

Nov<sup>r</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1820

Yes indeed My dear Maria, I acknowledge with much gratitude that I am your debtor for two letters. and tho' sufficient time elapsed between their dates. to have replied to the first, I hope you are too generous of the privilege this gives you, - to chide me too keenly for following your example. Your interesting acknowledgement affords a plea which is workable but I know you are too rational a woman - to take such advantage of it as I have seen done by some ingenious dames. who contrived to make the period of their probation one of extensive power. you certainly have learned the art of keeping a secret - and tho' you have confessed to the main point. leave us still in suspense as to the age of the charming visitor you will bring us in the Spring. We needed some fair promise to reconcile us to the prospect of My dear's protracted absence. I find you are outplanting me with him - and have made yourself so agreeable that he allows a little business to be sufficient excuse for another winter's residence with you - will you be pleased, when you send him home, to let me know by what conjurations and mighty magic you have used as I am resolved to practice any gentle arts you have found so successful. to keep him stationary, when I am once again blessed with the sight of him -

one brother to returned home last week after an absence of two months  
he just escaped the winter journey. for it has been snowing here  
all day. in those cities which were afflicted with yellow fever - this  
early winter will be hailed with joy. but we are not always grateful  
for rough blessings and I fear are often disappointed even with the seasons.

I rejoice that the pestilence is stayed. at New Orleans & Savannah  
I lamented poor Mr. Larned very much. and find he is considered a  
great public loss. Edward Fenn, a young friend of Mrs. had the fever &  
recovered. he speaks in the highest terms of the humanity of the colored  
women, who attended him, and provided him with every comfort during  
his illness. but for all that I wonder, that persons who know the differ-  
ence between that climate and the more salubrious north. can for the  
love of gain, sacrifice such advantages for the uncertainties of a few  
fleeting months. when the chances are so much against them. the natives  
may grow rich and flourish being suited to the climate. and they should  
have some privileges. to compensate them for the evils of their situation -  
may do you know a widow Legant. who removed from Natchez to our  
city last summer? she has purchased a fine house in Chesnut St.  
and set up an Equipage. she has a pretty large family. and from  
appearances is very wealthy. but I do not think she is calculated to make  
a dash here. she is an active managing woman. and her daughter  
a gentle creature. forming an entire contrast. as they appeared  
to me, on a visit I made them. I should suppose Mrs. L. could superin-  
tend her own plantation - while Mrs. Thompson would scarcely  
be able to manage a nursery - but I was much taken with the  
pretty little Mrs. Thompson, and as she is very young. think she  
may acquire energy of character. where she finds every body must  
take the trouble of thinking for them selves. age and sometimes help  
them selves too. one of the curses of slavery is the entire dependence



25 P

Wm Benjamin Galt

Leaving for Ky -

