

New York May 5th 1838

Once more my dear Emma my letter is dated from New York where I have been for ten days and shall remain until the end of this month when I shall go to Hickill again for the summer how often do I wish that Spear Prairie were a little more comfortable that I might take you among my other visitations, I did hope to have been settled with one of the Reg. by this time, but as George is in in a wilderness, and City affairs are too uncertain for us to put too much confidence in Charles' income as yet, and the Purlands are very anxious to have me with them, we thought it best to be settled this summer again. George has an appointment as assistant Engineer on the Pennsylvania Erie railroad with a salary of 2000 all summer he will be in the extreme West of Pennsylvania exploring through the wilderness passing both days and nights in the woods, he has a party of twenty five men among whom are a hunter and a cook to supply their table, he went well provided for camping out so that I think his health will not suffer from the exposure, in November they will be driven from the country by the snow and spend the winter in Philadelphia. Charles has given up the Mirror and Magazine but if the Red Hook Company goes on well as they do, should it not he will probably make arrangements with some paper, the Company appears to stand very well so that I don't know we have any reason to distrust it, but you know our money matters somehow never go right, Charles is well and still at Boston Emma who has moved into Madame Chegaray's house in Houston St. she has rented out some of her rooms in sets of parlours and chambers to families who are to furnish them themselves

and has a fair prospect of having her house full.
Oden is still in Washington and according to Virginia Southard, the
world says it is an engagement. I have little doubt that it will be,
little Oden says his father told him there was no truth in it but
he thought they were engaged when he was in Washington, his father
introduced him to the lady and she seems to have talked to him a
great deal, sought him out to bid him Good bye when he came away
all which he thought very suspicious, for as he says "why should she
have been so attentive to such a boy if not for his father's sake?"
little Oden has grown very tall and is a great favourite at the school.
Phil Kinsland sailed on Tuesday for England it is said he was very
attentive to Elizabeth Barnwell this winter whether it was more than
a flirtation I don't know. I saw Mary in Philadelphia for the evening
on her way to Washington she has been a letter this winter the other
chief letter has been Mr. Gargent of Boston, she told me she meant
to write to you after Phil had gone his letters were so much more
agreeable than hers could be that it was not worth while for her to write
when he did. I have not seen her since I came and I fear shall not as
they are at Hellgate and a drive out is rather too much for us now.
I am staying with the Duncans who have moved into Eighth St
days. I am staying with the Duncans who have moved into Eighth St
not far from the East river so that people think us almost out of
the world the house we are in is a delightful one and the view
from the upper windows very beautiful so that I think they are
fully compensated for the long walk to town. Pierre Irving is still at
Geneva and has just refused a very good call to the city. Because he
thought he could do more good where he is. Theodore has been in town
for a few days I think you would hardly know him, study and a
sedentary life appear to have made him ten years older in the last one
he is thin, pale, and looks like a countryman instead of the city man
he once was, I don't remember whether I told you that was the new
love" Jane Southard before he was off with his old "Phoebe Warren"
and is to be married in August. William Waddington is to be married

next month to Mary Stearns Oden. Alexander Hall has changed
his name to St. Kenzie with a prospect of receiving a fortune after
his uncle's death, he is at sea and will not be home for two years.
Tell your mother the Philadelphia people all sent love to her, Mrs.
Gratz has I suppose written to her by this time, I wish you had had
an opportunity of seeing more of her. I do think she is one of the most
perfect characters I ever knew, her entire humanity is such as I never
saw in any one else and her religion or influence very active of her
life that though we found she is not a Christian we cannot help wishing
that many Christians would let their professed influence their
conduct as hers does. Every body asks after you, your friend Dayton
invariably and Mr. Paruly to whom I called yesterday to make
an appointment, I have suffered so much from acidity of stomach
this last year that I much feared I should lose all my teeth, but
lime water which I have persevered in drinking all winter has cured
me at last, and I hope to recover some of my lost flesh, but
tell me how well this Spring but for my part I think I have got
old and ugly, my skin looks yellow and my hair has begun to
grey, and by the time you see me again I shall no doubt be a real
old woman. I hope the next Whitman will be a girl so let me know
as soon as it is decided. I shall go to see Mrs. Jones and write again
by her and am determined it shall not be my fault if our correspond-
ence is not a brisk one, when Matilda is able I hope she will
write to me, I should much like to take a cot in your room for
a while and some long talks, I wish you would make haste and
make your member of Congress which you promised to do when you
were out. Fanny Gelman has a daughter which is the fourth child
born among the Hoffmans this winter. I will try and make Charles
write to you as to George. I imagine it is quite impossible for him.
Give my love to your mother Matilda and Mr. Whitman and kiss
the children the boys and love and Katy, Fanny and Elizabeth too to be
remembered.
Ever your attached Julia H

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Rev. J. L. Whitman

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