

ELIZA LUCAS PINCKNEY (1722–1793)
LETTER TO MRS. BODDICOTT (1740)

To my good friend Mrs. Boddicott

May 2, 1740

Dear Madam,

I flatter myself it will be a satisfaction to you to hear I like this part of the world as my lot has fallen here, which I really do. I prefer England to it 'tis true but think Carolina greatly preferable to the West Indies, and was my Papa here I should be very happy. We have a very good acquaintance from whom we have received much friendship and civility. Charles Town, the principal one in this province, is a polite agreeable place. The people live very genteelly and very much in the English taste. The country is in general fertile and abounds with venison and wild fowl; the venison is much higher flavored than in England land but 'tis seldom fat.

My Papa and Mama's great indulgence to me leaves it to me to choose our place of residence either in town or in country, but I think it more prudent as well as most agreeable to my Mama and self to be in the country during my father's absence. We are 17 miles by land and 6 by water from Charles Town where we have about 6 agreeable families around us with whom we live in great harmony. I have a little library well furnished (for my papa has left me most of his books) in which I spend part of my time. My music and the garden den which I am very fond of take up the rest of my time that is not employed in business of which my father has left me a pretty good share, and indeed 'twas unavoidable as my Mama's bad state of health prevents her going through any fatigue. I have the business of 3 plantations to transact which requires much writing and more business and fatigue of other sorts than you can imagine, but lest you should imagine it too burthensome to a girl at my early time of life give me leave to assure you I think myself happy that I can be useful to so good a father and by rising very early I find I can go through much business, but lest you should think I shall be quite moaped [bored] with this way of life I am to inform you there is two worthy ladies in Charles Town, Mrs. Pinckney and Mrs. Cleland, who are partial enough to me to be always pleased to have me with them, and insist upon my making their houses my house when in town and press me to solace a little much oftener than 'tis in my power to accept ... but I sometimes am with one or the other for 3 weeks or a month at a time and then enjoy all the pleasures Charles Town affords. But nothing gives me more than subscribing myself,

dear Madam,

your most affectionate and most obliged humble servant,

Eliza Lucas

Taken from Eliza Lucas, "Eliza Lucas to Mrs. Boddicott, 1740," in *Interpreting a Continent: Voices from Colonial America*, eds. Kathleen DuVal and John DuVal (London: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2009), 141–143.