

Philadelphia Feb. 4th 1819.

I have many times intended writing to you my dear Ben, but have been prevented. However, I know you have heard so frequently from home that the loss of my letters have left you nothing to regret. My man has been your most constant correspondent, and as he is absent you will be obliged to accept some substitute, which I propose to the girls to supply in turn - you will thus have some variety, and among us chance to get all the domestic news. When last I wrote you Ellen was I believe in Balt. or had just returned from there - since which Sam E. has been here to make his bow - and has obtained permission to make himself as agreeable to her as he can - he has just entered into business as an Auctioneer in Balt. and the result of both these important undertakings are to be determined by time. I confess my self a good deal surprised at his success with our niece, as I have never discovered in him qualifications likely to engage the admiration of such a girl - her Mother would not permit any hasty promises to be made, and therefore unless their present fancies ripen into a permanent affection they may "shake hands & part friends." E. made her visit at a very ^{lengthy} decaying period. the long suppressed attachment of her friend Kitty is at ^{length} sanctioned by her parents and an engagement formed - she was the confidante and encourager of the timid fair one, and perhaps too her advice induced the application, which had long been expected - of all disposed to favor Mr E.'s suit. Now you know it often happens with over zealous agents, that they involve themselves deeper than they intend to do, and this tender sympathy for her friend may have put things in her head, that would never have entered her head at a better time, or in another situation - but I need not apologise on account for - I only intend to relate

on Monday we expect Gratz Etting to pass a few weeks with his Parents, he appears to be satisfied with his situation, and writes in better spirits than when he first went there, Henry is likewise much happier. he is still at Norfolk, is quite a favorite with his fellow officers and is aide to the Capt. Reuben as usual, was disappointed in his application for the Marshall's office, and has learned too late how little dependence there is to be placed in party favor -

The winter here has been very dull as to parties and balls. but the weather has been so fine that people never looked gayer in the streets at this season, the Bank & Politics is still one of the reigning topics of conversation and all minor scandals are neglected, or swallowed up in this great one. for my part I have been obliged to read the Aurora daily in my own defence, or sit contented in ignorance of the general discourse for our brothers are all so eloquent on the great questions that I could not even be a good listener without knowing something of the subject.

I am almost ashamed to say I am still Maria Gills debtor for a letter I received soon after you arrived in Kentucky. but I have had a great deal of writing to do this winter, and not many ideas to distribute Mrs Dorsey resigned her office in the C. Society and I was appointed Secretary in her place, which with the one I held before takes up all my writing time. I shall soon be more at leisure, and then will endeavour to make my peace with Maria.

Your friends H. Williams & the Major come to see us sometimes, and occasionally indulge in their old tricks, your Office is sometimes opened at an unreasonable hour to admit me from the club, which never fails to procure him a serious lecture. tho' I do not find they produce any good effect. this evening I heard Logans voice at the door, and was prepared for an adjournment to No. 4. but Joe is safe reposing on the sofa, and I conclude does not mean to join them.

by the bye, I had almost forgot to tell you that your services have gained
 your suit of Dickinson & Myers, to the great misfortune of T. Phillips, it was
 decided last week, by a point of law in favor of Myers. Aunt Phebe & all
 her family desire love to you - and so do all our sisters & Brothers - &
 the girls & boys of all the houses - Adieu, My dearest Ben, my constant
 wishes are for your health & happiness, and my daily prayers for the
 blessing of Providence on your undertakings. God bless you, yours
 Affectionate Phebe

1821



Benjamin Grafton Esq.

Vincennes

~~Ind. C. & N. Y.~~

Indiana

via Washington
 City -

N. Y.
 Feb. 6. 1819