

July 31 -

It does not become me, my dear Maria, to chide you for lateness when your last letter remains unanswered but we have been somewhat at a loss where to address you and I knew one dear little Beechey's letter would tell you all about your sons & sisters here - Rose must have been greatly disappointed on Monday for she had notice from town that she must come in to see you - as Harriet and the sisters of the house claimed your first visit and she thought greatly as she peeped her Wheatland home that it was fair you should enjoy the hospitalities of Hanover house and the gaieties of Richmond before came to refine yourselves at her domestic cottage - but the elements were against you - I cannot say the stars in their courses fought against your journey for never did I see brighter heavens unsullied whiteness but who could voluntarily quit the comforts of home while the winds blew so coldly - and every branch over head and every spot below is covered with ice? for the last fortnight the steep bells have been ringing merrily and every body who could rig up a body or harness a horse has been abroad in our streets. The snow is again falling to day so the pleasure will be prolonged until all have their fill - a beam of the last generation being on a sleighing party & dance in the country was asked for sentiment at supper - when toasts had failed - and he gave "more snow" - every one felt that it was an expression of his gratification. he was a man of few words and few ideas - and this brief sentiment was fastened on him - every winter George R - s wish was reiterated - and I am ashamed to say that his good nature & good qualities are forgotten at the close of the year - excepting when snow & steep bells revive his memory and the scene at "The Columbas" -

I told you in my last that the Bozys should accompany

Henry Elting to Washington, but the roads were so unimproved
that the rail-cars could not travel - the weather too cold - and
their Uncle Jo disapproved. so I was obliged to disappoint the
dear fellows, and I cannot but confess I was right glad, that
there were such good reasons for keeping them here some time longer.
they behaved extremely well on the occasion. Jo's plan is to take
them with him when you summons him to be your escort
home, as he purposed to spend some ten days with you at
Washington, but if this does not satisfy you, or rather if you
would rather have them come on earlier. John Plumb will
afford a safe conveyance for them. Their quarter at school
will be up on the 5th Feb - shall they continue going after that
period until they leave town? they both enjoy perfect health.
Bernard received a letter from his Father, who approved of his
having his tooth extracted, which tallying with your council
be referred to Mr Townsend, he mused over the accident think-
ing it was new, but said very decidedly that the root should be
immediately removed, confirming Girdett's opinion that the nerve
was so much exposed, that it would decay long before a new
tooth should be inserted - and from his age the position of the
other tooth be. The cavity would undoubtedly pile up in a
few years. and so my dear sister, your Bernard did not hesitate
about accomplishing the business and behaved a great deal better
than I did, for he had no fears, and sat down with lips bared
than I witnessed the scene. he says he is much more comfortable
than before the operation, for now he can eat without any sensation
of pain, and every day the matter is improving. I think both he
and Howard are very happy. they have become expert skaters,
and exercise some hours every day in the cold streets until
their cheeks are as red as roses. they are both writing to their
friends at home.

What sad havoc is making on our borders by the savages,
and what fearful results may be expected to the ill fated
race, when the troops are gathered - would our southern brethren
were in a state of better defence, for I fear they have an enemy

all day dear Becky I shall write to her soon again, for I was delighted
 with her letter - but my every day thoughts & occupations & habits would add little
 to her amusement or instruction, and might take up time she can spend more
 agreeably. if you see our other nieces Hannah & Rosa this week carry my love & good
 wishes to them. Jo will have little time to enjoy your society if you post home - it long
 but you will still be interested in her state, for she is always amiable & ever-
 getting. her nurse has been sent a fortnight ago - Sarah desires her best love
 to you - she is extremely attentive to the boys and has gained both their hearts
 Howard is as jealous of her love - as if it was to be exclusive - but she has
 this instant entered and asked for space for a few lines. In my dearest Sir I
 will say nothing as I know that will be acceptable to you May God Bless you -
 and have all your love in this lively keeping - believe me ever most fondly yours
 Wm.

Mrs Benjamin Grant

Washington City
 D. C.

Jo

I would not have asked Aunt Becky for room for a line to your any doubt
 but I had thought in my moment that I should have known that the
 or kind of her word with better than one of mine - but what is done - is done
 and that only we of legal things that we cannot help in the determination not
 to leave them. Howard and Aunt had advanced in his claim & told me the you that
 he is in the house. Sarah. Howard has been writing to his father & is well and good.
 with you and says my dear little boys for me - also saying you are - and that the
 last that I think I should have written one before that I am going home.
 down - though we should be happy to see you again.