

Aug 7th 1822

Do not suppose my dear Maria, that I mean to
 persecute you with letters. the object of this is to ask
 you to pay a little attention to Mrs Stokes the English
 Lady of whom you heard me speak last summer.
 I received a letter from her on Friday mentioning that
 she had retreated from the climate of St Lewis, to Lexing-
 ton where she should stay until her affairs again de-
 manded her presence at Niagara. She is a singular
 woman, her manners such as cannot be approved
 of, but I believe her to be highly respectable, and cer-
 tainly very unfortunate. as she is an unprotected
 woman, and a stranger, the countenance of a few persons
 in your station in society may be of the utmost consequence
 to her, and as her residence will be but transient cannot
 be much inconvenience to you. nor would I pay so poor a
 compliment to you, as to suppose there could be any
 danger in such association, as an apology for her, we must
 remember, that when separated early in life from a
 profligate husband she emigrated to France, where it
 seems to have been the object of her friends to make it
 her forget her situation by introducing her into ^{the} society
 of literary persons, and perhaps discussing her own affairs
 in an abstract manner. She now talks and writes of
 her husband, of divorce, and other matters which on

this side the latter we consider of too serious a nature to be treated lightly, with as much freedom as if she had no particular concern in them. I know my dear Bee, would not select such a companion for his wife, nor would I make her my own or my sisters friend. but as a stranger, in the land, oppressed, and slandered, cast off by her husband for no crime, and only meaning to prosecute her rights so far as to enable her to live respectably in her own country, it is deniable she should receive a little protection from the good of ^{her own} sex, that she may not be cast away, by finding them shutting her out from virtuous society because the singularity of her circumstances makes her amenable to suspicion. She tells me that she has taken the liberty of sending to enquire about me, of Mr. Benj. Grate. this was no doubt to seek an introduction, and I think you heard me say enough about her last summer, to know how far her claims on me go. If you see her, she will soon make you acquainted with her story. a confidence she place in every one with whom she converses, and when you have listened to her, whatever degree of pity or censure you may bestow, I think you will be convinced that she relates facts, and "nothing extenuates."

I hope she may succeed and return to France, where she may be respected & happy. She is not calculated for American habits, manners, or character. yet I feel interested in her fate, and wish her to be assisted by the hospitable and virtuous community of every place her untoward destiny introduces her to.

Mrs Hunt called to take leave, last evening, she proceeded this morning to Mary land but I believe does not expect to

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Mrs Benjamin Graft

Lexington Kentucky



Rebecca Graft
May. 7. 1822