

March 28th 1824

New York

Truly my dear sister, the arrival of a letter from you is a circumstance of great joy and triumph in your circle of Philadelphia friends, and is perused & re-perused with so much interest by all the females of the family, as they chance to visit me after I become possessed of the treasure, that I think could you witness its reception you would in future be ashamed to offer such disqualifying apologies, lest you might impugn our judgment in those matters. You last had many provocatives to an early reply, and I should not have left it so long ere I urged you to change your resolution of staying at home with your boys when our beloved Ben makes his promised visit, but that I have been much and anxiously engaged by the indisposition of our dear little children. Horace had a distressing bleeding at his nose for a whole week after he recovered from the measles, which reduced him very much, and alarmed me more than his sickness, but thank God he is well again, and excepting the remains of a blister on Beechey's neck we have discarded all badges of disease and have returned once more to the parlour in full assembly. I cannot accept your ^{reason} ~~reason~~ my dear Maria, for depicting us of the anticipated pleasure of seeing you and your darlings. That your boys are back you did not intend I should believe, and if they were, I should hope their coming, as it is generally supposed travelling improves the manners of youth. Now as people who are provided with two readers are able to give the best gift if they do not choose to put forth all their strength, I must suppose the one you have withheld is not more difficult to

remove than the first. and therefore I do hope you will think better of it, and accompany your husband. bring^{ing} your whole stock of happiness along. I know you would rather ~~climb~~ the mountains than be separated from your Ben. and he would be but half content in coming to his ancient home, leaving his most precious gifts behind -

I suppose you have heard through our Brothers of the improvement lately taken place in Isabella Ettings health. her spasms have nearly left her - her sight returned and of course her spirits & the hopes of her Mother revived. it were impossible to describe the state of sufferings she endured for 5 months without relief or intermission and the change appears almost as extraordinary. her physicians had perhaps less hopes of her than her family. for we depended a little on their skill - and they knew of no remedy to apply likely to afford relief. she is still confined to her bed and very much weakened but He who has preserved her life thus far, and vouchsafed to restore her to the light of heaven in his own time may complete her cure - You ask if I feel no apprehensions about the small-pox in the beginning of the winter, there was great alarm, on that subject & on the opinion of Dr. Physick I had all our dear ones, vaccinated lest they might not have had the right protection against that disease. Dr. Hays performed this operation rather in conformity to our wishes than from an idea of necessity, however in one instance criticism it was essential as she took the genuine disease, the rest had sore arms - but none of them have had the varioloid, and we have heard of no fatal consequence arising from it where the vaccine was passed from people & Blacks who had neglected it were the principal sufferers. I believe I mentioned that J. Hays had found the scab. he took from Gutz's arm labeled, and pronounces him to have had the genuine so you may be easy on his account. Mrs John Cox's child had the varioloid, but she considered it a trifling disease. I am thus particular, as I find the small pox is travelling westward, and may soon reach Lexington. it is disappearing here, & is said never to return.

P.S. Your friend Henry Sergeant has reached his pilgrimage
 this afternoon he was conveyed to his brother earth - after an
 illness of a fortnight. he met with an accident some time
 ago which confined him by a lame foot - but was not consid-
 ered to be seriously hurt. his death was occasioned by bilious
 fever

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Leaving for Ry

Miss Benjamin South



The girls all send their love to you & thank you for the letter they
 received from Mr. & Mrs. May. They all look up to you but they take the
 collection your husband and wife kindly no account. They say the
 a good amount of disinterested generosity keeps them & the collection
 of things is without loss of labor - they are all anxious to hear what
 the result is & in answer for your threat of disapprobation we all
 pray dear sister remain that sister - Adieu