

Tuesday, Oct 28th Feb 1832

My dear Sister

Having received your communication requesting me to
commit to paper for you the ideas which you informed me you wished to express
in an answer ~~which~~ ^{were pleasant} you ~~wished~~ to make to a Letter received by you from
Mr Watmough, I have endeavored to condense what you stated to me - persuaded
at the same time ~~that~~ of the inexpediency of your involving yourself in a difficult and
delicate discussion ~~often times~~ often leading to ~~much~~ ^{time & trouble} troublesome ^{unpleasant} explanations - My own
opinion is that you should avoid enlarging upon the very disagreeable subject that
has given rise to the Letter sent you - if I ~~have~~ ^{should not have correctly} expressed the ideas you gave
me, you will make such alteration in my phraseology ^{as you think proper} - the following
^{the substance of} is what I understood from you it was your desire to communicate

M^L

My dear Maria

I cannot disguise from you that the occurrences to which you have referred, have come under my notice and have been painfully received - not that I could for a moment suppose that you could have permitted or even allowed ^{any visits} ~~any visits~~ that could bear a construction or the appearance of even an encroachment upon the strictest principles of correctness - it was unnecessary therefore for you to express to me any declaration of your own consciousness inasmuch as in that respect I could entertain but one sentiment and that was Confidence - But it is a subject of much concern to trace the source whence the mischievous & malevolent Observation originated, ~~that~~ ^{that} the Author should meet with indignation & reprobation - The Person you have alluded to in your note is too near & tender to me to be impugned and altho' she might have noticed to you the remark of another, it is impossible to believe that in the relation which ^{in which that Person stands} ~~in which that Person stands~~ that Person holds with the Person spoken of, that the observation could have proceeded from that quarter - I trust that time & circumstances will ere long develop the Channel thro which the odious idea has been attempted to be moved - At present it rests with the good Sense & magnanimity of the Parties to condemn & despise the imputation in all its bearings, except that it would be satisfactory to know the Person that should raise an idea the motive of which could only be to create an uneasiness and disturb the repose of those between whom the utmost Harmony & mutual Affection should and does subsist

Copy of Letter from Marie Watson to Maria Chew

My dear Aunt

In compliance with your request I repeat on paper the assertions before made to you - I wrote a line to you the day after I last saw you but upon re-perusing it, I found in it so much that might convey more or less than I intended to express that in despair of satisfying all Parties, I put it in my desk, hoping that you might change your wishes on the Subject & relieve me from a Task which can give pleasure to none of the Parties concerned - I call it a Task because you told me that the Letter was to be made what use you pleased with and in fact that it was to be submitted too them, so that I do not consider it writing a Letter to you so much as drawing up a writing for the perusal of others -

I do deny ever having in thought or word connected your name or Aunt Henrietta in any way whatever with the present discussion - I wrote my first Letter under the influence of no feeling towards you but that of Affection & Friendship, and had I supposed less of either I should not have confided to you that Letter which has been the cause of increasing the misapprehension it was meant to remove - I spoke to you thro' that medium as if I were addressing an elder sister whose good opinion & affection I valued & reciprocated - I intended no allusions, but expressed my feelings and opinions (however erroneous they may have since been proved) with sincerity and plainness and I deeply regret that any expression of mine has appeared insulting or unkind -

I did suppose that Aunt Phelps had interdicted visits to my house but that supposition was drawn from the objection made at Sophia's and which I repeated to you as well as to Aunt Phelps who acknowledged herself satisfied with my explanation & apology, gave me her hand and I parted with her under the belief that the whole matter was amicably & finally arranged -

If my dear Aunt you still desire more statements or more explanation from my unfortunate Pen, I will tax my memory to relate as near as it is in my power all and every occurrence or conversation, that I can do with a conviction of Truth, but this would involve others and renew all the feelings which have subsided or been explained away - and this privilege I too should claim, namely that of submitting to another the whole case and being guided in some degree by their advice, for in writing there are few expressions that may not convey other meanings than are intended but I trust that this page will be deemed sufficient and that the Affection which you have always shown for me will not (so entirely without cause) be withheld and your doors remain closed on your once loved and attached

April 2. 1832

Maria Chew Watson

Copy of letter from Maria
Walmough to her Aunt Maria
2 April 1832.

The following is a copy of a letter from Maria Watmough to Maria Chess
dated Saturday Morn^g - which was put into my hands by my sister Maria confidentially
on Monday pm 29th Feb^y 1832 -

Dear Aunt Saturday Morn^g
You no doubt have heard a statement of the occurrences of
yesterday morning

From my earliest years I have been in the habit of confiding to you all my hopes
fears and difficulties and I do not think that when I married, the tie was
broken between us, I still possessed the kind friend and disinterested adviser
but I do not write to you to remind you of your past kindness to me - I felt them
at the time and remember them now - I write to you now dear Aunt because
it is out of my power to talk to you, and to clear myself in your Eyes from
censure in this business which I hardly know whether to cry or to laugh at

It is now many weeks since it was first intimated to me, that Aunt Philips
was anxious, uneasy (indeed I know not what word to use) at the visits of
my ~~Elizabeth~~ Elizabeth's Husband at my house; I thought the idea was too improbable
a one to exist & forgot it unless when brought to my mind by Aunt Philips herself

So long as I thought the Chimera was confined to her own bosom, I said
nothing to clear myself from the implied charge, but the thought has been
expressed to others who are in no way bound to our family, and for the first
time in my life I am talked of in a way that I least deserve, being at the same
time perfectly conscious of no thought or feeling inconsistent with that of
an affectionate wife and fond mother

I was unwilling to distress Elizabeth, and mortify myself by detailing
to her the remarks which were conveyed to me and deferred it until I found
that I was the only silent one and now that I do speak, I do not feel it
necessary to make one assertion of the rectitude of my feelings or conduct

I looked forward with pleasure to Elizabeth's coming to town and little did
I dream of such a bitter result, I do love her most sincerely, besides her own
worth, she is identified with the idea of sister and I who would not give her one
moment's distress, have been twice since her marriage brought before her
as her bitterest & most insidious enemy - but willingly will I resign all
intercourse with her than subject myself to a third ill judged and unfounded
accusation - I will not lengthen my page to tire you, but I could not see
after all that has passed without previously relieving my mind -

If I have spoken disrespectfully or said any thing amiss, reprove me for it
in your kind way and you will not find me intractable and I will implicitly
follow your advice, for my husband is the last one to whom I would repeat so
hideous a tale -

Believe me yours sincerely, attach'd M.C. Watmough -

Copy of letter from Mrs. M. Watmough
to Maria Chess dated Saturday Morn^g
Feb^y 25th 1832 put into my
hands by my sister Maria on 29th Feb^y
see Memoir of them -

The foregoing Letter was put into my hands by my Sister Maria with a request that I would confidentially form for her such an Answer as should from her be expressive of her conviction that no imputation should be cast upon or impeach her Sister Philips - 27 Feb 1832 - To convey the ideas which she wished me to express for her, I gave her a draft of which the following is a copy.

