

Phil^a May 14th 1836

I hope my dear Emma will not ere this have concluded that the pleasure I expressed at the commencement of our correspondence was ~~not~~ merely profusion; but since I ~~have~~ wrote you, until within the last few weeks, a return of my complaint has obliged me to be in bed, or on the sofa for the greater part of the day, which is my excuse for ~~my~~ having so long delayed answering your affectionate letter. Becky will be the bearer of this to you she is one of ^{the} attendants at Miss Beck's wedding who has just married a gentleman of New York where she will reside; her bridesmaids all are to be with her whilst she receives company which will be next week in New York; I hope you will go to see her at Dr Wagstaffs No 25 Waverly Place; she will take on with her your Father's watch which is the only article of his we have yet received, his trunk which I presume only contains clothing was shipped by the gentleman who brought the watch before he left Richmond, but has not yet arrived. In a letter received sometime ago from your sister, she mentioned the wish of your Mother to have her miniature sent on; we have been informed by this gentleman, that during your Father's residence at Mr Heath's, a part of his house was destroyed by an explosion of some gunpowder, and with it your Father's large trunk containing his

books, papers, and I presume your Mother's likeness ^{as} it is not to be
found by Mrs Richardson the lady with whom he lived. This is the
information received by your Uncle from Mr Purves the gentleman
who made the inquiry. I regret that I did not see Miss Hoffman
when she called, and that she left town without my seeing her. It
is sometime since I have heard from Matilda, I am one or two
letters in her debt, but I hope she does not stand upon ceremony with
me, as both your letters will always give me pleasure; give my love
to her and tell her to write. I hear she is going to remove to the West,
and that you and your Mother will accompany her, will you let
me know when you write? You speak in your last letter to me
of your numerous "duties and engagements" preventing your writing
to me, how are you so much occupied? All that relates to you
will be interesting to me, my dear Emma, you must not wait
for me to answer every letter, but write whenever you feel inclined. I do
most sincerely rejoice at the strain of piety throughout your letters.
No earthly pleasures or possessions could compensate for the want
of that obedience to our Heavenly Father's will, which appears to be
your greatest delight, and may it be the will of our heavenly Parent
to multiply greatly your spiritual blessings. I must refer you
to Becky for a more particular account of us all, as I hope you
will see each other soon after her arrival. Your Aunt and Uncle
unite with me in love to you. I fear my last letter to you gave you
pain, if it did my dear Emma forgive me, for I would not willingly wound
your feelings. Remember me to your Mother. May God bless you is the prayer
of your Aunt Mary.

22

X

Miss Emma Nicholas

Care of Judge Hoffman

New York.

