

Richmond July 10. th 1820

My dear son

I received two or three days past your letter of the 30th of June & am very glad to hear both of the health of your family & of your prospects for a crop. This gladness however has no inconsiderable portion of alloy. I consider the smut in your wheat as a much more serious mischief than you seem to apprehend. It injures the grain very much & it is to be feared will so darken your flour as to prevent its being pepped as superfine however well it may be ground. This is not the sole nor the greatest mischief. There is still our danger of its growing upon you. If you continue to sow the same seed, it will increase rapidly on you, unless you take great precautions; & I am not sure that any precautions will secure you. The common

opinion is that rolling the seed will in quick time
is of great service I believe it is; but I am
not certain that absolute dependence can be
placed on it. My own experience is that there
will still remain some smut. I think also
that there is considerable advantage in
allowing your wheat, especially that intended
for seed, to get very ripe. By allowing it to
stand to the very last much of the smut
will waste away, in addition to which
the grain is I am inclined to believe less
liable to the disease when sown for the
next years crop.

Your mother's health is a little
improved. She has slept for several nights
without opium. She desires me to tell you
that she was much gratified with your
letter to her. She is peculiarly pleased with
having a full account of your plantation

& domestic affairs. Although deprived of the hope
of ever visiting her children she takes a deep inter-
est in all their affairs & complains that you
have not given her an account of your journey, or
told her how Elizabeth likes it. She was
amused at your returns for your butter & re-
quests Elizabeth not to be discouraged. The
butter at 12 pence per pound is certainly but
a slow way of making a fortune yet it
has the advantage - it shows how highly a
Farmer & Farmer's wife must value
small sum of money. You most
joins me in love to Elizabeth & your

I am my dear son your affectionate
J. M. B. C.