

Greenwood Dec 29th, 1840

Now my dear Tom for a moment fancy your
self in our small parlour, the centric Table covered with ~~writing materials~~,
Uncle George busy with some accounts that requires me to sit quiet by his
side, you know my propensity to chatter, so I have thrown aside my
sewing and taken the pen to talk awhile with you about home,
for there is such a charm in the word that to hear even by one
of my servants about ^{it} will have sufficient merit to make my letter
welcome. I know how dearly you love your home and all the relations
you have on this side of the water, among them you can rate some
of the 'first water' with hearts that beat high with every honorable
feeling, and then we are so clanish that it almost amounts
to a fault, though it has its advantages for how sickness & sorrow
brings us together, and at this season to keep up the good old
practice long established in your grand father's family of a little
merriment & good cheer, that Christmas should not pass without
many a heart made glad, for he never ^{was} so happy as when surround
ed by children & grand children, our last celebration in the old
Market street house numbered forty in the parlour, as to the kitchen
that was a privileged place for all who had ever lived with
us, they came to be made happy by a good dinner, a trifling
remembrance or what goes almost as far, a kind speech, for in
this cold world a little kindness goes to the heart, and in your
blessed grandmother what an example we all had of the
milk of human kindness, she was gentleness itself to all

from the poor she never turned a deaf ear, she always found some way to benefit them. This year our Christmas festivities were divided part were invited to Uncle George's, but your dear Mother, bless her kind heart had a large party of children, with your Uncle P's family & a few friends, but she will have to tell you about her party, we were invited first to Lapidlea and I was disappointed, not to have our dear little Willie with the young ones for he would have enjoyed their society & had a good romp, then with a little of a Mother's pride I should have been pleased to have shown him among his cousins for he is indeed a beautiful boy, you will find him more manly, he reads very well & amuses himself with his books. About five weeks ago Cousin ~~Gray~~ came to Whitby to spend a few days, she was taken ill, and only able to leave there to day, she was so anxious to get home as the little Taylor boys have their week of holiday she wanted to make them as happy as she always tries to, it is well for poor Motherless children that there is some kind cousin or sister to supply the loss, ~~new~~ Cousin has shown so much interest & anxiety about these boys, during her sickness, more the feeling of a good kind Mother, that my hope is that she will leave her property among them, this would be but right, they are nearer to her than any one else, poor William's death was a sad stroke to her, no doubt her grief helped to make her sick you knew what deep toned feelings she has, strung upon the nicest chord of sensibility, and is a woman of such real worth. About ten days ago very unexpectedly who should arrive at your Mother's but Uncle Henry & Aunt Julia, Lucy & Edmund, Lucy had not been well your Aunt got uneasy & wanted Dr. Chapman's advice, he did think much was the matter, and as the weather had become

suddenly very cold, they were afraid of the ice stopping the S. boat
they only staid four days, one was spent with us, for they could not go
home without seeing how comfortably I am fixed in my country home,
their visit seems like a dream, your Aunt looks well with a fine complexion
as to Uncle Henry he is getting a little older, but the kind amiable
gentleman & as agreeable & intelligent as you remember him, they thought
of leaving Lucy with your Mother, to go to school with Pexie, but the Mother's
heart failed, and to my joy they took her home, she is an only daughter
the greatest comfort to her Mother, quite as forward in her education
as girls of her age, who have the advantages of Phil^a schools, her Father
instructs her & a good teacher who lived near them. I considered it too
great a charge for your Mother & too great a sacrifice to her own Mother
to part with her. In my last letter I told you how much interest I felt in the
stock & since living in the Country, lately your Uncle has purchased a pr. of fine
carriage horses, they are black & roans full brothers and as much alike as possible they
are real pets, for they are as gentle as any lady could wish, yet spirited. I have been
very busy making fancy rugs to cover them when we call anywhere's whilst
riding, they are dashing affairs such as one would fancy a horse would admire
Uncle G. thinks them handsome & that is enough for me if he is satisfied
of horses I must tell you of two young Englishmen who came over the
what do you think they crossed the ocean for, ^{not} to see our blessed Country and
its Institutions, its magnificent Mountains or noble rivers, but forsooth to shoot
snipe for a week, by way of a little sporting, George Cadwalader heard of
them & invited them to take a ride, it was just the time of the Camden races,
he has two of the fastest trotting horses in the Country, then a friend lent him another
pair, so with the four they trotted to some purpose & to the admiration of these
young men who supposed such horses were common among us, so they will
go home with at least a good idea of our horses. Now I wished your

Cousin John Tayler could have had them for a week on the banks of
 Rappahannock he would have given them sheeting enough, and a little
 ducking would have done them good. To be sure our Country is new and
 we cannot boast of the attractions of the old Countries, for travellers, but have we
 enough of interest to give pleasure to ^{the} most prejudiced; and what a blessed asy
 for all who want a home. I hope my dear Thomas you will return with a
 stronger love of Country than ever, and feel thankful & happy in being able to call
 yourself an American. You begin to think it is time for Aunt to end her letter
 but I must fill up the paper or it would not look to you like one of the home letters

Aunt Ann's Letter.

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Mr. Thomas L. Kane,
 care of Arch. Morrison Esq.
 of Eaton Hall,

Near

Notwich,

Eng^d

I remember when in Virginia I used to read Mr. Osbelle's sermon
 you have lately been reading them to Luke George what an excellent means
 was as to the sermon they are beautiful I have read them with as deep an in-
 terest as I did many years ago. I can freshen up the same feelings make as much
 impression as he did. The present religion to you in such a beautiful form
 I wonder how we can neglect seeking what is to give us peace & hope
 we offer. I have to say that I hope the same are giving to Newport next week
 we will be married in the Spring we are pleased with the choice. I understand
 as well as Mr. Kane will not mind if she should not change her mind
 by saying as I have it is all fixed. I know she will be done. I think
 not to disagree. I shall be taking a letter to the hotel where you are both
 in all due so grateful to you for the good I have done. I am sure you will
 be all due so grateful to you for the good I have done. I am sure you will