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Philadelphia Nov^r 21 44

I owe you many apologies My Dear Ann
for disappointing your expectations of a letter long
since, and if I did not know how kind you are in
judgment should be at a loss what to say but
trusting it has not been intentional neglect for I have
thought of you constantly, and talked of you so much
that if there is any truth in signs, your right ear
must have burned almost every day since we parted.

You can have little idea of my consequence if you
suppose I had not a great deal to do, after three
months absence from home - particularly as I arrived
in the first week of the month, always the busiest
in our female societies. Then I found our dear sister
Hays indisposed and out of spirits, so that every
moment not absolutely due to other matters were
devoted to her society, and lastly I have been so
put down by the unfortunate termination of all
my bright hopes for our country's good, and ^{the} ele-
vation of ^{the} noblest citizen, that I have felt too low
for any agreeable occupation - were now Mr Clay
cannot direct the destinies of America, he
may imitate our glorious Washington - and wait
as he has before done for an opportunity to save her.
It is strange to hear, how many loco. focus are disap-
pointed, that he was not elected - who wished that

he had been & would have voted for him, if they had not thought, his majorities would have been so large that he did not need their aid - we are just beginning to rally our spirits in this house - I have abjured the sight of newspapers, for I cannot bear the sight of election returns & election bets - I am glad none of the triumphing Blairs are here - I rejoice my dear Ann, to hear of your domestic happiness, and sincerely pray all the dear members of ^{my} Brother's family may realize the bright sunshine of a happy home. if as you humbly suppose, I have in the least degree contributed to it, it will add much to my pleasure, - for I did enjoy every hour of my visit, and one loves to think there may some good result from what has been so gratifying to our own hearts. your sweet little Miriam rises before me in all her innocent endearments, she is just growing into the kind of intelligence that makes a place for her in every heart, I expect to hear she is the universal pet, a new generation is growing up around us. Isaac Mordue has another daughter & Miriam Cohen a son, should we rejoice, or be sad on such occasions? I have recently seen so much sorrow and trouble among people, I knew in happy cherished childhood, that I should despond, were it not that the mercy of God pierces the deepest gloom, and bids us hope while we pursue the even tenor of an upright course. I have just received a note from Sister Etting, the first traced by her hand for many years. telling me to thank you for the affectionate remembrance

hope to send yr things next week - if they do not suit your
taste please instruct me how to do better another time.
I am glad to hear dear Mary is well & happy. please give
my love to her & Mrs Theodora. I wish Mary could have been
with us this winter. she would enjoy our Sunday evenings, &
contribute much to our pleasure. if Julia Hoffman is in N
York perhaps Horace will bring her home with him -
give my dearest love to my Mother, the boys, and a kiss
to my young niece. I am sorry Frederick will not have the leave
taken to come on to my birth day. alas for the 4th of March

Q

Mad Benjamin Gatz

Lexington Ky.



24 Nov 1844

William Smith

Have told my dear Ben, I hope in future
to be a better correspondent. believe
me with great sincerely your affectionate
friend W. S.

it will bring us no harvest next year. but we may still
have much to be grateful for. and must strive to make
up in private contentment for the failure of public glory.
I am glad to hear my dear's arm is recovering. even if it be
slowly. he must have a little more patience. and hope for a
reward at last. remember me kindly to Jos. & Mary Keen.
how comes on your colored horse hotel? I am interested
in all your concerns, and like to take a survey of the interior
of your dwelling. I owe much kindness to them all. - We then
I feel it -