

June 15th 1840

It is very long My dear Sister, since we have
 had any intercourse with each other. but if my
 memory is correct you are in my debt a letter,
 however, if you will permit me to believe that I
 can entertain you for half an hour, I will occupy
 the time, between the girls going to bed, and Jos'
 coming home, to tell you how much I miss your
 letters, in this long suspension. Mary Boswell
 talked so much of you & the boys & my dear Brother
 that I could almost fancy myself in the wheel
 circle round your domestic fire side. She spent
 a fortnight with us at Christmas time, and won
 her way to our hearts, she wrote to Sara how happy
 she was on her return to Bowdoin. to find her first
 letters from home, her health appears good, and she
 enjoyed excellent spirits, several of her school
 friends were in town with her. Since her departure
 I have been busily employed with African Affairs.
 you did not send me your report to help me out
 and we had no sooner united them through the an-
 nual. than one of the Teachers resigned, and now
 we are put to fresh trouble. but this is a trifle as
 times go. all who meddle with public concerns

must expect changes, and when the men have so much harder trials it is not worth while to speak of ours - You sympathized so affectionately in the misdeeds of the Meredith family that I cannot forbear to mention their present situation - Mr M. you know is sadly broken in health, and the recent defalcation of the bank - has subdued his spirits also, and injured his fortune - Gertrude is wasting away with an incurable disease, and poor Miriam, mours her own hard lot, but realises the "uses of adversity". so many heavy afflictions would have borne her down, had she not learned to ask for aid, where it alone can be found, in up lifting her soul to God. her whole character seems to be changed, she is sedate, but composed, and shews to render herself useful by affectionate watchfulness on her parent & sister - Anna Ogden is here with her children to spend the winter which is a consolation to them all. how constantly when thinking of our departed friend Mrs M - do the prophetic words recur to my memory - "that the righteous, are removed from the evil to come" - The effects of her good example will still be a blessing to her children -

We have just had letters from Eliza, and you would love her better than ever, if you could read her letters which speak so humbly & yet so sad, of her recent trial the babe she received so gratefully - cherished so fondly and lost so soon - seems to have wounded her deeply - but her health is better than it was - she has left her room after six months confinement, and I hope when the Spring opens she will be quite restored - the other girls are well and their letters keep our sister cheerful, and give her occupation

remember me most affectionately to your wife, said
Bodley & all my friends - and embrace my beloved brother
& your sons for me - Good night

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Wm. Benjamin



Wm Benjamin

Lexington Mass.