

I cannot tell you my Dear Ann what immeasurable joy and consolation I derived from our Beloved Ben's visit short as it was, and unexpected, it gave a new turn to my feelings - which began to warn me how uncertain our meeting in this world was becoming.

Nor can I try to express my hopes of seeing him this summer, when his sons misfortunes were known, as their business might trouble him, and his indisposition detain him at home. Under these depressing considerations, I was endeavouring to school my wishes. When he appeared. God bless him, for all his kindness to me, now & always. I thank you tenderly my Dear Ann, for your little announcing his safe

arrival at home. it was a
pleasure to see him even for
so short a time, as he designed
to be at St Louis to day. I hope
when he returns, he may be
at rest to enjoy the domestic
happiness you and the dear
girls provide for him. I am
glad you think he improved
during his trip. it generally
benefits a convalescent to
change the air, and Ben is
such a good traveller. That
the Rail-road does not fatigue
him. We expect Julia Hoffman
this evening. unless the rain
prevents. I was sorry she was
not here to see my brother, he
seemed so to bewail my loneliness,
but it does not grieve me. I
am perhaps more solitary when
surrounded by living people

P

Richy Gault

June 20. 1859