

I will tell you to what I allude. Doct. Jerry, the young gentleman who assisted Doct. Butler & boarded in the family was taken sick a few weeks after I came here with the chamber-rash. Doct. & Mrs. B. gave up their room for his convenience and every thing was done for his comfort & to restore him to health, and to those pursuits which had engrossed his whole thoughts & time. But kind nursing Physicians, could not keep back the "fell destroyer" He died after five days

Letter from Julia Green to John P. Green
December 23, 1840
[John P. Green Mss. – A.L.S.]

[*Written upside-down*]: visit all the places of curiosity you can while there. Have you heard anything of the Bartram's Garden, or [*Ms. illegible*]. Try & go there as there is an oak tree there which is the only one of the kind known. This I learned from your scientific Tracts. It will not be a very pleasant time to go [*Ms. illegible*] in winter accept my best love and kindest wishes for your happiness. Christmas morning I closed my letter and sealed it yesterday to go to the office but as it did not go I have opened it to tell you of a conversation I had with the Doct[or] about you. He said that the situations where the board is allowed are both promised & he was sorry you could not have one he could not decidedly say about it - but he wishes you to come here when you return from Philadelphia. he [sic] will talk the matter over with you. Mrs. B. wishes you to come to pass a week if you do not decide to [*Written sideways*]: remember I will pay your expences here if you will come & pass a week with us. He said you could look round all the wards in all the Hospitals then you can decide whether it will be advantageous for you to stay[.] He is very kind & wishes to do all in his favor for you. I hope you will acknowledge it in your letter to me. You must decide to come here for a short time if you can. This morning after breakfast I found a beautiful volume of lower lying on my table from Doct[or] B. I feel as though I did not deserve [sic] his kindness at all - the children A[*Ms. illegible*] & Charlie wish you a Merry Christmas & I join them. Let me hear from you soon Doc[tor] B. says there is the finest opportunity for a young physician to [*Ms. illegible*] all [*Ms. illegible*] of any in the country. Write soon & long to[o]. Julia

South Boston Dec[ember] 23, 1840

We have been separated my dearest brother John and not one word of [*Ms. illegible*]tary intercourse have we had. I begin, for my part, to think it is high time for us to be a little more serial, in order to effect this, I am going to dispatch a long letter to the South before the old year has taken its departure, and ere the new advances many paces. I hope to be gladdened by an epistle from you, containing a minute account of your health, manner of life in your new situation, joys, [*Ms. illegible*], & c [etc.] & c [etc.]. the [sic] last mentioned, I hope does not form but a small share of the ingredients of your life, only so much of it as shall teach you that this world is not our rest and to teach you in earnest to look forward to a better. Dear brother, time is winging us away to our eternal home, and soon our last moment will arrive. This closing year should forcibly remind us ~~that~~ of the closing scene of life; and left us if we are permitted to pass the threshold of the new begin it with an [sic] humble dedication of ourselves to God and with solemn resolutions of living nearer to Him, & seek strength from above to carry them into effect. Let us not be longer “C[*Ms. illegible*]beres of the ground.” I have had many solemn warnings since being here, and one of them caused me to think seriously of you, and to ask if this was my brother John, would he be ready? I will tell you to what I allude. Doct[or] Jerry, the young gentleman who assisted Doc[tor] Butler & boarded in the family was taken sick a few weeks after I came here with the canker-rash. Doct[or] & Mrs. B. Gave up their room for his convenience and every thing was done for his comfort & to restore him to health, and to those pursuits which had engrossed his whole thoughts & time. But kind meaning Physicians could not keep back the “fell destroyer[.]” He died after five days

