

Philadelphia June 19th

I am quite shocked my dear Ann, to find I have been a whole month your debtor for a most kind letter, and on retracing that period can offer no apology for there is not a single word of important or profitable occupation worthy to have kept me from thanking you for it. To be sure the different aspect of my domestic life is very interesting for the busy cheerful season my dear girls' society has brought home, changed very much the current of my life - you know how sweetly Mary throws her web of love around you and added to her witcheries are sacred clear presence, and Leizes interesting society. He has been so much benefited by the style of Dr Hodge that he permits her to remain home next week & only take care of her self without thinking of further attendance necessary. Her mother writes accompanying her to New Port next month, to complete her cure, in the sea air & so they - The Halls are have arrived and Mary expects great pleasure in seeing them. What one plans for the hot season may be as yet undefined. Should we go to Saratoga, Mary of course will accompany us - if not we shall find some purpose & safe chaperon to afford her the opportunity of a few weeks amusement. She seems very happy now at home, and is not destitute of beaut to amuse her, tho' none of deeper interest than the sun & water off with perfect ease. She is taking singing lessons as you know she is ambitious of knowing how to do what nature has so amply bestowed in the best possible manner. Tho' she has already gained much consolation

for her ^{vocals} skill & sweetness & power. Sarah's travelling com-
panions with a few other ladies spent last evening
with us, among them were several good musicians
and they all rallied around one wretched hymn
-gale and gave her abundance of praise. To morrow
evening she is engaged to see the musical party
but this is not the season of quiet here. Every
body is preparing to leave or have left for country
homes. The girls were all going to visit the boys at
West Chester last week, but were prevented by bad
weather, they will probably go next week. I am sure
you must be pleased that Jo wisely determined to
go back to Proctor's school, perhaps his final dis-
-franchisement will ultimately lead to his advantage, it has
established a better understanding of character between
him & his teacher. Mr B told one Brother Jo, who spent
a day with them that he had no occasion, since their
return, to address either of the boys - except in terms
of commendation - every allowance must be made
for the different system of education pursued here
& at home - it was very hard to get the western boys
with the strict rules & discipline of Proctor's regular
plan - he says very experience & observation has
given him a perfect knowledge of the ways & char-
-acters of boys and he has adopted a method
of governing them, which has given permanency &
reputation to his school - he tells them that they can
not wrestle from him their slings out of his pre-
sence, any more than when his eyes are upon him.

The boys sometimes play him tricks notwithstanding
talking to gather, when they know he can hear (in his
looking place) and giving free opinions about him
or setting him to work to counteract pleas, they do

wholly responsible for any particular set - all my
brothers & sisters children have been adopted by my love
or care and I assure you have kept up an undec-
cided in my existence as potent of pleasure or pain
as could have been experienced. Had I been really a
parent - embrace your darling for me, if I live long enough
they will be my next object of love and gentle hopes
for while you watch over them, they will need no other
care - Sweet Cary seems to have nothing but good in him,
and I hope will give his father much happiness.
You must accede to me in your letters to the idea
of spending his next vacation on this side the moun-
tains we shall urge both the boys to that effect.
They may make little tents for recreation, but
not go home & then have the head breaking man-
ing for school again - until their education is
completed the fewest radicalness of that kind
the better for them, one sister return these kind
love to you & our dear Mother - Mr. Etting infinitely
keeps sister almost a prisoner at home - but the old
gentleman has been more comfortable for the last
week, and the rest of the family are well - pray con-
tinue to tell me of my sweet Menana's improvement and
little seasons of loveliness - I want to compare them
with my other infant nephews and keep them all
in my mind's eye & in my affection -

Philippa Etting has another son about 3 weeks old
and I am expecting to hear that Menana Cohen is in
her chamber also -

do you still nurse your boy? take care of your own
health my dear Ann, which is your best duty to
your children - y^r husband & yourself God Bless you and
believe me very affectionately your sister P. Gray