

Bedford 19th of Nov. 1817

However appearances have been against me, & may lead to a supposition that I had forgotten an early friendship, be assured dear Ann, I have never heard with indifference of any circumstance or event which would promote your happiness, or of the many & various afflictions with which you have been visited, without participating in your feelings. The weakness of my eyes has several times prevented my writing, when otherwise it would have been a pleasure. Now they are better & in the hope that you may derive satisfaction from considering yourself remembered & loved by an old friend, sharing in your feelings, & wishing to contribute to your consolation, willingly renew our long neglected intercourse. & rejoice that the same comforts which have supported me in trouble, have long been yours. At the same never-failing source, we have both sought, & found our chief happiness. Amidst your bereavements, may you be duly sensible of your blessings, among them, how great is that of knowing that those of your family from whom death has separated you for the present, had each chosen the paths of virtue & piety. & however painful to be parted for this life, you have a well grounded hope to

meet again in that which is to come, where change & sorrow can never enter. Poor Margaret's death was no less regretted than unexpected. A mysterious Providence, certainly, wise, but beyond our comprehension. To her might be applied those beautiful lines of Young. "Early, bright, transient, chaste as morning dew, she sparkled, was exhal'd, & went to heav'n".

It is the assurance that she is there, & that it was the will of her Heavenly Father to call her hence, that can alone reconcile you to her departure. Your loss is her certain gain. To be also ready will be our wisdom. To her death at any time had lost his sting. how dreadful to many to be summoned so suddenly.

Much care may now devolve upon you, & I am anxious to know if you will not find it necessary to reside with your sister's family. You must now look back with peculiar satisfaction to that devoted attention to them, which could not fail to excite in them a filial affection for you. Live sympathize with your exultant mother. in her old age troubles have multiplied. But it is a comfort & encouragement to see how those who trust in God are supported through all. & are enabled to say "Thy will be done". At rest remains for his people & many & precious are the promises they live on by the way.

Please to remember me very affec^t to her.

26th I was interrupted by the arrival of an old friend of papa's & being prevented before the post went, from making an apology which I deemed necessary, for not visiting you last summer postponed sending any letter. Be assured my dear Ann it was my sincere wish, papa fully approved of my going, &

& both sister Maria were desirous to accompany me. but either the lameness of our carriage horses, some absence from home, or the necessity of his attending to business at home, or some other substantial objection, continually prevented my having that pleasure. So much did I desire to see you that I proposed going with sister in the gig but papa could not be persuaded to let us drive so far. I will hope we may meet next summer both at Pockskill & at Bedford.

My best respects to Mrs Van Benschoten & to the General. Kiss your little darling for me & accept for yourself & yours the best wishes of my dear Ann
your affec^t friend

Mrs Van Cortlandt

Sister Sally desires to be kindly remembered.

Beaumont New 27

12 1/2

Mrs. Ann Cortlandt.

To the care of James Stevenson Esq
Albany.

Miss Mary /
to A. H. B.