

Univ. of Va.

April 29/60

My dear father,

It has been
some time (over a week)
since I heard from home
but will now write to you
as Johnny had mentioned in
his letter that you inten-
ded to write in a day or
two, & as you have not done
so, I am afraid you have
again been sick. I hope
however your letter will
be able to bear better news.
Last Sunday I took a
week with some students
over to Monticello. It is

about four miles from here
though it does not appear
to be at first view over
a half a mile. The house
is of the oblong plan I ever
saw. The outside doors
are all double (I don't mean
like the doors of a wardrobe)
But there are two sets, one
of them being of glass.

The bed rooms were small,
2 in some of them there was
a little porch in the wall
in which the bed was
inserted, just as the beds
are fixed in the hulls of
the ocean steamers.

The Hall was also small
but the floor so smooth
that I kept close to the
wall all the time. There

was almost as much danger
as in walking on ice.

His library of course was
the room of greatest inter-
est; but that was entirely
emptied of all that might
have been interesting. There
were two or three little
fixtures on the wall so
arranged that by lifting
them like the wing of
a table they would serve
the purpose of writing desks.
A facsimile of the Decla-
ration of Independence was
so first written off, with
all the interlinings, correc-
tions &c &c was posted
on the wall. The
room was not more
than ten by fourteen feet

if that much.

The stains were not more than two feet wide. The house seemed to me to have no sort of convenient arrangement about it. There was no passage. ~~It~~ It contained two stables besides a Gerret kind of a place which would make three stables. The whole arrangement was the most curious I ever saw.

The Grave Yard is some two hundred yds. from the house. It is situated on the side of the mountain. There is a brick well some ten feet high around it. Jefferson's grave is marked with a comparatively small monument of granite. Near it lay flat on the ground a couple of slabs which bore the names of two of his daughters.

There were several other stones in the yard but it seemed that there was no or-

der or arrangement in any
 thing. There was no orna-
 mental shrubbery & had
 you not known where
 you were you might have
 thought that you were in
 the grave yard of some ob-
 scure family which had long
 since moved away & left old
 friends behind to see that the
~~grave~~ burial ground of their
 relations was kept in a decent
 condition.

The monument over Jeffersons
 grave is I suppose ten feet high.
 It has been completely battered
 to pieces by persons who wish
 to show their respect to
the great statesman by keep-
 ing a monument of him.

The whole inscription was gone so that I should never have known what it was or even that there was any at all had I not been told. One of the blocks over his daughter's grave being more easily broken than the monument has been completely severed in the middle & about half of it taken away piecemeal I suppose. Some of the fellows along with one commenced hammering on the monument to get a piece as a Memorial. I protested with them but to no use. I do think this is the poorest way of paying respect to the

memory of Great Men
that I ever saw.

There is a beautiful view
from the house. The yard
is covered with green grass
making it all have the
coolest appearance imag-
inable. An old Jew by
the name of Levi owns
the place. He is a Capt.
in the U.S. Navy & gen-
erally only spends a short
time in the summer at
Menticello. His wife is
his niece. A strange rela-
tionship. He is at present
absent on one of his cruises
I believe. He has left an
overseer to take care of
the place whose wife (the
overseer's) for a quarter

a juice shewed us over
the whole house.

I must now leave as the
bell is ringing & I am
obliged to get my letter
ready so as to get it off
by next mail.

Write as soon as you
can. Good bye!

Your affectionate son

Bellevue Hall for



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April 29 / 60

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[page 6]

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Bolling Hall Jr.