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Till dear Bernard, we expect he will keep up acquaintance
by writing occasionally. I shall not be surprised with whether he
reads a review
examines West
country letter
not direct him
and believe
me your
affectionate
son,
R.G.

Phil^d June 10th /51
P

appears like a pleasant dream
that one dear Bernard has paid us a
visit - so unexpected and of so short du-
ration, but he told us so much about
our western friends and their concerns
that I enjoy its effects even now - when
he is far away - I received a letter from
May full of regret that he did not go
to Washington, and Mr Riggs, who was
just returned from New York says he
enquired at several Hotels in hopes of
over-taking the party - but they had gone
of the party I saw too little to speak - many
superior claims on their time - bad wea-
ther and their own pre occupation, deprived
me of the pleasure, but as Bernard was
the one I cared to have, I do not feel
inclined to find fault with any thing
I am exceedingly gratified my dear
Ann that I was so fortunate as to please

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you in my purchases, and that the
Box arrived safely - if your climate
resembles ours this summer, you have
as yet had little use for thin clothes
but I should dearly like to see my little
dashings tucked out in their new suits
there is a consciousness in the air of those
little folk when they think themselves
fine that is very amusing to behold.

I have known persons, who considered
steps of the utmost importance, and in-
sisted that people felt better & acted
better when they wore wide skirts than in
their every day habits. I wonder what
effect the new costume, so much spoken
of in the newspapers, will have on the
female world, who adopt it - you were
very kind to tell me of my Lexington friends
and gave me an opportunity of making
Mama Abecrombie very happy - by hearing
her sister had arrived at home, and was well.
Bernard took up the parable, and told me
many others, so that I feel as if I had really
been in Lexington and seen its good people
in their prosperity & domestic harmonies.

of Feb. 1849. when domestic griefs convulsed
round his hearth stone - his children & his
children's children filling every private avenue
with sorrow - shame & adversity - I know no sadder
tale more sad, than to see such a man -
honored, beloved, and laboring for the good of
all - & above all for his country - with such a
desolate home for his affections - but God
in his mercy, has given him the comfort
of seeing his grand daughter rescued from
danger, and I hope her brothers too may
become prosperous & happy -

I congratulate you and my dear Ben, on his
becoming a private gentleman, and hope he
will use his freedom, freely in our favor, and
come more frequently to see us - you are right
to let my own little Anna ~~to~~ learn to dance
with her sister - let them learn all pretty & agree-
able accomplishments, "where virtue is, there are
most virtues" says Shakespeare, and why should
not we put all innocent appliances in our
children's power to enjoy - pleasure is but short
lived, and we must not let the proper season
pass - you can mix graver studies for us, but
there is still a time for dancing & mirth. Bless
the dancing children, embrace them for me, and
let them hear Ben & I would be charmed to see
them dance, and gather all kind of pretty & sweet
flowers in the garden of youth - our brothers
& sisters send love to you - and our dear Ben