tell little Mary Ellen to take care she does not get herself port bitten - she will not be able to practise her lessons if the port bites her little fingers - I was very sorry to hear from John that you had not secured your Bacon I wish it was in my power to supply, but my stock is less than usual - in a letter I mentioned to John that I had a little old Bacon that you might have at an extravagant price

my Harvest from its long continuance consumes such a great proportion of my Bacon that I shall have little or none to spare, unless I could make free with some of the Beef which John has an Interest in -

my Meat is in a way of being preserved by the joint labours of Jack Bernard & Charles & I trust you will in the course of the next year find it very fine - no expence or trouble has been spared to make it so - good Salt, the best Salt Petre Molasses, Lye of Hickory Ashes, Red Pepper & lastly to be smoked with Hickory wood - the Meat Young & Tender from 120 to 160 - the best sort for Bacon of Superior quality - we have had much Sickness chiefly confined to the children of the family please to tell Henry that his Mother has been ill but has quite recovered & that Bernard tells that his Mother & father have been ill also & they have like wise recovered - the Mothers of each desire me to offer their love & best wishes for their health & good behaviour - their respects & love to your family my best love to [illegible] Ellen to Miss Harrison who I hear is [illegible]

May God bless you & yours is the Sincere wish of your affect parent

Thos. S. Lee

MdHS 1974 [1214-1225]