

my pen in

Phil^a Dec^r 13. 1860

My Dear Ann

One Dear Ben's letter to

Horace yesterday relieved me from great anxiety both on account of the health of your family - and on my absence on such an occasion, but as he writes in good spirits about these most interesting subjects I feel too grateful to complain of the postponement of my dear Brother's visit - indeed in the present agitated state of the public mind I suppose every good citizen feels it his duty to be at the post where his influence is strongest. I hope Kentucky is free from secession principles or dangers - and that our beloved Union may survive

The dangers that threaten our household enjoy health, our visitors made the autumn nap agreeable Julie was absent about 7 or 8 weeks during which time Laura & Maria Josephine & Lizzie Lee were here but not all at the same time. Julie returned before Lizzie left. I have rarely seen a more lovely child than Blair Lee. he is larger than children generally are at five years old & he is not yet 4 - and has great beauty & smartness. Howard saw them here but his visits were so short - and their notions so antagonistic that I do not think he delighted in her society. but I did in his account of his amiable wife and children - also was glad to hear of the interest she took in her sister-in-law Laura

Harriet has been called from home
on the melancholy occasion of the
Death of her eldest Brother. who was
the head of the family and much
beloved by all - he was a really good
man, and honored in the community
he died suddenly on Friday.

Give to my beloved Brother a
heart full of tender love and to
your dear girls a Benjamin's portion
I long to get a letter from you
speaking fully of them, and your
domestic history. There is too much
of sameness in mine to afford much
on record - my only wishes are to the
family - or the Institutions I have
adopted as a part of my avocations.

God bless you all. Let us pray that
He may help us & our country out of
all danger. I believe me Dear Ann
Affectionately yours R. L.