be in this State of Separation, by receiving Such Accounts of My dear Wife and our Little babes, as I am sure, It cannot be presumption to say, I wish for More than any ~~the~~ thing else in this World.

This Letter, is to go by Captain Belt, who was taken in the Brig Lively, and is Now about setting off on his Return to Maryland; I have a double Interest in wishing him a Safe and Lucky Voyage, as from me, he will not only have charge of this Letter, but also, of a Miniature Picture which is said, by my Friends here, to be a striking Resemblance of me; On this Acct. I know it will be a Most acceptable Present to My dear Girl, And ~~on that~~ for that Reason I have persuaded myself the Opportunity is one of the best that possibly could be Met with at these times of indeed at any Rate a good one, I could Not forgo the Pleasure of doing what I knew, would if it succeeded, be the Means of affording Infinite Satisfaction to my dear Wife — It was, by the Merest accident I found him Out, and as I believe that a lucky Circumstance, I hope every other will turn out in the same Way, and the Picture get, where the Original most ardently wishes to be, safe in the hands of his dearest Nancy Cheston —

I have been already, with My Sisters Assistance, purchasing Necessaries to bring out with me — 16 Shirts and as Many Stocks are Made up for me — about 22 or 23 Shifts are Making for you, and Corded Dimitty bought to Make upper & under Petticoats, also Cotton for one of the Gowns — 9 fine Sheets & 9 ℔. of pillow cases are also Making, together with 4 ℔. of coarse Sheets & pillow cases — My Sister has settled with one that many more things will be wanting to furnish you & your dear Little one than you imagined when you gave me Your Memorandums — besides the Gown Mentioned above we have found that Another cotton Calico or Chintz, a Stuff and a Silk (not a Fashionable Silk) will not be an Lot too Much, and the Number of aprons & handkerchiefs so far from being sufficient that we have already determined on adding at least one half, if not doubling them — 16 ℔. of black Callimanco Shoes, I found at Mr. Russells and I shall have 6 ℔. more Made — Silk Leather & Stockings — Not less than Just double the Quantity of linen I am sure will do for the other Articles, that remain unnoticed they, tho' Numerous, will be so trifling, that it will be No great Addition — If they are increased in proportion at any Rate My dear Girl, If I should bring in too Much, the Overplus can be sold readily enough — The Millinery & Bonnet & cloak will be bought ready made up for fear of being damaged — but the Fashion of them, as well as of every other