illness, as I fear, quite unprepared to appear at the judgment seat of Christ. During his sickness he was delicious most of the time and in his same moments, the only talker of things relative to this life and gave directions for the interment of his body. He seemed to think of his profession to the last, and a short time before he died called his brother (his only near relative) to his bedside and exacted a promise from him that he would not object to a post-mortem examination as, it might be of service to the profession, & if so, he desired it to be done. But after his decease his brother broke this resolution or promise. There are many circumstances connected with his sickness &c. which I shall tell you when I see you. I have not time to write them. He was a young man very much esteemed & beloved & in whom Doct. B. had the most entire confidence and he & Mrs. B. loved him as a brother. This place is not yet supplied though Doct. B. has some one in view. I proposed you to him, but he says it is an exceedingly difficult situation to fill & he wishes to get some one to whom he can entrust the students. and I thought from what Mrs. B. said that it would not be pleasant for you in all respects. The said Doct. B. would be happy to do any thing in his power for you.

I must say a little to you of my new situation as private governess. I think it is quite-confining, but in other respects very pleasant indeed. I have one hour to myself to prepare my room &c. & commence school at 4 p.m. I cannot tell you much about what I have to do all is I have the care of the children. Hartwell sleeps with me so I have them night & day. The evenings I have to myself. Mrs. Butler is very kind to me and I enjoy myself much though there are some things I should like to have different. Mary has told you about the location and I should not better it much by representing the winter scenery. I have a North ~~window~~ room and when I raise the window the breezes are not the most pleasant in the world or rather they are not as mild as some I have felt. I have visited the Conservatory

illness as I fear, quite unprepared to appear at the judgment seat of Christ[.] During his sickness he was delirious most of the time and in his sane moments, he only talked of things relative to this life and gave directions for the instrument of his body. He seemed to think of his profession to the last, and a short time before he died called his blind brother, (his only near relative), to his bedside and exacted a promise from him that he would not object to a post mortem examination as, it might be of service to the profession, & if so, he desired it to be done. but [sic] after his decision his brother broke this resolution or promise. There are many circumstances connected with his sickness & c[etera] which I shall tell you when I see you. I have not time to write them. He was a young man very much esteemed & beloved & in whom Doct[or] B. had the most entire confidence and he & Mrs. B. loved him as a brother. His place is not yet supplied though Doct[or] B. has some one in view. I proposed you to him, but he says it is an exceedingly difficult situation to fill & he wishes to get some one to whom he can entrust the students and I thought from what Mrs. B. said that it would not be pleasant for you in all respects. She said Doct[or] B. would be happy to do any thing in his power for you.

I must say a little to you of my new situation as p[Ms. illegible]alt governess I think it is quite confining – but in the respects very pleasant indeed. I have one hour to myself to prepare my room & c [etc.] & commence school at ½ past eight. I cannot tell you much about what I have to do all is I have the care of the children. Hartwell sleeps with me so I have them night & day[.] The evenings I have to myself. Mrs. Butler is very kind to me and I enjoy myself much though there are some things I should like to have different. Mary has told you about the location and I should not better it much by [Ms. illegible] the written scenery. I have a north ~~window~~ room and when I raise the window the breezes are not the most pleasant in the world or rather they are not as mild as some I have felt. I have visited the Conservatory [*written sideways in margin*]: Excuse all cross & do not leave this letter to be expo[Ms. illegible] I long to receive a good long letter from you -

