

Decr 10th

1856

I have long delayed to answer
your letter My Dearest Minnie
tho' you have been constantly
in my mind - and often on my
tongue. For during your Uncle
Ben's visit we had great occa-
sion to talk about you all. Mr
Cohen made many friends in
his travels, and I was delighted
to find how justly he is appreci-
ated North, East & West, which
for a Southern Man, in these
jealous times is certainly a
test of merit, or rather it is a
proof that there is no ground
for the received opinion that
sectional feelings do separate
worthy men from each other.

In our domestic relations
we make no distinctions, or our
poor hearts would be rent
asunder. What would become
of natural affection in the

best gratification of our own
family, if such distinctions
were to obtain? - But I trust
they will love each other
as their parents did, here
on earth, ~~and~~ perpetuate
the race in good faith, and
family union -

I received a letter a few days
ago from Mr Cohen's sister Mrs
Lopez of Mobile. She supposing
as Pennsylvanians, our family
might have influence with Mr
Buchanan, or Vice in Kentucky
with Mr Breckinridge, which could
be used in her husband's favor -

I had to tell her - there was not
a Democrat among them - tho with
all my heart I wished well to the
Dr. and thought Mr Cohen would
be better able to advise her.

well my dear Maria, now the
bitter political struggle is over.
There is not the ghost of Asperity
walking among the disappointed

parties, that I hear of - Those
who sought their own interest as
office seekers, may feel envious -
but they are comparatively few -
The rest of the American people
abiding by their own laws, that
the majority rules, must be true
to their selves - I subscibe - I hope
we shall gain the pleasure of
seeing you & your husband during
the winter.

The box of grapes did arrive
here & was forwarded immediately
as you have no doubt heard before
this - I hope the Water of St Catherine
will prove beneficial to Mr
Coker, if he is not already free
from his painful disease. Ben
tells wonders about it, from here -
I say. Three tea spoonsfull a day
the dose - I hope all your dear
children are well. Give them
loving kisses for me. Your Uncle
left us yesterday - Hymar is to be
married early in January.

I hope Mrs Minis has recovered
her health - she was so exhausted
by her exertions in body & mind
that I feared she would be ill -

The whole family were great sufferers, and bore their affliction as well as could be, each considering the other, and making efforts to support each other. Edward Etting is better, but still unwell. Philip & Sally doing the best they can, but are both very thin & pale. Julia Haffner is well at Fishkill called there by the death of her excellent friend Mary Depland who died the last day of Nov^r very unexpectedly to her surrounding friends, who had not considered her illness dangerous -

Your Aunt Mary & Laura send their love, they are both well. Your Uncle and Horace also send love, My dear & we both much but affectionately attached to you. Excuse my neglecting your letter so long My dear Niece, and believe me always devoted by your affectionate R.B.
Give my love to Mrs. Minis & the girls