lost her balance and pitched into the fire, which fortunately was not burning very well, and Ellen being close by snatched her out ~~without~~ before she received any injury beyond a scorch on her arm. Was it not marvellous that no spark should have lighted on her clothes? It is too bad for Mr Dillon to give so bad a character to the neighborhood, and altho I would not like to say that he did not tell the truth yet I must confess I have seen or heard of nothing that could ~~give us~~ account for such a report. I have heard of no sickness beyond bad colds ~~or~~ which there ~~was or~~ no scarcity of in Philadelphia.

Cousin Mary says that the day Mr Dillon saw her she felt most wretchedly having been in bed for a week or two with a bad cold, she is looking as well now as I ever saw her and seems to be very well, she and Nan spent yesterday with us which was indeed quite a treat. Lottie and Jem were here the day before this is all that I have seen of any of them. They all have colds at the Ridge and as Lottie is staying there now I can not go for a visit and the days are rather short still to ride there to spend the day with two such babies and a nurse sick all the way. I intend to try however going as far as Lothian to morrow if it is a good day. Harry started for South River Church this morning and as he did not come home to dinner has gone I suppose has gone to the Presbytery this afternoon. Dedie has just come in and wants to know who I am writing to and when she heard gave me a kiss ~~for~~ I asked who it was for ~~she~~ said Grandmamma the baby immediately snatched her lips for one also. I have been writing under difficulties with ~~Mary~~ Mary climbing up by my knee and Dedie on the other side begging for the pantry key to get a piece of bread But now Ellen has taken them both away, William is with her in the dining room