

Philadelphia Feb 11th

1855

23

I do not know how it happened my
Dear Minnie, that I did not write to
you about Horaces change of situation.
It was talked of in the Fall, when your
Uncle Ben was here. They had all long
thought he was working too hard,
wearing out his constitution, with too
small a remuneration. he too, felt
that opportunities had passed by, where
the Company might have secured
him better. And with his uncles appro-
bation determined on a business voyage
with Mr John White a Coal Merchant
a gentleman he has the highest opinion
of, and between whom & himself there
had existed a very friendly intercourse
at Richmond. It however was so long
before his place in the R R Rail road Office
was supplied, that he did not leave
until the middle of last month. In the
mean time my time & thoughts were so
unusually & painfully occupied. That

you too - I am gives very good accounts of her children
health. The boy is very healthy. when passing east do not
your affectionate

That when I wrote to you, the secret
thoughts were not shown in all their sadness -
and the dear subject unwilling to us both
was left untold - as soon as he was released
from the office, he felt at liberty to take
a journey and went to visit Sara, we
heard of him on Monday last, he was
going to Lubec - & by the Truck rail
Road to Portland & on to Proctor, which to
be sure was tempting the rigour of this
most severe winter. I am in hopes of
hearing from him at the latter place
and that he will be in New York during
the present week on his return home -
Becky has been very good, since his depar-
ture to let me hear that you Father &
her family are well - for I miss the daily
correspondence between father & son, when
he is at home - There has also been anxiety
from Edmund & Abraham Brandon both
favorable. My dear sister has been in her bed
since Sabbath, with a bad cold - she is so feeble
that a little thing becomes serious, but I
hope a few days will restore her as the severity
of this attack has passed off - Maria Edging
is also suffering from a cold - I found her

rather better to day. I think I should hardly
stay in the house for the same degree
of indisposition, which keeps her reclining on
her couch. The last two days we have had quite
moderate weather - it is beautiful to look up
on an clouded sky and feel the balmy air,
but to wade through the melting snow, and
pools of water in the streets requires strong
inducements, besides Indian-rubber shoes
to encounter. I having both have made
my way to the invalids, poor Julia too
is in constant attendance on her old Lady
who is in a declining state.

I am much obliged to you my dear Minnie
for sending me Mr. Cohen's sensible & feeling
remarks on the death of Judge Bruce
it is a beautiful sketch of his life, given
in brief eloquence & particularly acceptable
from one whose political opinions differed
from his. I hope the Orphans are not reduced
in numbers, ~~are~~ they the children of
your old school friend? They have a relation
Miss Macpherson, who I suppose is well
off (sister to Mrs. Miskin)

give my love to Mr. Cohen, & the dear children
may send me some of Pulls & Grays compositions
- a story by a little girl of nine years
old, would be wondered at by our Northern
children -

How comes on Gratz's Biography?

I had a letter from my little Mary the other day, very sweetly expressing her affection, and sending love messages. But she has been kept from school from frequent colds & the writing is not better than she could do before, but it was evidently all her own. Bessie is quite content, & more cheerful than she was last winter, & I think improved.

Gratz's wife wrote me a very pleasant account of the family. She says it is a great happiness to her & the Dr. to find their children harmonize so well that they seem to have adopted each other as Mother & Sisters, as tho' they had always been in that connection.

Julia Laro Mordue & the girls desire their love. I am sure, under other circumstances Laura would have been glad to be with you, and you would have found her a very lovely attractive person in manners character and appearance. The Major continues to treat us with charming letters from abroad. Laro's presence is a blessing to her Mother, whom she most faithfully watches. Give her our dear love to you, and so do all your mothers, & also to Mr. Laro. God Bless you my dear Miriam, I remain in the hope of seeing you all next summer, and that your sister Mary see