

Bedford Jan. 25. 1802

Your kind favor dear Anne merited
an earlier acknowledgement; indeed I should have thanked you
before for it, had I known any thing amusing or interesting
to communicate. It shall be my endeavour dearest Anne to
to deserve the affection & good wishes you express for me, for which
I really feel grateful. Nor can my friend desire more to see
me, than I long for the pleasure of seeing her, a pleasure which
must be postponed for the present. What a delightful sea-
son this has been. altho' not the most ^{agreeable}, still very pleasant.
In the country 'tis less gay than in the City, but I am far
from supposing that the winter evenings, which some think
very long, can be more agreeably passed in an assembly ^{room}, than
with a pleasant little circle around a comfortable fire.

Since your last, we have begun a New Year; the thoughts
which that naturally inspires, are to look back upon those
that

that have gone & reflect upon the changes which time has made. How swiftly Anne time flies, & takes us with it. A few years will now deprive us of our youth, & then not many more are necessary to put an end to our career - already I can discover a vast alteration among my acquaintances, within 6 or 8 years many of them have closed their eyes upon all earthly scenes. Some families who thus appeared to live in harmony & friendship, are now left to mourn the loss of tender parents, & affectionate brothers & sisters. Others again that are almost all gone, as is the case of several. Fickle fortune too has made her changes, & rendered many, whom she once favored greatly, now unhappy. Indeed there is few whose situations are now very much altered. But perhaps my friend these are unwelcome reflections. Your society has likewise felt the effects of time, & is now threatened with farther diminution, which God forbid. Pardon me, my intention was not to give pain, these considerations were chiefly awakened by receiving a letter yesterday from a friend at N. Y. who informed me that a relation of hers, whom I have often seen at school, lays at the point of death

beyond all probability of recovering, & will soon follow her sister, who died a few months ago, likewise quite young. She speaks of her cousin with great tenderness & is entirely resigned to die. We too Anne in our turn will also die. Oh that we may be prepared for that awful event, that we may deprive death of its sting. And is it dear Anne unnatural that, reflecting on the death-bed of a young schoolmate, ~~and~~ should give rise to serious considerations.

Adieu my dear friend, may you enjoy many happy years, but as wishing you perfect happiness here is but a vain desire, for true it is, that no age or state is exempt from trouble, I will extend my thoughts to other worlds, where, may you enjoy forever supreme bliss. My best respects to your dear Mama, & best love to Kate, whom I wish very much to see. Again Adieu & believe me

Miss Stevenson.

your much attached
friend

Ann Day

Miss Nancy Day
to R H

Mr Le Roy
Mr J. J. Le Roy
Esq. of New York

1844

Albany

Miss Stevenson

Brookford

Miss Stevenson