My dear Maria

I cannot disguise from you that the occurrences to which you have referred, have come under my notice and have been painfully received - not that ^{suppose} I could for a moment that you could have permitted, or even allowed any Visitor that could bear a construction of even an encroachment upon the strictest principles of correctness - it was unnecessary therefore for you to express to me any declaration of your own consciousness, inasmuch as in that respect I could entertain but one sentiment and that was confidence - But it is a subject of much concern to trace the source whence the mischievous and malevolent observation originated, ~~inasmuch~~ that the Author should meet with indignation and reprobation - The Person you have alluded to in your Note is too near and tender to me to be impugned and altho' she might have noticed to you the remark of another, it is impossible to believe that in the relation in which that Person stands with the Person spoken of that the observation could have proceeded from that quarter - I trust that time and circumstances will ere long develop the Channel thro' which the odious idea has been attempted to be moved - At present it rests with the good Sense and magnanimity of the Parties to condemn and despise the imputation in all its bearings, except that it would be satisfactory to know the Person that should raise an idea, the motive of which could only be to create an uneasiness and disturb the repose of those between whom the utmost Harmony of mutual affection should and does subsist -

My dear Sisters, Henrietta, Sophia & Maria

Our sister ^{Miss} ~~Miss~~ ^{Juliana} & her Daughters Susan & Juliana arrived ^{last} ~~by~~ ^{at} the Bostonian Stage at my Gate just at the moment of my being about to turn into it last Evening after my visit to the City - altho' fatigued by their ride they arrived &

They have come at my ^{instance} on the hope ^{that they are in good health} ^{that I have good grounds reciprocally}
expressed to me that I may be the happy means of restoring that harmony
between Sisters ^{to which} between whom I have painfully observed there has lately been
an ^{temporary} interruption - that I have found a mutual disposition to that end, has been
to me a deep felt gratification and I trust devoutly that every anxiety will
be confirmed - in this ^{strongly} ^{expectation} and that Elviden may be the scene of
renewed affection, I cordially wish that all of you will do me the favor
of dining with us tomorrow where my fraternal arms may be once more
extended to embrace those who in my declining age, soon to enter into
my 80th year, I would wish, if it should please God! soon to call me hence. I would
wish to leave in amity & sisterly correspondence - let no small matter
disappoint my expectation of your indulging me with your company - if the weather
should prove unfavorable, I will remain at home on Tuesday in the flattering hope of seeing
you I write this without the knowledge or privacy ^{of any person} about me and you are

My dear Sisters

Gloucester Sunday, Eof 14. Feb - 36

Altho Sunday is the better and the proper day, I presume you have no more been able than I have been to get to your Church thro' the Snow & over slippery Paths - incapacitated by my Lameness from setting you the example of going, Pilgrim like, on foot to the Temple to perform the Duties ye delight in, I did not think it humane to turn out the Coach and his Pets to continue in the cold & therefore exercised my Reflexions at home, uniting my pious supplications for your Health & Happiness in addition to my own, as well for the Here as for the Hereafter - in pursuing which, odd as it may seem while I was engaged in looking forward, I was necessarily led to turn Backward, to examine the pretensions of the Past for Belaim in the Prospect of the Future - in indulging this meditation I held Communion Sweet with the three more especial sainted Spirits that have gone before us - Father, Mother and another were full before me as if translated near us, expressing anxieties teeming with Kindness - I wished at the moment that you had been present to have joined in the Reverie - The uninterrupted pure white surface of the surrounding Snow, even and unalloyed, hallowed the Scenery, emblematic of another Region, elevating the mind to the View of spotless innocence Love and Truth - I would have returned them back on this our Sublunary Sphere, but they soon fled & vanished away to a place of better rest, leaving the world to "Darkness and to me," but leaving with all a Renewal of Affection that was once evinced towards ye and to me, in Signs then tangible by our corporal Frame - Blessed be the Patrons of such a Disposition - An Ejaculation reciprocated I am sure by both of you and as constantly regarded by both of us - Under such an injunction we will live and love each other, altho Troubles assail us &

And now Ladies dear, how have you spent your day - not chilled I hope by looking out of your window at the dreary appearance of your Streets, forming quite a Contrast to our even Ways - Herrietta's Cold I hope has been taken care of - Miss Sophy's knee made supple, when she

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And now Ladies dear, how have you spent your day - not chilled I hope by looking out of your window at the dreary appearance of your Streets, forming quite a Contrast to our even ways - Henrietta's Cold I hope has been taken care of - Miss Sophy's knees made supple, when she

5 Oct 1831

My dear Sisters

From the shortness of the days & the difficulty of getting off from Cleveland at an early hour, I have arrived later than I could have wished, finding your Note left for me at my Son's Office. I have before me for my morning's work, the conclusion of an important Business for the Columbia Bridge Company, also to meet the Turnpike Compt^r at 1/2 past 12 and to write a Letter to my Son Benjⁿ in answer to one bro^t home this morning from the Post Office, requiring my Instructions by the return of ^{the evening} Mail. — Thus it will be impracticable for me to be with you today to discuss a Subject which has certainly given rise to Feelings not the most acceptable. — I have time only to add, that you are mistaken in the idea which you express as to be your Duty to hold in Charge the whole of the Property which forms the Estate ~~that~~ of our sorely lamented de^d Sister either as the Guardians of or for the Benefit of those to whom it is appointed after the serious & solemn Anticipated Period of your Deaths. — That which remains deposited in your hands will of course be your tender Object, — That which remains in the hands of the Executors or under their direction will be duly attended to by them until the final adjustment of their Administration Accounts. — Their responsibility and not yours for this portion can only be implicated.

