

Sept 4, 1839

Your letter my dear Maria found us at Saratoga Springs, where my health became much better, and your sweet counsel spoke most eloquently to my heart. There are times when the voice of the charmer is unheeded charm it ever so wisely, and it must then be that wounded affection wounds unheeded by reason - but your soft sympathy did not fall unheeded by me. It brought the comfort you intended to convey, and I believe I regret more the long period of estrangement than even that final separation which being decreed by the Eternal, we are bound to submit to patiently. I feel that my Brother was reconciled to me, tho I had no appearance of it from his lips, and I believe his daughter is anxious to repair all the evil we sometimes suspected her of exciting. Poor girl, she is now placed in a most responsible situation. Two of her sisters are afflicted with ^{an} infirmity of constitution that will probably keep them always dependent on her care. They have had a cast of Brother's head taken, which I have is very good, and it is the only likeness that remains of him.

I left home very unwillingly because Joe was indisposed, and you may suppose, how uncomfortable I felt at finding him a fortnight afterwards, still confined to his bed. He was so anxious to have me go that he postponed getting well until we departed.

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and then put himself in to the hands of the Dr. it is
almost a month since and he is not yet well enough to
sit up more than two hours a day tho' both he & the Dr
say he is recovering and in a few days will be released
from "durance vile" - So has also been a prisoner to the
house for several days - the Congress water has not done its
duty this year to him, he took cold at Sacatoga and has
not got rid of the consequence yet - we found Rosa &
Sara here with their Mother. Sara's children are perfectly
lively, and our dear Richa, is devoted to them, their
inconstant caressing is delightful to her & Sara's pebble
very amusing - she left Ellen better, and promising to
take care of her self during her absence - for her Mother
must return next month and continue with her during
her confinement - if she is fortunate in that event, we
may hope her health will be improved - Rosa is not con-
tinent in good health, and left us yesterday on a southern
tour with her husband - our dear Miriam is just as you
would wish to see her - in good spirits and bearing such a
contented happy expression as gives assurance that
all is well with her - she has made herself agreeable to all
her husband's family, and given them a place in her affection
so that she has the prospect of enjoying a social circle
of kind relatives - which having no children of her own is the
next best source of domestic happiness - her husband being
devoted to her and very fond of his family - Reeky is not
soon to be married - Mr H - was appointed last year by the
Governor to an office that would have made him comfortable
but the loco pro Legislature did not confirm his appointment
- the house is now changed - and if he is wise will
fulfillal liberty to settle himself

He looks charmingly and seems to have enjoyed himself much
this summer - will you present me affectionately to my old
friend Mrs Vertue - and tell her I have been among the garden
and beech trees of Eliza Fenner's grand child - and yet
I can hardly realize that old age & death has put a blot
upon us - so fresh is the memory of days we enjoyed together.
Gertrude Meredith is still an invalid - and no change has
taken place in poor Minnie's situation - her husband has not
written, nor appeared to claim her -

Mrs Benjamin Grant

Mrs E. Macaulay Livingston N.Y.

present us all with the warmest affection to our dear
father, and the boys - My love to Sara Bodley & your
mother, and believe me ever my most dear friend
Truly & fondly
Your attached friend
Eliza W

Sept 4th - 1839