

I went yesterday to see Ann, my dear Maie, that I might give you the latest intelligence of her, and she assured me the pain in her side was gone, and that she is quite well again, she was complaining of her frequent disappointments respecting Emma's arrival, and was still expecting her last night notwithstanding the very unpromising appearance of the weather, she says even the people at the stage office smile when she sends her nightly enquiries whether Mr & Miss Leton have arrived. so I expect they will be greeted with a general salutation when they come at last and have their names announced by as long a string of attendance as a visitor at an English drawing room or gala night.

Ann looks better, and is more cheerful. she & Charles are both very much attached to little Emma, and seem to take great delight in her, she is of an amusing age. begins to speak plain, & Ann is teaching her a string of nursery verses which she repeats very prettily. this maternal occupation fills up the time she must pass at home alone, and ones heart grows so much more interested the more they are thus employed that she will no longer find her hours heavy. Mr H. received a letter from your husband, mentioning that you were again unwell. I hope you are not tardy to seek advice when any of those symptoms appear which have recently given you so much suffering. do not again my dear friend, suffer a whole day, when reasonable remedies may produce earlier relief.

By this time I suppose you have parted with Edward, and after the pain of parting is over, you will become reconciled to the event which seems to offer such advantages to him. I used to lament over his situation every time I saw him last summer, he seemed to be toiling so hard for the benefit of others, while the flower of his days were passing without the promise of much fruit as his labours were gathering for and should be laying up for himself. The winter climate of N. Orleans is excellent, and may establish him in better health than he would have in N. York, and by avoiding a few weeks in the summer & autumn, all danger of residence there will be overcome. We have heard from Ben at Lexington, tho' he did not intend going to New Orleans when he left home, I should not be surprised if he extended his journey that far.

Ellen says, left me on Thursday to make a visit to our relations in Baltimore. Mr Etting & his daughter Kitty passed a few days here, and prevailed on her mother to let her go home with them. She means to stay about a month. Her sister Maria takes her place with me, and tho' Ellen was so great a favorite with you, I think you would like her quite as well. The unfortunate attack which seemed to blight her prospects, has changed without injuring her character, it has made her more serious, and retired broke down the flow of youthful spirits, and put a stop to the cultivation of her talents, but she has been gradually recovering from these effects, and tho' her face is still disfigured by it, she has lost the painful consciousness of it, which for so long a time disturbed her mind. She is an affectionate, amiable girl with a very sound understanding, tho' not so much animated as Ellen.

I have promised to go & see Mrs Andrew Hamilton, they



(New York)

100

Mrs. Lydia Hoffman

New York

