

Your letter from Marysville arrived here this morning, My Dear Maria, and filled all our hearts with joy. It is a long journey - indeed! but thank God you have performed it safely - and are now enjoying the sweets of home with the benevolent satisfaction of having gratified those who dearly love you and awakened a thousand new interests in the hearts of your numerous relations here. There is not a day passes without some agreeable recollections in which you are participated - the children talk of you perpetually, and are constantly running to some kindness or some pleasure they owe to dear Aunt Maria. Horace tells over & over again how dear little Bernard missed him for good bye - how much he loves Horace - & how sorry he is that his dear Gracie is not here to play with him - he is determined as soon as he is big enough to ride on horse back he will go to Kentucky. Sarah's eyes fill when she talks of her love & regrets. she is learning to write and her first letter is to be yours she composes every day something to be put in it. the bigger ones are equally eloquent, and if they were as prompt to do, as they are to plan you would be daily visited with letters - they have so much to tell you of their jokes and their concerns -

our sister Mary's health has improved since you left us - she walks out occasionally - and tho' her spirits are still depressed I hope she will inevitably be weaned from her grief, and her health be firmer than it has been for years - Ellen has lost her friend Sarah Coleman, she died last week - they were preparing to take her to a warmer climate for the winter - when a sudden change took place which indicated a speedy termination and her physicians for bid her removal - she was appalled of her danger and sincere grief composed & resignation - her character never appeared more lovely during her bright & prosperous course. than when her youth & beauty were fading away - and all the gay visions which wealth

& indulgent friends spread around her. were to be gathered up
she was only 23 years of age. Eliza Ridgely came from Baltimore
at her request and was with her during the last week of her illness.

We have been living for the last fortnight in the library
while the parlours are undergoing the necessary operation of painting
& papering. Hyman is very tired of this arrangement, but I have
become so much attached to the little sofa as you were, and shall
regret my quiet morning's paper in this retirement. I was silly
enough to feel quite disappointed that I was too late for an
opportunity to send you a pattern of my new wall hangings. I do
hope you would approve & send for the same when you repair your
house. What a delightful faculty we possess of bringing those we
love home to us, in the minutest concerns of every day life -
no matter how distant our bodies are - the mind can leap both
space & time, and enjoy sweet communion - here am I now, in
the little room, you used to occupy a month or two ago, (on Saturday
morning) the clock just striking nine. I am seated on the sofa, and no one
else at home - so agreeably chatting with you my dear sister, that
it would not require much stretch of imagination to trace your
countenance on the paper or even hear the tones of your voice in
reply to me. tho' I acknowledge it would be more satisfactory in some
cases, such as whether you really have got home without suffering
much more from the cold you took on your journey - and if you feel
no other inconvenience from your long ride - to be positively assured
by your own lips of the fact - well since I can not have your answer
for several days - I will hope for the best, and suppose you as
well and as happy as possible. Surrounded by your Mother &
sisters & nieces and all the joyful group whom your arrival
has made glad - they shall tell you you look so much better
that you must come again and breathe the salt sea air.
and your sweet boys have been such good travellers. Love
you & improve so much, that you are every way reconciled

God bless you my dear Sister embrace your darling boys for
me - and offer my best affection to my dear Brother - then assure
yourself of the ardent love of your affectionate Sister Rhoda
Nov^r 11th 1825



Wm Benjamin Galt

Lexington Ky