

Feb 24th - 1834

Saturday night

My dear sister I recd a letter of introduction to you for Miss Martineau which you will probably not receive before June. but I am sure you will be pleased with her. She has been spending a month in this city, and made her home at Mr Furness' now tho she has been entertained at "great mens tables" gone the round of fashionable routs - received the suffrage of philosophers & poets - been admitted to all public institutions - from the academy of science to the gymnasium - I believe the most acceptable testimony I can offer of her worth, is the enthusiastic admiration of the frank hearted Mrs F. you will find her perfectly well bred & unaffected. her conversation full of interesting anecdote of men & manners - quite unassuming & willing to talk of her own works with candour. and in all respects such a woman as one rarely meets, and cannot fail to admire. I believe you have read her tales. I know I have told you how much they pleased me - and therefore you may imagine how much gratified I was to find their author so susceptible and warm hearted - if she turns upon us the point of a satiric pen "when she leaves the country. I shall never again trust to my judgment in describing the reality of candour from its comely counterfeit. I was not able to entertain her, because Becky ^{Green} ^{P.R.} ^{Green} has been in a state of living death ever since her arrival and I could not tell from day to day whether I could keep an engagement. but she was plentifully hosted here - and giving her a passport to your acquaintance I have done more for her gratification, and our credit - than if I had given her ten postures + poor Becky. it would touch your heart to see how the inward as well as the outward woman is changed - she is so affectionate - so amiable that it seems as if the spirit of benevolence - so long masked under a cold aspect

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Yesterday
Gentle
I am sure much more than I have lately
to Mr F. in my dear friend, that you will doubt
think he is in the shadow of death
they are certainly packed in a box with your letter
two or three days - a box of other dear - Green & 2 books

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had been inborn in her nature - the one feeble hand she can yet use, grasps with such friendly warmth, when ever I go to see her. but she was so ill on my two last visits that the girls thought even my presence might agitate her. her change is I think fast approaching - they all are prepared for it - and are devoted in their attentions. all human characters have some advantage point in which they are to be viewed. our male cousins in this family are ministering angels round the couch of their dying sister -

and so your clocks were making a winter voyage while you were in need of their services. I was greatly amused at not meeting with an obliging stage traveller to Pittsburg to give them a more rapid conveyance from Phil^a to the Ohio. but even that would not have expedited their peripatations as they were destined to taste the waters of the Mississippi. I hope if they like Elijah's mantle could pass the waters. they retain no parts of them. on their surface, lest in these deprecate days such spots might not be thought an improvement to their beauty - I have just heard that Mr. Crotchfield, so long detained here by sickness and by whom I hoped to ^{have} sent your ^{last} ~~last~~ ^{last} has gone home - but the man has promised to seek out some other traveller in case of failure. I believe I must apply to your old friend R. M. Johnson for a frank - as I am determined if possible to have them sent in time for your occasions - (a Bachelors Ball is announced here for Twelfth night. to which all the Bachelors are looking with eager anticipation - and would you believe it - we are so ignorant as not to know to what Twelfth night owes its origin - pray my dear sister enlighten us on the subject. some have conjectured that it owed its notoriety to the change of style. when Christmas was so far back on the calendar - but some learned authorities tell us that the Romans had a custom of choosing a King & Queen on Twelfth night which they derived from the Greeks. I once heard a long discussion on the antiquity of "April fools." and here is another familiar custom equally obscure - however on such innocent points it is better even the learned should dispute - than on as trifling & unimportant differences of opinion on graver subjects which have kept the world in long continued ferment - and "broken the bonds of brotherhood asunder" in the great family

happy together, Elizabeth has had resolution to stay here during the vacation, her father thinking she had better not risk a winter journey she is a sweet girl - very like her mother, and as happy & gay as at 16. she should be - I have just left them all at the next house discussing Bulwer's last novel "the last days of Pompeii" Sally & the Dr. dined with me to day. I told her of your proposition for young settlers in the West, and found it much to her taste. one sister Etting has recovered wonderfully. she visits her grandchild often frequently, and begins to wear an appearance of health. Joe saw Dr. Cook while in Phil^a and he said many fine things of you - he was delighted to meet with such brilliant talents - so highly cultivated & - and your husband - too, had his share of commendation.

May well be more to your taste than the Words I have only room - to send the love of all here in a heap - send to say you will tell your dear husband & children how dearly I am there & your affectionate Mother. Oh it is necessary for heart - breezy again - he is undoubtedly one of the best -

about other papers and I have written other than this - so you are not in a run of luck. I was fearful to send you down by the stage and not knowing your movements, you will receive it.

Yours for ever
L. B. Bridges
L. B. Bridges for Mr. Bridges
L. B. Bridges for Mr. Bridges

My dear Miss - Your concern for me as well as they are without you - say nothing like a little more giving to know to say no - as my time is so much occupied in business I have had more to acquire after the time of which you were so little - Missy has a great heart to be

by Sam^l who with him it last if you have sent your worse household - Altho you know how difficult it is for me to get along without you I wish you to exercise your judgment and selection about returning - Have bless you Missy -

which I would have told you if I had room - Mr. Bridgman thinks him a very clever fellow - he received much kindness from him in Boston, and Dr. Cook lived at his house ^{here} for some days - to use his lawyer phrases - he does not consider him equal to Horace Mann or John Sergeant - but likes him, and therefore gave him an introduction to his friend - he told Joe that if his wife consents, he would accept the offer of President to your college - I hope it he does