

June 6, 1833

Our arrangements were all made My Dear Sister and we were to have commenced our journey next week. but the increasing alarm of Cholera which every days report is spreading through the country has induced us to defer the happiness we were anticipating in your society until this afflicting impediment has passed away - the accounts from Wheeling & Sharpsville are so appalling that we dare not risk approaching them - God grant that the pestilence may not spread further - our vigilant police are making preparations to keep off the evil - or give it such resistance as may prevent its location here - I Dr Caldwell says there is as little chance of its finding lurking places in your city - I cannot tell you what fallen countenances our deferred party wear - your letter greatly aggravated our disappointment by the animated picture you drew of your lovely family, intended reception, but My dear Sister we shall hope on, until the season passes, or brighter prospects dawn - yesterdays mail brought the disheartening accounts of Judge Johnsons death, by the blowing up of the steam boat in which he & his son were on the Reel River - poor Mrs J. is plunged in the deepest grief - a few days ago she was the happiest & the gayest - now the most forlorn of widows. her only son

married - perhaps to fall a lingering victim to the
same sad accident. my first impulse was to have
gone to her - but remembering how little skilled I am
to offer attentions at such a period I have desisted -
she has lived so much in the gay world - that we
have seldom met & I do not know whether she has
cultivated intimacy with any one disposed to bestow
the consolations of friendship in her extremest need -
as soon as I have closed this letter I will go to enquire
about her, for as she has no kind folks near - perhaps
the "velvet pillows" of happy homes may be too fine
for use now - alas! what a picture of human
happiness! - young was right as every day's experience
proves - man's hold upon it is as frail as attenuated
as a spiders thread -

The Barrys parents were all writing that they too
could go to Kentucky and received many letters.
were they not surprised at their cousins' union, what
would have been thought of such a contract had
not immense wealth been in the scale with a dis-
ported heartless young man - to balance ^{against} a lovely
blooming & uncorrupted creature just entering life
with every quality most attractive and capable of
enjoying happiness - she has been journeying
from city to city to attend the races in which her hus-
band is running horses - sacrificing delicacy & refine-
ment - to pursuits where a man of common feeling
would be ashamed to introduce his wife -

Mr Benjamin Bath
Lexington Ky.



[Handwritten flourish or signature]