

Philadelphia Feb 6th

I ought much sooner My dear Aunt, have
 replied to your most gratifying letter, but I hope
 you will be kind enough to excuse me, and believe
 that the little stranger you introduced with your own
 name was taken directly to my heart - and that
 I not only shall love her for your sake but bear
 in mind the tender motive which appointed her
 with the friend you loved - and lamented - Mr R
 was indeed a loss to you - we rarely can replace
 such a companion - but in the fervent wishes
 of her sweet name sake you can dwell on her
 virtues and bring up memories that are dear
 long after the habit of daily intercourse ceases
 to be missed - poor old Mr Kent must finish
 his days in solitary mourning for his loving
 daughter & kind nurse - for none can be to him
 as she was. The loosening of such ties, break up
 hotel on life, and perhaps are the best pre-
 paration we can receive for our own departure
 still she leave a child younger than little Kate
 whom I used to see & admire ten years ago?
 You must miss Mary & Mrs Thrashley very
 much from your fire side - but you cannot be
 lonely - your own little darlings - and Howard.

chosen wife will fill the gap if you ever feel the
want of society. for the first time I begin to realize
such a state - When Sara leaves me, on whom I have
so long leaned - who has been raised by my side
slept in my room, and been in the place of a daughter
- glad to see from her infancy up to the present time
it seems as if I should be quite lost without
her - and this anticipation pains me painfully
already - of an evening when she is at her piano
every brilliant note reminds me that I am not
long to be so chained - our late & late sewing parties
the books we read together - all our social habits
speak of the time when I shall no longer have her
but when I look in her face or hear her speak
of the bright days of happiness dawning on her
young hopes - every selfish regret is hushed and
I sympathize in her feelings of confidence and
love - we have had no accounts of Mary from
Orleans yet, the papers say they arrived on the 19th
I hope her health will be improved and that she will
have much pleasure in her visit - but I hope she
will not be fixed there for life - she is not calculated
for a planter's wife nor do I think a Southern
residence would either improve her happiness
or character. Mary is very lovely, but requires
more active duties than she would have surmised
- by dependent slaves. you may laugh at this
notion of a Mistress's duties - but my dear Ann - I
only mean, that few not brought up among them

Yesterday we had more snow than has fallen
 this season - and to day there is nothing seen of it
 in the streets. The whole winter has been mild & bright &
 beautiful weather - & the walking perfectly good.
 The wise folk, who do not accept any present enjoyment
 without predicting that it is to be paid for with with interest
 expect a hard Feb. & cold spring. Miss Mary dear Mamma for
 me and tell her, in her next letter to talk to me about
 little Sister Anne. And her new Sister Minerva with whom
 I am very desirous of forming an acquaintance -

arrived

March 24 1848

P. 4
 Wm Benjamin Webb
 Lexington Kentucky

What does Howard mean to do? practice Law, or buy
 a Speculator's road to fortune? May some of those
 footsteps & prudent volubility direct them -

When dear Anna write to me as soon
 as you conveniently can. and always believe me very
 truly yours of affectionate Sister Eliza