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April 24th 1838.

I have this moment my Dear Sister dispatched a letter of introduction to you by Oscar Swares, but when you will receive it matters not - it seemed too troubling to be writing to you with such uncertainty and then to say nothing that was likely to be at all interesting, when I might tell how many family concerns were on my mind and in my heart - the first then is to tell you that except the ticking of the clock I have been two days without an adequate companion for my morning hours - yesterday Julia & Horace left us at an early hour. The first to pay a few attentions to her brother George before his departure, and Horace to hurry forward that he may spend one day at Niagara before George joins him at Buffalo. I conclude that I have told you how Horace unexpectedly obtained the situation he applied for on the Erie rail road, and that George Hoffman, by the same good luck is also appointed, two vacancies having occurred in the places they applied for - then Mr. Moses had fixed on the same day to move, and Isaac went to help them, and Isaac is absent - but it is no great hardship to be alone - particularly when one has so much to think of - to pray for - and to be thankful. - Some one has written "one very wish, give us not one wish" - I think he should ~~rather~~ have ~~made~~ some qualification of the sentence to make it true - one accomplished wish do not leave us free from care - and if he means that happiness is not the result, it may be true, for nothing worth wishing for, can be enjoyed without the price of anxiety and care - as you will experience when one of your boys leave your parental roof to seek their fortunes and make their own destiny in the world - it is true we have many hopes & consolations when they exhibit character on which we can rely - and I really depend on much firmness of principle and love of truth, in the youngling we have just parted with - he has discretion too, and an enduring spirit, that may be better in the end than shining parts, and he went away pleased with the profession he has chosen, and full of high hopes - as George and several minds ever do - May He who led his ancestors

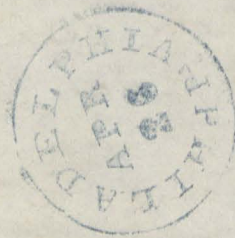
Through the blindness where there was no path to his guide
also, tho' all the joys of life, and make him worthy of his care -
was not poor Horatio's disappointment, an awful visitation?
The family are sadly grieved, but they are recovering from the shock, & long
they must mourn their excellent mother. The marriage will probably
be postponed until autumn - unless Mr. May (whose health is precarious)
should desire to see it solemnized sooner, and I think it would be better
to have it so - marriage as a holy & solemn contract might be made at any
fitting time & place, without the usual festivities, which to the parties are
always intrusive & impertinent. Francis remembering how she intended to
celebrate it - and how it was prevented would never again consent to see
her for a gay wedding, and I should think would exert above all other
privileges to receive her father's benediction on the occasion. Francis
had a visit from her sister Mary & family on their return home last week
and while they were with her - little Frank was taken sick with scarlet
fever, he has it very light, and we hope is quite safe now, but
it is such a dreadful disease that we are anxious about his recovery.
There, who by the bye is one of the most lovely little fellows I ever saw -
he is as yet very well - Dr. May is to be our neighbour in Mr. May's
house - after losing Beebe, I could not have wished for a more pleasant
soul occupant - but she has been unto me as a daughter - and
I shall miss her, almost as much as if she were already married.
One letter from Miriam are drawing sketches of her happiness &
hopes. She is very cheerful, and has no fears for herself to meet the
anticipations of her new duties and responsibilities - her husband says
as many pretty things about her - as you husband sometimes whispers
in your own ears. I was quite affected by a post script he appended
to her last letter, in which he managed to pass a painful compliment
to me with the perfection of his wife's character.
One brother Etting has lost his eldest sister, who died after a very
short illness - she was an excellent woman, and lived to the age three
the psalmist says is the appointed period of man's life. There were
and ten - yet as he is her senior, he is admonished, and submits
not grieved, that a short separation will bring them together in
other & brighter scenes. one generation passeth away and another
generation cometh - but the Lord endureth forever & in his presence
is the fulness of joy -
I met Mr. Farnes a few days ago, and he told me he was going

to see beautiful Kentucky - but console them that all they
know and love there can come to them. Thank dear
Sister Bledsoe and Sall for their affectionate messages
I rejoice in my dear Sall's happiness, and beg you will
present my respects to her husband, and remember me to
all the kind friends, who remember me - I owe them too
much civility to forget them - how does your Ephraim change
come on?

Our Sisters & Friends send affectionate
renewal to you all - I had a letter
from dear Sam yesterday - your brother's wife in
care to you & B.

Lexington Ky.

Mrs Benjamin Graham



embrace my dear nephews for me, I am delighted
to hear of Leonard's advancement in learning - he was born
to be an accomplished gentleman, and lived where he may
combine that character with a useful yeoman. Howard will
live in society & I have no doubt shine there, if he takes
pains now - God Bless them & their dear little brothers, and
may they all unite in praying blessings for their beloved Parents
for whom my prayers, daily ask abundant Good - ever yours