Dear Brother,

I received your very kind letter this morning and hastened to acknowledge it. From Mr. Clark, I hear last week his health is entirely reestablished, but he was prevented leaving Maryland by the ice which renders the navigation very difficult, indeed it has been entirely closed for the last two months; I hope however by this time the fitter, which have surrounded him, are disposed and he will soon be able to reach Washington, what his destiny will be after that, remains for government to decide. He is very solicitous to return here this Summer as the object of his leaving us was the restoration of his health, but should he receive orders for the Mediterranean, they must be obeyed. Mr. Clark, once made the proposition my Dear Brother to bring me to Venice, before we were united, his own idea of prosperity (which are very strict) would have prevented it, but he has frequently said he would come see us there immediately after, and that visit, we hope to accomplish. I am sensible that my young lady cannot be too constant in her conduct and should she ever give occasion for the breath of detraction toully her fair fame; the world at large is cautious and allow to the fairest feelings, and it is my endeavor to guard against everything that might give rise to sarcastic observation.

I am learning all the necessary accomplishments of housekeeping, and although I believe, my sphere of action is never to be a very extensive one, still I think it requisite to be acquainted with every branch