

Apr. 1826

Your letter should not have remained unanswered a whole
 week My dear Maria, if it had not been the one preceding Pass-
 over, when every house keeper throughout the tribes of Israel are
 busily employed in preparation for this national festival - not that
 we are so much pressed for time as our ancestors were - when they
 were driven out with their kneading troughs on their shoulders - but
 as we put away not only the leaven - but all utensils that have
 leaven in them - there is a great shuffling & moving & bustle in
 the kitchen department, which active house keepers & lazy servants
 manage to divide greatly in favor of the latter - however, on this
 fourth day of the feast I am quite at liberty to engage in more
 agreeable occupation, and rejoice to think, while indulging myself
 thus, I shall gratify my beloved Ben and his "second conscience"
 I like your idea vastly My dear Maria, and think it might be used
 as a strong argument in favor, not only of the inferior happiness, but
 the superior integrity of married people, always providing this second conscience
 be an approving one - and a faithful truth loving conscience at the same
 time - I have met with some however, who more resembled the
 lying spirit that went out of the mouths of the prophets than
 and called things by such wrong names - that it were better to
 have no help at all than be guided by such lights - sometimes
 little things were made to appear great, and great things small.
 so that a poor woman misquipped first by flattery till she was
 spoiled - and then condemned to see her "faults made greater
 than they were" since dear enough for the pleasure of tormenting in her

turn - I see no signs of alarm in Ellen at the picture you have drawn for her consideration. But her fortitude has not yet been put to the test, and perhaps by the time she is called on to decide her imagination will have become so familiarized to the difficulties which she finds you encounter with so much heroism that she may be inclined to fulfil her engagement in order to profit by your example -

Your pretty throw woman Mrs Caldwell is on a visit here - and much admired. at least I have heard much praise of her beauty but as I rarely fall in with any fashionable folks from the Southern part of our city - shall probably only meet her in the street. I wonder her husband should have brought her, to receive lessons of obedience and discretion from his mother -

My man has been absent for a fortnight, and will most probably be with you as soon as he can dispatch his business in Pittsburg. I am glad he has something so agreeable in view - for I am tired of seeing such care worn, business countenances as are common among our merchants. one brother reminded me of the alluded faculty - snakes are said to possess of charming birds so they are continually seeking news - which like the snakes charm, is usually as overwhelming - every arrival from Europe brings something destructive to commerce & enterprise. I hope the time will speedily come when there will be an end to these disasters. The Spring has been so cold & backward - that it will be long before our orchards are in blossom - we are still by the fire-side, and have scarcely a hyacinth or Tulip to adorn the gardens yet - but we hope the fruits of summer & autumn will repay us for these deprivations - thus we stand on the future to make up the deficiencies of the present - and should be grateful that among the blessings of Providence this faculty has been engrained in our nature -

embrace your four darling boys for me, and their beloved Father
too. assure them & yourself how fondly they are cherished in the heart
of your affectionately sister Rly -

Luc's last words on going to bed were reproaches of love to you all dear Mother

April 25th

adieu

Rly

Miss Benjamin South

Lexington Ky

Received from 1st 1876
Miss South



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