

Nicky Lea 15

Dec 24 1889

Wash D.C.

Phila Dec 21stJan 1st 90

The year is drawing near its close, My Dearest Ben, and I know your engagements usually multiply at this season. My thoughts have very much with you, at all seasons, and when I can picture you at home with a serene brow, in the midst of your darlings I feel grateful and happy. a rumor reached me a few days ago that Larry was engaged, if it be true, I hope it gives you pleasure for I know you deeply consider what is for your childrens good and have no selfish views or prejudices to oppose to their wishes, and this dear boy, has been so long and beloved, that to see him happy would be a crowning joy to you.

age - Laura Merdick has been
with us for a few days, she is
a very charming woman, well
educated, intelligent & amiable.
her manners so correct & cheerful
that she stands apart from the
general desire for Bohemism of
our city girls - I am sure she would
please Ann, and our dear Merriam.

I suppose you brush up your
own scholarship, in behalf of her
Latin exercises - but my dear Brother
Nature has bestowed an early
ripeness to her intellect, and
with you & her Mother's home
training she will not require a
school, to keep her from being
a woman too soon - a happy
girlhood is the luckiest period
of life - and its memory cherished
with fondness in after years -

isolated in Richmond, & his health
very feeble - Sally Hays is
well & sends her love - all my letters
from our Mieces contain affection-
ate messages to you - Sara has not
yet got into her new house -
The Cohen children have all
written - They are now at school -
Minim has just sent me a jar
of sweetmeats - we are home on
Kentucky butter, which she
thinks daily praise - give
my dear love, accompanied
by that of Julia, Laura Mace
& Sophine, to our dear Ann &
the girls, Sweet Annas bright
smile dances before me now,
and please me my precious
beloved brother ever your
affectionate Phyllis