

1848

Dec. 2

New Brighton, [Pa.]

[Lippincott, Sara Jane (Clarke)]

To [James Thomas Fields]

A.L.S. 4p. 4to.

New Brighton Dec 2 - 1845.

My dear friend -

I was pleased to receive a letter from you, but grieved to hear that you were ill, and additionally grieved that you should write at such a time - You should know better than to do so - indeed you should.

You write that you were "mad with a head-ache" - Well, I am mad at it, for tormenting you. Oh presuming head-ache! couldst thou not seek out some vulgar and unpoetical dwelling, with comfortable rooms to let - quiet lodgings, where thou wouldst not be annoyed by the coming in of the rough and grotesque ideas of wild anthroposes - to laugh and rattle, and fling themselves about; nor by the out-going of the responsive thoughts of wit and genius.

Why didst thou blunder into that deafening attic, like the animal with the ears, which 'tis said, once ascended to the upper story of a far-famed seat of learning - - Seneceforth, Oh aches! keep clear of the poet's head and heart - for there shall countless forms and sounds jostle and annoy you and there shall ye find no rest.

Yesterday, arrived those books - what shall I say

My kind remembrance to Mr. Whipple -

grates - Je vous remercie - le d'oy las gracias -
I'm very much obliged to you, Sir.
I never before had a realizing sense of what
good people were - but you are one of them
- you are! - You are clever, both in the English
and Yankee sense. You do good, to all men,
women, and blue stockings. - Seriously now,
I thank you with all my heart for those
delightful books. - Holmes has always been
one of my enthusiasms - he must be a glo-
rious fellow! - Whether I consider one of our
country's glories - a magnificent development
of American soul. I like him, Quaker costume
and all - he is brimful of genius -
I am writing letters for the Philadelphia S. & C. Post,
and will make these two volumes the subject
of one - will send you a copy. -
You ask how I am, and what I am "doin".
Well, I am in perfect health now a days - and
am, reading, writing, dancing a little, laughing
a great deal and getting most unpractically fat -
I was going to say, but that is a piggish
word - acquiring embonpoint - I have the
roundest arm, the plumpest cheeks, and
the doublest chin ever seen on a feminine
favorite of the nine, suspected of having been
crossed in first love - of being inclined to
consumption and religion, and known to be

a little in years. - Next, you ask if the sun
shines here, and if the people are clever
and keep Thanksgiving. - I can't say
our sun is quite equal to the one in your
direction, which has the honor of pouring its
rays on Bunker Hill, and Lexington, and
other famous fields, I might mention;
ours is not much, ordinarily, but manages
to cut a shine on Sundays. - Neither can
I say much for the cleverness of the people - they
have no high appreciation of genius. My dog and I
can walk out in the open day, without having
our way blocked up by the "gingid multitude"!!

They keep Thanksgiving, after a sort, but the "outside
barbarians" have "no knowledge of the gospel" as regards
Pumpkin-pie - I think I hear you exclaim
"Thanksgiving without Pumpkin-pie - Oh
Lord!"

You did not send me your own little volume.
How could you treat me so! - I have read
the notices of your late poem with the little
pleasure I assure you, and am hungry to see
your the performer itself - - I think your
modesty must do injustice to your deserts,
when you express so great a surprise at the
success of this effort. I have no doubt
that you are "wise (and clever,) above what
is written" (by the Editors,) and that I am

will be pretty well blowed before ~~the~~ your
praises are all sounded. -

I think I shall take your advice respecting
my publication - I mean while assure your
Quartans that they will not lose largely
by the job - assure them that my puffblown
ity is a solemn reality - A steam-boat on
the Mississippi, was long time named after
me, and lately a race-horse in Kentucky.

I think I once told you that knowing you were
the habit of disposing of the autograph letters of
distinguished people, I should take extra pains
with mine, to you - Remark how carefully
I crop all my i's, and dot my to's - and
then the sentiments and the language! Of these

it were scarce becoming for me to speak in full -
but I am confident you will pronounce them
to be, as Mr. Mantelin would say, "deux fois".

I have been told that I waste ammunition
in bestowing such care and pains on my
private letters. But the habit is on me.
I write a brief and careful letter were an
exertion to which I feel myself unequal.

There must ever be in my most unimpor-
tant epistolary communications, a certain
finish and picturesqueness - "I can do no
otherwise - Heaven help me," as Luther
said at the Diet of ~~_____~~

I have written somewhat jistingly, perhaps,
but in sad, sober earnest, believe me,
Yours decidedly,
Grace Greenwood.

I have seen many letters of your father's, I shall expect to have some more of them.