

Oct 28, 1828

I beg my dear Sister that you will never hesitate to commission me with any orders that can oblige your friends, for I assure you it gives me no trouble, and a great deal of pleasure to execute any request coming from you. the cloaks are made according to the latest "modes de Paris" which are regularly renewed every month or six weeks, if they are not as much admired as yours the fault is in the variability of the fickle goddess who rejects blue, for "waters of the Nile" deep green & slate colours - my dark blue which was much admired last winter, must be worn next merely on account of its comfortable lining, for the fashionable will turn up their noses at the gone by colour of its out side. which yours, still beautiful in itself will not be scorned because never beauties appear. how much more rational you are for not having such intimate acquaintance with the milliners of Paris - our old friend Mrs Morrison & Miss Edmonson drank tea with us last Evening they had a sweet little boy with them who says he goes to school with our darling Bernard, and Horace was delighted to make his acquaintance that he may hear all about his cousins. I hope our dear Bernard is better than when you last wrote. perhaps the symptoms you mentioned were occasioned by worms, may let us hear all about him - we are in the bustle of preparation for the wedding, and so many sad things have happened since they commenced that our feelings are far behind the occasion. The sudden & unexpected death of Mr Keys cast a gloom over the whole congregation, and poor Ellen who calculated on his services was greatly troubled - he has left a large family - and they are strangers in the land, but he was much beloved, and every one is anxious to evince their respect by attentions to his widow, they have given her substantial proofs of it, by voting her a Year's Salary of 1000^s. Our brother Sam left us to day for a little excursion along the Canal which will keep him a week or ten days, this is quite

a novelty and I hope will benefit his health & spirits. He will just
be home in time for the wedding - but Ellen will leave us soon after
and all this excitement pass away - You have heard of Nath. Ellings,
illness and will be glad to hear of his recovery. the poor Ellen was
reunited from him to day. he says he is getting well fast - and his kind
friends Mr & Mrs Phelps write so too. poor fellow he has suffered greatly.
but our cousin Rachel Cohen has been even more afflicted. she has
been in bed for more than three months with an excruciating rheu-
-matic affection, and how much longer she is to suffer no one can tell
for as fast as violent remedies remove it from one part of her body
it takes possession of another. her recent attack is in her head. she
is emaciated and reduced to mere skin & bone, but her physician assures
us she is better and we hope he knows best. altho' to appearance no
very striking change has taken place. she begged me yesterday morning
to send her best love to Ben & you. I cannot close this book of lamentations
without one passing word to the memory of my friend Mrs Meredith. dear Mrs Meredith!
she too was snatched away in a moment. as unexpectedly as if years of
suffering could not prepare her family for the dreadful event. about a month
previous I was informed that she would admit me into her chamber. during
all her illness no one but her family saw her - she was just getting over the
word effects of a terrible fall - so feeble & emaciated - and scarcely able
to speak - her spirits weak and agitated. yet willing to hope, what her friends
assured her, that she was getting well - I cannot describe the melancholy
impression made on my spirits by this interview. her great mind seemed
struggling against the consuming effects of bodily weakness. she was a mere
wreck. yet tried to forget her self, and directed the preparations for wedding
festivities, which were to be celebrated on the return of her daughter
from a bridal tour. The bride arrived at the expected time - her
mother had retired to rest in bed, in order to gain strength for the
interview. agitation produced a bad night - another attack was

22-

Mrs Benjamin Gatz

Leaving to: Kentucky

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