

9/12

1816

Why, my Dear Ben, are you so sparing of your letters? do you not know how necessary a few words by these frequent opportunities are to our comfort? In any deprivation we should desire it, but under present circumstances where we are subject to continual alarms and you to new hardships we more anxiously wish for communication. A soldier called this morning to inform us you were well - Thank Heaven your excellent constitution enables you to bear the privations of a camp life - but we should like to hear how you bear them. It is reported here you are too strict a disciplinarian. I hope the tale is exaggerated. The severity of a camp must be hard enough to all, but an officer may support his own dignity and yet soften the tail of his soldiers by maturity of manners, and put the discomforts he will thereby gain their affection and make all more happy around him - Pardon me, my Dr Brother for this hint. My love for you, makes me jealous of every thing like absence, even on the side of virtue, for perhaps that would be the term, an old Officer would give to the fault complained of.

Our poor, Dear Sally is again suffering under the effects of that distressing nervous irritability that distressed us so much last winter. Dr Robt attends her daily, but I have no expectation of his subduing the disease until it has exhausted its violence as on former occasions. He commenced writing to you this evening but was interrupted, and has gone to bed. There is nothing new in town - there is scarcely a man who is not engaged in exploits

duties to be seen, and the Ladies are appalled at the arrival
of every vessel. The news to day is quite agitating - a large
force is said to be landing at North point - and 12 or 14000 marching
from Baltimore to oppose them. I hope some of your camp will be
required to march. I have sent the things you write for, if you
wish any thing else let us know. Your Lett. crackers and chest
are preparing for the next opportunity. Do not encumber your self
with unnecessary baggage, but consult your comfort & convenience
and send for what ever will conduce to them. Brothless Working boots
be better than those sent. Mrs Meredith is knitting night caps
for you, which she will send by Mr. Willing to morrow. Sally, Adeline
and our Brothers send you their affectionate remembrance. We
are all charmed with your aid, who is as zealous a patriot as
any of you, and proposes adding his mite of strength to the general
stock of work, on a days labour at the fortifications - our sisters
with their families are well & send love

Adieu my dear Ben,
take care of your self and may the Almighty
God write you in the book of life and happiness. pray
your affectionate Rg-

Monday night Sept 12th - 1814

Levee. Bend. Grady
Camp Moorfield
Hennet Square



Deleco Grady