

July 18<sup>th</sup>

How I do long to congratulate you, My dear Sister on the entire disappearance of the pestilence from your neighbourhood - it has lingered so long, and continues to pick off those who relax a little in the vigilance attention to strict which Providence requires. that I feel constantly anxious lest some one you care for might suffer. This you will say is useless - since the Almighty has led you safely through greater danger, and your minds are too deeply impressed with the necessity of caution to allow any of you to transgress in the proscribed indulgences - Yet how can one escape fear where they have so much at stake? Flaubert in one of his admirable works says "Fear is an entirely gratuitous infusion of bitterness in the cup of life" and yet he believes one half of the sufferings experienced in our pilgrimage may be attributed to that one source - I believe he is right in some respects, for I acknowledge the agony of fear when those we love are in danger is more severe than many real evils that are inflicted from causes that only affect our selves - but we should have to be born again - and educated over - before that feeble ingredient in our nature can be eradicated - you have disciplined your mind nobly My dear Sister - yet I know you are sensitive on some points - tho' you would not shrink from personal risks and I am sure I never experienced such dread while the Cholera was in this city as daily weighed down my mind. since the fatal disease has raged in Lexington -

The newspaper one dear Ben sent yesterday is not calculated to allay anxiety, but it is very judicious to cheer the actual state of the place, and give keener caution - I do not know what our physicians would say to 60 grains calomel, but it

sounds enormous to me, who never heard of more than 10 being given - one of the most alarming circumstances we have to contend with, is that so little is known of the treatment proper in a disease that has spread so far - visited so many climes - where the science of medicine has made such general progress, and notwithstanding all that has been written in Europe & America a new practice is tried wherever it makes its first appearance, and it every where baffles skill & experiment, and is still the same awful messenger of destruction -

Bessy Nurses has just returned home after an absence of four weeks - she has been no further than Bordentown, but the Murats have brought her back to get permission for a journey to Black River. I do not know whether her Father will consent, but they are all so fond of her that Mr M feels it hard to resist their persuasion, & I should not be surprised if they succeeded. The family are all scattering in different directions - Ben & Samuel go to morrow to Cape May - Ellen & her Mother next week to Long Branch - Ellen's health is still so debilitated that she feels the necessity of changing the air, and Richa is as necessary to her, as she is to her little Josephine - it is well for her none of her sisters are married, for if they expected to share their Mother's attention in any proportion to her claims, she would be badly off - the present excursion will I hope be of mutual advantage.

I hope my dear sister that all your boys are well again, and that you & our dear Ben, are restored to more peace of mind than you have hoped for some time

*Life*

Wm Benjamin Grant

Leaving ton. 24 y

7  
JUL 14 1842