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I take the liberty of sending you
my very best love
Phil Nov 14th 1836

Why my dear Sister how long it is since
we have met even on paper - mine eyes long to gaze
your characters and to hear her the house pass with you
What engages your particular attention and in what
spirit you entertain them - Is your house arranged in
the new coverings we have sent and do they suit your
taste? here is a string of interrogatories and yet the
one my heart is most interested in, is not among them
which would ask respecting the health of your family.
Elizabeth Blair has been with us a fortnight and
leaves us to-morrow to attend the wedding of her friend
Miss French - she is still the same warm hearted girl, notwith-
standing the ordeal of a winter at court. I do not think she
is of a nature to be shocked - at least I think her father's
love and good taste in the character of woman, has pre-
served her from the taint of fashionable manners - and
it is much to say too for the editor of the Globe, that he
should find time and retain his domestic virtues in such
an atmosphere. Frank is also here - on his way back
to school we think him a very fine boy - like our dear
Howard, in spirit & look, and he is doing very well at
school, and so is James, who has improved greatly -
he comes every week to dine and spend the day in Boston
for these Horace is glad to see him - and I think they
are mutually useful to each other. you know Horace
gave up his inclination for West Point last spring
and is preparing himself for a civil engineer, and I
think as he was not intended for the Army, it is happy
for him he was at first disappointed for under
present appearances, it would be more discreditable

then ever to take an education from the government and
not use it in its service. I believe my dear sister, I realize
a mother's solicitude in the welfare of these children - certainly
I am continually asking myself if I have performed a
mother's duty. and feel too keenly the many lapses I have
made. yet thank God they are good & virtuous. have prin-
ciples of integrity and a love of truth. and I hope the love
of God & wisdom will grow in their hearts as they advance
in life. and see how empty all other sources of hap-
piness not having that basis prove.

You will believe how my mind is now occupied by my
precious Minnie, as the time approached that we are
to part with her. she is so satisfied & happy, that I cannot
bear not to partake of her feelings, and I constantly
ask myself unreasonable, can any man deserve her?
I should not be able to choose one - but she has
chosen, and thinks not chosen none perfection - and I
can but hope she will elevate him to her own standard
of excellence. he seems aware of her elevation of character
but do men ever consent to leave of their wives? they
sometimes do without their consent, and so we must
leave him in the hands of providence. she will not
find it out if ^{he} does. but suppose that her friends &
not herself were at first deceived. he is expected
here on the 28th - Inst. and they will either be married
on the 30th or the 7th Dec^r. I expect the latter, tho' Mr
Co. is very urgent for her to name the earliest period after
his arrival. Yesterday she & I overhauled her Mother's chest
to take out & destroy letters - lest they should fall in other hands.
and I became so enamored with the recollection of old scenes
of past happiness they conjured up, that few true commitments
to the flames. and at night the ghosts of many a year past
like the sons of Magdalen in vision before my mind's eye. & I

from all his Sisters give entrance the parcel boys for
me. tell them I think of them together & a part remember
something each have said, and love them dearly. tell
my Mr Sara Bodley I am concerned for her chiefs. it is done
at last - badly done, and I have no way of sending it to her
please give her \$3.50. the charge of her \$5 piece. which I cannot
include and hold me accountable for that amount which I
will spend for you in any thing you please - I will write to Sara
when I can find any one to take the package. love to her
& your Sisters. and all my friends - like Mrs Holly Jane

[Red ink scribble]



Miss Benjamin Graft

Lexington Ky.

Please send me your Lexington Report
it may be of use to me - we had a very
successful meeting of the Nelson - truly not to be
given in an excellent discourse. which produced
some flow of feeling not such - ever yours
and as has been I wished you to write

new Miss Austin, the evening she was here - Henry Etting
brought her from Ball. and put her in charge of a hawellee
going to N.Y. had he known she was a friend of yrs he would
have brought her home to us - but only found out who she was
after she had gone to be friends with some ladies they travelled in
company with. God Bless your devoted Mother believe me ever your
Sly.