I am obliged to conclude this in much haste with the continued assurance that I remain

Your Affected Brother

Philad 5th Octo 1831 — Copy to my Sisters Henrietta Maria

Lophotomys leilus Hemmilla
Thamnia 5. Oct 1831

My dear Sister

3 Oct 1831

I have come to town today in consequence of an appointment made on Friday to attend to some Business I had undertaken for others and should have called upon you in consequence of a note I received from you on Saturday Evening at Ellwooden, expressed in rather unusual Terms from my Sisters, but from the time I have been occupied since I have alighted, I shall not have an opportunity of seeing you today - In answer however to your note in which in rather an unusual style you desire me to answer your letters written from Eglington and require me to be in town today to give my exclusive time to the final adjustment of certain securities &c I refer you to a letter written by me to you and our Sister Maria while you were at Eglington, somewhere about the 18th or 11th of Aug^r - I shall be obliged soon to leave town but expect to be in the City on Wednesday when I will endeavor to see you -

As to the Bill you enclosed to me from C. Cany you will find it relates to an Acc^t rendered you including articles had by you & our Sister Maria for which it appears by the Bill that you & I presume Maria paid \$133.74 - a separate Acc^t ag^t the Estate of our dear Departed was made out and is paid - you will however give me leave to say, the Payment of all Claims & Accounts ag^t one the recurrence of whose name excites a mournful feeling, is the Business of her Executors and comes not precisely under your notice - every thing within the knowledge of the Executors will be attended to -

In much haste I remain

Yr truly affected Brother

B. L.

Philade 3 Oct 1831 -

I enclose you C. Cany's Bill which you sent to me -

Copy to my sister Henrietta
3 Oct 1831

10 Aug 1831

The time allotted for my getting this Letter into the mail is now so curtailed and short that I have little opp^t of noticing that part of yours, written on the 9th referring to the communication passing between you ^{our friend} & the Ingersoll. I shall merely say that his application to me as ^{the} Exec^r of our dec^d sister, I considered as extraordinary ^{as it was} & unexpected one and such as neither he or any Person has a right to make, unless they are disposed ^{to propose} to pursue the course pointed out by an Act of Assembly and to make Oaths that they have sufficient Cause to believe that the Exec^r of the decedent is wasting or mismanaging the Estate of such decedent and then make application to the Orphan's Court to examine ^{complaint} ~~the~~ ^{complainant} who after such examination if they think proper have Authority to require Security &c.

Shall it be said that such is my Situation and can I conceive that after so many years of laborious faithful & regular superintendence evidenced by ~~the~~ ^{my} regular Ac^ts exhibited every six months and the continued entire Confidence of the dec^d, that my surviving Sisters should be led to approve such a measure, — In respect of my connexion with ~~the~~ ^{the} Affairs of my late dearly valued and now departed Saint, I stand upon firm ground, and in respect to your own Concerns about which I am not without some feeling that you should have thought proper to advise with Counsel, if ~~from~~ your return to Philad^a you think you can manage them better than I have done, I shall gladly ~~concede~~ ^{relieve} myself from the Care & anxiety about them. I have this firm and valuable consolation that I have in all things profitably ^{& faithfully} administered them and faithfully as the many accounts rendered you for the most part half yearly meeting your entire approbation at the time of your examining them with me, now remaining in your possession, will shew —

The hour of the Mail is close at hand and I must conclude referring to a future occasion for more on this Subject —

My sincere Love & affectionate attend^s you

Your hitherto devoted Bro^r

Copy of part of a letter long written
to Maria at Brighton
10th Aug 1831
in reply to their application for
my living security &c

14 April 1824

Dear Sisters

Your note of this morning has this moment been received and I beg you will express your own true sense to the officious malicious and mischief making Character whatever it may be, who you say has informed you that Jas^r Fisher or any body else than myself have dared to have offered any part of my Property for Sale - it is a base infamous false suggestion & can have been communicated to you but for the treacherous purpose of creating an inroad upon that affection which has so long been evinced on my part towards you and which has frequently been attempted to be interrupted - it is nothing short of a base falsehood - for no one has it in their power - you yourselves know, for it often has occurred in conversation, so far back as in our blessed Mother's Life, that it was my wish to lessen the expensive establishment of my Estate at Farmington by disposing of that Property, if I could obtain its Value and I have frequently said as much - But no one can dare to have offered it at second hand - Some time ago to answer a profitable purpose, I loaned of Mr Fisher a Sum of Money for which I ~~of my own~~ ^{Account} made him secure of my own accord, not by his requisition, that no Favor should be considered as done to me, and at his request have continued it which I could discharge in two weeks if he wished it, but he has been desirous of its remaining with me - But end for the present on this hateful Subject - hateful, because it has given rise to a Letter that I wish had not been written - My not answering your former application proposing my entering into deeper Security than was already in your hands by my ^{former} obligations which you will remember I chose to give you for the sake of Form in Business and which you still possess, sufficiently marked my disinclination on the Subject, and that after I had had conversation with Mr Tilghman on its contents - There have been and still are some Topics that I have found were not agreeable to be personally canvassed and therefore I shall for the promotion of our mutual Comfort refer the discussion to Mr Tilghman's Return to Town, that he may be your adviser - After the assiduous undeviating and I presume to say implicitly affectionate Conduct on my part towards you in the Care of your Interests, you have had inrefragable irresistible proofs that distrust ought not to exist - you have nothing to fear or apprehend whatever may be basely whispered to you and notwithstanding all the attempts from whatever quarter they may come, transient or otherwise, you will find me

Your affected Brother & worthy your Trust & that which has been confided to me by those who have united us

B. Chew

I write to you more briefly than I otherwise might have done, that you might have my immediate notice of your note which you have requested of me -

Copy to my sister, Remondella
Maurice's letter in answer
to an extraordinary note received
from them this morning 14 April
1824

