

I will not encourage you in long silences / for my conscience  
 will not permit me to say laziness / My dear Sister, by telling you how  
 joyfully your letter was received at last - for you must know we depend  
 so much on hearing from you among our domestic comforts - that  
 the chain of enquiries are rung as constantly as the salutation  
 of welcome in my round of visits to the different houses in  
 the family - and when Aunt Maria has not been heard from  
 for an unusual length of time - a string of blank faces - and  
 wonderment follows, with conjectures very near a kin to wordsworth  
 ballad - of a lover's fancy on similar occasions - but I have been  
 provided with a ready answer lately - while so thriving a com-  
 -mune was carrying on between our Brothers - we had always  
 appeared of your well being & well doing in Dear Ben's letters -  
 or while this Bank is making and your house repairing I shall  
 not suffer if you even keep on in other useful employments  
 without so much as dropping a line in my service - I hope  
 the articles sent on from Phil<sup>d</sup> - will arrive in time - and  
 suit your taste - as to the colour of your paper hangings - the set  
 according to order they are the fashion of the times - and of universal  
 use in these parts - for your hall - we ordered a paper - and had  
 a sample struck which was considered exactly right - but when  
 the whole order was executed, the shade was so entirely altered  
 that I would not consent to its being sent - Julia & I talked forth  
 with Freeman and made choice of another - you have been so  
 indulgent to our taste on other occasions that I hope these  
 articles will please also - and that we shall have the  
 happiness of seeing you enjoy them when they are all arrived -  
 I suppose you have heard from Washington since your sister



return, they passed so rapidly through their journey that we could have no enjoyment of their society. Eliza's political consequence is not less than her husband's, and had they spent a week in the city we should not have had a quiet hour with her. Montgomery had a relapse of his fever after his parents left the Point, and his Physicians thought the change of air might be more effectual than medicine, and sent him home last week, he passed part of a day & night with us on his way to Washington, where he means to spend a fortnight, and hopes to resume his studies in time to be prepared for his examination, he looks very ill - but has good spirits and I believe his disease is entirely conquered - he thinks his mother's nursing will perfect his cure. You would be amused by a peep in Sally Gray's nursery - she is the most admiring young mother I have ever seen - and the Dr. has become a most tender & haughty nurse. They call them for Jo Gator, and discover so many extraordinary beauties in him, that I do not feel compelled to describe him, and I am sure you would think his father ~~rather~~ new a personage in his present character that you would scarcely recognize him for the cold being you were so often disposed to quarrel with.

Have you seen Washington Irving's book? it has been most provoking that I have not had an opportunity since its appearance of sending it to you - and I have been so charmed with the far best in his Journal that I want to talk to you about it - I heard that Miss Martineau was indisposed at the South - she has travelled through so much inclement weather that I do not wonder - but I hope she will not arrive in Lexington too soon for you to see her - she will be disappointed of Miss Sedgwick's company in her western tour - Catharine was here for a few days, and told me she feared that agreeable project would fall through - her brother who was to have accompanied them, will not be able to accomplish his part of the plan on which of course her depends - women are never safe in making engagements which they cannot execute by themselves, and so Miss Martineau must have by this time. She has accomplished more than most women would dare to attempt, and makes out much better than our country women do, who travel in Europe. The Douglas anecdotes - for example



The books closed on the 25<sup>th</sup> with 16978 names and 18,526 shares. I wrote  
on the 22 to which refer on the line to all - 189.



To

Mr. Benjamin Graham

Lexington Ky