

I have delayed writing to you very near sixteen
 longer than I should have done in answer to your last
 charming letter, because I have ^{been} engaged, & anxious about
 Mary Kesses who has been very ill for the last fortnight -
 her husband had only been home two days before she was
 seized with a fever, perhaps the consequence of excitement
 after long & anxious watching, her whole nervous system was
 affected, and we were much alarmed about the result
 but she is getting well fast now and I hope will be able to
 sit up in a few days. This must also be my apology for not
 attending earlier to your commissions - a box containing two
 dresses & a bonnet will be pushed to morrow - and as soon as
 I can select some school books for your Asylum Library I will
 put them up also - one old friend Grigg will no doubt aid
 us to advance the cause in a State from which he has prof-
 edly received so much advantage. I am a little at a loss to
 know whether you wished books for your classes or for a library,
 but supposing the former can be easily procured, have concluded
 to send only single copies, unless further instructed by you.
 I should indeed have enjoyed your examination, and
 rejoice to find you still persevering in your labors & love for
 the institution, so many ladies undertake & abandon the office
 because of the time & trouble it involves, as if forsooth, and
 important object in life could be effected without constant
 personal attention - I derive so much satisfaction from the
 same duties here - and the prospect of my Sunday School
 that I sincerely regret having spent so many years in idleness
 which might have been devoted to better things - but I
 hope the "time and season" is not too far spent to redeem
 past ommissions, and that some good may yet be done.

we may be just to King Solomon's wisdom - notwithstanding
that his heart was turned aside by the corruptions of the age
and the practices of his many strange wives, he could not have
meant to assert that man's invention could discover no near
application of the powers given him - In contemplating the wondrous
of God's creation - in studying the works of Nature and the admir-
able adaptation of all to the purposes intended, he made the assertion
which has passed into a proverb that "there is nothing new under
the sun" - he was looking back on the scenes of a busy life, and
on the history of generations that had gone before him - born to
the splendour of a mighty Kingdom - especially favored by Jew
and Gentile - surrounded by surrounding nations - the fame of his
wisdom had reached it was not to be wondered at - His death to be
lamented that he felt into vain & rebel pursuits - but he has
uttered so many beautiful and edifying truths, and achieved
so feelingly and firmly the conviction of his faults, that
we may devise imperishable captions of wisdom & virtue from
his writings - and admire his magnanimity in making his
confessions - but I forget that you are less interested in ^{King} Solomon
than in M. Daguerre, and I regret that I have not yet been
able to obtain an engraving of the Daguerreotype, ~~there is~~
a good many in town, but not for sale. I flay permits as
soon as he can obtain one to get it for you, also a medal of
a very curious character recently invented, which I will not
attempt to describe until I can furnish a sample. The
specimens I have seen of both these inventions are very beautiful
You must accompany our Dear Ben and your boys in their
visit my dear sister, and then you can see and understand
all about them - You can imagine how joyful the anticipation
of seeing them has made me because you knew how devotedly
I love them, so pray dear Maria, come with them & bring all
that the meeting may be without alloy -

Capt. Mordue sailed in the British Queen, and will probably
be a year absent. His mission is to the courts of Northern Europe
will visit Prussia Russia Sweden France & England. The
party consists of four Officers and it will be their own fault
if it is not a most advantageous tour -

our brothers & sisters send much love to you. The girls have
been so engaged nursing that they look worn out and badly
but as their father has recovered they will soon recover.
little Grady is a perfect love - so sprightly & intelligent.
The two boys are fine fellows too - and their parents desire
to be remembered to you with affection. Lizzie Blair
promises Sara a visit next month - but I do not depend on
it. Frank is at home - I am glad to hear your sister is
so much improved - send my love to her and dear Sara

Q



Mrs. Benjamin Grady

Lexington Ky

also to Mrs. Relf and my other kind friends at
Lexington. The weather is better and will go to Sara's
as soon as the season will admit. God Bless you my
Dear Sister, tell me when we may hope to see one clear
your own self -