

the Effery are all getting or very comfortable. you understood three times
of months - Maria - I think any way of life. That's unusual - got
diedly to be
see his ten - but
nearly to be
and I thought
or here.
Mary is better.
and not yet
enough yet.
Most
after them
and by my
Dear Maria
and I was
checked
sent off.

Philadelphia
Sunday 11th
1855

Dear Maria, that
I sent my greetings of love & good wishes to you
and your household my heart is so full of agree-
able recollections of the happy month of October
we enjoyed together. I have been peculiarly
blest the last few months of the closing year.
Dear Ben's visit had not closed before
Sara arrived so that a succession of beloved
privates interceded us to the end of December.
how often I wished you & Mr. Cohen had been
here, to see your Uncle. He was so well hap-
py and agreeable I am sure he would have
made a favorable impression - indeed both
the Gentlemen were in their pleasant mood
for the unaccustomed of an acquaintance.
but it matters not when they meet. There is
enough good in each to induce through
any space of time, and you dear Maria
will make them love each other. How the love
they each bear you - our Dear Sara, certainly
improved while here. She said, if she had
spent the winter with you, but could no bear
to leave her so long - and at such a distance
from her - They had a peculiar time in closing
the St. Lawrence, but thank God reached home

in safety and found her Praby well -

I feel greatly interested for Miss Vero Ross
Hobbs think her very fortunate in having
such a friend as you have proved to be.
I hope she will succeed. I had a note from her
Barn Swannet, but she did not give me her address
perhaps she is in the best kind of place, for a
beginning in her address undertaking. I
understand that Wadlows family are living
in domestic privacy in the country. The wife
be more likely to satisfy them - than a fashion-
able family in town - I do not know what her
acquirements may be - but girls who are taught
accomplishments, merely for their ^{own} gratification
are too apt to neglect their cultivation them-
selves. She is very diffident of her own abilities -
and was nervous about her own health when she
left I shall be very glad to hear that she succeeds.
Poor soul! she suffered much anxiety & perplex-
ity in her efforts here - but determined to persevere
until she overcame her difficulties - tell me
children that little blind friend Ellen Farley
is going to the school for the Blind - at her request
scholarship her mother sends her to take lessons
at the Asylum - which shines light for Ballenore
to-day. I hope Miss Nelly has recovered - the accounts
of her illness had been very alarming - little Mary
gets on very well at school - and grows rapidly
-ly, she is a child of excellent capacity and

most trying disposition. Bettie seems very
well untroubled with her school. She
writes seldom to Mary, but every week to her
father. I hope she will receive a good education,
and that her constitution will be strengthened
by residence in the country where pure air
and exercise may be enjoyed to their full
extent. She writes that she went to New York
with her school fellows to buy bon bon's for the
holidays, but did not get to see your Father.
one of Mary's desires is accomplished. She
is released from care and has the compa-
ny of persons of her own age. Her boys
live with him, and are going to school.
Your dear little Mamey has passed thro'
her first sorrow - parting from her good nurse.
Happily children are easily won from their
sorrow, and can transfer their affection, or
at least accept & substitute, if offered
with kindness. I am glad you have been so suc-
cessful in supplying Mary's place.

Our winter is likely to be a gay one. Tho' in many
instances the scene is changed to new houses.
There have been a great many marriages, which
of course, gives an impetus. Mrs. Rush is pre-
paring for her Annual Bazaar. Her Saturday
receptions are numerously attended as she
takes pains to introduce a variety of attractions
sometimes Music, at others little exhibitions.
It was said that Linn was to be invited but
that could not be effected.

The Opera has left for Baltimore.

Bernard Henry Jew, is engaged to be married to one of our belles - Miss VanderKemp - but I suppose, it will not take place soon, as her mother is ill, and Pauline is a most devoted daughter. You may have met her at New York where the family passed the summer. I had a letter from Mrs. Schroeder, in which she laments that she did not see more of you - her health is very feeble, and I hear from a friend, Mrs. Priestley, that she was not able to be much abroad. Kate B. is full of praises of your dear children - and Julia Fisher told me of Grady's gallantry, & charming attention to her - bringing flowers &c. she came on to spend the holidays with her mother & friends - she appears to have regained her health - but lost her beauty - she is too robust.

I had a letter from my friend Fanny Kemble since the death of her father - it was a very sad one - her youngest brother is hopelessly deranged, & she seems to have charge of him, as well as of his child - her sister provides for his little girl - the cares & calamities of life are scattered throughout the whole Mercan family - but one merciful Father provides balsam for every wound He forgives, and whether for correction or trial we have ample cause for gratitude & submission. I see no change in your Uncle Sam's condition, some days he suffers less than others - he unites with your other Uncles in affectionate remembrance to you & Mr. Cooke - Julia & Mary send you kisses - the latter says and to Uncle Cooke, & my dear cousins too - Aunt 'Nancy' dear too.