

Phil^a May 23rd 1850

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I got your two charming letters. My dear ^{last} at eleven o'clock
on Wednesday night after returning from a two days' visit at
Mrs. Isabelle's. Things had gone and so had we but then away
with the morning but I assure you no sleep was in my eyes when
I took the seals and the happy tones of a warm & cheerful household gave
so grateful a change to my harassed feelings that I enjoyed a full
hours' comfort and a night of sound sleep when the unfortunate mother
Isabelle has indeed been extremely ill. neither father or physician
had much hope of her recovery for the last few weeks but she came
in a fair way during Father's absence in Paris. She exposed herself
to many opportunities of getting cold by lingering in the antechamber
his chamber door and she did not escape the penalty of her
independence. Her old spasmodic affection returned with increased
symptoms and in the midst of our household Father had another
relapse so that our almost worn out Mother was so true full of
grief it was pitiable to see her and kept us all in constant
anxiety. This is the reason I did not write to let you know about
Ellen and her little daughter who I am sure you will be glad
to hear live in her Mother's house doing extremely well. Ellen as
before is her new character and no friend of the child as
if she was true she would be the proudest & most perfect of her
kind and indeed it promises as well as any babe three weeks old
can and what is of quite as much importance Ellen's life is
getting well without Dr. Physick's knife or any other violent means.
I really believe Doctors make a great deal of their own business
as this instance proves. This disease which was a most hideous
appearance when Ellen came from Baltimore grew out of the cancer
affected to a chopped lip occasioned by cold. It assumed the
character of a squamous tumour and of such a size as to disfigure
her terribly and give violent pain & fever. She did not mean to be

confined in Phil^a and had made no preparations for the visit, which
ruined her expectations about those weeks - however, we are obliged
to keep her here a month longer, and send her rather the fatigue of
nursing her abroad, now her journey to Baltimore will be free from trouble

I saw your friend Mrs Woods on Friday morning. she was well
and was much pleased with her, her manner was very gracious
and agreeable - and she talked so charmingly about my darling
rephens that she quite won my heart - she says Coary is the
most beautiful boy she ever saw - and that your five sons, are
the finest children in Lexington - Why did you not send me
to spend the summer here, and be a pledge that you would
come in the autumn - I can not tell how much I am disappointed
that my dear Ben could not bring you all - but I hope it will not
be many months before he will make us so happy. surely as I should
write a mail from you & the younger ones - I would not ask it at the
sacrifice of a reposition - when your husband was here alone, I
felt reproachful of every moment's satisfaction he gave me - in
the thoughts of what he left at home - and how you were pining for
his presence. Mrs Woods says happy as she feels with her mother &
sisters - nothing but her want of health would have brought her away
from home - she has taken medical advice here - and I suppose as
so many of her family have met in Phil^a she will be detained longer
than she intended -

Elizabeth & I are both absent - but I have been too little at home
to miss them, when I cannot get away at dinner time I send one
of the girls to eat with I - and I am not very sorry that a slight
indisposition kept me here this morning, as it enables me to write
to you - we have a very good nurse who has been able to take care of
Embellen alone for the last two or three nights, and I expect in a
few days more she will be able to leave her bed, and gain some
strength. I consider her on the recovery - Ben has not got rid of his
rheumatism yet - in a few weeks he will journey to the Virginia Springs
to perfect his cure - as to poor Gracie his frequent attacks seem
to indicate that his constitution cannot resist his disease. he recovered

to tell you the truth a full disease yesterday with some of too high flavoured being
 did not suit my recent peculiar habit, and has remained this illness. Letter
 Dr. Keays and our little Beebe were very agreeable, and we sat late having prepared
 no jokes for Col. Winters benefit - but he did not come. the next time we
 expect him I shall be as sober as a judge. not like my friend Hoffman
 & Hoffman, who laugh more than any men of their ages I know. but downright
 stupid. pray did you ever see a letter which has been printed here lately - written
 by Mr. Hoffman before he was a judge to a friend in England - which has
 been dropped against him by the press & everywhere as wicked -
 but which I think very good morals & very good sense. If you have
 not I will send it to you -

Miss Benjamin Grady

My dear Mr. Grady

Miss Grady

Miss Grady



I will not trouble this on you by post if I can find a private conveyance
 give my best love to our dear Ben, and embrace my five famous
 nephews for me. remember me also affectionately to your Mother and
 accept dearest Maria the grateful love of your attached sister R. Grady
 and sister brother in & niece send love to B. & Gm. Minam is proud of your intended
 union