

Dear Brother,

After a pause of many months I have again taken up my pen in order to resume that friendly correspondence which has been so long continued between us, and altho' I find that I have not that fertility of invention which I formerly experienced when writing to a friend, yet I hope that if my dictation does not please the delicate ear my heart felt affection may create a sympathy in the bosom of a beloved brother. I am fast approaching the term of short lived man having been in my seventieth year since the 29th of October last, I would therefore wish to express something in every Letter which might be worth preserving should it be my last. I wrote my own Epitaph some years ago, and altho' it may never be engraved on stone you may read it for your amusement as follows.

1806

Praises on Tombs are vainly spent,
Good deeds are man's best Monument.

Having thus far hinted at what ought to be an old man's principal concern I now descend to the common affairs of the world, my health, thro' mercy, has been tolerably well preserved and that of my family, except my Wife, who has had several returns of illness and is the greater part of her time troubled with rheumatic pains. I have hitherto encouraged you to think that I might make you another visit and the very great satisfaction I have found in visiting my native place and conversing with my relations and friends has kept this hope alive in myself till I feel the last spark nearly extinguished. I therefore can propose nothing further on this head.

I have

I have concluded to keep Saml. with me by whom I may
visit you by proxy in the course of the ensuing summer.
If our aged sister is yet living remember my kind love to
her and tell her that my constant prayer for her is that
she may be enabled patiently to endure the crosses, difficul-
ties and infirmities with which she is surrounded and
may be prepared to enjoy that rest which remaineth for
the faithful servants of the true God. Remember me
particularly to John Smith and his family, reminding
him that our days must be nearly numbered this may
be the last testimony of the friendship which has so
long subsisted between us. I might fill up my paper
with requests of this kind but I think fit to end them
by requesting you to remember me respectfully to all en-
quiring friends. I shall be glad to know how George
behaves, whether he seems satisfied and what course had
best be taken with him. I have put David to live
with one William Nichol at Newbern, he is an English
man of education and is supposed to be one of the
best Architects in America. My Wife and Daughters
desire to be remembered and with all the feelings of
cordial affection & brotherly love I remain your aged
Brother,

Saml. Lippin

Beaufort, April 9th 1806