

COPY

Philad<sup>a</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>st</sup> 1791.

My dear Julia,

I have just now engaged Frederick to get off on Monday for Princeton. I preferred that day to Friday on account of the present heat of the weather. It is probable it will be cooler before the beginning of next week.

The mare continues to be unfit for use. You may easily therefore conceive how much I have suffered in being obliged to walk for near a week past among my patients. Last week I was much distressed with a boil on the back of my head. Yesterday and today I have been greatly afflicted with a sore eye, from (I suspect) a mosquito bite. You see--I want a nurse. Trifling as those complaints appear, they have derived a poignancy from your being absent from me.

I was this afternoon sent <sup>in a hurry</sup> for to visit Mrs. Brown at Kensington, in a fitt of the colic. When I entered her room I discovered her colic--to be labor pains. I instantly dispatched Mr. Brown for the midwife. In his absence the pains became quicker, and harder. Nothing could <sup>now</sup> equal the terror and confusion of the whole family. I would have given twenty guineas to have made my escape from the house, but this was therefore made a virtue of necessity and impossible. I offered my service to the good lady, and with the assistance of only <sup>three</sup> ~~two~~ of the neighbours who knew but little of the business, I delivered <sup>her</sup> of a fine boy in less than twenty minutes after I entered the room. The joy of the family <sup>new</sup> upon



sudden and  
 upon this <sup>^</sup> happy issue of a fitt of the colic may easier be  
 conceived than described. Mrs. Brown laughed at a merry story I  
 told her suited to the occasion, and declared she had never been  
 relieved with so little difficulty or pain before. Soon after the  
 business was over Mrs. Ames the midwife came in, to whose further  
 care I committed her, and immediately afterwards returned to town.  
 The news of this <sup>fortunate</sup> affair I am afraid will expose me to some trouble,  
 but I will protest against it. My <sup>feeble</sup> constitution, my other exten-  
 sive engagements, and my inclinations all revolt against practising  
 midwifery.

All the neighbours are anxious for your return. Dick is sick  
 to see you all.

The fall of Script, has given way as a subject of conversation  
 to the fall of the monarchy of France. I rejoice in it, inasmuch  
 as ~~it~~ I conceive it will be a prelude to the extirpation of all the  
 kings in Europe. You see I am as rank a Republican as I was in  
 the year 1775.

With love as usual, I am my dear Julia, your affectionate  
 husband,

Ben: Rush

(SIGNATURE ON AN INSERTED PIECE. A NOTE BELOW IN A DIFFERENT HAND  
 READS:

Signature cut off by Mrs. Rush to give to some one  
 who asked for an autograph. )

OUTSIDE ADDRESS: [Mrs. Julia]a Rush  
 [Care of Richd<sup>at</sup> Stockton Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 Morven  
 Princeton.

(Portion in brackets is on inserted piece. See note above.)