

1861

Philadelphia May 7th


 I know my Dearest Miriam
 how tenderly you sympathize with
 me in my severe affliction - and
 how keenly you lament the loss of
 our dear & tried friend Julia Hoff
 man, her long and suffering illness
 did not surprise, even those who
 were constantly with her for a
 fatal result - indeed the dangerous
 symptoms did not appear until
 very near the period of her death.
 We anxiously watched her dis-
 ease with fear it might attack
 a vital part, but as long as it
 continued in her limbs, altho
 she suffered intense pain, her
 great fortitude and even cheer-
 fulness enabled her to endure it
 bravely. so engrossed were we both
 in the common duties of the
 country, that she seemed every
 morning to be safe for the days

our shortcomings. Miriam sends her love. Miriam - Eliza is here
 and sends love. - ever your affectionate friend

news - alas only to lament anew
the evils that encompass our beloved
country. I do not think she had
any apprehension that her life
was endangered - The Rheumatic
Gout invaded her whole system,
but the immediate cause of her
death, was a sudden congestion
of the Lungs - her kind sister in law
Phoebe, (George's wife) who was staying
with her in the early part of her
illness - was herself taken ill and
for several days not expected to
survive - indeed is still confined
to her Bed where she has been a prisoner
on more than three weeks.

Mr Phillips brought me your letter &
packages, and I have just received a
letter from Jane Merdison acknowledging
the receipt of your handsome presents.
I trust I need not be cut
off from our intercourse by letter, would
we might hope to meet! Becky & I have
both offered to come to me, and

When we can feel safe of the coming
danger I shall be grateful for
their presence at present. The words
me so surprised by passing troops on
their way to Washington, that I rather
disconceal their coming. in your letter
my Dear Minnie, you speak of the pro-
bability of your going to California which
has given me great concern, as he suf-
fers so much with his feet when taking
moderate exercise, that it would be
cruel to expose him in a march - indeed
you know Dr. VanBuren told you, he
could not be removed in a regular
army on account of it, as a soldier or
where he could be allowed a horse, he
might serve - but O, do not read your
Memorandum to certain peril, even if he
escaped the ^{other} dangers of war.

In Beckys last letter to Horace she
mentioned the safe arrival of Edmund
from California, and his intention of going
immediately to Europe - we were fearful
they might fall in with Jefferson Davis's
privates, as they could not have been
apprized of this danger when they left
California - Eleanor Samuel brought
me your letter to read, not knowing
I had received one - Dearest Minnie, our

feelings going out from different
mouths, meet in heartfelt sym-
-pathy. I think our country is
sacrificed to wicked Politics -
with all the blessings of Heaven
poured out in abundant natu-
-ral productions, good will
and at peace with all the
enlightened nations of the Earth.
They picked a quarrel with each
other, and brought a blight on
this fairest portion of the world.

Your friends here are all well.
Sally, & Philippa & Harriet all
look sad, as well as our selves,
and send their love. They come
frequently to see me, & Henrietta
has been staying with me, all the week
give my love to your dear husband
how pleasant it must be to him
to raise his voice in the cause of
Charity, instead of mixing up his
bitter feelings, with the tumultuous
councils of wrangling politicians.
God bless you darling Minnie, and all
your love, and great duty & peace, within