

Sept. 1828

I intended my dear sister, to have been very prompt in my reply to your last charming letter and had just got fairly into the subject, when I was called away by company. My new neighbours returning from their summer excursions and some of our Southern friends on their homeward passage seemed to have all fixed on last Sunday morning for their visits to me, and for the whole week after I was not able to get near you again. but then you must know a whole day & half were spent in Synagogue that My man was to start for another journey to Pittsburg on Friday, and I could not be so to good an opportunity to escape without your dresses. so with Mrs Pikes assistance you will be able to set the fashion before Mrs Kumb's arrival. I have procured what I hope will suit your taste, and be also useful additions to your wardrobe. the silk is the exact colour & style of newest fashion. the merino Mrs P. pronounces the most excellent dress she has made this season from a Parisian print of which three copies were bespoke from your dress before it was out of the artificers hands. so my dear Maria if you do not advise them you will have some consolation in wearing them. that they are high Fashion - let me know if they fit you in length &c

I hope your health and dear little Hyacinths are perfectly restored and that in renouncing colonial habits you will come out bright in that and all other respects to happiness - "The revival of the Sacents" I fear is no forerunner of the season of peace upon earth. if we may judge by the signs of the times by ordinary reading, but then the Zealots have their cabalistical interpretations, and may perhaps see in ^{the} pulling down brick ground walls, and taking violent possession of meeting houses among the quakers. who have been hitherto so remarkable among men for their moderation & love of peace. some indication of the approaching Millennium. by a theory of contracts of their own - I should be glad to adopt your reasoning, on the despatch of musquitos

As they were swept away as suddenly as the loads from Egypt, by
the shaking out of Moses' rod - the girls are very curious to hear
further of the little Israelitish lawgiver you mention so favorably, and
beg you will consider that leaf-year is on the wane - they are very
busy in fitting out Ellen each contending for the honor of contributing
some work to the bridal garments and no doubt have much more
movement in these preparations than they will have at the wedding
feast - which will separate them from so favorite a companion -
Ellen is to divide the winter between Mr Es Parents & her own
and go to housekeeping in the Spring - this is not so agreeable
as going immediately to a house of her own, but in fact the Elting
family have been a good deal affected by the breaking up of Ellens
engagement - the Mothers health is delicate, and they warmly
think such an inmate as one Ellen may cheer her, and bring
about a desirable change in their domestic feelings - she will
no doubt ~~make~~ ^{make} herself a strong hold in their affections - and
as she has been so beloved at home - this may be of importance
to her future happiness -

We have quite a gathering of Jewish damsels come up to celebrate
the Tabernacle among us this year - but being all from the South
they know as little about it, as they well can, seeing the scriptures
are plain and in their hands - there are two Miss Minnie's from
Georgia, aunts to our dear little Sally, ^{these} Miss Murre's from Carolina
and one from Norfolk. Mrs Phil Cohen was here too, but finding
she could not reinstate her brother David into our family
circle, and having conceded so much to him as not to accept
invitations in which he was not included, she passed but
two or three days here, and proceeded home wail - I was sorry
for Augusta, she is a clever woman & great favorite of mine, and
it was a pity she should have been so mortified - particularly
too as she has been since her marriage a strict conformist to the
restrictions not observed in her fathers house, and was a stranger
to her husbands friends here - David is a mean fellow! -

for me until I can do so for myself and tell my dearest Uncle Ben
he always holds a large share in my ~~heart~~ but he shall have a double
portion and all my gratitude if he will but bring you to us. My dear
Mother and sister send you their love and I beg you will believe my
dear Maria that I am ever your warmly
attached niece Ellen

Sept^r 22nd 1828

ELLEN

To Mrs. Benjamin Seate

Lexington
Kentucky

