

Bedford August 16, 1812

With heartfelt pleasure my dearest wife I have the pleasure of acknowledging your loving letter of the 27th ___ which I received last night just after my arrival and really am very happy to find every thing goes on so well. Your bargain with [Lerew] will do very well I should have made one with him myself if at home on the same terms. I have heard Dr. Littlejohn is coming up here, I hope he will bring me a few lines from my darlings. My fathers conduct and kindness I expected and shall ever do my best to repay. Betsey's (___ sister) going up to Mr. Harma's again is surprising indeed - I thought she had enough of that place.

At Fauquier I saw my friend Thaddeus Norris who behave very well I was there two days - from thence I went to the Culpeper Courthouse - there Mr. Richard Norris insisted on my staying with him - sent to the tavern without my knowledge I had my horse put into his stable. It set in to rain next day and continued for three days - his wife and family behaved with the greatest friendship & politeness - from thence I went to the Natural Bridge - I met David Cochran at Lexington Va. He had been in bed ___ Days in the old way - poor fellow I am afraid he is lost indeed. I got on to Bath on Tuesday last after having written you from Winchester a few lines by a Mr. Falkner - I went to see Mr. Brierly and spent Sunday night with them after staying a day at Bath I came on to this place. We found every house completely full had meeting with Capt. Burton - he got me into a Mrs. Scotts (private house) where I found five besides Burton - I got a comfortable bed - 4 in the room - she appears a very clever woman (a widow) and good company - I have a notion to go out to Harmony about 30 miles above Pittsburgh on Monday and return here in ___ days if I do go I will write you before I start - however write me here until I send you word there are a great many Baltimoreans here and appear generally very friendly - They gave a ball to night to the town. But I am not in dancing order I got to bed instead of riding three miles in the night. As to news my dear wife cannot expect any from me, as you have it before we have -

I pray my savior may continue to help you and my dear children. My health I think is better than it was - my cough is not so very bad - but hope thro' the mercy of a good wise providence to have it entirely removed when I shall return to my dear family in peace

Farewell my love take care of yourself & children - my love to all friends and a thousand kisses to you & my children

adieu - adieu

Ever thine

James Pannell