

My dear son

Ashland 29<sup>th</sup> March 1830

I returned home from N. O. on the 26<sup>th</sup>. I left you sister, Mr. Donald and one other friend there all well. You were after a theme of commendation, and your successful progress and perseverance speedily afford our friends there, as every where else, the greatest delight. I am often complimented on the high standing of my son, and I derive from it more satisfaction than I now should from any personal praise applied to myself.

I found your Mama quite cheerful and happy. She had passed the period of my absence with great tranquillity and with less trouble than was during the winter. A new overseer that I had engaged (Mr. Martin) has fulfilled all my hopes, and has put Ashland in a better condition than I ever saw it at this early season of the year. We have already ploughed almost the ground for the crop of the present year.

I received your letter informing me of your honorable appointments to deliver the 4<sup>th</sup> of July oration and the discourse on the contemplated Institute. I am highly gratified to learn that such favorable opinions are entertained of you by your young associates; but I am almost afraid that you have overtaxed yourself. In your compositions attend more to the justness of the ideas and sentiment which you wish to express than to the ornament of your language. The vice of our Countrymen, and especially the younger part, in composition, is a profuse use of epithets and metaphor. Let me advise you also not to consent to the publication of your productions, which you will be much urged to do. Reserve them for consideration at a future period of your life.

Indiscreet