

Phil^d July 22nd - 1855

My Dearest Miriam

I hasten to relieve your anxiety as far as is in my power about your Dear Aunt Hays, whose feeble state of health requires continual watchfulness but thank God she has been wonderfully supported through the trial we feared would quite overwhelm her. Two or three days before Ellen left, she commenced to hear the sad Cops we were all mourning even to the time and circumstances of her death, and the cause of its being so long concealed from her. With all a Mother's love she grieved & wept but bore it without any paroxysm of agitation which we so much dreaded. At no period of her life would she have evinced more fortitude, but her shattered frame, shows how her sorrow dwelt on her in "the watches of the night" - as in the day traces of grief may be seen. The frequent talks of Dear Rosa - of all her love & filial unsolicited -

to tell her about it - in the only letter I have written to her since - what must account for her silence or we may suppose I withheld it, or the letter that accompanied it by the post - opportunity.

and with a grateful heart recounts
her virtues, the loves all who loved her -
& says you, & Bucky & Lacie are her children
as were her other daughters. Lacie Mordue
has sent back her own Ross to comfort
her Mother and live with her for the
present. She has not been able to leave
her children at this season during the
Major's absence. Practically as they are
in the city & Ellen was obliged to go home
on account of her husband's indisposition.
But Elting is sadly out of spirits, the effect
of his pecuniary embarrassment and
consequently is nervous from loss of rest
& appetite, and his exemplary wife
alone can minister to him. Dear Ellen
is sorely tried. To have seen her here
during the illness of her Mother, so dread-
fully tempted by the wish for a last
farewell to her dying sister, ^{Ross} ~~who~~ longed
for but, denied herself the consolation
of her presence, knowing her dear Mother
needed her, and in this struggle, ^{the way} ~~struggled~~
to suppress her feelings. That her Mother
might be kept in ignorance of it all

regiment efforts, which few could have
made - yet Ellen never faltered!
Though I hear since her return home, she feels
their effects. Sara's two eldest daughters
are charming girls & already useful women -
Rosa went hence for a fortnight while her
aunt was here, and returned to her post
a week ago - Ellen left us on Tuesday

do not be uneasy about me, my dearest
Miriam, I will take as good care of my self
as I can, and thank God am pretty well
if you hear I look badly - remember I am
an old woman, and the hand of time
leaves traces however silently or lightly
put on - your young niece are well
Bessie came when her school broke up
The Misses Brotherton have gone to England
not intending to return for a year. They
have engaged a Miss Craft to conduct
the school under the direction of their brother
a clergyman from Baltimore (unmarried) Miss
Hunter has also left - Bessie says Miss Brotherton
has written her plans to her Father, she takes the
money and intends to return. but I think it
right to make some enquiry about these changes
as the next year of her education will be a
highly important one she says she intends to

Study, I rather think she has got that art to
teach - Can you give any information from
Miss Huntie, respecting her successor in the school.
Bessie is in excellent health & spirits, and has
gained great advantage from the free life
she has had in country air & exercise, & I hope
also in her other acquisitions, which I have
not had opportunity of judging, as I have
been so little at home since her arrival
during your Aunt's absence. These observations
are therefore merely suggestive. I am anxious she
being so far from home, to have the best done for
her future as well as present good - Mary has
got on astonishingly, for the time, she has learn'd
all that could be expected in the different
branches taught in her little class, which I hope
you will approve next summer. Should she
& you meet, she sends her "heart love to her
dear Aunt Minnie, Hopes to send Mary &
Bole, yes and to Grady too." Bessie bids me give
her affectionate love also - Your Aunt Mary's
every day talks about you and wonds up with
mind Bessie when you write to give my best
love to my own dear Minnie & her husband & your
brother & Nieces join in the same dear
message. I embrace you all beloved
parents & children and pray God to bless
you, ever with true affection your devoted
P. B. & Grady.

P.S. I have always my dear Minnie
forgetten to tell you that Julia had gone before your
present arrival, I put it away for her, and omitted