

Nicky Trask
 July 18. 1856
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Phil^a - June 18th 1856

Your letter my Dearest Ben, was a great gratification to me, as all that come from you are. Your loved countenance beamed on me, (as it ever does) with affectionate expressions, - when we part for ever from some one who has long been dear to us - we seek for consolation, in turning to the beloved ones it has pleased God in his goodness to spare. poor Isabella's death might have long since been daily expected. yet it was a shock when it came - we had grown familiar with her sufferings and scarcely marked their gradual increase, until within a few days of her decease - Minnie's forlorn condition is lamentable, neither of her brothers wives are disposed to give her a home, the return to her lodgings, seven days after the funeral - she is greatly despaired

she retains the young woman, who
waited on her sister, in her service, as we
could not consent that she should be
entirely alone in a boarding house -
she arrived yesterday from Henry who
is cruising on the West India Station.
He has not yet touched at the port
to which his letters have been directed.

Our Dear Lenny arrived yesterday, looking
quite well & bright, a Telegraph had
informed him, giving us the expectation
of seeing him - He passed Horace in the
Cabs. They just missed each other in
N. York to their mutual regret. Horace
means to leave on Tuesday for Montreal
if the roads will permit. They have
been so "snowed up" as to be both diffi-
cult & dangerous - Indeed we hail the
safe arrival of a friend as a special
Providence, if they escape detention or acci-
dent. Lenny could give good accounts of
all our Western friends, and confirm the
favorable impressions of Mr. Dr. Messer.

eloquent in her enthusiastic acknowledgments,
our brothers are all well, and delighted
to have Mary with us. I fully enter into your
feelings at having your sons so far away
from you, but their dearest affections are
yours, and how far more blessed is it, than
the division of hearts, we so often witness
when members of the same family live
face to face - without brotherly love dwelling
with them. I thank God! my beloved
Ben, that this evil is not among the trials
of my life. What would have become of
me, if like Miriam Etting I had not a home
with my brothers! our widowed Sister & I,
daily & nightly return thanks, for this
among the numerous gifts the God of Israel
has vouchsafed unto us.

embrace your darling children for me
their bright faces are daily before me,
and gained Julia's admiration, she joins
in affectionate messages to them. I & you & Ann
who she greatly desires to see. We have send
you expressions of love. May the new
year, give health and incense to your
whole domestic circle. Prayers my brother
your own R. S.