

Philadelphia Dec 30. 1837

I have thought much of you Hishuskins since the winter has set in near Emma and hoped over and over again that the wild weather we have had so far may reach to Squaw Prairie. Today is really like a soft April day so that I can hardly bear to sit by this ~~stove~~ fire instead of walking, but this is my letter writing day and it is certainly your turn now for I believe months have passed since I wrote last. I have been here four weeks and will remain the rest of the winter by the Spring I hope to be somewhere settled with one of the boys though every thing is still as uncertain as ever, the bad times have prevented our forming any plan as yet the Spring may perhaps brighten affairs so that before another passes we may have a home again. It invites you to. Charles is at Cousin Emma's and is delightfully situated now he has the library down stairs and the plan of the housekeeping is changed. They have dinner now at 5 o'clock which to him is much more agreeable for he was tired to death of being obliged to dine out always and said he began to look upon a clean tablecloth as one of the greatest possible luxuries, little Ogden boards there too and is a very great favourite of all in the house. Cousin Emma says the gentlemen think him the most astonishing boy they have ever seen and she herself is very fond of him from his sweet affectionate disposition. Ogden will of course be in Washington all winter he is one of the Lions of the day.

They say his speeches at the Extra Session have never been surpassed, he passed through here last week on his way to Goshen to pass the holidays but as it was in the night he did not stop. I expect to see him in a few days on his return. George is still in the neighbourhood of Lancaster and will probably remain there the rest of the winter he has been down twice to see me, he and Charles both tell me to send a great deal of love to all of you and say I must write for them for they really have not time, they do both appear to be very industrious Charles hopes to get another look out in the Spring though he tells me not to say any thing about it for it will be a thing of shreds and patches, but I always tell you western folks of what concerns us, he means to make up the book of descriptions of the scenes he travelled in last summer at the source of the Susquehanna and introduce in it the stories which he has published in the Magazine which you know are quite lost in a periodical, the Harpers will publish it and if business rises I hope it will be profitable to him.

I was in New York but a fortnight and saw no one scarcely while there the weather was bad and coming from the pure Country air I had such incessant headaches that I was perfectly good for nothing I was not able even to go over to see Mrs Jones as I fully intended, Katy says she looks awfully ill so that she hardly thinks she can live through the winter she was in wretched spirits too. I saw Phil and Mary once, I met them at Mackens on their way to see me Mary did not fit at all like leaving Heligade again this winter though she is a great fellow at parties I don't think she cares at all about them, she was one of Mary Stevens' bridesmaids, who is they say one of the most richly dressed ladies ever in New York but not a very happy looking one, I imagine money has had too much to do with that matter, your other friend Cornelia it is said looks very happy and has a most devoted husband.

I was taken in to a party at Mackens the other night when I expected only a sociable tea drinking, where I had quite a talk with Mrs. Fox Biddle tell your mother she asked after her and talked a great deal about you all she desired me to give her love when I wrote, Mr. Rush was there too, looking very grand in a pink satin and seeming very gay, I was rather provoked to find myself in so large a party, so light hearted much in a corner. Sara Moses called to me as she went out to Lydgate to give her love to you, I wish you could know her in spite of all your mother said I am sure you would like her she must have seen her to great disadvantage for she certainly is a charming girl, tell Sister that Mary Jewell is married to Charles Ogden, Sam. G. is now living in New York she must have written down a great deal for I have a most excellent letter from her to Sara the other day, written with great feeling after a recovery from sickness. Miss Mordecai is passing a week in town she has the baby I saw with the greatest quantity of soft dark hair, it would be beautiful if it were not too fat, but I have never yet seen a baby half so lovely as Golden was. Becky Moses is engaged to John. Kathan of New York and is much more grave and fit her more agreeable than she used to be, Gatz is soon to be married to a Mr. Ashe of North Carolina she is older than he is and not pretty it is said, and what is very strange a religious woman strange that she should have chosen a Jew, she has many offers before, this love is a mystery certainly. Anna Gillaspie is passing the winter in Washington with a friend, and Mrs. Howell supporting her family by teaching music. I heard you were at Chicago did you enjoy your visit? do write and tell me about it I hope you made some agreeable acquaintances. We have heard that you are comfortably fixed now in your house and that all are well and in good spirits but do let me hear from yourselves Love to your mother Katy sends her love - and Antilda's Ever yours Julia H.



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