

August 3^d 1820

Indeed my dear Ben, you have no need to vindicate your heart or affections, no one can be more sensible of their warmth and constancy than your sister, and that is a strong reason for my importunity now & then to have a view of them. Women are not commonly such disinterested reasoners as to forego the pleasures of communication, because they have full confidence in the stability of absent friends, and indeed I think they are right. A miser is as well off when he locks up his chest of treasure and puts his key in a safe place. He would be more liberal and use our blessings, particularly treasures of love which rather increase than diminish by being employed. And as to your plea of having nothing amusing to communicate, I really do not feel the want of such matter. You write so agreeably without it. Solomon said there was nothing new under the sun in his day. and as the order of things are not changed it is not to be expected that we should find any thing new now. However, as every thing that falls from your pen is interesting to me, (witness my reading your letters of business which I do not understand) you need never be deterred by any apprehensions of that sort.

We are rejoiced to hear, our dear hymman has arrived safe at Leicester and is negotiating for a visit from you & Maria to Phil - remember you must make arrangements for the winter if

consent to come. we cannot accept a shorter term. Is will be absent
all Sept.~ and Rachel is in the country. so that by ^{all this} ~~disabling~~ ^{he}
shall not be able to spare you. after the collection is made for
the winter, and you will have so many new friends to visit that
the time will not be long. John Biddle will be settled in his own house
first of all. he is making preparations for house-keeping - he seems to
have adopted the maxim. "happy the poor, that is not long doing," in
opposition to his brother James' experience. who is. while the most devoted
lover. this in prospect of a shortened probation, they do not mean to
marry until the times improve. as to the tale of boyish attachment
it is too trite to be thought of. some men have a great horror of
being suddenly caught. it is undignified. and should rather rouse
up a long dormant partiality and fancy they were indulging
an old inclination. than be subject to a powerful new one - The Major
is wholly engrossed I have only seen him for accident since his
engagement. and Cabot is quite forlorn. Iac makes out rather
better. I believe his time is not come yet. but I hope he will marry.
and so you would send Charles J. to Rhode Island from the gay
circles of Richmond where he is pleasing & pleased to proceed
against poor Ann, who is educating her children in the obscurity
of the most entire solitude. her very name seems forgotten amidst
the throng who late loved & admired her. she is self banished indeed
but for no fault. but the one of which many are guilty - a foolish
marriage. If they were not suited to each other - let them be both
blamed & equally share the consequences. but do not call C. injured
for he certainly has the best of the business, in a course of life
suited to his taste. while she born & educated to enjoy society
is passing two years in the woods. Maria, my dear, being concerned

who has wisely framed them so the laws of nature are still friendly
to our happiness. time no space cannot separate the bonds of love
and tho' distant we many mile hold you to our hearts with ardent &
constant affection - Adieu My dear Brothers & Sister. believe me
ever yours humbly R.G.

Recd by S.

Aug 3. 1820



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