

Aug^t 12th 1806

I had written the foregoing parts of my Letter at sundry times finishing the Paragraph respecting George on Sunday morning the 10th Instant, after which I passed my time at home, being somewhat indisposed, till about 12 O'clock when there came on a heavy shower of rain with some distant thunder — my wife was in a bedroom — Betsey Pugh and Sally Saffers were in the Kitchen and I happened to walk there and make a stand about 4 ft from the fireplace when I observed Betsey at the fire attending to a pot that was boiling.... Here I lost all sensation, occasioned by a body of lightning coming down the chimney which I cannot recollect seeing, feeling the stroke or hearing the thunder — Betsey was in a worse condition having received a more severe shock and having her feet badly scalded by the pot being overesh — Sally was buttle hurst — my Wife coming in frightened almost to distraction, ^{ordered} Sally to run for help — it rained excessively and the nearest Neighbour about 200 yards off and People mostly at Church as was said. The first thing I recollect was that I was lying on my back on the floor and several People around me raising my head — the circulation from my body downwards seemed totally suspended and my thighs & legs felt like solid masses of lead which I was totally unable to stir — I told the People my legs and feet were dead — they then strip'd them and by chafing and rubbing with Camphor soon encouraged the circulation which proceeded gradually downward until the dead weight was in a measure removed and I could stir my feet — as the floor was cover'd with fire, ashes, coals, broken bricks & lime I was removed to another room — here I discovered Betsey gasping for breath in the utmost agony, which was all the symptoms of life I could discover in her — the sight of this reviv'd in me a heartfelt grief which I had not felt for myself

After some time I could begin to move my legs and feet
— was washed and put to bed — Betsey was also put
to bed in a much worse condition and my heart still
melts when I recollect what my wife must have felt
on this tragical occasion. — I proceed now to give you
a short and imperfect account of some of the wonderful
and incomprehensible properties of Lightning. — The top
of the chimney was broken to pieces and fell on the back
of the house, with was a ^{crack} in the middle of the house
the rafters and roof kept the part that was confined stand-
ing, after which one side was burst off almost to the
second floor, the lightning then proceeded down the
fireplace where 2 tammels were hanging the lightning
then seems to have separated into a number of parts
one stream struck the jamb of the chimney a solid wall
of brick about 12 inches thick and drilled a hole through
which was not more than a quarter of an inch in diameter
at the entrance, and not so big as a goose quill on the other side, it
then went through the floor took a shiver out of a sleeper
to the door which has a stairway of 3 steps one of the
side pieces of which it split and follow'd to the ground,
another stream enter'd the floor at the opposite end of the
fireplace — took a shiver out of the under side of a plank
running nearly at right angles ^{with} the first mentioned stream,
to another door and descended to the ground exactly
in the manner of the first, between these 2 streams
we all three stood — Betsey received a violent stroke
on the left side of her neck which proceeded down her
breast inclining towards ^{her side} until it took her arm and
proceeded in a spiral manner round her arm and ended
in a point, the skin seem'd scalded and of a dark colour
the streak in the widest part about an inch growing less
toward each end — Altho' the wound itself is neither much
sore or painful yet her whole body is disorder being sore
and painful in every part — it is with difficulty she can

swallows any kind of nourishment and she is still in a low state but we have good hopes of her recovery. I now proceed to give an account of myself during this uncommon scene. It has been long known that one property of Lightning is that ^{it} is of so subtle a nature that it will pass thro' a bar of solid Iron without impeding its force or velocity. another property of this inexplicable something I find is, that when it meets a bricks wall, which it seems resists its subtilty, though the stream is not bigger than a straw, it will bore its way through with equal velocity. I have reason believe that a stream of incomprehensible something passed through my clothing without any visible mark and coincided with my body a little below my armpit - glided down my side nearly to my hip, it then became forked - one stream continued its course in a pretty direct line down my thigh and leg and went off at my heel bursting my shoe behind - the other streak went down the right side of my belly directly to my watch - melted the silver on the edge of the case and left a black tarnish on the edge of the crystal without doing her any other damage. the skin in these streaks is of a deep red colour in some places an inch wide and in others less, in parts that are fleshy the skin was coloured but not injured but in the bony parts as down the side of my knee the skin seem'd scalded and was of a dark colour and some small blisters appeared, under the crystal of my watch there still remains a very deep red spot, all this was done without scorching a thread of my clothing as I can perceive altho they

have been washed, the streaks and blisters are
neither sore nor painful and the smart of the
whole is not more than what I have felt in one
day from being sunburnt.

Thus my dear friends tho' labouring under much
bodily infirmity, I have thro' mercy, been enabled to
give you an imperfect acct. of this visitation. If
~~the whole~~^{had} ~~been~~ ^{it} ~~had~~ ^{been} ~~able~~ ^{to} ~~to~~ ^{have} put an end
to my existence I should have died without pain
or sickness, but as it did not, I revived with a calm
composure of mind which has continued without
one terrifying reflection, or any grief of mind except
what I feel for Betsey's misfortune and the grief
and trouble of my Wife and friends. My thoughts
are chiefly employed in endeavouring to make the whole
Lesson of useful instruction. I have in it a
striking view of the mighty power of God together with
a full conviction that his goodness is equal to his
Power. I can rely with confidence on his protecting
mercy in full assurance that all his dispensations
towards ^{me} are for the best. I will endeavour to wait
my appointed time with patient resignation, con-
stantly praying to be instructed in the knowledg of my
duty and inspired with resolution to persevere therein
to my lives end.

My Eyes are weary

Farewell

Mr John Jefferts