

Aug. 8th 1826

One misfortune has followed so swiftly on the heels of another
 my dear Maria in our once happy family that if I had
 not to tell you of our dear Brother Hyman's safe return, in
 much better health than he left us. I believe I should not have
 had resolution to address you again so soon. altho your affec-
 tionate letter reached me yesterday and filled my heart with
 gratitude. I know too that you will have heard before of the
 fall of this house, and both you and our dear Ben will want
 to hear how it has been borne by the ladies as well as the gentler
 sufferers. Well then I believe the anticipation of all evils is hardest
 to bear. "This" the dreadful note of preparation, and the human mind
 when prepared may sustain the worst that is permitted. for a
 fortnight before last Saturday poor Simon's distressful countenance
 almost broke my heart, the more so as I dare not speak a word
 on the subject of his impending ruin. but when the blow was
 struck I felt as if the worst was over and if I could afford
 him no more consolation than even Job's miserable comforters, it was
 some relief to speak & be spoken to. They have received to so universal
 a sympathy - so much respect & consideration from the whole commu-
 nity as well those who might expect to suffer by their misfortune
 as those who only knew them as culpable persons. that their
 hearts must be shut not to have melted at such kindness - indeed
 we have shed more tears of gratitude than grief. and I begin to
 philosophize on the subject. and examine the question whether
 poverty be so great an evil, as it is represented to be.

time may enable me to form a judgment, at present I must
confess my ignorance. but as I have implicit faith in scripture
and believe as firmly in the integrity of my father - I do not fear
that we shall be forsaken, moreover my dear sister there are a
goodly proportion of working men & women left to put their hands to
plough & distaff if necessary. and one of the "uses of adversity"
is already manifested in the improved state of my poor sister Rachel
and her mourning daughters. while they had no other grief - the loss
of dear Mamma, thrust them to break down all their strength. Sister &
Jacob can remain ready to sink. & I was afraid would lose their
own health. now they are roused to comfort their father and prepare
them selves for such exertions as their altered fortunes may demand.

When you come to us again my dear Mamma, (for alas! I fear
we shall only meet now on this side the mountains. however delightful
to my imagination a visit to you might appear). you shall
shall find us a cheerful & contented race. and I doubt not just
for variety. we shall consider a humbler house full as pleasant
You always loved the quiet little library where I am now seated
and sometimes I have pursued it to every other part of the house.
A snug little parlour will be our library. and the dear
boys' museum will make our benches glad & our cross tangle)

My dear Mamma talks delightfully of you all. Howard is I find now
the pet. sweet fellow how I should love to hear the music of his
voice in articulate sounds. I thank you, for giving your youngest
our dear Brother's name. May they both bear it unsullied to
the skies. and leave it an honored example to your grand children
embrace my dear Mamma & Bernard for me and tell Howard

Mrs Benjamin Grate

Lexington Ky

William Grady
Churman Sept. 1824

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American