

Philadelphia April
17th 1860

It appears a very long time
My Dear Ann since we have
written to each other - and I do
not know which is the better.
I have written several times
to Kentucky to my dear Mother
and his sons wives - forgetting
that they were not in Lexing-
ton, & probably in the varieties
of the changing seasons might
not have regular intercourse
therewith, and my sister
waiting till her turn come -
but I hope you are all well
and ^{we} shall return to our usual
habit of more regular inter-
course. In one of dear Ben's
letters, he says he shall not
be able to pay us an early
visit this Spring - as business

may call him to St Louis - upon
him I am satisfied - nearly as I
love to see him - I would be sorry
to see the shadow of care on his
brow, which came from a distant
duty - Frank Blair called to see
me last week, and told me, that
his brother Andrew & your son Jo
had good hopes of a profitable
business this year which would
aid them & carry. He desired that
I should send his love to your
Papa - he said Lizzie & her boy were
well - & Mr Lee at St Louis - his
parents in good health & spirits
Mr B as deeply interested in Frank
Wentworth as he ever was for him-
self - what a life of struggle -
he has chosen - in the retirement
of his beautiful country place -
one would suppose he would
seek enjoyment in Nature's lov-
-liness rather than the wrangling

14/135
you will be able to give good
accounts of the health of those
around you - for I know you will
soon answer my letter. The
dear girls successfully pursuing
their studies - and enjoying them
for their present occupation
and future advantage. The
next change in the weather
will bring beautiful spring
in all its trimmings. These cold
winters has kept back vegetation
and perhaps will protect the
fruit from too early blossoms
our city trees are in flower tho'
while frost & even ice appears
to threaten them - give my best
love to my dear Brother & your
girls - and to the other members
of our family - Horace & Julia
send you theirs, and so does
my dear Ann your affectionate
Sister R. Gray