My dear Sister

I herewith send you a Letter intended for Mr Randall
which you will peruse & if you approve it you will send it - I think it embraces
all the objects of your notice to me this morn^g - I have since I saw you conversed with
& consulted two different Persons who agree with me that the sum you have mentioned
for the Property with the finish of the Items noticed in my letter to Randall is at the
present state of things ^{full allowance} ~~in excess~~ for the Premises - One of the Persons I have consulted
~~with~~, who is intimately acquainted with the nature & value of Property at this time
of Depression on being asked by me his idea of the amount that the Premises in
question would now bring, answered that considering the remote situation of
the Lot, and that probably the Ground if it were now to be let on Ground Rent, would not
command more than £8 p foot he ^{of House & Lot} suppose the Price should be somewhere from £8000
to £8500 & ^{if} not to exceed £9000 - I am not without apprehension that you will find
~~some objections~~ the situation ^{in many respects, certainly} objectionable - it is not such as I would wish to
select for you - yet to conform ^{I promote} to your wishes I shall leave nothing unsaid
but in concluding the present purchase you will remember that the present
operation will be ~~your~~ in conformity with your Inclination rather than
an Act of my Choice - I have seen Mr Sharp the Agent of Mr Boudinott - he
tells me that Mr Boudinott he thinks, & he is sure Mr Boudinott would consult him
on the occasion, ~~that~~ of the house & Lot will not be worth of R Peters & Currier's Lot
will not be sold unless Mr Boudinott should receive what he has given for it ^{for} viz
£2300 - he should ^{he also suggested that for his sale of Mr B's} stipulate that ^{the present} respectable Tenant should be kept & maintained
in the house - a suggestion however which he could have no pretension to expect would
be regarded - certain however I am that it would be a very expensive Business for you
to attempt to convert the 11' Street house into a Stalled Coach house - the House being

only 16 foot - you would therefore have to lay it to your acct. to build a
Stable & Coach House on the Tail of the Lot which has only 16 feet front on the
20 feet Court - an arrangement not easy to be effected -

Submitting the above to your Consideration - Believe me
ever faithfully
Your aff^l Serv^t

Copy to my Sister Penelope
Marie's H^lthine April 1820

My very dear Sister

Every day seems to bring with it some disappointment - the present has broke forth with the most tempting inducements to begin your excursion and seems to suggest its fair invitation to be embraced - the last Evening however soon after I wrote to you a Change took place in our adopted little Boy so severe as to render the immediate Attendance of Dr. Physick and Dr. Tucker his protégé necessary - the Child was bled copiously - Calomel'd - puked &c - all violent in their Effects leaving the Patient in a considerable degree relieved from the immediate attack of severe fever accompanied with oppression but in a State that considering the absence of its Father and the Alarm that the occasion excited, I feel the impression that observation may be raised if I should leave the ground untill the present day should prove the victory secure - Physick remained with us untill Eleven & part and has been here betimes this morning - I found it proper to continue with it untill after Two o'clock & laid down near 3 - I believe myself that the Complaint is subdued but the day must be watched - I feel, however, distressed that such a day should be lost to you and therefore altho' I trust that I shall be free to accompany you tomorrow yet permit me to suggest to you what I would very candidly recommend to your affectionate consideration in every point of view to accept ~~your~~ really well disposed Nephew and my Son Samuel to accompany you down and if practicable I will follow you tomorrow or remain as occasion may require - Exercise your free judgment and dear deliberation and let me know - I can answer with great Confidence that I am sure it will be very gratifying to my Son to tender and to render every respect and regard towards you and will most cheerfully and readily embrace the present occasion to prove it - I mention this plan because I think the day so inviting that if convenience will permit it, the weather ought not to be lost - Think of the Plan for a moment and let me hear from you -

with every sentiment of tenderness Believe me

your affec^d Brother

B Chew

Tuesday Morn^g 22^d Octo^r 1819

The *Misses*

Note written to my sister 27. Oct 1819
I obtained ^{from them} the letter of introduction in order
to seek by me to show the disposition of my
dear box towards them -

pleasure to dwell thereon - but that would lead to an Essay rather than a Letter - I frequently indulge myself in the gratifying reflection of every the ornaments of her private character and am led to pray that my death may be like hers -

In the course of the past ~~week~~ or rather in the commencement of the present week there has been some alarm excited in our City by the appearance of a highly bilious Fever which in 1793 would have been called & perhaps properly ^{called} yellow Fever, immediately on Market Street Wharf on the lower side in a Tavern noted for its filthy keep and its very obnoxious ^{for a few days past} surrounding Premises - 2 or 3 persons died in one family which ^{for a few days past} raised a serious apprehension - the immediate interference of the Board of Health removing everybody from the House and exercising their close attention it is said has extinguished every cause of uneasiness and restored the usual tranquillity - Should busy remembrance bring you the story with its usual exaggerations you are not to give it credit until you shall hear from ^{if the alarm should be renewed, not a moment shall be lost in providing them a safe asylum} my sisters or myself - Henriette & Marie early had their fears, and for themselves & Harriett's family would have secured a Retreat - the apprehension subsiding they have of course suspended the idea of removal - the situation of Harriett's family enters very much into ⁱⁿ consideration of fixing themselves ^{in their intended} for their present residence - Several houses have been examined with a view to purchase but none has yet met their expectations - the idea therefore has been adopted of renting a House until they shall meet with a purchase answering their purpose - their wish still continues to remove from their present residence ^{personally & by the employment of two Brothers in the office of Business} and my constant attention is engaged in the promotion of either of their objects - the general idea is that the depreciation or fall of property from the distress of the Community in recurring concerns will still be greater than it is at present - melancholy tis to say that the general measure continues to increase and the difficulty therefore of collecting debts, ^{at the disposal of any} selling of any of the public stocks ~~is almost~~ places the command of money almost out of the question - Hence have I known the embarrassment so universal - Having ~~addressed~~ ^{for the form of early communication} a circular Letter to the several individuals of our family relating to our dear Father's Estate, I take the opportunity of ^{from the} ~~addressing~~ ^{addressing} one to you my dear Sophia which ^{you} my dear Margaret will examine - I have directed one to ~~the~~ ^{her} and therefore do not forward one distinctly to you - the object you will ^{perceive} see is to govern myself as directed by the wish of the major number of those that are interested in the result that I may in a measure be relieved from the responsibility that otherwise might follow from the independent exercise of my own measures -

^{like the clock striking a late hour of the night after an unentertaining conversation serves to hint to}
The approach to the bottom of my ~~present~~ ^{present} reminds me that I ~~have~~ ^{may} perhaps have fatigued you with a longer letter than may always be acceptable - ~~and~~ ^{but} the interest I ~~feel~~ ^{have} at all times feel concerning both of you has led me ~~to~~ ^{to} extend before I was quite aware of it - May God preserve both you both & your Children - I remain believe me In affectionate faithful Brother
B.C.

* especially as it may impose a task upon one of you to give me a line which I was in hopes to have rec'd. at some of your otherwise unoccupied moments - there is sometimes a gratification in having a paper to oneself which perhaps more self love leads one to anticipate but as you have not given it to me I cannot resist the pleasure of giving one to you which I shall have done earlier in your absence but in truth the unceasing occupation in Business & the labor of travelling backwards & forwards long family who are removed to Chiswick has been such that I have scarce had it in my power -

Copy Henry & Maria Howard at Bath
Bristol Room - 9 July 1816

My very dear Sisters

Philadelphia 30th June 1819.

