

8/17 1820

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White

My dear Maria,

By letters from our brothers you are informed that Rachel is happily over her troubles and is rejoicing in the acquisition of another son. She is in fine health and really looks beautifully proud of her numerous treasures, and they do her both credit & honor. For they are really good, as well as lovely children. I have seen her ^{almost} every day since her confinement and should have lost the opportunity of now addressing you. Had not a very timely rain disappointed me of an engagement to pass the afternoon with her, but as I am to have the honor of being God-mother to-morrow I gladly relinquish this days visit for the pleasure of answering your letter.

In the very first place I beg leave to differ from you, my dear sister in regard to the superior advantage of cultivating an acquaintance by letter, rather than by conversation. Tho' I admit we may confer as familiarly on paper, and perhaps even express our feelings more fully on some subjects. Yet the pleasure of looking into each others eyes, and reading that untranslatable language of the soul which can only be conveyed thro' them, is more than an equivalent for the finest epistle. I am not however so forward a child, as to discourage the good within my power, because there might be a greater and except the charm of your quick bright glances. I have no second choice above your letters, which are so easy and characteristic, that they

bring you before "my kind's eye." and are ever welcome visitors indeed I am very glad, you were prevented coming here this summer for we are threatened with the Yellow fever. Several persons have already died within the last week. & considerable alarm exists among the citizens. the board of health have reported to-day. and promise a daily bulletin, the infection is confined to the street facing the Delaware on the east of the city and several squares are fenced up to prevent communication. These vigorous measures will I trust arrest the disease. we do not consider ourselves in any danger at present in any part of the city and as dull times have long weaned our merchants from their shipping I feel much easier on our brother's account than on any previous occasion. Joe & Simon will soon be all who are left at home as so will be going on his travels as soon as Simon returns from the Springs.

I really think you Kentuckians treat poor Dr. C. unfairly. you are duped by the same personage and because he, good easy man, goes further to promote the advancement of the college, and takes a smooth tongue's cloak, for a great speculator. you turn the laugh upon him. then how ungrateful to Mrs. C. who exasperates herself to patronize all your citizen shop-keepers when they come to Phila and smuggles them to tea parties just to show how many luxuries she abandons here - while she triumphs in her address & self complacency. her protégée turns the laugh on her - I hope you will not fill them out right with mortification & disappointment.

You must make the lady one of your prettiest criticisms and make her forget my remissness in not paying her the compliment of a parting visit (it would have been the first one) for her polite offer of taking any thing I might wish to send.

we have had exceedingly hot weather for some time, and you know

You & all you love be happy. and deserve while you enjoy
the choicest blessings of Almighty God. Believe me ever
truly and affectionately Yours P. S. - all our sisters and
nieces desire their best love - G. Etting has just returned to New York
Sept 18th 1820.

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Mrs Benjamin East

Lexington Kentucky

