indifference -

I congratulate you on the prospect of another visit from La ^{Philosophie} ~~Charmante~~ ^{son Disante} & her attendants ~~and~~ the ~~stair~~ ~~willard~~ ~~and~~ ~~you~~ ~~be~~ ~~absolved~~ ~~over~~, before I return -

I am ~~very~~ ~~glad~~ ~~to~~ ~~hear~~ ~~if~~ ~~any~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~tooths~~ ~~of~~ ~~Goodwin~~ were injured by the push in Baltimore - pray write me words, ~~if~~ ~~our~~ ~~handkerchiefs~~ ~~are~~ ~~come~~ ~~up~~ ~~send~~ ~~them~~ by Johnny - the towels were a "heartsome sight" but I am afraid that Louisa Maria will ruin them by bad washing.

Give my love to the girls. Tell Virginia Duncan Gray ^{from my recollection if it is not difficult}, but will require practice.

Remember me affectionately to Aunt Jane, Aunt Hackley and their families - I had a great mind to have written to Maria Goodwin, but I have been ^{kept} terrified by sewing work and the tooth ach, the two things on earth for which I have the greatest horror.

Doxy write to me my dear mother and let me know particularly whether any of my acquaintances in Baltimore are injured by the overflow of the river for (although I mentioned them so lightly with Maria and the towels) I have thought a good deal about them. John Smith lived on Gay Street which seems to have suffered most and if I recollect right Lyde Goodwin was on Holiday Street. I have felt very uneasy about Mrs Lory Ann Smith particularly; as in her situation the alarm of treachery might be highly injurious. my affection for Maria Goodwin makes me anxious about her friends.

I have written in haste and in pain - Adieu my Dearest mother, give my love to papa if he has not gone down - my father's lines have extended to three pages and I have said nothing of your head-ach, which it gives me great concern to hear of - I hope you are by this time perfectly recovered and ~~will~~ ~~be~~ ~~able~~ ~~to~~ ~~visit~~ ~~our~~ ~~little~~ ~~pat~~ ~~to~~ ~~show~~ ~~mother~~, I long to

be remembered
 that now I believe and believe me my dearest Mother
 My Sep. for me

I wish you would send me some Armenian Bales if
 any can be got good and a new set of the brushes

of our brushes here are spoiled and we of ~~the~~ at
 the "S. S. Co." but the brushes here are better than
 the ones in the States and will give better results
 than the ones in the States.

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