

whole

Phila. Sept 5<sup>th</sup> 1824

Yesterday was our dear Ben's birth-day and as the  
 glad circulated round the board and each one had some  
 affectionate wish to express for his happiness and long life  
 and continuance of mental blessings. I conceived the wish to  
 send him these congratulations and to tell you how grateful  
 I feel to heaven for the restoration of your health my dear  
 sister, and the sweet little boy who makes up your train -  
 from all I hear of his brothers, I can only wish he may over-  
 take them, and tho' I dare say you would have welcomed  
 a girl with equal joy. I am sure for the poor child's sake  
 you should be more happy, as in the arrangements of this  
 working-day world the men have honors & glory - while the weaker  
 sex feels more heavily laden by care - in your family that ever  
 dear little girls may meet, will have a brave escort of brothers  
 to assist & bless them - I can appreciate such treasures most justly  
 for them, as my experience has proved their value. I wish you  
 were all here just now that your Grath & Bernard might see the wonders  
 this busy city is working for the reception of La Fayette they would talk  
 of it through life. it will be a memorable epoch in our annals -  
 little Horace puzzles his brain with anticipations of the illumination  
 of which he has no distinct idea, and as he has a most romantic  
 attachment for his cousin little Ben Grath, he associates him in all his  
 schemes of enjoyment, and never speaks of the soldiers, and music  
 and La Fayette without saying how Ben Grath & he will act on the occasion -  
 Mr. McFlonine has promised to dispatch him as soon as he returns  
 to Kentucky and has raised him very much in Horace's estimation  
 by telling him of his growth, which he says surpasses Horace in height



I suppose having got over the first difficulties of naming your sons your third will not have to wait long for his. let me beg my dear sister soon to be informed what you call him - and any thing else respecting your domestic concerns. we seem immeasurably distant from each other while you do not write - for Ben, my dearly beloved Ben never condescends to dip his pen for my information - and all I hear from Kentucky - is that a business letter has arrived - and as no particular mention is made we must suppose his family are well - we nevertheless talk of you very constantly and make up the want of certain information by a great many ingenious supposes - Mr McShaw has told us something. Mr Ralston came home charmed with you all - Lexington stands next to Phil<sup>a</sup> in his estimation - and Mr Holley in an evening visit to Mrs Meredith talked much about Ben - so that from various sources we have culled, much sweet discourse of late - which I assure you we make good use of and rehearse again & again - but now your boy is old enough to admit of your writing I shall hope for a letter - and if you can prevail on Ben to write also in lieu of the visit of which I will not say how much he has disappointed me I shall be greatly delighted -

Our Brother Hyman within the last week has greatly improved in his health and good looks. but you would think he still looks ill. for he is much emaciated. He is about gone up again to Kentucky on business. he is generally very tired of his visit to that country before he finishes. the cold weather overtakes him in the northern climate and winter being very unfriendly to his feelings. added to the trouble his tenants give him. makes him impatient of this annual tour -

Joe is home for the present. but we scarcely begin to feel the pleasure of his return before he talks of going off again. and he leaves us uncertain as to the length of his stay. sometimes he threatens to go on to the west before he returns -



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Mrs Benjamin Galt

Leaving for Ky

