

Oct. 9th 1831.

It is a long time my Dear Sister since I have written to you, and I am glad to begin my letter with congratulations on the arrival of your friend Dr. Deady in such improved health - long may you enjoy the pleasure of his intelligent society without requiring the aid of his professional skill. as I told Dr. Kays yesterday who was rallying me on the economy of saving Dr's fees by curing my self. but indeed I am somewhat indebted to his art for restoring the proportions of my physiognomy. from the effects of an accident which had well nigh finished my nose. I had a fall the day before I left Baltimore, and struck my head so violently as to swell & bruise my eyes and distort my whole face for several days. I laid in bed all morning applying ice to my bowels, and took the next morning's steamer boat which brought me safely home - and thus terminated my long projected journey - but tho I cannot say with Solomon, "better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof" it is no doubt because I did not use my opportunities wisely - however I shall not condemn the whole because of the evil that ensued. for I passed a very happy week ^{there} with my friends. and a most delightful day at Washington with Mr Blair. we arrived at Barnard late on a Friday evening when his house was full. but on asking to be taken to your sisters all our troubles were at an end. for she not only gave us supper in her own room, but accommodated us with Elizabeth's chamber and treated us just as kindly as your own dear self could have done if Ellen & I had dropped down at your door. both she & Mr Blair devoted the whole of the next day to us, and showed us all that could be seen in that space - except the King of the forest - the great Lyon was sick - but his palace was opened to our inspection and I was very much pleased to see how much consequence & influence Mr Blair appears to possess and how happy Eliza is in accommodating herself to the furtherance of his interest. she is a great favorite in Washington, and seems so cheerful & contented in the midst of her children that if it were not for her ever sunny home on the other side of the mountain - one would think she had nothing to wish for. but the continuance of her husband's success her little boys have become quite docile & studious under her superintending care. and Elizabeth looks as gentle & loving as her mother's heart can wish - she has

promised to bring her and pay me a visit in Phil^a before the winter sets in, if she can get Mr B's consent.

I found our city full of distinguished strangers. The Free Trade Convention sitting and the Franklin Institute making its annual exhibition which very much resembles an old fashion Fair. The French Opera too holding out all its allurements, so that old sober Philadelphia is quite in an uproar, and all I can do is to "peek through the loop-hole of retreat upon the busy world" or lets practically, look into the columns of the gazette for its news. Since it is impossible to get a connected account from one person I must needs whom my friend Miss Peters has mentioned on this special occasion - she is too considerate of my feelings to visit me during the continuance of my disfigurement, tho' Dr Dudley will tell you, I paid less respect to him, or my own vanity - and came to the dinner table yesterday. how could I do otherwise my dear Maria, when he had so much to say which I wished to hear, and was going so soon to see you, and perhaps tell over the same agreeable things - I was very sorry that I did not see more of Mrs Dewees while she was here, I was very much pleased with her, and went several times to her lodgings without meeting her, I was prevented going often by the weather - and then the charming Miss Young & the interesting Mrs Mease I had but a taste of these agreeable sets and should have relished much more, but left town. Joe I hear was very attentive to them - and would you believe it, even staid at home at a tea-party and exerted himself to make an impression - he left home two days before we arrived, and so too is about. I forgot to say that Hyman was my escort and we too with the children make the whole of our present family. Sarah has been promoted to the highest class in her school, and she has just been complaining that she should not be able to write to you by the Dr because her lessons were so much increased that she should be obliged to employ all the days to study. We want very much to hear from you. it is so long since any thing has been said of all your dear Borge, that we

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To

Mrs Benjamin Grate

Lexington Ky

Dr Dudley

