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Feby 27th 1825

I scarcely know how to regret the dilection of our brothers
My dear Ben, since it has procured me the happiness of receiving
a letter from you. I have never the less cried them for their neglect and
as speedily as possible sit down to remove the veil of which you com-
plain. but I confess now the pen is in my hand I am at a loss where to
begin. my heart & eyes overflow at the idea of the long long separation from
my beloved brother. and a family record would be too full of feelings
which have a home in every heart but may not be uttered without
realising what Byron says of "the mirror which affliction dashes to the
ground. and looking down on the fragments. sees its reflections multiplied"
I am not disposed this to indulge such sad thoughts in return for
the grateful pleasure your letter afforded. least I should "weary you
in well doing" and deprive myself of the advantage of hearing again
particularly as you mention your dear Marie is not well. and I shall
anxiously desire to hear of her recovery.

I am surprised to find you have had no account of the
consecration except from the news paper. as it was a subject engaging
universal attention. the article you mention was written by your old
friend Chas Wharton who was a spectator on the occasion. I have never
witnessed a more solemn or impressive ceremony or one more calculated
to elevate the mind to religious exercises. the Church is one of the most
beautiful specimens of ancient architecture in the city, and finished
in the Stricklands best manner. the decorations are neat yet rich
and tasteful. and the service commencing just before the Sabbath
was performed by lamps light. Mr Keys was assisted in the service
by the Rector from New York Mr Prescott, a venerable learned & pious man
who gave great effect to the solemnity. the doors being opened by
our Brother Simon and the blessing pronounced at the entrance. the
procession entered with the two Reverends in their robes. followed by

nine copies of the sacred Rolls, they advanced slowly to the Tabah whilst a Choir of five voices chanted the appointed psalms most delightfully when the new Hazan had been inducted into his office and took his place at the desk. Mr P. in a slow and solemn manner preceded the Israelites in their circuits round the area of the building between the desk and the ark. whilst such strains of sacred songs were chanted as might truly be said to have inspiration in them. between each circuit, the prayers appointed, as you will see in the book our brother sent you, to be performed by the Hazan & congregation were finely said. and among the most affecting parts of the service Mr Keys' in has a fine full tone. and the responses by Mr Pickette in a voice trembling from agitation and deep feeling. I have no hope of conveying by discription any idea of this ceremony. you must have seen the whole spectacle. the beautiful ark thrown wide open to receive the sacred deposit, with its rich crimson curtains fringed with gold. the perpetual lamps suspended in front with its little constant light like a watchman at his post. and the venerable yet dignified figure of the venerable Mr P. as he conducted the procession in its seven circuits and then deposited the laws! after which Mr Keys recited with an effect almost amounting to eloquence that impressive prayer of King Solomon. the whole audience were most profoundly attentive. and this few were so happy as to understand the language. those who did say they have never heard the hebrew so well delivered as by Mr Keys. the bishop expressed this opinion. and all who were there acknowledge there has never been such church music performed in Phila. you will wonder when "these sweet singers of Israel" were collected from. the leader. teacher and principal performer is Jacob Lucas. and his female voice his sister Miriam. they were fortunately on a visit to their sister Mrs Phillips and induced a class to practice for some weeks. Miriam & Becky Moses contributed very considerably and all in the congregation who Mr S. found teachable & assistual. he is now resident here, and we hope by his assistance to have us a very respectable class of singers in the Synagogue. The service continues

for the privilege of claiming a seat by your fireside - but my sweet children have
children of Mrs Logan Mama
are too precious a charge to lose sight of - and I hope you will bring your family
to us, which can be so much more easily accomplished. our sister Etting is a
daughter Mrs Ellery
-guest in town and Isabella will remain to be constantly in the parlour - but she
is dreadfully worken. and I fear her disease is dropsical. She does not suffer
and the swelling does not encrease. while it is a melancholy result after all she
has endured - Gratz is in town, and in good health - Richard's family quite well
and very charming. Rosa & Sarah Ann are both very pretty & very agreeable
girls & greatly admired. Your friend James Biddle is to be married next month
and report says Gertrude Meredith is engaged to Musgrave. but I have not heard
so from her brother - Mrs M. is a good deal changed in her appearance. but her
sweetness and agreeable qualities remain. She is in no danger of forgetting
you. She loves us all. and you among the best - I wish I had something to tell
that would make my letter agreeable to you - but I see so little of what is going
on in the world - out of our own family that perhaps at the distance of 700
miles you may know as much of "your Phil" acquaintances as I do. Logan
I sometimes see sauntering about the streets but he has lost all interest in my
eyes. he is an ambitious of employing his advantages. and looks like an
idler. recent accounts have been received from John Biddle. he is rather better
and was just setting out for Rome. his recovery is still very doubtful - I sup-
-pose you have been much interested in the presidential election. and tho'
Adams has not been your candidate, you must be satisfied since Mr Clay
has resigned to him his pretentions - Maria has no doubt been much amused
at the treatment Mr C - received from the Pennsylvanians, and indeed so were
we here - and moreover not a little scandalized that one State should
have sent such a mean spirited fellow as Kremer to represent us -
All here my dear brother send most cordial and affectionate salutations
tions to you and our dear Maria, and embraces to your darling boys
I hope little Henry Howard is perfectly recovered before this - Horace
is delighted with the new name of his little cousin - but he still
cherishes his first predilection for "Little Ben Gratz" whom his uncle
have talked so much of - I have not seen aunt Bell to observe your
message, but I know it will gratify her much - She retains her health &
good looks - God Bless you & yours my beloved Brother - accept of our
thanks for your letter - and believe me always Your Attached Sister R G -