

Leaves

while

Feb 2nd 1834

I cannot tell you my dear Sister, how I have longed for a letter from you until the desire absolutely begot such an anxiety that I fancied a thousand untoward causes for your silence - yesterday brought a letter to Missian and I knew you ^{were} soon again taking up your pen - but you speak of lunges, a drooping spirit - and I feel as if I should love to be with & cheer you - I wish you could have seen our merry nieces at the breakfast table this morning, enjoying the fruits of their own tricks - it seems they had planned their mischief some days before at Mrs Segueses - and last night's storm gave peculiar effect to their design - they decamped their uncle's & Horace & Rosas beds, and then crept quietly to their own - this morning the affair was discovered with great glee, and while they were brawling in its complete success - Horace stepped out of the room and requested the cook to suspend the operation of the griddle and the girls sat waiting very patiently after all had finished breakfast but themselves until they discovered a counter trick had been played on them, they have now gone to church, to hear Mr. Furber & I hope they will be sobered by dinner time - mentioning Mr. Furber reminds me of a visit I paid his interesting wife lately and the affectionate enquiries she made for you, the poor Lady has her patience & other virtues tried by a tedious disease her only daughter is suffering under - white swelling on her ankle which will probably make her lame for life - she is one of those persons whose contentment sheds an influence over all that approach her - the elements are so blended in her character & disposition as to produce a perfect harmony - if Cowper had given such a wife to his sleepy man the picture would have been complete Dr. Hays is one of her favorites and she seems very much interested in his approaching happiness - it is yet to be proved what

kind of a husband he will make. I think Sally will require
a great deal of attention. She has been accustomed to much
devotion from her family & friends. Southern ladies are treated with
much gallantry by all their male associates, and she has been
a favorite abroad & eldest sister at home. She has much dignity
with sweetness of manner, and as the Dr. enjoys but a brittle
constitutions, I expect his bride will be a little divinity in
his sight. You have heard of poor Henry's failure. This
is another trial to our sister, as Mr W. is in no business and
he was enabled to do something for the family. but I have
not heard her complain, indeed she bears such evils with as
much firmness as any one can, her warm heart is ever
open to ^{the} joys & sorrows of her children. and her exertions
keep them from desponding in the worst of times. I do
not know much about Henry's affairs, they have never
been mentioned by our brothers, and as I heard from our
neighbors that Dr. is one of his creditors I feel unwilling
to ask questions on so disagreeable a subject. The times are
so out of joint in political & mercantile affairs. that
these things become common. I am quite convinced for
Mr Nathan of N.Y. who has a family of 14 children all young.
and in Aug. was worth 150,000\$ is now a bankrupt. he bears
a good reputation, and lived so happily last summer, when
we were in New York, that I sat them down among fortunes
favorites. There is another evil under the sun that has
been making havoc in our city vale of soul. poor Mr Leese
is one of its peculiar subjects, his attack has been unmiti-
gated small pox, and tho his life & eye sight has been spared
I am told his countenance will bear many marks of its
ravages. he has always been so sensitive on the subject
of personal disadvantages. that his former humbleness
appears like vanity to his present state.

Thank God, wherever his virtues are tested they are found
sufficient. May he be successful in all he undertakes
with such pure motives, and ever as happy as he deserves
to be - with some people there would be such nigged justice
that it might be doubted whether it were a friendly wish -
but with your husband my dear Maria - it makes him
as thick as mortar can desire to be - embrace your
lovely boys for me, and tell my dear Ben all his

DB



Mrs Benjamin Grafton

Leedsington N.Y.

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Sisters send their best love - Becky never just come
in for a book, and bid me say she is ashamed of her self
for not writing, she thinks she must go to you to plead her
own cause - we have been reading Mrs Shelley's "Last Man"
it is worth more than her other work - but while her genius
was wild of good principles - God bless you, My dear Sister
believe in the love of your own Reg.