

Friday May 5th 1817

Dear Daughter

The account of your Health, and your debility gives me much concern, the frequent bleedings your Physician thinks proper for you, quite allarms me. I am sure Louisa could not have survived, if any blood had been taken from her, for more than a month. She could not rise from her Bed; to sit while it was made, without fainting, and looking as if she could not be got back, a live. She has now so far recovered as to be able to ride out, but much Emaciated, & yet very weak.

You having suffered under similar complaints know how to sympathize with her. Is not your complaint consequent upon a critical period of Life? If you can get through that, your Health may be better.

Susan is very anxious to see you, and her Sister, and nephew, and I am equally desirous that she should. Mr Clarke is very desirous of seeing you also. I have consulted with the Resident upon the Subject, and he does not see any impropriety in Mr Clarke accompanying Susan to Africa, altho not united in the Bonds of Matrimony. Which considering all circumstances, it is thought most prudent to defer. In the early part of their acquaintance they looked forward to a speedy connection, without calculating upon the necessary funds, to support an establishment, He had hopes and expectations from an Uncle, which are not so sanguine as formerly, that uncle a Bachelor, living upon a plantation with a number of Slaves who for want of proper management, consume the produce and waste the substance when the ardour of his affections, gets the better of his judgement, I am obliged to bring him back to reason, the two Letters which I inclose in confidence, and which I wish to have returned to me, will lay open to