The next morning, as Mrs. Page had her reception, I went to see Miss Davis ("Eulleen" as her sister calls her) — with whom I have progressed considerably for the short time I have known her having frequently met her at church & elsewhere, and to-morrow I shall go to make my adieux as all the family leave for Natchez on Monday, not to return to Dunleadow until April. Her manners appear good in her own house but that may very possibly be from contrast with Mrs. P. who is awfully vulgar & at first made me think there was some truth in metempsychosis and that the spirit of Mrs. Howell had confounded me somewhat entitled of its overwhelming proportions. The girl I think is much overrated here, and as I told you in November I know the her fortune is not a tithe of what kind rumor makes it. —

Though Horace or some one says it is sweet "desipere in loco", I have been nowhere but to these two houses, except on Monday last when I spent the evg very quietly with Mrs. Newman who, hearing Miss D. would soon be on the wing & wishing therefore I suppose to shoot Folly as it flies, invited me to meet that bird of passage — what good woman does not love match-making?

Though I by no means regret my resolution to go to no parties or any thing of the kind either this or next year — a resolution which it is still my determination to keep, I have been sorely tempted to break it of late having just sent refusals to the Cadwaladers, Hutchinsons, Pauls, & others who have been so kind as to invite me to their parties on the ground of an occasional visit — the Misses Hutchinson gave a beautiful ball on Thursday night, the first of the season & I believe very successful. The Cadwaladers' party on the previous evening, wh. I omitted was extremely pretty & well arranged was given to Mrs. George Blight who seems to be very popular — all the nicest people in town (including yr. friend Miss M. B.) were there it being "a small party" according to the invitations — the Cox girls (Spence Jr. — you remember them? pretty & slow but mighty rich) will give the next ball followed by &c. &c. I leave details to H. J. who has taken to going out rather vigorously this winter — Stimulated to this exertion possibly by Lou's good example whose serious admirers I imagine are dropping off, Mr. Harry Owen apparently standing at the top of the list and foremost in devotion if not in favour. By the by, I must see my dear Cousins this evening not having been in the house since I dined there on New Year's day —

Why do you speak with such feeling of the Virginians; have you seen it already in Harper's? I cannot think with you on the quality of Mr. Thackeray's exordium but the old saw is that a so bad beginning makes a good end — so I shall send you the work as soon as it is published separately, wh. will probably be in the summer —

MdHS 1974 [1668-1716]