

England. He sees no chance, though, at present, accordg to yr letter & ye information we have in papers to tempt him back. You know when your father left England it was his intention for a country life. Had he been content to have lived in Alexa. there is not a doubt but by this time he might have formed an independent fortune, as he had quitted the bootmak'g and had engaged in a store, and for which he was well calculated. But his partiality for a country life induced him to settle here and exposed him to many difficulties before he was competent to his undertaking, & time has so naturalized him to the country he would not wish to leave it. He joins with me in best wishes, and hopes soon to see you in America. We have p'd due attend almost every week to ye postoffice in Morgan Town for near twelve months & no letter, which keeps us worried & unhappy. Let us earnestly entreat you to write as often as you can make it convenient, at least every three months, as it will in a great measure contribute to our happiness till we see you.

FROM WM. A. SCRIPPS TO WILLIAM SCRIPPS, MORGANTOWN, VA.

March 4, 1803.

*Hon. Parents:*

It is now more than twelve months since I had any letter from you, and I fear you are offended at my so often deceiving you with assurances of visiting America; but you may believe me when I say that the hopes of seeing you and my brothers and sister some time or other, enables me to exert myself to acquire the means. Anticipating the moment when we shall again unite, after so long a separation, affords me nearly all the happiness I enjoy, for till then I cannot be said to experience any degree of happiness whatever, and I am the more confirmed in the expectation of that content which I want here, from the conviction that America must ensure a greater share of the blessings of life to my children than a place so depraved and so populous as England. I may truly say that for many years back I have considered myself as a foreigner here, and never look upon myself as settled, nor ever shall, till I set myself down somewhere on your side of the water. I have been wondering what effect the projected cession of Louisiana to the French will have upon you, as when you writ last Benjamin was there and invited you there also. It excites much interest in this part of the world. We hope it will terminate happily. I have little news to give you.