

Philadelphia July 10th

291

I have just received a letter from Sara who desires her Office
to make her to her dear Uncle Ben, you - and the Ladies the so
much loves & thinks of
the very well
and very happy
but the day
the evening
fully -
Ann

At this period of general
anxiety "when the postulence stalketh
abroad" it seems a great comfort to hear
of ones friends and to enquire about
them - we have our interests so scattered
that we seem to be valueless at all
points - and our western friends who were
once such severe sufferers claim a large
portion of my thoughts & wishes - one dear Ben
says you bear yourself most bravely
and so I trust you will reap its reward, for
I believe a much & quiet spirit, never more
graces a woman, than when she is surrounded
by unseen dangers, and is willing to aid those
around her, in their peril - I sincerely hope
she we love may be guarded by Almighty
care, from this universal affliction - one deepest
anxiety is for Gray Mores, whose profession keeps
him continuously in scenes of suffering & dan-
ger. His family are removed from the city, which
leaves him free to perform his arduous duties.
The deaths of so many Physicians is appalling
and of course makes the survivors labors much
greater, I had a letter from Gray written at New
York on the 4th - he had been up & down from
New York 4 in the morning & was weary -

but kindly thought of our anxiety about him -
later accounts say the cholera is abating at St Louis,
there have been many valuable lives lost there -
I was very sorry for poor Jacob Bradley - two daughters
at the same time was indeed a sad loss! does
Mr Bradley mean to return to St Louis? our kind brother
So, took Mary & Lizzie down to Cape May yesterday
morning, Mary had been home a week but Mr & Miss
brought Lizzie, and her little grand daughter on Mon-
day here, on their way to the sea. I was not satisfied
that they should go without a proper escort, and so
accompanied them himself, he will return to New York
and I think will probably go to Sacramento. I shall not
leave home, that I know of at any rate have relin-
quished the idea of going far from it. My great tempt-
-ation was to visit Jacob & see all the sisters, Miriam
is now in New York - the cholera there & in Canada
is increasing fearfully - it is most fatal in hospitals
& prisons - which perhaps is because such patients
are difficult to manage - our family & friends are
all well, sisters not at all alarmed tho' very care-
-ful - we are not quite so restricted in diet as formerly
finding a moderate quantity of fresh vegetables quite
wholesome, provided not indulged in, in any variety
The weather is getting back into summer, from
which it started on Saturday night after one
of the hottest days of the season - into a breeze
-ous warm thirty degrees cooler - I have not yet
returned - so our present family is very small -
how are your little daughters? I should exceed-
-ingly delight to see them, and trust another
year will not close without such a gratification

I am sure you will be glad to hear that
(My friend Mrs Butler's circumstances are
much improved, she has at present her two dau-
ghters with her, during their short vacation, and
hopes to enjoy the same privilege every year -
Mr B. has for a long time been desirous of making
an arrangement with her (finding no chance of
obtaining a divorce from the Court) & her friends & I
consent^{ed} have a plan in progress which if con-
cluded, may be better for both parties. - She is
to receive an equivalent for her right of divorce
& release him from her claims on her estate.
to have the charge of her children two months
in the year July & August - and the wife leave
him at liberty to get a divorce sans opposition
from her. She means still to go thro' another
course of teaching, in hopes that to make her
self independent. Her wish is to build a
cottage in Berkshire, on the border of a beau-
tiful Lake where she may live in the vicinity
of friends, and have a peaceful home for
her children, during the period of their annu-
al visit. It is a lovely scene in summer
but very cold & bleak ^{in winter} - sheltered by mountains
and where the winds of winter must be too
& strong - but her hardy nature loves such scenes
and the exercise such regions make healthful.
- This arrangement is still in embryo - but as earnest
of its sincerity is that her children are with her.) give
my devoted love to my ever dear Brother - affectionate
greetings to all my nephews - kisses to your sweet children
and very much love to your very sister. R. H.