

You will conclude my dear Maria, by my speedy
 replies, that frequent letters will not be troublesome to me,
 on the contrary, I shall expect them, as the only means
 of establishing a sisterly intercourse between us, while
 at such a distance from each other. I know you are
 to be very busy in your new avocation of house-keeper
 and will have a thousand interesting subjects to engage
 your thoughts. so much the better, I shall have the more
 agreeable correspondent, and it is impossible for you to
 be too minute. for every thing will be full of my dear
 Ben's & your happiness and will find its way direct
 to my heart -

I am not enough of a chess player to answer
 your question, but soon after your letter arrived, Miss Rich
 & Mr Williams came to pay me a morning visit, and I stated
 the case to them, "tell her to play, by all means" said Julia,
 and beat him, if she can. Why, said Mary, I think she
 may venture with Ben, if she can win a game without
 showing too much triumph in the victory. but continued
 he Mr & Mrs C. will not play chess together. You may
 tell Ben however - that his friend, seems very earnest
 in his game with the fair Julia, and she plays very
 skillfully. a looker on may discover that she has the game
 in her own hand, but whether she means to stake her heart

17
his heart does not appear so plain.

My letter received to day I find our Brother Mayman has left Lexington. I am rejoiced to hear he has regained his good looks, travelling is a charming remedy, and it has the good effect of relaxing the mind from the toils of business which no doubt has its salutary influence on his appearance. I am glad your first interview was at Pine-wood, as I am sure it gratified him to pay his respects to your Mother at her own house.

And do you approve my taste, in selecting fashions for you? I should like to see how beautiful you look in them, you have received them so kindly that they must be becoming, and my brother shall thank you for your gracious acceptance. our winter has just set in, Christmas day was the first cold weather we had, since which we have a covering of snow, and every prospect of hard weather - rain would have been very acceptable to the country in this neighbourhood first, as the springs have given out pretty generally. however, I do not join in the murmurs people usually indulge in, when the clouds discharge too much or too little for their convenience. the records of time bear witness, that Providence orders all things for the best, and the elements obey its decrees.

I told your little favorite Beck, the other day that I had been writing to you, have you, said she, did you give my love to her? "I loved her dearly, before she was my Aunt and I suppose I must love her better now." children argue well Maria, when they feel naturally - our family have

25 P

Chas Benjamin Gatch

Lexington Ky.

