

Philadelphia Saturday Dec. 9

I have been expecting a letter from you all
evening every day since I have been here, and every day when the post has
come without it, I have intended to write to you certainly tomorrow to
ask the reason of your silence, but that tomorrow as usual never has come
and now since I can't have the merit of writing for once in my life without
waiting for your letter I will at least not let it remain unanswered my usual
time.

I left home the Wednesday after you went, with Mr. Meredith and Gertie
and here have I been ever since, how much longer I shall stay is quite uncer-
tain, George was to have come for me some time in this month but this
unexpected cold weather has filled the rivers with ice and stopped the steam-
boats, and I do not quite like the idea of getting up at two o'clock and going
all the way in the stage, or I think it quite possible that I shall stay until
the roads open again. Miss Gratz wishes me very much to stay until the Spring.
I am grieved to hear of your mother's bad health I hope you make her take
as good care of herself as possible, tell her that her friends here inquire very particu-
larly about her. Miss Gratz and the Mosses send a great deal of love to her and to
you. Matilda has not written me a word I think I must write her a letter
if it be only to get a few lines from her in return, she is so taken up with her
happiness that she forgets she has a maiden aunt to whom it is her duty to
write, I have begun a cap for her which they all tell me is very beautiful and I
truly think I shall finish it, every sketch I take on it makes me feel glad I can
hardly persuade myself that I am really working for Matilda.

My time here passes pretty much as it does at home, every morning I read
with Miriam or Becky, Italian with one and Spanish with the other, after that I either
walk or sew, write letters, and the evenings I spend at home generally, sometimes

at the Mosess or Hays. I don't go to parties at all and do not intend to go to any while I am here, I have never liked them and my distaste to them now is I think greater than ever. I have very much improved about walking I am out almost every day and have taken a great many long walks since I have been here, in Philadelphia you can get into the country much sooner than in New York and to me that is very agreeable, the scenery on the Schuylkill at Fairmount is very beautiful and not a mile from here, I should like to have you with me I think you would enjoy it very much.

I found all here unchanged, the girls the same as I left them four years ago, Miriam Mosess and Sarah Hays are two of the most intelligent girls I have ever known, Miriam is the only one of the family who at all resembles Miss Gratz in character she has a perfectly well regulated mind which is a thing not often met with, Sarah has a great deal of talent very agreeable manners a great deal of frankness one whom I think you can readily help loving.

Have you heard from our house at all? I had a letter a few days ago George said all were well, and the only change in the family was that old Anne has walked off so when the lady comes says us another visit she need not fear to have her eyes scratched out, I am very much flattered that the lady sends her love to me I hope she has entirely got over her anxiety for the numberless topics I used to give her at night. Lady missed you both after you went away very much she used to talk of you a great deal, and she'd wind up with, "well I liked the little dog very much for all."

You did not tell me a word of your journey and whether you found Mr. Mackie agreeable, and what you did with Eva at night and how Aunt Judith treated you, when you write again do tell me for every thing about yourself is interesting to me.

I cannot write you a longer letter for I expect Miss Gratz home from synagogue very minute. Have you heard from the Colmans I did not see them after you left me.

My best love to your mother good bye dearest Eva believe me ever your sincerely attached aunt

Julia Hoffman



4th

1874

Miss Emma Nicholas

Care of Mrs. Nicholas

Charlestown

Massachusetts

Letter that
let me see
all the baby
pictures