

Philadelphia Jan. 28th

My Dear Ann

As soon as I received your letter announcing the arrival of the long expected Box, I commenced a reply, which has unaccountably disappeared from my portfolio, and it is now almost too late to express my pleasure, at the satisfaction given to the respective parties concerned - for the gloss of admiration has worn off, and I have only to hope that their usefulness will at least equal their beauty. I begin to feel the consequence of not having written before, for I am anxious about your sweet little Minnie, and wish to hear that she has recovered from the discomfort you mentioned, tho' do not consider it of any serious import as long as her health is not affected by it - indeed it some times happens when those affections are thrown on the surface the constitution is less injured, I expect when Minnie's skin is changed by weaning that the boils will grow robust, and then the eruptive will disappear. You need not fear to persecute her her little weeps when you write to me, I love to hear of her improvement, for I take great interest in young human beings - & try to find out what the future woman is to be - by the early development of character & disposition - They grow from mothers too - they have so much to do & to observe - so many physical & mental ailments to nurse into health & good - and with all their care, are so often interrupted by seasons of vice

I was surprised a few days ago by a visit from Mrs
Morefee, who I had understood, had gone home a full
month ago, with her Brother, she told me her sister's indis-
position prevented their travelling that she is now better.
Mrs M. looks very pretty, she came with Mrs Lathrop, and
I have heard that the widower, who has just moved into
his handsome new house, appears to be very much changed,
so perhaps, one of those masked incidents which look
like evil, and turn to good in the events of human life.
may be in progress here. If Miss Sewth regains her health
and her beautiful sister is induced to change her
State we may congratulate ourselves on such an ac-
quisition to our gay circle. - But this is taking a great
liberty, when I confess that I am so little abroad, that
until called to receive her visit, I did not know the ladies
were in the city. In fact I have never lived more reclusive
than this winter, a few of my kind friends & neighbors
make up the whole of my society. Julia Hoffman & Sara,
are always cheerful companions at home - family calls
keep me in exercise, and what other social duties give
interest to my life. - even as years roll on, to file up my
time more consistently with my taste, than the present
fashionable manners of disposing of it - I am quite
sorry that circumstances prevented Mary's spending his
winter with us, there would have been such good opportunity
of improvement in her favorite accomplishment, French
for we have had a succession of great geniuses, giving
concerts & lessons - and I should have so liked her to stand
domestic evenings with Sara & Mrs Butler who are
both good musicians - however, there is much more bear-
ing in performing our duty, than in any other accomplish-
ment. ^{and} that I should not love her as well, if I did not

our sisters desire their love to you, they have both suffered from colds, and I have not escaped - but we are all recovering - mine came at a very unreasonable period, preventing my attendance at the Orphan's anniversary - I hope you take better care of your self - particularly on Sunday. I am glad to hear your brother's health improves - he will scarcely require a southern climate this winter -

To my Dear Ben present my most affectionate love, I long to see one of his precious letters - it is some time

I saw Miss Mothers and her pretty daughter and announced to them they were in the City. her old friend & school fellow Ellen was here to meet her - good night my dear Ben, believe me very truly & affectionately your sister B.B.

Adeline Smith

28 Decr

1845

Lexington Ky.

Mrs Benjamin Smith



Answered Feb 11th 1845.

since I have received one - and mine, he seems to have quite forgotten - did you ever know such a set of bad correspondents, as the men of our family are? except Howard, it is hard to get a letter out of them, and even from him I have not heard for more than a month - Kiss my sweet Minnie for me, and pray let me hear soon from you, remember me to all my Lexington friends, how is Becky Bruce? I could ask a great many more questions if I had room - but they should be about your own household -