

New York Feb. 26th 1833

I am determined dear Emma that your third visit shall not be as unsuccessful as your others have been, and so I sit down to answer your letter at once instead of putting it off as usual, till tomorrow, which never comes. I cannot make any excuse for my neglect I have treated you as I have all my other correspondents worse even than I usually do, my bad habits, as all bad habits do, increases with my years.

Samuel's death was a great affliction to his father it was very sudden he had no idea of his being dangerously ill until it was too late to do any thing for him, on Thursday while playing with the boys at school he fell and struck the back of his head but got up and went on with his play, though little Ogden says he complained of his head hurting him, on Saturday he was taken with a fit which the physician, not knowing of his fall, attributed to something he had eaten and told Ogden that there was no cause for alarm it was not an unusual thing, then he seemed to have a cold head in his head, but that was nothing alarming and on Monday Ogden left him thinking that he would be in school the next day, but early Tuesday morning he was sent for, he had fallen into a stupor in the night, and so he continued until Tuesday evening when the breath left him. I do not think that he had been well since last summer when he had an attack of inflammatory rheumatism which left him with a palpitation of the heart and flushing of the face whenever he took any exercise. Ogden is quite well he has brought little Ogden home to put him to school in town.

Cypheria Fenns had a paralytic stroke, the left side of her face was affected and for a short time they thought her very ill she has recovered from it now.

entirely. The theme of conversation here for some time has been the shocking death of Elliott Taylor who committed suicide, it seems that his whole life has been one of dishonour, at eighteen he first stole money from his employer and since ^{then} he has forged, gambled, and supported the style in which he lived by other persons' money, and when it could no longer be concealed he completed his crimes by suicide, his poor wife is dreadfully distressed she is left with three children, the only a week old, she knows that her husband took laudanum but thinks that his failure caused a temporary derangement, and has no idea that his name is a disgrace to her she continually repeats it is all ordered for the best and he is happy now in heaven.

George has been quite sick with an attack upon the lungs he is well now and goes out on pleasant days but the Doctor orders great tenderness until the warm weather comes, the rest of us have all been quite well Pa has not even had a sick head ache this winter, the advantages that the Battery has been to him counterbalances the inconvenience of this miserable house all the summer and fall he fished there before breakfast and in the afternoon and very pleasant day this winter he has taken a walk there before breakfast we are going to move though of course for we have got fairly stacked now and it is impossible to tell when we will stop.

Aunt Hoffman and all the girls have been spending the winter in town scattered among the family I expected to have had Mary a great part of the winter with me but as I am the youngest the others won't allow my turn to come until the last, Martin's little boy is a fine looking child his name is Lindley Murray, Martin is of course very much delighted with him and says he is a wonderful child.

Do you hear often from your friend Eliza? John Lawrence told me he met her some time ago at Mr. Lord's and found ^{her} to be sensible and agreeable, he said when he spoke of you her face brightened up and she was quite enthusiastic.

Tell Matilda her old lover William Dyer has gone to live in New Orleans drawn there by his sweet cousin Lucy Chen to whom he is going to be married whenever his Law gives him money enough to do so, I suppose she would like to hear something of the lady who has taken her place in the proud heart of this gentleman, she is just sixteen not very pretty but with a very sweet expression, and delightful voice in speaking, I do not

know that she is remarkably intelligent, but perfectly amiable and with great naïveté of manner, she would not strike at first, but I should think any one knowing ^{her} well might become very much attached to her, she was here at school for eighteen months but William Dyer did not tell her of his love until after her education was finished, and after she left here in the fall he determined to settle in New Orleans and told his family of his engagement, and sailed from here the middle of last month. This is the only change that has taken place in our circle of acquaintances all the rest both ladies and gentlemen are as little likely to be married as they were four years ago.

Matilda Roberts expects to present an heir to the noble family of Roberts in the course of a few months, she is as happy and her new relations as disagreeable as ever. My best love to your mother and Matilda kiss the dear baby for me and when he begins to understand tell him that he has an old maid aunt in New York whom he must learn to love very much. Remember me to Mr. Whitman. George sends love to you

Ever your attached aunt

Julia Hoffman

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[Handwritten signature]



Miss Nicholas

Care of Professor Whitman

Hamilton

Madison County N.Y.