

Gallatin County Sept 1st 1847
7 o'clock P.M.

My Dear Fanny

I now sit down to answer your kind letter, which I should have answered sooner, but I have been from home a great deal since you left, and the time being so short since you were here, (although it already appears to me an age) that there was very little of interest for me to communicate, nor have I much more now, nevertheless I will tell all I can, and if I should lack a little to fill this sheet out, I shall not be at a loss, as I believe I have the credit of being pretty good at fabricating, though I will deny the charge.

After bidding you all good bye, we concluded through compulsion, to go on to Madison, I had forgotten my Fan in the "Ladies Cabin", and whilst Brother John had gone to get it the Boat started, he had a very dull and lonely time of it, after returning to the "Cabin" which you had so lately deserted, I assure you, home would have been much more agreeable to my sad feelings, or some other, more sequestered place, I know Sallie, thought me a morose, sullen, creature, for I could not talk, nor I did not wish to hear any one else's chat. I wished to be alone, to meditate on the past, & anticipate the future, we spent Saturday in "Madison" on account of the Packet not leaving port, until quite late in the evening, all my acquaintances called to see me, and wished me to stay with them very much, (that is to all appearances) but I felt no other place would or could be congenial to my feelings, but home, & oh! Fanny after returning home, what a change had come

on the scene, in the short time of 24 hours, words would fail to picture, my thoughts & feelings. Suffice to say I felt with all the bitterness imaginable, "that I was alone," but such is life, today we may be surrounded with all that we hold most dear to our hearts, and circumstances on the morrow, may snatch them from our breasts, and Oh! perhaps forever; who knows. But hope, (which is said to be the most constant of all things, because it remains with man after he has had every thing else,) that cheer of all human woes, still tells us to—Hope we will see our meeting yet, 'tis this that deprives the parting hour of half of its regrets;

I could not realize, for nearly a week, after you all had gone, that it was really so, very often I would catch myself, thinking, well now this afternoon I must go up to see Fanny, and then it would ^{be} that I realized the sad reality, my heart would be too full to suppress all so I would take a little cry, I shall not blot it out, for I am not ashamed to tell it you, although you may think, it very silly—

I was glad to hear you arrived safely home, and I should almost, suppose, (which I not wish it otherwise) from the letter of yours to Cousin Virginia, which I have this evening had the pleasure of reading, that surrounded as you are, with all things most dear that you had almost or quite forgotten you had ever been on the "Ohio," but Fanny do not forget those who reside on the Banks of this beautiful Stream, as they will ever hold the memory of you sacred to all others, it is with pleasing thoughts, I adrift, to the days yes the, hours we all spent together, and often wish I could recall them, but dear Fanny they are gone, but I hope not forever, as I shall

hope that at some future day, which I trust is not far off to spend many as happy if not happier, in your Society.

I rece^d a letter from Miss Woodburnal to day, she gives a glowing account of her visit to "Oranmore", she mentioned of meeting with you she has taken quite a fancy to you, she says she never met a more agreeable an acquaintance in her life, she admires Roger very much though don't tell him, and says had, she thought it the least worth while, she would have fallen in love with him, but he looked to her, very like he was engaged, and would ^{not} dare to presume so much as to break an engagement, Brother John, is about to purchase a 'Farm', don't you think this looks very like he intends taking unto him self a lady love? I do, and have been accusing him of it, but he will not acknowledge the Conn, but I suppose he thinks it is enough to acknowledge such an intention to the one intended, or I imagine he would tell me, however I hope I will find out before the jumping off time, I tell him I will feel very proud of ~~any~~ ^a Sister-in-law, who ever she is; & hope it will not be long before I will have one.

John & I takes a stroll nearly every evening up the road, and most generally makes a halt, under the shade of that ever to be remembered ¹⁰⁴ tree, where we used to assemble, & decide off, till Roger I took a sly pup at ours, this evening, but it appeared rather lonely, so I sent away Tell Beck to not wait for me, but to come along, and I will promise to go up with her, at least she shall not lack for company to go home, as there are some others, that intends going some time soon — to Clark County, Ma said she wished to put a P. S. in this to you but I will not lean room, with my long tounge,

so I will say a word or so for her, she says we all looked very much like we had lost our mates after you left, & that she does not know what to do with us, I tried my best to please indisposition, so as to get to visit "Greenon", but she would not hear to it. So I imagine she will have to put up with us. Pa & Ma sends love to you and all, give my love to Beck, & cleary. write me soon and tell me all the news you have be sure, now do not put off writing for heaven's sake, for Palluys is anxious to hear from you, remember me to Roger, and receive love & good wishes for all your friends are well. Yourselves from your affectionate
write be sure to write Friend Cholly

Receive Best wishes of your true friend
John P. Gay

My Dear Mr. Brookings

I received your F. L. with pleasure, the only fault I found with it, there was not enough, for Palluys takes so much pleasure in reading your letters that I am always sorry when I come to the conclusion of them, I should like very much to accept your kind invitation to visit you, but I will have to deny myself that pleasure, at this time, ~~and~~ I shall hope it will not be long before, I can do so, as nothing would afford me more pleasure. Ma & Pa wishes to be remembered to you & Mr. Brookings my respect to him also, and receive for your self the most sincere regards from your Mary, Gay.