

236
Grove Street
Newbury
Philadelphia Dec 11th - 1848

I did not wait for your letter My Dear
Ann tho' I was very glad to receive it, but
felt that our correspondence was becoming
very languid, and intended writing to you
for some time before its arrival. Our best
intentions however are often thwarted, and that
was my case in the present instance - a very
old friend of my youth, with whom in sisterly
affection the best years of my life was passed,
was suddenly removed, and her death brought
up so many dear recollections, and the distress
of her sisters interested me so much, that I
devoted my time to them in their grief -
then came my friend Mrs Butler, and her
affairs engrossed my time and interest so
that I should have tired you with the sub-
ject, particularly as all the news papers
were full of it. She came here accompanied
by her excellent friends Mr & Mrs Charles
Ledyard, and received flattering attentions
from all her personal friends, ^{many} which tho' she
was in no condition to accept were agreeable
evidences of their sympathy - you have no
doubt seen the proceedings - the judgment of
the court is not yet known - and she has
retired to the privacy of her village home -

and can only add - My love to each of my beloved
and regrets to all friends - where no more

one dear Leggie Lee went home last week, very
much benefited by her visit, her husband joined
her here, so that she enjoyed his society and
was quite contented, you know what very agree-
able conversational talents she possesses -
Magg was delighted with her companionship
and our house was again brightened by their
young light hearted merriment. I am glad
to have Sara's friends feel at home in it, tho'
every day they miss her & wished for her presence
My dear Brother must feel very happy in
his employment of settling his sons around
him, I trust they will respect & repay all his
parental care and gratify all his parental
affection by their worth, and success dear
My dear & dear, gave me such a high choice
of Howard's wife that I rejoice in his having
chosen one, likely assist him in his future
plans, and be indeed an help mate - I wish
one excellent Bernard had a companion
worthy of him, who could share his cares and
double his happiness - which is the promise
of a good wife - I am glad you like "Home
Influence" - I wish the gifted author had lived
to complete her design of carrying her characters
this life, with such a beginning we might have
expected her own portrait in one of them and
a charming group of practically good people
more natural & easy than Hannah More's
and quite as good as the Haulings. Miss A
was herself an example for good children

Fancy Ball in N. York to be given by Mr John
Stevens, on the opening of her new house or palace
in College Square. Ben knew her in days of yore
(Maria Levingston) she took a great fancy to Mary
(as most people do) last summer at Saratoga
and sent us all tickets to her fête - whether Mary
will go or not I cannot tell - she went a few weeks ago
when her Uncle's had some business there to an Opera -
since the Rail road affords such easy travelling - an 100
miles to a fete is no such great affair - give home a
little - when we had to travel in stages it took some
time to make up ones mind for the journey - and two
days were necessary to complete it - I was born too soon
my dear Ann, to be fashionable - was always slow
and now this indifferent to fatigue - have no desire
to leave home, except for an object of peculiar
importance - Sister Mary has just stopped in &
finding me writing to you desired I would give her
best love to you and our dear Ben, put mine along
with it Sister, and tell him it comes warm from the
heart we treasure him among our choicest - Sister
Etting is doing wonderfully well - she has brightened
up for her children, & she to make their home cheer-
ful, but never leaves her house - who are new
your household visitors? since the death of Mrs
Reynolds, I do not know who to place beside your
hearth? and I love to take a chair in your circle
and recognize the countenances of those who are
round it. we hear constantly from Sarah & her sisters
they are all well, and seem happy in their domestic
relations - Horace stays at home and spends
his evenings there but we rarely see him during the
week at any other home - he leaves home at seven
and stays away the club room - God Bless you
I have come to the end -