

To Mr & Mrs Nichols

Philadelphia Oct.

My Dear Anne

Mr Goodwelder was kind enough to bring me
your letter for perusal, and I cannot forbear to avail myself
of your implied invitation to write by the return of Mr Able, for
I believe none of your friends feel a deeper interest in your des-
tiny, or have more sincerely sympathized in your trials - the death
of your dear Father, brought you to my mind & heart - and I could
not but be thankful, that you were spared the last sad scene
of parting, which poor Julia & Charles were alone, of all his children
permitted to witness. I went in August to Fiskdale and passed
a week at Mrs Verplank's, where Julia has been spending many
months, and there we found Charles, both were well, and I hope the
latter is doing in a worldly sense as much as wife keeps them
comfortable. I have been expecting them in Phil^a for some weeks
but have heard that they will not be here before Dec^r - William
Verplank is to be married this autumn, & Julia has promised
to be bridesmaid. he will turn Farmer, as his uncle DeLaney
has already done, and improve on his paternal estate - This
is a rational plan of happiness, and surely if wisely pursued
can nowhere promise a fairer prospect, than on those beautiful
high lands - in the midst of cultivation - a good society, and
all the luxuries of life. we pursued our journey (I, Sarah
& myself) to Utica, the Trenton Falls & then crossed over to Cooper-
town, spending the whole month in your native State. on returning
to N. York we found Miriam, her husband & Beehy, who were
there long enough to make a change in Beehy's views of life
she is engaged to Mr John Nathan, a young Lawyer, of good
talent, and amiable character, his Mother was a relation
of Mr Moses, so there could be no family objection, and the
individual we are all happy to believe is deserving of
his success. Miriam has returned to her Southern home, she is
very happily married and except the separation from her
family has nothing to regret, and that perhaps is more
severe on us, than on her, for her new duties engross those

which made the associates of her youth essential to her. your brother George arrived in town last evening not looking as well as I could wish. he has been indisposed, and his exposed way of living is not altogether favorable to his constitution in our variable climate. it is fortunate for both your young brothers that their taste for natural beauty is a source of happiness & profit for them. George is as great an enthusiast in his admiration of fine scenery as Charles and declares he has seen enough during the summer to furnish a dozen stories, for every mountain pass has its legend, and a little descriptive of some Indian skirmish or deed of daring that would tell well in story.

Two months have passed my dear Ann, since I began this letter, and I have no apology for sending it in preference to writing another - except to show you, that I thought of you then - and now with the same wish for an intercourse, which I have vainly expected would commence with you. Mr Able passed through without my seeing him, but your Brother Ogden, told me he met him in Washington and wrote by him - you have no doubt in feeling shared your brother's triumph, and look forward to a brilliant public career for him; you cannot divest yourself of the enthusiasm his merits would create were you in the world. even in the retirement of your distant home, and you will train his little namesake to aspire to become an orator too, either in the forum or the pulpit, as best suits his character & the views of his parents - eloquence of some kind or other belongs to your family, and it is the surest road to success in our country. I often think my dear Ann of your last summer's visit - of the long lapse in our intercourse, and the many reminiscences of the chequered interval we called up - and I look forward to our meeting again, with an animated hope, that we shall confirm friendships here - and meet again in regions of unchanging love -

Julia is with me, she accompanied William Despland & his wife, a week ago and we shall have her for the winter. she is in very good health and your news is always interesting &

agreeable to me - I saw your friend Mrs R. Biddle a few days ago, her interesting widowed sister has been spending much of the summer at her house. John Craig's death was a sad event, so unexpected to his living & beautiful wife, and he has left but one child to inherit and perhaps be spoiled by his fortune. Mr B. ("the monster") made many enquiries about you, and said the most desirable conversion to be made in your neighbourhood, would be to convert you back to your friends society. do not let Mr Whitman know you have such a perfect associate here. he continues as great in his office & as playful in his drawing room as ever. you know poor Mrs Muntz is a writer, and in seclusion, but not deserted by her friends. Mrs B was with her in her affliction. Mrs Gilman, Mary and Anna are well. the latter is going to spend the winter in Washington I hear, but as her mother has dealings with her old friend Mrs Nicklin, she can very well spare Anna, Caroline continues to give music lessons, and supports her children very respectably. her husband still absent. Great Cadwalader has lost his mother, if her death can be considered a loss - after so many years separation, and yet I dare say he felt it so. tho' had her life been prolonged they might never have met again. Mrs Chapman has more of her children's society than usual. Ed & George are with her. she looks very well, and is as much interested in taking care of her little sick grand son as you described him to your own little Ogden at Hamilton. we have your friend Mrs T Biddle in the orphan society again, so that I see a great deal more of her now, than ordinary. our city lives & occupations frequently keep us strangers to those we regard. unless chance throws us together for some object like this, and gives occasion for the exercise of our best feelings. Mrs B has so much good sense & judgment that we are fortunate in engaging her services. I suppose you have heard that her husband's fortune has suffered in the great commercial shock, but being large & unimpaired - it makes no actual change in their condition. and I really believe in this country, it is better men should make than inherit their fortunes. Mrs Jameson is in our neighbourhood but I have not yet seen her, she is with her friend Mrs Butler. I do not know how she will be received here. English writers have reported us so uncharitably that we become afraid of trusting them, lest they repay our hospitality by a caricature. my girls share their affectionate

remembrance to you & Emma. I beg you will make an interest too in Malinda's regards. I love both your children, from the representation of their friend Julia, and I trust my dear Anne, you will live to see them in as happy a condition as your own heart can wish. Mrs Cadwalader had a notion that Malinda might be a favored friend of Emma's - is it so? I must not omit to tell you that both Dr & Mrs Rush make friendly enquiries about you - if you do not intend all you Phil^a shall be kept in ignorance of your love & feelings may enable me to tell them that you have not forgotten them - you know I have faith, long experience of tried affection have given you a little to it - and you may ever believe my dear

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Rev. J. D. Watson

Postmaster

Baltimore

Rev. George Benson

3 Dec 27

and in the attachment of your affectionate P. B. - What an age it is since I had a letter from you dear Sister, I was happy to hear of you through Alexander Watts he says you look well and are in good health and spirits your home is I hope comfortable and your affairs prosperous, you often go to visit I wish I could look in upon you to the girls give my best love - will write to Emma before this week closes hope she enjoyed her things very much - your attached