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My Dear Sister

I have just thrown down "the life of John Hancock chose" for the pleasure of holding a little converse with you; I am charmed with this book. it contains such a large range of delightful letters from distinguished men & women, who write with the same freedom and ease, which makes up the soul & spirit of genuine unresistance - ~~one~~ sympathies with the writers who express such thoughts, as similar circumstances would bring up in our own minds & hearts, and tho they are better expressed than we might find words to put them in, yet they feel as in good harmony with ourselves, because we appreciate the beauty of their simplicity there is one writer however, I am disappointed in - the friend of Cooper - the Rev. John Newton. he is so austere - self condemning and evangelical, that I cannot bestow on him one feeling of love my Cooper had prepared for him - and I think Mrs. Hancock seems to stiffen and grow demure when she addresses him - some of her religious meditations seems to be the offspring of his letters. while Dr. Paine's brightness here party with a glow of heaven itself. I love a joyful gratitude acknowledging the graces & gifts bestowed by providence, and in these men rich in holy gifts, and set up as teachers to the community, why "lead them up a thorny steep" - when the "primrose path" blooms so beautifully to the very garden of paradise I doubt the philosophy of preparing for disappointments, for when we have experienced much happiness, the arrival of crosses teaches us how to bear them - sunshine & storm, are alike necessary to the salubrity of the natural atmosphere, and so much sorrow & joy temper our moral constitution for the growth of those virtues which make us capable of conceiving the evil for which we are designed - I have read very few of Hancock's pure works but mean to get some of them, immediately -

I have received your Boston reports and congratulate you on the interest your community since in your success - you will now go on prosperously, and I hope at the end of 20 years you may be able to look back with as much satisfaction on your labors as we do here - but our good Mrs Hale is becoming very infirm - she is wearing out in our service - we have got an assistant matron - but she is no more to be compared to the principal - than I to Hebeba. Your report is beautiful - if you have taken any thing from mine, you have worked up the old materials so as to make them much better than when they were new - and in such a manner that no one would know them again - I am glad our meeting was over when your paper arrived or I should have been envious of the whole affair being so much more noticed in Lexington, than here - the Rev Mr Jones made us a preaching of considerable length - but his style is bad and his reading worse - however thank God, a few of our friends attended - and thirty five poor little children were present, who sang a hymn written for the occasion in the Asylum - by a young woman the teacher in our girls school - your favorite Emeline is now a free woman, and employed in the Asylum - she is very proud of your notice & constantly enquires when I have heard from Mrs Gratz, and if her family are all well - My man yesterday received a letter from Pittsburg, mentioning that your box had been detained there some days on account of there being a scarcity of freight - but that it was sent forward on the 12th Dec^r - so that I hope you have had your cloaks during the very cold weather last week. your dress is waiting for a western traveler and I hope soon to speed it on its journey - but should you want a hint of the present costume before the arrival of your box you ^{must} have some of our ladies have been to Constantinople, and their heads are turned "a la Turke" - turbans are preferred to caps, and composed of any article from velvet to golden gauze - one brother Jo has furnished some of his beautiful handkerchiefs, which you know how to use.

When I last wrote I told you how ill Becky Cohen was - she is still alive, and somewhat revived. the wholey confined to her bed and helpless on one side -

one sister's & niece are all well. I wish you could hear all that we say of you, and how often you are discussed. If examples are wanted to illustrate what is most excellent in domestic scenes Aunt Maria or Uncle Ben must furnish it. or these boys are drawn in, for varieties of young characters - usage or to lavish expressions of love upon. if the company unfortunately do not know those personages - a candle is held up to the portraits - and they must be poor physiognomists - or phrenologists if they do not see the development of such a quality - or the expression of the other - Mrs. G. even was called to fill your dress by the shoulders Sally has drawn. Dear sister, you do not know how ingenious our love is of ways to keep you all constantly before our bodily eyes - as you are ever present in our minds.

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Mrs. Benjamin Grath

Lexington Ky

John says Mrs. Grath will excuse him - he would wait any time to hear from her - he says Mrs. G. will be pleased to accept his remembrance -

tell our beloved Ben & your boys how cordially we embrace them Jack has been absent almost a fortnight but we expect him now in a few days. his office is rather severe in the winter as country taverns cannot be very agreeable residences at this season - old John has brought in his hay and castors. it is Sunday and the privilege of an early dinner cannot be denied him - So dearest I must say adieu, and may God Bless you every day Heavens your own attached sister P. G.