

Washington Feb. 28th 1852

My dear Son,

I received your letter of the 22^d & was highly gratified with the entire recovery of your mother & with the general state of affairs at Ashland communicated in your letter. You & your mother naturally wish to know every thing about the state of my health my habits &c. & I wish I could satisfy you in every particular. But neither the physicians nor I know what is to be the ultimate issue of my present illness. I have less strength than when I left home, less flesh & less appetite, but still I eat quite enough to sustain life & nearly as much as when in health. I get no sleep any night, without an opiate; I sit up about seven hours in the day & the rest of the twentyfour I am either in bed or reclining on a couch. I have not been out of the house for nearly three months except taking two drives this week.