

March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1829

My Dear Sister

It is but two days since I received your letter dated the 5<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> describing your voyage down to N Orleans and we had been long wondering and anxiously waiting for some accounts of your travels. Fortunately the papers announcing your arrival and so we were freed from every apprehension of your having uprooted the snags or been swamped in shoal water on the great river, but then we did not know what you leave so delightfully told, that your health is ~~so~~ much improved and the charming account of your ruminations had the most happy effect on the physics of our circle that you could desire. It was pretty late dinner here too, before I came home, and our brothers were collected, and growing impatient. Jane told me I had been keeping them long for the inside of the letter, and whilst Dr. Man rang the bell for dinner, I opened it and read aloud. When we had been twice summoned to the dining room, I looked up, and found my auditors smiling with so much satisfaction that I ventured to give them the sequel before moving to the magnificent supper of a smoking beef steak the perfume of which would intrude from the cellar kitchen and gave notice that if it was <sup>to be</sup> eaten it were better to be quickly eaten.

We have had a short visit from Ellen, and it would do your heart good to see how well & happy she looks. Her husband had a little business here which required his presence, and he brought her & Isabella home, to the surprise of all their friends, who had no notice of their intention.



until the carriage stopped at the door. Ellen stood with as  
fine a clasp, and had hardly time, altho all to wheel back, to let  
our hear all that had been doing during four months separation.  
However she is to spend the Passover with us, and is going to  
her own house in the beginning of May, when some of the girls  
are to pay her a visit. They are anticipating a great deal of plea-  
sure from these events. Ellen received your missives with much  
pleasure, and says she shall certainly write to you as soon as  
she hears of your return home, and I have just sent her  
word by Elting Meyer's that we hope soon for that information.

You must not forget that everything from N. Orleans will  
be new & strange to me - except dear Mrs Erwin and of her  
I shall be more glad to hear than any thing else, for she  
took fast hold on my affections, and I often think of her  
sweetness and her sorrows with an interest which brings her  
nearer to my heart. I hope she has another daughter  
to heal the wounds poor little Julia's death inflicted on her  
happiness. I am glad to see by Mr Claes's letter to the Balthazars  
that his health is better, that will be a consolation at least to  
his family, for any political disappointment. We have had very  
amusing accounts to the great babble Washington on the day of  
inauguration - scenes on the portico - the Senate chamber - the Palace  
drawn by various eye witnesses, but I would rather read  
Anne Boswells account of her Southern winter, than twenty such  
pictures of intrigues, successful & unsuccessful. Where mischief and  
all other ugly deformities are brought to light - instead of the  
natural wonderment and delight of a lively & innocent mind  
imbibing first impressions of the world on her debut into new  
scenes and among strange people - by the bye I have just  
had the honor of selecting a dress & cab for your sister - and  
as my order was for that which was fashionable, had the good



Hyman denies his love and bids me tell Ben, he will write to him  
in a few days - our other brothers & sisters send their love - <sup>children</sup> the  
are well and request that I will give them love to Aunt Maria & the boys.

Mrs Benjamin Goats

Lexington Ky

From Miss Rebecca Goats

received  
April 12<sup>th</sup>  
1829



Miss Rebecca Goats

Mrs Benj. Goats

Lexington

Kentucky