You are aware that by the will of our deceased Father, he has directed his Executors or the Survivor of them, to sell & convey in fee simple all his Lands and other real Estate not ~~specifically~~ ^{specifically} devised including the house & lots in Third Street after the decease of our dear mother, to whom these were devised for & during her life, the sales to be made at such prices, at such times & on such Terms as the Executors for the time being or the Survivor of them may think proper & most advantageous to the Estate &c. — There having remained at the time of the decease of our Father sundry lands in Somerset & Fayette Counties in Pennsylvania belonging to the Estate, endeavours were made personally by an Agent to dispose of the same by private sales, these not succeeding sundry tracts were advertised in the early part of the year 1812 to be sold at public auction, the acting Executor having consulted with several persons about the Terms at which the Property ought to be valued & having compared them with the estimated value at which they were held by our Father in his life time, the partial sales that were made, falling short of the expected prices, further sales were forbidden from the various circumstances occurring which will no doubt be in the recollection of every person acquainted with the situation of what are called the Western Lands of Pennsylvania. That has tended to the great depreciation of uncultivated lands, no sales of any amount have been effected — The result is that there remains in Fayette County eight Tracts containing 2032½ Acre & an undivided moiety of two contiguous tracts called the Salt Works containing together 702 Acre which had been sold to a certain William Pennock, but in consequence of the failure of said Pennock, his right was taken in execution & bought in by the executor for the benefit of the Estate — This property therefore remains as among the Lands of the Estate in Fayette County — There also remain three tracts unsold in Somerset

Miss Henrietta Chew
Miss Maria Chew
Miss Catherine Chew

in Somerset County containing between 900 & 800 acres —
In the present continued depressed state of this as well as every other
kind of Land or real estate, I have no prospect of effecting any
sales but at a sacrifice greater than I think myself justifiable to
subject the different persons to, that are interested in the same
In the apprehension therefore that with some, interested in the
residuary part of our Father's estate, there may be a desire
that the above mentioned Land should be disposed of without
further delay even at a reduced price, while others may be
inclined to wait a better opportunity of selling, & at the
same time extremely anxious on my own part that each
party should consult their own convenience in this respect
while as Executor I may avoid any construction of making
an unfavorable sale, I submit to you the expediency of having
a partition of the Land themselves into twelve shares
regard being had to the different quality in any of the Tracts
this is one of the objects of my present address to you
on which I shall be obliged to you to permit me to
receive your written instructions — Another and more
important object is to state to you that the lamented
event of the decease of our valued friend Mother having
recently taken place, it is the intention of my sisters
Marrietta Maria & Catherine to provide themselves
with another residence at as early a period as a
suitable house can be obtained — The Mansion house
stands in 3^d St. will therefore be vacated and it would
become my duty to make as early a sale of the
Premises as circumstances & the advantage of the estate
may permit, but I take the liberty of observing that
such is the embarrassed state of things as far as relates
to every negotiation for the sale of City property as
well as in the Country, that it is supposed that no
sale of the Premises in question could at this time be made
without a sacrifice of a third or perhaps more of the
real value — It may be made a question whether

under the power to sell the Executor has any authority
to rent without the consent or approbation of the
residuary legatus — I have no hesitation in expressing
my opinion that the present is a most unpropitious
period for the sale of the property — It rests however
with the major number of the parties interested to
determine whether the sacrifice shall be made by an
immediate sale or whether the executor shall have
their authority for a time to rent the premises
which may be done subject to the privilege of selling.
You will be good enough as early as your convenience
may permit to express in writing to me your wishes
relative to the house & lots in this street and in
case you approve of my renting the property after
it shall be evacuated by my sisters now residing
there, you will be good enough early to express your
approbation.

With true affection I remain
faithfully Yours
Benjamin Chew Junr Esq^r

My dear Henrietta Lidian Lophin

Aug 9. 1817

Yesterday subsequent to the receipt of your six Letters to my
 mother and myself addressed to you my dear Sophie a Letter directed as you
 requested for you at Congress Hall Saratoga Springs and had determined not
 immediately to have renewed the interesting Subject to which it related, apprehensive
 from what has already been communicated to us ^{that any} ~~that~~ ^{remark} ~~that~~ ^{might be offered} might arise untimely - On considering however
 the relative duties in which I stand towards you and your Daughter confirmed
 not only by an ardent concern for every thing that affects you then, but also by
 the most sincere & cordial affection heretofore cherished between us, I am
 not reconciled to the decision I had formed - My feelings will not admit even
 the appearance of indifference ^{by a silence} ~~or to continue silent~~ or leave you deprived of
 every friendly aid ^{at a distance} ~~and at a time when~~ ^{you deem so much} ~~to require it~~
^{on such an occasion I cannot coldly calculate} ~~therefore irresistibly am led~~ ^{on the question whether I may now be well or ill received I am} ~~to address myself to you my sisters conjointly with~~
^{an entire confidence that in any result which may already have occurred}
 or which may in future take place on the delicate ^{suggestion} ~~question~~ that has been
 at perhaps too late an hour proposed to my Mother & myself, you will ascribe
 any thing I may offer as well as every expression, as dictated by the most anxious
 desire to promote the Happiness of one so dear to you both and I would add
 not much less dear to me - The open disposition & to a degree romantic Effusion
 of the heart of Elizabeth ^{unaided by the reflection which a little more experience of the}
 world might give, may subject her to an hasty impression approaching to the pretty
 conceit of Infatuation, unless some dear Friend was near ^{to counsel} and would of course
 justly claim every allowance, but that you my dear Sister ^{I grieve the Mother} should be led away
 by such Infatuation ^{suddenly to permit a determination} ~~permitting the~~ ^{of} involving ^{on} future fate without
 the most calm consideration or the advice of a single Friend is an Act that in
 the most ardent period of my life I should say, would be precipitate - may
 difficult - no - not to be accounted for - If matters have not already gone
 too far, as Governor Morris in an impressive national address once said, for God's
 sake, for your Daughter's sake Pause - Pause - The Gentleman alluded to may
 possess many - say every Virtue - amiability and Merit - it will not derogate
 from even an exalted Character, to suspend the heat, at least for a little while -
 no injury - no suspicion - no insult - no diminution of his Claims or Pretensions
 will be implied - but to render the Gift of a devoted life more valuable, there
 are important Considerations to be tested - There are questions necessary to be
 examined of the Heart, sometimes apt to be led away by the sudden impulse of
 impression excited by peculiar circumstances - May I not ask if this may not
 be possible in the interesting case before us - Shall it be said that a weak moment
 of the Mind has been seized to commit it - and that you, the Protectors and Guardians
 of your Charge were not aware of it, and have not endeavored to guard against
 its awful Consequences - Shall I remind you my dear Sophie, of an instance of a
 sudden favorable Impression once before entertained, which was fortunately soon done
 away - And may I not say, that the present is almost as sudden - The Object
 may not be exceptionable - I would by no means be understood as stating an
 exception - but no Evil can result from a more mature examination than
 your present opportunities have or can afford, in the midst of the Romance which
 Nature exhibits around you - your intelligence would furnish a charming
 scene for a Novel - but to you & yours a more serious Scene is to be contemplated

