

Lexington Nov: 29th 1815

Surely cousin, they who have the management of the Mail, can never have been absent from a dear friend, nor experienced the sad anxiety of a tedious silence;— If they had, they would certainly have rendered less dilatory, this only species of communication, between the distant parts of our country— your favour of the 27th ult. proceeds by such easy journeys from Percippany, that it occupied full four weeks, in reaching its destination— The last letter that I received from New-Jersey, previous to this, was from your self, and came to hand in company with one from Elizabeth, the 24th of August— And during the ¹¹ months that elapsed between that time and the 25th inst, I did not receive a single line from any of my New Jersey correspondents.— I am apprehensive that brother Hugh, has not only grown tall during the last season, but also ****; for near four months have passed since I wrote to him, and I have not yet heard a word from him.— From Elizabeth I shall probably soon receive one— Elias Harrison who for a while, wrote to me very regularly, seems to have wholly forgotten that I was once his correspondent.— In perusing the letters of my friends, & particularly yours, dearest cousin, consists my greatest, nay, my only real pleasure.— And until I shall have the happiness of seeing you again, I hope that pleasure will often be renewed to me— I therefore lose no time in acknowledging the receipt of your last, and the safe arrival of the beautiful little mementos which accompanied it— It shall be carefully preserved, as a remembrance of your regard— I think your paint very beautifully, and display a very delicate taste— The sad news announced by your letter, is peculiarly distressing.— How many of our relatives at Percippany and Troy, have died within the narrow limits of my recollection?— I cannot call to mind the number, but know that it is very great— nearly equal to that of those, who are still living— And all of them too, with the exception of Grandfather and Grandmother Farrand, have been swept off, either in youth, or in the prime of their lives— Present Absences, too, are very unpleasurable, and seem to