

6/19 1831

I have just received your letter my dear Mr. Brew, and am so delighted at the thought of your wishing to write more frequently that I cannot resist the pleasure of expressing my thanks. I believe an aversion to writing, is only the effects of habit, and if you desire to overcome it you will not find it very difficult to do so. I trust long before this your home has changed its aspect and become bright with the smiles of your beloved Maria, and vocal with the merry tones of the dear boys. How can I express my gratitude to you, my own dear Brew, for the happiness of the last six months when I hear that you are again surrounded by your family and yours again can unite. I shall perhaps be better able to thank of old I love you. but while an anxious doubt is yet to be removed I feel that words are futile — one brother far will do it for me, and his presence will in some degree reward you too. How much your sweet Georg has improved in intelligence — and all the children in health. is it not charming to witness these changes after the deprivation you have suffered?

Your favorite Montgomery Blair, was delighted with Phil & Gratia took him every where that he could go in two days and gave him letters to his friend Horstman at West Point. & I believe he made rapid progress in the girl's good graces for he continued with them the greatest part of Sunday and did not leave them till late at night, and he invited Maria Baskin to pay him a visit when his Mother went to see him.

I am very glad to hear of the improvements going on at Lexington, which will conduce to your advantage & pleasure and hope some day to witness them. Maria will take much



interest in the new College - and I hope you will be successful in obtaining a President who will be efficient & popular. Have you any prospect of one for the next session?

I believe there is nothing new in our city to amuse you with and in the unfinished affairs Maria left there appears her progress making. Featherstonhaugh & the Dr. keep these respective positions, the latter has been searching for dried bones in New York, and I expect will show his teeth in biting position, before long. Poor Grath is unwell, and Isabella much the same, Dr. Chapman, told her on Friday, that he had exhausted the whole catalogue of medicine without having reached her disease, that it must be seated in the muscles or she could not have existed so long - and he is now trying a warm bath, night and morning, in which she is to continue one hour, if her strength will permit. I think Minnie will give permission to accept her lover, if he returns and she is so disposed. I am much relieved on this account, for it appeared so unwise and unkind to thwart a prospect of happiness in any member of a family so borne down by various trials and afflictions that I could not forbear speaking to both Parents on the subject, you persuaded me, and Minnie thinks she owes much to you & Maria's good offices - one of the agreeable recollections of your visit must be the benefits you bestowed, and really it would delight you to hear how often the collective girls talk of the good they have derived from Uncle Ben & Maria - you exhibited such a picture of rational & perfect happiness that you have elevated their ideas of married life - Maria's conversation has improved them - has taught them to think - and



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Benjamin Grant Esqr

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