

West Phil^a Feb. 25th. 1868.

My dear Bessie

It seems as if I had been remiss in ^{not} answering your last letter for when Bessie W. asked me if I had received it, as you had not heard from me I felt rather puzzled thinking I must have answered it, though in my engagements & dislike to letter writing ^{may have} put it off, so dear you must excuse your old Aunt. We so enjoyed Bessie's visit, only so short & dear Tom seemed to enjoy the quiet. Harry has grown a large girl, she is quite an original, how sweet & gentle, dear Elisha is, our little darling was perfectly happy with him. I suppose Bessie told you about dear old Mother's death, she passed away after five days of calm sleeping, always conscious when awake for a short time, though the last evening & night she roused and enjoyed the hymns texts and short prayers joining in & repeated twice "Jesus Saviour of my soul" at 6 A.M. she died so gently, they did not know she had gone to be fore ever with our blessed Saviour. She has been unusually well for several months. According to her request she was ~~buried~~ by Friends ceremony, and as she laid in her plain Quaker dress that we ^{were} accustomed to see her in, she looked twenty years younger & both Robert & Mary remarked her strong likeness to their dear Mother. How everyone who goes to Whittby will miss her, she was the charm of the old place & the last link to connect us with the past generation. I loved her very much & her attachment to me was strong. We enjoyed each others company & she has felt my not being as much with her as she desired. Mrs was a long life, and though her sorrows in the death of loved ones was felt deeply, her life was one of ease & comfort and very happy, every one devoted to her comfort. Now dear having been confined to the house for some days with a severe cold I have no news for you, the families are well as far as I know. Aunt C. has an increase of her cough though better to day. Now my dear Bessie you still have your trip in view for the change may do

you all good if you do not tire yourself too much getting ready. When
is Mr. Shields vacation? The weather has been so that my anticipated
visit to you had to be deferred & if I do not get to see you before you
go I will come afterwards. I hope soon to be quite well & get out for my
usual air exercise which I miss so much. My love in which Sister
joins to you & Mr. Shields. Kiss the dear pets. Remember me to good
kind Margery.

Mary is gone out or
would send love

Your affectionate

Aunt Ann G. Thomas

This is a stupid letter but you must
lay it to my cold which makes me
far from bright.



Mrs. B. K. Shields
Care Rev Charles W. Shields
Princeton
New Jersey.

