My dear Margaret

I have long wished to trouble you with a letter, but for the humiliating thought that my former letter was not thought worthy of a answer, but what may be your thoughts in this subject, I consider you as owing me a letter which if you do not discharge, I shall tax you with ingratitude. I imagined your cousin Margaret could tell me some news about you but she pleads ignorant as you have treated her as shabbily in the way of correspondence as you have done me and she has not been blest with any of you since last Christmas. I admire your cousin very much for her amorous spirit; the sin of exaggeration, in describing her perfections, so I acquit you on that score. She has been giving me an account of your adventures up the country, I think she told me something of a Mr. Ashley, are you acquainted with such a character? but I am sure you are not you never heard of him before! If you ascend to this I shall be very apt to accuse you of telling white lies. But I am in hopes that you are so totally engrossed with your studies that you have not a thought to throw away on such trash, and believe me my dear Margaret that the love of literature and love of books cannot both reign in the heart, at least it is so with me, I shall endeavor...
Therefore to pursue the former as productive of the truest happiness. Oh! my dear friend! How I wish that we were both together reading the same books, pursuing the same studies. With one heart and one mind, for the attainment of virtue and knowledge. Did you know that I had turned poet? If it can be dignified with the name of poetry, which were but the effusions of an empty nodule. I intended to have made you an offering of the first fruits of my nonsense, but some of my friends were so much pleased with my composition that they took possession of them, and I cannot get a copy, but I am sure they are not worth house-room. I cannot make you a will of it all.

It is with the deepest sorrow that I send you the news of Mrs. Herndon which took place last Wednesday. She suffered a great deal of bodily pain which she bore with Christian fortitude and died perfectly resigned. Ann and Mary are to live with Mrs. Stevenson.

Your cousin Margaret sends her love to you and says you must not expect a letter from her as you would not answer her first letter. I have commenced school and Reelite Hollins in school. Do Margaret answer my letter very soon and inform me how your Mother's health is.

I remain yours sincerely,

Rebecca Catherine Somar