Were I to add a Volume, the Moral would be the same - for God's sake, for your
Daughter's sake and for my dear Henriette for your Niece's sake - pause, for
a little while - I will add no more than that I express our revered Mother's
sentiments as well as my own - And they are not the sentiments of a cold -
or an old - or a phlegmatic hour, but of an affection and interest that mark the
warmest feelings of a Parent as well as those of
Your devotedly Affected Brother
B. L.

I cannot forbear adding that I have somewhere heard it observed, or
have somewhere read, that a young Lady in the hurry of preparation, or Tumult
of Society ~~often~~ has neither inclination nor leisure to let tender expressions soften
or sink into the heart - The crowded Company & how are not the dangerous places - tis
the private friend, the kind console, the companion of the vacant hour, whose
complaisance with opinions can flatter and whose compensation can just soothe
without stretching the mind, that is the danger to be feared - he who buzzes in the
ear in a crowd or at the opera must often be contented to buzz in vain - If you
associate Man with a Female, so as to make them derive their whole pleasure
from each other, they will inevitably fall in love, as it is called - but at ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~month's~~
month's end, if you throw them into public life where they might change Partners
at pleasure, each would soon forget that fondness which mutual Dependence and
the Penury of other Amusement alone had caused, and each would separately
be delighted by the Release.
A strong Moral to be drawn from this - Consider it well,
B. L.

Copy to my sister Phelps directed to
her address - 9 Aug. 1817 -

Dear Sisters

Anxious to know how the State of our cherished Invalid
I had advanced as far as Willings Alley but being fagg'd, I have
returned to take advantage of a Messenger, hoping you will
by a line give the agreeable Account of my dear dear, more to
me than a Sister, having had a tranquil day as when I saw
her and that the new Prescription may give her as good a
Night as the last one - May God bless & preserve her
Thursday Evg

Yr affec^d Bro^r
B. Chew

If our dear Sister should be more
indisposed than expected, I shall
not hesitate to come to you

The Mills Street

Forgiving you, no room at the Bottom to say,

Palsgrave Place. Temple

My dearest Sister P.

April 26th 1784

I know not how sufficiently to thank you for your very dear and welcome Letters of 19th Jan^y, 2th of Feb^y and 1st March which I received at the same time on my return from Bath on the 20th - by the way I imagine of New York - I received them in a tender moment almost overcome with the fatigue of riding in a severe fever and they met with all the Effusion of Affection increased by Weakness. I am however now perfectly recovered and free from those Complaints of my Stomach that have lately plagued me and have viewed and reviewed your good attention with all the Warmth of a Heart not totally void of Sensibility, but capable of some Emotions which its continued Attachment to you only can evince - it gives me infinite Satisfaction to find you so early heard of my arrival, knowing your affectionate Anxiety but I am surprised you did not also get my Letter which I mentioned in that of the 3^d Dec^r which you reced, as having wrote you by the Way of Boston as well as Mr Hopkins' for he forwarded it by the same Opportunity with his own and I omitted no probable Conveyance of giving you the Informaⁿ nor have I since passed any opportunity of writing to you or my Father.

in one of my late Letters to him I ^{have} mentioned them particularly as I wrote and ~~the~~ Names of the Vessels. I have since wrote by the Skinner Capt. Comyns, & by Major Jackson, and a short Letter by the Way of Bristol - so that you perceive I have not been wanting in my punctuality -

Had not my Trip to Bath been attended with the villainous Fever, I should have had good Matter to have entertained you with - but the Season of the Year being extremely backward did not admit of my seeing Nature in her Beauty ^{going down} and deferring ~~their~~ Visit to the glorious Seats on the Road and the taking a Circuit round the Country, till we should return, I was disappointed both, from the Necessity of coming post to London to be nursed - While at Bath however I enjoyed as much of it as my Attention to an Invalid to whose family I am under Obligations, would permit me - and formed some agreeable Acquaintances but was happily astonished in meeting Sheldon in a Ball Room two days before I left Bath - I believe we made a ridiculous Figure in the Circle for we were both vastly happy to see each other - he made a multitude of Inquiries of every body - he had arrived but that afternoon to take a flying View of Bath on his way to visit some Relations and left it the day I did but contrary ways - I also saw there the Marquis de Bouille, Count de Baum and Viscount, D'Ermenewille - the Duke has a house taken for him at the West End of the Town and will be here in about a fortnight but I did not learn

any of our acquaintances were to be with him - L'Omene is married to a tolerable good Estate - the Prince gone to the East Indies and the rest entirely scattered - I met also at Bath a Cousin or Aunt I believe the first of M^r Vernon's quite a high dame but rich - I lodged in the same house with her & was much with her - in canvassing the Gentleman's Character we became quite well acquainted - I found her a perfect Chronologist and Chronicle of Families & Family Anecdotes, scandalous of course so that I could have collected a good fund for a Magazine - dining together at our lodgings with a Circle of a dozen or fourteen I met the most pleasant Variety of Genius ~~in~~, among them I found a Miss Inglis a Scotch Lady an Acquaintance of Harry Hill's somewhat about 55 and the advantage - Harry however was a favorite with her and she an original - in this stile more is to be seen of the World in a month than in formal Invitations for a Year - Owing to contested Elections at this time had throout the Kingdom for new Members of Parliament the Season of Bath was but thin - at the recess ^{for} Easter Holidays there usually is a great Resort of Company there but they were at this time otherwise employed in spending their Money in the Purchase of Votes - the Result of the Westminster Election is just now of such importance to the Spirit of Party that the Duchess of Devonshire literally takes her part and goes round to solicit Interest for her Favorite M^r Fox -

