1811

15: 1811 November 20: William Dunbar "Son" (Princeton) to Mrs. William Dunbar (Natchez)

William Dunbar

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Princeton 22d. Nov. 1811

 Duty and affection call me again to the remembrance of my beloved mother, to that enjoyment which I consider as the greatest in the world, when separated from my family. You cannot conceive how loving I feel towards you all at these present calamitous times; it causes me to wish strongly to behold you all again. I indeed felt I could not enjoy that comfort in 2 years time from this, I should feel miserable indeed. By former letters you have by this time heard of my situation in Princeton; whatever you may have entertained respecting the designation of this place, believe me, I have infinitely more in Philadelphia, in fact I have not as yet seen any here; and even if they were, would not my dear mother
place confidence in her son, when he tells her that
he does not enter into it? no, I will not enter into
it, to waste myself away; I will rather lose
myself up as treasures to be a support to my
mother who has always treated me with so much
kindness, & who has manifested so much affec-
tion for me. The reputation of this college
has of late, considerably ruined, & the number of
students have been very much increased; my
ambition is to make myself a good scholar & to
return home with honor to myself & family, hav-
ing graduated in the most renowned college in
the Union. Ask the opinion of that amiable
young man Thomas Percy, respecting this place;
he will answer that one who is disposed to study
may obtain here, the most noble of acquirements.
he may polish himself, it has before him every advantage possible. Thomas Percy was looked upon by the people of this town as one of the finest young men that ever entered that college together with his friend Walker, both of whom received honors, as good scholars.

I kept up a regular correspondence with Archy Vaughan. I gave A. your advice which the good little fellow will certainly attend to. I told df Vidal de that his father was anxious to hear from him. I agree with you maria that he spends too much for a young man, particularly living in the country. Believing my inferiors here can be very little more than $600/yr. An.

My love to all my dear brother & sisters if you please.

From your affectionate brother

William Dunbar