

February 16th 1832

I have thought my dear Maria for the last two days that I would not write to you, until I had refreshed myself with a good long walk, and got rid of the stupefying effects of dull weather and dyspepsia - Stinking darning & ennui - but alternate rain & snow holds dominion in the atmosphere - my basket, & your beautiful basket, which accompanies me in all my journeys up and down stairs, is almost empty, and shows your dear letter, now as sweet as the bottom, and my conscience is more troublesome than my other ailments, and so I shall bestow myself with all these imperfections on your clemency, and try if I cannot brighten by the good company I force myself into - my blessed little nephew was just getting well when you last wrote, I hope you have had no more sickness in your family since - but hear that all the Barry's household have had measles. I hope your new city will not go after the fashion of old ones and send such evils abroad into all houses in the corporation, here we have had scarlet fever, of which many children have died very suddenly, and the measles is coming after it - but a little experience in the ways of this world teach us, that it is wise never to anticipate evils - many here are dreading the arrival of the Cholera - in whom the breath of life appears to be flickering like the last light of an expiring taper - and here too has my much loved friend Adeline Myers, in the full glow of health - the prime of life & usefulness, cut down like a young tree in a summer storm! alas, alas! how unable are we to judge according to the wisdom of Him who governs the creation he has made, and mixes out good & evil, as seems good unto him, and is most merciful & just, although we know it not - I have had letters from the poor old Gentleman & Georgiana who are in the deepest affliction - a sudden attack of bilious cholera was the fatal disease, which terminated ⁱⁿ three days -

Your advice Mrs Furness has been enquiring about you with much interest, she sent me "The Mother's book" to read, which is highly recommended written by Mrs Child of Boston - the 1st Edition is all sold off & I would send you one, it is very good and practicable, but I dare say you can bring up your children as well without it - Julia & I have criticised some positions she holds, altho we do not doubt the wisdom of them - her theory of the manner we ought to feel and consider the visitation of Death, is the most difficult lesson she would inculcate, and I think to the extent she recommends, would require us to remodel our human affections on a more sublime nature. I have recently seen a fond Mother

resign a little suffering child with as much confidence as I should wish or approve, and yet she parted with more agony than Mr Childs thinks consistent with religion or reason. Mrs Rutledge lost that pretty little girl, she sent in to see you last spring - she was just one year old and died from the effects of influenza which attacked her when she was weakened by previous indisposition. Mr. R. is in Carolina for his health. his wife has better hopes of his recovery than his other friends, and I pray sincerely that they may be fully realised. misfortune brings us close to one another, and during a weeks visit to her nursing I saw more into the character of my neighbour than in ⁱⁿ one whole previous acquaintance of three years.

I am so much in the habit of telling you every thing that interests me, when I write, that I dare say I mentioned old Mr. Mordcaim's visit in the fall. and how much delightful we were with the patriarchal manner and wisdom of his conversation. since his return he has twice written to me, and sent me valuable papers of his own writing which I consider quite a treasure, the last was a character of "David King of Israel. The Neema after Gods own heart," and he has said that he would occasionally send "the outpourings of a mind long devoted to important researches after truth." I shall hoard them all up. My dear sister for your perusal, he has the advantage of understanding the language in which the scriptures were written. and has a large learned library. a liberal spirit, and leisure to devote to his favorite study. he has never printed a book, but desires to make his own children & grand children well acquainted with the religion they profess, and there are so few learned Jews in this country, that he has frequent applications ^{from} both Christian divines on scriptural texts, which leads him into extensive examinations. ~~As they~~ are conducted with good feeling and good taste -

Our poor little Beek has had an attack of dyspepsia which has confined her for a fortnight she is getting over it, and able to walk out. Jacob Hays has been out of town. and as none of the family go in to company this winter. I cannot give you the fashion of clasp or manner. Mrs Pintard was very desirous of sending you a pink cap. but as I do not think you would be as well pleased with that colour, as a modest white. and know when you have the pattern you can manufacture them of every hue. I shall follow your direction for a plain one

Mrs. just entered the room, and left a message of love & kisses
to you & the dear boys - Jacob means to write by Mr. Leary - she
is too enthusiastic to convey a message - her eyes fill with loving tears
and her exclamations. Do not resolve themselves into coherence -
the Cohens have removed into the Northern Liberties & have not yet
invited me to their house. Isabella & Gracie are much as usual.
Harriet will be home next month to prepare for her husband's arrival.
Ellen begins to look well - her child also improves - she has weaned herself
and is getting fatter - all our brothers are in health and pretty good
spirits. Fanny is sustained by mental energy through the wearisome
toil of her daily attendance on Isabella - I look at her as a miracle - for it is
only by the sustaining hand of Providence, that such a feeble being could



Wm. Benjamin Gracie

Lexington Ky

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enclose such long and wasting anxiety - the anticipation of Ben's return
is now the point of happiness on which her eye rests - the whole
assembled group, I have brought before you, with one next door niece,
& nephews, and a few straggling individuals not already named - all
desirous to have their stations in your kind thoughts preserved - and send
you their love - and so dearest & best beloved - does your own loving and
ever grateful sister - God bless you, all, now & ever more - Rly.