

June 12th 1820

remind

Tho' you are engaged in business, and have little time to spare to female correspondents, My dear Ben. I cannot forbear now and then intruding myself upon you. Your dear Maria, it is true sometimes most kindly and with a welcome pen pleads your excuse and I will not say that any man could have a better substitute, but I am not willing to indulge you in the habit of always employing another hand, lest you should altogether forget that it is your business to write to me at all, and then by a very natural process in the course of time you will consider me as Maria's correspondent ^{only} and perhaps cease to think of me in any other light. and I shall never be blessed with the sight of your hand writing expressing a single kind thought but in the general message at the conclusion of one of the boys letters, which like the winding up of an argument will be written after having your head full of India goods, produce, & groceries. instead of coming fresh from the heart as all your tenderness does when you take a sheet of white paper, seat yourself in your family circle, and express to each of your delightful auditors the fulness of your happiness, and your reliance on their constant love - one wishes to write sometimes too, but have no particular communication to make, and the

being a letter in debt is a most satisfactory excuse to ones
vanity. for indulging the desire unsupplied with sufficient matter.
our brothers keep you so well informed of every thing passing
here among those you are interested in, that I am sure there is little
for me to do. but indulge myself in the pleasure of calling
your attention to the domestic circle in which you are cherished
with a Benjamin's portion of love & tender recollections —

Maria tells me she is anxious to make us a visit. but
never answers directly to my earnest solicitations to come. so
that I do not know whether to blame you, your business, or
her for such tantalizing conduct. but I look forward to Hyman's
return as offering an inducement you will neither of you
resist if circumstances permit you to accompany him.
you will come into a little community of newly married
or engaged acquaintances. and as your own happiness has
put you in such a benevolent wishing-mood with all the
world, you will have an ample field of indulging your sym-
pathy among Hyman's ~~other~~ ^{various} relations.

Dr. Caldwell has arrived here from N. Orleans. we have been
in some apprehension respecting the state of that city, and
some reports respecting ^{of} its having been destroyed by fire. he has
happily been able to contradict. the Drs. defence & valiant
address will not increase his literary reputation here, nor should I
suppose it would any where. Mrs C. provided Col. Morrison with a copy
when here, and also presented him with the life of Green. that
he might judge for him self.

Mrs. Meredith has become a most zealous member of the Deaf
& Dumb Institution, and patronises all the family of Leinos.
she often makes affectionate inquiries about you. since our dear
Bella's death I have seen her oftener than for years before. she will
not now have so much of her sister's society as the girls will not be willing.

Rev. Aunt

June 12th 1820

and July 2. 1820



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Ellen desires her best love to you both. her silence must not be attributed to want of affection. she often talks of it - but seems in great difficulty about a beginning -