

Rome. February 17. 1839.

My dearest Emma,

I received last week your letter dated August after it had traversed most of the countries of Europe and reaching me nearly seven months after it was written - you were correct in supposing that I had forgotten that I had promised to write to you once a month, for the promise had entirely escaped my memory. I will not renew it but still will write to you frequently. The great difficulty that one who travels finds in writing arises not from a want of anything to say but from a want of time, days of fatigue or excitement - but little fit one for the writing of a sober letter - Now for the first time I have been separated from Mary, and she has demanded all my care, my every thought, every leisure moment I have devoted to her, but even for a sister I will no longer neglect my other friends, if you will only write frequently to me you will find me quite a exemplary correspondent, persons at home complain that I do not write more frequently, but they do not remember, that while I receive letters from perhaps a dozen, one must answer them all - But for the future I will rank you with Mary, writing most to her who favours me the most frequently -

Your letter filled me with emotions of a mingled character, with joy at receiving a letter from you and with sorrow from hearing that you had been visited with affliction - Sympathy is sweet, and my dearest Emma, from now you have it, I feel for and lament your misfortunes and you shall not want my prayers that for the future your life may be as happy as the past has been otherwise. Though tried with sorrow still you have a consolation, a merciful God will never forsake the unfortunate.

and after all what matters it to us, how are passed the
few short years of life, whether in pleasure or pain; our re-
-turn here is at the most but short, and that tribulation in
life in which it pleases God to place us, is no doubt, that
which will best advance our interests in eternity - for my
part I am blessed with every means of happiness a
kind Providence showers upon me countless blessings,
and I am thankful, truly thankful my heart ever flows
with gratitude that such is my good pleasure, but still
I could always say miserably "they will be done," should
unfortunate come upon me, I would only receive it as
my will, and feel secure that I was visited for my good.
And those who arise from thoughts that they would
affliction can be of short duration, knowing that they are
chastened for their good, they cannot sorrow long.
Now ask me to tell you of the various objects of interest
which I have witnessed during my travels, and I will
do so in future letters, I will those improve upon you
my observations on men and manners, and give you
descriptions of any things which I may think will
prove interesting to you - At present I will only say,
that as yet all has been pleasure unalloyed, each
country has presented new charms, each has its own
peculiar interest - In England you find a country
richly cultivated, a people happy and contented, and her
seat of modes, and romantic ruins, ~~and~~ remains of
bygone days, ancient but the interesting to our species.
- near fresh from forests and cities of decay - Ireland
boasts her most beautiful scenery, and the very sight
of her wretchedness is improving showing the effect
of a bad religion on the prosperity of a country even
where that country is supremely blessed by nature -
Scotland too, is all delight, her romantic lakes
hallowed by the Whiston bard, her Highland cottages
her busy cities, her capital, the most beautiful in
the world.

name of Mary, Holyrood, the scene of many a
all these things remind Scotland to a young man a
little romantic perhaps the most delightful all com-
ing in the world - One must not forget either, Whiston
or John Melrose - or Robert Renny House, the friend of Scott
mentioned by Washington Irving - I would that I were with
you. That I might tell you at least a part of all which
I saw in Great Britain, a letter cannot contain a tenth
I spent nearly two months in Paris, the gay capital, but
although other pronounce it unimpaired, these found
but little enjoyment, I care not for things themselves
Association alone gives me pleasure - Well I need be
- and gentlemen, and brilliant persons do
not at all atone for absence from home - If you
will perceive by the state of this letter I am now in
in Paris, having passed through Switzerland on
my way thither, of these countries I shall write to you on
some future occasion, the sublime scenery of the Alps
and the works of art and climal associations of the Alps
must not be dwelt on lightly - From here it is but
I shall visit Eastern lands, and as from thence letters
are sent with difficulty, you must not suppose that my
promise is forgotten if you do not hear from me fre-
quently - You may rest assured that on every occasion
I will write, I have of late been a little unwell, but
and imagine that except yourself and Mary (maybe
too or three more) none care for me or my fate, every
rest from toil, during my eastern pilgrimage will be
devoted to you - When you write my direction is as
follows, "Messrs Wells and Co. - Paris" - but you had
better first send your letters to Mary who will send
them to me - You ask me for Mary's address,
ere this she is Mrs John of King's St, Salisbury Street
to the care of E. Stevens, Esq. 110 South Street
New York - Tell me something about Mary's progress

how she bore the fatigues of a journey to Squaw Prairie
and how she is "getting along" in western wilds - Give
my love to Aunt Ann, to Matilda and all ~~the~~ little
cousins - My dear Emma I often impose upon your
goodness, and confident of your love for me often
test it severely by neglect, but in this case you must not
judge by actions, I would that you could see my heart
and know how well I love you and how deep an

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Miss Emma Nicholas.

Care of Rev. J. Whitman

Belvidere

Illinois.

United States America.



interest I take in your welfare - You are ever dear
to me, and may rest assured that affection for you
will ever be one of the strongest feelings of the heart
of your sincerely attached
Cousin Phil.