

Ap 18, 1832

whole

I do not know my Dear Sister, whether to sympathize with you or rejoice - if you are ever your sickens. Let me be glad, for verily the more I have to love belonging to you the better, and since the days of the Franks and children have been called unto the presence of the Lord - and of all the happy families I have ever known - those are the happiest where sisters & brothers have dwelt together in love & society - and Ben was so well in bringing them up, that you may look forward to their being a blessing to you in your old age, and so welcome, a glad welcome to all who come! Our brothers have got the very bad habit of reading your letters - and so when I want to keep a secret, it is as certainly betrayed by my concealing your letter, as if it were open before them - I dare say Joe will enquire for you from the time your last arrived, just because it was not in my basket, and I could not make it convenient to bring it down stairs. I was sorry not to let them see some of the agreeable & purifying remarks but it would not satisfy them to have parts read - when they are used to read the whole, and so they must abide by the law - there are others too in the family who profit by all you do - our dear Sarah, begins to ^{find} delight in poetry - Byron has been her great favorite, until I showed her what you say of the older poets, since which I have given her selections from Pope Milton & others to chastise her taste, and give her other standards of excellence. She assisted at Mr. Leiques annual concert last Thursday

she has improved very much, indeed plays delightfully she
gained much credit from scholars & her teachers on this occasion
her manners and mind become more womanly. Julia Hoffman
surely has been an advantage, she is highly cultivated
cheerful & amiable, and very much attached to Sarah - she
left us last week. I observe my dear sister you mistook the
object of my sending you the newspaper - there was a review
of Eugene Leoven, I wished to show you - Hallock's lives I did
not read, but no matter I like your own criticism of the
novel, tho' think it less offensive to good morals than either
of Boulevers other novels - the crime of Eugene, was followed
by such signal punishment, even from the day of its con-
-mission (as his confession never) that I do not think with
every perfection that adorns his character, you ever feel
on easy or equal terms with him - and would always rather
the lovely Madeline should fall a sacrifice than be united to
a murderer. We shall soon have Irving's & Paulding's books
to send you, the life of Gouverneur Morris is so expensive a work
that I thought you might think the price more than it is
worth, tho' the letters are very fine, it is probable some copies
have already reached you - if not would you be willing to note
\$7. on the chance of the library taking it? I have never said
a word about going to Kentucky, my dear sister, because the
situation of Isabella is such that even if our Brothers wanted
me, I could not leave our sister, in the state of anxious
tort to which her days & nights are devoted - for the last
few days I have thought, her sufferings likely to be
protracted - for as you observe - "lengthened life but added
sufferings bring". She has not spoken for more than a fortnight
but her morning spasms are weaker - she sleeps more and
has grown stronger. She communicates what she has to say
by a pencil, & keeps paper under her pillow, to write on

every body here my dearest sister send you messages
of love. (say the fondest & the kindest of words to my beloved
brother to express my feelings for him. and assure yourself
that you constantly in the mind & heart of your affec-
tionate sister R. Grate -

April 18th 1832

Mrs Benjamin Grate

Lexington Ky -

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