Dear Father,

Your kind and affectionate letter of the 27th of Jan. has been thankfully received, and I am almost ashamed that I have not answered it sooner; but it is my sincere wish not to be found to dilatory again in performing a duty which owes to my parent and which, of all others, ought not to be neglected.

The Faculty dismissed college from last Tuesday morning until to morrow morning (which is Sunday) that the students might go down to Raleigh to see the "Nations Shell Herd La Fayette". The students were so anxious to go that some of them walked in the rain, and others rode in wagons. I went down in a wagon and have this morning returned, well pleased with my visit. The students were introduced to the "Old Hen" and highly gratified was I to have the pleasure of shaking hands with that man whose virtues and military talents in defence of our rights in the revolutionary struggle (if I may be allowed the expression) entitled him to those of Washington; our shine conspicuous in the historical page of the revolutionary war. The girls left Raleigh at about 10 o'clock Thurs. for Fayetteville attended by a band of Cavalry of about 200. I saw him when he ascended into his carriage, and after gazing at him steadfastly and with admiration, I turned aside and left the spot, and in a few moments he was out of sight. I expect that you will see a long account of his visit to Raleigh in the newspapers. I therefore deem it unnecessary.