

Cooperstown. March 18th 1852.

My dear Mother,

It seems almost as long
since we heard from you as it does since we
heard from brother Jo. He wrote us 10 lines
while my wife was sick, a sort of wine punch
gin toddy, & brandy & water letter, recommending
all very highly, for her restoration, tho' we had
to be very cautious in the use of either opiates
or stimulants. I should advise him to vote
the Maine liquor law at once. He is down
upon the quacks, with their nostrums, & thinks
the flask all powerful. Well Katy is quite
restored to health, altho yet confined to the
house during our March winds, and very
thin. She is mere skin & bones. However she
goes all around the house, and her appetite
improves. The children are pretty well,
with the exception of slight colds. My own
health quite good, tho' thin in flesh —
"The Hall" we suppose is to pass into other
hands, when we do not know

\$25,
It will soon be advertised, Why could not
Dr Brandeth be induced to purchase a
place so handsome & notorious as this is,
There are 5 acres beautifully laid out, very
sensitively undulating, in heart of the village,
& fine garden spot, the whole in pretty good
repair. for \$9,000 or 10,000, richly
worth \$15,000 - I have just received a
beautiful gift from the family, being a
Silver private-Communion Service - a
goblet, gold gilt inside - a plate, and vial
Silver mounted - enclosed in Morocco
Case, with Cross & name engraved on it,
very appropriate & very acceptable,
No Special Convention will be allowed, So
I don't know when we shall get down
to see you, probably as soon as you will
be ready for your Summer visitors,
Mrs Isaac Cooper, Mrs Baker's Sister
has applied to us, to take her to board
during the summer, & we have concluded
to do so, a very good, amiable & motherly
old Lady - She was a Morrist,

Well I suppose you saw the former
part of John Gattin's history, the very
part I was keeping dark about,

Tho' I suppose we might boast and
can well boast of descent from English
officers on both sides as we can and
but few know it. Still we concluded
to wait until the odor of the tap
room had died away on the breeze,
before we hung out a new sign.
Other people always know your business
better than yourself,

Had father been wiser & gone home
with William the fourth, for whom
he acted as one of his body guard
while Howe's army was in the City;
he might have enjoyed his half
pay at least. But permeless &
ignorant of Commercial business
what else could he do but keep
an Hotel on the English plan

which for a time was the Common
resort of English Officers like himself,
Well. Every tub stands on its own bottom,
I learned the other day, that Mr
Coopers Grandson Hesimore was
a huckster in New Jersey and carried
vegetables to the Philadelphia Market,
an humble origin has been the
Cause of good fortune to many a man
as well as of evil fortune, and the
Comfort is,

We dont stand Solitary,
With love to all & the hope that you
are all well again includ in Bro
Pierre. I remain Your affec Son
Stephen H. Batten

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Recd Stephen H. Batten
Mar 18 1852