

Hell Gate. October 19. 1834.

I am well aware that some excuse may with propriety be expected at my hands, for having delayed ~~so~~ returning an answer to your letter, until this late period; but although my apology is of a nature scarce worth offering, such as it is I hope it will be a make-weight with you, towards forgiving my fault—may you prove when you receive this letter mercifully inclined!— This then is my apology or rather an explanation of the reason why you have not been the recipient of an epistle from your loving cousin Philip Rhinelanders Esqr as you term him— Immediately on the reception of your letter, I in so far fulfilled my duty as a good correspondent, as consists in writing a letter long, full of information and promptly written, I had even proceeded as far as the sealing, but here an obstacle was presented to my further progress, which rendered all my former diligence of no avail, this barrier was involved in the direction, 'tis true, that you lived in Hamilton, was not unknown; and that Hamilton was in New York state, I was not ignorant; but beyond this my information did not extend and I was obliged to deny myself the pleasure of writing to you 'till I could obtain from some other source than my own knowledge of Geography, the location of Hamilton— I dined this week with Grandpa, and then learnt the necessary direction; I found them all well, Grandpa, I think looks as if he enjoyed better health, than for some time past; George appears to have entirely recovered from the effects of his western tour, It is amusing to observe how the description of western life is affected by the different states of the health of the two brothers, Charles and George— The one, says never was there so fine a country, the level prairie, the streams meandering through verdant fields, and flowing at a quiet along the golden beds; the other says, never so disagreeable a land, the flat and unim-



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Miss Nicholas

Care of

Prof: Whitman

Hamilton,

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