

answered
J 11

Phila Jan'y 27th

I am so glad to receive tidings of you
My dear Ann, that I cannot delay telling you
so, I am glad you have no worse evil to complain
of than cold weather, because in that you have
the whole country to sympathize with you not
a nook or corner of this wide continent has
been hidden from the Frost King, and his visit
has ^{been} simultaneous over mile & mile. The winds have
been his port-horse - or rather he has taken the
more modern medium of communication - the
Telegraph-wires, and we hear of disasters where
- and on his sojourn, where ever active prepara-
tions have been omitted for his reception, even
the Nations guest. The Kunganaa Hopoth was
arrested in his progress. Lost much time & his
trunk besides, in his endeavours to resist
the great sovereign of the "invested year." but I think
he has entered into a treaty with King Sol, and
under the mild influence of this heavenly
agent, we shall have pleasant times in
the coming month. The old fashioned winter
Mr Howie describes in his beautiful "Country
Year book" completely returned upon us this
year. and we hear of all the unmaskable seasons
on record to compare with it. Thank God, we
have enjoyed health & home comforts. and that
you too, in all the branches of your family are
well & happy - there are some of your Kentucky

gals in town, whom I have heard of but
not seen, when the weather is improved I shall
go to see them. Kate Bristol brought Miss Hunt
here when I was out, and some of my young
school friends brought her letter - but I have been
so limited in my visiting, confining it chiefly
to our vocalized sisters, & ancient friends, that I
must keep in reserve for mild weather, those
calls on our Spring Flowers - I never see Minnie
Ething but she charges me with losing my good
apologies to you for not writing. She has had some
disorder in her eyes which has kept her from either
reading or writing - but they are better, under treatment
as you will probably soon hear from herself - but
sisters live within doors, so that being the youngest
albeit "three score & ten." I have much active duty
to perform - Henry's return has cheered the 12th Wheel
family - and delighted all his friends - our
Brothers - with the exception of Sam, are in perfect
health, and he thank God is better than he was
last winter. tho' still often indisposed -
Why did you deprive me of the pleasure of seeing my
friend Mrs Beecher in her full dress - Mrs Marsh was
Turban is historical but alas! I never saw it. I met
Mrs Ingwoll the other day at Learys' and then first
heard of Miss Wickliffe intended marriage. will she
not be a great loss to her Father? how comes on Miss Woll?
is she a belle? she was pretty when a school girl, but her
deafness was a sad defect and must be an affliction
to her friends - poor old Miss Ingwoll closed her mortal
career with the last year - her daughter is remarkable
to - Dr Chapin too who was so fond of Mary and

Julia & Grace - and your niece with all of them
you are a favorite - and universal subject of
congratulation - Hannah Elmer means to go to
visit Mary on his birth day next week - she is
becoming reconciled to his absence - Miss Humphrey
must be hard to win - if one Prentiss is wooing her
at this time - but if Mr Prentiss has been a suitor
ten years - there is some encouragement for him -
your western ladies know the true value of their
chances - and their power over the lovely sex.
Mary Brand is very beautiful - has she
no suitors? Is Jacob Gibson married?
When you see Mrs E Wafield, present her
my regards, also to Mrs Mchlester & Miss
Edwidge - a whole host of pleasant Lexington
ladies rise up before me, as I acknowledge
the kind hospitality I have twice experi-
enced at their hands - the memory of which
lives in my heart - Tell Leary if he would
write me his adventures in St Louis - with
an account of our kind folk there - he would
confer a great favor on me - give my love to
your So Shelby when you write - I am glad
to hear he is well & happy - I wish Howard would
let me hear from him sometimes - believe
my dear Ann, God bless you all & preserve you
ever affectionate Sister R. Gray
My best love to my dear Brother -