

Philadelphia June 16th 1845

Your letter my Dearest Bea afforded me the most heart-felt pleasure, not perhaps the less as it came a free-will offering of affection, and that it met a welcome acceptance, I can ~~best~~ prove by my prompt acknowledgment. I hope you understood me too well to need any new assurance of my love, and therefore may fancy how greatly I enjoyed the good account you give me, of all your dear family, I am truly glad that Stephen's aim is so visibly improving. That Howard is conforming to your wishes & becoming pursuing the course he had so long looked over for himself with so much satisfaction. These your eldest ones, will soon be capable of realizing your parental anticipations and I sincerely hope may afford you much happiness by their respectable characters and conduct. For dear Leary there is a well grounded expectation of future excellence, in his capacity, disposition & constitution and I trust you will have firmness enough to urge him, to embrace the present opportunity of improving his talents. He must be encouraged to this by Jo Shelby's example, for the little fellow, seems to have stepped into a new field of action, and feels already that he is doing something essential for him self. His last letter to Horace showed wonderful improvement in writing, spelling & style - and he appears so perfectly satisfied that I am sure his mother must already be rejoicing for the sacrifice of feeling she made in parting with him. - Ah how I can this day realize her sharpest pang on that occasion for Myrthel had gone from me! Horace left us this morning to embark on a new profession he has gone to learn the business of making iron - on its next

extensive scale - he has gone to an establishment where
the latest improvements are in operation belonging to
Col. Paston, whose son Horace is well acquainted with - when
he will have an opportunity of seeing & learning & studying
the whole art and mystery of the business. will pay his
board & expect no wages, until his services command
a return. & he thinks his knowledge of geology & that
his past experience in his former pursuits will be of
use to him - I feel comforted at parting with him, in the full
confidence his character commands. that he will so
conduct himself, as to merit success - his firm principles
and excellent understanding will keep him in a right
course, and I pray that God may guide & guard him
through the perils & difficulties & temptations of the
world - he desired me to send his love to Ann, and say he
would have written to her, but he disabled himself at the
fire on Wednesday night, when the academy of free arts
was burned. Horace and two of his young friends
existed themselves at the peril of their lives, to save
the large pictures and succeeded. with the largest picture
"Death of the pale horse" fell upon him, fortunately not
dangerously hurting him - but his right arm was lamed
and the skin taken off his hand - so that he could ^{not} write.
& they had not been five minutes out of the room, before
the curtain fell in, which would have buried them in the
ruins - Now Myra is greatly troubled by this disaster
it was endeared to him for much of its beautiful arrange-
ment & prosperous condition, he labored reasonably
& interested others to get it up into a better state than
it had been in for many years - & it has fallen by the
hand of an incendiary - Myra's health is perfectly restored
& he looks well again. we are all descending into the vale
of years with as few infirmities as Nature will admit.
God is gracious to us, and gently leads us on to the house appointed

Choose wisely when her time comes - Hoory Bodgeys removal
 will not now be a loss to your family circle. I have always regretted
 the ~~absence~~ ^{absence} of her, because I like Jacob and used to find her so much
 in your house. As a dreamer of fortune the cause of Mr Bodgeys
 desire to sell his house, it seems a pity for old people to diminish their
 comforts, for the sake of young ones, who can afford to rough it for a
 few years, rather than deprive those who have passed through that
 ordeal and arrived at ease or luxury through it - That good
 old Mac, with all his kindly feelings ought to enjoy his station.
 He has done so much for his wife's relations -

Jac has been absent a fortnight and will probably be away
 a week longer - on his return I think he will certainly contribute

God bless you they have been the best
 since these afflictions have been here. I hope
 we shall truly & devotedly your friends
 Rebecca Smith
 17 June 1845
 23.
 111 King St

Lexington Ky.

Benjamin Gray Esq



How well - You 184 - 80 - W - 922 - I hope to see you again
 and if the weather -

his journey to Lexington he talks of it with great interest & I anticipate
 much pleasure in it for him - Thank you dear Brother, for the
 kindness of your expressions to me. I think of last summer with
 so much pleasant love for you all, that I should think little trouble
 of the journey, to renew it. When other circumstances admit of my
 paying you a visit, but I must not be too prodigal of enjoyment, when
 duties interfere. Kiss my dearer Minnie for me. I should indeed love to see
 her soon again. Give my love to dear Ann, and all my beloved boys
 & Mary. Remember me to Mrs. Chastely & my other friends