

Feb. 14th -

You are so continually the theme of conversation
 in our little family circles my dear Maria, that altho' you are
 so far away, we feel the influence of last summers charming
 visit. The girls are forever recollecting something you said - or
 something you did to brighten the enjoyment of each passing
 hour - and all they now do, whether ^{it be to} work or reading, or play, call
 up reminiscences of Aunt Maria. We have just been reading Cooper's
 last novel - and are sure you will enjoy as much pleasure in its
 perusal as we have - it is so delightfully picturesque and so
 finely descriptive of Indian manners & character - then our old
 favorite Leatherstocking, with his youthful name & characteristics
 Hawk-eye figures away in bold relief in every page - but I will
 not anticipate your pleasure - I heard our brother Joe enquiring
 for an opportunity to send it to you - and I hope you will receive
 it before the enervating influence which seems to be threatening
 over all the country this side of the mountains, reaches your west-
 ern hemisphere - as it has remained so long in cities perhaps it
 has not the Indian sagacity of trailing and may not find
 you out. for which you may thank your stars - and indeed
 my poor sister, as you have other perils to encounter in the
 flesh, I pray you may be exempt - now if any one can bear
 the labour & toil of a nursery with patience I think that
 person should be yourself - for your rewards are great and
 multiplied - such three sons as yours, any brother may
 delight in should your daughters be as beautiful - but
 no you will not be vain - for you have borne your blushing

honors so muchly - that the gratification of your hearts desire
will only make you more grateful. pray pray dear if you are
well enough to write comfortably let me have the satisfaction
of receiving a few lines from you - all about you self and
children. our dear Ben never addresses me except in the
moment of haste & joy - and then he is so agitated, that
he can only tell me what you have given him - now
you know what tender fellow-feeling women have for their
sister sufferers - and remember too that it is almost three
months since you have written -

Phil^a continues dull notwithstanding all the efforts made
to the contrary. breaking merchants & bad markets are the preva-
lent subjects of conversation. our fashionable are half in
mourning. and the rest are trying the experiment of a dome-
stic winter. we hear now & then of a matrimonial engagement -
or a birth or some such natural occurrence - but every thing
as my Lady Grace would say - soberly - Mrs. Jo Norris has a son.
& Elisabeth Fisher smiles on Mr. Read. there has been a great
noise about Kean the actor - for about a week he plumed
to an audience of men - but at last (to the shame of our Ladies)
some would go - and the impudent fellow triumphed -
Miss Kelly has succeeded him - and been universally well
received. by the time Lent is over I suppose our winter will
be commencing. our friend Mrs. Meredith has been a good deal
out of health ~~she~~ has rarely been able to take exercise
and this is a serious disadvantage to her. ~~unpleasant~~ agreeable
books have done much to brighten this dull town tho' - and
you will find among them some that are highly interesting
for they all find their way to your reading city -

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Mrs. Benjamin Galt
Lexington Ky -

