

Oct 12, 1834

Is it possible my Dear Sister, you had really no intention of coming to us when you raised that sweetly delightful hope? if you could see the blank faces occasioned by the perusal of your last letter. I am sure you would be sorry you had hit on that expedient to pervert Jo for playing the same game. I had planned such a happy winter for us all - had arranged my house, which has been all nicely painted & papered. fixed your chambers according to my dear Edwards notion, and thought we should be so comfortable & agreeable all together, that I can hardly bear to relinquish the scheme. tho' one passage in your letter shows I had expected too much, and my heart tells me - without the complete family - without our dear Ben & ^{all} the boys - neither you, nor they nor I, could realize the happiness in anticipation. I expected as Ben wrote to Mr Blair, that you would have preceded your husband by a month or two, and that he would have joined us before the winter set in - but I will not tell you all my hopes, and all my disappointments, because I would not have your brow clouded with one regret. my love can spare you - only let me tell you right in one particular that your objection to bringing all is inadvisable for I shall never be content to have one missing when you do come. I have good servants and can add to their number without any difficulty - am not afraid of a large family when they can be domesticated, and have already experienced how easily you can be satisfied with the homely accommodations we can bestow. So my Dear Sister, please think more of gratifying my affection for all your family - than any little

inconvenience you may fancy in the arrangement of my house
hold. We have been in such confusion for the last foot
night in repacking & cleaning - that I find it quite a plea
sure to sit down and see all in order again, and shall
feel quite at home when your & Ben's portraits are
reclaimed from Mr. Sully, who is varnishing them, - he has sent
his eldest son abroad as a portrait painter, to spend this
winter in Virginia - what would be his chance in the
west? Kentucky has produced so many good artists
in that department, that I suppose there is no room for
strangers.

I hope our dear Ben has got through his unpleasant
duties. Public honors are rarely attained without pain &
turmoil, he must have earned his popularity by services
conferred - and consistent integrity - or he would not in the few
years he has resided in your city have been so often appointed
to offices of trust and responsibility. I am sure he would
act justly if his own brother was among the arraigned and
I hope whatever may be the feelings of delinquents, he will
be justified in the end, and regarded in the community ac-
cording to his merit - the frightful excess political excitement
has taken in our country is too he deplored. I dread the
coming week, when our general election is to take place -
it is to be hoped the death of the young man who suffered
last week will be a warning against deadly acrimony on that
occasion. No! the idea of a public funeral for the poor lad
shows the degrading length party spirit will go -

I heard Sarah May's begging Elizabeth last evening to petition
for a letter from Aunt Maria, not from any other claim than
her great desire to be so favored - and as the poor girl is still
confined by her accident, unable to walk across her room without
assistance, I secured her plea - she is benefiting in one way
however, for she was very thin & pale before she was hurt, and
the great care she has been obliged to take of her bruises
has been of service to her health & she has grown fat

all here send affectionate remembrances Elizabeth joins and
bids me to say do Aunt Maria come - let me hear from you
soon again My beloved sister and believe me always your
devoted affectionate Rly

Oct. 12th 1834

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Mrs Benjamin Grath

Lexington Ky.

Ans

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