

Oct 27th - 1840

I have great happiness my dearest Maria
 in telling you of the safe arrival of our dear Ben
 & Howard, which I should have done before, had
 not thought that you were already informed of it.
 It would not be easy to describe the pleasure we
 experience in ~~again~~ having all our brothers together
 once more - if you and the other dear boys were with
 us we should have nothing to wish for - Howard has
 so grown that I can hardly identify him with the
 little fellow we so much loved five years ago - but
 he has improved quite as much as he has grown.
 Reuben says he is just the thing he ought to be - so
 frank and gay and natural in his expressions
 and has such an open expression of countenance
 that he wins one heart and confidence at the same
 time, they found Mary Boswell in town and he has
 a whole set of school girls to bear - he drove
 Mary & Sarah Ashe out to the Sacred College this
 morning and is already familiar with the
 city localities. I can appreciate the sacrifice
 at which you parted from him but hope the
 advantage he will derive from it will be ample
 & reward you - if he is placed any where in our
 vicinity I shall be careful of his comfort and at
 any rate his kinsmen will see that he will be attended to.
 We are daily expecting Leggie Blair & her Father
 who has determined to accompany her to the Hawaiian

I hope her state of health is not so desperate as you apprehend, tho' her physicians & parents think it proper that she should avoid our winter climate. our dear Ben has written to Mr B. to urge her mother to accompany her as it appears such a sad thing to place an invalid among strangers in a strange country. where she would be sick & pine for the tender care of her affectionate mother. and they would be equally unhappy in the separation. Mr Blair will make the voyage with her, and then return. she is to stay with Mrs Micklehaan formerly Miss Randolph, the granddaughter of Mr Jefferson who resides there. The vessel in which they propose sailing leaves N. York about the 5th of next month. and the several days had been appointed for her coming on here, to consult Dr Jackson - she lingered back to the last that she may be as long with her mother as possible. I hope Ben's letter will induce Mr B. to come with her at least to the port of embarkation.

Bessy has been to pay us a three days visit, and looked so happy and satisfied with her residence in N. York. that we cease to regret her absence. she just missed her uncle, Joe came home the day after she left, and a few days after Ben & Howard. I am sorry she did not meet them ^{it} until now. and have the pleasure we are enjoying. for which my dear Sister, we are so much indebted to you. I will still hope that we shall meet both here and at your home. you will bring us sweet Laura. to advise & love

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Chas Benjamin Gray

Lexington Ky.