

Ashland May 19th 1832

My dear Father

Your letter of May 11th written in the Senate Chamber, conveys to me the authority to have your house at Ashland painted or stuccoed as I may think best, with a limit assigned to the expense of stuccoing. Many considerations induce me to prefer painting. As there is no competition, there will be much hazard of badly performed work, and enhanced prices. It will be a good preservative against dampness, whereas the stucco-work would probably scale. If it be once stuccoed, the choice of alterations will hereafter be lost. But if painting will last for several years, and will leave the option of further improvements. For these and other reasons, besides that mighty and sufficient one, that the true cost will far exceed the limit mentioned, I shall proceed immediately to have the house painted of a pearl color.

In the West there prevails a most unaccountable political lethargy. But I hope the details of Washington ^{news}, personally rendered to the people, by their Representatives, may rouse our friends to action.

Anne and her children continue in excellent health. Indeed Anne is perfectly well, and on your return, you and my mother, I am sure, will find a source of exquisite happiness in her fine disposition and invincible spirits.

I have lately commenced the common law. I am now