

144
Dec 31st 1837.

I thank you most heartily my dear sister for your two last letters, and thank acknowledge my deliverance. but you knew this is my busy season and if you knew how much our labours are increased since we have lost Mrs Hale of the Asylum, you would not wonder that we are busy. so much doing & undoing, and business things done wrong, that there is quite a bustle when we are to come before the public and show what we have been about. I have been working in the dark too for more than a month for in that time the children had the measles, and not having had it in my child hood, I have been made by the solicitude of my friends to avoid its contact every where out of my own house, and so I think it my duty to be more attentive since the doors are open to me again - but this is a long apology instead of telling you that our brother Joe got home on the 26th inst. much better than when he left us, and tho' still thin, and taking great care of his diet I feel quite satisfied that his journey into your lovely country, and loving society has done well for him. I am sorry he had so little of our dear Ben's society had he known what a mild month was to conclude the year he might have secured himself on the western side of the mountains, and still have found the rivers flowing uninterrupted by the ice. I was a little surprised & sorry too at the accounts you give of your self. you should certainly have taken better care of your family during the absence of your husband, and notwithstanding the unusual engagement Sister Mary has for the Spring, you might have held out a tempting inducement for her to pay Lexington a visit. She has so ardent a desire to be useful and has been so often employed on such occasions that I do not know that any that has a stronger attraction would her if Menam sends, she will go to Georgetown.

and so would I - if only to be near her in her hour of need
were my own feelings alone to be consulted - Sally Kays returned
home a week after Ben left us. She regretted much that she
did not see him - but he would have carried you a sorry account
of her appearance, for she was sick on her voyage, and is thinner
& paler than when she went away. much to her mortification, having
in all her letters, boasted of her improvement in the climate &
society of her native home. and who would not feel well & happy
too in such a return. She found no change but agreeable ones
during her absence. Her dear Parents & family circle, all greeting
her with such fondness - her youthful companions & friends flock-
ing around her - and the servants who had watched her looks
and tended as much from love as duty, while answering her
calls and serving her son with the pride and pleasure, their
faithful attachment to her induced - it is quite charming
to listen to her details. her eyes sparkle, and she is as voluble
as if she were unwilling we should lose a single scene or
trait of the picture she has so much enjoyed. Particularly
as she winds up by saying - well, we cannot have every thing
in this world - and I am very happy here - and could be any
where with my husband - and so Miriam says even in Georgetown.
and I have no doubt Becky will say in New York, when the time comes
for her to make the trial. Luc talks a great deal about your
boys, and gives most agreeable accounts of all these improvements.
thinks Howards manners very much softened - Bremond the same
gentleman, and the little ones as innocent and attractive as
ever. he praises Learys scholarship under your tuition & My-
man's fortitude & bravery. Tell my dear Ben I received a civil
note from him a few days ago from Mr. Short, who was very much annoy-
ed, in pushing himself too late in returning his courtesy, until
I assured him, that I would transfer it to him by letter. He then
said something civil of the opportunity it gave him of paying
his respects to me, and I introduced his agreeable relations in
Kentucky upon the topics we talked of them some time, until
I made him feel proud of their talents & consequence and I hope
he will put a cordial to his wife in form of your young friend

first convergence, with any thing else you may be pleased
to order - tho' the stores offer very few temptations, having
been afraid to import fancy articles in the autumn -

God bless you my dear Sister. I cannot express all
the obligations I feel to you - for the sweet visit of our dear
Ben - but estimate your love, by the sacrifice you made in
willingly working with him - it made us so happy -
and now he is restored to you, I can speak of it, without making
you sad - embrace him & the dear boys for me and believe
me always most devotedly & affectionate Eliza

2



20

Mrs Benjamin Grant

Lexington Ky

Our friend Mr Farness is in very bad health - but I hope
not desperate - the book you mention I have not read - he
asked me if I would, provided he sent it to me - and when I
reminded him of his promise recommended Sacer's Resolutes
as much better - do you think so?