

You must not fear tiring me, my sweet sister
 the you wrote every day - for I have full leisure to
 give all you can say - and my thoughts accompany you
 through all the menses of a Washington winter. with an
 interest you never fail to carry with you. it seems to me
 living to be only a hundred miles apart. and yet as
 effectually separated as when you are in Kentucky. but
 your own sister bore it for some weeks - and she had greater
 right to complain - so I will not say an unreasonable word
 on the subject, but be right grateful for all the plea-
 sure you enjoy, and take the trouble to record for our
 gratification. but O how I grieve for the calamity that
 has overwhelmed you friend Mr Clay - and called forth
 all your sympathies! I have never felt more shocked
 than when the sad account reached us. I really loved
 Mrs Ewin, loved her when I saw her bending in sorrow over
 the couch of her suffering child - and when she bravely
 submitted to unending wisdom in its removal. Last
 Summers intercourse confirmed my former regard. her
 happiness was so bright, so rational, so made up of
 the things which promise to be lasting, that she seemed
 an object on whom Providence delighted to heap
 blessings. as daughter - wife & Mother. who could be more
 happy than Ann Ewin? who seemed more sensible of
 her treasures. or used them with more gracious & kindly
 affections. cheerful & contented with the present - with

health and bright hopes for future enjoyment, who could suppose the shadows of death were gathering round her young life. That "the silver cords would be so soon loosed and the golden bowl so soon broken" - here again we see that human wisdom is folly - ~~we see~~ the young & strong pass away like a flower - "the wind passeth over it - and it is gone" while lingering sickness holds on year after year in sickness & in sorrow. Yet the mercy of God is manifested in both, if we rightly apply our hearts to receive it. Your visit will no doubt be a consolation to Mr. Blay. May let me hear how he bears his affliction - public duties will press hard on his bruised spirit - no honors or distinctions can make up to him, the loss of such domestic ties. I doubt whether any loss could touch him with a keener grief than that which has befallen -

Your dear boys behave as well as your heart could wish and appear as content - they do not expect to see you this week as the boats do not run, but are quite as well pleased to go down as a part of your escort back. They went to the Theatre last evening with Horace & Levee. Jo. and Howard says laughed until he cried again - Benson attends very regularly at the A. S. and they have issued tickets of admission for visitors. We shall endeavor to find amusements for them in the vacation, if the navigation continues closed. Jo told me to day he hoped our dear Ben would get down the Ohio by water, when the mild weather appears to sanction. You will inform us when you hear from him. I am glad Becky has fallen into such skilful hands. I hope you will make a case of her, but I believe I was a little disappointed at the vicinity of your residence in your own case.

over her mind - but then there is such innocence of heart, such
holiness of thought, that however wild her theories one can
not help sympathizing in the fervency of her faith.

Now are my little darlings Jayne & Cary? tell them I send
them at least one dozen kisses. the sweetest in Kennons
shop. and they may give some to Peck & Lizzie for me.

God Bless you my own dear Maier. say something
kind for me to Ned & Mrs Blair. and believe me always most
kindly & truly your affectionate sister P.B.

Dec 22nd

Mrs Maier to Grace

Washington City
D. C.

20

our brothers desire to be affectionately remembered
I have not seen Sam & Mary since you have - we have both
been confined at home. Sister? are well. and Sam who loves
much fondness on your boys. loves you with all her heart
and is watching you with eyes full of
courage -