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July 16th - 1849

We were happy my Dear Maria, in not hearing of our dear Ben's illness - until we heard of his recovery, some gentleman told us that he was indisposed, which he did not repeat at home, but the joy of receiving a letter was great indeed, when he recognized Ben's writing - and then for the first time told how anxious he had been.

but I am disposed to find fault with you my sister, for not getting one of the boys to write, while you were too much engaged, because I do not wish to be made the pain - or lose the privilege of sharing the trials under which you and my dear brother suffer, but I thank God for his recovery and most heartily congratulate you there on - I know you have sympathized with our dear little Becky in her recent trial and disappointment, while we have been so much taken up with anxiety about her - that we left caring for the child in the dearest conversation about its mother, Saca's last letter tells that she sat up part of an hour, and was gaining strength, so we begin to look forward to her restoration with confidence & hope. it is almost there

since her confinement and she is still helpless
and too feeble to see any one but those who nurse
her, I had a letter from Mary Brewster on Tuesday
they are preparing for a weeks visit to the sea shore
Mrs M. is to have a house to her own family, and will
remove all the school into sea air for a little while
which is particularly agreeable to Mary - she has
two or three new pupils, young ladies from Carolina
who I hope will make up Mary's losses -

Howard was with us a few days this month -
and looks very well, both health & spirits excellent
but I know Joe has told you all about him, for
he was so gratified with Mr W's report that he
could not rest until he had showed his pleasure
tells his parents -

I have at length dug down Peter, sent
you a summer dress - the various delays in
attending to your request - first by my being out
of town, and then not finding a conveyance, that
the shops were emptied of early importations
and the notion I have now was really the
best choice I could make for the season, I
hope it will suit your taste and in a few
weeks - that is, the early autumn importations
may enable me to find something prettier by
way of decoration - I hope to hear from you
very soon and that you will excuse Peas
account of him self and add his entire & perfect

after the experiment has been tried - our Brothers
and Sisters desire me to present them affectionately
to you and our dear Ben. I pray dear sister let me
hear from you soon - Give my love to the boys -
while you will send Bernard to see us this fall, if
you do not mean to come yourself? but if can she
come - it would delight the heart of your affectionate
R.G.

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Mrs Benjamin Gray

Lexington Ky.

