

Middleburg April 22nd 1798

You are a little surpris'd I suppose my dear father
-sine at receiving a letter from me so soon and from this place
when I had no expectation of being when I left you - but so
it is my pen now for the first time assuming the office of the
tongue in conveying to you the language of affection - But oh
how inadequate is the tongue or the pen to the expressions
of the feelings of my heart - torn as I am from the dear object
of my affections, doomed to an absence of three months & de-
-prived by my situation of the pleasure of a regular correspondence
the only source of comfort to an absent lover. Pined by
reflections of this nature on the sorrowfull morning on which
I took my leave my sensations were too strong for utterance, and
altho' about to leave you for so long a time I had to bid
you an almost silent adieu - I look'd back on a look-
--diced with a sigh when I left it, then perspire and said
I jog'd along while the only cheering reflections which came
across my mind arose from the anticipation of a joyfull return
to my Catharine & to happiness - I trust however that the
inquietude of our separation will be much less'n'd to us both
by the full convictions which we feel that however divid'd
we may be by distance, our hearts will remain firmly join'd

ted in the bonds of a mutual & immutable affection -
But altho I am unchangeable in love you will find that I
am not so in every thing - I stopt at Salisbury on my way
up & from thence meant to have you on by the way of Fauquier
Court house without coming by Middletown, but from the infor-
-mation which I received from Chat. Love I was induced to
change my route & have determined to go through Kentucky -
which on investigation, ^{I find} will require no longer time, will be attend-
-ed with less fatigue & afford me the gratifications of gliding
down the Ohio's smooth current & passing thro' the Garden spot
of America - I shall not I fear be able to give you an ac-
-curate account of Kentucky as I shall pass thro' it with
rapidity nor stay long to admire its beauty & fertility -
For which offence I trust you'll grant me absolution - I have
not had an opportunity of delivering your message to Mrs Chilton
but I know she wishes and expects the pleasure of your company -
This alteration in my plan will make it necessary to direct the
favour you were good enough to promise me (& which you must
not forget) to Nashville where I hope to be by the 20th of
May from thence I shall write immediately if I do not before -
I leave Middletown this morning - Adieu - Present my respects
to Col^o & Mrs Simms for whom I have a filial affection, my love to all
the family, & above all I beg you to continue to believe me entirely
& unalterably Yours C Powell



