

on which it stands are fine roads, with walks cut through them in different directions; on the other is the garden, and a luxuriant vineyard that produces plenty of fine fruit. To complete this charming residence, it commands at one view a magnificent prospect over the Blue Ridge, for nearly forty miles; and from another, the low country covered with trees. The high situation of Monticello affords an opportunity of seeing a phenomenon that is very rare on land, though often seen at sea: the sailors call it looming. It is not accounted for on any principles of philosophy; but it makes distant objects appear larger than they are, and changes their form into many whimsical shapes, which gives great variety to their views.

On going abroad towards sun-set, whilst here, and in other parts of Virginia, I was sometimes enveloped for an instant in a column of warm air, that seemed driven towards me by the wind. I enquired the cause of it, but could get no information.

Our visit at this place was rendered extremely agreeable, not only by the elegance and hospitality of our entertainment, but by several rides in the neighbouring mountains, which abound with natural wonders.

The principal of these is the Rock Bridge. Oh! how I wished for you and Louisa, to have shared the pleasure and astonishment I felt at beholding it. Some violent convulsion of nature is supposed