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White

6/28 1829

It is true my dear Maria, that nothing delights me more than your charming letters and whether it is because you always choose agreeable subjects, or grace your subjects by the manner of treating them I shall not attempt to determine but take them all in all, your letters are like the magic glass of the good fairy and present to my view such a complete picture of your family, that I seem to be in the midst of the dear group, and flatter myself I shall soon be able to become quite sociable with all the boys by means of the key you have given to their different dispositions - tell them I wish they could see Horace's little worms which have been quite a business and an amusement to Uncle Joe and him - and for some weeks no small annoyance to the chamber maid who could never keep the library in order while they were feeding - but then there was such pleasure in seeing them grow, that he scarcely minded the trouble of supplying them with food, and the beautiful operation of spinning amply rewarded him - then he wound off the silk leaving them but a hairs breadth crawling for their chrysalis - and now they are about leaving the manicate shells and coming out butterflies to the delight of their attentive nurse - he expects to be amply supplied with eggs for the next season, and will receive them for the boys to cultivate if they are so disposed - how wonderful my dear Maria are the most minute of Nature's operations - these little insects and a collection of beautiful shells sent to me by a friend in the West Indies have made me ashamed of my ignorance on the most interesting of all studies, and sad to think how much of life is wasted on unworthy objects when by proper direction every moment might be employed to make us wiser, and better and happier than we are - yet what must

have been ~~Chapin's~~ feelings when he wrote the fable entitled the trial of Aesop - had he studied the habits and propensities of animals only to find all their ~~vices~~ most cruel & destructive qualities prototyped in man, and still he only point out the evil under the persuasion that his readers would discover a likeness in better qualities readily enough? - however that may be I am sure we do not find the moral - or understand half the wisdom of his work till long after we are familiar with - and laid aside his book -

You must have been quite a heroine on the memorable night of the fire at your University, and I am glad little Bernards affectionate apprehensions for your safety stood in the place of prudence on that occasion - for had you acted by the impulse of your own inclination, you might have undone all the good of your winter journey, thus the care of Providence is sometimes manifested by means that seem totally distinct from the object - the kindness of your uncle may have been your safeguard - I bless him for it my dear Sister and hope in the autumn to have the happiness of embracing him and all of you into the bargain - our brothers are quite as sanguine as I am on the subject, in the mean time I shall pray for you and hope you will be as happy as my neighbours have been under similar circumstances - there has been a wonderful boom within a few hours of each other and all parties doing well - the former to Ben's friend Coleman Fisher who has purchased a house and moved in our neighbourhood.

Ben Etting is again at Richmond but I do not know what his visit will bring forth, I hope he will fix a time for his marriage and give you some of the bridal prospects in the fall - what a great mistake those people make who will not consent to be happy until they can have all they want, for the very capacity of enjoyment grows stale before these stubborn unconquered can be bent to their will - Ellen's health has been very bad this summer, she will go to housekeeping soon and then a more active life will probably restore her - she has been indulging and nursing herself too much - Rachel Cohen has been out riding and begins to recover the use of her limbs - the rest of the family are all enjoying health. My man has not looked so well for years, the girls are all

I hope your Mother has recovered her health. Present my love
to her. My dear kids are saying he will write to them in a few days -
he is busy attending to the directors of the Refugees. I am thankful
that this cruel business is drawing to a close but it will be long
if ever the wounds are healed which has been made in our domestic
peace. I can never be reconciled to the Mode of dealing it has
produced - and endeavor to banish as much as possible the memory
of the worst that has occurred - Adieu dearest & best. Present me
to my beloved brother & nephews and believe me ever most tenderly & truly
Your sister P. R. G.

June 28th

Wm. Benjamin Galt

Lexington Ky

July 28th 1829 - R. G. W.