

New York. Dec^r 14. 1834.

How happy is he, who when in want of an excuse to offer to some friend for a fault committed, finds one offered by that friend in his behalf, (unconsciously it is true) and which from this circumstance is he is sure, of being received with favor.

You, in your kind letter written long since, produce as a reason for my frequently writing, the great quantity of material, I must ever have in a city such as this, from the great variety of objects here, calculated to interest and amuse; but it is from this very cause that I am so negligent a correspondent, my time is wholly occupied either in the pursuit of duty, or of pleasure, and as I only bestow a stated portion of my time upon the former, and leave to chance alone the determination of the succession of my pleasures, it has so happened that the pleasure of writing to you has been delayed to this late period — more by the good fortune than the superiority of other pleasures —

Although I have occupation sufficient and ~~the~~ ^{have a} great variety of enjoyments, yet are neither of a kind the description of which can be committed to paper —

An account of law and other studies would be peculiarly dry and uninteresting; and my pleasures are mostly of so trivial a nature, that though I may say, "I am happy" "I enjoyed myself" or use any other phrase general in its nature, yet were I asked in what consisted my happiness or enjoyment, I could not answer, much less could I commit my answer to writing.

So that you see that although in a large city, there is as much want of subjects for writing as in your village of Hamilton. If then, we are both compelled to have recourse to the imagination to furnish us with ideas, you have greatly the advantage of me.

you are in a romantic village, surrounded by all that can in-
terest in nature, and in your lonely walks (for ~~there~~ you can
have) solace and opportunity have you for contemplation, here
can you be able.

With morbid eye to these
We know not in nature's face —

To see —

In the gay flower and shrub grow

The fair evidence of love.

and do you with such advantage, complain of want of sub-
jects for a letter? ~~It~~ ~~you~~ ~~are~~ ~~not~~ ~~to~~ your friend you can
I am sure impart the thoughts most present to your mind;
and on whatever subject they may be, and not afraid no
coming from you they will be valuable.

As for myself in a commercial city, surrounded by brick towns
what room have I for imagination? none — my only subject
of communication must be, that which alone I see, men —
you can write of nature, I I cannot — and yours as the
mud is the more attractive theme — you never need with-
ought to amuse, I cannot say so much for myself —

I have written more almost two pages in consequence of
what that I have nothing or wish to write — mean often
thus spent that which in the first of the I forget the rest but
that which I have written I will not send)

As you ~~have~~ learn from what precedes, I have received your
letter, which though long delayed gave me great pleasure; but
even though I accepted with what grace I might, the length of
the interim, and no doubt they were very excellent and entirely
correct and yourself from all blame, yet I hope on no future
occasion will you think it necessary to write that in time
for the want of which you so much complain, in making
apologies, as you will always find me ready and willing
to offer to myself in your behalf all that you can wish.
I have visited Brant's a since I have been in town quite
often and regularly see Julia to write to you — Brant & I
think enjoy excellent health, much better than when you were
here — Mr Charles' book will soon come down upon the lib-
rary table and ~~with~~ ~~its~~ ~~clean~~ ~~and~~ ~~its~~ ~~high~~ ~~there~~
quills of error which have so long enveloped that portion
of our country which he has chosen so his theme — (while writing

I hope you will excuse me for not completing the third
page, (the good of letter writers) but I am writing in a roma-
ntic temperature of which is about 20 and am scarce able
to form the letter, and beside I have just heard that W
Loring is down stairs and to enjoy his conversation and
a fire, I am willing to forego you and the cold —
Let not this be an apology to you for contracting your letter,
which is quite it and I promise me the world will be to you
I don't know whether the Dix or no — she at all events ~~was~~
~~was~~ ~~her~~ ~~long~~, if not before a letter —
As for Phil's a cold "I must conclude by sending my best
regards to all my relations at Hamilton, and by begging
you will believe me your very attached

Cousin

3^d

Miss Nicholas *RR*
care of

Prof. Whitman

Hamilton

Madison Co.

N. York.