They have admirably caricatured her Grace as indeed they now do
almost every Event - by the Bye thro' Moser Franks I have made
inquiry of Delaney for your Picture and he assures our Mose that he
gave it to Mrs Johnstone before she left New York from her I shall endeavor
to procure it and am sorry you so kindly and flatteringly prep for mine
in the Fall however to gratify you as I would wish to do in all things
I will present you in better form than can be taken now, with the
Trait you so much desire. I do not like it but as you request it I will
certainly comply - in the mean time as I have before mentioned to
you, I should be glad you would make out a List of the most wanted Articles
among you that may accompany it as I would wish ^{then} to send ~~such~~
little matters as may be most convenient to you and not such as may
be had really at lower rate with you considering the amazing quantity
of goods that are gone out from hence and for this reason I have
delayed indulging my Inclination ~~to~~ furnish anything till I
hear from you on the subject. I have anticipated many of the Injuries
you make and am delighted to find once more dear Sociability reign
among you. I can scarcely bring myself to believe the Connexion of Front
Street was like to have taken Place but concluded the Answer had been
given that his Court would not do. I should really rejoice in seeing a

Miss Perry Chew

Philadelphia

At the House
Capt. Fulton

April 26th 1844

Dear

happy Settlement in that way as well from its being the Accomplish-
ment of the Wishes of most Women as that it would be a means of
regulating and conducting her Affairs to better Purpose - but if the
Breach between them is now ~~unrepairable~~ irreparable I may be safe in
saying the intended Alliance was a very ridiculous one and such as wd
not have added much respectability - The New York Train would prob-
ably have paid their respects to the new Relation - before this reaches you
you will find I mentioned the Matter as I thought it proper it shd
be known what was to be expected - as to the connexion putting an End
to a certain Jealousy, for my own part I knew the uprightness of my
conduct and therefore never very much regarded it but with regard
to me that ought to have been removed when the Object so dear to
me was taken off and the results shewed what means I made use
of, but that is now done away and I wish to give every ser-
vice and assistance that Friendship and Affection can require
these expressions call to mind again my sincere Regret and
Sympathy for the loss of my good Friend Mr Milligan and as
much for the amiable Mrs Wilcocks than whom I believe none
were more deserving - her peculiarly good disposition attached her to
every person - And tho' my Friend Mr M had many oddities about him
I had the warmest regard & esteem for him - I knew him well

and knew he possessed great good Qualities - pray what Estate is it
supposed he left behind him; the dear Girls I hope are most amply
provided for - after they become reconciled to so tender an Event their
removal to Baltimore may be of Service to them - Peggy's continued ill
Health is such I fear her Fate is short but they have my warmest Prayers
for their Health and Happiness for I have much Affection for them -

But now to Bath I have given you but little description of it as I should
do it imperfectly from point of time and the Scenes and Views which
are most exquisite are so familiar to Mrs M^{rs} Penn and they perhaps
already given you a full account of both - The Place as well for Inland
and Visitants is wholly calculated for Pleasure, every hour being filled
up with some public parade or amusement. I could not for my
soul avoid breaking out when the morning after I arrived at Break-
fast I was saluted with the Murick & Ford saw Mr Chew finding with
Mr Sinkin "twas the business of that Corporation" to welcome in the
great Men of the Nation - and I prepared to receive the Visit of the Master
of the Ceremonies - a Public Breakfast the day after offered and the
Scene was really diverting and ludicrous in short the Bath Guide is
a most admirable description and not much heartsguessed - my Friend
Mr Lardner who accompanied perfectly as tounded at the Novelty -
In the Even^g I attended a Ball and danced with the beautiful M^{rs}
Bingham for one dance - two Country dances only were had as
you will remember my kindly & purely to my dear female Acquaintance
I do particularise my Attention to Mrs A. Bond & but you will
do it for me - W. Windsor & omit not one

they are precise to a moment in breaking up at eleven dancing or
not to prevent ill Effects from late hours - The Room is said to be
the first in Europe and some 1150 or 500 were the Company in which
was a curious Collection of Madam Vantwister & Lady Pearcewister &
true Hogarth Figures - except three or four young Ladies as we
pas grave & le pas seul the dancing was execrable to what I expected
in Cotillions all stand up with their printed papers in their Hand of
the Figure which excited much Mirth from the French Gentlemen
and truly laughable end - Your Evenings of Saturday or in social
Circle are worth a million of these and the Contrast being a great
of cheerful Conversation and some of the grave Characters general
with here is very strict & I am delighted with your
Influence over our Friend in accomplishing a Party and
the Philad Manners with gain great Credit from so strong
a Proof of their insinuations - Lady Juliana is quite
charmed with the Change I wish I could send you a letter I yesterday
received from her thanking me & you for mentioning her son - you will
therefore always speak of him particularly for it always ensures
me a good reception - & she is an honorable Woman - Mrs Penn
continues also her kind & strictly Invitation - to be there on Thursday -
generally tis on Monday - I do not know how I shall guard myself against
some part of the Family - Mr Lawrence is gone into the Country to
spend five or six months he is astonishingly well & looks better than I ever
saw him - I must take my leave my dear Girl - present my Affections
to all the dear dear Family and make my respects to M^{rs} & M^{rs} P. I am ever
Yours - B. Chew jr

3 Jan 1784

Jan 7 3^d 84

Miss Peggy Chew
Philadelphia
Commerce
Capt. Johnston

of the latter but cannot yet meet him - Americans are falling in
threefold thick - 'tis amazing the number we meet - little however, I
fear will be done for them in short so much seems to be on the hands
of the Public or rather the Representatives of the Public that there is
little they can do for them - I am delighted to find the Reception
our Friends in Chestnut Street have met with and that they are
so easily reconciled to it - would! that all ^{this} Circumstances ~~may~~ ^{could} be
as well accommodated - Complaints of Finances are as usual I
suppose they seem I think from your account to be pretty well
engaged for the Winter - your time will therefore be varied between
Burlington & Philad^a - Sally being wholly in Town will have some
Confinement to you - but is it possible

have doubt

the Frow

by son

son

a

of

admitted too long unless they understand each other I shall wait
impatiently the Event - I hope our Friend Miss Baird is not determined
to leave Burlington before you do - if she does I shall feel your Loss for
so agreeable a companion - make her my best Wishes for her health Happiness
& Husband - I have indeed great Esteem for her many amiable Qualities - & pray
not omit my dutiful Expressions to the Miss Riches - M^r & M^{rs} Jones & my
Circle of acquaintance thro' as particularly as tho' I mentioned them and
then none will suppose themselves forgot - a good decent Task for you
it may however do to some, when little else is to be said - and I hope you
will do me justice in ~~the~~ canvassing so good a Theme - I shall expect from
an account of your Correspondents - Dear Peggy Mulligan I sympathize

