

Nov 31, 1834

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I have been sadly idle My dear Sister, and my
punishment is that I have not dared to expect a letter
from you, while my conscience told me that I did not deserve
one. it is a greater shame to me too as the last fortnight
has been hostile in domestic events, so told you that
Harriet Etting's second son was born on the 16th Inst - just
eleven months younger than his brother Frank. but as she
is perfectly well, and this time able to nourish her baby
she is quite satisfied with the bounty of Providence in
raising her up a family so unexpectedly in one year. and
as her next door neighbour has a pair of twin daughters
born since Master Frederic Henry, she considers herself fortunate
that a single boy was her allotted portion, one brother
Joe too has received an appointment which gives him occu-
pation and fixes him in what I hope will prove a comfortable
employment. for really the last year has been so unpropitious
to him in a worldly sense that I feared he would ^{go} to the forest
and go cut his own timber in Centre County - now this would
be no evil to a man of enterprise at 25 years of age - but
unlike with one of our Brother's habits & dispositions seemed
little better than banishment - he is now absent on the
canal, and I expect will be so frequently but shall not
complain, as I know his mind is cheerfully engaged in
the duties of his office - last week Peggy Cohen had
another attack of palsy which we all thought would
have terminated fatally - but she still lives - one side completely
paralysed, and in a state of helpless debility I never witnessed
a more distressing scene than on the day of her attack.

to all appearances the prolongation of life offers little but a continued state of suffering & feebleness - yet the anxious affection of her sisters & brothers crave the boon as tho their own happiness hung on the result. God is merciful and in his hands the destiny of all his creatures are safest, and most wisely disposed of. Perhaps her present condition may reconcile her family to a separation and awaken their minds to the necessity of subsequence. Alas they have not yet ceased to grieve for their Mother's removal - and yet the burden of poverty perpetually upon them, and makes even younger strength bend to severe hardships - our young cousin Gath Myers fell a victim to the pestilence at Madison - where the disease was introduced into the Constitution - he was a very promising officer, and a most amiable youth - poor fellow he was an orphan - never knew the blessing of a Mother's love - and was reared away from his Father's house - there was a sadness on his countenance - which seemed always to proclaim his state. He resembled his Mother, who was the gayest and sweetest & prettiest of Mr Ettings family - and we loved her like a sister - but poor Gath had not her bright smile - how should he - she died in his infancy - at sixteen he entered the navy - and ten years of toil & triumph among strangers was his whole round of life - he has left a brother one year older than himself a surgeon in the Army - when their Father died all domestic ties were broken and they determined to devote their lives to their country - last evening Reuben brought me an obituary notice, which his son Gath had written and requested to have published - it came from the hospital where he resides almost entirely - but bears no mark of having been written by one of its tenants -

We have the celebrated Hannah Chastineau on a visit to our city, she stays at Mr Furness' - and of course I went to see her - she is very unaffected - sensible and easy of access - indeed she craves the conversation of her own sex, she is deaf and uses a tube one end of which she applies to her ear, and at the other there is a hole into which you speak without elevating your voice - she is pleased & surprised to find that her tales have been read here -

the former - little good in politics may be anticipated. what a waste
of eloquence was poured out last winter at Washington - next week they
will renew the charge probably with no better success -
resent my most tender love to my dear Mother - I am glad he
is free from the turmoil of public life - and can pursue the even
tenure of his song as a good citizen. I trust fortune will smile
on his enterprises and soon perch crown his exertions.

Let me hear from you soon my dear sister - and pray embrace
the dear boys for me - you must not let them forget me -
I am, believe me, ever your unwaveringly attached
sister Rly. L

Nov 3, 18

Mrs. Benjamin G. G.

Lexington Ky