

Phil<sup>d</sup> Tuesday  
Sep. 14<sup>th</sup> 1858

My Dear Ben

According to your wish  
I write you twice a week, &  
you may perceive in my  
letters the fluctuations of  
hope & anxiety about our  
Dear Jo's condition a few days  
after you left. I thought him  
improving in strength, and  
hoped he was decidedly bet-  
ter - after that he unexpec-  
-tally suffered much pain  
and other dyspeptic sym-  
-ptoms. with the same  
sleepless nights. to day he  
is exceedingly weak but has  
less pain. he is not able to  
leave his chamber - and

17  
though he takes more  
nourishment than he has  
for some days I do not  
think it produces the desired  
effect - his spirits are not  
good - he told me yesterday  
he began to despair - Horace  
is his constant muse, he  
will not go to Richmond to  
day - the first he has found  
his presence necessary in  
the morning - if he is not  
better you shall hear from  
me again on Thursday.

I pray that God may spare  
his precious life - and know  
you My Dear Ben you will  
join - ever your affectionate  
Ply

Reeling back

Sept 14. 1858

17