

Philadelphia Oct 9th 1836,

It is very tantalizing my dear Maria, that there should be a sealed letter in the house which might tell me all about you - and yet I am obliged to wait until Tuesday morning when we expect to hear from New York - to know whether you ^{are} well & happy, or sympathizing with others you knew to be suffering - if the latter - I am happy to relieve you of at least one burden. For our brother Etting is so much improved, that with a little more good nursing I hope to see him on his feet again - it is strange that our sister during his illness was braver & stronger than she rarely left his room, and could talk of his situation with composure tho she had no hope of his recovery - and now that this abandoned hope is assumed almost to certainty, her spirits are depressed, and the weakness of her constitution is apparent in the languor and paleness of her countenance - so that I am more concerned now for her than for her husband - Reuben can scarcely sit up to have his bed made, and when seated in his chair is entirely helpless - but he talks cheerfully, and tries to encourage Fanny, and looks abundantly more like a living man, than him the painter shows who was brought to motion by a miracle - and yet to human calculation, this is a miracle too - at the age of 74 to have been brought so low, and raised again, was the work of more than human skill. The papers announce the death of Dr. Blacklee, this tho new to his family, will affect the sensibility of your sister for a time, but I hope she will feel happier than she has long been - for his life always kept her anxious, and his children will now be wholly their mothers.

Minna's first trial is approaching. Mr Cohen returns
to Carolina next week, and as he has to pass thro' Charle-
ton she will have fears to make separation more painful.
his absence will not be long, and when he returns
it will be to take her away. you know how hard it
will be for me to part with her - but she is so entirely
happy in her choice that it would be sinful to regret
particularly as the character Mr Co bears among his
own people is unexceptionable, and yet he is no
more to be compared to her in mind or manners
in my estimation than - but comparisons are
silly, and perhaps I am not a judge, because I
had no chance of making an impartial judgment
I did not know him, until they were engaged, and
have been very critical. She has presented him to you
in lines drawn by affection's hand - and I wish you
could see, how beautifying the sentiment that engendered
her is - her fine countenance is so radiant with happi-
ness, her whole soul shines out so pure, so almost
sublime, that one cannot help feeling confidence in
a lover capable of inspiring such a holy feeling -
she has been treated most warmly by his family, she
is all anxious to have him married, and esteem him very
fortunate in having obtained her -

Your things were to have been packed yesterday &
will be forwarded without delay. Brown stands for
shovel stones could not be procured here, and so will get
them in New York, so they perhaps will not be sent by
the same stage, as he deemed they should not be detained

and Uncle Ben and my boys - very very much -
but I have done - do not forget to love your own
devoted Niece Lina.

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Miss Mary Anne Smith
Lexington Ky.

Oh Aunt Maria - Aunt Beatty will not let me read this letter, and
I know it is a pretty one, and do so want to see it - well it
can't be helped - but will you not keep it and when I come to
Lexington (which I hope may be before long) you will show it
to me - will you not? I feel very much to say it if I should
lose to take wings to fly to you - for I want to see you