

My Dear Ben

Cathy's good fine Knit Jacket falls to your lot as to could not manage to pack it in his baggage he bade me send it to camp and I hope it will preserve you from Cold. we have not received a line from you since you left us, pray why have you not written? I have heard that you were only to continue a fortnight longer in camp, I hope this is true. you are encountering hardships to very little purpose already and if you were kept there during the changeable & wet season there is great danger that you would all be sick. I feel very much vexed at the manner you have been treated and thank God you are not a candidate for military promotion or removal. in this state of politics there is little to be gained by a federalist & a free man, and the sooner the campaign is over the better. General Scott is in town. he is a very handsome young man, apparently about 28. his arm is in a sling. Dr. Pleyne has run it and says it has been healed too soon. he will of course have to undergo some further operation. and his said, has written for permission to remain here. Sally continues confined to her chamber. she is not better, tho' more tranquil than when you were at home. I feel miserable on her account. there appears so little hope of a favorable change. I think on last winter & tumble. and the intervening time is likewise a period of suffering and melancholy. God is all merciful!

and must see some wise purpose for this worse trial. I am lost in my own feelings, and can only return to a conviction of his goodness and hope in his mercy. Maria Keys is suffering with her face yet. she has had blisters on it which has not induced any change the rest of all our families are well, and send a great deal of love to you. Adeline Myers heard that her Mother & Georgiana have been ill. they are recovering. but she is quite unhappy about them her father forbids her return until November - Eaty Agden left town this morning for N.Y.

I send you a lump of beef and your pantaloons by Mr. Stockton, and will have a bag made for your mattress to morrow. But I. asked for a coffee bag, but that will not be large enough for your purpose, so hope you will excuse the detention. let me know how to direct to you, and we will endeavour to keep you better fed than we have done. with the love of all our Brothers & Sisters
My dear Ben, and believe me most affectionately Yours
Rly.

Simon has gone to spend the day at Mr. Sheoffs. he is quite well except a little weak from the effects of his disease Adieu -

J. Benjamin Gates

F. Stockton Esq^r
Washington Guards
Camp near Wilmington

Rebecca Smith