

It is very long my Dear
 Ann, since we have written
 to each other, and I do not
 think it fair that an inter-
 -course law should exist
 between us. I do not like to bor-
 row my Dear Brother with
 frequent letters, which may bur-
 -den him to answer, and yet
 do so long to hear from or
 about him in these long sep-
 -arations while so many painful
 scenes are passing before us.
 That I am sure you will in-
 -dulge me with one of your plea-
 sant kind letters every now &
 then even if you find you only
 get a stupid reply - we were very
 much surprised some fortnight ago
 on a Saturday night - just as we
 were going to bed by the arrival
 of Maxwell & Minnie - they only said

one day, Howard was writing his
good wife, determined to accompany
him, after they left Boston. sent
word to her sister, who took charge
of her children during their absence,
I was glad to hear from Minerva
that Howard had made a tour
in N. England quite advantageous
to him. but I do not know any
thing of their future plans. but a
man is always safer when he has
his wife to counsel him.

We are very desirous of hearing
about our dear Cary. Frank Blair
did not come to make his report
and as Mrs Biddle is in the
country I do not expect to see Cppo
before she goes to Washington.
I have written to Lizzy, to make
inquiries of Frank for me.

To day I had the rare treat of a
letter from Minna Coker, through
a private opportunity to N.Y. which
was forwarded to me. her family
were well. and in her own words

of leaving the city this year
for pleasure - I hope none will
be called on for service in the
field - what is the position
of So Shelby in this terrible
struggle? Wisconsin seems to
be most turbulent - we feel
much worried about Gray
Moses - the young Dr is still with
Lucas in Canada -

I have told my dear
Ann give my warmest love
to my brother - and accept
a most affectionate notice
from your attached
R Gray

July 8th 1861