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January 1. 1816

My dear Niece

It has been usual since time immemorial at the commencement of every year to express by words, no well no little spite the interest that we feel for those that are dear to us. I with pleasure avail myself of the good old custom to wish you a happy New-Year, and to offer my sincere prayers that every succeeding year, <sup>of your life</sup> may bring to you an accession of all that constitute the felicity of life, - that you may long live a comfort to your estimable Mother your best friend, and safest guide. I also request that you will on this day accept as an evidence of my attention an Implement of female industry in the Form of a Thimble of American manufacture. You well know that I am an advocate, and admirer of industry independent of its utility. I think that it has a tendency to cheer, and tranquillize its votaries; that it is promotive of health and considerable guard to virtue, also a tolerable security against frivolity, gossiping, and scandal so derogatory of our Sex, yet so often unjustly ascribed exclusively to them; but with your well cultured mind, and amiable dispositions little can be apprehended from you that is inconsistent with benevolence, virtuous female delicacy, and the respect that is due to yourself, and those friends that have with the tenderest solicitude instilled into your juvenile mind the principles of justice, piety, and a love of Books. That the fruition of their fondest hopes may be realized in you is the sincere prayer of

Your affectionate friend

Wm<sup>r</sup>. Bowles

Miss Elizabeth Francis