

New York, May 21st 1839.

It is long, very long, my dear friend since we have had any communication with each other, ~~and~~ ^{but} the events of the last few days have incited me to carry into effect a determination of writing to you, which has been of long standing. Elizabeth Spencer's children arrived day before yesterday, and I felt as if I could not withhold from you intelligence, which would give you so much pleasure. The affair had been so long protracted, and so many difficulties seemed to arise, that I had sometimes feared that they would never reach this country. They have arrived however, with each of them a child of between one and two years. Olive's oldest child died about one year ago. They are of a pleasing appearance, although far inferior to Chlorine in animation and intelligence, being decidedly African in physiognomy, and of course wearing the stamp. Olive's countenance corresponds to the testimony of Mrs. Roberts represented her to be possessed of much better temper than Rebecca is slightly marked by small pox. She is maided, according to the customs which I suppose prevail almost universally wherever slavery exists; that is to say, the marriage ceremony has never been performed, but she has been recognised as a wife by the father of her child, who has supported her, and indeed Olive too in a great measure, since they have been liberated. He is a free man, and a sailor, and intends to ship on board one of the vessels trading between this port and Caracas, and will endeavour to provide for his wife and child. When he comes here, Elizabeth will take measures to have them legally married. Olive has never laid any claim to marriage in any sense. If any thing were needed to confirm me in an unqualified abhorrence of the whole system of slavery, it would be the sight of these young females and their children, and I have no question that morally and intellectually, they are far above the great mass of the slaves in our southern states. Elizabeth is, I believe truly thankful and I think I am so myself. The undertaking has cost some anxiety and perplexity, but the result is a sufficient compensation for all. It has always been

my intention to take one of them into our own family, and to undertake the task of instructing her. Olive seems to be best suited to my purpose, and Rebecca will remain with her mother who needs her services. Elizabeth was exceedingly disappointed that they did not come in a ship which arrived a fortnight ago, but every thing has been arranged by a wiser hand than our own, for if they had come then, she would have had no house to receive them. They are now comfortably settled in the lower part of a house in Elm Street. Spencer, as yet has no place but I believe thinks of going to Martin Hoffman's. Elizabeth will take in washing and ironing and Rebecca can of course be very useful to her. I have no doubt of their ability to earn their livelihood, and I hope in addition to the blessings of freedom, they may become participants in the highest benefits of a land of religious light and liberty. I have paid \$496 for their manumission, and \$50 more are to be paid for their passage. I shall always esteem it a cause for thankfulness, my dear friend, that you permitted me to complete your unfinished undertaking, and I know that you will rejoice with me in the result. It has been one cause for my silence until now, that I could not write any thing definite on the subject. The year's residence required by the laws of the island after manumission, elapsed last autumn, and they were advised not to come at that period, as they would immediately encounter the rigours of our winter. Two ships have arrived this spring in both of which, I expected them, and they were on both occasions prepared to come, and the captains at the last moment refused to bring them. I despaired of their transportation without making an arrangement here, and had in fact made such an agreement with the captain of a ship who sailed about a week ago. They have been befriended by Miss Smith, a niece of Mr. Foulke, to whom I wrote on the subject, and who interceded with the captain and advanced the money for their passage. That sum is still to be collected. Since our change of residence (we live now at No. 29 Clinton Place) Chlorine has not come very regularly to her lessons, and I think has retrograded a little. She will however soon make up the deficiency by a little application, as her aptitude is very remarkable.

letter.

Excuse the blundering way in which I have written.

I have devoted so much of my letter to Elizabeth's affairs, that I have almost crowded out our own. As I do not ~~to~~ know how much of our family news you have heard, I will begin by telling you that my sister Margaret has a fine little boy 15 months old, whom she calls Franklin. He is a twin child; the other a girl was still-born. Her husband has built a beautiful country seat at Westport in Connecticut, where they are to spend their summers. Margaret will be employed this summer in increasing her family. Eliza was married on the 15th of last May to Dr Macdonald, and my brother George on the 20th of last October to Miss Winer of Goshen. Eliza and her husband have continued to reside with us and I hope will be willing to do so for some time to come, as our family is now so much reduced in number, and I should scarcely know ~~how to~~ do without Eliza. Silvanus is the only brother I have now at home. Edward is in New Orleans, Sydney in Vicksburg and George in Hartford (Conn.) Dr Macdonald has just returned from England, where he has been to accompany a patient. He was absent eleven weeks, and returned in the steamer Liverpool. His brother ~~has~~ last summer been at East Hampton (L. Island) residing in the family of whom you once saw one, Joann Miller, at our house. He has become so much attached to the place and the family that he appears quite indifferent about coming to the city. He has improved in health but is still much disabled. I wish I could say that he was a Christian, but alas, on that subject I have nothing but hope. I do not know whether you heard that Mr Williams spent last summer in Europe. His strength was so utterly prostrated during the spring that relaxation became indispensable, and he was induced to go abroad. He sailed on the 1st of July and returned in the latter part of Oct. November, having been in England, France, Switzerland and Holland. He was much benefited by the voyage, but still appears to suffer occasionally from debility. He no longer preaches three times on the Sabbath, but his other duties are as unremitting as ever, and his habits of study and seclusion very much what they were formerly. The church is prosperous, altho' there have been I think fewer additions to it during the past year.

than the preceding one. I must tell you in a few words, all the news about
your acquaintances in the church. In the first place, Margaret Thack-
eray is married to our Season Rind. The match is universally admit-
ted to be as good as was possible. Eliza Byron went to her brothers at
in Ohio, and there married a lawyer named Stegwood. Mrs Byron died
last winter in Ohio. Catharine Gilbert's father has spent nearly the whole
of his large fortune, made an assignment of his property and moved out
of his fine house. Catharine has had trials to endure, which have re-
quired all the support that religion could impart. Her health is not good.

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Beloved
Minister

Wm. Anna H. Nicholas

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and she is going to England with Capt. De Peyster and her sister next
Saturday. I have heard that Emma was going to be married. I hope you
will tell me the whole story. I have written you a gossiping sort of let-
ter, but if you will answer it immediately, I will endeavour to write
something better. I heard that your health of late had not been
good. I sincerely desire to hear better accounts of you. I am thankful
that I have it in my power to say that my own health is excellent.
I think, too, that I can say that I have been blest in spiritual things.
I find ^{that} my sense of the magnitude of the truths of religion and my enjoy-
ment in contemplating them increases. May this be your happy experience.
is the prayer of your affectionate friend Anica Maria Miller