

Phil. Feb 8<sup>th</sup> 1839

Thanks my Dearest Maria for your consideration in taking us the alarm of seeing our dear Brother accident first in the news paper, I pray God he is recovering from the effects of it before this - we shall never be secure from the <sup>danger of</sup> ~~effects~~ <sup>of</sup> steam travelling until the Engineers of Rail roads and Steam boats are made responsible for all accidents that occur - and I think this would be a fit occasion for an appeal to the Legislature of your State to begin the work of reform. Will you not have the kindness to write again, or induce our dear Ben to do so (if he is able) in order to allay anxiety as to the extent of injury he has sustained - you behaved like a heroine as you always do, on great occasions, when you have time to muster firmness, and now your other agreeable process will be employed to make confinement sit easy on the invalid.

I received your letter on Wednesday, and was sorry to find that my account of Simons situation & L's conduct had so much excited my affectionate Ben - you were right in supposing the circumstances communicated had not given more pain than I expected - for in fact I have so long taken an impartial view of the past, that I was not so much surprised at her feelings, knowing how deeply her pride was wounded - and this is her ruling passion, but I regretted its operation at this time, when I thought we might be mutually useful to each other and to one in whom each had an interest & a sympathy. Thank God our brother is recovering - and I shall not again be subjected to the trial, of feeling my self an unwelcome guest - indeed you may tell your husband that I did not mean to go again.

I am free to confess that I greatly lacked judgment in the  
commencement of my knowledge of this family - but never suspected  
that I could be charged with malicious motives or injustice what-  
soever - but enough of this uncomfortable subject - I only  
regret that in this beautiful world, we make unto ourselves  
so many unnecessary evils. Two of the Coopers - Sam<sup>l</sup> & Ely have  
resided at Camden N.J. for about 10 months. I have brought  
a suit in Chancery against Simon & L P. - or rather I suppose against  
the two estates, which I should suppose would be troublesome to  
the parties concerned - and rather expensive to them - who have  
such difficulty in procuring the necessaries of life - Becky continues  
to live, but is on the mere threshold of existence - enduring pain &  
anguish daily - and repeatedly inflicting it on those who surround her  
& see her sufferings -

You ask me my dear sister, what books we are reading besides  
the bible? - Why we have accompanied you this Palestine with John  
Stevens, and had all our veneration excited in the wonderful narra-  
tion of the excavated city - and our patriotism warmed amidst the deso-  
lation of Jerusalem - and are now deeply interested with George  
Combe & Spurzheim on the science of phrenology. Combe has  
just finished a course of the most interesting lectures I ever  
listened to - and many a time have I wished for you, to excuse  
your mind in this study of nature through a medium, which  
if not true (which I believe it is) is so ingenious and plausible, in  
the lessons of Combe, that it opens a channel of thoughts  
leading to high & holy contemplations - If you have not read  
a small work of his entitled on the Constitution of Man  
I can recommend it, as highly interesting & useful - what  
you would particularly like in his lectures, is his appli-  
cation of phrenology to the improvement of education, and  
he addresses it to women & mothers particularly with good  
effect, and gives examples from numerous anecdotes that  
has fallen under his own observation - in the experience of 20  
years devoted to practical science - he is quite disinterested

Our mothers send their love. Richard will go  
 next week to Washington, to be with Anna -  
 we heard from Sophie last week. The family  
 are quite well. The promises seem a small  
 thing. Dec 27-71.

Sending for My

Mrs Benjamin Grath

*[Red ink flourish]*

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a line and he has not answered - Well just I expect John  
 little Mrs. Roberts you saw at the store last summer. He  
 has many so long - and you mentioned that you had  
 the two left then little children - John & Priscilla were then  
 last year, they both lost of riding to you - a Priscilla says she  
 is very happy in Denmark. in the midst of a cold family  
 her often of husband is interested and of course her enjoyment  
 greater - God bless you May that Priscilla & sister Mary and you  
 be all in the happy Kingdom where you desire to be.

his I should love to do so too - pray that John, like him so, and  
 give him such assurance of my love, so you can see how heartily  
 I am sincere, as the matter of his heart and affection in mine -  
 our mothers are well & send their love to you both, I shall write  
 to you by this says week, but he should hear that then is heart  
 and will hear to other things - in his last letter he mentioned that  
 he had not heard from you for a time & he presumed  
 was a hint of a few days that week - but it is nearly a