

Phil^a Feb. 26th - 1854

I have muddled my paper file - yet am hardly prepared
to bid you farewell. I had a letter from Macy. They are both
well. I thank you for your letter. We heard of your
illness with much regret. There are
so many degrees of suffering under the
name of Colic that unless we see the
patient we scarcely know what degree
of sympathy to regard - but when a whole
month of illness is thus introduced, it
becomes a serious matter. and I most
heartily rejoice that you are entirely re-
covered. - Good Dear Myra! how concerned
I am that she has been so afflicted. and
that any sickness should protract the
time of her diseased state. He has been so
patient under his long suffering. that
it seems that he should in any manner
neglect the means of preserving health.
To him Patience has a twin sister.
Virtue named Prudence. who exer-
cises a kind of guardianship over her
and when her counsel is taken, Patience
has far less to endure. and may be worn

as an ornament among the other
graces, which adorn and beautify
the human character in their happiest
hours. She is one of the mainstays of
benevolence, and is quite an essential
agent among household domesticities, as
you & I, my dear Ann, can testify. But
I hope my precious little Nan has been
a more able auxiliary than I can be in
exhibiting the usefulness of both virtues.

You are right, in believing I should
dearly love to be one of your travelling
party to Missouri. But feel that my day
for such enjoyment is past. I am bound
to home by such thorny ties. Fictitious infir-
mities & Fair's state of health, that the idea
of absence no longer visits me. And I can
only hope that my dear absent friends
will come to Phil^a and I think when
you have seen the lovely flows of
prairies, and all the wonders of a new
growing world in the South & West, you
may have gotten such a travelling
habit, that it will be more child play
to execute a journey hither - one city

has been the scene of much gaiety
this winter Mrs Ruch's great house
open once a week for the reception of company
and a Grand Ball besides - Wm. Elling also
entertained the town in a very successful Ball
which was succeeded by others - and to day the
Bachelors came off in great style on Wednesday
evening - What further is to be done in that way
must be done quickly for nobody will take the
trouble to give a Ball in Fall - there are so
many who would refuse to attend -

I have a very agreeable recollection of Dr
Black and shall be glad to see him, I heard
of his being in Phil^a and expected he would
call to see me - his good fortune in managing &
success in his profession I heard spoken of by
a mutual friend, which it gave me pleasure
to hear - Our brothers are all well - & Sister Mary
dined with us yesterday - we have been drawn
up, as Julia calls it for several days - even
with bright sun shine in the sky - but the windings
were so bad - to day it has rained and cleared
the sheets pretty well - if we do not hear
of the country being flooded we shall enjoy
clear sheets - but these sudden showers that
are good for the town - are sometimes so
mischievous to the roads & rivers - that we
do not enjoy the one - until it is proved that

The other is safe - we have had a
pleasant new book "a salad for the
solitary." I see in the model of Rufus's life
of Moore - I must confess the Poet's life was
too much made up of dinner & supper parties
for my taste. He had a good appreciation
of his own talents - had a good natural
generous spirit - but I have always
so admired the sentimental & exquisite
taste of his poetry that I found his
share too common place - and the under-
current of business habits & calculations
too unpoetical for the exquisite songs
he wrote & sang so beautifully -

Give my dear love to my Mother
and kisses to the darling girls. My love
too to my dear nephews - I hope Hyman
is better - I wish you every happiness
in your projected journey & hope you will
find Jo & Howard just as happy.
You must get Jo a wife to manage his
house for him. Frank & I will be de-
lightful to see you - and our poor Frank & I will
be induced you - I hear charming accounts
of his children - remember me to Mrs. Rastrell
her sister is well -