

Philadelphia March 28th 1839

I suppose by the time that this letter reaches
Belvedere you will have returned from Rockford my dear Emma and your mother
and father from their visit to Chicago and all I hope impressed in health, how often
have I wished this last winter that I could share your room with you for awhile
and have some long talks with you and dear Matilda but the time of our meeting
seems to move further off instead of approaching at least as far as depends upon my
journeying out to see you for I see no prospect of ever being rich enough to travel
so far. The only way for us to meet will be for you to get married and come out
here, and report says you are engaged, who to I don't know but I will try and
find out and write you soon I hope you have had discretion enough to choose
some one who is tolerably rich for I am tired of poor people and I am sure you
must be too. The report came to me through Anna Gillespie who told George
if it were she heard it I don't know, but perhaps as every one prophesied you would
be married as soon as you went to the West and you have already been there two
years they think it quite time for their prophecy to be fulfilled. I postponed answer-
ing your letter for some time in order to tell you about Mary's wedding and
since I have been here which is now four weeks I have intended every day to
write, and long ere this you must have heard of the wedding from Mary herself,
it was one of the gayest weddings I ever went to though I myself had a very
quiet evening talking with Betty Ling in a corner for she was almost the only
person there I knew well, the company was received in the front parlour the
evening took place in the back where we found the bride and her attendants
all arranged when the doors were thrown open, the supper table was set in the
back part of the hall and was very handsome, besides which there was another

supper table of hot game &c in the library for the gentlemen exclusively, the rooms were decorated with the greatest profusion of beautiful flowers I ever saw and the centre ornament of the supper table was a large myrtle orange tree in full fruit through the branches of which were twined the white flowers of the Colca. I need not tell you that you were talked of and wished for.

M^{rs} Rhinelanders especially seemed to regret that you were not there, her daughter Lucretia who was Cyren's bridesmaid had grown up into a tall girl, not pretty but with a pleasing expression, Jenny Bennett was the prettiest of the bridesmaids though none of them were remarkably handsome, Mary herself looked very well. Washington Irving was there and in high spirits he said he had not passed such an evening for years it was a meeting of old New Yorkers he toasted Tellgate and made a speech, he shook hands with me as usual, but you know he never took a fancy to us so I had no conversation with him.

Harriet Stoddard when I left New York had so far recovered that she sat up almost all day, but the latter part of her disease was on her lungs and she is left with a slight cough and pain in her side, the physicians say it is only nervous and that she will gradually gain strength but she is in bad spirits about herself and seems very feeble, she has been dreadfully ill, one night that I sat up with her it seemed to me impossible that she should recover, she says she has no recollection of her illness though she never appeared to be delirious I suppose she was in a sort of stupor most of the time, Aunt looks miserably she was to return home with Maria and Lucia the week after I left town Mary was to remain with Harriet until she should be well enough to travel and the little Roberts will probably go to Goshen with them, the youngest two have been quite ill since Matilda's death Mrs. Roberts is very fond of them and takes as much care of them as she can but she does not understand the management of children and the poor little things seem to have suffered from the want of a mother's tender care I shall be glad to hear they are safe at Goshen.

George sends his love to you all his prospects are again a little uncertain he and he has been in the last year have to retrench for want of funds and this year but half the number of engineers go out and as his party was the last appointed of course they are the ones dismissed and he will have no work here

after May, I am very sorry for I hoped he was now in certain employment for many years, he is seeking now for another situation my plan of keeping house for him seems doomed to be frustrated. Charles has not got any thing he has been appointed history but that at the utmost will not be worth more than two or three hundred a year, his book which has been published in England is much praised and he will I suppose republish it here, he has been engaged all winter in writing a novel "The Londoner's bride" and I have been kept busy too in copying it for him, the novel is along the husband in Brant's time, it is I think very interesting and I hope may be more profitable than his other books novel writers they say are the only authors who make money by their works, he is still at Cousin Emma's whose house has been full all winter and no doubt will continue so for she is so much liked but she looks well and out with the care of so large an establishment. Matilda asks about Mrs. Swanton they say she is quite wretched and sees none but her most intimate friends her husband is still in England and it is supposed he will be able to pay back to the Goswold the money he has taken he has sold some coal and iron lands for 300,000 pounds sterling besides owning an immense deal of other property but he never can get his good name and his wife and daughter will always suffer for his fault.

I saw Mrs. Gilchrist and Anna yesterday they asked after you all and sent love as to Mrs. Biddle and Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Bush I have not seen she called upon me last winter but I suppose did not take to me as she has not been this season I wish I could join some of your sewing parties and listen to your singing I always thought you would turn out a singer and am glad that you and Matilda are kept in practice. When I leave here which will be in May I shall probably go to Goshen and if there is no prospect of living with either Charles or George for some time we shall propose to Aunt to take Katy and myself as boarders, for though our friends are all very kind in visiting me and indeed I find it almost impossible to get away from each of the houses which have in turn been my home yet we think two years is quite long enough to have lived among them and if George get a situation soon he will be very well able to pay the moderate board of the country. If I ever have a settled home again with one of the boys how happy I shall be.

Spencer and his wife are going to leave Murray's the work is too hard for Elizabeth she looks badly and has been sick almost all winter, I was much in hopes that Agnes would have gone to housekeeping and thought that would have been a good place for them, but Virginia came up to see me when they passed through

and Matilda I will answer the letter of the latter soon, now that I have finished
copying I have more time for letter writing, but all winter my hand was wearied
and my head heavy from stooping so over my desk. Tell me about your Rock-
ford visit - And how you were pleased with your new friends there. Remembrance
to Mr. Whitman and a kiss to the children. Lety begs to be remembered to you
and to Mrs. Jones' family -
Ever your own attached,
Julia H.

Bellevue —
see Chicago Illinois —

Postmark



Oct. 29, 1844

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on their way home and told me they would probably live at lodgings while in
New York, Gordon being in Congress for the next two years it would be rather impos-
sible to get a house and servants and live in it so small a part of the year.
Virginia is certainly a very nice woman I feel much more intimate already with
her than I ever expected to be for I was very sorry when I heard Gordon was to marry
a Washington belle and thought it impossible that I could like her.
Miss Gatz and the girls send love to all of you. My best love to your mother.