

I am very grateful my dear Richer for your affection
etc communication, and believe me I sincerely participate your
joy on the occasion of dear Kitty's safety & happiness. This
day is one to her of maternal anxiety, but it is mitigated
by a sense of religious confidence in Him, who is all-merciful
and who ordained this covenant. every Mother in Israel
must be sensible of a secret joy in manifesting her grati-
tude for the blessing of a son and preservation thro' the perils
of his birth, in this act of obedience to the divine law. Your
dear Mother's presence will make her trial lighter. You must
again exercise your kindness towards us, and let us know
how Kitty is after her exertion, and how you all are after
yesterday's fast. You will think me very unreasonable
my dear Richer, to make claims on you, when I have been
so undeserving your indulgence. if to be sensible of my omission,
and sufficiently reprehensible will satisfy you, I need not fear to
make my request. and, if you should ever feel as stupid as
I have been this summer you will need no other apology from
me. In the pride of health and sensibility we are not willing
to allow that our mental capacities are dependent on the free
and regular circulation of the blood. but when languor prevails
the system we are brought to the humiliating conviction. I heard

a most energetic discussion on this subject some time ago, by a
very enthusiastic gentleman, who perhaps had never experienced
the head or tooth-ach, and could philosophize on the superiority
of mind over the machine which it inhabits, and thought it as
independent of the brain & ^{nerve} as your fingers would be of
a whole in your glove. but what says reason & nature on
this subject as well might your body affect to be indifferent
to heat & cold. the compact is too close & inseparable between
mind and body, for one power to act without the assistance of the
other. and while I have been oppressed by my ~~weak~~ ^{infirm} ~~infirm~~ ^{debility}
I have not felt the capacity to produce an agreeable letter, and
so have left my desk full of unanswered letters from all
my correspondents. and if you do not see in this some reasons
of dullness I shall attribute it to your nephew, who has no
doubt put you in such good humour, that you are disposed
to impart your own brightness to all you look upon.

May Miss Fanny been calculating the stars that she has
already decided on the profession of a son for the young stranger?
or is her true-love a soldier to whom she means to confide his train-
ing? The study of astrology is now almost forgotten, and well
it is so. Guy Mouniering would frighten one, if he were peering
into the nativity of our new nephews. one Horace I can assure
you is one of the finest boys of his age I ever saw. and if your
youngster reaches his five in two months you need not be ashamed
of him. pray what name has Kitty given to him? I suppose
as he is the first, he has to sustain the honor of the houses
from whence he springs, and has a family name. we were
here, in almost as much perplexity as the Shandean family on

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Albany 1820

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