

Philadelphia Dec. 7th
1844

This is a winter day My Dear Sister, the snow is falling & has already covered the ground, but the quiet scene around me looks so pleasant and comfortable that before I go further with my letter, I must introduce you into one little parlor which the boys can tell you, is not much larger than a good sized closet. Mary is seated at the table beside me stitching Italian and Jaca busy with her needle, she has the faculty of reading while she sews, so we are three women together employed in perfect silence. how long this phenomenon will last I know not, but am willing to cite it as an exception to general usage for your benefit. Mary had a letter from Jo this morning saying that both Ned & Lucy were well and getting on well, and this morning's mail carried them an invitation to pass Christmas with us in Phil^a which I suppose they will be inclined to accept. we hear very rarely from them, but now & then a few days relaxation can do them no harm, and it is pleasant to look in their faces and assure ourselves that things are going on right. we witnessed a novel & exciting scene last Wednesday Ladies were admitted into the gallery of the Chinese building to hear Mr Webster's speech at a public dinner and in four hours listening to this great Statesman, drank in a complete course of the whole Polk administration with the comparative rarity of those who preceded them and as a comment on our disaffected position. This morning witnessed the departure of one volunteer to the war!

Isabella Elting is much gratified by the interest you express for her, I consider her one of the most remarkable persons I have ever known, to look at her emaciated form, or see her during the paroxysms of suffering, you would not think it possible she could survive, yet for years, she has been one of the most active & useful members of the house hotel, attending to both her parents as they respectively require aid, at all hours night or day (excepting when she is herself the invalid) which happens some hours of every day. - she is exceedingly affectionate to all her friends, and devotedly attached to her brothers children - and one of these, accedes the whole happiness of her life. she begged me to thank you, and offer her affectionate regards -

Have you ever read Mrs Thompsons history of the Jacobites, I am just now getting out of love of the heroes, in the interest excited by the sufferings of their followers, the extreme devotedness of their patriots, and the sad fate to which they sacrificed all that was dear and desirable in domestic life -

our city is not yet gay, but Mary has been to several small parties, and is already very popular, her manners, appearance, and singing greatly admired. she seems to be very well satisfied, indeed says she is very happy. I hope she will continue so, that portion of the year, which is independent of the excitement of tournaments, I knew she would pass very agreeably. but we do not go much into public, and one so well calculated to shine in gay circles - and of Mary's age may well desire to hold her station there - we love her much & she makes herself very acceptable to all in the household. her health is excellent. she has not been one day sick since her residence here. This will I

The young men, whom we scarcely can any longer
call boys are all very dear to me, and I know their
Father realizes all a parent's solicitude for their advo-
cately, he may reasonably feel pride in their fair
& promising character. but every blessing has its
price, and the cares & fears of parental solicitude
go hand in hand, with the love they bestow -
every one here desires to be affectionately remembered
all are well. except one brother Sam, who returned
on Friday not much changed from the
depression in which he left us - but I hope
soon to see an amendment.

I have written a long letter dear Ann
but certainly not a very entertaining one.
for which you will excuse me, and believe

me very sincerely your affectionate sister

Eliza

Remember me very affectionately to Mrs. Theashley
and kindly to my friend Mrs. Dewees & Mr. Beecher
if the latter is in Lex. - tell her her sister Anne
is well -