opinion is that rolling the sod wall in quick lime is of great service. I believe it is; but I am not certain that absolute dependence can be placed on it. My own experience is that there will still remain some smut. I think also that there is considerable advantage in allowing your wheat, especially that intended for seed, to get very ripe. By allowing it to stand to the very last much of the smut will waste away, in addition to which the grain is I am inclined to believe less liable to the disease when sown for the next years crop.

Your mothers health is a little improved. She has slept for several nights without opium. She desires me to tell you that she was much gratified with your letter to her. She is peculiarly pleased with having a full account of your plantation & domestic affairs. Although deprived of the hope of your visiting her children the takes a deep interest in all their affairs & complains that you have not given her an account of your home, or told her how Elizabeth likes it. She was amused at your returns for your butter & requests Elizabeth not to be discouraged. The butter at 12½ cents per pound is certainly but a slow way of making a fortune yet it has this advantage — it shows how highly a Farmer & Farmer's wife must value a small sum of money. Your mot[illegible] joins me in love to Elizabeth & you.

I am my dear son your affectionate

J Meade

MdHS 1974 [1297-1220]