

July 17th 1827

Our Brothers are so much engaged in the perplexities of their affairs that they have deputed me to write to you. My dear Ben, and tho' I am sure my letter will not be so satisfactory as one from either of them. I shall take up the paceable where I left off on Wednesday. In pursuance of the order of the Arbitrators Mr Richards produced the keys of the long closed up Fire proof. and in presence of the parties concerned opened the doors. within which a padlock fastening had also been introduced. when lo! it was found empty of any thing of value - all the books & papers which had been usually kept there were removed even to your Insurance policy - and in their place some old receipt books & other worthless articles of as little consequence were examined.

You may imagine the shock this discovery occasioned. I could have wept over the fallen honor of our elected brother. at first he was himself ashamed - and during the humiliating scene of directing his porters & clerks to bring back the pilloined articles was confused & agitated. but has since resumed his former deportment. on two occasions they have had stormy interviews. one occasioned on Hyman's removing the sign of the old firm. which I promised should come down, but afterwards objected to - the Arbitrators met again on Friday morning. and began with accounts. to day they were assembled. but Mr Chauncy was taken sick, and they were obliged to adjourn. we may look forward to a long & mortifying turmoil before this unfortunate business is closed. Simon's superior talents and complete preparation. having been four months in quiet possession of every document he required - his sagacity in making the worse appear the better reason -

and the boldness of his harangues tend to embarrass the business
and give him advantages - which my man is not calculated to
meet - however, we must hope that honest plain-dealing & truth
will prevail, and in the end justice be obtained -

Notwithstanding that he must have perused every line in the
papers during all this time - he is so tardy in relinquishing them
that the other party are but partially possessed of those things against
your accounts have been called for, but not yet produced -
your interests my dear Ben, must be involved with the others
in the concerns of S. G. & Brothers - and I wish you were here to attend
to them yourself - provided you could bring our dearest Maria &
boys along with you - but not for the world would I have you
~~again~~ involve your happiness in another separation from them -
you mention that Maria is not well - might not a journey towards the
sea be of service to her? her precious health is always the first
object of consideration & whatever troubles assail us, believe me my
dear Brother, no wish or thought would interrupt your domestic
comfort - it is the brightest on our family record and God
grant it may be as permanent as your life -

I am shocked at what I have written concerning our Brother.
a short time ago, I thought his integrity unspeakable - and looked
upon his moral discrepancy as spots in the sun - but alas! his glory
is now eclipsed in my eyes and I cease to wonder at the many
alterations I have heard respecting our Father's estate so contrary
to justice & right so I consider the demands upon it - That a
poor old man, sick & melancholy & confined to his chamber for years
should be chargeable with an extravagant establishment of which
he could not partake the luxury, or direct the expenditure & which
was so different from the economy ~~which~~ had been observed during
the former part of his life - when the management of his estate
was in his own hands. that I am very sure had our excellent

Between Earth

to Earth

July 17.

Aug. 3. -

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Leaving for Ky

Benjamin Grant Esq

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