

Yr. Affectionate Son,
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received

Sept 21st - 1833

It is three weeks my own dear Sister since I have written to you - but my thoughts have visited you every day and my love accompanies you every hour and dwells with you all unceasingly - since my return home Elizabeth has been ill and is still in her chamber - my household has been decimated for the want of servants and the duties of nurse, superintended to that of overseer, has kept me busy and made me stupid. so I lead companion on you, and keep silence - perhaps too, I was not willing to appear before you under such disadvantages. for you ^{have} said so much to raise my vanity that I could not more effectually prove how I had profited by your commendations - than by keeping my dullness out of view - but there are times, dear, when the veil must be dropped and our real characters be seen in all their real deformities - such a period for self-examination approaches - To-morrow will be the day of atonement - and tho' I believe the eye of God is upon us every day with the same unerring judgment the same pardoning mercy - it is well when we search our own hearts, and desire to acknowledge our sins. that we look for motives as well as actions, and when I thought of offering an apology to you, the truth came so straight before me that I could not help telling you, your praise was so sweet to my heart, that knowing it was undeserved I was hardly enough to make me relinquish it, and I rather chose not to write at all than to do it in a manner to tire you quite -

now my homesickness has abated - I begin to feel a little concerned for the want of your accustomed letters and tho' dear Ben's letter to Hyman informed that you were still at Lane wood - and I can realize how fully & engagingly your mind is occupied in scenes so hallowed to tender recollections - so full of the truest and dearest thoughts & memories - yet my Beloved sister I must covet a little very little of your attention - just to say that your mind has recovered its equanimity and that your dear boys & yourself are well -

In returned about 10 days ago - and Joe, this afternoon - so our family party is complete - & Sally Minnie ~~is~~ while our guest - her brother has chanced with his visit to you, and brought ^{away} such impressions, as you never fail to make on your visitors - I am ashamed to confess that I have seen little of your country woman Mrs. Florence, for in truth Elizabeth's illness has prevented my receiving any company & I have not sought her again - I received a letter from Mr. Blair the other day, and expect to have your niece in Phil^a this winter as a pupil to Mrs. Leverage. Sarah is delighted with the anticipation of having her as a companion - tho' I believe she will not return to school again - there seems to be so much required at home to complete education - that a year or two is necessary to devote to study before a young Lady makes her debut - and all Sarah's class mates left her last winter she is full of bravery & enthusiasm & I believe a boarding

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