write to me you always say yr head is scrapped for something to put in, how happens it that you are more at a loss what to say to me, than any of yr other Correspondents? I am afraid I imppose a task on you when I ask you to answer my letters; do let me know, & if you, I will not trouble you any more this time yr Sister & her little Girl [illegible] with you; as I think Sally mentioned in her Letter to Betsy that she expected her up about the first of the week —

I have no news to tell you, & my pen is indeed so bad that this is more like scratching than writing I must now Miss Maria, say a few words more to comfort you, keep up yr spirits, & do not despair, Poor Girl! I fear yr heart came away with us, the morning we left Clover Fields but as I said before keep up yr spirits, perhaps if Richard should not see Miss Julia Macpherson again he may forget her & I may stile have Miss Anna Maria Hemsley for my Sister — Pray how would you like Lloyd for yr name, if you remember you were saying one night at C. Fields that my name would sometime or other be changed to one with two letters more in it, how would you like yrs to be changed to one with two letters less — You see I have lengthen'd my letter a little, which I flatter myself will be some inducement to you [illegible] the same to yrs, when you next w[illegible] should not be scrapped —

I think it is high time for me to conclude; if you should not have an opportunity before you leave Church Hill, I hope you will leave a Letter there for me. Farewell with Compliments to yr Sisters, & many apologies for this scrawl, I remain Dr Maria,

Yours, &c. Maria Ld —

P. S. Since I wrote the above I have rec. a Letter from my Brother dated on Thursday he says yr Brother went out to Major Formans the Saturday before & returning they met my Aunt Uncle & Sister on the way up

The Boys are very well I believe —