

August 19th - 1832

after the clothe was removed yesterday and all the girls were assembled round the dinner table, I thought how long it was since I had heard from you my dear Maria, and expressed my desire to get a letter, when our brother Jo, drew one from his pocket which he had been in possession of for some days and because you said so many flattering and agreeable things to him. he had been too modest to show it. well, was he not rightly served for keeping it so long a secret. for there was Sarah Hays. and our three Moser girls as venerable daughters of Eve in such matters as could be found. and so your excellent epistle was handed round, and Mr Joseph had to hear your praises, praised in good earnest. we admired the modesty & grace by which just praise can be rendered grateful. and when it flatters must not appear esappreciated. I hope my dear you will often have occasion to exercise your pretty talent on like occasions. there was a notice in it of your dear little Boys, which pleased me so much that I cannot help expressing my satisfaction. you say they gave up eating unripe fruit, because you told them it would make you uneasy, and you must tell them, that this proof of their obedience, makes me love them better than ever, and that their example shall be recommended to all the children I know. it is very well to begin, such lessons of self denial. for here are

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he in the midst of a luxurious season, with abundance of fine fruit & vegetables which are all forbidden.
our bill of fare, consists of meat - bread rice & potatoes -
dessert, & pudding - by special favor Dr. Chapman allows
one peach a day. at first it was very hard, and I was
afraid to look into Hyman's market basket, particularly
when corn came in season, he did bring it home daily
for one week, but finding no one but himself thought
- it even in that favorite article - he left off buying
it - we moreover, sleep with our windows shut - wear floor
- mats, and keep out of damp night air - these are saving
measures. we have remedies at hand for preventing malarial
- fevers, and thank God have been thus far - free from the
"fever fever" - and cheerfully keep the ever terror of our
"bug" hoping that the pestilence will pass by & we remain
untouched" except by a deeper sense of dependence on
the gracious who neither Hamaneth nor Hezekiah."
a very small proportion of the citizens have recovered, and
I believe it is better so, in every direction the villages and
towns have been affected in some degree with the Cholera
and at New York & Montreal, it has been prolonged by
the return of inhabitants who are said to be more liable
coming from pure air - There was but one day of panic
in Phil^a - and that was occasioned by the mortality in
Arch Street Prison - the only place that was totally unprepared
for it - this is a receptacle for vagrants, and the police
so defective, that nothing less might have been expected
now all the poor prisoners are released & a large number
by death | I hope the stain will be wiped off by appointing
more efficient & humane officers. of all laws, unbecomingly
in debt, is most abhorred to reason & justice.

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Mrs Benjamin Grath

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