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Incidental mention
of Battle Monument

Baltimore 7 mo 9th 1816

Dear Parents;-

I have, in compliance with your request, Sat down with the intention of writing a few lines to you, & informing you that I arrived this city about 6 oclock yesterday morn'g. We left Philadelphia at 10 Got to New Castle at 5 oclock, from thence five stageloads travelled over the worst turnpike I have Seen in all my travels; with nothing to see but Hedges that were anything but handsome. And they, I think, might be very much improved in their appearance. All the houses that I saw between New Castle and French Town, with the exception of 3 or 4 which were by no means handsome, were built of Logs. No barns like Pennsylvanians. The Crops were miserable, many not worth the gathering. The Indian Corn in some fields was not above 4 or 5 inches high. Cats generally looked better.

The stage that I was in was foremost, and therefore, I got clea of immense shoals of dust with which the Passengers were annoyed in the Back Stages. When we arrived at French Town we were shown ??? (unde-cipherable ??) 2 very large warehouses were burned by the British. Ww immediately got on board the "CHESAPEAKE" Steam Boat, and had a most beautiful Sail, though against the wind. The Moon pretty soon arose in all its splendor, and continued lighting us on our journey through the night. I went to my Hammock, or Berth, a little after my usual Bed Time, but notwithstanding I am such a poor Sleeper, I had a tolerably good night. I was on deck 2 or 3 times, during the night, and could not help admiring the Water, so beautifully gilded by the rays of the Moon. Just as day was breaking we entered the mouth of the Patapso River and sailing past Fort McHenry, which is most advantageously situated to repel an enemy, being on the point of land between the Basin, and Ferry Branch.

We arrived here after the brighter luminary had been shedding its rays on us for Sometime. I got one of the boatmen to take me and my Baggage across the Hushes Wharf. And he ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ knew where my uncle lived, so we had no trouble finding his house (which by the way, is nearer 2 squares than half a square from the water). My uncle was standing by the door and said he knew me at once though he had never Seen me Before.

Our friends are all in good health, except Acunt Salley, whose breast is far from being well. I had a ramble in the morning with Ann through the town with my letters, and could not tell how any person could admire Mab Town more than Philadelphia. The houses are generally much smaller than ours, and very irregularly built. You seldom see more than 2 or 3 houses together the same height, except some new rows. In Fact I see nothing Elegant. In the afternoon, however, in another walk, I soon found out that I had not seen the handsomest part of the ~~town~~ city. We walked by the City Spring, which is in a very handsome and beautiful House built of Marble, with a Handsome yard around it. It is a Public Spring and appears to be a much frequented Place. Visitors, or any person wishing to get water, which is very good, descend by marble steps on the

left, and ascend on the Right Side. Further on, they are building an Elegant Monument to those killed in the defense of Baltimore, and on which all names are to be inscribed. In Howard Woods, at the upper end of the city, they are building a Superb Monument to the Memory of Him who was "first in war, First in Peace and First in the Hearts of his Countrymen2. It is to be of marble 160 feet high.

In the upper end of the town there are many dwellingx houses, mostly new, which would vie with any in Philadelphia. The Public Buildings are very fine generally, the State House is large and handsome, and the Churches are generally handsome. St Pauls, which is now building, is a fine piece of workmanship. The Pulpit and Gallery are much lower than those in Philadelphia Churches. A very large Roman Cathedral was begun, and raised to a Considerable Height, but for want of funds, it is in Postponement for the present.

Ann and I stopped and ?????? the old Lady has not been well for some days past. John is Just gling to a trade, the Stone Cutting. W. Oakley and wife are well, but their Daughter is very sick. Wm Oakley was sick yesterday, he was sober too, which I am told is far from being always the case. And I begin to think it is almost time to Stop, and should not wender much if you think so too.

I should be very Glad if Father would write to me Soon, and let me know how Mother is ect ect. I shall probably spend some days in Wilmington. X Uncle would not receive thy present. He says he is not in want of it. At the time Ann wrote, there was little doing, but that is better. I would give Ann part of thy money if I thought it would meet with thy approbation. If it does let me know.

I am your dutiful and
Very affectionate Son

Samuel

Addressed to

Samuel Mason,
Steward, & Pennsylvania Hospital
Philadelphia

Mail

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Presented to CCD as President of the 1812 Soc. in Md. by Caleb Winslow,
Sr., of Baltimore, November 1971.

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