

Oct 11, 1830

My heart & thoughts have been with you my dearest Maria, in all your afflictions, and tho' my pen has been silent, days after day longing ~~to~~ express my feelings. I have found it easier to weep than to utter them, now my anxiety can hold out no longer and I must beg either you or my dear Mother to write. I know the God you trust in will not desert you in your affliction, and that as you suffer by his will, he will visit you with consolation. I pray most earnestly that your health may not suffer, and that the lovely children who ^{are} left to you, may be spared to requite you for all your cares and tenderness, bring them to us, my dearest sister, and let me this winter share with you the comfort of attending to their little wants. I have so long anticipated the approach of November, as a season of reposing, that I feel sufficiently admonished of the transience of all earthly expectations, but if we are not permitted to enjoy according to our own calculations there is still enough of mercy extended towards us to fill our hearts with gratitude, and it is in this chastened sense I look forward to the period when I shall feel your and my beloved brother to my heart participating your blended feelings of regret and love, and surging with Job, Blessed be God who giveth stability away -

We have experienced great anxiety about our dear Ellen who is now just able to walk about her room after an illness of six weeks, her disease has been something of remittant fever apparently from exhaustion - she has not constitution enough for a nurse, her daughter is now beginning to grow, and in another week she hopes to be able to go home again.

her mother will accompany her and stay a fortnight
or perhaps longer. she begs me to give her best love to
you and say that she has set her heart on having you
here for at least while to rest on your journey at her
house in Baltimore. Sister Marys will wait for you there
if she knows when you may be expected. otherwise my
dear Sister I will meet you on your arrival at Baltimore
to accompany you home. Ben. Ebling has gone for his wife.
he took the two Misses with him, to escort her back. they
are to be married on Wednesday next. and will probably be
home on the 1st of Nov^r

our Brothers Raymond so full affectionate love to you, they
are as anxious as possible to hear that you will come, and
I am promised to spend the winter at home if such an induce-
ment as your society & dear Ben's is added to the family.
at present he is in Bellefonte. he has been so much
away during the last year, that I fear unless you come
he will not be contented in Phil^a

embrace your dear children for me. and accept our
Sisters & mine's best love. Isabella is better, tho' still in
her chamber. poor Grah has had another relapse, during
his intervals of health. he is as affectionately interested about
all his friends as he ever was, and frequently enquiring
about you all, he was distressed to hear of your misfortune.
the day he was last taken ill, his father had promised to take
me to see him. and in a few days more he would have been
at home! - alas - is life delectable on such terms? his afflicted
Father, who is the only one of his family permitted to visit him
says not. I have never seen the old gentleman so subdued
by affliction, as on this occasion - his spirit seems bowed down.

2

Do



Mrs Benjamin Grath

Leington Ky

