

Friday May 17th -

My heart thanks you my
Dearest Miriam for your
tender sympathy. I know
how sincerely you share
my grief for the loss of our
beloved Julia. Truly she was
a devoted friend, and all
the high qualities of her mind
and heart, made her the most
interesting companion that
could bless a domestic home -
how often has she participated
in our sorrows - how patiently
given up her own pleasure
to open the brierthorn of my cares.
no affectionate daughter could
have observed of what might
contribute to my ease, your
own self my beloved Miriam
could not have exceeded her
care of me. faithfully she

redeemed her word - That when
you were married, she would
come and take care of me in
my old age - To the last of her
life this thought prevailed -
alas! she little dreamed it
would be her bed of Death
first prepared -

In the long weeks she was so
ill & suffering we never appre-
hended a fatal result - her
spirits were good - the interest
in her country's destiny never
deserted her - The last day of her
life the gazette was brought
and ^{at} early read - she sympathized
with you dear Miriam, know-
ing by what we felt, how
recently the separation of our
beloved country would affect
you - she died without pain
or anxiety - as an innocent child
closes his eyes in sleep, so
passed she away in the black

of Death - even the pang of parting
with those she loved on earth
was spared her. it was the Angel
of Death, not the King of terrors.
that called her hence

Our dear Pucky spent last
week with us. She & I are
animated by the same loving
desire you express to keep with
us. Pucky had her two young-
est children with her. & I am may-
probably come, as soon as she finds
that I cannot go to her, which she
proposed. I thank you that you
wished to send your daughter.
if the happy time should arise
during my life. that this unnatural
strife shall end in peace. we may
hope to renew our loving intercourse
in person. but in the worst of times
we shall still love & pray for each
other. I hope we may still have
opportunities of writing. yet fear
even for this indulgence. I suppose
Mr Cohea has returned home. give
my love to him & your children

When you write tell me about
Grady. That you will not let
him enlist in military service
lest he suffers from his feet
and becomes disabled.

Sally & Philippa are well. The
latter busy preparing Charles
for West Point. Henrietta May
send you her love she has
come to spend the day with us.
Merrill sends his dear love
to you - and so does your

Affectionate Aunt

R Grady

Remember me to Cecelia & Mrs
Minis. Where do you go to spend
the summer?