

Phil^a Nov 12th - 1857

My Dear Minnie

The time has gone by I hardly know how - so precious one be of this precious gift! but I began to feel as if it was long since we had unnumbered together - I have had our Becky's son Sissas with us for a fortnight - I have took him home on Tuesday night - as business took him to N.Y. for a few days - and the little fellows thought as he had seen, what interested him in the vicinity he would not let so good an opportunity pass - in truth he became tired of being without the companionship of his brothers - for all his cousins were at school - Sissas is to go into a country house, he did not like college studies and thinks an active life will suit him best - he is a clever boy - young for his years in boyish experience and very affectionately domestic in his habits. Dear Prueky has devoted herself to her children, I hope they will return it to her, when her care will be no longer necessary to them - they

with them best know its value.

Accounts from Jane, are still quite favorable. She is recovering strength & continues able to nurse her babe. The last I heard was from a letter, Mary wrote to Becky, with directions for her mother-in-law, he has been in N.Y. The hard times has not yet affected the merchants of Montreal. tho' the Mother Country seems to suffer in many ways. I think the India war even worse than that of the Crimea -

I hope your dear Grady begins to walk easily in his shoes, and will be able to dance as gracefully as he desires in due time. That is when his sisters begin to feel pride in having their brother "the observed of all observers." Mrs Minnie & the Girls, must have had some alarm on their journey, tho' unharm'd by sundry. The journey, left with much anxiety about her mother, I hope she had the satisfaction of finding her better. I have seen very little of Louisa since they left. all my calls abroad, carry me in different quarters of the town, I miss the D^{rs} family greatly on that account, for I am dependent on visitors at home - excepting my own dear sister, who is entitled to a portion of every day - Rosa has not yet returned

and writes she is not ready to come
with Morace to morrow - indeed I
do not expect her during this month.
It is a struggle with Sara Mordcaai
to spare her at all - and Ron must
naturally cling to her pleasant home
among sisters & brothers who love her
but her generous consideration of her
Grand mother, will bring her back
I know, before winter sets in -

Julia Hoffman came on Friday, look
my very well. She & yr Uncle & aces both
here, at their morning occupations, and
bid me give their best love to you. I
had a letter from Kentucky yesterday.
Ann writes with much pride of her
children, she has met with a good school
for them, and is gratified to find how
well her education has prepared them
to take a high stand among the pupils
of their own age. yr Uncle and all
are well. They have had a visit from
Howard & his family. They are all
much attached to his wife. who is cer-
tainly an admirable woman - My mother
too has brought an acceptable wife
into the family. Which must be a
comfort to Ben. his daughters grow-
ing up with uncles & aunts living
so happily together -

Our Fortu home fair is again
on the tapis, as the necessities
of the season, call for extra exertions
and we are obliged to pile
our house - to take children from
homes of far greater poverty.
My visiting week has just ended.

I have become even more inter-
ested than ever - there are se-
veral lovely little girls there - one
beautiful - with most loving eyes
that it is a pleasure to look
into them "her beauty made me
glad" and at the same time
"sad" for poor child, she cannot
afford to be vain, and there is great
danger of her becoming so. When
old enough to undertake the ^{work} ~~work~~
that will be lavished on her face?

Give my dear love to your hus-
band & children my darling
Marian & believe me ever your
devotedly attached aunt

Aunt Mary sends P.S.
her affectionate love. Truly your
aunt.