

Hartford Sept 15th 1836

As it is quite out of the question to think of getting in an Omnibus and paying you a visit my dear Emma, I will avail myself of the privilege of writing the only substitute that can be found. Unsatisfactory as it is, it will be our dependence probably for a long time, and I hope we shall never be so situated that this pleasure, this more than pleasure to me will be denied. As we shall have no other means of expressing our thoughts to each other, I do wish my dear Emma and I ask as a favour that you will not shew my letters to any one not even your mother, although I would not insist upon excluding her or children always, leaving it to your judgment to decide when these exceptions shall be necessary. I dislike, and you know it, the foolish practice of saying, 'do not shew this letter', and 'do not shew this', and I would not say so, but you will excuse me when I tell you that the idea that you do let others read my letters prevents freedom in writing, and besides although my

Letters never contain secrets or any thing that is of any consequence but to you and I, I should feel much easier if you will promise not to let any one read them. What disposition prompts this feeling I don't exactly know, but whatever it is it can't be overcome. This is most uninteresting and should have been communicated verbally instead of occupying so much space here, and you will think it quite unnecessary, but don't scold and consider that very likely had any thing else taken its place it might have been something quite as dull, and I feel quite relieved. But when you are in Belvidere there will be no one to show letters to. If you have ever sighed "for a lodge in some vast wilderness," you will have your wish, when you are in your western home you will feel quite away from the world and almost forget that there is such a noisy place as New York. But no, you can never forget New York, and you will often think of it I know, and how often your friends there will think of Illinois and think of it but to imagine your family in their home, will not be doldrum I can assure you. As for me, Emma I will not write about my feelings upon the subject. You know what a loss you will be to me. So you will memory often turn, and your will imagination often present to my "mind's eye," when I am alone, and when the cousinhood are assembled, one who was a member of that little circle last winter will be gone, but when a

letter comes then I shall feel that although separated we are still united, and change of place will never change my affection for you. We have been together in years that to me have passed as a pleasant dream, and those whom we have loved in youth occupy a place in our affections that no others can occupy.

I commenced this yesterday and was called away to dress for dinner and have been engaged ever since that time, so that there has been no time to finish my letter. I hope you are enjoying a morning as lovely as this which has dawned upon us in this part of the world, if the sun shines as beautifully we shall not "The melancholy days have come, the saddest of the year," and shall find it difficult to imagine that winter is so near.

The anniversary of the foreign Missionary Society was celebrated here on Wednesday and the tabernacle full of ministers. The Baptist minister in this place Mr Davis has been buried since I came. Did you know him? He is much regretted, and is considered a great loss to his congregation and indeed to the denomination, he was very much respected.

I shall not return to N. Y.

quite as soon as I said in my note to you. Aunt Eliza will not listen to me when I talk of going on Monday and I shall remain until the last of the week. The only objection I have is that your time in N. Y. is so short, and you must prepare every thing so that

you will have no sewing to keep you at home after
I return. It does seem as if there was a spell upon my
finishing this, again I have been interrupted ^{but} it is
time to close and I will do so after telling you that

30 May

Miss Emma Nichols.
Care of Judge Hoffman.
New York.



I hope soon to receive a letter from you and that I
am ever your sincerely attached friend
Eliza Stodd.