

May 6th 1828

I am astonished my dear sister to find that I have been so long your debtor - and for a letter too so full of interesting description - that I have been enamoured of the Kentucky river and its picturesque scenery ever since - it is hard to be so encompassed with scenes and still realities - that the very wings of imagination are clipped short off, and one cannot even fancy such a delightful possibility as peering their natural vision with such a prospect - well I never be content to adopt my friend Mrs Brewster's idea - who means to cast a downward glance on the bonanzas & beauties of this excellent globe - during her passage to a higher sphere. when she "has shaken off this mortal coil" - and in the mean time my dear sister let me peruse by a transcript of your journal, and as you are directing your attention to the fine arts I may even have the pencils aid when that instrument can better display your taste - and yet to tell truth I wish nothing more graphic than your pen in cases of that nature. There is nothing that I can send you from the bustling city which can compare with it - the important vibrations of a compact community - when every day casualties, slow - capital exchange the destiny of some portion, and afford subject of brief interest to all - is a futile subject for the moralist - but one richens with the oft repeated tale - and it all ends in the stale truism that we are all to take our turns in the lips & sorrows of life -

Were you not surprised at the something new in our family of Ben Elting's engagement? I believe he has been very fortunate in his choice - the young lady bears a very high character - and she writes with a degree of modest dignity which speaks highly in her favor - he is deeply in love, and has other provocatives to a speedy marriage - such as redeeming the character of the name - setting a good example &c - indeed we want some exhilarating change - or our rigid features will become fixed - that our noble muscles will lose their pliability - Henry has recovered and gone to visit his sister elect - and wig the combats of his own head among the other ladies of Richmond hills -

The family in Baltimore are very indignant at the insult put upon poor Ellen by the desertion of her lover - and it is more severe as being wholly

16
unaffected - this was a school attachment, on her part undiminished
by time & separation - and certainly on his a most flagrant instance of
fickleness. the engagement was long protracted - they had ample time
to test the strength of their affections. and when he did ask - every body
expected he was ready to take his bride - If he had not been a mean
silly vain fellow - a girl might have some consolation in her disappointment
but to wear the willow for such discreditable attachment - is enough to
kill love - but kill with mortification - he has gone to reside in New York -

This seems quite an era of strange events in our community - but I dare
say Hyman or so has told Ben of all the gossip, and of course you have
heard of Mr Tilghmans ill timed gallantry and its unhappy result -
he is a light-headed & perhaps light principled character tho' past 40
and the father of a large family - two of his daughters were belles this
winter and his wife accompanied them to all fashionable parties - enter-
tained at home, and seemed to renew her own youth in her daughters
pleasures - ~~which~~ ^{which} are now at an end - one of Mr T's professional
protégés a youth of about 22. married a young lady from the country
and on bringing her to town introduced her to his father, as one of his
best friends. The gentleman received her very kindly and endeavored
to make himself so agreeable, that she requested her husband, not
to invite him as she felt no disposition to entertain or be enter-
tained by Mr T - however supposing it was only Mr Tilghmans manners
that Mrs Browne objected to, he told her, that she would like him better
when they were more acquainted in a very short time - after ~~which~~ ^{which} ~~who~~ ^{who} ~~thats~~
their interviews, Mr Brown thought proper to chastise the freedom of
Mr Tilghmans conduct - and took occasion to give him a public
horsewhipping at mid-day in front of the state house in Chesnut Street -
this was followed by a challenge from T - which not being accepted
he prosecuted Browne for an assault - and in their trial much
excitement and evidence appeared that the ^{award for} damages was one cent -



7-23

Mrs Benjamin Grath
Leungton Ky

