

543
July 14th 1828.

When I promised to write soon to you my dear Maria,
I was in hopes soon to have more agreeable communications
to make but as every page we turn in this voluminous
affair seems the more perplexing I had better hasten lest
when the finale comes it may crush all hopes together -
and leave me left to say that is agreeable than even now
wiser heads than mine might ~~see~~ ache to find out what
our judges mean in their recent decisions - any one that knew
our Mother would know that she would not have suffered such a
disposition of our Fathers property to be made - while he was sick
and suffering in his chamber - and she his daily companion and
nurse - a small domestic establishment within the limited
expenses his estate would support was what she would have
desired had she known every disbursement was booked to
his charge - but one brother has practiced this injustice, and
the law will support him in it - therefore we must submit -
I should not care for it half so much, if it did not mortify
and deplete the body so much. Joe is appalled - so worried and
of his flesh and ^{human} concerned & disappointed but says nothing -
he are still in his house but shall certainly move during the
next month. we have one or two places in view which in a
few days will be determined - it is an aggravation of these evils
that our brothers have all been two years kept in preparing
these accounts without attending to any business that their spirits
and time have been wasted and now the necessity means of
making a living they are embroiled by unsettled accounts and

with little spirit or energy to attempt any thing new.
but this is a sorry picture to draw of your husband's
family - that one brother should rise up to crush the rest.
that brother in whom the most implicit confidence - the most
enthusiastic attachment was centered in - My dear Maria
it is humiliating to the pride of human nature that such things
should exist in a character where ~~great~~ talents and the influence
of a high sense of honor, united with benevolent affections
ever displayed themselves. I must still believe his nature
has recently changed - or rather been perverted - we know that
the indulgence of one vice - undermines the foundation of every
virtue. The malevolence of his disappointed children has
separated him from all previous attachments - and made him what
he is - I mourn over him - as if he were more unhappy than
wicked - twice in my life I have seen him melted down to
more than womanly softness. once, shortly after our Mother's
death. he wept on my shoulder, as tho' his heart would break - one
look justified his grief - but I thought there was a mixed feeling
and pitied the remorse which I attributed to him - again, since his
failure in relating a circumstance of favor he received, which I
mentioned to you - perhaps too it was the loss of family sympathy
he would accept or exchange - since that an estranged counte-
-nance, and total avoidance has been kept up towards all
his sisters, and more angry feelings expressed towards the rest -
we hope soon to hear from our dear Ben, his counsel and opinions
are greatly depended on - at any rate if they can do no other good
(and what redress can be had against demons of this nature) they are
acceptable and eagerly desired - give my best love to him
and your dear children. I hope these troubles are not always to
last - and I cannot but indulge the anticipation of seeing you
all again, and being as happy as your sweet society has always

To

Mrs Benjamin Gate
Mr Craig
Lexington Ky

