

when I commenced I thought I could not write much
but I know your anxiety to hear something more I have
had repeated conversations with her for some months each
respecting her situation she had long since given up all
hopes of recovery she has announced at times told me when
she retired at night she felt it might be the last time I have
twice at such times asked her if now she brought death
near if it terrified her at one time she said no not at all
at the other she said no I have tried to be conversant
with death as with a familiar friend ~~and she~~
to be dead but I sometimes fear the struggle of death
not long since I had a talk with her respecting our
family she spoke of each individually of your joys and
sorrow and she never expected to see you more in
time and expressed her hopes and fears of meeting you
in that better world she spoke much of father of his
tenderness to his children his attachment to his father and the
trials he had passed through. And I would now say
to that much loved father you that have lived to see
parents and Brothers and Sisters live in the grave you
have out lived that numerous family but one solitary
individual besides yourself you have lived to follow
companions to the grave and now your children are
drooping one here and another there and after all these
afflicting strokes of God's providence you yet stand
as a monument of his mercy and may you by
his grace improve the frequent chastisement and mercies
that they may be a blessing to you in time and finally
be admitted to a seat in his kingdom above
I feel that your life is all most past

there are many things I would like to write but have
not time but let us one and all so improve upon
our afflictions that as our number is diminished
~~we may~~ our grace may be increasing
Valentine will likely write something he can tell
you more of her conversation than I can and
that will be more interesting

as for me and mine we enjoy unusual health
at present Cyrus has been very sick with the
inflammation on the lungs is now so he plays
about house some I received a letter from
Lash mailed in Oct have not answered it
and have not time now much pleased
to hear he thought of visiting me should
be more so to see them shall ever be glad
see or hear from them I love you all

I do about that our dear family circle
it is very late and I must draw to close
by requesting your prayers for the afflicted
the Fatherless and the Motherless

Feb. 18 Tuesday Even

but past twelve o'clock

Clarencia Ann

Write immediately W. D.

Philadelphia
Feb 15 1853
Mr Jacob Minger
See Dickson's bounty
Mads

I have much to write I shall write
soon V.P.