which is the only public place I have seen, as winter is not a pleasant season to go to them. There is, (or rather was, a beautiful Green house near the gate that leads to these enclosures, but it was destroyed by fire a few nights since. I have attended two musical parties with Mrs. B., one at her mother's, & one at her Aunt's. I enjoyed the music much, but being an entire stranger almost I could not feel much at ease. I believe we are going before long to visit Mr. Abbott at Roxbury. He asked a dismission from his people last Sabbath evening I believe to the dislike a few of his congregation here to him. Doct. B. has been well liked although his ex-steward tried his best to have him lose it, by circulating the most false & cruel stories about him. He has a new steward whom he likes so far, very much. Doct. B. has been most shamefully abused by the committee of his house, as it respects the House. The Mayor caused a very shameful report to be published, but he was heartily ashamed of it afterwards, and in a short time there was not a copy to be found. It had all been destroyed. But Doct. B. has one I believe. I cannot tell you much about it in writing. Doct. B. takes it all patiently, and goes on succeeding very well amid all the scandal which is going on round him. He does not take the trouble to contradict any of Mr. Stearns's stories & for that reason many of them are believed. Last night one was heard, viz. that Doct. B. "did not do anything only sit at the table & fare sumptuously every day." But enough of this all I hope is that Doct. B. will be well rewarded for the unceasing devotion he attends to all that appertains to him. This Hospital is full there are only two in all New England that have more patients, and although he has only about two thirds of the help that are in other Institutions of a similar kind, yet every thing goes on in the most perfect order. & he has many kind friends. He is giving Dr. Parkman presented a handsome piano and on Thanksgiving day he gave it for fruit for them which they had at the party in the afternoon. I wished much to have been at home on Thanksgiving day but enjoyed it quite well here. I have had the pleasure of hearing the Rev. Mr. Thirk once, and was delighted with him. We have an excellent clergyman at S. B. Rev. Mr. Fairchild. I generally attend church half a day & we often have service at the Hospital.

which is the only public place I have seen, as winter is not a pleasant season to go to them. There is, (or [sic] rather was, a beautiful green house near the gate that leads to these enclosures, but it was destroyed by fire a few nights since. I have attended two musical parties with Mrs. B., one at her mothers, & one at her Aunts. I enjoyed the music much, but being an entire stranger almost I could not feel much at ease. I believe we are going before long to visit Mr. Abbott at Box bay. He asked a di[*Ms. illegible*]ion from his people last Sabbath-evening I believe to the dislike a few of his congregation have to him. Doct[or] B. has been reelected although his ex steward tried his best to have him lose it, by circulating the most false & cruel stories about him. He has a new steward whom he likes so far, very much. Doct[or] B. has been most shamefully abused by the committee of his house, as it respects the House. The Mayor caused a very shameful report to be published, but he was heartily ashamed of it afterwards, and in a short time there was not a copy to be found [*Ms. smudged*] had all been destroyed. But Doct[or] B. has tno[?] I believe. I cannot tell you much about it in writing. Doct[or] B. takes it all patiently, and goes on succeeding very well amid all the scandal which is going on round him. He does not take the trouble to contradict any of Mr. Stedman's stories & for that reason many of them are believed. Last night one was heard viz. that Doct[or] B. "did not do any thing only" out at the table & "fare sumptuously every day." But enough of this all I hope that Doct[or] B. will be well rewarded for the unceasing devotion he attends to all that appertains to him. His Hospital is full there are only two in all New England that have new patients and although he has only about two kinds of the help that are in other Institutions of a similar kind, yet every thing goes on in the most [*Ms. illegible*]dus & he has many kind friends. He is going to have quite a library here soon, through the kindness of the friends of the Institution, Doc[tor] Park[*Ms. illegible*] presented a handsome piano and on Thanksgiving day he gave Doc[tor] B. a gold piece to procure something to make the widow happy. He spent it for fruit for them which they had at the party in the afternoon. I wished much to have been at home on Thanksgiving day but enjoyed it quite well here. I have had the pleasure of hearing the Rev[erend] Mr. Thick once and was delighted with him. We have an excellent clergyman at S.B. Rev[erend] Mr. Fairchild. I generally attend church half a day & we often have service at the Hospital.

2. Must not live a week with self. Many's eyes on back as ever. I like your service to Brother when you return from Philadelphia. Do not let me - a long letter & tell me all about - even the things it will do me in regard. I do not want a little short letter. Don't come to long before the school begins. It is nearly about time & I must leave. Good bye to you & a remembrance of everyone. I have given you in this letter. Tell all you can see to me of what I do & friends which will in forget them in your letter as all is it that for your words to know all about your prospects & situation.

