

August 12, 1806 Plainfield Tuesday P.M. 2 O clock

My dear dearest friend,

With what emotions I have this moment received and your letter, it is impossible for me to express --my heart is even now too full to write with --you my dear, who know the feelings of a friendly heart, overcome with joy an affection, perhaps may form an imperfect idea of the feelings which agitate my breast O my dear what shall I say? I know not how to write -- May heaven continue to smile on our fondest wishes, and may our hearts glow with warmest gratitude to him who is the benevolent giver of our sweetest enjoyments -- May no unforeseen and unpropitious event delay the happy hour to which I have long been looking with fondest hope, and pleasing anticipation. The moments fly with hasty wings, yet I could almost wish their flight more swift, till they had brought my long absent friend to my arms --then they might linger longer in their course and I would not chide their slowness since they had left me in the possession of happiness almost complete. But my dear when reason resumes its throne I do not promise myself that supreme felicity which my imagination paints in such lively color -- for Earth has no unpolluted spring" and happiness is not complete on earth - yet not withstanding these reflections, I fondly cling to the anticipated hour of your arrival here --O how I could wish that this days sun might leave me in the possession of that happiness which the return of a long absent and highly valued friend will bestow -- Two or three days at most I fondly hope will complete the term of our separation - then my dear this dwelling will be your abode, and this room in which I am now seated alone will afford me a friend ----I am anxious my dear, for your health --O may it soon be restored -- yes my friend may health and happiness be your constant attendants. I am pleased to hear that your present situation is agreeable, and hope you will enjoy much satisfaction with your dear brother (Peter Bryant) and his family - his kindness in offering to provide a way for your conveyance here merits my gratitude and thanks. I think I cannot with propriety visit you at your brothers --tho my inclination would lead me immediately there O my dear, do not delay your visit here any longer than your health and engagements or other circumstances shall render it absolutely necessary Excuse and accept this from your almost impatient and still sincerely affectionate friend.

L. Richards

P.S. Momma sends her compliments with an invitation for you to favor us with a visit.