

whole

Phila. July 22nd 1863

My dear Ann

Bucky Bruce will tell you how eagerly the arrangements of her party deflected your kind intentions in my favor. Yesterday afternoon she brought me your letter, informing me that they had been four days in town and would leave early this morning, that her friends were waiting her return, to take her to the Chevreuse Reservoir and then to the Opera, so that every moment of her stay in Philadelphia was appropriated. The ride looks delicate but gave a very good account of her health & the enjoyment of their tour. I should have wished to have paid some attention to the Rose Child, where neither I hold in great respect and to whom we are under many obligations for services & kindnesses, & for the personal compliment she has paid me in giving her daughter my name - but on this occasion I have been disappointed.

Your letter Miss Ann was full of interest. I take great pleasure in the description of your beautiful garden. Which you ~~and~~ we talked about when I was with you, and you were only collecting it in idea. The completion of your the capital efforts would be very gratifying to you -

but I could not have imagined that your sweet
little Miriam would so early imbibe a taste for
flowers, and store their names in her memory. I
delight in her faculty and in your judicious reas-
sonment in bringing the beauties of nature under
her notice. The pure & uncorrupted & refined old love
flowers, they bear a creation of pure benevolence
with which God has ornamented the earth, to
make it more lovely, and to gladden the heart
of those who dwell on it. I have a friend, who has
been long in affliction, she calls flowers her good
angels, for they have power to soothe her in sorrow
and give a sensation of gratitude while she
inhales their perfume and looks on the per-
fection of their beauty. Miriam loves flowers
too, the darling! when she fully comprehends the
philosophy of that exquisite power, she will
wonder at her infant mind being attracted by
its deep & solemn truths its ^{rich} portraits. you
must give her more rhymes for her present
exercises, and simple hymns which her
mind can apply. I know you will not
then be meddling - or take her for the gra-
tification of others, because your good sense
will prefer to see her natural development
than force out the germ of intellect
before its proper time

over losses of their dearest & most beloved
victims - The Washington will come directly
to the U. S. - Fizzie Lee is expected by the
yacht at the Cape, unless Frank or her
husband advise to prevent - Has Frank
been in Kentucky? poor ~~Leo~~ has been
a sufferer by his adventurous spirit
and I suppose much rejoiced that he
is safe from the many dangers he under-
took. I have heard nothing of him since
his arrival at St. Louis - Mrs Montgomery
Blair said they were looking for him, when
she left Washington - rec'd my dear
love to my beloved Ben & his boys - I am
glad to hear My man has recovered - poor
fellow, how troubled his dearest one
has been - to hear Frederick & Howard also
I desire to be particularly remembered,
how I should love to fold the dearest Mamma
to my heart - do it for me dear Alice and
ask her to love me, as you so generously
do - Accept our dearest love with mine & believe
me ever most affectionately Yours R.G.