

Jan 1, 1826

I do not feel entitled to the benefits of the New Year until I have paid off the debts of the old one - and therefore the first occupation of this morning shall be to thank my dear Maria for her last favor. I do not know my dear sister how the debts of affection can ever be discharged. for I feel as Daniel says "the more I give, the more I have" - however it is so agreeable to be generous in an article which pays one so well - that I can not but think it is the fittest employment for a New Years morning. When one is calling over an account of the past, and realizing the balance in one Treasury of enjoyments for the time to come - now on the Dr. page for 1825 stands the three months visit of my Beloved Brother, sister, and their darling boys. and I can tell you it makes so large an item - that were we going to reduce intellectual goods, by the rule of vulgar fractions, I should declare myself a bankrupt - and make an affidavit to you as my principal creditors. but I can not dispond to calculate in this way I assure you and instead of squaring accounts by winding up our affairs, am only the more disposed to extend the business & run deeper in debt than ever - which I must always expect to do my sweet sister in my communications with you -

I beg you will excuse the bad taste of this metaphor. but really in these bad times one cannot live in a Merchants family without having their heads full of bankruptcies. and this puts me in mind of the regard you have for the Thomsons family - and the sympathy you, in common with the rest of their friends must

feel in the over throw of their happiness - not so much by the misfortunes as by the misconduct of that foolish man - he is now a prisoner in his own house and probably will end his days in the almshouse - while his innocent young daughters who have been brought up in the most reprehensible indulgence of every wish with the expectation of fortune, and all the considerations which fortune can procure are cast from the very threshold of consequence into the shades of disappointment & obscurity - Mrs. Thomson must have been entirely ignorant of her husband's concerns - and had made the most brilliant preparations for her son's marriage and the introduction of Adeline into company - her house was new modelled - new & elegant carpets & curtains made, and every thing that her taste & ideal riches deemed fitting was furnished - when lo! the end of these visions most unexpectedly arrived in the form of an execution upon all the effects of her husband's estate - poor Mrs. Morris, who is the only one of the family I have seen, looks sadly changed. She doated on her parents, and her down cast countenance shows how she feels their disgrace - John was married last week at Princeton, where he will reside. Mr. T. attempted to make his escape to Europe - and I wish most heartily he had succeeded, even if he met the fate the laws will award him in a foreign prison. for then the punishment would fall on the only offenders -

but one family exiled from the list of fashion, does not affect such a community as this - and you will no doubt think I might have found something more amusing, and so I might - but not a duel - or an flirtation such as your Lexington dames furnish I assure you - our married ladies are such house hold deities, that their fame never extends beyond their own supper tables - or at most a becoming Ball dress - where they have sometimes been known most scandalously to look more beautiful than their daughters - or than the daughters of their neighbors, whose pointing lips, at such an assumption of rights, only throw the advantage still more into the other scale -

of his forgetting me - or ceasing to love me - but I scarcely know
 what message to send that will express my affection for him - You
 know my dear sister how to say the tenderest things and how to make
 them most acceptable - do it then for me, and share with him the
 ardent attachment which glows in the heart of your sister Rly -
 Jan'y 1st 1826 -

De

Wm Benjamin Carter

Lexington Kentucky

To

our Mother all true love & best wishes &c