

Washington Jan. 9th 1825

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My Dear Friend,

Altho' I have heard nothing from you since I wrote my last letter, I hope I have no occasion to auger unfavorably as to your health on that account. Yet I should feel much better satisfied if I had the assurance under your own hand that you were both well and happy. I presume however, excepting your separation from your immediate family, there is no situation, in which you could be placed, better calculated to ^{improve} ~~restore~~ your health, and promote your happiness. I have just got a letter from Mary, in which she represents herself as perfectly well, and as happy as a separation from her parents will permit - she informs me that she had written to you, which if you have received it, will probably give you a more particular account of herself and the concerns of the family, than I have the means of doing. I have lately heard nothing from Mr Paddecks, nor of Mrs Shaw - I presume from that very circumstance that they are both living; as Mary or some other person from whom I have had letters would have mentioned it. particularly Pliny, from whom I have just received a pretty lengthy letter -- As to any interesting occurrences at this place, I have witnessed none that are worthy recording. Yesterday being the anniversary of the battle of New Orleans, a numerous party assembled at General Browns, amounting, of gentlemen and ladies, to between four & five hundred - but as I was not there I can give you no particulars. I suppose however there were enough attended to constitute a Samb - which is the highest class of modern, or fashionable, visits - In order to constitute a real Samb, there must be such a number of both sexes attend^{ing}, as will com-