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Philadelphia Nov^r 12th

I was truly delighted My dearest Ben to receive your letter, giving so appreciable an account of all your dear family and bringing you all before me, just as I wish to see you, each pursuing your habitual occupations and enjoying the blessings of Providence in this delightful season. it is pleasant to look back on the past summer, when you were with us. you are indeed unchanged My dear Ben - still in the fresh & growing attachment of your youth. and it is a happiness to feel that they are met with corresponding love - it is not often that so large a family grow old with so few losses and in all respects having much cause to render thanksgiving to almighty God for manifold blessings. I hope we are properly grateful. My present trouble is a recurrence of our brother Isaac's malady. he has been quite sick, was a good deal absent from home in Sept & the beginning of Oct. on his return about three weeks ago he had chills which was the commencement of his sickness. this has left him in great depression of spirits, very kind to those nervous people you have seen him under. I hope however they will soon pass away.

I am glad our dear Isaac has taken so wise a step to recover from his first disaffection.

Rebecca Smith

12 Nov. 1850

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he is at the age of sentiment - but too young to
despise and perhaps had he succeeded, he would
not have been happier in five years to come
as he will be, with the experience he will obtain
during that period. Maturity judgment so often
proves on our early fancies. Beonard is of a
more proper age - and if the young lady has not
grown vain by her frequent conquests, she
be favorable to his suit, as I believe her parents
think very highly of our dear Beonard - but
my man has great sagacity in such matters
and has been so well acquainted with the
Thompsons that his brother may do well by taking
a hint from his opinion - He says that
Abraham Minis is engaged to Lavinia Florence
and that both families are well pleased with
the match - I am very glad you were so satisfied
with our dear Marys prospects and liked her
husband so well, I believe she is very happy
and that Mr Riggs is devoted to her. I had a letter
from him yesterday giving excellent accounts
of her & their child. he is named Boswell. Mr R
determining to perpetuate the name by this
affectionate compliment to his wife. My friend
Julia will not be in town until December, I shall
be glad to have her - but I have learned to live
alone, or rather to do without a female in-
mate. I have been very fortunate in so long keep-
-ing the confidence of loving & affectionate
children - many mothers might have envied

One would scarcely expect to find a family so kind
& so hearted, as the Wickhams, in a country where
nature is supposed to prevail over fashion and
the distinctions of rank - and where humanity is so
generally extended to foreigners & strangers -
Poor Mrs W. if she loved her husband must feel
surely he want of sympathy in his family - I hope
the good people of Lexington are more kind to her, than
her kinsfolk. The old Duke, must beware of the example
of King Lear, and not give his Daughters all - while
he is liable to the elements.

Give my love to Ann, and tell her she is a letter
in my debt, and that she need not fear to file
a page or two, with the pebble of my pen.
The old Earl of Balcanes, wrote that people were
brought apt to leave their Portraits, to their descendants,
showing their features & Habits - but he thought
it more satisfactory to leave the picture of the mind,
and if the habit of putting down every days thoughts
& incidents, there were few hearts so barren but would
afford something to add to the stock of human know-
ledge, and to be resorted to their posterity - we are
much obliged to him & his children for a most agree-
able book (The life of the Lady) for following out
this plan - Now your dear children will be so grown before
I see them again, that I want to keep up my acquaintance
with them uninterruptedly - Minnie will soon become
a fine study - I would fiddle away with her and such a
bright mind must not be lost sight of - I love them both
dearly - Give my love to all your sons, my
beloved Brother and believe me fondly your affectionate
one Sister & brother send their love -
R. G. G. G.