

Sept. 10th 1826

You give me credit, My dear sister for a virtue not yet called into requisition, and I shall be the more ambitious of attaining it, that I may secure your approbation. Our brothers' situation is sad as the reverse must be to them has been attended with so many alleviating circumstances that we must be the most ungrateful family in the world not to be comforted and thankful. so much confidence & moderation has been exercised, and so much sympathy expressed, that my tears have often flowed from sensibility of generous forbearance but not once for change of fortune - I must tell you of one act which penetrated us most because it was from a person whose character was before unknown to us. Mr Elken whom our dear Ben may remember as an emigrant from the West Indians he married and settled in Phila where he encumbers the product of his Island property by lending money on mortgages and other securities. he was a creditor of our brothers and on the day of their failure Simon sent a message to him, begging he would not be alarmed, ~~the~~ the next day he walked out to his place. told him his visit was not to enquire about his property but to express his sympathy & to offer his services that he had not much in his power but had 3 or 4000 in bank which was at his command - that his debt was of no consequence - he would withdraw the note and take it up

and that he might pay when it was convenient - if not for ten years he should not complain - indeed it would probably be the first wish of his heart if he could redeem that beautiful spot / Wellington / for him - Poor Simon kept like a child when he related this anecdote to me. Mr. Elkin is a Jew, when he first came here he consulted our brothers about the disposition of his affairs, and seemed much attached to Hyman, but there has never been any intimacy between them and as he bears the character of a man close to his interests, lives retired & prudent. tho' highly respectable. he had no idea he was so noble & generous -

What the situation of affairs are likely to turn out, I know not - but Ben will no doubt ^{soon} be able to inform you. a proposition has been made by our brothers which will probably be acceded to, and when that is decided they will be able to make their arrangements - we continue in our house until it can be told which I hope will soon be the case. for I feel impatient that some steps should be taken to release them from their sufferings. their spirits & health are thank God better. indeed they are all well - Isaac is the most dejected of all - he has less power to resist the ills of life in whatever shape they may approach him - and he takes the very worst method to acquire fortitude, for he shuts himself up - communes with his own gloomy thoughts. and becomes - if I were to say nervous it would offend him - but at any rate unhappy - I hope our dear Ben, has by this time acquired more philosophy. we must not expect always to have the things we wish for in this world. but as you say, to make the best of what we have - and I assure you my dear Maria I feel no apprehension that we shall ever want, what is really

apprehensions in her friends - She has one little girl not two
years old - Bloomfield McHarrison was not only necessary to
the happiness of a rising family but the principal support of his
father - Adieu My dear Sister the time will come I trust when
we shall have to talk of better things, but can never find me more
truly yours & my beloved Ben's affectionate Sister Rebecca -
embrace the dear boys for me & pray do not let them forget me -

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Mrs Benjamin Grate

Lexington Ky



Mrs Rebecca Grate
Shawmou. Sept 30th 1826