

January 11th 1836

We have just heard My Dear Brother of your safe arrival home, and rejoice most sincerely that you escaped the many accidents & braver journey is liable to. I hope you found Mr Bruce better, and all your concerns prospering - home I am sure must be a dull place to you when Maria & your boys are absent, but then you have such numerous concerns to arrange, that you will not take time to be tedious and as soon as you are disengaged from them, you will I trust find the Ohio safe & free from ice, and bend your way back to us. Your boys are perfectly well, and satisfied, they were prevented going to Washington for the holidays by bad roads, but will probably go on with Henry Elting the last of the month, they go regularly to school and their being here has been & is a great happiness to me - I never before had an opportunity of knowing their characters so well. Beeneau has much good sense, and delights me by the manliness & integrity of his conduct, he has a noble heart too, and safe qualities that promise well for his future well being & well doing - he shows more fondness for books than Howard - and thus makes up for a slower perception - they have both taken a fancy for the game of chess, and pass their evenings in that amusement.

Her words eagerness & impetuosity makes the loss of a game quite a trial - but he has quite a genius for it - and Iac takes an interest in teaching him - Iac returned home last week after a ten days absence - but I do not see much change in his spirits - nor until some favorable chance opens a prospect of mending his fortune do I expect it - It is a defect in his temperament which I fear is incurable - and however painful to witness, find it cannot be acted on by any influence or sympathy I hope - we have excellent accounts of Ben Elings improvement in health - which has added greatly to the happiness of one sister family - and given us all much & unexpected joy - I fear the recent wet weather will disappoint Maria of her intended visit to Richmond by making the roads too bad to travel for pleasure - when we last heard they were busy preparing for a Balle - the girls have a gay time and I have no doubt Maria enjoys the novel scene as much as any of them - Mr Boutens arrival will give some excitement too of a political nature - which will reach the drawing room - every arrival from France or England opens fresh views for speculation - the fate of nations seem to split on such a delicate point - that we shall either go to war - or be saved from it - by a qualifying If - as the money is all ready - waiting for the Message - I hope french ingenuity will be able to pick out of it a soothing paragraph, to supply them with an apology to do what they desire - and we too - it seems so silly & foolish too to throw away good money - after bad - and waste the lives of thousands for a point of etiquette

Beane Stock, considerable dealer at 29 Dollars - Poards will not
 sell either of the Animals named by you separately - he wishes
 to dispose of his whole stock together, which he says he will sell
 low — Bank Under Italy Stock up to 115 Dollars some
 thing. Our State will give in a re-charter on some terms
 truly and sincerely Yours - Wm. Graft

Single 3



Benjamin Graft Esq.

Washington

Kentucky

[Red ink scribble]

Del. 4/12/13
 14/12/13
 22/

Jan 13. We have accounts from Europe to 20 December, & I supposed
 something interesting from France would have been received - but they
 remain just as when we last heard from them - No special news
 yet from President Jackson - nor any from Bunn & Chauncy!
 is not that rather queer? Money continuing scarce - nothing