

duelling 2

Philadelphia June 18th

I am indebted to both my Dear
 Brother & Sister for the kindest and most welcome
 letters and hope they will permit me to ad-
 dress them together as they are constantly
 associated in my mind & heart, and as both
 have so affectionately expressed their sympathy
 to one bereaved sister. Anna's letter to her pore-
 -nated her heart with gratitude - and she
 shed many tears over Dear Ben's sweet words
 of consolation. I am glad to tell you that she
 is recovering from the shock of Grady's sudden
 death, tho she mourns his loss with all a
 Mother's clinging to her first born. The amiable
 domestic character & habits of Grady makes
 her daily & heavily miss him, he was ever
 attentive to her smallest wishes, and always
 present to perform them - but she is reconciled -
 he was taken away without much suffering
 and there was nothing in his illness to cause
 a painful recollection of him. I received
 a letter from Lizzie Lee this morning giving a
 very good account of Harry's improvement in
 health & good looks, and of her enjoying the beau-
 -ties & pleasures of Silver Spring. She had gone with
 a party on that day (Saturday) to visit the great falls
 of the Potomac 22 miles. and returned delighted
 with her trip. She went away intending to stay
 a fortnight - has been twice that time & I have

Nothing about her return, so conclude she will
stay until Lizzy goes to the sea shore -
I was extremely shocked this morning to see by
the paper that Ephraim Clay was killed, in a
duel in which both parties lost their lives - was
his antagonist the son of the defeated Mr. Turner
who was murdered when I was in Lexington & Ohio
I pity the unfortunate Mr. Clay - and all the
family of these victims - Misguided men! if they
had no samples of conscience, at sacrificing their
lives, the gift of God! might not have an affec-
tion have saved them from marring their un-
happy wives in such desolation & ruin! no laws
can be too rigid against this barbarous custom
Honor, false honor against every principle
of right - either religious or moral - There is
a young man, a cousin of Horace Moore's, just
about returning home, branded by a similar
act - having killed a man in a duel - he is
about 24 yrs old - a light hearted amiable
lad, who a few months ago, was hailed as the
benefactor of a community in Texas, having
gone to a village where the Cholera raged &
the inhabitants were panic struck deserting
the sick & flying from danger - with his share
- twelve cords & good nature, he went among
the sick & dying, administering remedies need-
ed - attending to the wants of the suffering - he has
lauded for his benevolence & followed by
the gratitude of the populace - a change

She bid me present her love, and affectionate thanks to dear Ann for her kind letter and a blessing to her dear Ben & his boys Sister Mary & our brothers join in the most tender messages to you - our brave Darling Mamma & her sweet sister for me. I should hope to have seen them before this - and you my Dear Ben & Ann but I hope it will not be long before that happiness may be ours -

God Bless you both - believe me in the true affection of your devoted father
R. G.
Best love to all the dear boys. Ann is coming & my dear?