

Philadelphia Feby 19th - 1857

I have not settled it in my own mind
 My Dear Anna, whether you are in my debt, or
 I in yours; which is a true sign that we are
 not very mutual correspondents. But I have
 good news received this morning - and like
 the two men in scripture - do not feel it right
 to withhold it from those who I am sure will
 rejoice with me. My Lucia has another daughter
 born on Thursday last the 13th inst. - and has
 called her Lizzie. If you did not know that
 she was expecting some new arrival for her
 nursery, you will hardly appreciate my feelings
 to day. because abstractedly one does not con-
 sider such things essential to happiness. but
 the interest involved in a mother's state
 of probation is quite another thing - I received
 and forwarded your box of pretty things
 to Becky - excuse me for taking a peep at
 them, old Mother Eve was strong upon me
 when it occurred, that it was absolutely
 necessary to change the direction of the package
 and thereupon, the paper was removed, the
 lid opened, and your pretty assortment and
 valuable articles disclosed. I am sure little
 Rachel, if she could understand what her

sweet little Kentucky cousins had we
worn the soft cambric, she would
value it the more for that circumstance.

It seems a very long time since you have
told me any thing about my pets. Their
expressive countenances & loving ways are
constantly before me, and you must tell them
are often talked about, and that we love them
very much. Mark Elling has taken a fancy
to enter the Navy, and came to me one after
noon to ask for an introduction to Mr. Collinson.
I wrote also to Mr. Blair on the subject. his parents
do not object to his wishes - tho' they little know
of the hardship of a sailors life - we have been
quite in a state of excitement lately about the
fate of the Steamer Atlantic, news of her safety & the
arrival of her passengers has caused a general joy
in our community, as the Capt & several others
had their families here -

Our sisters & three families are well - such as
much in love with you as ever - you have won
their hearts by writing to them - or rather you
have confirmed the conquest made while here.
Sally Kays delights to talk about you and
keeps the most affectionate remembrance,
she is preparing Minnie for a party this evening
her own health much improved, and she looks
quite pretty again - Daniel Elling is the only
female member of the family who have

for a letter received two weeks ago - which shall
be answered, when his present laggy fit goes off
he sends love, Joe is better, but I think might acknow-
ledge a sincere melody - Good night my dear
Ann, I have no apology for making this a long letter
as you must perceive I am very hurried - so good night
again, may you have peace & all joys your sister RB

answered

25th Feb

1851

Leaving ton

day

Mrs Benjamin Gray

LD

111

FEB
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