Care of Capt. Wm. E. Sherman
No. 150 South Ninth Street

Philadelphia Penn

Penn.

Mrs B. went in town yesterday & says Mr Kirk is going to remain a month longer as he had got access to a class of people here that no orthodox clergyman has ever reached. That is among the high fashionable Unitarians. There are two of the most fashionable gay & thoughtless young ladies converted to him & now I do not know. There was a young gentleman told Miss Williams that he was not going to hear Mr K. as he had heard of so many becoming converted who did go & he was not going to put himself in danger of becoming so. Poor fellow! he little knows what he is resisting & what is before him. Dear brother John I hope you think much of your immortal soul and are living in daily preparation for eternity. Soon life will be over & then what is before you! Eternal happiness or woe according as you choose or reject your Redeemer. Be in earnest to secure the 'Pearl of great price'. Now is the time to lay out. It may soon be said of you cut it down; why can't he be 'the ground.' Pray for all of your family, and may it be that we may all form a happy family in Heaven, even more to be separated. I am preparing a package to send home for New Year's presents. I would like to send some thing to you by way of remembrance. but you are so far away I cannot. I shall have written to you before this had I known what to have directed a letter. I heard from Frances

Mrs. B. went in town yesterday & says Mr. Kirk is going to receive a month longer as he had got access to a class of people here that no Orthodox clergyman has ever reached that is among the high fashionable Unitarians. There are two of the most fashionable gay & thoughtless young ladies converted & how many now I do not know. There was a young gentleman told Miss Williams that he was not going to hear Mr. K. As he had heard of so many becoming converted who did go & he was not going to put himself in danger of becoming one. Poor fellow! he [sic] little knows what he is resisting & what is before him. Dear brother John I hope you think much of your immortal soul and are living in daily preparation for Eternity. Your life will be over, & th[*Ms. illegible*] what is before you! Eternal happiness or wo[e] according as you choose or reject your Redeemer. Be in [*Ms. illegible*] to secure the "Pearl of great price." Now is the time Delay not. It may soon be said of you Cast it down & why [*Ms. illegible*] it the ground." [sic] Pray for all of ~~your~~ family, and may it be that we may all form a happy family in Heaven. No more to be departed. I am preparing a package to send home for New Year's presents. I would like to send some thing to you by way of remembrance but you are so far away I cannot. I should have written to you before this had I known where to have directed a letter. I heard from Worcester [*written sideways*]: & New York last week all well. Mary's eyes is [sic] bad as well. I hope you all come to Boston when you return from Philadelphia. Do write to me a long letter & tell me all about every thing as it will do me much good. I do not want a little short letter. Write some & long beyond attached Julia. It is nearly school time & I must leave. Good bye Tell all you can ascertain of Doct[or] B's friends which will interest him in your letter as he is interested for you & wishes to know all about your prospects & situation. [*written upside-down*]: I have been once at the House of Correction and listened to a most touching discourse from the Rev. Mr. Taylor who preaches to the sailors. There were few among the prisoners who did not appear much affected by his discourse. There was sobbing to be heard all over the house. There were I believe over thrice hundred criminals and they all sat facing us. Such a set of faces I never saw before. I could not see many of the males as they were separated by a high partition. There were there young middle aged & aged. I could not feel like condemning them. When I looked into my own heart & considered that in the eye of a Holy God I might be far more sinful than many there. And I thought how grateful we should all feel that we have had friends to guide & direct us all in the path of uprightness & rectitude. The prison is styled a Model Prison & it is the best managed of any in the Country. The one who has the entire management of it was once a prisoner but is now a pious man I believe. I am going to visit it soon.

[Addressed]: Mr. John P. Green
 Care of Capt[ain] W[illiam] E. Sherman
 No. 170 South Ninth Street
 Philadelphia Penn[sylvania]

[Postmarked]: Boston Dec 26 PAID

Transcribed by Emily S. Dunster