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Feb. 19th - 1820

I have been waiting & waiting for a letter from either you or my Mother Benj for at least a fortnight. My dear Maria, and at length come to the determination of giving you both a good scolding. When your letter arrived - and I have a great deal more pleasure in thanking you for it - than I should have had in reproving you for the want of it. We heard from Hyman that you had entered on the avocations of a house keeper, and I rejoice that you find the burden light. I did not doubt you would do so, for I have always thought that a station in which a fine woman appeared to most advantage, the difficulties are soon surmounted by a willing mind, and the happiness of making home the chosen scene of domestic enjoyment to a beloved object is a sweet reward for the toil it may involve. You have had the advantage of such excellent instruction & example from your honorable Mother, that you can find no difficulties in the beginning. Which to some young women is quite a terror.

I thank my dear Maria, for wishing me the gratification of witnessing your happiness. You must present it in frequent communications to my mind's eye during the period of separation. I live in the hope of seeing you next summer - and at no distant time beyond of having you located near us. I should else perhaps not so heartily sympathize in the pleasure you express at getting into your own house.

Simon would be quite flattered at what you say about him. you may cherish the kindest feelings towards ^{him} in anticipation and will not cast them off when you become acquainted with him. he has really a noble spirit and as little of selfishness in his nature, as I have ever met with in a human character - but, I suppose Ben, sometimes entertains you with family sketches, and presume you already know us all light & shade. tho' from your complimentary observations I fear he has not brought out his figures sufficiently, and either from his own love, or a wish to engage yours for them has brightened his colours only when he had the best subjects on his canvass. you are a reasonable woman, Maria, and therefore will not expect too much from your new relations. but as an affectionate wife delights to approve of all, her husband is connected with, you will not be a severe judge. we shall all be glad of an opportunity to improve our acquaintance.

Your account of the disturbance at Transylvania University does not surprise me, from what I have heard of President Ho. from those who knew him here, such a result might have been expected. how does our Dr Caldwell stand affected by these commotions? there is no encouragement offered to Mr Pattison to migrate to the west if you treat learned strangers with so little ceremony, he too has been the subject of some squibs here. there is something more of parade & pretension about him, than is suited to American taste. several little newspaper affairs have appeared, in which he has come off second best - but he is a favorite with the ladies, and introduces scientific subjects to them which is too flattering to their understandings not to engage

Ms. March 6th 1820

Mr. Benjamin Gratz
Lexington Kentucky



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