

in June any time
of nursing child

Monday Nov^r 24th

My Dear Ann

Had the enclosed arrived one day
sooner it would have sent our Beloved Ben
on his way rejoicing but he left us yesterday
afternoon with a little shade of his apprehension
and anxiety for the want of your accustomed
letter, and tho' he may perhaps be with you
when this arrives (as he seemed but half dis-
posed to stop at Washington) I make it the
occasion of another letter to you - besides which
I ^{want} to insert a piece of impertinence in my note
of yesterday, where I used the disrespectful name
for your little boy. Tho' I assure you it was by no
means my intention to decide so important a
question - and you know from the previous ex-
pression of my opinion that (dearly as I love my
brother) it would not be my choice. I know not
what induced Ben to ask me if I had written
to any one upon the subject of his child's name.
I told him as nearly as I could recollect what
I had said to you, and thought by his reply, that
I had ~~not~~ been mistaken on the ground of his
objections - and foolishly supposed there were no others
at hand (after my note was sealed & delivered)
I introduced the subject and found both his father
& Uncle Jo opposed to it - but it did not occur to

me, that my suspicions were of any consequence
and my note was unrecalled. Young says
"a death-bed is ~~an~~ ^a ~~examiner~~ ^{detector} of the heart" but
I may go further and say a nightly pillow is a
reflector of each deeps secrets and mine often echoes
back inconsiderate words and acts that I would
recall or wish undone and I accused my self last
night of helping to create a desire in you, which
would not be gratified. I believe I have two people
dear on this subject. The first growing out of cir-
cumstances in our sister's families who both gave
the same name to two children, and the precious
little inheritors were both unfortunate. The
second, that it is not altogether among Jews
to name a child after a living parent. It
does not occur in the scriptures from whence
we take our customs as well as laws. ^{but then}
it is very common now in modern times, and I
have no reasons against it - only a prejudice.
Queere might not the boys be jealous of a name
sacred in their memories by one passed into
the skies?

Now dearest Ann, after saying so much in con-
fidence to you, let me assure you, that whatever
may be the name of your darling, I shall love him
most deeply. That your happiness & that of all
my brother's family is very near to my heart.
I think of you very often with the same feelings
expressed to you last summer. That true love
is wanting to bring all things to their right places

Answered Dec 1st 45



Mrs Benjamin Gray

Lexington
Ky



Dec 1 1845
Answered

