

I have reproached myself my dear Mrs. for every impatient expression in my last, and shall in future wait your letters without a murmur. Most sincerely do I thank you for your affectionate, & agreeable letter which I can say with truth, was received with a delight I have rarely experienced on a similar occasion, fond as I have always been of hearing from my absent friends - but you are so far distant and so near to my heart - I have been so little accustomed to miss you, and - but it is not worth while to account for my feelings - all who know you will justify them, and they shall not again lead me into any such some impatience at your silence - Our Brothers write you so frequently that I suppose you are informed of every thing that occurs within the sphere of our observation - your friends Bridgell & Williams visit us occasionally when I am at home, he has gone to Baltimore to bring Ellen home, and John Miffkin being with him has taken the opportunity of visiting Washington, they will return on Sunday - report says, Henry Williams is courting Julia Rush, their friends tease them about each other, Julia bears her part with great good humour, and carries it with her ready wit - but she talks less of him than her other beaux and I suspect she is therefore more seriously interested. we have been together today on business of the Coeplan Society. the exhibition takes place next Tuesday, and there are so many to provide for (72) that we are all employed - the Ralston family being too deeply distressed for the death of Dr Dorsey to take an active part in the arrangements - we love poor Mrs Dorsey altogether - she has gone home to spend the winter at her Father's I do not know any one I pity more - she had attained to the very summit of human happiness - and her fall was so sudden and so fatal to her peace - that she can only look forward to a long life of

painful recollections. I am sorry to hear our friend Maria is not in good health and surprised at your suggestion that Mr. Loomis may succeed in obtaining her favor, but I say he has no doubt of it because as she disliked particularly - a Quaker - a Presbyterian & a Puritan - she must with true female contradiction take the combination of her aversions but this is such a slander on the sex, that we pay no attention to his opinion, and I do not think Maria had any prediction that way when she was in Phil^a - she described his character to me so correctly, when she was not in love with him, that I hardly think she could be captivated by the additional consequence he derived from popularity - he is certainly very eloquent and altogether the best orator I have ever listened to. but there are some traits in him that I should wish altered, if Maria is to share his destiny - there is a want of candor in his manner of relating circumstances, which always gives to himself a larger portion of merit than he should do and a greediness of appropriating to himself the credit of a good action that made me always suspect him for a boaster - and this is not the trait of a great mind. Maria is a much loftier character than his - he has talents perhaps genius but he is too susceptible of praise - however few young men of his age have had such a trial and the vanity of 22 may be pardoned when we remember that all ages & sexes have conspired to spoil him -

The family here are all well. your little girl Sarah grows more beautiful every day as she becomes more intelligent - and the rest improve in all things, Miriam has obtained another prize - and Reek is as happy as a queen, practicing her dancing steps and telling school anecdotes. Little Rocky Kays is growing fat again she has had one attack only since you left home happily for her mother. Fanny is very comfortably settled in Chesham Street poor R. Cohen is the only drooping member of the family and she is truly experiencing that "hope deferred maketh the heart sick"

Ms. G.

Dec. 29



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Benjamin Gratz Eager

Lexington, Kentucky

