

July 31, 1832

If you have no postage to pay for this letter
My Dear Maria, do not account it cheap until you
have come to the end, and not then if you find the
time and patience it consumes worth more than its
contents. My man tells me there will be an opportunity
to morrow and I miss a little book of Brulows which we have
read & liked, and had lying on the table for a month
waiting for somebody to hand it to you. Montgomery Blair
has been sitting with me too & talking of you - so that
my needle will no longer run swiftly through the muslin
and my thoughts will run, be they ever so weak in a
whimsical direction - and sometimes you know when you
permit them to wander where they list they become stronger
or are lost, and then place supplied with what answers
just as well. Montgomery has grown taller and looks
healthier - he retains the same agreeable frankness of man-
ner, which no acquirement would compensate for the loss
of - and he has passed a Year at the Point so perceptibly
that he is distinguished & beloved. This I know will be
agreeable intelligence to you & Ben - even if you have heard
it before - and the influence you possess over him, is by
no means weakened by absence for he strengthens himself
in argument by quoting your opinions, and talks with so much
love & gratitude of all you have done for him, and the happiness
he owes you, that he drives new gears by his sensibility on
the subject - I have just sent him & Sarah Hays to look
at some of Mr. Sullys pictures, they will return to dinner - and in
the afternoon Montgomery and another Cavalier will proceed by the
mail stage enroute to the Point - be permitted on them to have

in the mail - in order to avoid New York, by taking a boat from
the ferry there and reaching the steam boat in the river - to day
there is some alarm here too - several cases of Cholera have occurred
and some deaths - you will hear so much about it before it
reaches Lexington, that I hope you will have made all the
preparations on which the pondus depends for safety - I am
going out to the asylum to put them in order, or rather to put
them out of order, as Mrs Hale will think - that is to convert the
chapel into a sleeping room, and divide the number in
each dormitory, that a whole new ventilation may be obtained
the Sanitary Committee are sending off the inhabitants of the
alms house into the country - and have an infirmary apart
from the old building - indeed they are taking very liberal mea-
sures to stamp this dreadful scourge and I sincerely hope it
may not ravage our city as it has done New York - the physicians
do not recommend inhabitants to leave the city - but to be truth-
they seem the most alarmed portion of the community -
"their ignorance is their folly to be wise" and perhaps
that is the only ground on which we are exempt from fears -

I have been to see Mrs Macallister but she was not at home
it is a bad time for bridal visitors - people would be shocked
at the idea of a party - but the college students have had
a full company of pretty misses and they bore themselves
bravely - a few of them dine with Grata at home - as they
were afraid to indulge in a real commencement dinner -
I think you would enjoy Mr Meres' exultation on this
occasion - you have observed this Henry & good friend in
his character - he is an excellent father - and Grata
promises to justify his fondest hopes. dear Maria, can
you wonder that on such occasions my heart is full of
sadness - the recollection of my beloved sister - the exequies
love she bore to these dear children -

To

Mrs Benjamin Grator

Lexington Kentucky