Dear Brother, Chapel Hill, N.C., Sept. 8, 1818

Your affectionate letter of 20th of August came safe to hand on Saturday, having accompanied which you accused me with a breach of promise. In this case, I cannot dispute the accusation. You certainly had a right to claim the first letter from me, and from your superior age as my promise to you when I left home. But I can assure you with confidence that my not writing to you does not proceed from a want of love or respect, but from the natural aversion I have to writing. But as to the express engagement of 20th of August, I should have performed it but for reasons which Irendered to him in my letter dated as well as I remember the 12th of July, and which I hope will not fail to prove satisfactory—You mentioned in your letter, that I have erroneously conjectured that Papa was not the same. This was done for me as he has for the rest of his children, and to a conjecture which I have it founded on fact. But every exertion that he made lay me to conclude his affection and to eradicate that something I know not what that keeps me from an equal share of my father's affection.