

FROM BENJAMIN SCRIPPS TO WILLIAM SCRIPPS, MORGANTOWN, VA.
NEW ORLEANS, May 10th, 1806.

Dear Parents:

I rec'd yours of the 3rd of March on the 9th instant, and it gave me great satisfaction to hear of the welfare of my dear relations. I congratulate you on the flattering description you give me of my brother John's mental improvements. I shall ever lament that a boy of his genius never had a sufficient chance of cultivating those qualifications he is possessed of by a more liberal education. It gives me pleasure to hear he is so agreeably situated at Clarksburgh, & of the pecuniary advantages he derives from Mr. Stealy's liberality, together with Mr. Tower's library, that enables him to indulge himself in the pleasing pursuits of literature. When you write to him present his absent brother's love, and inform him that it gives me the greatest pleasure to hear that he is respected by his connections & obtains the good will of his fellow citizens by his good conduct. I hope he may continue to merit their commendations. As a brother I would wish to take the liberty to recommend one thing to him, that is to avoid pedantry in conversation (not that I suspect him to be guilty of that absurdity, far be it from me to entertain that opinion), as I would observe it is commonly very disgusting, particularly among friends, & without a person is very careful learns themselves an arrogant superciliousness in company, which is not easy to break themselves of. As for my brother George I would wish him not to be discouraged by his brother's witticisms, but strive to improve himself so as to write with propriety. Give my love to him & sister Nancy, who I am highly delighted to hear is an industrious girl. I now once for all, as it is uncertain when I shall return, recommend them both to write me at least a few lines on a separate piece of paper, & inclose it in your letter. As to John I shall request him to write separately as he resides in a post town & has an opportunity of writing letters to me every mail. I rec'd yours of the 19th Nov. on the 17th of Jan., & answered it on the 13th of Feb., which I hope you have rec'd, since which on the 1st of the present month I dissolved partnership with my friend & settled our business to our mutual satisfaction. We met with great losses as well as profits, which made my dividend but small; however, I am about to embark in business with a Mr. Henry, a trader on Red river. He has accepted my small capital, which does not amount to more than three hundred & fifty dollars, & allows me a proportional dividend