

What a pity that you did not read Grate to us, with
 Mr Winter, for then my dear Maria I should feel sure that
 you would come after him in the Autumn, with all the rest
 of your friends, and not even your husband would think
 of a postponement. His letter to Jo shook the foundation of a most
 beautiful castle I have been erecting out of materials gathered
 with great care and industry from the hints & suggestions of our
 various friends from the west, who have kindly interpreted the
 conversations they have held in or about your presence, according
 to the eager wishes of their auditors, and enabled me, as I said
 before to construct an imaginary scheme of great enjoyment
 for the winter to come - If I were an "Aunt" of Paulding's estate, I would
 tell my dear Bess that tho' his letter was an earthquake to my hopes,
 it did not demolish the entire fabric, and if you will lend me a
 hand, we may still realize the anticipation of a family meeting.
 I have comforted myself during this miserable summer, that the
 disappointment of not seeing you in the spring, was a less evil, than
 you would have suffered, had you been here to share our anxieties
 and cares for poor Fanny's misfortunes, but brighter days must dawn
 upon her, for she has been weak, and patient, and tho' the tears dim
 her eyes and her flesh is wasted, she does not murmur or complain.
 Bess has gone to Virginia, for the benefit of its medicinal springs, we
 heard from him at Richmond & he was better - Isabella too is slowly
 recovering - but poor Grate the most beloved & most unfortunate of all
 vile beings in that sad disease - than which his dying parents
 would rather chuse to resign his life, if it so pleased his heavenly
 Father! - Grate has intervals of perfect health, both of body & mind
 apparently - but his relapses have been so frequent, that we scarcely
 enjoy the comfort of seeing him well, from anticipating the dreadful reverse.
 The Drs candidly told his parents that at home he could never be
 restored, because it is necessary to have him kept retired for a period
 after he regains his reason, and walking abroad there every new scene

presented a set of ideas to his mind to over turn the favorable symptoms, they therefore urged his removal to apartments in the Pa Hospital - one sister had a hard struggle but she consented and he has been there for a fortnight. his father goes twice a day, and watches him unseen for hours. he has every comfort & accommodation superior to what he could attain at home, and as yet is satisfied. Dr Harris one of his old Physicians attends him, and we hope for a permanent recovery. a few weeks more will either realize this, or show the extent of his malady. but we are encouraged by the assurances of those around him that they too hoped & believe he will get well. if kept quiet long enough for his strength of mind & body to be restored - this last attack has been lighter than several former ones, and will probably not continue many days longer, so that we hope soon to be relieved.

Ellen has gone home with her little Josephine, who is very pretty and very delicate, you would be amazed to see the space she fills in all her Mother's letters, but a poor grand child is quite as great a personage as a poor child, and every movement is a beauty - every turn of grace in Richard's eyes, tho seen a hundred miles off & portrayed in a letter. how lovely is kind Nature of her blessings - thus revisiting the interests of youth in the breast of parents through generations of newborn affections to the latest period of life -

Iac paid us a visit of three days last week, and is gone again to Pine Grove, I hope he will make enough out of his coal, land, to live a little longer, and enjoy life a little more than he has done for some years past, the girls amuse themselves a good deal at his expense, and at his calculation of how long his possessions would furnish him with what he must eat & what he must wear. I wish some of these clever novel writers would undertake to satirise the morbid sensibilities of these lords of the creation instead of bending all their shafts at poor weak women's frailties. I think I could furnish them with a few peculiarities "to hunt a moral or adorn a tale"

a business Lady spent last evening with me, who gave a whimsical account of her encounter with a great personage from the West, Mrs Eaton. she was going to West Point to place a brother there, and first met Mrs E. on her passage from this city to New York

animated expressions by such details, but my dear Maria you are so used
to such an exchange that an apology is superfluous, present me most affection-
ately to my dearest Bea, and all my dear nephews, and believe me dearest
and best, most affectionately your sister - God Bless you - With resigned
sorrow, this is the shortest & best blessing - and it certainly comes warm and
breathed from the heart, comprising all the essentials of the wisest
benediction - therefore again my dear Sister, God Bless you all, ever
your own Rly

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Wm. W. W. W. W.

Sedgwick Co. N.Y.

