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May 14th 1836

My heart has fondly accompanied you, my sweet sister
in your journey - and your welcome reception at your happy
home, every countenance and every scene is familiar to my
mind's eye - and I abstract my self from the deserted house
and lonely feeling - to retrace with you the pleasure of a return
to the beautiful home where I trust you are now as happy
and well as you could wish to be - every one of the dear
Boys have enjoyed the joy of greeting their favorite companion
and the very streets of Lexington echo to their glad some voices.

I look back most gratefully on the year that has passed
so delightfully and cannot subscribe to the poets assertion
that the memory of pleasure is no longer pleasure - for it is
left to me, now to trace you are in the scenes you love and
where I have seen & partaken of your happiness. Leave Wood
the farm & Lexington are the varied scenes of your usefulness
and pleasure - and in each I remember so many traits of
your kindness and character, that it will be renewing the
enjoyment of each summer to recall incidents localized
in each - I imagine the improvement my dear Brother's taste
will make in Cecil farm, and the pride he will take in
seeing the illustrious emigrants improve on the fertility of
his land, while the excellence of your dairy and superiority
of your barn yard brood, will be as noted, as the herds
themselves - why this is in keeping with the simple dignity of
his great progenitors the shepherds of Israel - if it were
not for rail-roads canals & cotton bagging - your sons in the
west might enjoy for a century to come, primitive manners
and modes of life - but the march of improvement is banishing
all trace of simplicity & perhaps from the earth - and so may

dear Bannoo you must learn to till your ground & plant some
corn scientifically. lest before you are a Man, farming on the old
plan may be altogether out of fashion - you see friend Leary is
talking of a furnace & thermometer for his spring house.
that his butter may have the proper temperature to keep up
its reputation - and I must say it is in a much greater degree
of respect since his pastures are open, and the dainty Moepard
has been gratified by the use of a silver blade -

Well dear Sister there are two things you left unseen that
you should have seen before you left - Mrs Woods Sonnam
bula and Sara Harps married - The first would have
delighted all your senses and beguiled you of many tears.
The last is still nearer your heart - and is to take place
so soon, that it might as well have been a little earlier.
The Leary's Sister Emma arrived a few days ago on a
visit to her brother, not knowing she was to be taken home
so soon - I am glad she is come, for the more friends Sara makes
in the family ^{the} better, she will have to undergo a jealous scrutiny
among relations who idolize her husband - and have been thinking
no woman on earth good enough for him - but I think they
ought to be very grateful to one whose smiles could win him
from a hopeless sorrow, and I have no doubt she will make
him so tender and prudent a companion as to be prized
for her own good qualities independent of companionship with
his first choice - They are all going to dine with me to day -

Joe came home on Sunday last, in very good health - he
talks of you all - gave an account of your journey, and
misses you terribly - he asked me last night with a great
deal of sympathy how I could do without the boys, and
indeed they were such sweet companions all winter, that
I do miss them greatly - I should like to have seen the wedding
between Leary & Fanny - What a delightful household you have
made - I must confess, (as there is no evil without a remedy)

I am glad to tell you that Sister Elling is better - and in good spirits about herself - Harris is sick - and Dr Hoag attends to her eyes - so there is hope of its recovery - Ellen is also better - down stairs - and your little patient William Chewitt the 3rd - has had no spasm since the application of your remedy - every body in the family send messages - you are never mentioned but with loved admiration - yet we talk of you daily - James Black & Horace are great piers two days in the week - Sara has written for Missie to come up to the wedding and as Montgomerie has returned home perhaps she will - I almost wish her Parents knew that there has been some cause of embarrassment here - lest they might hereafter regret consequences - in case her feelings should change - but there is no temptation for a girl forewarned to fall in love with a poor village Dr and you say she is not romantic since she has seen more of life than a boarding school - there is to be quite a pu-



Mr Benjamin Heath

Lexington Ky

Single

and tell my beloved brother how fondly you are
 weaned in my best affections - the pretty one
 husband and all around me read their love and
 to my own Maria and your devoted Mr
 Valley & the Dr husband
 my dear love - your little
 face a warm embrace
 when helps you -

bedding - she will stay at home one day after and on Friday go to the
 south west a day in Baltimore - and thence to Richmond for a fortnight
 then take up her station at the Annual ble pulber orders - Sister is full
 of maternal excitement, but she is the kindest & best mother in the
 world and feels only for Jacob's happiness - pray give my love to your
 dear sisters and nieces - embrace my love to your father & we