

Saturday morning -

My dear Emma -

I was very much pleased with your pretty letter and should have answered it long ago, but we have had so much sickness in the family that I could not. Mahlon is quite well that he is to see me to day - <sup>your</sup> Cousin David is to take her to the Opera next Saturday which she is very glad of, and you must make her write you a description of it. Joe sends her best love to you - she is in low spirits just now, and I have been giving her an airing for her health to day - I think she is jealous of the dog you described in your letter and



growls and snaps a great deal more  
since I told him of it. I hear from  
Albany that Shotts has learnt several  
new tricks, among others, he shuts the  
door at the word of command and  
I believe, sings. But this I don't believe  
he does as well as join. I hope your  
cats escaped the influence - several  
of the town cats, were heard to sneeze  
I gasp for breath & were evidently in  
a high fever. you may laugh at this  
but it is a fact and if it is doubted  
in Stockbridge, I will send you my  
authority. I hope you are beginning  
to turn your toes out beautifully, as  
you are to learn to dance this sum-  
mer. I think I remember there was a  
little improvement necessary, so pray  
begin before your master comes or he

will put your feet in stocks, which  
I remember used to be very disagree-  
able in my younger days. I have no  
more nonsense to tell you, and I am  
afraid I have written so much already,  
that your mother will not allow you  
to have such a foolish correspondent.  
Give my best love to her and tell her  
I will watch over Matilda like a  
complete duenna. Write to me, my  
dear little Em: whenever you feel  
inclined, and bid me your affec-  
tionate cousin ——— J. Colburn.

I send you a Gause handkerchief &  
sash and hope you will like them.



for

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No 1

Miss Emma Nicholas -  
Stockbridge -

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