

March 27th

But dear Ben's last letter says you were not well
 Maria, and so dear, you must have to be tormented by
 inquiries, and hopes, and fears, and prayers, and the long
 etes of anxious affection, for verily it is not only my own
 solicitude that I have to express, but our brethren become
 such projects that I should write, if it were only to tell them
 that you were honestly in my debt, and would no doubt
 soon speak for yourself. but I have other things to tell
 you which I am sure you take an interest in - The
 Atlantic arrived on Sunday last in 98 days from Canton
 and Ben was not in her - poor Harriet was sadly disheveled
 altho she knew her husband's determination before. The
 Captⁿ during his voyage out was riled with a fit of
 insanity which rendered the dangers & discomforts of the
 ship so intolerable that he determined not to suffer a second
 - since such another calamity, and as he had no power to
 supply the Captⁿ place, procured passages for him self &
 Nathaniel in other ships. the latter has arrived - but it
 may be several weeks before we see Ben, as he could not
 sail until he had dispatched the Atlantic, and the Globe
 was not expected to turn on its axis until the commencement
 of the New Year, now the poor Captain who was the unfor-
 -wate cause of all this disappointment, is an object of great
 sympathy. he is a young man, but recently married, and
 left home suffering what the poet says in all the catalogue
 of human miseries - is the worst - Jealousy. he mastered it on
 the broad ocean - but when they entered the China Sea, where
 skill in navigation was most important. the sight of land
 and the thought of woman - quite overcame him.

and for these weeks, the ship & the ship, crew were ex-
posed to many dangers, besides those of the sea. The invader
remained in China, and has brought the Atlantic safe to our
shores. I hope the cargo will remunerate Ben for all his
troubles and that he will arrive safely to console his wife
for her year of trial - but O my dear sister how small does
her cares appear when compared to poor Mrs Rutledges con-
dition - her husband went never to return! he died at Chark
ton on the 13th Inst. he had been absent four months and until
within ten days of his death. his Mother even was not apprised
of his danger. the first account of his unexpected death reached
his wife on the day of his burial - she resolved to go to him
and immediately left home for New York to sail in a packet
on the day after. something detained the vessel for two days, and
a few hours before she was to embark. letters arrived announc-
ing Mr Rutledges death. her Mother brought her back to her
orphans family - but so changed that I cannot look at her with-
out weeping. a slight has passed over her heart, & the very
root of happiness seems to have perished - she talks weep-
fully of her husband, but the brightness has gone from her eye
the colour from her cheek, and her light step seems rooted to
the dull earth on which she treads. the hope of her little daughter
to return, ^{happy} and the accounts of his last words, & wishes seems alone
to support her and yet she is deeply impeded with the additional
duties & cares which this afflicting bereavement lays upon her, and
she talks of her two widowed Mothers, whose experience & exam-
ple will aid her, tired of her reliance on the goodness of God - alas!
alas! that human happiness should be so frail & short lived!
I never saw it bloom more brightly than in this interesting family,
and now it has gone - "and its place shall know it no more!"
Harriet brought her sister Caroline to Phil^a with her, on a
visit to her friend Mrs Greene, and her presence is of great
service in cheering her, as soon as Ben comes they will go
to house keeping, and then she will have so many more things

I have just come from Mrs Pintard, who has promised to put
 in the box enclosing your bonnet, a paper pattern of the Beebe
 snow bonnet, which is all the fashion here. They are made of double
 ble straw like the one you bought last summer, and are nearly the
 shape of the English college bonnet. I hope the silk one will suit
 your taste, as the colour is needed & becoming - Caroline Mass is wearing
 a pretty cap what she says. She will send me to imitate, if it
 suits, it shall be put into the box likewise -

Mrs Benjamin Grate

Leicester Ky

McChristie

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every body here send, love to you, dear Ken and the sweet
 boys. I beg my dear sister that you will write soon and
 particularly about your own health - you shall have
 more books as soon as they appear and we can get on
 very well - God bless you all & believe me devotedly

Your sister
 R.G.

29th