

I am vexed with myself Dearest Maria, when I leave your letters unanswered - and yet ashamed of the unworthy returns I make to them. I had just dispatched my last when you arrived - the heads of the family were collected to do honor to the new member, and she claimed the privilege of sharing Aunt Maria's love, as she intended to be a very dutiful niece - she has obtained universal suffrage, even Aunt Regine has been invited to a place of honor in the Dos house hold, and the old lady with her most insinuating manner declared it the happiest day of her life, that she prepared "the fattest calf" for the feast of welcome to the bride. Sally possesses a good deal of discrimination and frankness - that gives her influence exactly where it will produce the happiest results - already she has drawn her husband more into the bosom of his own family - and one sister realizes that she has gained a daughter & rejoiced a son by this union - nearly all her family are at present in Phil^a - so that she has not even a regret for familial ties in the change she has made, she is quite in love with her new little establishment, and promises herself a great deal of pleasure in becoming a good house keeper. which for the indulged daughter of a southern family is an entire new character - however a poor man's wife must take a part of his burden, and as he is travelling up ward, the hardships & privations are light to young shoulders, while a fair prospect is in view and affectionate encouraging friends near than company.

You really say these sisters have been suffering in a good cause, and I shall most emphatically that the offices of charity are not all enjoyed by the church & fancy Fair gossiping so much in fashion throughout our country. I am glad that our opinions are the same of that subject - It appears a very exceptionable service

which employs the rich to do work for 'fares' which might be so much more useful to the poor. many ingenious ladies in very reduced circumstances supply our shops with fancy articles the proceeds of which maintain their families - a "Fair" is advertised to for-
-ward a scholarship for some church, or pay for an asylum attached to a religious institution - and all the weak minded, and pious females for miles round & in the city spend months in manufacturing trifles. music & confectionary are introduced, some complementary verses or popular oration is recited, and vanity supplies the further entertainments, to complete sweep, a whole week was consumed in the public business of one of these Fairs last Spring at Washington Hall - a large sum of money received - and many just complaints murmured by regular vendors - while Mothers & Prudes were shocked that young & innocent girls should be basting pin cushions & smiling at these sanctified tables at an expense of modesty far beyond the price of goods -

Your friends will remember the Fair not for the charity that brought them to it - but for that which they received at your hands - and if they do not apply it to more extensive use, than building a church - they have not yet caught a spark of that Divine Spirit, of which religion is composed -

I admire your ingenious interpretations of the prophecies which tho' too free for theologians, are practically good and while acting on such principles you have a right to draw authority from the scriptures - if every one would follow your example the reign of peace would indeed be universal, and tho' the Lion & Lamb should retain their dispositions in the natural world - the human family would derive all the happiness a union of strength & gentleness could obtain in the moral one -

portion of ^{Washington's} biography which relates to your Aunt for I
fear he has slender materials of exhibiting the sentiment
of his character - Mr Washington having destroyed all his letters
addressed to her, shortly before her death - nor every thing great
and noble, in the Soldier & States man may be ~~ext~~ presented
to our respect & veneration - but it requires some touches
of human affections and passions to complete the man,
and give him a place in our hearts - he writes most
affectionately to Col Lusk - and my imagination constrains
- by runs on his fair sister. the Mr Sparks is evidently
ignorant of this attachment - he speaks of a humble
attachment, which prevented his being endangered by
the attractions of some inmates of the Fairfax family,
and the letters which relate to his marriage are so passion
- less that I am sure there was a corner of his heart locked
up to the memory of his first betrothed - that precious
self devoted being whose very rejection was a proof of true
nobility which could not have been lost on such a heart
as Washington's - nor Maria, if among old family papers
you could find but a single note of his to your Aunt, or
any record of their engagement - it would give such
interest to the Editor's task, that you ought not with hold
it - the mass of American biography now collecting will
be a valuable addition to our literature - If you have
not read "Gouverneur Morris," I would recommend it as finely
written & excellent letters - present my best love to our
Dear Ben, and your lovely boys. Charge a rainy afternoon

with all this scuffle. and believe I would not
have been so unreasonable if a private conveyance
had not offered - the train now appears and an engage-
ment abroad saves you from further tediousness about
this fair sheet might write - God bless you

my beloved - take a full portion of kind greetings
from all our sisters &c - your proposed letter
would more than gratify the Dr & his wife -

Ben & Samuel go to Virginia next week in
the hope that his health will be improved, I
never saw a weaker babe of 6 months old than their
little Frank - Sister & Isabella have improved -

I embrace you all, with my whole heart
and am devotedly your sister RLG

June 29th 1837 (1)

To

Mrs Benjamin Grata
Lexington Ky.