

Williamsburg July 14<sup>th</sup> 1808. —

With what inexpressible pleasure do I once more  
seat myself, after a silence of some weeks to write to my dear  
Sarah, I fear, ere this my dear friend has accused me of negligence, or  
diminution of affection, but believe me when I assure you my silence  
proceeded from neither of the above mentioned causes; Mr Gallaway  
alone is to blame, he has persuaded me to defer writing until he goes up,  
he leaves here tomorrow, & Mr Anderson on Monday, I have not deter-  
= mined yet which I shall send this by, but rather suppose by the  
latter, as I am apprehensive there is a Magnet in Bowdoin that  
will attract, and detain Mr C, — perhaps a month. —

Our mutual friend Eliza left her for North  
Carolina on the 25<sup>th</sup> June, accompanied by Mr Anderson,  
and her cousin, she wrote to you the day before she left her,  
I suppose you have received his letter before this, her trip to  
Carolina made her very sick for several days, the weather  
being extremely <sup>warm</sup> & was very disagreeable travelling, Mr Anderson  
tells me they could not prevail on her to say the word "obey". —  
Mr Camp has just sent me two of her letters to read which  
afforded me a great deal of pleasure, she has arrived in Columbia  
at Mr Mayo's Mother's, and is delighted with her situation  
as also her new relations, she says "I am as happy as the day is long."



I expect my dear Sarah you'll begin to complain of my being  
a very dull uncommunicative correspondent, for really there is no  
news stirring in our little City; as I have nothing more entertaining  
to relate, I'll give you the occurrences of the 4<sup>th</sup>, we had not our  
usual number of Orators, there were only 5, Mr. Smith a man  
of very extraordinary talents mounted the Rostrum first he spoke  
on the day; the next was a Mr. Greenhill who spoke on universal  
suffrage, Mr. Lee was the next he also spoke on the day, his  
was an elegant composition, but delivered very badly, after him  
Mr. Washington (a Nephew of the immortal General) delivered an  
elegant piece on Civil Liberty, the last was Mr. McCandlish  
his was an Eulogy on Washington which was very highly approved  
of, I had anticipated the day with a great deal of pleasure  
but as it proved very warm, I did not enjoy myself as much as  
I expected.

Mr. Paradise gave a Ball in the evening, which  
was very disagreeable, as it was so much crowded it was scarce-  
ly possible to turn round, there was a number of Strangers in  
town, which enlivened the place for a few days, but indeed at  
present it wears a very gloomy aspect, the inhabitants are  
leaving it very fast Mr. Camps girls are all gone to two, one  
of which is Maria Moody, I assure you Maria begins to  
do a great deal of mischief among the Beaus, she has had two  
real Lovers already. The Students are leaving here very fast, I suppose  
by next week there will not be more than three or four, and they  
mean to spend the summer here, which we are all very sorry  
for, as we feel under a kind of restraint while they are in



Town, for they are such impudent creatures if we walk out they say directly we are looking for them. I suppose you were very much pleased at the idea of Mr. Anderson's becoming a resident of Lynchburg he appears to be quite undetermined, he told me last evening that money awaited him at the Mountains, and glory at the Metropolis; I told him I should certainly prefer the latter, he will be a great loss to this place, I fear we shall never get such a teacher again. The Mrs Anderson's, Mrs Camp, & all that Family desire to be particularly remembered to you. —

Now my dear Sarah I have a question to ask you, and as I have always thought candor to be your characteristic, I hope you will not evade it, but answer me in your next without equivocation, I have heard you are going to be married, so let me know if it really is so? no one can be more interested in your fate than myself, I hope you will answer this soon, & make a candid confession, I am extremely anxious to hear who is to be so fortunate as to get my dear Sarah; I have heard his name, but as I do not recollect it exactly, I will ask you if **W** are not the initials of his name. I promised to send you copies of those letters we received the first of the course, and had copied them all of, for that purpose, but Mary carried them to Gloucester, & lost them all, this would be an excellent opportunity to send them, I regret very much that they are lost, I expect to go to Gloucester tomorrow, to stay a fortnight, I hope when I return to find a letter from you. For heavens sake my dear Sarah don't set a human being to hold my letters, really I am almost ashamed for you to see them, I hope you'll excuse the incoherent & unintelligible, style of this, when I tell you the weather is so intensely warm, that I can scarcely breathe, Mama, & Mary present their love to you, also the Miss Brackets, & make my compliments to your Mama & Sister, with reluctance I bid you adieu, may your happiness be as permanent as you deserve, is the formal wish of your fondly attached  
Dane C. Coakley