

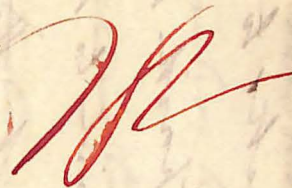
Proctor Hook. March 24th - 1831.

My dear Emma - I was indeed very much surprised
at the contents of your last letter - offended I could
not possibly be as I have no right to judge for you on any
subject, & still less on so important a one as your religious
opinions. As you are very young to judge for yourself however,
I cannot help fearing from the manner in which you
express yourself, that your enthusiasm may carry you
too far, and I must venture a hope that you will remember
that tho' you are strictly enjoined to attend faithfully to your
religious duties, you are also commanded to work six
days in the week. We heard that you had removed to
Whia to be near your church. Is this true & were the
^{other} prospects held out to you, sufficient to induce you to
leave the advantages of conversing and with all the school
already established in Whia, interfere with the success
of yours? O, my dear Emma, answer these fears &
conjectures of mine, and believe me, the affection I feel

for you & my interest in what concerns you, have
not diminished tho' I seldom write to express them.
I have not seen any members of your family for a
long time. Your Aunt Colden however met your
Grandfather, Julia this has said at the Fairy Ball
given 10 days ago. The novelty of the entertainment
tempted people who had not been to parties for
years & they all seem to have been much amused.
Julia promises to come & see us often this summer
& I hope we shall see more of her, for she is a very
most girl, & I always regret her distance from us.
George, I suppose, you know has given up engineering
& is studying the Law. I hear - We are all quite well
here, and have got thro' this very cold winter without
missing ourselves back again in time. I used to cross
every day in the ice for three or four weeks, and never
met with any accident or had the least cause of alarm.
Charles Hook is beginning to make a respectable appearance
there are many new houses & the number of inhabitants
increase rapidly. We have had however a great disap-
pointment in the Morris Canal is not coming this year.

We still hope before the summer is over, it will be
completed here - nothing could so materially benefit
us individually. We had a visit from or six months
ago from Mr & Mrs Ashburner - some very much
pleased indeed with her. She had been showing her
Boston and various other places she had not seen
& ended by a visit of 3 or 4 weeks to New York - My
sister family called upon her & paid her some attention
and we, the toddlers were very civil to them too & were
very quite sorry when they went. She is uncommonly
entertaining and she is a well educated pleasing woman
& totally different from what we had fancied her.

Good bye, my dear Cousin write to me soon
about your worldly affairs, as I am quite in the
dark at present & feel anxious about them. Remember
me kindly to your Mother & Matilda & the others
your affectionate friend F. Colden

No 4th 

Miss Emma Nicholas.

White's Town -

Florida County.

