

Jan'y 9th 1839.

2 Thousands thanks sweet sister, for the happiness
your two last letters have bestowed. I did not mean to have
been your debtor on the New Year, but old Time on his silent
march overtook me before my duties were fulfilled and well
I fear have many registers against me - when my great account
is called for - of ommissions not only through ignorance but delay,
it is well to have a point in every year, to sum up our
accounts, as well for our moral improvement as for the affairs
of business with our fellow beings - and truly I have had a
change this morning that will carry me back through
many years of my life, to examine my conscience for actions
and motives of action for feelings indulged, without ^{the} caution
of judgment - and to trace consequences through a long train
of causes, up to the present unsatisfactory result -

Our Brother Simon is ill, and has for some time been labouring
under a disease, for which as yet he has found no remedy - tho'
he has successively tried the skills of various Physicians - you know
our long estrangement has not destroyed my affection for him
or my interest in his family - and about ten days ago, or more -
I determined to go out to see him - our sisters & Pender soon
joined me, we were admitted to his chamber, but very cordially
received, particularly me - he looks very sick, but does not
seem conscious of the dangerous state, his Drs & family appear
nervous - I told Mr Elling a day or two ago, that I was going again -
and this morning he came, to tell me of an interview he had
with Louisa in the street - in which she said she thought our
visit had been ^{made} with the intention of asking forgiveness - and she
summed up such a long string of injuries received from me -
from the first time that I saw her - & during all our intercourse
that I do not wonder at the evil looks of my brother, supposing
that he has influenced him to think of me much
the same manner -

in times gone by
 Now I thought that I was doing a duty and making money
 sacrifices in favor of my brother's family - the first out of love &
 gratitude to him - the second because I incurred the disapprobation
 of those I lived with, and was bound to obey in all things, not
 immediately against my conscience - and in my intercourse with
 these children, my affections were so much engaged that I could
 all the embarrassments & disadvantages of their situation I took
 to heart, and when they cast me off in the family rupture I grieved
 about them and pity them still - God knows what is to become
 of them - when their Father is no more -

There is a part of your letter My Dear Sister, that gives
 me much concern. You speak of your health as seriously
 affected - but as your dear Husband, is watchful - and besides
 you look I hope soon to have better accounts. Your New Year's
 gift I treasure in "my heart of hearts" and give due credence to
 your husband's feelings, nor indeed is my confidence one jot
 the less - nor has my love ever known abatement - it is agreeable
 sometimes, and they not on the New Year to examine our
 hearts and renew compacts when we can, of affection
 or trusts as we do leaves - strengthening the old ones, by free
 and willing offerings - and sometimes raising our zealous
 estimation by the renewing of our first loves and hopes
 of future improvements - every parent realises such
 feelings - and in the various relations I have been placed
 in, both private and public. I have experienced it too -
 if I did not dislike to trouble you with the vexatious
 changes & chances of some of my affairs, I would like you
 how quarrelsome I have become, and what sharp notes have
 been uttered - but I would rather turn your attention to the fam-
 ily circle, where I know both you and dear Ben take a deep
 interest. Sister Mary has just left me, she spent the evening here
 and when she can be induced to take exercise, is pretty well - her

if it fatigues you. I hope Mr Cooper is mending. Dear Ben is
always seeking to do good. May God reward him, what a blessing
he must enjoy in contributing to the comfort of a good man, and
receiving the blessings of his family. Hyman has just come in and been
inclined to file one of these love ends - so I shall only tell you Menham and
hers to you from Savannah. Becky desires me to enquire for a kiss - and I
repeat again & again my warmest approval of being your & my dear Brother's
most fond & devoted Pdy -

P
D

Wm Benjamin Heath

Leaving for N.Y.

Dear Ben

It is a long time since I have written to you, indeed
I have not had any thing interesting to communicate, Becky keeps you
advised of family affairs & Joseph of what is going on in the mer-
cantile community. Norton has never written to me about the
Lot and I suppose now will not. If Higgins requires another I will
send the one you have, and I will execute another and send you
I thank you for the arrangement of my note, my next will be due
14 Feb^y, which he pleased to negotiate in the same manner -

Simon has been confined to his House for the last two months, and
altho he does not consider himself dangerous, his Physicians do not
think he can recover, his disease is of that nature that they can not
reach it - tender my best love to Maria, & the Boys. ever truly Yours H. Smith