

As the newspapers are filled with accounts of riots & bloodshed in one once peaceful city, I have no doubt my dear Ben, you will feel some anxiety to hear something of a private nature of the whereabouts of those you are most interested for. We have been in a fearful state of excitement and mortification, and feel as if we were ruled in the power of a mob, but all is quiet, and for the present secure, for there are 4000 troops collected and the Governor is in town, determined to smother out the head & foot of these disorders and to overrule them. Last Sunday was a sorrowful day for Phila. and the night marked by horrors - the sound of artillery rung through the watches of the night and at every sound told of the death or damage of some fellow citizen transformed into enemies or defenders and "spilling the blood of war in peace" ~~at~~ ^{on} the very threshold of domestic habitations.

Our police have been too long blind to the dangers of disturbances of the peace, and have been too lenient against offenders of whatever character they appeared. At length the laws lost their terrors and military force was deemed a mere bugbear. So that when called out on a former occasion, it was looked on, with a little fear, as on parade days - and the work of destruction went on, in their presence. The present outbreak is an attack on the Coar-

the Church, and there is so much violent animosity
between that sect and the Protestants, that unless the
strong arm of power is raised to sustain the provisions
of the Constitution of the U.S. securing to every citizen the
privilege of worshipping God according to his own conscience
America will be no longer the happy abode, of the
oppressed, and the secure dwelling place of religion.

Intolerance has been too prevalent of late, and
many of the clergy of different denominations are char-
-itable with its growth. The whole spirit & office of religion
is to make men, merciful & humble - just, if such teaching
was preached by the pastors to their own congregations,
and the charge of others left to their own Clergy. God
would be better served, and human society governed
more in accordance to his holy commandments.

But this is not what I intended to say to you May
Dear Brother, I thought you would like to hear something
from the scene of war and so I deem myself to tell you, that
we were safe. St John's one of the threatened chapels, and
one very near neighbors, is still standing, and we depend
on the measures now taking to secure it. tell Bernard I do
not believe he could have staid at home so quietly had
he been here on Sunday night, and yet I should not have
consented to his going into Southwark, "where many a tall
fellow was laid low."

Minna & her husband left us about a fortnight
ago, Sister Mary has not yet returned, and suppose Ellen
will keep her in Baltimore, until she is quite again,
our Brothers are well. I am absent at Bellefonte. I received
a letter from your dear Anna the day after I dispatched
my love to her, for which I beg you will give her my best
thanks, and my love - the accounts she gives of your
daughter, is very sweet & interesting, and with all



Q

Benjamin Gray Esqr

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Miss Smith
July 12. 1846
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