

Fishkill Oct. 23rd 1838

I am ashamed my dear Emma
to look at the date of your letter so many months have
passed since I wrote to you and I have nothing to say to
excuse my silence. I am grieved to hear of your troubles
and illnesses through the summer and hope the winter
though it is a season that you always dread may bring
to you health and comfort, it really makes me feel sick
at heart to think of the long distance between us and
the improbability of our meeting for many years for instead
of getting richer we seem only to grow poorer I do long for
some good talks with you all, if we were only at home
keeping I might hope to have you stay with us one of these
days but I begin quite to despair of our ever having a house
of our own again when we are able to board together I shall
be satisfied. I have been here since the first of June and will
go down the first of November to stay with the Durs they
have urged me to spend the winter with them but I don't
know yet what our arrangements will be should either
of the boys be well enough off to have me board with them
I should prefer it we cannot decide upon any thing though
until George comes from his railroad and Charles find some
occupation for all summer he has been unemployed, he is

certainly a most unfortunate person, the Red Hook company which promised to good an income has never gone into operation and probably never will, and of course pays nothing. Dearborn failed last month owing him 500 dollars upon which he had relied, he thinks now that Dearborn cheated him a good deal about the magazine as every one else thought long ago, and to crown all when he was up here he sprained his ankle which I fear will inconvenience him for a long time for so much weight falls upon one that he has to use the utmost care, he sprained it in the woods and was brought home on horseback and carried to his room by William, had leeches applied immediately, and was not suffered to move for a week, and now he walks very slowly and with difficulty, he was disappointed in a journey to Delaware which he had intended to take with William and so when he was well enough he paid a quiet and pleasant ^{visit} to Aunt Hoffman at Goschen she and the girls sent much love to all of you, they live most delightfully they have about twenty acres in good order and keep a pair of horses one of which is a good ladies horse so that the girls really enjoy themselves more than they ever did before. Mary lives at Mrs. Wickham's who will not hear of Aunt's taking her from her. Ogden is to be married about the middle of November the family in town have been to call upon Miss Southard and are very much delighted with her she is pleasing and unaffected should he not be re-elected to Congress they will probably go to housekeeping in the Spring, but should he go to Congress I suppose they will not take a house for the summer season merely. Miss S. is just three and twenty

George has been all summer at the West of Pennsylvania where he has enjoyed himself in the wilderness very much he has been camped out most of the time and says he never was in such health and spirits he always asks after you in every letter and sends love but says he has not time to write he is so incessantly occupied in exploring, he will soon be driven in by the snows and will probably pass the winter in Philadelphia where the Company will have an office, I hope he will be in time for Oscar's wedding. Tell your mother Mr. Bidale still inquires after her and begs Miss Gratz to remember him to her, Miss Gratz sends her love to you all she has been to Saratoga this summer for her health but writes me word now that she is quite well, I do not think I shall pay a visit to Philadelphia until the Spring unless George should wish me to be there with him this winter.

William Perplanch has a daughter a month old to be called Eliza she is a very little baby but good and quite an amusing one. Mrs. Wragg has been Anna's nurse and last night we had quite a talk about the beauty and loveliness of Matilda's children and both came to the conclusion that they certainly were the finest boys we had ever seen, how I should like to be with them again and to see little Charles too. I shall make an effort to get out to Mary Rhinelanders when I go to town I suppose we will be invited to her wedding whenever that may be how I shall wish for you to be there with me. Give my love to Matilda and your mother who has returned I hope you will go to Chicago to recruit too. I suppose remember me to Mr. Whitman and Mrs. Jones. Love sends love. Ever your attached friend merely to Charles care. Julia H. I see that he does not grant any more? but shall direct as usual what I hear

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Rev. S. S. Whitman

Postmaster

Belvedere

via Chicago

Illinois

