

I have said the bearer to deliver this by 11 o'clock - before you go
to the house
I wrote
this in the
carriage
while the
servant
waits
light of look my dear General; has brought me
up here at a small house only two miles from
Washington, and four from Montgomery Court House,
after hearing him on the road since three o'clock;
so I will leave you to conceive what a situation
the roads are in - I was exceedingly anxious to
have reached the Court House, but Jack began
towards the latter part to complain most bitterly,
and it being very dark I thought it most prudent
to remain here till morning - I mean to breakfast
at the Court House, and if possible will procure
a Bay to return with this - The inclosed letters
I will thank you to send your servant to George
Tison with, soon after you receive them, as they
are on particular business - The one addressed
to Mr. Devlin of Petersburg perhaps you will
do me the favor to free for me, and forward by the
first post.

I presume I need not say how much
I regret that I was denied the pleasure of
shaking

you by the hand - and expressing my gratitude for
the many marks of friendship and attention I ex-
perienced from you, during my short stay at Breales.

However short ~~our~~ acquaintance has been, yet
I have the selfish consolation to suppose it ^{is} ~~has~~ been
sufficient to allow me to hope for a continuance of
intercourse - which I trust will eventually mature
into friendship for each other - This I am pleased to
avow, and anxious to accomplish - The world I am
aware may term it romantic, but such cold
hearted Critics I abhorrate, their Ideas are passable
in Theory, but poor indeed in practice, and I am
confident it is by a collision of friendly intercourse
the mind gets rid of its asperities - My apparent
disposition is naturally volatile, and in thinking,
as such incapable of any particular attachment,
but there is time for all things, and I trust there
are moments I can fully appreciate the value of
my friends - Excuse me for having wandered
so far on this subject - perhaps you expected to
find me in a Hudibrastic mood - I am sorry
in having disappointed you, but to be candid I
am really not capable of it, my spirits are too
duly

interested - and believe me when I say my heart fills
at the reflection of my late misfortunes - but time will
in some measure erase them -

I have written again
to the Secretary of State thro' Mr. Lee, and am fully
determined not to submit to this treatment - I go
to Fredrick Town tomorrow, and next day I shall
mount my Horse, and go to Hagerstown, report
myself, and return next day to Fredrick, where
I will stay at all hazards - a adieu to me there,
and I entreat you to write frequently - for to hear
my friends are all well, will be a great consolation.

I beg you will remember me in the most
affectionate manner, to Mr. & Mrs. Goldsborough, Mr.
& Mrs. Gore - but particularly to my sweet and
amiable friends who shall be nameless. Tell them
with me they are ever present - Oh! that I stood as high in
their estimation! - So my wife's companions,
~~and~~ other friends & acquaintances - I send my best
wishes for their health & prosperity - I am half
inclined to make some reflections on their late con-
duct, but it is better avoided - It is late,
and

I have ~~to~~ begin to take the Road early, so good night
and believe me
in Trust,
my dear Genl,
your very affectionate Friend

to

Genl. Peter van Cortlandt

Lat = J. Cunningham

Four miles from Montgomery
Court House 22^d Feb 7. 13

7 o'clock Wednesday mor^g on the Road to the Court House

P. S. I have just had the good Fortune to meet Mr.
Bells servant, who will deliver this - I will write
you again by Jack - in the mean time do let me
hear all the news. If you should hear any reports
concerning my arrest let me know by something pleasing
to the Ladies for me - Perhaps I may yet see them
before they leave Washington - By the Bye Hastings
is generally in the way to hear news - tell him to write
to me to Frederick - in haste I am a -
J. C.