

I have written & written my dear Maria, to no purpose
neither you nor Ben will write to me, and so I must even write
myself or forego all communication with you. Now since the
arrival of our Brother to & Benj Elting we have been so often
called upon to speak of you and your boy, to tell all that came
out in which you were at all interested, that I have lived over
the delightful visit you made us, and dreamed of my darling
Guth, his bright eyes & ^{his} cheerful smile, and kept you both so constant
ly in mind, that even your lassiness has failed to repulse us.
My dear Ben says in one of his letters, that you are not well -
have you weaned your son? perhaps nursing does not agree with
you. Such a healthy boy with a month full of teeth, does not require
more than one year's dependence on milk, and your constitution
cannot spare too much. I hope therefore you will not pursue the
Kentucky fashion of suckling children until they are weaned,
and waiting until the young fellow is able to choose his own title.

What think you of the proceedings of the Institution for the
Deaf & Dumb. the election has just passed & they have turned out
every member who voted for D. Lixons. Joe, who was the most
active & laborious & effective member in forming the Institution
pursuing its charter and endowment and so devoted to its
interest, and to who was free from this offence of even knowing
any thing about their quarrels has been also removed, to make
room for partisans of Glen Kiddle and the majority. They
have published a most scandalous pamphlet, containing
statements or rather misstatements from memory, in which they
make Lixons bad enough, but yet fail to convince people that

they are right. Mr Meredith & Dr Patterson are also turned out, and
are exceedingly mortified, but the worst of the matter is that Mr
Clegg has been recalled to Hartford and there is no competent
teacher in the school to take his place. thus Legislative bounty
and benevolent exertions are likely to fail - from the hatred
& prejudice of a set of men & an ignorant woman. but it is
in vain to be vexed let those who have done the mischief look
to it - poor Hyman is at length reduced to the necessity of
taking money. his rheumatism will not be dislodged by other
means. Chapman has promised with this agent to effect
a change in a fortnight. he commenced last night the
rest of our sisters & brothers with their families are well - Ellen
tells of writing to you. but she has not got over her spring copi-
tude & head-aches yet. Ben Elting returns to Canton in this month
he is anxious to improve the time for money-making while he is
young & I hope will succeed. he has given me in charge for you
a very handsome Tea-Boarding which shall be sent by the first safe
conveyance. I hope too, soon to send you "the fortunes of Nigel"
as I conclude the Pirate has not lessened your taste for Scott's
novels. Your friend Mrs Morris has a daughter, which she flatters
herself looks like your child whom she used to admire so much
she always makes kind enquiries about you, and really appears
to feel attached to you - Mrs Bayard & Miss Conell are like-
wise among your enquiring friends - and Mrs Meredith desires
her love. she was much gratified by your affectionate message
but bid me say she objected to your phrase, that you feared
her tongue except in consideration of its being provincial.
She is a partaker in the mortification of her husband's dis-
missal, and has sent in her resignation after devoting much time
and attention to the domestic arrangements of the asylum

R. Grate

4 May. 1822



Leavington Key

Mrs Benjamin Grate



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