

Whole

We are now My Dear Ben, in daily expectation of hearing from you, it appears a month since you left home. every hour of which I have missed you. and did I not know you were much happier in the expedition than I am in thinking of it I should want consolation for your absence. but I pray your expectations & wishes may be realized. and that after an agreeable & useful tour you will be ready & willing to return home -

Nothing material has occurred in our domestic circle since your departure. Reuben & Fanny made a visit to Baltimore from which they returned yesterday in good health & spirits. having executed their commission at Belmington to their entire satisfaction. Reuben as usual had his troubling companion the asthma, but not in so violent a degree as formerly. Jack is suffering with another bile, which has confined him for two days. all the rest of us are just as you left us. The children talk of you when ever they come here, put up an additional prayer for you at night, and always remember to drink your health, when wine is offered to them at dinner. Grate says he remembered Uncle Jack all the time he was away, and he shall not forget Uncle Ben -

From the continuation of dry weather, we suppose you will not be able to descend the river from Pittsburg. but as you have never traveled thro' the country I suppose it will not be disagreeable to you to continue your journeying by land. we have been reading "The Back woodsman" and would such a tail as Basil had down the Ohio for you. you will find him waiting your arrival at Lexington, & I think

will be pleased with his acquaintance. There are some fine scenes - fine sentiments & fine sketches in the work. It is characteristic of the Author, and I think will gain him an acquisition of reputation. Yet there are some openings for criticism, and it is probable the English reviewers will return upon him some of the reventers he so liberally bestows on them - You will have the pleasure of offering Maria Gisl this treat as she is an admirer of Paulding.

Poor Fullerton, & Mrs Kemper have "paid the debt of Nature." The latter will be buried to-morrow morning. Fullerton was gathered to his fathers this day. Both are much lamented, yet their friends have so long seen them wasting away that they were prepared & reconciled to the event. Letters from Maria mention that Edward Ferris is going to settle at New Orleans. Mr P Stone has befriended him, & as to enable him to form an establishment there with a young man, a fellow clerk, and he is now making arrangements for his departure - Should you have it in your power to introduce him to some of the Kentuckians who are in the habit of going to N.O. I am sure he would be grateful for the favor.

Jo has returned from a meeting of his arbitrators, anticipating a favorable termination to his troublesome business. He unites with our other brothers & sisters in affectionate love to you. Ellen also desires her, she is a little sad to day. The wife of Mrs H has brought many associations & recollections of school-day happiness connected with her -

I hope my dear Ben, you will write to us often. Nothing but

B. Smith

Nov. 4th 1818



Lexington Ky

Benjamin Smith Esqr



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