

at length my dear Maria, we have the happiness to know that you are at home again, and in health. and I trust your darling boy has not suffered nor made you suffer during your long and tedious journey. it appears an age since you left us yet we have not ceased to regret you. as the season advances when Phil^a has most attractions for strangers, we wish your visit had been planned so as to have partaken of its amusements. I called to see Mrs Bayard a few days after a grand ball had been given by Mrs Meade, after enquiring very kindly about you, she lamented that you had not been there. said she could not help thinking that a fine figure you would have made away them. and in her usual style of saying pretty things, passed some of her well timed compliments with so much judgment, that I went away quite charmed with her politeness, and scarcely doubting her sincerity. what a pity thought I, she is a Chero. one might else have been delighted with such candour - she is very beautiful too, and their house is among the gayest of our fashionable. they have already given one large party and are going to have a dance soon. Mrs John Sergeant has invited us to see the old year end at her house. and the Assembly commence the first week in the new one. but what is all this to you or I? if you were here I should buckle on my old finery again for the pleasure of accompanying you. but as it is, I do not mean to go any where except to witness Rosa Hays on her debut. for to tell you the truth such scenes are "stale, flat & unprofitable" to me. The companions of former days have either passed away, or have lost their interest in my heart and the idea has so much of melancholy in it to me, that

a ball room seems more like a memorial of lost pleasures than
an incitement to new ones -

we have had recent letters from our Brother L., who appears
much pleased with Gibraltar and the society. he fears he shall
not be able to make a tour thro' Italy as he intended, having been so
long detained by business - but expects to go to France & England.

Ellen has at length lost her friend Ann Lee, who was permitted
to return home last week. She was much grieved to part with her -
but bids me send love & kisses to you and the darling. I assure
you no child was ever more lamented than yours. he is quoted on
all occasions as the lovechild, the best, and the prettiest of his age -
poor Thomas suffered desperately in the complexion. but he is now
taken into favor again. he has regained his beauty, and begins to
smile very sweetly. but I dare say you boys will walk and
talk as soon as he will. I beg you will not fail to let me know
all his accomplishments. his first speech, which will no doubt
be a fine specimen of natural eloquence. and the ingenious
substitutes by which he already makes him self understood -

I please my self with the idea that there is a letter on the way
communicating all these interesting particulars. our dear Ben
rarely closes my eyes. we are told they are business letters -
tell him when he has leisure he must write to me, as otherwise
I derive no benefit from his epistles. I called to see his friend
Mrs Meredith this afternoon. who desires her love. she told me some
time ago that she meant to write to you. She is very much
interested in poor Texas' affairs, and among his best friends
you have no doubt seen his appeal, and felt concerned for
him. I hope he will be justified. and if innocent, made to
appear so before the public. the legislature will no doubt
cause an investigation to be made. at present Mr Clegg
is in his place in the institution. both he & his wife are dumb
she is a pretty interesting woman. with very fine manners

12. 920/12

29 Dec. 1821



Longton H-y

Mrs Benjamin Grah



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