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July 14th 1830

It is a long time my dear sister since I have written to you, and I feel the ill consequences of it for I have no right to expect a letter and greatly as I love them, believe I should be ashamed to receive one, until I have told you that my heart thanks you for the last, and has many times feasted on it. In fact when I received it a foolish affair which having terminated without mischief, need not have given so much trouble entirely engaged my concern. A young gentleman, whom you may remember as sister Mary's neighbor, named Bohlen, with whose sister the girls were all intimate sat out with the romantic determination of making himself noted as the champion of national customs, and as his sister gave ballroom parties, threw down the gauntlet to all who disapproved of that dance. He singled out Isaac Moses to begin the fray, and wrote him a very insolent letter accusing him of having spoken disapprovingly of his National Dance, and forbidding him on penalty of chastisement to ask any lady of his (Bohlen's) acquaintance to dance with him. Isaac, not choosing to accept him as a censor of his conduct, nor relishing his impudent threats, gave him a cow-kicking in the public hall, which produced a challenge (after a day or two deliberation, during which a great noise was made, so that the whole town knew what was going on) Isaac accepted the challenge, and on his way to the rendezvous was arrested. His antagonists managed to keep out of the way of the police, and again issued his invitation for the fight, offering to pay the amount of his expences for breach of peace & his parole of honor - this was received as an additional insult, and rejected by Isaac's friends. Who declined all further communication, until the period had expired for which he was bound, the girls were all prepared for their Baltimore visit before this occurrence took place, and believing they should be un molested, and none over desirous of withholding Isaac from the chance of meeting Bohlen, they departed, and in the hospitalities and gaieties of that city began to lose sight of their troubles. For they were acquainted with every step taken in the affair and were miserable every time their brother was out of sight. When Mr. B. and his second arrived at Baltimore, and again proffered his claims to satisfaction. Isaac's friends in B. were very indignant at this conduct and replied for him that he was not at liberty to meet him there. He was the protector of several ladies, and moreover in a few days or will be home, and released from legal restraint. The same evening Bohlen "posted" him in the public reading room and departed next morning - a coal in the news paper of the next day proclaimed in Baltimore that Mr. B. had been whipped in the street here - and it was decided that he was no longer entitled to the honorable privilege of being killed or killed in a duel - for what my dear Maria, I most heartily thank him - and as he is but 19 years old I hope he may grow wiser & better by the time he becomes a man.

Grath Etting has been extremely ill, of a malar disease to that he was afflicted with last winter, he had recovered and was journeying home under the care of Edward, when he was seized with a relapse more severe than the first attack, which has detained him in Harrisburg nearly four weeks he is now convalescent again, and we are extremely anxious to see him under his mother's care. Who tho so continually schooled in affliction, is perhaps more keenly tried in her separation from him during his illness than all the change of him would inflict, Isabella has been in her chamber more than a month, from the effects of severe cold pining & but is likewise recovering, and I hope the malignant stars are nearly all set, and that more propitious ones will rise triumphant. We did not let Ben know that was passing at home, and so he had an uninterrupted visit to his friends, and has come home quite as much in love, and looking better than before. I am tired of asking when he will marry, but told him the other day, the chosen of a Etting ought to be well gifted with patience & constancy. The girls came home, quite charmed with Ellen's establishment, and telling wonders of the gallantry and tenderness of her three - bachel. they think her residence a perfect paradise & Sam. the first of men - I have seen Mrs Browne but once, for I have been confined by a cold ever since her return from Washington, but Mr B. says she is in better health than she has been for years, and they are both delighted to return to America, they intended to go to home keeping immediately and took a fancy to our old house. Mr Vaughan was employed to negotiate for it, and though he had made an arrangement for a three years lease, it had been inhabited for a short time as a boarding house. Mr B. paid the people \$600. to go out, and took their lease for the year. When however, preliminaries were to be settled, Simon asked so large an advance on the rent, \$200. that they would not go in, and have advertised it for the time he is liable for the rent. & Mr B. has determined to continue at Heads during the winter. I feel mortified that our Brother should have disappointed them so, and remember the time when he would rather have lost twice the amount of money than have behaved so unbecomingly to a friend, or gentleman. But alas, the mighty is fallen! the noble pride which would have shrunk from any taint of meanness, seems no longer to make a part of his character. We have had a delightful season thus far, my dear Maria, I can hardly yet cease to regret that you did not come to us this winter. I wish so much that you should know a little of the society of Ben and I, would too that you should be known & forgive my vanity, if it is not very gay, this winter but very sensible - we have had the charming Miss Sedgwick

would that you are all well & happy, and rec'd an abundant
share of love from all your brothers & sisters here - we have just
had another meeting of the Bibles Society, my neighbor Rutledge preached a beautiful
sermon on the occasion, which I will send you when printed - leave the Ladies of
Hartford, requested your aid, to "substantiate justice & mercy" for the Indians, &
they have sent circulars to various cities, and if their charity ceases the
missionaries, you have no doubt heard of them - but alas, the poor Indians have
good laws - and the Georgians are savage enough to evil & if they can
yet will have it - embrace your clothing bags for me my dearest
Anna, how I long to embrace you all my self - tell my beloved Ben
I am his & your most devoted & affectionate Ally

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Mrs Benjamin Grant

Leavenworth Ky



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