

Nov, 1838

I am humbled my Dear Sister that you have not written to me, except a few (shall I say) constrained lines from Washington - I sometimes think that in our conversation the evening before your departure - I may have offended you - but you knew my whole heart, and so kindly forgave me for probing your wounds on a former occasion, that I dismiss the idea, that any thing like offence could be given or received between us - by "all the counsel then that we have held together," the beginning friendship, and continued sister love we have shared," I forgive you not to deprive me of the happiness of your correspondence - it is now more than ever important to me, because with all the love I ever bore you I have a new anxiety - and with it such a strong hope that you will soon be well. That I am all the time wishing to hear from you self what so much interests me. we have heard from Joe of your long fatiguing journey - and that you bore it better than could be expected - when I recollect the discomforts of a crowded canal boat, as we experienced them together and imagine what you must have endured in the slow passage down the river, with all those passengers - and your anxiety to be home. I think you required all your patience to abide the test. but you have now a sweet reward. the sheltering love of your husband and the devoted affection of your children. with all the choicest

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and interests of home - I hope you found all well, and
your dear sister, not changed for the worse in health during
your absence. and Sarah Bodley as warm in her greetings,
and as cheerful, as the improved aspect of her domestic
affairs could warrant - I believe she is so much indebted
to you for ~~their~~ increase of happiness, that she is bound
to you in gratitude - your courage in speaking to both
her & her husband was no doubt of essential use.
When we are sustained and encouraged by those we
love, we are capable of mighty efforts - and God gives
us strength to reverse - It would delight you to see our
sister Hays, she has so sustained the consistency of her
character during her trials. Ellen's state of health keeps
her anxious - she has symptoms which indicate a disease
of the heart, or else a very bad state of her nervous sys-
tem, and has suffered almost as much since her return
as she did here. Sister holds herself in readiness to go to her.
When ever these attacks come on, but her unwillingness
to give up house keeping, or to live with either of her chil-
dren has determined her to spend the winter at home
unless a sick child should require her care -

Sarah has been in Bordentown almost four weeks. Anne
came home on Friday and has gone up to bring her back.
Mary is so near her confinement that the girls do not like
to leave her, until all her preparations are made, and
I suppose Becky will accompany Mr R. - who is on a visit
that for on his homeward journey. I do not know whether
they have come to any conclusion as to the period of their
marriage, but from what Becky told you suppose there

Mrs Benjamin Grant

Levington N.Y.

