

My Dear Sarah

May 29<sup>th</sup> 1807

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For some time passed my time has been so occupied with domestick matters that I have scarcely had a moment to spare. — Your Papa left home about the middle of last month and I have not heard from him but once since. He was then within 80 miles of Mr. Brown travelling with great industry. When you reflect on the variety of things I have to attend to in his absence you will readily excuse my not being a punctual correspondent and not deny me the pleasure of hearing from you as often as convenient. Particularly when I assure you that few are the resources from which I derive as much real satisfaction. — Your Sister came up with me from the camp meeting your Cousin Alice mentioned in her letter and stayed a week. — — — As Polly Ours was among the number who fell I did not think it necessary that Betty should return immediately. With respect to the camp-meeting little occurred worth communicating the same old scene with a few variations was again renewed, some lamenting, some merry, and many offended at having their secret and darling vices so severely

exposed in publick. Although no person was particularly alluded to a great number got a severe box on the ear especially the Gentlemen who have never in any age or country been remarkable as being wholly immaculate. — Dr Ginnings delivered a very moral Discourse on Sunday which has given great offence to some of the Ladies as well as almost all the Gentlemen though I heard nothing myself but what the most outrageously modest might have listened to without creating a blush. — At the words fornication and adultery there was a general alarm. The Ladies rose in a body spread their umbrellas looked at a little cloud and showed evident apprehensions of an instantaneous thunderstorm. The Dr observing they were panick struck looked himself at the cloud and suggested them to retire to the Seats which were numerous spacious and comfortable in order that their equanimity might have time to subside. When the cloud was suddenly dispersed they were again assembled and then he finished a Discourse which every friend to morality must wish preserved for the benefit of posterity. The Gentlemen thought he had no business with ones which custom had so long made familiar. The Ladies that he might have spared their feelings a little more. The truth is the more true the more offence. — Thought to do justice to my sex I saw a number of married Ladies who were very much pleased as well as single ones whose heads contained a little ballast and took the liberty of thinking for themselves instead of adopting the sentiments of their beaux.

By this time you think the Dr has taken up enough of my time and paper and feel anxious to hear something else I have very disposition to gratify you but really I know

nothing worth communicating which has not been conveyed  
to you through some other channel. It is a mistake with  
regard to your Cousin Mary's being married. She ~~the~~ had a  
very wealthy admirer from the lower country who washed  
in lotion and highly perfumed with bergamot though I believe  
she would greatly have given the preference to gunpowder.

For an exact description of his head (in spite of the  
malicious assertion that he has no real brain or any thing  
like it) I refer you to number 275 of the Spectator. —  
Your cousin Mary who had a better opportunity to examine  
it than the rest of us (you really to tell the truth I have  
not seen him) assures me that it contains little else but  
wind and froth and that the ogling muscles are very much  
worn and decayed for the time they have been in use.

This I take to be nothing more than a girl's malice  
and make no doubt they will hold out to ogle an  
hundred others yet. Read the above mentioned paper and  
you will find a number of other valuable commodi-  
ties besides those already mentioned. I have pretty well  
exhausted the wind and froth of my own noddle as well  
as paper and conclude with a request that you in my  
name thank Mr Anderson for the favours already received  
and beg that neither distance nor your Papa's absence will  
prevent his continuing them while you remain with him.  
I have a nother request to make which is that you send me  
no more blank paper but at your leisure fill it up with your  
own thoughts on any subject you please. When nothing better  
presents itself you may occasionally give me an old woman's  
gash on if such a thing is to be had as I was greatly disappointed  
in getting one in Richmond there no such thing as an old woman  
has been seen for many years; in fact they are becoming scarce  
with us. Present my compli

ment to Mr Anderson and the young Ladies under her protection  
-on. Let me know whether your teeth continue to ache or  
whether you have had them extracted by some skilful hand  
May your heart be stored with every virtue and your head  
cleared of every bubble is the sincere wish of your

Affectionate Mother

Betsy Watts



Miss Sarah

Watts

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David