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I delayed thanking you, my dear Sister, whilst in the full enjoyment of the happiness, you generously afforded us in the society of our dear Ben - and this morning after he & I have started for New York, come to make my acknowledgments - is it not thus we are often brought to a sense of our obligations to Providence? blessings are showered upon us in daily profusion and we accept them with gladness till they seem to be our own and perhaps it is not until some of them are with drawn that we turn our grateful thoughts to Him who gave them and with all our hearts thank him for his goodness and his Mercy - Shakespeare had some such experience when he wrote "sweet are the uses of adversity" &c but this is not to prepare you for any disaster - for I never saw your husband look better, and altogether appear in better case - excepting when he looked for a letter from your ladyship which did not come or feared that our Brother Jac. would get tired of waiting for him - he debated long whether to start home ward on Thursday last or attend to the disputation urged upon him - and according to the rule of strict moralists in such difficulties resolved on that which was most disagreeable to him self, as a point of duty. I hope our dear Jac will not disappoint him further and leave Kentucky before he arrives - indeed I depend much upon his society to ^{put} him in good humors with him self and all the world - and to open new scenes of happiness & usefulness which will make our brethren benevolent spirit rejoice in itself - in less than a week, Ben

while he on his homeward journey - he will hardly give us
another day in Phil^a. if detained one more than he anticipates
in New York, we shall only have parting gifts - that sweetest
and saddest of all affections gifts - but I must tell you
of some other of your friends, in whom you take interest, just
as Sister Dray's was about fixing herself comfortably for
the winter, Sarah & her child packing up to go home, there came
a letter from Baltimore demanding her presence for Ellen
who was threatened with a recurrence of her old disaster.
she is still there administering comfort to her child, and
I hope will leave her well before the end of another week.
I had a long letter from Minnie last night, which I thought
like you to read. it is so beautiful a picture of her beau-
tiful character. she is as happy as heart could wish, and
anticipating new sources of happiness in new duties with
the coming year. she speaks with enthusiasm of your hav-
ing sent her own and seems to enjoy the idea of introdu-
cing Mr Cohen to your family. I should like to witness the
meeting whether here in Carolina or Kentucky. she speaks
with so much contentment of her home, that I lose my
old prejudice against Georgetown, and yet think with an-
xiety of the trial she has still to make of the climate, she
passed unscathed thro' the storm and behaved with such
admirable fortitude, when the prospect of death in its
most appalling shape threatened, that I cannot but hope
she will be preserved to the enjoyment of a life of use-
fulness & comfort. Ben gives us a charming account of
your boys, and if it had not been for Hyman's broken arm
I should have set you down a cheerful group each try-
ing how to excel each other in bearing the masters absence.

Grand Benjamin Grato

Leighton 22.

I do not understand any doubt of your saying that you
are not an "opinion" being in the "and" should have believed
it was added to some one else had I found any other mention of me
yet it is better to be found fault with, than to be forgotten. As the Amis
and me the you had the want - I have not written you, because I have
not thought I could pleasure you. I wrote you a long letter
from Coopers town - did you see it or not? I should like
a book to take a book at you - but I don't say from that book,
you let the last - I don't have any really kind things - for you are
the best

A circular postmark from Delft, dated 18 NOV 1863. The text "DELFT" is at the top, "18 NOV" is in the center, and "1863" is at the bottom. A red diagonal line is drawn across the date.

Give my best love to our Brother Joe and tell him I am so
amused to think of him, when I lie down & when I rise up that
his idea is as familiar as my docters, and I always pray
for his happiness & health - God Bless you too My Dearest Mamma
I can appreciate the sacrifice you made in consenting to be sepa-
rated from your husband for our sakes - and the manner in which
the favor. May you soon be reunited and long continue to bless each other
believe always in the love of your devoted Nephew