

Nov 23rd 1853.

I was going to write to my dear Brother when your kind letter conveyed this exciting my dear Anna, and are most happy to greet you together - a telegraph informed us of his safe arrival - and then I gratefully enjoyed the happiness bestowed by his visit - and returned thanks that he had been quailed through the perils of his journey. It is wonderful indeed - in how short a space of time the distance is traversed; and when it is safely made - without accident we can fully appreciate the advantages we possess in these times of Rail roads and Steam - I was glad to hear dear little Anna had quite recovered - for I think the mention of her illness, marred the comfort of the latter days of her Father's sojourn here - his presence had a great influence on our Brother Joe, I think he is more careful of him self & he has not had any unfavorable turn since - tho' he looks weak & feeble - Mother's health is better, the cheerful companionship of Father has its salutary effect on her spirit.

I was sorry to have seen so little of Lippittine she has so many friends in Phila who have kind wishes and her stay was so short that I could not expect, tho' I wished for more of her society - Many regards here may have reached

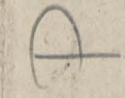
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it more difficult, as she does not care to
meet her - I am very glad Mr. de la Bea
was satisfied with his interview with all
our Washington friends. I have always thought
they knew how to appreciate him - they at least
had never varied in her affectionate estimation
of his truly parental interest in her, or in
a grateful return of attachment.

What a pity your beautiful dress did not
exactly fit you! I am glad the faults are easily
remembered - but it is so much more satisfactory
to have them right at first - The dress maker
was very anxious to know how she succeeded
with copying the pattern sent - an old bodice
that had been worn would be a better guide.
Your husband's taste was consulted in
all the purchases - indeed I had only to
acquiesce in his selections - and I assure you it
is always a pleasure to do any thing for you.
I to fancy you wearing the costume, from
use to me - your people dress so comfortable
becoming - and new in texture & style will
be often present to my mind's eye -
and on great occasions I shall see you
in the rich silk, Mr. Levy thought so rich.

I am reading a pleasant memoir of a
German Baroness D'Obelsch who flourished
at the French court, in the early part of Maria
Antoinette's time - it is full of graphic
sketches & anecdotes of the characters of

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Miss Benjamin Gray

Lexington
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