Washington, March 15th, 1831

Dear Mother,

As none but anxious Parent can truly appreciate the inestimable blessing of a Child grown in the shade of Womanhood, without giving Rise to any bitter pang in the Hearer's bosom, or exciting our tears of Love from the tender eye, or perhaps of too tender heart. Yet it would be vanity in me to attempt to describe to you understanding the great and pleasing sensations, which the bonds of filial affection, inspired in the Parental bosom, whilst this blessing is perpetuated, no Father can be comfortless, stripped of every flattering prospect, which Wealth could promise, or Virtue inspire. Depriving the untamed condition of his Financial cares, either from misfortune, or perhaps his own indiscretion, which may eventually result in a privation of all the luxuries, and perhaps of many of the comforts of Life, breasting at the same time all the horrors of a bitter Prison, and a Family in want.

The throbbing heart and the sleepless eye, upon the midnight Pillar, suddenly find sweet repose from the comfortable, that now in poverty and distress, being conscious of an honest heart in his own bosom, he can find a safe retreat in the confidence and affections of a Virtuous Family: Such is the blessing which Heaven bestows on me, and which is in some measure in your power to perpetuate. And notwithstanding the fierce conflicting which I deplore in your sweet Virtue, still I tremble when I reflect upon the evidences which we daily manifest.
met with in the streets of this distant city, for in the his-
tory of individuals composing these groups of scattered fami-
lies are thousands whom we can trace back to an anten-
oral age as high as that which you now hold in community. or in
the confidence and affection of your loving parents, which in
an evil hour, by one precipitate act in an ungodly and
from in that fatal moment have derived from their variable
condition into the state of ruin and despair, and led to
perdition. And there is nothing could have given me
more pleasure than to learn in this most critical, and long
add most dangerous period of your life, that common
prudence, both dictated an appeal to the councils of your
father, and I can assure you dear lover, that either may
mean more adequate to the important task. Yet you
ourney can start with greater sincerity or more pleasure than him
who, as his life has been so long devoted to his friends, and
those who still consider the duty he owes to his family
paramount to every other earthly consideration, and but
mainly connected with that which is due to his God.
Perhaps you may be somewhat surprised when I state
that in view of the foregoing considerations in refer-
to the critical period of life through which you are now
passing, you have no cause for alarm, for as long as you
suffer Reason to reign over the Emotions of your heart, and
submit Prudence, Modesty, Virtue, humility, to subdue
and to constitute its favorite counsel, you will find no
difficulty in suppressing Insurrection within or Ref-
secutive Invasion, of the enemy within. Prudence.
Landmaid of Virtue, and the Prime Minister of Pity. Standing upon the Watch Tower of this Republic of Moral Virtue, will never fail like a faithful sentinel to give timely notice of any approaching danger. And our faithful associ-ate in arms, will ever be found gratifying around the standard of Wishing Innocence, at the first alarm, ready to repel the united effort of all the enemies of virtue in their united attack upon the object of the sacred change, and at the same time their forces so judiciously disposed as not to leave any part of their attacks vulnerable. If Pride should affright you with all his train of Avarice, Envy, with the paralyzing weapons of Wealth and Haunt Htrade, Humility at one look, puts him to flight. If Sensual pleasure attempts to stir up an insurrection among the inordinate passions, True Virtue will march them to Rest, should Simulation attempt to enter the recesses of the heart. Modesty and honor, would meet him at the threshold, and forbid an entrance, and thus it will procure that with so severe an opposition and so faithful a Commander (with all the Moral Virtues at her command) as Purity, that you have nothing to fear, so long as you permit them to govern the Empire of your heart, and which, as you proceed the happiness of your soul and society, the welfare and reputation of your relations and friends. The renewal of the wise, and the precept
Of our Holy Mother, and as you will be happy and salve, my dear daughter, I have the fullest confidence in your prayers and good works. May God grant you grace and virtue, and may His grace be with you always.

Yours truly,

[Signature]