

Dec 22nd 1838 -

I cannot let Sue depart without carrying my Adieus to you my Dear Sister. and I feel that if it is less painful to express them on paper it is less satisfactory too. I miss the warm embrace - but ^{can not} ^{omit} the tender & fervent prayer for your health and happy meeting with those you love best. I have been anxious about your long silence, for I know you would have written to me had you been well and tho' your own dear Sister would move you better I do not like to relinquish the privilege until you are restored to our dear Ben's watchful care - When you are fairly on your home ward track I trust your strength & spirits will improve, so that he & your boys may find you have not journeyed in vain. Sara went to Marlinton this morning with her brother Geo. & his wife. & Becky tells me say that having been obliged to play the hostess for the last week she has not been able to answer your letter which she will do so soon as to have it greet you at your own home. in the mean time she begs you will carry her love along with you. and our Sister Mary charged me with her affectionate wishes for your safe journey. and begs you will tell dear Ben, that she thought of him in all her affliction. and thanks him.

for his loving messages - it would confirm your high opinion of her character to see her she bears the chastening of affliction. and move your sympathy by her uncomplaining submission - Sister Etting sends you her love also! and all the younger ones join in expressions of good wishes. Have you been able to prevail on Libby to accompany you to Kentucky? and do you think her health better since you have been with her. Your little favorite Anne Beilke the Fishers and many other of your friends - my time has been divided between my sister & house hold duties so that I have little to entertain you with. I hope you will not fail to provide yourself with every thing that can make your journey comfortable. I know Joe is a very attentive escort, and an experienced traveller and that your attentive hand-maiden will omit nothing that a service of attachment can dictate. and I by to think you will have a pleasant time. and that such a journey at this beautiful season is a most desirable thing - four years ago we found it delightful. Shall we ever make such another happy one together? - God knows! and let us endeavor to hope that we may deserve this favor, in what ever disposition it may be his pleasure to make of our future lives - Adieu My beloved Sister would that I could see you again before the mountains divide us - one more embrace, and a thousand good wishes take from your ever affectionate Brother.

Give dear Mom a kiss for me -

Mrs Benjamin Graham

Washington City
D. C.