

My Dear Ann

I was rejoiced to hear by my dear Brother's letter to Horace that you were all well again. I hope your strength is completely restored, and that Annas cold has left her. I should have written to you last week, but Howard's return gave you all the information of our indoor life that could be said in a letter - unless it were to tell, how much time we now devote to Newspaper reading - and how profitable a source of intelligence they prove. tho' they do certainly exercise an influence on our feelings & judgment which very much interferes with our daily comfort.

I know so well that my affectionate Brother will embrace the first opportunity that he can con-

benignly leave home, in these
troublesome times to visit us, that I
cannot urge the joy it will give
me to welcome him. It seems the
duty of every good man to watch
at the post where his influence
may be most important to his
country, and we may hope when
the new administration goes into effect
for good, or for evil, we shall
better know how to regulate our
minds. If the Union silk binds
the border states to us, we may
recover from the shock of this
rebellious out-break, but while
the present agitation lasts, every
days conflict has power to annoy
us. Poor Lally Kays has been
quite sick. She has suffered much
distress about her Mother's con-
-dition being in delicate health &
having no male resident in her
family - add to which she has

Nucle Ben. The tone of her
letter is more healthful than
any I have received from her.
and she is stouter than she has
been since her marriage -

When you see Mrs Theobald
remember me kindly to her.
give my love to Dearest Ben
tell him I am perfectly well -
and busy about Sister Worne's
Sunday school & and that I think
of him every day with a heart full
of love - Horace & Julie & Annie
affectionate remembrance

I hope Dearest Ann, soon to
be able to write you a more
agreeable letter, in the mean
time believe me as ever

Your affectionate

Sister P. Gray

Feby 26th 1861