

July 5th 1860

My Dearest Anna

I should have answered
your charming letter much
sooner, but felt too sad to
write on any subject fitting to
address you. I know you would
have a tear of sorrow for the
departure of your lovely little
consol. of whom you were fond
in the short time you were
here. his innocent life has
left many interesting memories
to dwell on and as it pleased
God to spare his parents the
grief of witnessing a long illness
they must be thankful!

I was glad to hear you
expected a family gathering

for the holidays and hope
the New Year found you
all very happy and gay, and
brought you a good share of
the compliments of the season.
Told your dear Mother Mary
Blackburn paid me a very
kind visit - I was pleased to
find he had not gone off
with some Southern students
from Jefferson College in the
excitement got up about the
Harpers Ferry affair, but his
good sense kept him from that
unnecessary sacrifice - told his Aunt
he looks well, and seems very
well satisfied with his position
here - Laura Chordwell has been
paying us a nice long visit - com-
panion for her Uncle Laurens this
week kept her and the bad wea-
ther, severe cold & want of an

escort will detain her - but
Uncle Julius brother is going
to N.Y. in a few days and then
we shall lose her. I take great
interest in all that relates to you
and your dear sister, and rejoice
that you are so well pleased with
your school. Your Yankee brother
will not suspect, he had such
mildly critical or he would not
so exposed him self poor fellow
he awakened the memory of Happy
Hollow - and now the Master Spirit
of the legend & the beautiful shield
book - has descended to the town
where so many he loved, preceded
him! Bancroft has written
the best memorial of Washington
Irving I have seen - I wish his
friend Paulding would portray
the scenes of his early life
as they were in close association
and he might give a valuable
history -

but you my dear child
know him in his works which
are the best manuscript of the man
continue my dear Anne
to write such sweet natural
expressions as your last, will
be assured of a grateful reception
My best love to dear Minnie
your dear Parents and all
the brothers & Sisters who
are assembled. May God Bless
you all. Laura, Julia & Norce
Send much love - and so would
Aunt Abby if she knew I
was writing - all the Domestic
received your message with
grateful respect. Sarah Ann is
better, but not well. John has
left us - a younger John has his
place. God Bless you, Darling,
ever your affectionate Aunt Rly

[Jan. 5, 1860]



Miss Anna Gray
Lexington Ky

