

January 31 - 1832

I am so continually receiving favors & kindnesses from my Dear Brethren that I have scarcely words left to express my gratitude, yet believe me my Dearest Ben my heart registers every new instance of their love & bounty, and your recent gift was received with feelings which I may not utter but would not for the world repress -

I sincerely hope before this your dear little Heyman has recovered and all the rest ^{are} well. I am looking anxiously for one of Maria's charming letters. she manages to give us such living pictures of all her dear household that we see you in the very mode & expression she pleases to place you - you would be quite amused at the sensation ~~that~~ ^{the} arrival of such a letter produces in Boston now. each one picks up the sketch that pleases them most, and descants on the perfection of that art which makes time & distance subsistent, and brings us into the presence of absent friends -

We have had rather a dull winter - cold weather & influenza have made great ravages among our friends - and in our community the most recent & unexpected was the death of my friend Adeline, who was only sick three days. poor Mr. Mayes seems doomed to realize the mournful apprehension of his wife - that of surviving all her children. in little more than a year the two eldest, and most important members of his family have been hastily snatched away - Adeline apparently from perfect health, and in the very prime of her usefulness. her father & brother seem to depend upon her powerful mind, as the advice & prop of their fallen fortunes. her cheerfulness & exertions kept the old men from sinking into despondency. I do not know what will become of them now they have lost her -

I suppose the Barry's are afflicted at the death of James

Brain. it was so sudden - that every one was shocked. he was
thought to be but slightly indisposed, and having taken an
~~anodyne~~ anodyne was left to sleep. at dinner time they found his
door fastened - and broke it open. when he was found dead. it is
said he has left no will - which is very unfortunate for his
poor relations. as his brother & sister have wealth enough and
these are many he cared for whom it is probable had he thought
of dying so soon he would have provided for - it has been
reported since his death that he was engaged to be married
to his beautiful young cousin - he will be greatly missed by a num-
ber of needy men who board ^{at} his table, and feed sumptuously
every day -

our sister's families are much as usual Grace & Isabella
continuing to be better & worse alternately. with out any material
change in the situation of either. The rest of the family well -
Levi Phillips' death has left his poor blind wife entirely
destitute, indeed he was so impoverished as to be supported by
his nephews for several years previous to his death - Accidental
is to live with Aunt Belle at the charge of her husband's nephews.
The Cohens are moving into the northern part of the city, where
I hope their shop will be more productive than it was in Broad
Street - they appear to be worse off than ever - and the obligation
of old debts keeps up such an irritation, however unjustly with
us, that our intercourse is stopped by it. I have not seen Aunt
Belle for more than a month. and am given to understand that
I may not visit her - this I regret very much as she is very feeble
and declining -

Tell Maria. Sir Walter's last tales have just issued from
the press this morning. and are only waiting a conveyance to
Lexington, with a book that Heyman tried some time ago to get
smuggled into the baggage of a traveller - who unfortunately had
packed his trunk so tight he could not get in a novel - and whose
head was so full of speculations, that he would not break

William Crafts
31 Dec. 1832
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Leicester Ly

Benjamin Craft Esqr

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