Richmond July 10th 1820

My dear Son

I received two or three days past your letter of the 30th of June & am very glad to hear both of the health of your family & of your prospects for a crop. This gladness however has no inconsiderable portion of allay. I consider the smut in your wheat as a much more serious mischief than you seem to apprehend. It injures the grain very much & it is to be feared will so darken your flour as to prevent its being prized as superfine however well it may be ground. This is not the sole nor the greatest mischief. There is serious danger of its growing upon you. If you continue to sow the same seed, it will encrease rapidly on you, unless you take great precautions; & I am not sure that any precautions will secure you. The common

1220

MdHS 1974 [1297-1220]