

Feb 17th - 1836.

Oh thanks to you my own dear sister, for your two delightful letters last received. I came home from Sister Trays' last night and found one had been waiting for me, in the face of your honorable boys. Who well knew under the sealed cover something was hidden that interested them. and yet they did not shorten my visit - or limit their impatience. I was glad you approved of my not sending your sons last week. the weather and the roads are such formidable objections to travel, that I have not the heart to expose them to the trial altho they would most willingly set out and they brutch the skies most delugally, brishing the snow, rain and the ice running waters. but the Delaware 16 inches thick affords a solid passage to sleighs and wood carts. and amusement to multitudes of skaters while it denies to you the pleasure of embracing your boys. and our Brother Jo the opportunity he desires of visiting you at the great city. I do not think you need ^{real} any convenience to the Masses from your visit and I am sure they will be greatly disappointed if you do not go to Richmond but you cannot war with the elements and must abide the times. Becky too ought to wait a more fitting time - when the weather moderates. if you determine to give it up - she may find other opportunities of performing her promise to Rosa but I should not be willing to trust her on a party or pleasure over such roads - if necessity called. or business or duty - there would be some merit in facing difficulties. but I do not think now the end would justify her - I have not seen Mr Mores since last night. but I think his opinion would amuse both mine in this particular. It is quite a consideration even with men of business - how they shall pass from one city to another

I thank you, My Sister, and our kind friend Mr Blair, for your
reception of Edwards message, and as soon as he comes home will
inform him of your offer. if I had reflected before I wrote, instead
of telling you that I was bidden I might have been sure that
I was troubling you unadvisably. for in truth I had too little
understanding of the business to make it clear to you. however
he will be grateful to know he has such powerful friends at
court and may push his fortune, at a more fitting opportunity.

You ask about our Brothers. My man is at Hambroeg, try-
ing to get some legislative act in favor of his Annuity office -
by the bye I have just heard that the U.S. bank bill has passed
complete, Government signature & all - whether for good or evil
time & circumstances must develop - it has been the subject
of great excitement & speculation here, & I suppose in most of the
commercial cities, but you have heard all of the unpopular side -
and one cannot help wishing all the great departments of our
Government could be carried on amicably and united, as
the people's title of our country claims - I am delighted
that our differences with France are adjusted without
mediation, tho' I have not your objections, to the good times of
old England, and give her credit for many national virtues -
I like better, that the President's message should have satisfied
Louis Philippe - and if his first message was acceptable
what will be the effect of his third? I am quite impatient
to hear the compliments of the French chambers - (I beg your
pardon for this digression, you will laugh at my politics)
I said when he went out after breakfast that he
thought he would write to you - if he does not I will remind him
of your Portuguese proverb - he is right well and looks hard
some ~~now~~ in his black stock now that I have got accustomed
to it - Joe has returned from his journey. Thank God in better
spirits -

Mr Benjamin Grath

Washington City

by R. W. Garner D. C.

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