

July 26th 1840

You had been sick My Dear Sister when you last wrote on the 4th Inst. and I have been anxiously wishing to hear of your recovery - but no such glad tidings has reached us, and tho' I can see the old adage "no news is good news" one does not feel quite satisfied of its infallibility when cases of such interest is involved.

I wrote you on the day poor Freddy Cohen died, her life had been endangered, not endangered for several years, and yet her loss is heavily felt by her family. The patience & cheerfulness with which her long trial was borne, and the virtues of her character during that time witnessed from the families of former years made her an object of respect and affection to them, Rachel particularly is grieved her "occupation gone" and life appears a blank. A little while I hope will cheer her up, and some new duties open a happier path than she has trod for a long time. - hers has been a singular history - she has had strong affections, always thwarted or disappointed, or painfully exercised - and yet she retains the simplicity & freshness of feeling that in most characters belongs only to youth - her sorrows burst out in poetry she has treasured in her memory. Perhaps fixed there by being applied to her early griefs - Freddy seems to have taken the place of her first love she has nursed & watched and cherished her to the last -

and laboured while she strived to keep her from feeling
the effects of their poverty -

I did not see Mrs. Beecher on her return from Boston
she staid but a short time in town and has gone to the
See there. she procured Miss Proctor to pay her a visit
at Portland on her way. The old Dr. must be happy
to have another opportunity of seeing his child, for his soul
is almost run, he retains his intellect, but his sight is
leaving all almost gone - he told Mr. Meredith some time
ago, that "the days of life were very bitter." poor Mr. M. would
have responded to that opinion, tho' length of years have
not drained his cup. a bright is on him, that will make
added years a burden - he is in Canada with his daughter

I should like indeed to see your young ones, and
am glad they are with you. sweet young intelligent girls
and the most interesting objects in nature, and to cultivate
these minds will be a delightful occupation for you.
But my dear Ellen and then my sweet Isaac, have given
me almost a mother's privilege, and my heart clings to them
both as if they had been my daughters - Mary too writes
in all duty & affection to me, I trust my dear Maria, you may
realize great comfort from these tokens. the good you do & then
thus relieving to reward your care - you do not know how
much you have gratified our good brother Etting - he
thinks you say & do every thing better than any body else
and he is punctuated by your homage - good old man!
Isabella is indeed a patient sufferer - her example may
well be heeded - Mrs. Green said to me one day, that
her life seemed so useful to every body, that her fortitude
was sometimes over cast by the reflection - and yet it
might be a provision of providence that some of his
creatures were appointed "to do, and others to suffer."
therefore she must abide his will, and be content. Isabella
like Mrs. Green must hold that consolation to be heard
and by bearing well the lot appointed be the example

The death of Dechard was sudden at the last, tho he had long
 been an invalid. Hannah & Frances are in the country with
 their children, they are well, tho much grieved at their loss -
 the family are all well and send much love to you & Dear
 Ben, it is so long since he has written, that whether his
 correspondents have deserved it or not I regret not seeing his
 letters, even if no more than the subscription meet my
 eye. When may we hope to see him - when may we hope
 to see you all - Miriam does not visit us this year, she
 writes that the Southern summer agrees with her very well
 and since that is to be her home I rejoice that it does - so that
 her husband may pursue his profession without hindrance from
 her - she is ambitious of setting an example to northern wives

601

2100

1500

1500

3500

5000

1750

2600

Sample

Sample

Mrs Benjamin Grady

Lexington Ky.

Read at Concord Mass



who think it necessary to abandon their homes every summer
 and then break up the domestic circle and tax their husbands
 labors & patience annually - may write soon my dear Maria
 to relieve our fears for your health, present my love to
 my Mother & nephews, and believe me with best wishes
 for your happiness ever your affectionate sister R. G.