

April 13th 1830

I am quite displeased my dear Maria, about your Sister's things and must apply to you again for instructions. I do not know whether my letter ever reached Mrs Boswell, or whether she thinks me very importunate and does not mean to answer it. but the beautiful shawls are still lying on the shelf in my wardrobe, which should have been adorning the graceful figures of the fair ladies for whom they were intended long before this. If I had only known of what dimensions they were required, I am surely afraid the changeable goddess, will have displayed some of her "glees" before Mrs B-s appears in the west. tho' I doubt whether hers will not eclipse them. as I purchased a Paris silk important by a lady, who being obliged to put on mourning, sent it to Mrs Pratt. The length of the shawl & arms & width on the waist is all that is required to be told, or if she prefers it I can procure a Paris print of fashions and send her the materials, to be made at home - do not let your sister suppose I have had any trouble about the matter, except my fears of her disappointment in the delay and should my letter or her answer have miscarried, you can convey to her this apology for the detention, assuring her at the same time that I shall always be much grateful to execute her commission, if I am so fortunate as to suit her taste. You know my dear sister that there is no difficulty in doing what I offer, as my avocations so frequently take me into Second Street, where every thing that is fashionable and beautiful are displayed, and look so inviting that one would be tempted to go into the shops to admire if they even did not want to purchase our shawls now are quite a show, since the spring weather has made our ladies throw aside their cloaks, and the spring shawls have brought out the varied colored wares for female apparel. I wish you could have been seated at the front window in Boston Row on Easter Monday, just to have let me look at you - while you looked at the world of light & bright objects passing by - The only thing wanting in your last letter, dearest, to make it delightful was some intimation of an intended visit, but tho' a little disappointed, I attributed it to forgetfulness, among the many animated subjects of discussion. I wish your Ocean Car had a road to run on, from Lexington to Philadelphia that you might

put your children in it, and come at once - you shall leave
no dear Grah, when he has learned to love his relations here
and be happy. Fannie will be rejoiced to have such a brother
& companion, but I suspect Grah will take his birth right from him
for he is very delicate. This spring I have been apprehensive that
his liver was affected - for several weeks he was suffering with
pain in his side & difficult respiration attended with night perspiration -
he was a whole month from school - but has now recovered
except a slight cough which is also wearing away. We have got
a good school for him too, and I hope to find that he is capable
of much more than improvement, than he made with Mr. Sanderson.
Sarah is industrious and smart, and makes very respectable
progress in her education. The Essay on Children which you admired
so much, has been greatly commended here. Every one having a
heart, and being in the habit of seeing children, may realize all that
is said of them. I heard a lady say she was only surprised that a
man should have felt & written so much like a mother. I believe
mothers are only laughed at for talking of children, when they are
so silly as to be exclusive, it is not the love of children - but the
fear ^{for} or the admiration of my children whether they be clever or not
that we are apt to be annoyed with - and it generally happens
to be the faults entailed on children by over indulgence, which are the
subjects of this annoyance -

Now Grah Elling has been ill again for the last fortnight -
we had very little hope of his recovery last week, but he appears
something better again - tho' by no means safe. His mind has
been sadly afflicted with every variety of disease - and is not
restored to tranquillity yet, tho' more rational than it was -
it is impossible to imagine a more distressed family than
our sisters has been. Ben & Isabella are both still invalids
tho' better than they were - and Ellen is expected from
Baltimore in a few days to see Dr. Physick, for a sore leg -
she has been confined with a bad cold, which settled in
her leg and produced so ugly a sore, that her husband has
determined to bring her here for better advice than she can get
in Baltimore. Caustic & poultice has been applied without effect.

like my dear Ben he shall have "pittul shael," as soon as the
harpover is gone - and tho' it will perbably be only a jiley
by the time it reaches you - I think it will suffer no other loss
than that of shape - Adieu Dearest, like we meet ^{again}
Yours
RZ

RZ

Mrs Benjamin Graft
Washington 1844

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My difficulties are over dear Maria for I have just received a letter
from Mrs Boswell, and I beg you will not say a word to her about my
impatience. If I had time to write another letter, I would not tell even you
see that I had felt any, but really it was only on her account - for I took
blame to my self for not having been more careful of her measure each
year - our dear Graham is so much better this evening that
we are quite cheered with the hope of his speedy recovery