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Boston March 8th 1845

My Dear Sir & Ill^d Brother

Your favor of the 25th ult is before me, for which you will please accept my thanks, and pardon my delay in answering; I should, my Dear Sir, have replied to yours some days since but for the press of business on my hands at this time, and the requirements of a sick friend to whom I feel obliged to devote a portion of my time, I have ~~been~~ also been engaged on a committee of the Grand Lodge in making arrangements for a Eulogy on the life and character of our Brother and late past Grand Master Bro. Han. Benjamin Russell. The Eulogy is to be delivered on Monday evening next at the Melodeon, by our worthy Brother Bro. Francis Baylies of Taunton, where we anticipate a large collection of Masons with their families. — — — Brother Yates is here, and has been for several days waiting on some business, we hope to have him with us on Monday evening, after which he will return to Washington, and I intend to call on you on his return, and make an appointment for the day of our meeting in New York for the purpose of completing our Organization. — — — Sickness and other unfortunate circumstances

have prevented our coming to New York at the time
proposed. (the 4th of March) we now propose to be with you
previous to the 10th of April & Brother Yates is to fix the time
we hope to bring Brother Christie on with us at that time
The Abstract you quote from the "Scottish Statutes of the
Temple" is interesting and somewhat important.
I am of opinion that all movements of this kind should
be watched closely, and all innovations from the ancient
Land Mark, ~~and~~ Customs and Constitutions of the Order
should be put down where we have the power, and where
we have not the power, we should discountenance all
such irregular movements, and I agree with you ~~that~~
in some of your doubts as to the course pursued by
some of our Brethren, at Charleston I acknowledge
that I am somewhat ~~afraid~~ fearful that they
are not moving with that caution and wisdom
which they were accustomed to do when under
the command, and Council of our Worthy but dead
Brother Doct. Hallmark, - but I hope to see you soon
and have the satisfaction of talking these things
over and understanding your views more fully
in the kind as to him this Serail which I have
not time to copy, and believe me

My Dear Sir Truly & fraternally Yours
J. J. Gourgas Esq }
N York } Edward A. Raymond