

Sunday Evng. Decr 16th
1855

My Dearest Minnie

We had quite a delightful surprise on Wednesday morning, in the unexpected appearance of your good husband, looking remarkably well in health & spirits. He quite re-estimated us, and saying he meant to devote the day to us, we hastened to accompany him in visits of kindness to the different houses of our mourning family. Sally & Philippa were moved at seeing him - he could tell of their parents, on whose funeral even more than their own sorrow they grieve. My dear sister too gave him a cordial welcome, he wrote to you how calmly she received him, and spoke of you to him. Her own dear daughter's presence was as if they loved more dear to her. We heard yesterday that Sara Meddick had determined to bring her family, to spend the remainder of her husband's absence, near her mother, and lodgings had been secured for her, in the house your Father formerly occupied.

in Lord's Month, we expect they will
arrive to-morrow or Tuesday - this will be
a great comfort to her Mother, as well as
to herself. her daughters are fine girls,
whose presence will be a great acquisition
to all this winter. I had a letter from
Lara yesterday, and find by her account
that her family are in better health & she
in better spirits than I have found her
lately. she is beginning to teach her little
daughters to read & ~~play~~ the Piano - continues
to help nurse her baby, and has a good house-
-hold of servants & a great & well paid in Canada.

The only draw back seems that her little
Makila, suffers terribly in teething. She was
weaned in Novr and is getting there, but I hope
nothing serious need be apprehended. The sea-
son is favorable. Poor Josephine Ettie is the
object of one most intense anxiety - no wonder
The poor Child is lost! she so dependent on her
devoted & beloved Mother, for every thing good
in this life. that she feels unable to do any
thing but weep - her letters are heart rending.
Reuben Ettie stays with her and her Father
himself quite over whelmed with his own

grief is kind and welcome to her.

When the family is settled one of
her cousins will try to go to her, and I hope
time & the attention of her friends will make
a salary superior on her. Write to her
my dear Minnie, your sensible & sweet
thinking and your sympathy will soothe
her. We all know how the voice of kindness
enters into the thickest heart - your husband
was not at all doing poor Mrs. Minnie the courtesy
of spending a day in Baltimore to see her.
She has received much kindness from the
Coburns & others, but she is a stranger in
the city and to see an old friend will
be more acceptable - your Uncle Ben's visit
was a blessing to us, his two little girls
are very lovely. Anna used to comfort me
for her little cousin Mary's loss. They were real
friends & playmates together, & I hope will
be friends here after. Grady's wife is a very
pleasing & pretty woman, she is gentle, and
gained the love of both his daughters - but
she writes that Mary cried the whole day
she left me saying she wanted to see Aunt
Brady - but Charles's sorrow - like a pal shadow

soon changes into sunshine, and I hope
the dear child is quite happy. Her brother
Johnny she loves dearly and she has many
companions. There are two children of Mrs
Meyer's, the youngest a boy of 13, the sons very
amiable, and she shall bring them all
up together as if they were all her own.

Brooklyn's family are also well, I showed
letters from her boys to your Mother and
that he might tell you as much of you
about family as I could collect.

In Washington & in Baltimore he will
pick up something of these eggs & send
them for. So that even his absence will
not be quite a blank to you. Your Aunt
Mary & Uncle send their love to you, and
so do Horace & Julia. We talked so much
of your dear children, that I almost began
I can see their growth & improvement.
Give them all my love, and loving kisses.

Isabella Estlin is still a great sufferer, her
throat begins to fill up long enough to have her
bed made up. The rest are well. A cold kept me
at home these two rainy days, but I shall be
able to go out to morrow. The moon is shining bright.
God bless you my dear Maria ever your Aff