

Jan 28, 1837

You may expect my dear Sister to be persecuted at least once a week, until you relieve my anxiety about your dear family - not a line has reached us since your letter of the 1st Inst. mentioning our dear Cary's accident, and tho' I know you would not leave us in ignorance of any thing that materially involved your happiness, you may be sure, we cannot rest satisfied under such an unusual silence. Particularly as the last view we had of the family group, was round round Cary's bed, and he the little Cupid of our hearts as blind as ~~the~~ fabled deity - I have nothing to tell you to day, that can apologize for my letter. since I last wrote I have been sad from the loss of an old & much loved friend. Julia Hoffman's Father. he has been declining for several months but was not ill more than a few days. so few that there was not time for his absent children to collect round his dying bed. and Julia says it was distressing to witness his efforts to express his charges or blessings. when he could only articulate their names. he was a good man in every relation of life, and under all circumstances, he strove to promote the happiness of those around him. his cheerfulness & benevolence of heart shed their influence over the domestic circle. while his fine mind poured out its ample store of instruction in such familiar and agreeable conversation, that no one could leave his society without improvement & delight - his public life was distinguished too. but I only speak of him as I have known him in the bosom of his family -

I really believe the unhappy feud is near its termination at least that business will be done between our divided brothers. would to God the waters of Lethe would cover all the cleavages that have embittered their feelings, and that no memory of injuries or difficulties would be left to rankle in their hearts. total estrangement can be submitted to now tho' there was a time when this would have appeared too hard to be thought of. To-morrow is appointed for J. & F. to

have a meeting - and our dear Ben will no doubt be informed
of the result as soon as all is finished. You will see by the
papers that J. W. Green is appointed President of the Amenity
& Life Insurance Company. Which he seems very well pleased
with it gives him a salary of \$2000 per An. and the occupation
is one he likes, and this is the object that makes it a good
office. There is a line of an old ~~man~~ I have seen so often repeated
that it is not until a thing is tested by experience, we know
whether it is for good or for evil - "The power Supreme who
makes Mortal his care" - To grant him happiness requires his
prayer" - every letter from Minnie confirms assurances of her
happiness too, and she writes every week to some one - I do believe
she even likes slavery - as it is the law in her husband's land -
the talks of Patriarchal families - of servants who love & serve
from that native - of new year's presents &c. her heart was ~~made~~
and softened to by receiving from an old negro a heap of her
own raising - and flowers from the children - and she is so
interested in the simple natural amusements of their little
village, that I believe a winter in the warm Southern climate
of Georgetown has made her as well satisfied with her new home
as those who love her wish her to be ever - Mr Cohen writes to
the girls constantly in her letters, and really expresses such
brotherly feelings, that we cannot doubt he is ready to adopt all
his wife's friends as his own - all Rosas & Harriet's letters beg
for information from Kentucky as Aunt Maria does not write
to them, the former is as well & happier as you left her - and H.
begins to warm with the hopes of her husband's return - he is on
his passage she thinks and every day brings him nearer - her
children too are improving sources of interest & delight, the infant
begins to talk, is healthy and a beauty. - So has taken Grace
and the girls out sleeping to spend the day at the Arsenal, where
there is another happy scene of domestic enjoyment - Sara
has regained her health & good looks, and the Captain looks
very well satisfied with his lot -

he is doing very well - give a kiss to dear Sam Bodley & her
sister Jane for me, I think of all my Lexington friends with great
interest as can be testified by the enquiries made on all opportunities
Present my respects to Dr Dudley - and now my dear sister, fare
well indeed, May God Bless you all with every good
gift, and preserve you from all dangers - and give you
happiness equal to the love of your truly affectionate
Sister
Jan 28th 1837.

Alvina



Miss Benjamin Smith

Lexington, Mass.



Farewell dearest, I will not be so unreasonable as to
lengthen this letter further than to beg you will embrace the
dear boys for me, and when you write mention each of them
my dear good little Hyman - and Cary as well as their brothers
present my affectionate love to your sisters - Is Laura Morrice
still at the east? I have never heard from her since she parted
with Phil - Frank Blair writes excellent letters to Betsy Mores