

in space yet near in affection
Ever your attached Brother
J. Branchett

Mr. J. Marshall
St. Peter's Church
Rome

RECEIVED
MARCH 11 1828

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Liverpool
4 March 1828

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Thorvaldsens Museums
ARKIV.

My dearest Sister
I should have written to you earlier than my promise if I could have given you more satisfactory reports. I am afraid was but a melancholy letter and I am sorry to say the present will not be much more cheerful. Alice indeed is a little better, though she still is nearly confined to her dressing room, yet she is cheered, and looks more happy. Miss Backhouse has just invited her to spend a week with her in the country, and I hope she will accept of the invitation. In my house the measles have had their course, we were rejoicing that Elizabeth and Tommy had got so well through them, but the former has had a relapse and is in bed with six leeches, and a bad cough. Tommy also coughs a little, and his sisters example will induce us to be very cautious how we expose him to cold. Baby also appears to have caught the same and her constitutional weakness renders it more alarming. The eruption is not come out and it shows itself in an inflammatory action of the chest. For two days we have been afraid of losing her, though is still little improved, yet from the nature of the complaint continuance without getting worse gives grounds for hopes. She is such an endearing little thing, and has wound her self so closely around our hearts that it would be a great grief to part with her, though if God wills it so, it may perhaps be in mercy, rather than she should up to an imperfect and unhappy existence; if she recovers, I shall look upon it as a presumption, that there is nothing essentially wrong in her organisation, and shall expect her defects will disappear, as she grows up. She is very fond of foreign grapes,

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which are now brought over most excellent, and are very reasonable. Harriet was up with her all last night, and indeed never leaves her. She is very good but very much petted and his altogether on the knee or at the breast. My brother has been most kind and constant in his attendance. I ought to apologize for troubling you with domestic details, did I not know you have a heart in the right place and that it is the intelligence you expect to receive. Harriet has been much shocked with the death of a cousin at Gibraltar, who was highly respected there, and has left a widow a most charming and accomplished woman with five children but ill provided for; she is niece to Dr Parkinson, the Chancellor, and my principal at Chester. I continue my visits every fortnight to that ancient city and have constantly very curious and important cases to decide. You would perhaps see one of them, which was reported at great length in the London Papers; the evidence was given nearly in full, but the judgment, which took me nearly an hour to deliver, was very imperfect. I have at present amongst others two divorce causes upon my hands. The Phillips family are much better and are gone up to town. I have just been reading Black's Life of Tasso which I have long possessed but never yet perused. For-
 merly he was not so great a favorite with me as he deserves

I believe my opinion arose in a great measure from the un-pleasant type of the Deliputian edition in Italian characters, in which I read; you will probably remember the book. Still I cannot place him in the same rank with my favorite Ariosto. Your stay in Italy has contributed to turn my attention again to the literature of that country. Your time appears very wisely to be more occupied with the living than the dead, which latter may be covered with nearly as well upon your return with your memory still full of the scenes they describe. We have had fine clear weather, but too cold and chill for sickly children. You seem to be well acquainted with all our political events. We are not well satisfied with our representative certainly was expected he would not join the present minority without some guarantee of their measures. His explanation in the house has only relieved him from one difficulty to plunge him in another; he is like a man in a bog, who is obliged to jump from one tuft to another, lest he should sink by remain stationary upon any one. His speech on the motion for the repeal of corporation and test acts is a most miserable failure, and what is worse it is impossible to believe in his sincerity. I suppose you have the earliest intelligence from Greece. It is said we are to have fifteen thousand troops there. Baby is certainly better tonight. With but love to your husband and son, believe me though distant