

Philadelphia April 15th
1855

most affectionate Aunt May you enjoy needed happiness
in the approaching Repose.

Your Photograph has just safely arrived
My Dearest Minnie, and I most sincerely
thank you for the affectionate gift. The like-
nesses are all good, Mr. Lockers particularly.
but none of them are handsome enough for
the originals. The great defect in all I saw
portraits is about the eyes. but this dear family
group look lovingly upon me, and I will
remember the bright expression which could
not be transferred. Bells' smile is very hap-
pily copied. Grays attitude & little Mar-
rins the foreground are gracefully placed
while the happy Parents give a moral beau-
ty to the whole. Thus my dear child, I close
the picture you have sent me. May May
you enjoy the blessing of such a domestic
scene. Your niece Fannie Meres has been
opening her opening vacation with us, she
left to day, on her return to school. She
expects her Father will take her home at
the end of the session, and I think it will
be better for her, a boarding school educa-
tion, leaves so much unttaught that is essen-
tial for domestic life. That instead of send-
ing a girl to finish her ~~education~~ there, I would
take her home before she was too old to
acquire new habits. Fannie is very amiable

and is attached to her new Mother
who writes affectionately to her her child
often too write to her and three sisters, and as
far as we can judge Gratz's marriage seems
a very good thing for his children, as well
as for his own happiness.

I am glad to hear your Sunday School
is so flourishing. I may make the same
remark, that practical & intelligent
Teachers are the only want we experience.
The children are quick to learn, and those
classes which are well attended to learn &
appreciate the value of their lessons.

The children in our New Foster Home, are
still more remarkable, having now a
very happy home, under as amiable
Matron, they improve in every respect. I
wish you could see & become interested
in this Society which we hope will not only
shelter destitute children, either Orphans, or
those whose Parents are unable to take care
of them, but by instruction render them
capable of getting their own living in a
more reputable way than is usually resort
ed to by poor Jews. It has long appeared
to me, the one thing needful to elevate the
character of our poor. They come in great
numbers from foreign countries where they
are oppressed. I have no prospect of doing more

than sustaining life, and these children
use ill clothed ill bed & left to pick up bad
habits in the streets while they having no
trade, go peddling about the country.

There are 12 children in the Foster home
who have been ^{there} nearly a year. most of them
have one parent living who are permitted
to visit them once a fortnight - and if able
pay 25cts per week to the Society.

It is astonishing to see the change in
the manners, conduct and character
of these little beings. They can all read
& write, behave with the utmost decorum
at meals, where they repeat grace in the
new & English. have all the comforts of
cleanliness, order & good treatment, and
are taught religious & social duties with
God's blessing. I trust this may be the
beginning of a new era in the history of
Swedish charity, and that in every com-
munity where there are destitute children
such provision may be made for them.

Funds are wanted to increase the accom-
modations of our Foster home - we require
a larger house, for the many applica-
tions made for admission - at present
we have not room for more than 16
or 18 children - do you think you can pro-
cure us any aid, among the rich & charitable
in your congregation? I congratulate Mr
Cohen on his Purport trip, no doubt under
his good management, the commission will

proper, it is right, that the Father of a family
should take interest in religious affairs. &
with so good a Father, Mr. Co.'s interest is a very
important one. I am sorry you do not
expect to bring your children here in the
coming season. I am too I fear will disapprove
us. But it would be unreasonable to complain
when Superior duties interfere. I shall be glad
to hear that my dear Ben is to be gratified by
your visit. Grace desires his best love, and
wants to know if you received a check he
sent you some weeks ago - He will enquire
for the sermon you mention & hopes to obtain
it. We are all in our usual health - Fitter
I think rather stronger. When the weather is
settled warmer hope she will be able to do so.
Sarah Mudge is beginning to expect the
Major. her next letter will tell her when. He
writes by every steamer, & his letters are excellent.
Hannah Elting is in Richmond, & Merriam is
going to spend the Passover with Josephine in
Baltimore. her Aunt Sally's health is not
good - which is a strong inducement to go &
see her. indeed at present the family are
in such anticipation of Mr. Poor's death. he
has been ill some time. Richard Elting con-
tinue at her Brothers. Julia Hoffman desires
her best love, she leaves early in May. to
spend some time in N.Y. she has not been well
since the death of Esty. from over exertion & fa-
tigue. Your Uncle, Aunt Mary & Sarah M. send
much love, give mine to your Husband & the dear
children & believe me ever my dear & affectionate
Mamma your