

Where

I received your few lines from Pittsburg my dear Ben, and was
 rejoiced that you had got that far on your journey so pleasantly.
 Mr Peters also told us you had left there in good health - and so
 we must trust ^{you} continue, until the welcome intelligence of your arrival
 at Lexington reaches us. There is nothing new from home to com-
 municate. poor Jack has been troubled with another bile which
 has kept him from club, and several days confined him to
 his room. Harry Williams, & the Major come occasionally to cheer
 him, and play chess. They talk of the metaphors now pretty
 confidently, and as there is a new invention of Chess cards. per-
 haps they may wear themselves from brag this this medium.
 In this you have seen Maria Gist, and Jane Wood, and
 Mrs Scott, and if Mr Larned was ~~not~~ mistaken, you have
 had some agreeable agitations & no doubt a great deal of
 pleasure in the society of these charming women. But if —
 has really turned Dr you will be soon ready to return home —
 and I shall be the more obliged to her.

You will certainly not become enamoured of the naked forest
 in winter, nor of the unsophisticated charms of savage life
 winning under the hardships of ~~this season~~ a rustic maid is very
 engaging in pastoral poetry - but will not strike the fancy of

one bred in a city. I do not think the "Backwoodsman" will help you much in the way of smoothing a path in the wilderness. tho' you will find him rising to distinction by the time his eyes are dim with age. Paulding's ~~laurels~~ reputation is not much ^{increased} ~~enriched~~ by this publication. Thomas has sent you a copy - and you will judge for your self.

The children all send you a great deal of love, and so do their Parents. all are quite well. - the Kays had a party last night ^{the efforts of} which engages Ellen to day. she begs her best love may be sent to you. Simon promises to take her to Lancaster next week, & she is on the very tip-toe of expectation. we have parted with Anthony & Hannah, so I am at present in a little domestic quandary not having either of their places supplied to my satisfaction -

Isaac Kays has had the comfort of abusing two of Dr. Hare's lectures, which almost reconciles him to his disappointment. - Poor Dorsey is very ill. yesterday very slight hopes were entertained of his recovery. he was a little better last night. his loss would be a great calamity to the college at this crisis. the medical class ^{annually} last year is four hundred. last year there were five hundred students but I should suppose the country must be over stocked with Physicians. and who can calculate the injury, if the usual proportion of them are quacks. or men of but ordinary capacity -

There are no new engagements spoken of in the beau monde

25



Benjamin Gratz Esqr

Via Washington
City
Lexington Ky.

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