

Monday 23rd Sept -

My Dear Anna

I am a thousand times
 obliged to you for your charming letter
 it has put me in the best spirit I have
 enjoyed since your departure. I knew
 our friends better than you did, and
 never doubted the pleasure it would give
 them to see you - had it been permitted me
 to have accompanied you my joy would have
 been complete. I so desire to see them, and
 to have been to the utmost limit of your
 sojourn with you - My dear Brother & the dar-
 ling children - tell sweet Minnie the first
 thing I did after her departure was to take
 away the odious doll - whose flat nose & red
 cheeks she despised, and replace it with
 a modest little like baby - whose rosy cheeks
 she must excuse, as the blush of modesty.
 tell her Sarah Ann was her sleeping maid
 and that Miss Mary Brand was kind enough
 to offer to carry her to her new home - give my
 little darling Anna some loving kisses to wipe
 off her tears, and bid her think of Aunt Bessy
 only with her sweet smiles. I treasure the
 thoughts of all your kindness, and the plea-
 sant days we passed together, and as

you are not very vain, may be you
of the universal fair impression you
have made. Julia Williams came to see me
on Friday and told me how charmed she
& Mrs Ruth were with your last ship - and
since you are also a belle at the Capital
I think you may go on your way rejoicing
and endeavor for the rest of your life
to live up to the character you have es-
tablished. you see my dear Ann, I have
taken the tone of your own letter, except that
I really expected just such a result from your
visit. I do not approve the old Irish maxim
"Blessed are they who expect nothing - for
verily they shall not be disappointed."

I would rather sometimes be disappointed
than lose the power of duly estimating
my own claims - and doing justice to the
good feelings of others. The Major wrote to
tell of the pleasure Sara & he had in welcoming
you all at the Arsenal. Miriam & Eliza
are better the former has been out, and is now
driving with her friend Mrs Wm Florence - we
have just received invitations to Miss Leary's
wedding on the 3rd Oct. Sally Wages rec'd very
shortly, but will I trust soon be more comfort-
able -

Answered Oct 8th 1130

Mrs Benjamin Gray
Miss Brand Washington City