

Middle-Bury June 6th

My dear Maria I received your letter yesterday at Bellfield and have not yet got over the depression of spirits which your gentle reproach and the ill health of Alexandria occasioned, how could you my dear Maria suppose I would intentionally miss such an opportunity of writing to you believe me I had not the slightest idea of Col Powell's going to Alexandria, we went over to Mr Burr Powell in the evening and stayed all night, the next evening we came home, and I was very much surprized and mortified to hear Mr Powell was gone, I returned yesterday evening from Mr William Powell's I am quite delighted with Mrs Powell, she is a woman of the most sweet and gentle manners, they have four as fine children as I ever saw, Mrs Powell has a sister with her a very fine girl, yesterday morning Mr Powell went with us to the top of the blue ridge we stopped on a place called Chesnut level, I did not think it possible for any situation to command so extensive a prospect on this side of the blue ridge the view extends as far as the Sugar-loaf Mountain in Frederick County, Maryland, and on the other side, to the North Mountain, in Hampshire, Virginia, the country between the two Mountains ~~appears~~ appears beautiful, Frederick County seen from Chesnut

1796

Mrs Sumner

Alexandria

level, seems a garden in high cultivation, we had a small view of the Kanawha river, and of Battle Town.

Loudon County is much more irregular, a distinct view of the Bull run mountains, gives it a very rough appearance, there are some very pretty farms seen from the road on this side, but the other side looks much more flourishing, the wheat is very fine on both sides, some is just turning, and the latter wheat quite green which makes a pleasing variety in the colours, the ascent to the mountain is very steep and craggy, but the soil is good.

The largest trees I ever saw chiefly Oak, Walnut, Chestnut and Locust, the descent is extremely tiresome, it is about a mile and an half long, I rode so much yesterday that I feel a little tired; sixteen miles is more than I ever rode before, there has been so much rain that we have been a good deal confined to the house so much that I had a pain in my breast for one week but as soon as the weather cleared up and I rode again it went away, I have been at Mr Bettous to see Miss Patsy Merar who is almost crazy with romantic Ideas, the stream that runs at the foot of Mr Bettous farm is perfectly adapted to Miss Patsy's taste there ~~is~~ on a rock at the foot of a tree she sits and makes Poetry, indeed little river is such a beautiful place that Miss

Patsy is excusable for a little enthusiasm. You say my dear Mama you will send for me when I want to see you very much, I want to see you now very much, I am very anxious about little Jane I'm surpris'd you had her inoculated. if you were all well and happy I believe I should be more pleas'd to see you in middleburg than in Alexandria; but the infectious disorder prevailing where you are, and my family as liable to be attacked by it as any other, makes me feel a great deal of anxiety, and I am sure if any one of the family were to get it, my assistance tho' trifling would be necessary, and if I was to catch it, no one of the family could be better spared, I am much obliged to Cousin for her affection to me, for indeed I love her very much, I feel very grateful to my dear Papa for his affection and solicitude about my happiness, to you my dear Mama, I cannot express the pleasure which the expressions of affection in your letter created. Mrs Billy Powell sends her love to you and says she shall always remember you with gratitude and affection. Please to give my love to Mr Chapman Mr Cook and the doctor, to Cousin, Billy, Douglass, John, Peggy Ester and all the family kiss the dear little children and tell Nancy I won't forget her, accept my dear Mama my thanks for your letters and let me hear often from you.

P.S. I would write to Betty Fairman but I suppose she has sail'd.

Your Affectionate
Daughter Catharine
Simms

P.S. Accept my dear Mrs Simms my affectionate love, and warmest thanks, for the gratification you have given me by letting Betty stay longer