

Sept 9, 1832

First not they self, my dear sister with evil imaginations
 for verily no one deals deceitfully with thee what ever may
 have been the impression under which your "complaints" were excited
 I think I can prove that the cause was imaginary, unless our
 brother Jo has offended in his reply to your agreeable letter,
 which notwithstanding his having kept it so much for a week, I
 could perceive he was very well pleased with, - you were labouring
 under two mistakes your letters are not like the general Epistle of
 James sent to all the tribes and to be criticised in cold blood. tho I can
 tell some eyes other than mine own have been fastened on such as I
 considered well calculated to be useful & pleasant to our loving ones
 and highly acceptable to our brothers without in the least injuring
 your reputation as their author but of this no more if you will it of
 your letters shall be a closed book and upon your own head must
 rest the consequence, of making us (I mean your vocal correspondents)
 selfish, envious, & uncharitable to each other for we shall never be
 able to see only one enjoy the privilege of reading a letter from you -
 and shall be as jealous as we have hitherto been just - not caring
 to whom your attention is addressed when we can listen to what
 you say. now I beg you to understand, that when a passage, or
 a whole letter contained any thing of a character not calculated
 to be given to any but the one to whom addressed they have
 been kept confidentially it is very rarely that any person sees
 my letters except our brothers, and house hold pieces - sometimes
 I read paragraphs to our sisters & Isabella. and this is all the
 my part of my offending "hatred" extent in this no more - I wish I knew
 what I said to give rise to your "new feelings" but this I am sure
 that the spirit in which I spoke had nothing in it to create them.
 Your second mistake is that your thanks & thoughts are not
 rightly received & understood - as to our brother Jo if he had
 means to match the spirit of his generosity he would originate
 a new name for giving. I was struck with your gracious accept-
 -ance and the graceful manner of expressing thanks I always
 feel dissatisfied with my self about the difficulty of giving proper
 words to my feelings on such occasions. But Verplank said

me one of his printed orations some time ago - I did not think it worth while to trouble him with a letter of thanks but when he came to see me, and I expressed my sense of his attention, he looked so awkward, and I felt so, that I was ashamed of having put him to embarrassment in return for a kindness -

as to Jo, since you have touched the subject I may say my thoughts without fear - he really verifies the poets words - "does good by Health and blush to find it fame" - every child in the family has been sharers in his liberality - and our sister blesses him for many comforts which her limited means would deny her - and you know how I revel in the indulgence and generosity of all my brothers - don't you hate my dear Maria to have your letters answered so minutely? write them soon this and forget that you have been troubled with it -

as to your own health my sister, since the arrival of your letter it has been my constant thought & anxiety - our sisters both like me, they have been in similar difficulties that rest and nourishing are the remedies to ensure safety - Riches says you must not pursue your usual plan of eating but take some strengthening aliment between breakfast & dinner, your unusual size accounts for your weakness, and they would soon comfort me, out of their own experience with the hope that you will have no extraordinary suffering - and be well again in good time. Prevailing symptoms my dear sister, when attended to, have invariably prevented an attack of cholera - and that is by far a worse disease than you have ever seen - attend them strictly to your precious health - set free talents of your cook in requisition for some potatoes conimented by way of lunch every day - and let it be not unusual, or at least of a strengthening quality - will not you dear Mother bring the boys home soon, and stay with you, until you give her another babe to love? how I wish it were my lot to be near, and help to make confinement less irksome to you - Ellen has had

Handwritten flourish or signature

Mrs Benjamin Grant

Leaving for L. Y.

SEP 18

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