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I take a long sheet of paper My dear Maria without being
able to promise my self that I shall fill it agreeably, but I have
delayed answering your letter so long, and have thought of it
so often that I fancy I have a great deal to say. tho' as you
will not introduce me into your domestic repositories, I should
in like manner treat you as a parlor visitor, but I am getting
tired of ceremony, and as the spring advances we may venture to
louge on a corner sofa and feel perfectly at our ease -

We have been expecting our friend Col. Morrison for a week past
but he has not yet made his appearance. The sad occurrence at
Washington must have changed the whole gay circle there into a
group of Monarchs, indeed it has produced much sorrow here.
Decatur was a Philadelphian and much beloved. The manner
of his death was so shocking, that one can scarcely be reconciled
to it, so glorious a life as his should have come to a better end.
I wish we were a less barbarous people, and could count among
us heroes who would not shrink from death.

I met Mrs Dr. Caldwell a few days ago in a milliner's shop, she immediately accosted me with news from the West, and gave me an opportunity of congratulating her on the promotion of her son the very modestly threw up her hands & eyes and made an exclamation expressive of astonishment that one so young should be so highly appreciated. She expects to enlighten your hemisphere in June, and if you ladies set forth to distinguish the fair Philadelphian with as much hospitality as the men have bestowed on her important husband, you will do her great honor. I am all impatience to see how the Dr will justify himself to the literary world for his occupying and borrowing in the life of Green. did you ever see a more severe criticism, or one more provocatively playful than that he has to answer? I hope the Western Review will arrive before the Dr. he will feel rather awkward if it does not -

I have sent you a bonnet which I hope will please you it is fashionable. you will agree with me that these are not the times to indulge in the luxury of fine leg horns. I divided one with you, and had them made exactly alike except in the colour of the trimming. mine is white.

Tell Ben, his old acquaintance David Seixas is distinguish-
ing himself as the benefactor of mankind, and is likely

to reap the reward due to his talents and humanity. he has
been privately engaged six or seven months teaching a class of
indigent Deaf & Dumb children. and has succeeded so well
as to attract the notice of our humane & scientific citizens
to whom he has recently exhibited his school. they approve
his system, which the Abbe Cerre who has visited the European
Schools, says is on a truly philosophical plan - they are
about establishing an institution of which this ingenious
and philanthropic young man will be the principal -

It is impossible my dear Maria, to conceive a more inter-
esting sight than these unfortunates exhibit. he has
eleven, who write exceedingly well. communicate with
their hands very intelligibly. read, spell and cipher
and appear cheerful & happy - I hope ere long you will
have an opportunity of witnessing their acquirements -

My Mr Jones of Virginia Sac. has sent the life of Kesholan
to you, have you received it? when you have
read it tell me what you think of my home sake Rebecca
tell my dear Brothers they are most fondly cherished

in the field of battle for their country's honor and safety. Doctor
surely had no need to fight a duel - he could never have been deemed
a coward, and the example of such a man's declining to fight, might
have done much to abolish the practice. his poor wife is now one
of the most desolate of human beings. she is alone in the world -
her husband was her idol - his glory, the pride of her heart -
she had no children to divide her love, and is of course more
wretched in her present bereavement. what a contrast does
a few weeks make in her fate & her feelings. perhaps no two hu-
man beings could be more different than Mrs Decatur in Jan'y
and at this moment - but you have already had enough of
this melancholy theme the newspapers are filled with it -

and what do you think they are doing here? all sorts of wicked
things. this city of "brotherly love" has become a den of thieves -
there have been prison insurrections, and incendiary conflagra-
tions, our beautiful Theatre was last night reduced to ashes -
and the whole neighbourhood endangered. the adjoining houses
were unroofed, & much property destroyed. this was unquestion-
ably the work of design. our citizens patrol the streets from
early in the evening till sun rise, but have not yet succeed-
ed in detecting the gang -

in the affection of their family - and that I have thought
and wished for them incessantly this week - to celebrate the
Passover at home. tell me dear Maria when we may
expect you here. Hyman says he sees nothing
to prevent your coming - ask Ben & your self whether
there be any impediment in the way of our wishes.

Jac. is very impatient that I should get to the
end of my letter, as he has some ready for the office
and he is fearful his port-boy will be taken up by
the patrol if I detain him later - this is a fatuous
interruption for you, as I feel very much disposed to
go to the end of my paper, not having got then' one half
of what I intended to write - but I dare not stay another
minute so my dear, you must take a great deal of
love from as all in as few words as possible and believe

me with great truth your affection Rly -

My best love to my dear Brothers -

April 1st 1820

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ington Ky