

Philadelphia April 19th

You were very kind my Dear Anna to regale me with such a delightful letter, for which I should have much sooner thanked you, but have been kept in such a continual state of excitement by passing & coming events, that I have each day postponed it for a more tranquil hour. Our dear Mary arrived in due time looking very well and bringing such delightful accounts of all your family that I felt as if I were among you again. Miriam is the burden of her song, and she relates so many sweet anecdotes of her little pet, that I think she must be as wise as she is innocent, and very beautiful withal - of her young sister too she speaks with interest & pleasure. I feel Dear Anna that you & my brother were kind in sending Mary to me. When I am about bringing my other companions - the selfishness of my nature is frightfully conspicuous on this occasion, for while I see nothing but bright anticipations on Susan's maintenance, my heart saddens at parting with her. This day fortnight (the 3rd of May) is fixed for her marriage, and she will leave immediately for her Northern home - they will be married in Synagogue & from thence depart - Mr Joseph will be here in a few days. They promise

a visit in the autumn - and on this hope I must
rest, for again seeing the child of my love -

Our sisters are both well - parted with several letters
from Ellen Etting came to reach the postbox
with her mother, and has been her faithful nurse.
Mr Blair has been ill - which I am fearful will
deprive her of Lizzy's promised visit. Mr Lee is
expected on Monday when we hope for better ac-
counts, he has had a slight attack of an old
disease / bleeding of the lungs / which used to
occur in his family - but I hope the cause is
removed. Mary did not see them during her short
visit at Washington & it is probable they did
not know of her being there - There are so many
objects of interest & curiosity to attract strangers
in that country, that a short sojourn is amply
provided for - I have a thousand thanks
to express to you my dear Ann for your beautiful
presents - a Leger's Bonnet chosen by Mary, and
the elegant needle case from your own hand.
So that abroad & at home I shall have about me
the evidences of your liberality - the proofs of your
affectionate remembrance. While the modest
blossom of your sweet violet, addresses my
senses most agreeably - and prove you have been
successful in cultivating your garden, I wish
you could see the profusion of flowers brought
already on every bright day to the corners of our
sheets for sale - & exhibited at no less windows

Ans May 9. 12

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Wm Benjamin Gray

Lexington Ky.