Williamsburg January 10th 1808

Great things, I am not myself to propose the truly pleasing task of scribbling to my much valued friend. I have no news to report to relieve us from our uneasiness at your long silence. Elyza said she was certain you were either little or dead. The mail from here to New London must be very irregular, as your letter was dated the 1st of December. Do you receive it until the 1st of January as a very acceptable New Year's gift? I do assure you, my dear Sarah, on the 2nd January Miss M. Moir celebrated her birthday? She gave a general invitation to all those who were acquainted with her. She was compelled to decline the pleasure of going on account of indisposition. You may imagine how great my disappointment was. I wished to see you so much; but being unable to accept your cordial hospitality I can only express my regret. You expressed in your copies every thing of that kind. I hope you write great fortunes, and contributed all in my power to make Sally Blackmore, my sister, look very smart. The day after the party we were honored with a visit from Mr. Callaway. He is a very good young man, and possesses easy, pleasing manners. But indeed, he is extremely handsome, he informs us your residence is a very short distance from his Brothers, so I suppose you went. Do let me know in your next. Mr. Callaway has recovered his health, and how you like her? And now as I suspect your curiosity is excited, I'll satisfy it by relating what induced me to make those enquiries. Mr. C. is an intimate friend of J. Brackens, who wrote to him some time since and has not heard from her yet. To inquire if Mr. C. received an elegant present from her. I did not send her; but I hardly suppose she does it. It has not been more than a week since she sent it.
I should like to be present at the meeting of the society you speak of in your letter, tho' not as a member, for my taste for literature is not of that kind; my mother has always paid great attention to inculcate the necessity of abasing satire, and with truth I can say, it has had the desired effect; I have some acquaintances here, who come quite round in the place of meeting was adjacent to this City, but this City, though without of politeness or polite knowledge as considered of part of usual merit with Wellington, has taken the readings room at the commencement, the gentleman intended giving safety once a week, but the bishops finding it interrupted their studies, soon put a stop to it, which we are all very sorry for, as it was pleasing, as well as edifying, for before the dancing commenced the gentleman discussed as political subjects, some of them displayed great eloquence, Mr. And, I mean in very precious health at present, he has been confined some time, with a using one his uncle, which he has suffered a great deal of pain from, he appears to regret very much; Sally Brown's not returning as also does every person after her acquainted with her, which I am not at all surprised at, for certainly she is among the most amiable of it, E. Clarke is still here, and I think will remain here the winter;altho' she can't have the idea of it, she has made a conquest of Mr. Mayo, one of your neighbors in the country, Beau's, he thinks her one of the most divine mortals he ever beheld. I assure you, I think he will prove as formidable rival to Fleamill as With insupportable pleasure, I inform you, my dear Mr. Sarah, that my mother is in a state of convalescence and I flatter myself will soon be restored to her usual good health.
Really this is the most frigid day I ever felt, although I am almost in the fire, I can scarcely hold the pen; the girls could not prevail on me to go to Church today. I am very glad I was obstinate for once, as I am certain I should have suffered so much with cold, that I should have been unable to have attended to the Sermon. As I am called to dinner, I must bid you adieu, the very reluctant—by assurance you. Mama, and Mary, send their affectionate love to you, do write to me soon. As I do assure you your letters convey much pleasure to your friend, you must excuse errors, and bad writing, as too cold to write tolerable, and can only add as very sincere wish, that the year which has commenced may be productive of all the happiness you so justly deserve, and that each returning year may increase and confirm it. Farewel my dear Sarah, and believe me to be

yours, much attached,

Friend,

Jane C. Charleton.