

Your letter my dearest Ben gave me very
 sincere pleasure, not only because it confirmed
 the good account we had received of your dear
 Ann & her babe, but because every expression
 of your affection is most grateful to me. I never
 doubt its existence, and feel that I shall at
 ways retain it, since it has endured thro'
 many trials and long separation - but in this
 human state, what ever may be our convictions,
 the occasional reappearance of present recollections
 and longings though makes one heart
 glad and gives a new & quick pulsation of
 joy - and such do your letters produce
 your dear little girls have a living interest
 in my heart and I pray for them, that they
 may be as happy in each other as I have
 been with mine. Minnie must be a sweet
 peatler, and by all accounts very beautiful.

I hope by this time Ann has perfectly recovered
 and enabled to join in the festivities of the
 season, tell her I wish her a happy New Year
 and many successes over - It has been a
 period of peculiar interest & trial to me, for
 my dear Liza - the child of my tenderest affection
 has just engaged herself and I shall

lose her society - the gentleman Mr Joseph
of Canada, is I believe better known (personally)
to Mary Bowdell than myself - for the acquaintance was
commenced when they were at Cape May last
summer - as far as I can understand - he is a young
man of irreproachable character - a merchant with
good business and respectable connections -

he has been long attached to her, - ever since Fizzie
Blair & she were in Montreal - but no intimacy grew
out of it until recently - tho I can make no reason-
-able objection if her happiness is concerned, it
is a very secret trial to me - no one can look into
the uncertain future - and the child you have
reared and cherished - and treasured so dearly
can hardly be transferred to other protectors
without reluctance & misgivings - Fannie is one
of the most gifted & lovely characters I know -
so it would be difficult to find a person we
should think good enough to match her to -

I hope Mary has not gone to the South for
Fannie will certainly claim her in the spring
and notwithstanding what you say about
the incompatibility of ladies & politics between
her & Mrs J - that lady would think after the
sacrifice she made in accompanying her to N.O
that Mary owed to her the consideration of her
society some time after their return -

Howard wrote me a very good letter, which I shall soon answer. He seems to be very happy in his new state, and his prospect of future usefulness.

Give my love to all the dear boys, and a kiss to Merian. Howard cannot fail to be a favorite where ever he is known. He has so many of the qualities of a perfect gentleman. I wish he had a good wife, to make his home cheerful & interesting. Life in the country requires an help meet. When he can find one meet to be companion, friend & help in all the pleasures & cares of life. Ellen & her daughter are here, & spending a fortnight with Sister, they have just left me and desire their love. My man is well again, but continues lame, since his accident I think he is much more liable to indisposition than when he was better able to take exercise. Sue is in New York, he is in better health & spirits than usual. Thank God all our family circle are well, and I ought to be happy & grateful. But my dear Keo, when your darling daughter is going to be married you will be able to understand a feeling not easily defined, but certainly too full of anxious care to be called happiness.

Believe me with actual affection my dear brother devotedly yours R. G. O. J.

My love to you my dear Ann,

Jan'y 2nd 1848

Robert G. O. J.

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