

Has my long silence made me appear ungrateful
for your last interesting letter, my Beloved friend? if it has
remember appearances are deceitful, and believe it so in this
instance, when I assure you how sincerely and greatly I am
obliged to you for it. the interesting little sketches you
give me from Washingtons letter renewed many affectionate
recollections of that amiable & excellent young man.

We rarely find so much sensibility of heart in one whose
varied destiny places them in situations to obliterate past
events, and supply the loss of early friends, but I was pre-
pared for such a state of feelings, by some pieces in his
book, some passages in "the broken heart." was a true dele-
viation of him self, and I have no doubt he frequently
indulges those bursts of sensibility, which cherish the
memory of her whose opening virtues elicited his first
attachment. I hope the success of the sketch book will give him
solid advantages, beside the reputation he gains by it, and
that fortune will yet place him where he will be happiest.

I am glad your anxiety is relieved about Edward
and hope he will enjoy health and success in his new home,
I was not surprised to hear of Mr. Larneds marriage, as he ap-
peared to be of a character likely to serve his own interest in any
way, and an additional \$1000 p annum was annexed to his
salary on that condition. he is more over a vain man

and has a good deal of susceptibility, respecting his usefulness in the church. I think he is in the only situation, where that would be unequivocal. he is very eloquent and has a fine imagination, full of classical figures, and an enthusiasm of manner & expression that rises the attention and charms the senses - but among thinking, religious people, who would wish to have a solid commentary on the scripture text, and expect their pastor to point to brighter worlds, & lead the way" Mr L. would not be so popular. he has not yet become indifferent to the pleasures of vanity. however, in New Orleans he will succeed better than a flatterer character, and may be excellent to prepare the way for a new view of religion in that licentious community.

Have you heard from your Brother James since the desecrated fire at Savannah? I have been very anxious to learn whether he had escaped injury. he has so often experienced the vicissitudes of fortune in his youth, that I suppose he has acquired more philosophy than falls to the lot of many of his years. yet poor fellow, I should grieve if he were again arrested in his course of enterprising industry.

I thank you for thinking of me, when you were pleased with a good preacher. I should like to have heard the sermon. a liberal view of religion is a precious thing from the pulpit and if it were more common, would tend to bring much harmony & good will among men. it has always appeared strange to me, that intolerance should exist among christian sects, where so little difference of doctrine is to be found. and I have always felt, that judgment belongeth to Him who ruleth, and not to his weak creatures. and therefore I

in reduced circumstances. with true brotherly affection Thos went to save
the wreck of his property for his children - but a fatal destiny seems to hover
over their worldly concerns. and another excellent young man is cut
off. what an overwhelming affliction to the poor Mother. one son, in
a dungeon with the stain of blood upon his head - an other hurried in
to a premature grave in a foreign land - I knew the family when they
were among the most prosperous & happy people I ever saw - the Wives
are all lovely interesting women. two of them married to wealthy men
with fine families of children. The husbands of both were ruined in
business within a few years. the younger recently a widow. and now doubly
unfortunate in her brothers - I hope your husbands usual success will
attend him, when he pleads the cause of his unhappy client. David B.
is very sanguine also, he meant to visit the family, and give what consolations
he due hold out - but the account of Thos death prevented him one day
and would perhaps prevent his seeing them ~~family~~ - I am sorry Mr H. does not
go to Washington this winter, as that would give me a chance of seeing him -
My love to him & your dear children - let me hear from you soon again

Mass Lady
123
(Mrs J. C. Hoffman)
New York.

tho I have not deserved it. such charming letters as yours deserves a better
return than I can make. but I pay in ardent affection. what I want in agree-
ment. and am, my dearest Maria, most truly & devotedly your friend Rly -
we hear frequently from our Kentucky brothers! Ben is at home keeping them & very happy.