

111 Bk of Jacob
 Damer was blood accursed

Aug. 27th 1840

I received your letter from Leavenworth very dear sister, and was right glad to be carried back in idea to that delightful home scene of your family and the beautiful country I so much admired & enjoyed in the agreeable visit we made there together. I have a thousand times reflected on the bright moon light evenings, we passed so quietly wandering about the lawn, or sitting in the shade of the magnolia trees conversing, of one interesting matter or other, like the forest seemed peopled with these original inhabitants, ~~which~~ the foot print of man rarely intruded.

I should like to have made one of your summer party, to have seen your homesake nieces, and heard your observations on the book of Jacob. That extraordinary chronicle of bible characters! There is a portion of it very agreeable to me, but so many improbable histories and some impossible exploits, entirely destroy its credibility, and one cannot ^{but} wonder that the author or his translator could expect it would ever pass for the veritable book of Jacob referred to in the scriptures. An intelligent Hebrew scholar raised my expectations so high in favor of it before it appeared that I was sadly disappointed, when I found it impossible, as I proceeded in the work, to class it with any thing better than an old romance. It was very affecting to hear Abraham & Isaac conversing on the journey, as they journeyed to Mount Moriah, and to find that Sarah should the fortitude, and faith that supported them.

but the introduction of Satan, and this malignant effect
on the life of Jacob is shocking - peculiarly so the next
event recorded in scripture history, is the death of Jacob.
it is true she had reached a good old age and in
the course of nature, might be called on to resign her
life and happily too, for as a wife & mother she was
happy and triumphant but we would rather think
she had gone down peacefully to "the place appointed
for all living," than to be killed by sudden joy, and
the fallen angel the agent. Those who would take
Bible history as the foundation of their works should be
careful never to violate the spirit and influence of the
sacred book, nor assign motives for events not borne
out by its authority. The beautiful history of Joseph
too is spoiled in this book - and Moses suffers so many
adventures, that we scarcely recognize him as the plain
man "meek & slow of speech" as he records himself to
be - but enough of this, we are threatening another paper
is Jewish story, as heart thrilling as any recorded since
their dispersion - I mean the persecutions of Damascus
and the still enduring sufferings of the poor tortured
persons, who are accused of unnatural & unlawful crimes
of which it is impossible they can be guilty. In Europe
& America great exertions are making for their relief -
there is a meeting to be held this evening here, and I believe
all the community feel an interest in it. My own
removed a very gratifying letter from Dr. Decherel
offering to co-operate with the Societies in any measures
desired, and saying had a general meeting of citizens
been called, one Christian friend would have been
attended - but what can be done, unless the governments
of civilized nations combine to save them - The Jews have

I have some doubts whether you will be able to read this letter, for all the maniacs are bad, and badly used but may try to decipher enough to convince you of my kind affection I don't know for you and all your dear family - George's birth day came at last as by accident. He has too claimed our good wishes on the same date - he is away, and comfortably employed - I was quite mortified to hear from Anne Abernethy that Mr Vestre had returned

I am like to see a letter or to you soon I don't want to write leaving my heart full long - receive it then dear, and distribute a portion of it to Uncle and the boys - for they and you are of the thought of with affection
To your friends - All

Mrs Benjamin Gray

Leaving to R. Y.



home without my seeing her, I called at her lodgings when she came from Boston, and heard she was gone to the sea shore and upon enquiring from her sister was told she was gone home. Mary Powell is disappointed too as she wished to send some remembrance home, and had a Daguerotype likeness taken, to be sent by her. We heard from Mary by one of her school fellows last week she is well. Remember me to Jack Bradley & yr sister and to my dear nephews and my Brother. God bless you all with your hearts desire & make you happy near your true friend & sister. R. Y.