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Needwood Feb. ^y 26th, 1814

Dear John,

The mail this day brought me your letter of the 24th for which I give you thanks. I heard with great regret of my dear Eliza's being about to return to Wilmington on Monday next.

It is a severe disappointment & mortification to me that she should fail in her promise to spend part of the winter with me in my retirement, after the repeated promises which I confidently relied on - but as it must be so, I will reconcile myself as well as I can.

I had indeed anticipated great happiness in her Society, & my mind was much relieved from a depression of Spirits, by the hope of seeing her from day to day notwithstanding the badness of the Roads.

It is fortunate as it was to happen, that it took place at this Season of Mortification. I hope with the blessing of God to turn the disappointment to a good account by offering it up humbly to atone for my transgressions.

I did hope that my poor Child would have joined me in endeavors to obtain from Heaven blessings upon the living and the dead of our family & friends.

My attempt will now be made humbly with humble Instruments, - my People alone unite with me every Evening in Supplicating the Giver of all Good to bestow just benefits