

July 17th - 1831 -

I am returned home on Friday, My dear Maria, as much delighted with his western travels as you may imagine knowing his tastes & feelings, and that it was the first time he had ever been beyond the mountains. but of all the beautiful pictures he portrays that which I love best to dwell on, is the domestic scene of your lovely household. not that he enters into an elaborate description of every thing he saw - or describes even to favor us with sketches. but breaks out in his own style of comparisons - by which I find every thing he saw - or heard or tasted in Lexington is far superior to what he has seen, or heard, or tasted elsewhere. The first day, being in a talking humor, he did indulge a little, the girls came in from next door. Sarah home from school, and our brothers not dispersed from dinner we collected round the table while he refreshed himself and then he refreshed us, with an account of his adventures - since which I have gleaned that you "read and your beef and your rice; yes even your rice is better than ours - and then he told Dr Hays last night, what a pleasant place to live in Lexington is, that the style was quite city like except in forms. and that the manners - the hospitality and sociableness was far superior. If he had not got poisoned on his journey home, which obliged him to poultice his face, and gives him some trouble, I do not believe he would get reconciled to Phil^a for a month. but I shall not quarrel with him even if he should not, for you know his good feelings must be kept in play, and if he is not pleased here, he will regale me with praises of you and Ben and the dear children. but you want to hear something of

Phil^d and I want to tell you how much my pleasure is increased
by having Sarah at home for the summer. Mr. Ligonier has gone
out of town and I have gained quite an agreeable companion
for my late solitary morning hours. which we pass in the library
together. He either reads to me, or pursues some other useful study
with cheerful industry, and her reward is the hope of making
a visit to you, when her labours are matured. We have taken
Kivace home too, that he may acquire a habit of study un-
accompanied by the appreciation of his disagreeable teacher. by
the time he is to be put to school again - our sisters family
are much as you left them. Grace is sick again & Isabella
no better - and poor Miriam fancies herself sick, which is almost
as bad as the reality of being so. now she has rather a dull fancy
and is therefore not likely to entertain two ^{fancies} at once, which
makes me fear, she will be too much occupied with her own
sickness to make a proper return to the Dr's love, and there
being no opposition to create excitement, how may she die a natural
death, and thus end the matter. Ellen is recovering her good
looks, and her husband growing quite fond of Phil^d. Sister
nurses her grand child and teaches it to do all that a girl
of her age ought to do, and that makes her almost as great
a wonder as little Beebe or other premature geniuses, for she
does not look older than four months, and we are surprised
to see her do as she is bid and make grimaces - your friend
Miss Peters continues to be kind to me for your sake, she has
returned from a four days visit to Baltimore, and Miss
W's "three days in Athens" was not more full of incident.
she was charmed with the novelty of rail road & canal
travels, saw so many people, and heard so many anecdotes,
and enjoyed with such freshness the thousand common
things which those who buble about in the world daily encoun-
ter. that she realised, what we remember of our first tour

be of the love we bear each other in its purity - and their daily use
of its constancy and ever presence. dear towels, / these shall
be magic in the web of them, not like the fatal handkerchief
which played such a false part to the abused moon, sealing
disposition - but that which a sisters love has provided for a
sisters convenience - and so I beg you will not disparage their value
or comeliness - they shall be dearly in my hand making the chalice
goblet more bright - the porcelain cup more pure - and when
the sparkling wine is undimmed by a single mote or fume - even
our fastidious brother will owe a grateful smile to Maria - may
my dear, do you think the ancient clames of english ballads manufac-
-tured more precious stuffs than this native product of Kentucky

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To

Mr. Benjamin Grath

Lexington. Ky.



comes - I don't so pray ring the peals of my towels, and it
shall go hard but their complexion shall wipe your long -
Adieu Dearest, I hope my loved brother has returned to make
you happy again. and that all your darlings are blooming around
you, and love from every body. and most of all from your own
affectionate sister M. G.