

Philadelphia, Mo., 10th 1854

I have not returned
to give the a stamp
of my affection
to my dear friends
of both sides
time & money

My Dear Cousin, Elizabeth,

on my arrival home from a
visit I have been making to my very dear friend and
old play mate Mary Ann Hill formerly Green, who
when we were children, lived in Smyrna, but now
reside in Wilmington, Delaware; - I found a very
interesting and acceptable letter from thee, I have
to read it over and over again, I am so delighted
to hear from thee, for I had come to the conclusion that
I never should have that pleasure, ^{but} not withstanding -
the many years, and the very, many changing scenes that
has been meted out to me, the days of my childhood
and my school mates float across my memory like
pleasant dreams, and not ^{one} of them, my Cousin has ever
erased thy memory from my mind, have oft ^{had} I thought
of some of our school day sports, does thee recollect the
old cherry trees that stood by the road side in thy Father's
field, that we used so fondly to enjoy the delicious
fruit, at the close of the week when the tails of the
skhal hogs were over, ^{our} numbers run at the sand
to gather laurels, but not ^{to} like the heroes ^{of old}, to deck our
brows, neither, was our visits to the old haunted
church, to see Hamlet's ghost, ~~at that time said to be haunted~~
Oh, days of child hood happy times, why do ye fly so fast
why not like edens, perfume flowers forever last -
this was what the desire of our heavenly Father, but, on war

to other duties we must suffer, — This has
been, one of interest and anxiety — as I should judge from
what I have heard other Mothers say ^{but} as I have never
had that experience thee may think me not a competent
judge; I am still an, Old Maid and if this has ^{been} removed
from many afflictions; it has not from all, for I have
had many cares and troubles since I we last ~~saw~~
each other, the cares of business for many years, the loss
of friends and most of all those that were my only heart
treasure, My dear Mother the last one, ~~the~~ most
trying to part with it is now near 3 years since but
very often my heart bleeds afresh, so thee may know
that I can truly sympathise with thee in the loss of thy
dear Father; I feel it to, all thy our intercourse has
been so seldom he was kindly remembered ^{by us} and thou
him; — indeed it seems that our family are fast
taking their departure from this beautiful world
but I trust that it ^{is} only an exchange from one place
in one beautiful, and glorious, dear Lavin will it
not be a most joyful, if we are only permitted
to, ^{sweet} all of our dearly beloved ones, in that mansion
of rest, never more to part, I often hold sweet
communion, with them, and leave the sweetest
anthemes of rejoicing angles of heaven, it is a ^{et} perfect
feast to my mental Eare,

I feare thee will think my letter a very gloomy one but
as the request to hear from the different members of
our family I can but give thee the facts, my Sister
Cenny is ~~living~~ with her I make my home, she is a widow
has 3 children, the oldest a girl, her name ^{is} Abigail, about

25 years old, Eligah, 23 and Thomas in his 17,th ~~he~~ is at
a boarding school finishing his education they were
deprived of their father in a very shocking manner
he went to his stone after breakfast as well as usual
and left to come to dinner got a few steps from
the door and was thrown down by a horse that
was running, he was taken back to the stone and
died in less than 2 hours, his oldest son was with
him, but Sister did not get there until life was extinct,
about 4 months after this event our dear Mother was taken
her disease was a paralytic, which deprived her of the use
of the left side but with ^{the} acceptance of a few days she
retained her faculties, & bright to the last, and was perfect
resigned, her age was 76.

and again ~~to me~~ after her only surviving Brother
Ebeneser Levick died suddenly with the disease of the
heart, ~~so~~ ^{we} may see that my path, has not been
exempt from its thornes, — the only one now
left out of that once large family is one Aunt
Deborah Levick whom I think thee yeast to know
I mean the Brothers and Sisters of my Mother,
I expect thee recollects Susan, and Rebec I better
than any of the others they are daughters of W^m L
They have been married a long time I lives in this
city has children grown up, he lives out in your
state near Springfield Clark Co. her husband
name is John Thomas they have no children.
• Thy Cousins Hannah and Sarah Blackstone one
in this city, I workes at the Mantueenaking, Sewing
does not suit H, she has been the most of the time

for several years at Dr Smiths assisting in
house business, Rebecca is married has 3 children
her husband name is also, John Thomas ^{he is} of
Belairne, he is a sater and an indruentary man
They own the place they live on, ~~Rebecca was up~~
to see us some weeks since she said Tommy and
her family were well, M and S, wish ^{me} to give
theire loves to you all,

I was much pleased to hear from one of my
old spets, Adm, as you request to call her, she has
my best wishes, I ^{hope} she may be blessed,
how I would like to drop in to see you all ^{the} at
in your own deane home, ^{home} a cottage, of all others
would be my choice, and that to in the west,
if it was not for leaving the most of my nearest
relatives behind, I am a real gripper and I love
the west very much and think sometimes that I
I shall not be content elsewhere,

S B has just come in and request me to tell thee that
she had a letter from Elizabeth Moram last evening
they were all well,

I hope my Cousin ^{will} excuse me for not answering
her letter sooner, when I tell her that I did
make the attempt very soon after receiving hers
but a variety of circumstances prevented, sickness
for one I am now better, but Sister is in bed
with a heavy cold, the next one pretty well
I hope this will find ^{you} all enjoying the blessing of health
Sister and I will join me in love to thee and thine, and I wish
to hear from thee as often as thou can make it convenient to
write to thy old Cousin Sam