

The Woodlands 16th August.

My dear Julia.

I have really been so negligent in not writing you before that I feel almost ashamed now to begin, but as it will I hope be the best way of shewing ^{you} that I am determined in future to do better I shall now give you all the news since I last wrote you. One cause of my not writing was that there has been so much company here all summer that a great deal of time was consumed in attending to them; Lexington has been so crowded all the season that genteel families could scarcely be accommodated even at the private boarding houses. Aunt Nelly has had a family of 60 persons all the time. The town has been generally healthy but we have lost several valuable citizens; Mr Snieder died 2 weeks ago; and Mrs Saterwhite was buried 3 days since. They both died of fever, she was confined during the time and left a babe 3 weeks old. Sarah Higgins also died of consumption a short time since. James seems to take great interest in Mapwood and will attend to your affairs as well as he can; he has been