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Annapolis Jan. 23rd

My dear Ned,

Your letter dated the 12th did not reach me until last night, it was brought home and by some unaccountable means got where I was not likely to find it, and was by accident unearthed last night, the delay of receiving it caused the delay in answering, the favor you ask of me I would not hesitate to grant and would be happy in doing so, were it not out of my power, I was sorry I could not see you again before I left Balto, and would be glad to come up as you ask