

[illegible]

that had borne it, and I could not wish them
a better reluctance than that a portion of her friends
may descend upon them -

From the disposition in which Dear Ben left as
I did not much expect that he would stop at Washing-
ton, tho' I urged him to do so, in order to remove the feeling
of estrangement I perceived in him. I received a note
from Lizzie expressive of his appointment, but saying that
he had promised to see them during the coming year.
which I hope will be fulfilled, for then we may hope
to see you also - If you & he have no objection we will
send the boys to spend half their Christmas holidays
with their Aunt Blair, Lizzie says her Mother's heart
is bent upon having them -

With respect to Lizzie's not going to Lexington
when she was in Kentucky - I heard the family
repeated it - What feelings operated on her to pre-
vent it I know not - but if I am not mistaken
there was but little intimacy between her & her Mother
when she was there some years ago - since then, she
had changed her situation - her husband was a
stranger to all her family - you had all changed
your conditions - and you must acknowledge - it
would have been an awkward thing for her to
bring about an introduction - where each one was
unacquainted with the feelings of the other with
regard to them ^{whom} - you cannot wonder she did not
like to accept Mary's invitation, in the presence they
stood together - besides all which Lizzie was actually
ill. I wanted to have her - But Lee left her at Louisville
& on his return found her so, I was anxious to get her
home to her Mother's care - do not call me

Music is a dangerous medium, between an enthusiastic worldling & a beautiful young lady. Many has one weak point the sets too high a value on talents - forgetting that wasted talents is the work of reprobity - abusing one of God's higher gifts to man - and thus incurring sin, and causing misery -

our sisters & brothers send their affectionate greetings
to you & our brother Ben - and the dear boys. Mr Elling continues
comfortably well - and the rest of the family as usual & Henry
Elling has been appointed to the Navy Yard at N.Y. which will take
him from home, but is a very good station - I hope your little
darlings have recovered, and that your Well is restored

A thousand thanks my beloved Brother
for your kind letter from Weymouth. It
reached my heart glad to hear your contribu-
tion to the Society in your journey we
were to bring to rest with you - do not think
when you have your friend ahead on your way
leave - May God bless you - ever your Obedt

$\begin{array}{r} 2.00 \\ 2.39 \\ \hline 4.39 \end{array}$

Benjamin Franklin
32.73

160.14
122.09
38.05
13.07
24.98
4.15

it is a bad thing for a nurse to lose rest you do not
tell me whether you are strong & have flesh enough
or whether you give all your substance to your boys -
you must remember that a good mother should look
ahead, and try to preserve her constitution for future
usefulness. I sympathize with the Craig & poor Mrs Brand.
I am sorry to hear your child is so visited. is it an epidemic
or only the usual colic of the season.