

Sep 20th - 1837.

I wrote you a long letter on Sunday My dear Maria giving you a detail of family affairs. and had it signed sealed - but not delivered - when "a change came on the spirit of my dream" and I thought I had given too high a coloring to some of my pictures, and had not done justice to others, so determined you should be spared the trouble of reading a long letter, and have set about another that shall be more concise. it is almost a week since Ben Ettings arrived and I can pronounce with more certainty the happy change in his health & appearance, his spirits too are very good notwithstanding the golden dreams that have vanished into thin air, since he has traveled and walked about among broken merchants, and had a glimpse into fiscal affairs. but the bright faces of his children and the warm welcome of his wife and friends. open a more solid view of happiness, than any he could enjoy in the celestial empire, among ivory palaces & hony merchants. and I hope he will establish himself quietly at home for life - Betsy Mores has written her own story to you, and she appears / against her theory / to anticipate much happiness, Mr Nathan is a very clever and amiable man, in fair business as a young Lawyer and he has been well brought up, with the habits & feelings of a gentleman - he is moreover very much in love, and has faith, that inspired by it he can move mountains and mount over all difficulties to attain his object. there is no time fixed for their marriage - but both families are willing that they should manage for themselves in that particular.

My great anxiety is at present for our brother Isaac
who is again a prey to bad spirits - which has lasted near-
ly two months and I fear will result in his resigning his
office - then the want of occupation will give more time
for the indulgence of those morbid feelings that oppress
him, and he will either suffer or fancy he suffers from
the inconveniences of poverty. I believe this melancholy
arises from disease - perhaps dyspepsia, but whether
medicine will remove it or not is a source of continual
anxiety to me. Dr. Hays is attending him, and no doubt feels
an affectionate as well as professional interest in his
sufferings - he ^{last} was one week away on business - but did not
improve during his journey - and tho he goes to his office
every day does not appear to take pleasureⁱⁿ interest in
his business - but I do not want to make you or our dear
Ben uneasy about him - he has before recovered from similar
attacks & I hope will again - He is again in fine health
and looks better than I have seen him for an age - and so
is Hyman - but we are all descending the vale of years and
must not expect to retain the vigour of youth. Mr. Lamb
Davis of Hatter's enquired yesterday whether we did not
expect to see you here this winter - and I had not the heart
to tell him no, for I began to consider the time that
had passed since you were here, and how easily you
might come again - and with the idea came the wish so
strong, that I ~~thought~~ I would just ask you how
the matter stands with you - in a few weeks we shall
be alone - Miriam & Rose go back to their Southern home
and Ellen will take her child to Broth - Mr. Etting did not
accompany her - but the other girls have the most devoted
companions who live with them.

but some one should be sick because you are sick - our
sisters send their best love to you - it would please you to see Yanny
& Reuben enjoying themselves among their children - on Sunday we
all went to visit them in the country - about 20 dined there and it
happened to be the forty third anniversary of their marriage day.
so we made merry, and Ben had quite a triumph in enabling
them to celebrate it so much to their satisfaction - Grace has
not been home since July - we expect him in a few days for
the funeral of a week - and then he will return into the field



Mr. Benjamin Grate

Lexington Ky



26

until November, I hope he will succeed and continue in the
geological corps, as he will have good opportunities of imper-
ving his mind in that profession - the last accounts from Edmund
he had some notion of going out with a party of surveyors - he
had not met with any other employment but from the style of
his letter hope he will reap "the uses of adversity" in the improvement
of his character. Give my ardent love to my dear brother and
to those my sister accepts his affections from your devoted Rly -