

As you are no friend to apologies My dear Maria, I shall not trouble you with any for my long silence, particularly as you know I have within the short space of a month received and parted again with my dear Brother Ben - parted with him, for I know not how long, and under circumstances that involves his future destiny. he is going to be married to Miss Gist, the young lady whom you may recollect hearing of last summer. she & her mother were here, and staid with me a fortnight. they are very amiable, and were in deep affliction when I knew them. Ben renewed his acquaintance with them in Kentucky, and it has terminated in an engagement.

I do not know whether my dear friend can comprehend my feelings on this subject. yet you know my opinions and have witnessed their influence on my conduct this life. I hope mine is not a narrow creed. My most cherished friends, and the companions of my choice have generally been worshippers of a different faith from mine and I have not loved them less on that account. but in a family connection I have always thought conformity of religious opinions essential, and therefore could not approve my Brothers election. in other respects Miss Gist is a woman any family might be proud to receive. and as they have resolved to blend their fate. I most sincerely hope, they may find the means to worship God faithfully, and without offence to each other. Your Brother Edward too is pursuing his fortunes at a distance from you. his extended tour will delay

his arrival at New Orleans until the season of danger is past. I hope he will not find so long a residence there necessary. Ben & he will probably meet in Kentucky. They are travelling in the same manner, and as Edward has never been thro' the western country before, he will probably be induced to stop at the principal towns, which may give Ben an opportunity of overtaking him.

The Beggans have I suppose got home by this time. I saw very little of them during their visit here, as they were a good deal engaged, and I was very busy preparing Ben for his journey.

Yesterday morning Mr. Meredith had an operation performed on her little son Morris's throat, by Dr. Physick. The child is doing very well and was able to play about today. He had suffered very much from lumps in his throat, that prevented respiration whilst he slept. You could hear him breathe in an adjoining room like a child in the cradle when ever he slept, and the difficulty was so great as to deprive him of rest, so that he fell a way, and looked as if he was in a consumption. The girls were alarmed about him and his mother determined to have the lumps extracted.

I see by the papers that your citizens are invited to return home. You have just had frost enough to make it secure, and now the mild weather has returned, which is a great blessing to the poor who have habitations to seek after their exile.

Has your husband returned from the Lake? and what accounts does he bring from Ann? do you think she can be happy there all winter. It will be so solitary, when all communication with the cities is cut off by ice and bad roads. Is Mr. Rhine's health restored? Ellen met Mr. Nicholas at a small party last week, and says he was well & in good spirits. His brother Sam has been confined almost all summer with rheumatism, and his wife has given him another son, so that they



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Mrs. Cogden Hoffman

New York

Miss Lucy