

Jan'y 12th 1832

It is well my dear sister, that in all the causes which occurred to my mind as keeping you so long silent I did not think of your being sick, I suppose because that thought would have been the most painful of all, or I should not have suffered you to remain quiet, and in the irritable state you pretend to have been thrown by your fever, there is no torment so irritating as repeated enquiries concerning your health - this I have learned by experience of one brother's case when he is sick, and he had the influence very badly for a few days, I am afraid to propose a remedy - or ask a question - and have only to sit still and observe what he is in want of, or make John enquire if he will be attended to - but I am glad your husband is not quite so much afraid of you, and did venture to plead for a letter for me, for which I thank the dear fellow in my own behalf, and besides think it creditable to him self, and albeit fortunate, as it sometimes happens that your diseases take a long term - from various symptoms like complaint, consumption - or fever, are thank God all curable, and come to a happy issue - and I hear that whether your recent sickness be of that character - or the prevailing epidemic - its uncomfortable effects have all disappeared by this time, and left my beloved & charming sister - herself again - If you are disposed to quarrel with Becky Nurse you may begin forthwith, for she is as saucy as ever and even dared to laugh very knowingly at some passages of your letter - she is not very much surprised at her friend Julia's susceptible fancy being so soon operated on, but trusts to her Grand mother's sagacity for a remedy to the evil. Col. Coombs brought letters from the Barrys, and was entertained according to the gratitude they felt for Kentucky hospitality by their family here. he was continually walking with their beautiful Cousin Jane - and plunging the bear much as he did last winter. I intended to send you some books by him, but he did not let us know of his departure until late the evening before he started, if this weather continues for it is very mild to day - you may have a chance to receive all your articles, except the looking glasses which have not yet left Phil^a the river being closed before they were ready to pack, but Mr Daggash told me yesterday that he should soon send them on their journey, as he thought travelling would do them no harm.

187

I wish you could hear the ~~withdrawing~~ ^{withdrawing} passing on the affair of
the ~~Bornum~~ Miss Peters - it will hardly do to call it a flirtation between
two such proper & sage personages, but there is certainly an uncommon
intimacy and interest - he derives pleasure & consolation from her society
and she is delighted & enlightened by the conversation of distinguished men,
but she protests against ever changing her situation. Miss Peters will always
retain her consistency - and she certainly does in her attachment to you.
She laughed at your message and said that is so like her! but remember
you always tell her how much I think of her, and still more how much I
talk of her -

We have had letters from Ben Elting whose health is greatly improved
by change of climate, his Mother looked quite bright on the occasion - and
began to write after her attack of influenza. Gracie too is at home - and
Isabella sometimes better - but upon the whole it is well she has some
agreeable anticipations of Ben's return, to keep her through the winter. The
death of our well beloved Cousin threw a gloom over our family circle -
she was the companion of our sisters youthful days, and associated with
all our recollections of early life. her departure was sudden too - after
an illness of only two days - her constitution was broken up and yielded
to an attack of the prevailing disease - Sam went immediately to Bath
and tried to console his father - but left the family in great affliction.
Josephine has also been sick - and Sister Mary has had her hands full
they are all getting well. It is nearly two months since one sister has
been in Boston Row - fortunately for me Julia Keffman was detained by
the bad travelling and has consented to tarry all winter, so that I am
not alone, and I am more pleased too on Sarah's account, for she is
now becoming more in want of rational companions than play fellows,
and Julia is well educated & sensible. Sarah is fond of her, and talks
about Aunt Maria & the dear little boys so constantly, that Julia's
interest is so much awakened as if she had made one of the last
winter's party -

There is nothing talked about here but Richard's will. I
sent a copy to Ben, but if he had not, the newspapers would have carried
it to you before this - it is well that it was not opened before his funeral
or perhaps the Catholics would not have given him a grave - as it
was they said no prayers - no mass, a requiem was chanted in the
chapel, and then he was deposited - but he has made all Phil
a monument of gratitude, and his Brother College will sing his
praise through untold ages - nobody objects to his excluding the

have quite enough from school and told me to day he was head of his class
 he is obliged to study all the evening and I hope is learning something more
 valuable than his last winters lessons - both he & Sarah talk of the boys under-
 ly, and send love to them all - our Brothers are constantly scolding at Ben
 for not writing, but I do not know whether they deserve that he should
 I have never looked better than he does now, and the girls make him play
 chess & gallant them about most successfully - Hyman goes to Wheel
 port at one & then I go complaining of the climate, and again regret
 that he was enough a better writer in our frozen city - but they
 console themselves with a game of Chummy every night - and
 manage to keep a good appetite - and enjoy a late breakfast

Remember me to your good father &
 Mother - and kindly send you a kiss and say
 and love to you my dear Hyman - and an ever full
 of love to Harriet & Harriet -

Lexington Ky

Mrs Benjamin Grant

A

23



22

John has come to you about my dear sister - he wants me
 that my money like much give place to the dinner preparation
 I have hoped a delightful journey with you - and at your expense
 perhaps, but all things have an end - and that kindly welcome to him
 give your best time. Tell those you - I want - my dear year and many
 attending me. Give them my love as you will - and always love you - do they feel