

3/8 1822

I do not know my dear Maria, whether you owe me a letter, or I you as our last parted each other on the road, but as I have not thanked you for one which gave me a great deal of pleasure. I feel as if it was very long since I had written till not wait to touch the matter. but think right on. would I could dare to hope we might pass the next summer together! Yesterday we had letters from Jo who acknowledges the receipt of yours, and bids me tell you that it gave him great pleasure he calls you son Jehoshaphat. which is the beautiful title of endearment all his nephews have had in rotation, but best of all he says, he shall be home in April. he writes in good spirits tho' disappointed of going to France or Italy. or finding a market for his tobacco at Gibraltar. our brother Hyman has got out again. after a confinement or two sick for three or four weeks. and is at present the only male at home. are being on a journey at Bellefonte. did you not miss him? for I believe he writes every two or three days to our dear Ben, that he may have an opportunity of saying something to you and about Gratz. the sweet fellow! - before he left us. he brought the Pirate for you, which I believe this day starts on his journey to Kentucky. it would be unfair to say one word about this book until you have read it. but what do you think. there is an American novel "the Spy" which some American critics of pretty high pretensions. prefer to "the Pirate" and when you have seen it, for I suppose it is within your reach long since. if you do not admit the comparison. you will at least place it in the fore front of native tales. and at no great distance from the best novel writings of the present day. only excepting Waverley & Co

the Author. Mr Cooper, of Westchester, New York. has another work in the press, which promises to try his talent for description of American scenery. Mr Stickland the Architect, with whom by the by we are all personal very busy, as he is to furnish a plan for the new Orphan Asylum has recently returned from England and brings very bad accounts of the situation of W. Irving. he left him dangerously ill. the poor fellow lost a sister & brother to whom he was much attached, and he being one of those persons on whose nervous sensibility his frail temperament has a very dubious hold. it was apprehended that he would not recover. which, independently of his great worth as an individual, I should consider a national loss. as we are just stepping into a literary reputation in Europe. and he has been one of ~~the~~ best reviewed Authors.

as you see Walsh's papers, you know how much has been said here of the unfortunate fire. and how much has been done to repair the losses of the Society. if no lives had been sacrificed, the people think we should be better off than ever - but I do not - before this warlike for notoriety, we could pursue the even tenor of our way" and feared no interference so long as each did their duty. but now every body has given money to rebuild. and every body will give advice. the constitution of the Society. the plan of an Asylum. and the regulation of the family. has become every body's business. and of course the difficulties of the managers are much increased. for the interest of the Society require, its patrons should be respected - did you not pity me, when you saw my name in the paper? I could not help it. it was printed at Haverburg & copied here -

I am very sorry we have given you such a bad edition as the inventor of slander you mention. in such a place as this. such petty acts are stingless. and the malice once detected. no one cares about the woman. and half the circle never hears or thinks about the matter. but in smaller communities such misadventures are full of mischief for a time. This I should hope old residents might not balance any such attack -

Mr Brynman, here called the Western

B. Smith

8. Mar. 1822



Lexington Kentucky

Mrs Benjamin Grath



25