

Philadelphia Feby 3rd

I come to redeem my promise of writing soon to you My Dear Ann, but warn you that it may result in a stupid letter. a gentleman once said to me that he never did any thing well, that he had promised to do. it seemed to change the character of an act altogether. it converted a pleasure into a moral obligation. made a free will offering. only the payment of a debt and snub generosity into mere justice.

If we were to argue this matter fairly I do not know which side of my friends question would have most advocates. The weak would fortify themselves by a promise, if they had been taught to respect their word. and poor human nature wants so many aids to accomplish their wishes as well as their duties that it would be unwise to deprive it of so faithful a prompter, as a promise.

I am sorry you have been concerned about the construction that might be put on Jo's spending the Christmas week at Mr. Bolmeas. when Cary came down without him, for his Uncle's letter this addressed to Cary was written for both. Mary immediately wrote to Jo telling him he too was expected, but supposing he had made some other arrangement with the boys, and knowing that Jo both knew and welcome his visits are, we were satisfied. for to tell you the truth My Dear Ann, there is very little amusement in our family for boys. They require companions of their own age & after a few evenings at the Theatre & a few days going about the streets. Jo was

for his school-friends and the freedom of hunting in the fields - respecting his accommodations here. we put him and Cary together, in a little room where they have just room to sleep. our house is so sociable in size & character, that its inmates soon get familiar, and accommodate themselves to the space allotted, which I hope you will some day find more convenient than you imagine. people who inhabit large mansions sometimes wonder how we get on - but our young friends all love to locate themselves at No 2, where Hyman is still laid up with the effects of his fall - he hobbled down stairs yesterday, by an effort, but is again a prisoner on his couch, the strain on his back & limb may confine him some time - and we shall feel very happy if the effects of confinement is attended with no bad consequences.

There are many sources of anxiety in this world, among them that you suffered on Brooks's account ~~was~~ truly harassing, because unnecessary. at least among the calculations we make of good & evil it ought to be so - yet in the customs of the world to which all men give importance - we are sometimes obliged to submit to many sacrifices - Mary still has a cold, but it does not prevent her from her usual indoor occupation, she studies Italian, & Music, keeps industriously, and quilts the quip balls with great philosophy - contenting herself with dancing solos at twilight to Lucia's pease. She appears to be very happy & contented with the portion of amusement she is able to partake of - and is a general favorite in society both with young & old. her manners you know are very popular and she converses especially -

instead of indulging her own. with her beauty & talents she ought to be a happiness to her Mother.

Your friend Mrs Rey will return I suppose in the Spring. Does Mr. Beecher mean to leave Lexington for his new plantation? he is really a good & valuable man, & his wives relations have cause to bless him. Mrs B seems fully sensible of all she & they owe him. her sister Maria respects him highly. I often think of my Lexington friends, and the kindness I received from them. - how is Miss Sidney Edwinton? her nephew Henry's marriage must make some change in her establishment. does she still entertain so hospitably? and does Mrs Warfield, the brightest mind I have met with for a long time. in her children I hope she has a reward for many mortifications. - she has quite an accomplished niece in Louisa. This winter, Dr La Roche talks of paying a visit to the west next summer I hope, to see his sisters. - Our sisters send their best love to you and our dear Ben. - Jo has gone to New York for a few days. - but we expect him before the week closes. Mary wrote to you. - Jo so I hope soon to hear something from the Scholars. - Camp never writes or so rarely that we hardly expect direct intelligence from Beth Chester, when all things go on smoothly. pray when you write give my love to them. - Adieu my dear Ann. believe me very affectionately Yours Anne R.