

May 17th - 1835

Mr. Furness sent to inform us that Dr. Channing
 would preach in his Church this morning, and that
 I do not expect to hear any one I like so well as I do
 himself - we have determined to go listen to this
 apostle of the new creed. I had once the impudence
 to tell him, the nearer the christian doctrine approached
 to the tenets of the old revelation the more perfect
 it must become, and he acknowledged there was truth
 in the remark. His health is so feeble he is obliged to leave
 Boston every spring - but go where he will Dr. Channing
 finds a home in the hearts of his hearers - I have told
 you all this My Dear Maria to excuse my not devoting
 a larger portion of this morning to you, as I intended
 to do, but having your delightful letter to acknowledge
 and moreover a prospect of soon seeing you, more clearly
 defined, to communicate. - I have turned my back on the
 breakfast table, before the stragglers have come in, to tell
 you our present plans. Hyman left home this morning
 for a visit to Centre County. Which if he executes in
 the period allotted, we shall probably be ready in three
 weeks to begin our journey westward. The two Jacobs
 and Grace accompany us & Hyman our escort. I shall
 write to ^{ask} your sister to let Elizabeth go with us - as it
 will be a fortnight later before Montgomery can leave
 the Point, and she seems to prefer traveling with Sarah

Montgomery's health has been very much improved by the climate and discipline of West-Point - but his recent journey & relaxation has benefitted him I hope essentially and he thinks his native air will vivify him, he has returned to fight for a prize and there is little doubt of his obtaining it, if he is as prudent as he is clever.

I am sorry we shall be too late to see Miss Martineau - not that I claim the privilege of "friendship" but that I found her so agreeable, so intelligent, so unaffected that her great talents seem to be only felt in their highest influence - they do not throw you at a distance but like the sun warm & vivify the & Fanny Butler & Washington Irving - are the perfection of good society they are so free from pretension - but bless us, how very unequal is the exchange they make for the pleasure they give me - I hope my dear sister you will see Miss M. for I have cherished the pride of doing her some service and my little favorite Mrs Estlin seems to have sympathized with me.

12 of Lock - Dr Channing has earned his reputation - I never heard a more interesting, powerful & energetic discourse - and his whole soul speaks out with an inspiration which seems to illuminate his entire frame. he preached on the value of self denial - and its power to confer happiness - until he convinced every one present that a life of ease and self-indulgence was a life of misery - and made apparent the force of David's assertion "it is well for me, that I have been afflicted. since affliction gives strength to bear crosses & evils with a becoming spirit. I wish some of my friends heavily laden with crosses could have benefitted by his representation, of the power inherent in every human being to resist and conquer their weaknesses. a pull on the strength necessary to bear their weight."

Handwritten signature in red ink.



Small handwritten mark or signature.

Mrs Benjamin Graft

Leedington Ky