My Dearest Elizabeth, Hope Park March 30th 1796

1. For sometime I have waited in the hopes of hearing from you. Now I begin to fear you are either
2. sick or offended at my apparent neglect in not answering the letter I received two months ago,
3. sooner than I did.
4. If either of these fears are true I shall be very sorry – but I hope you will very soon write to me &
5. inform me the reason you have not wrote, since my last letter.
6. Since I have wrote last – I have been to two balls – & my sisters wedding. The balls were very
7. agreeable – & I danced a good deal. Dancing you know has always been my delight – & I prefer
8. balls to any other amusement. & After staying two months with my Dear Sister Peter – I left her,
9. & my sweet little niece very well a fortnight ago – and came up with Brother Law in his chariot –
10. Sister Eliza was married the twenty first - & left us on Thursday. She has every chance for
11. happiness – a good hearted affectionate husband – one most sincerely attached to her - & she is
12. the same to him
13. They are fixed in the City, four miles from Sister Peter. Mama & self expect to go to the City in
14. two, or three weeks – I am now Miss Custis, & as you may suppose not a little proud of the title,
15. & have determined within myself – that I will always be called Eleanor – as Nelly is extremely
16. homely in my opinion. Tomorrow I am seventeen.
17. Before I left George Town I had the pleasure of seeing, Miss A Stuart – she made many enquires
18. after you. She told me little Snipe was very well. I should like very much to see her. Miss Stuart
19. says she often speaks of me. I was introduced to Mrs. Charles Lowns at the last ball I was at – she
20. made nearly enquiries after you. When have you heard from our Dear E Allen? I have not had a
21. letter from her for three or four months. When do you intend writing to her – if you will inform
22. me – I will write, & send the letter to you, to inclose for me. I have never heard of or from our
23. little friend Susan since she came to Virginia. Sister Law desired me to remember her to you
24. whenever I wrote Sister Peter also.
25. Remember me to your Mama, Papa, Sister & Brother Mifflin. Also Mrs. Smith of Roxbury – I
26. hope she enjoys better health than when I left Philadelphia – love to H McCall – Mrs. Plumsted,
27. & M Ross –
28. With truth, & sincerity
29. Your faithfull friend –
30. Eleanor Parke Custis
31. P.S This is wrote so bad I fear you will be scarcely able to read it – write to me very soon – a very long letter.