

Dec 18th 1832

It is so easy to believe what we wish Dearest Maria
I that I went more than half way to cater for my own
disappointment, and out of merely a hint that you wished
to be here I set about thinking it might really be accom-
plished, and see too how the same bright Idea spread. I had
a letter from Mr Blair suggesting the plan of our uniting our
endeavours to draw you over the mountains again, as likely
not only to afford us all much pleasure but tending to ad-
vance to your health, that argument would indeed balance all
others, and make my dear Ben of one party. and I have been
scrutinizing your letter to see if I could find any thing that in-
dicated disease of either mind or body - now I perceive nothing
but that chastened sense, which recent events might have left
on your sensitive mind - a sort of moon light pensiveness, which
is more interesting if less brilliant than the mood in which you
sometimes write but so far from either weakness or capriciousness
that I will not believe you have any remains of indisposition,
and suppose our friend Preston wants you to see his comfortable
new house in the spring - which he has hospitably invited me
to visit this winter. Henry Elling has just returned from there
and gives most agreeable accounts of the whole family. Mrs
Blair is one of the most popular Ladies at Court, and I
suppose this winter will take a sustainable lead - if she does
I am sure, she will improve the style of conversation & society in
her circle, and as the grand political question of Presidential
election is decided she will have a better chance. Mr Johnston
does not go to Washington this winter - and I suppose few of the
opposition members will take these wives - for they had very little
comfort last session - Mr Colvig passed through Phil^a yesterday
I saw him at Mr Brown's he took a young son to Jersey. I
wished to see him, that I might talk of my dear Mrs Evers
and hear him talk, of whom I have heard so much
and how my dear Ben loves so well

self-examination, my dear Maria are very edifying
and seldom fail to bring us nearer to the light of truth.
I could give little credit to the recorded self-abatement of such
- true persons ~~in the church~~, and think these examples would
be much more useful if they would call things by their right
names, we feel and acknowledge the liability of our nature
to fall into errors and ^{that we} require continual watchfulness
to resist temptations - but to sink into the slough of des-
pondency because we are placed a little lower than
the angels seems taxing the designs of Providence, and
instead of being acceptable humility, is down right
presumption - The beautiful admonition we find in Scripture
"Commune with your own heart and be still" seems to
express all we desire to feel - and there is no sentence
shakes me more forcibly or solemnly on this important
subject.

There is little danger my sister, of your being spoiled
by your husband's indulgence, while you accept the
offerings of his love so freely & give, with such grateful
affection. I really think you are a happy woman, not
only in possessing the treasures most desirable to a
rational being, but in feeling their value. I do not
know why married life affords so few such examples
it must surely be their own faults who choose their
own destiny when it is otherwise - such silly matches
as are begun in the romance of childhood and pro-
- longed until they are no longer the same persons that
made them, are hardly to be expected to succeed, and
so I suppose thinks Gertrude Meredith, for she still
reads the daily Chronicle by her father's fire side.
Ellen, poor Ellen, has been again unfortunate, she

I hope these Southern Nullifiers will not break down the beautiful edifice their fathers have erected to freedom, and oh how I tremble lest American blood should be spilt by American hands. our young Carolina students are deeply affected and talk of breaking up their class to go home and defend their rights. Washington Irving I hear gives a fearful account of the state in which he found society in Charleston - tell my dear Bee how he must whisper in his brother's ear how much I love them all - and give Aunt Abby a thousand kisses for me - I wish they could hear how constantly Sarah & Maria talk of them -

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Mrs Benjamin Grant

Leaving for N.Y.



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Present me most affectionately to my beloved Brother. I do not know how often he hears from home - while Miss Kemble is in town I spend a real many fine evenings. My man & I go to the Theatre. She is really charming. I have seen her three times and more wonderful still I see her once - Adieu Dear ever & for ever your own Rly.