

Sept. 4th 1831-

It would be in vain My Dear Sister to attempt expressing the delight your letter afforded and therefore I had as well say nothing about it - "come then expressive Silence make her praise" - this is a very pretty idea of the poets, but it is so liable to misconstruction that there is scarcely in the whole range of poetry a line more difficult to be made a reasonable use of - and therefore must be kept as it was originally ^{intended} for devotional purposes, but then I can give you good reasons for the extraordinary pleasure your letter produced. in the first place it was excellent in itself, written with great spirit and so characteristic that the very expression of countenance & play of features were conveyed to the paper - ~~then~~ we had not heard from you for a long time, and began to be a little worried - but what signifies - I never yet received a letter from you that I could not find many reasons for admiring nor one that did not send a thrill of affectionate gratitude through my heart. The day before this arrived Mr. Gildermeister & Professor Keating dined here, & I raised the green veil from your & Ben's portraits, that they might see what Sully could do when he had subjects that pleased him, you would have been amazed to see Jo's extempore as he directed attention to the beauties of each. I could scarcely bear to gaze upon them again, they look so bright & true, even the Dr. laid aside his criticizing manner, and did nothing but approve. Featherston has fared badly in his contest - he wished to appear grand but mistook his measure, even his friends are ashamed of him - the Miss Carters alone adhere to his cause, and how could they do less, he is an Englishman, and therefore must know more of science & all that - than a mere American, who has never been abroad.

Ellen went to Baltimore this morning with her father in law to pass a few weeks, and I believe I shall go for a few days during this month. They give such sad accounts of Cousin's health, and her desire to see me once more is so great, that I cannot in conscience resist the repeated invitations. If I had time I should like to go and spend a day with Mrs. Blair. We never hear a word about her - you must tell me something all the way from Lexington. For I do not like to lose sight of her altogether. I take up the globe to look for some little selection of elegant literature or poetry, which I may attribute to her taste. For politics no longer interest me. I am offended at seeing Mrs. Eaton's name in every print, - whatever she may deserve. The decencies of domestic life ought not be violated, as they have been - & Miss Lewis, with the young ladies of the ex-senators' families dragged before the public. Major L's letter will do little good to the cause, when it is known that his daughter is not permitted to return to Washington - her tour to Europe has been abandoned. She is probably about forming an establishment here - at least it is reported that Pierce Butler is her adviser. Susan Brown has been in bad health all the summer. She has been at Bristol during the hot weather & has returned with intermittent fever.

What shall I say of your friend Miss Peters - she is eloquent in your praise. I never heard her talk more enthusiastically than she did yesterday. She is so desirous of hearing your letters, or a part of them - Miss D is so fearful of not being able to say any thing worthy to meet your eye, that her letter, which she was so obliged to you for has not yet been answered. She was adorned with the beautiful cap you made - or trimmed for her, and last but not least she begs you will retain a place in your memory for her, in exchange for the great regard and affection she bears you -

Your favorable opinion of Mr. Sumner will be confirmed by a fact which has raised him in the estimation of his congenitons, so much that they ^{are} at a loss how to express their admiration.

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Miss Maria C. Pratt

Lexington Ky



Wm. Lloyd Garrison