

Philadelphia Jan 5th 1832

A happy New Year to you my dear Emma may Heaven grant you all the blessings which we can enjoy in this life.

Though not quite so punctual in answering your letter as I was the last time, I do not intend to fall into my old bad habits, I am obliged to write so many letters while I am here, that when I go home again I shall ~~certainly~~ have become so accustomed to it, that it will no longer be any trouble to me, and if I cannot equal your friend Eliza as a correspondent I am determined you shall not have to read me any longer.

Since I wrote to you I have received a long letter from Matilda and answered it. She gives me a beautiful picture of her fine side, how delightful it is to think of her happiness my most ardent wish is to see it. I often think of the delightful plan we arranged for next summer, it is a long time to look forward but still I hope, almost believe we will be able to put it into execution, the only drawback to Matilda's happiness seems to be her separation from you and your mother, but when she has so much else to make her happy she cannot repine at that, and she can hear from you constantly and anticipate the pleasure of seeing you before a very great while. Mr. Whitman and I send each other messages in Matilda's letters and I expect we will become quite well acquainted with each other before we meet. I feel as if I had seen him now, and I am sure I should know him if I should ever see him. Matilda does not say a word about going to pay a visit to her husband's relations I suppose of course she does not think of doing so this winter, she tells me she has been sick but is now quite well, I hope nothing serious was the matter with her.

You see I am still in Philadelphia and here I shall be until the
snows open for the travelling is so bad now that I do not feel disposed to
venture, I have passed my time very pleasantly here but I begin to think
I should like to be at home again and shall be glad when the time
comes for me to go, I thought it would be impossible for me to stay all
winter, and said no, until I found I could not help myself. I am always
ready to leave home and always ready to return to it again.

I am grieved dear Emma that you do not like Charlestown better, I hope
by this time that you have made some agreeable acquaintances who may
in time become friends, and that you are better pleased with it, how is your
mother's situation as to money matters? as good as she expected, and how
do you like the young girls who are in the house with you? of whom your
mother gave you an account in one of her letters. You see I still plague
you with questions, I want to know all and every thing about you
tell me too how you like your school and what you learn, have
you begun drawing yet? I am sorry that you have been sick you ought
if possible to take exercise every day and make your mother go with you
I am sure it would be good for both. You say you suffer so much from
the cold don't you have a fire in your room you have both been so accus-
tomed to it, it must be very bad for your health to be without it.

I wrote to scold the boys for not writing to you and I suppose they
have apologized for themselves before this, it is almost a fortnight since
they have written to me, though they have behaved themselves quite well
since I have been here. Charles sent me a beautiful Boa for a New Year's
present, you remember a fur cape was what I wanted when you were in
town, a Boa is still more useful to me than a Cape for I can wear it
with my cloak, and it keeps me as warm as possible, ~~very~~ ~~very~~ I go out
in the coldest weather, my only difficulty is the slippery walking I have
been down once flat, and expect to perform the same feat again frequent-
ly before the winter is over - Dinner is coming up so I must stop
my best love to your mother, Miss Gratz sends love to your mother
and you -

Ever your attached

Julia Hoffman

5th

1839

Miss Emma Nichols

Care of Mr. Nichols

Charlestown

Massachusetts