

My dear Daughter

Tuesday July 3d 1824

It is more than a month, since a half finished letter has lain by, designed for you, and now it is like an old Almanac - out of date, and lost its original value. I shall therefore commit it to the flames, and begin a new score. But Susan keeps you so constantly informed of all the events and transactions which transpire, and that in her own sprightly way, that she leaves me nothing to amuse you with, and I must own a truth, that my inclination for writing declines, and that which was, once a pleasure, becomes a burden. altho I have had a very interesting subject upon my heart, and mind for several months I was not at liberty to communicate it, untill you had first learnt it in your Mother's journal, and I must know, that I allude to the connection formed, between my dear Caroline and Mr. Do Witt, who were this day published. The thought that she is so soon to be separated from me, and the distance, weigh heavy upon my spirits. For she has been to me as a daughter, so dutiful and respectful in her manners, so tender and affectionate, so unoffending and accommodating in her temper, so all that I could wish, that the separation will indeed loosen one of the strongest chords which bind me to Earth, and deprive me of one of my sweetest enjoyments. but I would not sacrifice the prospect she has, of being happily settled in life, with a gentleman who appears, worthy of her, from selfish or personal motives. She has not taken a step, through the whole affair, without the consent, and approbation, of her Friends and as she has thus prudently, and cautiously proceeded, I think it will be a union