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I have been to my dear Mother - to all the dear boys, and to my
new sister - all of whom he must write to me. or I shall have
to open a correspondence with his wife.

Philadelphia Nov^r 9th - 1847

"Ask and ye shall have" is said by one
of your own teachers my dear Sister and is
freely given by me in the present instance
not only absolution for acknowledged faults
but hearty thanks for the return of your agreeable
favours. Never plead the want of interesting sub-
ject for a letter, when you are so surrounded
you could easily write about any one of your
household, or of the occupations of your daily routine
without giving interest to your letters - even
if you were less skilled in the art of writing
agreeably. Indeed I was very, very glad to see
you had writing again, and come promptly
to thank you for it. Poor Hyman! it is sad to
think how he is cut off from the usefulness &
enjoyment of his youthful days, and that
his portion may still be that of continued suf-
fering. I did not know he had been so ill, but
have always dreaded much trouble from the
state of his arm. I hope your predictions may
prove true, and that unwelcome to the sense
of danger, he may avoid it, by penance &
attention to diet. Hyman is of a brave consti-
tution and should always avoid high living.
Dear Howard I hope has made a good choice

who will prove an help mate to him - your judicious
advice will I hope sink deep into his mind and
aid him ^{to} fix on a plan of life that will insure
their happiness. I regret to hear that she is in delicate
health, Howard has a kind heart, and will no doubt
be tenderly careful of her - every thing I have heard
of her character, is good. She seems to engage the
respect & admiration of those who know her best - the
duties she has so faithfully fulfilled to her younger
sisters & brothers, are evidences of a sweet and affec-
tionate heart. These reconcile with you this winter
will I hope confirm your good opinion of both the
married couple - having gained Howard's affection
& confidence you will be enabled to bring about a
more unobscured intercourse between him & his father.
and then I shall consider Howard safe - because he will
be guided by his judgment, as well as dependent
on his affection - It is a great happiness my dear
Ann, in this tangled of relations - when parents &
children are on easy, confidential, companionable
terms - it is so comforting to defer to ripen judgment
when we can apply for it, in youth - so delightful
to give it when experience has fitted us to bestow
it, and it seems the highest privilege God has
delegated to the parental character - to guide
their children to His words - thro' the perils that
beset them in the world we inhabit -

I am sorry the boys do not mean to return to school
tho' not disappointed - they seemed unexcused when
they left - it makes little difference where they stand
if they will study. and you must have a plan

with her again, & see how she sustains her new character. Her stay here was so short that we saw very little of them. And I suppose they will soon be hurrying to their own home. Frank has been so long a wanderer that it will take time to settle him in domestic habits it is well for him he has so cheerful & happy a companion. You are certainly a very interesting people - young & old "all go to the world" as Preatree says. a nice young bride, Mrs Duncan has recently been in your city. She is an acquaintance of Mary's & regretted that she did not see her. This morning her parents & sister left to pass the winter at the south, if they pass thro Lexington, tell Mary, little Jane ^{Louise} will certainly find her out. Our sisters desire their best love to you - you must make for tell you something about them, in order to realize how much they desire to know you - and may give all our love to him, I shall be sadly disappointed if he grows lazy, because I know he is capable of doing a great deal for himself.

What a large family of young bachelors, Dear Beonacel will have this winter. by the spring he will find it necessary to get a housekeeper of a different sex, and I hope will select such an one as will brighten his home for life.

Horace is still out with Dr Lee, but expect he will soon arrive in New York where the brig is to pick in. The survey must soon be over for this season - and this I expect will finish his sea-faring. it is hard to start out in a new profession. Now for he has been picking up various lore - which may be useful - and is certainly pleasant, tho' not profitable. our brothers are all well. Joe talks of a journey before the winter sets in - we are now in the middle of a delightful Indian summer - almost as warm as June - but it will soon be over - Good night my dear Ann believe me affectionately
your sister R. G.