

Phil^a Lucy 9th 270
-1857.

Phil^a Jan'y 9th 1857.

I am afraid my Dear Ann, I have forfeited my character as a good correspondent, for I blush to acknowledge your last with all its attractions - all its kindnesses - has been a whole month unanswered in my possession - I beg you to forgive me - I have not an apology worthy your acceptance - but throw my self on your mercy - and beg my dear sensible Miriam to plead for me and little Hacking leave to look lovingly in your face on my behalf and then I am sure you will kiss them both for me and seal my pardon. If your ears have not been used in the right side lately - I shall have no faith in signs ever more, for Ellen & Josephine have been here a fortnight, and there has been such an exchange of conversation on Aunt Ann, such delight at her kindness in writing to each of them, and so many reminiscences of her agreeable conversation that Julia is, or if she were not too good, would be curious - instead of which she greatly regrets that she were not here to make your acquaintance, and desires me to send her regards in advance - and to present them to my dear Brother Ben - Mary & Mr Briggs and their little Broswell, spent two days with us before Christmas - and went on the

24th Dec^r to New York it was greatly cold -
& Boswell suffered from it. Mr R was obliged to
return soon after the New Year. I left Mary
with ^{the} child behind. I had a letter from her
this morning fixing next Wednesday for her
return. She has been enjoying the gaiety
of New York, and will be here just in time to
gratify her Uncle Jo, by appearing at a grand
Ball given at the new Club House on Thursday.
While Mary was here she determined to write
to her Uncle Ben, and we were both going to
treat ourselves to an home speed in his society,
but she was hurried all the time, the weather
was stormy, we were dreading about from
sure to start with conviction, the baggage
with her, and I suppose as she had been so
long in one place, she had had time to write.
Alas! I have not - we have just got the one
Orphan Amusements business. Mr. Kegan's legacy
is paid - so we are rich, and the ladies are going
to do so much with their money. What our 43
little Orphans will journey themselves here
I know not. Since I last wrote to you, my friend
Mrs Florence has been to England - attended the
death-bed of her lovely young daughter - with
whom she parted on her bridal day four years
ago, then only 19 years of age - has returned home
bringing two sweet children & their father -
and is daily in expectation of the arrival of
the remains, which she could not consign to
a foreign grave! I saw her yesterday - and

^{My} faithfully to perform her duties.

I hope you are all well at Lexington and Woodford, it occurs long since we have talked together about you all - and I feel punished for my neglect - now I should delight to see your dear little girls - do tell me every thing about them - how they look, & behave & talk - tell me their own words if you please - no matter how childish - tell me too of my dear nephews - My means son, Learys gallantry & Bernard's prospects - I shall insist on his not going to St Louis if he wishes to travel he must come here either to bring a companion or seek one.

Lizzie Lee tells me our friend in St Louis are all getting on well that the Brodleys are prospering - the Plairs doing well - Grady Brown not in good health, Grady Moses, has lost the pleasure of his domestic fire side, his wife has gone with her little ones to the south -

Minna writes in good spirits of her household and my dear Jane, is suffering from weak eyes, so that she can only write a message & her husband does the rest - I have told you all now, but that our Sisters & Brothers are well and all send dear love to you and Ben in which our nieces unite. Henrietta broke a front tooth yesterday in a fall, I try to console her mother under the misfortune, by relating how Bernard lost his, and the vacancy filled up - but Sally grieves about it - Adieu my dear Brother & Sister ever yours
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