

Mount Lebanon Feb 17th 1873.

Lines Written in behalf of the Sisters at the First Order of the Church.

By Eleanor P.

Much Respected & well Beloved Br Benjamin Gates.

1.
 Our kind Benefactor, & most worthy friend,
 One whom for the Comforts of Life we depend;
 A Father in Great, we truly can say,
 For your labours thus prove it in every way;
 When we were afflicted, & sorely was tried,
 With a Fatherly care you did freely provide;
 No one was neglected or went without care,
 Tho' the means was quite scanty, we all had a share.

2.
 To comfort the mourners, & lessen their grief,
 To aid the afflicted, & give them relief;
 So thoughtful & kind you really did be,
 You remembered your Sisters, gave them Sugar & Tea;
 Those kind little acts made impressions quite deep,
 That time cannot erase, but a blessing you reap
 Like an impartial Brother, you cared for each one
 Where we asked for Bread, you gave not a Stone.

3.
 O how can we thank you enough? Dearest Friends,
 May Blessings of Heaven upon you descend;
 For your manifold favours of Love ever true,
 We write in returning our kind Thanks to you:

Tis by your exertions of body & mind,
That in our new Dwelling such Blessings we find;
Each Room is well furnish'd with things just alike,
So neat, plain, & modest, who ever saw the like.

4.

Tis the pleasure of Heaven, for this so to be,
That its Order & Beauty all others may see;
O what a Rich Mansion, a Beautiful House.
And in its enclosures, that Sublime Meeting Room:
And with Marble Tables, where we may eat,
And partake of our Food, so delicious & neat;
So often supplied, with Meat, Oysters or Fish,
With Bread Butter, & Dainties, all kinds we can wish.

5.

There is nothing lacking to be done on your part,
And now do receive from each thankful heart;
Our kind Love & Blessing, to those who prepared,
These Hundred-fold Blessings of which we have heard:
Be prudent & saving, & do as we should,
Be upright & honest & strive to be good;
And Consecrate all we have to the Lord,
As all you ask of us, for pay or reward:

Now kind Brother; do receive this little Tribute of Love & respect from the Sisters.
We are well aware that your Burdens have ^{been} very wearisome, & fatiguing on your
Physical strength, likewise on your Mental faculties, being broke of your rest, toiling
day & night, to make all things convenient. We have many times offer'd our prayers in
your behalf, that you might be protect'd on your journeys, & prosper'd in your out-going
& in-comings, & that peace & prosperity with a long Life & good health, be given you,
is the sincere prayer of your Sisters, one & all. We will do all we can to aid in this.