

August 3rd 1828

I should have written the moment I received your last letter to save my social Howard a shipping. but we were just about moving and I knew his mother would be in no haste to permit, nor I could have hugged the dear boy, for his ingenious way of getting out of a scrape, and if he discriminates so well, when he is disposed to ~~take up~~ papers I do not think he should be reproofed - for tho' I deem it a delightful privilege to write to you, my dear sister, I have not the least objection when you have done with them that my nephews should amuse themselves with the fragments of my letters - indeed it is getting over a difficulty in an excellent way - for when we have a great number of correspondents, our letters accumulate to a troublesome degree, and some how, or other we do not know what to do with them - one feels reluctant to destroy what has given us pleasure - particularly when we love the source from whence it is derived - and yet letters are seldom re-perused until they have become very old, or the writers are gone for ever - and as we generally write merely the impulses of the moment without much care as to the diction or subject, they are not fit to be preserved for the eyes of others - and so when you can keep the boys quiet on a hot day by such innocent mischief, I would recommend free access to my letters by all means -

Now my dear sister I much introduce you to our new habitation in Foster-row, for so Mr. Knicker denominates the stone building, he was erecting opposite our sister Kay's residence in Chesnut Street, when you were last here - ours is No 2. from 12th Street, the house is small compared with the one we left, our two parlours being nearly covered by the coal taken from the floor of the back room - but then there is a small dining room besides, a Library & bath room above it, and very comfortable chambers, we were a little at a loss where to place all our conveniences & accommodations at first, but being now accustomed to the appearance, begin to feel quite at home, and should be delighted to welcome you all here within its compact walls - we have as many sleeping rooms tho' not so large as those we left, and I am sure we shall be as happy and

contented as he could be in a palace under existing circumstances. But my mother's weakness increased so rapidly that we were obliged to send her to the sea shore. Ellen Kay, Maternell the party and staid with them a few days. when she was obliged to return to adjust some important matters of her own - her patient lover having come to the determination to put an end to his long probation requested a conference with her mother and Ellen thought it befitting that she should be on the spot. accordingly he escorted himself into an ecstasy and named the ensuing autumn, then went home "to pause & ponder" and will come back to fix the day of which you shall be apprised some time in October. The unlucky defection of David Cohen has interfered a good deal with the comfort of the family and I suppose saw, while he congratulates himself on his superior fidelity did not like to extend his term of trial. lest he should grow old and forget the bright anticipations of his youthful days - O what a change has taken place in the sweet girl he wooed at the joyous age of 18. the roses have faded from her cheek and cheek, "with hope deferred" has planted a furrow - or sprinkled a grey hair on the brow & amidst the bright curls of former years, yet she is happy now - and quite cheerful. happiness is an amazing beautifier and when she replies, "the sober certainty" I should not wonder if the lapse of ten years were obliterated from her countenance - Ben has returned without fixing his day, but says in his next visit all his arrangements will be made.

My dear in about 10 days will go to Pittsburgh. it will be very tantalizing to have crossed the mountains and not be able to pay you a visit. but he cannot be away now long enough I hope in the autumn all our troublesome business will have been ended and our brothers be able to get at something more

Remember my dear Mr. in your letters in the free act
and your wife is so much interested. I wish you better acquainted
that your whole way of thinking is a beautiful picture and
if you please take your own time. Let me know whether
you prefer having copies or leaflets - early.

Mrs. Benjamin Bath

Lexington Ky

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