she shall have my prayers - all I can

with an affec-

ingly - but

little

is

my

begin

say

what you read, believe me it would be of the most infinite advantage
to you - Let me return to meet you, as you at present appear, in parallel
Music &c are the less spiritual Accomplishments - but pray improve
yourselves with a Knowledge of History and Geography - tho' it be super-
ficial - why can you suppose it less necessary in you than Men? when
tis discovered in you, be assured it will be highly esteemed - I read plays
or any thing else but let it be with Attention - Do not take this as a
Preachment but I give you my Word it will soon be expected of you
when you have less time to spare than the present - Maria
my dear little Girl I hope you are quite recovered - I often have
attended you & watched you my sweet Harriet and gone to
my heavenly Kit with you on my Pillow - Oh that I could
express myself more warmly to assure you I am with unfeigned
Regard

Your most affecte

& sincere Brother

B. Chew Jr

48. Norfolk Street -
London
Jan^y 23. 1784 -

M^{rs} Penn will receive Letters from her Friends here, I thought I men-
tioned them - Make to them my best Respects -

Miss Peggy & Juliana Chew

The Miss Chews
& Mr Philips.

Walnut St

17 March 1839

My dear Sisters

Miss Henrietta & Maria Chew and
Mr Philips -

As it is agreed that my Son
Henry's Bride Elect shall immediately
after the ceremonies of the morning
proceed to Chiveden to dine with us,
it is your Sister Chew's and my wish
that you or rather ye should also
favor us with your company at dinner
on Wednesday next the 20th Inst. say
not later than 3 o'clock pm

Ever your Aff^d Brother

Chiveden B. Chew
17. March 1839 -

You will of course let us hear from you

Dear Sister

The Coachman also cannot in the Snow make the necessary time to heat & repair the tire of the Carriage, if it were sent to him - different weather will be required - Dennis may speak to the Coachman also to enquire when he may take the Carriage to him -

I have, as frequent occasion demands, to thank you for your affectionate expressions about your Brother - Thank God! he is again in pretty good Case, the Drum of the Stove notwithstanding - the grown ones & the little ones of his present House-full hold are in pretty good Condition altho' a little of Cold is marked in one of the Children - a natural consequence of the State of the atmosphere - I am always glad to hear from you when I cannot get up to you & the more so in receiving favorable Accts of Dear Kate & yourself & Henrietta - May these continue to you thro' the year & for many years -

I have given to Dennis a little Billet for the form of Check for \$100 - the proceeds of which he will no doubt render to you -

Accept best wishes & the regards of

Yr affectionate
B. L.

10th Jan'y 1831 -

Miss Maria Chew

15 Jan 1881

My dear Sister

I herewith send to you a Check for \$150— and will probably
see you in the course of the day on the other subjects of our note—
I spoke to Dr Chapman ten days ago on the matter referred to
but have not yet heard from him

faithfully at this in haste.

Yrs Bro

B. C.

Miss Maria Chew

Dear Sis —

Being very much engaged when your
man Robt. called I purposed to be with you
by 12 — but being detained on an appointment
I have been carried beyond my mark and
am now prevented getting up to you before
the afternoon — but send you in the interim
my check for \$100 — pour papier le jour —

Yr affctg B

My thanks for the quilt must be more tenderly
expressed in person. —

Miss Maria Chew

My dear Sisters

There is no use in kicking against the Bricks nor
dare we repine against the weather — that cause prevented our
coming to Town yesterday to spend a cozey hour or two with you
as we had purposed and the same cause prevents our moving
to day as will be evident to you — The Consular appointments
of my Son William require him to profit of the Stage to convey
him thro' bad Report or good report to his Office — I therefore send
by him annexed an order for your plate chest as he informed me
you wished it and also enclose herewith my check for \$150. — to
serve for running away Cash just' as a revoir — which will be
as soon as the weather permits — in the mean time accept a
continuance of the Love of

Your aff. Brother

B. Chew

Washed in
28th Sept 1831

My dear sister

There is no one in looking forward to the Birds now
have no reference against the weather - that I have presented our
account to them, waiting to appear a copy from or two with me
in the next fortnight and the good cause I have been
to say as well as to give the copy for the same
of my dear William, I have been to keep of the paper to come
him this box which I have sent to his office
I have written to him a few lines about the fact as he informed me
you wished it and I have been with my child for 1850 to
leave for business, I have been with my child which will be
as soon as the weather permits in the morning I have written a
few lines more of the same of

8
295
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The Miss Chew-

he about 17

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404



Miss Chew
Walnut Street
Philadelphia

Cherished Sister

83-77 1/2 lbs
5 50 cts
26-43 1/2 lbs
132 37 cts
14

99 93
223 20

7 June 1831

My dear Sisters

I intended to be with you as of tomorrow,
feeling under present circumstances an increased anxiety at
being absent from you for more than a day - an embarrassing
circumstance however has occurred this evening, by my receiving
a formal notice that Mr Adlum with whom you know there
has been a long intimacy, is to make a visit to us with his
Daughter tomorrow and I know not, ^{how} indeed I have any opportunity
of sending to him, to put him by - if I were to leave home after
his formal notice of his coming to Cliveden, familiar as we
have always been, he might consider it as symptomatic of a
disposition to avoid his association ~~that~~ that has so long been maintained
- I have therefore thought it expedient to sacrifice my own wish to
be with you and postpone my seeing you until the day after tomorrow
when I promise myself the comfort of meeting you and dear Maria
in some degree better reconciled to the dispensation that has recently
been allotted to us - You, my dear Henrietta, attract from me greater
credit for your self possession on the trying occasion - it is in vain for
us to grieve at that which is irrecoverably past and for her who is
confidently gone to a happier state - it is a Haven that we all ought
ardently to look to and prepare for - Why then repine at our loss, when
the Gain is so immeasurably great to her that has been removed
from us - Thy will, O Lord! not ours be done, was among the last
expressions that yet sweetly dwell upon my ears - Weep not, then
at a change that was not only evidently calmly submitted to, but appeared
to be desired - There ought to be much consolation to you & our other
Sisters in this reflection - I trust I shall find you more composed
than when I left you last evening -

Our retired scene in its natural cast is here so beautiful that

