

On Rebecca

I am afraid your good resolutions of writing to me often, my dear Maria, will give out, when you come to consider what a stupid correspondent you gain by it. ever since the arrival of your request that a letter should greet your return from Lane-wood I have intended to write. but intentions travel much faster than actions with us all I believe, and among the most faulty in that particular (I am sorry to say) you will find your sister - but I am not so insensible as to disregard favors, and if you are not discouraged by what you have already experienced, I hope to improve by your example.

I am glad to hear you have recovered from the first inconvenience of your indisposition. tho' from some hints that have reached us, suppose you are not yet done with the "apothecary-shop." you must not expect more than half my sympathy on this occasion, as our sister Rachel has bespoken the other half. and indeed I have such old fashioned notions on the subject, that I look upon the paternal blessing as a blessing still, and think mothers do not pay too dear for their treasures, even thro' their portion of personal inconvenience. I hope you were not Dr. Colclough's patient in his failure of a first attempt as physician. his other dispositions are quite laughable. Mrs C. who is all attention to Col Morrison furnished him with the Drs defence and his benedictory address. they have not added much to his literary fame in this quarter. and I think the Kentuckians must have adopted him for their own, before they can patronise such rodomontade. I have no doubt the J. University

will draw together literary men, and induce a taste for literature & science. Your society will eventually be improved by it and Dr. C. may be a very useful man, but you must have greater than he, to give it such a character as the great western nation will aspire to. Your poets are complimentary. Miss Hunt must be accomplished indeed to extract poetry from the Latin & Greek.

We have a neighbor who courts the muses, and every few weeks issues from the press a neat pamphlet on hot press letter paper, beautifully printed, and bearing elegant titles. When he sends to the ladies whom he visits, and very modestly denies the authorship, or affects great surprise how he could be detected. no one attempts to criticize his poetry, for no one understands it, the wits read it up & down the page and declare it has the advantage of being equally fine either way. I hope he is not a relation of yours, Maria he is a Virginian - his name Carter. was married to a Daughter of Genl Lee. from whom he unsuccessfully petitioned our legislature to be unmarried, last winter. he has four daughters at school here is very rich. a great admirer of beauty and our compassionate ladies have sympathized in his unhappiness on account of his domestic inquietude - but his poetry has dissolved the spell - induced some of the fair, now take pity on his wife & think had she petitioned for a divorce, she might be justified on the score of his false pretensions to inspiration. they think his fluctuation with the Muses cause sufficient to disgust a woman of sound understanding.

What is the reason my dear Maria, that you do not tell me you wish to pay us a visit. you know nothing could

Rachel Cohen just comes in and begs you & Ben will accept her love
Our sisters & Ellen also send theirs - present mine to your Mother - Adieu

May 10th

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Mrs Benjamin Grant

Lexington
Kentucky

