

whole

When we suffer under any unusual dejection
or anxiety we are apt to look into our selves for a cause
it is now full two months since my eyes have been gladdened
My Dear Maria with the sight of a letter from you and I have
weaned my self with conjectures. could I have offended you?
no, for not a thought has entered my mind - not a feeling
logged in my heart that could have given utterance to
an offensive word - are you sick? no, thank God of
that we are assured by persons who have seen our dear
Ben, within two or three weeks - and Mr Monturollin saw
you in the street shortly before he left Kentucky. so on that
head we are spared - are you tired of a dull correspondence?
then why does Montgomery & Mr B complain likewise of your
silence? - I will ask no more harassing questions but believing
you must have good reasons which in time will be told
I shall go on my dear sister to peate of other things in which
I hope you may be interested. I am reading a delightful
book which if you have not seen already, I will send you
"Spurzheim's Phrenology." I was rather prejudiced against
the science some years ago from hearing it treated very
unphilosophically by persons who used it as a cant word
of which they understood very little - but happening to meet
with a work on education by this same author - and the interest-
ing account of his character - his visit to this country & his
death - gave me a keener relish to enjoy his great work
and if the study of his theory can be applied to the purpose
of education every parent and teacher ought to be a phre-
nologist - then if perfectibility cannot be attained in human
nature still many evil propensities may be repressed and

good ones applied to their most useful results. how many difficulties too might be saved in choosing professions for boys when the whole map of the mind is drawn in legible marks on the scale, one must however be well skilled before they determine for my part I can only see developments where I know characters. The Spring has opened here in the most beautiful appearances - vegetation is prematurely advanced I fear, one rose-bushes are in leaf & the willows quite green already. I always loved the Spring - but now as I advance in years it appears still more lovely. Nature is our first & last love, for we put from our taste for every pleasure less enduring and less pure - or rather we have a portion in ourselves which harmonizes with all the work of the Creator's hands. The green earth, our mother & our tomb - the air we breathe, the heavens to which we aspire - all commune with our affections, and draw us to the worship of God. would that we awaked at the wonders we witness in creation, and the all enduring benevolence manifested in the care ^{with} which every creature is provided for. honor the image we bear by making ourselves more perfect, and imitate his mercy in our intercourse with our fellow creatures.

We hear of nothing but hard times among merchants & politicians - whilst the fashionable circles make the most of the few opportunities they have for politics where you used to admire forest trees on Girards lot. stately edifices are now erected, and inhabited by some who are fortunately out of the chances of trade and can give parties. Mrs Cammels fancy ball was one of the rarities of the season, and admirably adapted to the times, for the sanction of its title was given to any costume, caprice might adopt. Becky chose a gipsy. She looked very pretty in her black and yellow cotton dress. blue apron - red cloak & chips hat - while her fingers were covered with borrowed (or stolen) jewels.

are lost - because you never were so long silent before - they all
send love & pleading to you - Miss Ann & Sarah have gone with Eliza
to church - they are all well in Washington. W. Elling arrived from there
last night - embrace your darling son's for me - tell my dear
Ben. how powerfully anxious we are to hear from him, when you
do not write - And accept for both the warm affection of your
devoted sister RG - March 9th 1834

Mrs. Benjamin Fratt

Lexington Ky.

single

