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Loving March 11<sup>th</sup> 1717

My Dear Mother

I received your very kind letter this morning, and hasten to acknowledge it; from Mrs. Clark, I heard last week, his health is entirely re-established, 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 fetters, which have surrounded him, are dissolved, 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: Mrs. Clark, never made the proposition my Dear Mother to bring me to Africa, before we were united; his aversion of profanity (which are very strict,) would have prevented it; but he has frequently said he would carry me there, immediately after; and this visit, we hope to accomplish. I am sensible that a young lady cannot be too circumspect in her conduct, nor should she ever give occasion for the breath of detraction, to sully her fair fame; the world, at large, is curious and allous to the fine's feelings, and it is my endeavour, to guard against every thing, that might give rise, to sarcastic observations.

I am learning all the necessary accomplishments of house keeping, 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