

I am always delighted my dear Ben, to receive your letters but do not feel any mortification at your silence, when your letters to our brothers, assure me of your health I am grateful for the blessing, and am too sensible of the amiable sensibility of your heart to doubt your constant affection for your family. The bond of sympathy will I trust never be broken which has been such a source of happiness to our family, and you are cherished with the fondest remembrance by all, even the little children of our sisters enquire with interest for letters & receive your messages with delight. Miriam was much gratified by your flattering notice of her letter, and looks forward to the fulfilment of your promise as a thing of great importance. You must not fail to write to her.

I have never been apprehensive of your becoming attached to a wandering life, but that some prospect of interest would induce you to fix your residence abroad, and I have considered few things in life worth the sacrifice of the society and habits of home, and the cherished associations of early life, at least few that could be obtained in the western wilds. If objects to advance your prospects opened in any city where you could enjoy such advantages as you are accustomed to whether in the new or old world, I believe I could submit to relocation easier, because I should still believe you surrounded by friends & comforts, but the ideal good which of late has been so enticing to our young men of clearing land, building huts, cultivating soil with the sweat of their brows, and waiting till it should grow into a populous city and seeing them selves great proprietors of lots, and the wealth of ages, is too chimerical for realisation, and I could not bear, that you should waste the flower of your days, which can never bloom again.

in such vain experiments. You have had a delightful season for your travels the winter has been like a continued autumn, and Spring has returned before we have felt the rigors of a months cold weather. I hope you will be as well pleased with the remainder of your tour. I have written to our friend Maria, and am quite ashamed of having neglected her so long. every body I see from Kentucky speaks of her in terms of deserved praise. I have not yet communicated to R. C. the contents of your letter. she is just beginning to be a little cheerful after a winter of depression, anxiety & disappointment, and thought to postpone it, until near the period, when all her doubts would be removed. hers is the worst determined self-delusion I have ever seen an instance of, and think nothing but positive relinquishment on his part, can convince her of his perfidy. however, as she continually enquires if your letters contain any news for her, I shall show her your letter at a fit opportunity. Aunt Belle frequently talks of you, and always reads her love the girls talk of writing to you, but I do not whether they have done so yet. Maria & Ellen Hays have also fixed many days to write, but I have not seen a letter produced yet. they are so anxious of doing something very pretty that they are never able to satisfy themselves & I am afraid your correspondents will not increase. they have been a good deal in company this winter, and last week gave a large party. the amusements of the season has conformed very much to the weather. they have had very little dancing and until lately few parties. the Theatre has been more fashionable, and as there have been a succession of good actors here - the dramatic taste of the citizens revived. the streets exhibited a great deal more gaiety than usual. fine weather & good walking brought out belles in handsome walking dresses. Your studies in your Chestnut Street Office would have been constantly interrupted, and what the girls have lost by your windows being shut, is hardly to be calculated - but this genial weather does not seem to have quickened the growth of sentiment. there are no new matches on the tapis, at least none that come under this description. Dr. Rush is much devoted to Miss Ridgebay, but the value of her charms were no doubt weighed and calculated before their passion grew in the public eye - no one doubts his intentions, and his reception of him can only be interpreted into a determination to accept him - or show the world that she has it in her power to reject him.

Vincennes

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Benjamin Gaator Esq.

Lexington

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Via Washington
City —



12 &
March 7