

June 18th 1824 —

I suspected from your former letter my dear Sister, that you had more weighty reasons for not coming to see us, than those expressed and was not disappointed that my Brother declined your generous proposal of his favor. indeed, greatly as we desire to behold his beloved face again we would not accept of such a sacrifice. we hope to see his brow unclouded by care & anxiety. which could not be if he left his wife and bairns behind. he will require such a solace ^{as their presence} when he finds himself at home and the dear one missing whose smile was the brightest and whose heart the most glowing with love & joy of any he left. when he sees all her bereaved little ones. and the traces of sorrow which time cannot efface - he will ~~request~~ ^{seek} his own sweet treasures for sympathy & consolation - you must ^{be} ~~stay~~ a little while for strength and then bear him company. I trust the hour you dread will be happily gotten over, and rewarded like your former ones by national triumphs it is natural to tremble at the approach of pain & danger. but the eye of faith can look steadily on, knowing that the hand of God leads safely through every peril it is his will we should surmount. and seeing in our own & others destiny how rarely the final messenger is perceived on his approach. The experience of a single year would be sufficient to teach us wisdom did we know how to apply it. we see the young & the healthful cut down in the fulness of joy - and in the midst of their days - while the emaciated - and the hoary headed continue their course without danger tho' apparently craving hourly ~~for~~ ^{an} end - Isabella Etting is indeed a most striking instance and a young lady in our street named

Fraser still more afflicted of a similar disease excites our wonder
and compassion. He has been four years as invalid, and frequently
has suffered all the extremes we witnessed in Isabella last winter
— but this is an unkind letter to one, who needs comfort, and
would be cheered, rather than admonished. Sometimes my dear
sister we are amazed by detained gravity, & grow melancholy at
all forced mirth. I hope such a contrivance will be produced by this
letter. Since receiving yours I have wished to write and cheer you
out of your sadness. but I no sooner seated my self at my desk
than so many tender regrets came over my heart that my eyes
overflowed unbidden — and I could not disengage of indifferent things.
There is something so soft — so heart-subduing, so exquisitely dear to me
in the name of sister, that I could not read your address without
emotion. It conjured up the shades of so many happy years spent
in such society — do you think my dear Maria, this kind of
witchcraft could have been included in the divine prohibition?
if so, I fear I am more guilty than Saul — or the woman of Endor —
and verily I leave my punishment — when that which has passed
away, returns to consume the present — I must think of this, the
idea never occurred to me before. and I have used this faculty
as a connecting link between the present & the future — it is a
strange ascription, but seems to justify our hopes that it may
be preserved thro' eternity and will enable us to recognise in
the world of spirits the individuals we have loved and honored
on earth.

The accounts you give of your dear little boys interest me
greatly. My sweet Norrie seems to think he & Gracie are to be
fast friends & companions. he continually talks of what they
shall do together. he expects to move in quite another element
and will bathe & swim when "little Ben Gracie" comes. he has kept
a little piece of money for a long time, and when asked what
he means to do with it. says it is to buy for Gracie. Whatever he
happens to like best at the time. it has of course bought more

Present me most affectionately to your dear Mother - I have much to write
by her kind remembrance -

1840



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Mrs Benjamin Grah

Lexington Ky -

