

John's
whole

Thursday Oct. 18th 1850 -

We were desperately tired May Dear Ann, of waiting for the first news of your arrival at home, for the Telegraphic message never arrived and your & Dear Prue's letters of the 7th Instant brought the first intelligence. But as you told us at Wheeling of the state of the river, we fancied you were wanting your way prosperously. never meaning that your feelings would be shocked by such a disaster as losing a fellow passenger by Cholera! But it is not given us to foresee where our danger lies nor to measure the goodness which shields us from it. We are getting on very quietly here all our summer visitors are gone - but beautiful bright summer weather continues to cheer & smile on us. the autumnal moisture morning & evenings are scattering the leaves about our doors and remind us that nature is changing the visible world, and preparing for winter. This is the first day of rain for a long time. yesterday Myman joined a party on the new route to Holliday's bluff. but I expect he will leave it & return home as he would not like to spend the Sabbath (a rainy day) by himself in Haverhill. his original plan I think a little recreation will be useful to him. as he was prevented making his northern tour. He continues a rover. He has been away for a long past.

Lucy Lind is here - gave her first concert last evening - and is to repeat it to night & to morrow night but I do not think I shall hear her - It is one of those extravagances which moderate people & old ones too may not indulge in - The lowest price of a ticket is \$5. and if it were 500¢ many might file her room innocently at that price - and I stay at home and not endure them - what think you of Root's reticence for giving \$625 - for the first one sold at auction, but the sun shines to make his fortune - and he can afford it - I suppose you have been to Mr Elmer's Barbecue and join the multitude who delight to do him honor we were all sorry when he was disappointed of the Presidency - little imagining that he was designed for a higher destiny. I am a little frightened about the Southern Malcontents, they are so set headed & so wrong headed that they do not seem to see what dangers they would bring about their own ears - how they throw themselves into the power of their greatest enemies / the abolitionists & their own slaves /

I am glad the Shalalesters were pleased with Mary's Husband. I like that her western friends should be satisfied with her prospect of happiness our anxiety is not yet relieved on her account, but she writes in very good spirits, and has been nicker about as far as the Arsenal last week - she sent me some very nice preserved fruit and wrote a long letter. Lizzie was in town with her, and promises me a visit before Nedee returns. Mr Blair took James's wife on to N.Y. she has sailed for California to join her husband, which I think must make him very grateful. it is a great undertaking for a woman & child - give my love to Leonard & tell him, it is time that he should inform me what he is about. Leonard has been very busy with his name, & I claim to hear from himself now for he is to be believed (I suppose it is of the female gender) I am glad to hear Howard & his wife & child are all doing well -

There is one thing you have very judiciously
avoided - you never talk nonsense to your
children - they have nothing to unleash -
childish thoughts are not foolish - little
stories they invent - and little plays
they amuse themselves with - are beautiful
They are true to nature - and affect me
terribly. Sweet little Anna's examma-
tion of Nina Haefts dress at a party
would have rebuked her mother's fash-
ionable shopping - more than any criticism.

Bless the dear children! Keep them both for me -
our dear love to my brother Ben, he says he
intended writing to him to day - but not having
done so, sends his love - we dined late & late to day.
Nance would greet you were he at home - and
this is all our present family - we may expect
Julia Hoffman next month - my carpets are laid
& I am ready for winter - letters from Mamma & Sara
give fair reports of their families - how all the families
are your devoted - it is a privilege claimed by our
sisters to read your letter - Fanny begged me when I
came to see her again to bring it for her parental -
Henry writes he hopes to be home in the spring - the anticipation
of which makes them all cheerful - Sally
Ray, Hannah & Philippa all send their love
Dodo claims Mamma for his sweetheart - and
all the children send love to their cousins - Anna
it is near the home of Southwell - peace be with you
all my dearly beloved - R.H.