

Whole

April 25th 1839

Day after day has passed my dear Maria, in the hope that I should have a letter from you, until I can no longer resist the desire to write and question your meaning of the long standing debts you owe me this is either the third or fourth letter since I have been blessed with the sight of your hand writing, and I find your husband's correspondence with his Brothers too circumstantial to satisfy me - or compensate for the treasures of your pen so long withheld. To be sure you are not accountable for this charge as no one is obliged to pay for a commodity they have neither asked for or ordered and which by the bye may cost more in the pecuniary than it is worth - and so I beg you will inform me, if the same notion has occurred to you - but I shall in the mean time remembering all your former kindness - and the interest you took in all our affairs go on to sketch another home scene for your magic lantern for in our little hotel we have almost as many changes as would suit that instrument. - Joe & Maria are both gone again for the summer, at least the latter, who will hardly return again until "November, surely, makes felt & forced back" - and one hardly likes to think of such a season, just as the beautiful spring is bringing her rich colors out and the luxuriant blossoms promise such an abundance of summer fruit - but thus our lives are made up - We continually intrude on the present and we dare not assure ourselves that the hopes we are so fond of forming will ever be realized - yet God is so bountiful to us

that we have as much cause to be grateful for what
He denies as for what is granted. Knowing that wisdom &
mercy are the attributes of his power & incalculable as we
are, individually or collectively among the works of his creation,
he considers us worthy of his care - it is perhaps easier
to conceive that God regulates a Universe, than that every
minute being from the least atom that has life & motion is
especially his and shares his superintending providence.
yet this is his greatness. When Moses asked to be shown
the divine glory and was told "I will cause my good-
ness to pass before thee" he must have felt that the whole
book of nature was open before him, and every sight &
sound & smell proclaimed the glory of God. how delight-
ful it is at this season to hear the birds uttering their little
harmonious voices - even in their cages - telling us as Cooper
said of his captive "the oppressor kisses his body bound, but
knew not what a range his spirit takes" - does not the captive
songster teach us a striking lesson? but I proposed a family
picture, and have carried you into the air in a bird cage -
and Gracie's wife - in whom you took so much interest - came
to town yesterday with her lovely boy five months old - to
visit his grandfather, who never saw him before - and has
so enchanted his young aunts - that I do not expect to have
another reading day for a week. this we are in the midst of
Prescott's interesting "life of Ferdinand & Isabella" and have
for sometime had quite an attentive audience for 2 hours
every morning Julia & Sally included. Ellen's health is
some what improved, still much is to be done to build up her
constitution, and it seems impossible to effect it - because she
is to return home next week again, and will cease her care
and remedies - I am wond to see Brother Simon before he left

Remember me affectionately to my dear Brother & nephews - to your
Sister and Liza, and all my friends - say something kind too to Lucretia
for me, and tell her our Harpists and the other domestics often sound
her praise - What are your plans for the summer? how I should
like to meet you at Pease Wood for a few weeks - or at the sea
shore - or any other place but most especially in my own chamber
where we have so often conferred together - God Bless you dear
Sister pray let me soon hear from you and believe me always
Your affectionate Brother -



Mrs Benjamin Grath

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