

Charlestown May 16, 1834.

My dear Mrs. Nicholas

You will probably be surprised to receive a letter from one, perhaps long since forgotten, and may perhaps inquire what new impulse has been given of late to my latent affection. Well my story is short. I commenced a few weeks since, or rather resumed, the study of Spanish, formerly commenced under your kind instruction, and I find every thing there so strongly associated with my dear Mrs. N. that I felt irresistibly inclined to write, and if possible elicit some of her thoughts, to whom instruction I have formerly listened with so much pleasure. There have been very few periods in my life, in which kind Providence has not favoured me with some friend, in whose society I could take rational pleasure. The memory of these friends has ever been, and I trust ever will be, dear to me, and scarcely an event of my life stands unconnected with some one of them. The winter of 1831-32 stands strongly associated in its most minute events with my long loved Mrs. N. Now and I persuade myself that you have wholly forgotten us.

Well then let me inquire if you ever think of the Infirmary, you was called here to nourish and cherish? Do you know how fast it has grown, and what a healthful child it has become? or have you been expecting ere this to hear that the grave had covered it? It is not dead I assure you, and if you will please lay aside your writing, and take your tooth brush I will tell you its story. Its size is much increased. The old building still stands, but it is connected with one much larger, and more convenient. This new building fronts upon Union Street, with a garden in front. The back part of the lower floor is occupied by a chapel, while on either side of the front door, are two rooms for

nished in the same manner one belonging to the trustees the other appropriated to visitors. The whole upper story forms a spacious and convenient hall, affording ample accommodations for 100 pupils. The former building which is connected with this by an upper and lower entry is wholly cut up into recitation rooms. So you will perceive we have room enough. The care of the school devolves upon Miss Wales who has been with us a year past, and whom we all love and esteem, Miss Whiting Bodger and myself. But we have a good supply of able assistants and think we get along pretty well. We have at present about 170 pupils. Miss Whiting has been quite unwell this spring so as to be unable to be in school the first month of this term. We felt much afraid of a decline, now our fears entirely removed, though she is very much better.

And now methinks I hear you say Mrs. R. has forgotten that the b. Falmouth is not the Phoenix of the age, not the only subject worthy attention. Still I know you will pardon my weakness, and pity my ignorance. Remember all minds are not capable of embracing that wide range of subjects, which a favoured few can grasp. Certainly no one can be more sensible of my deficiency than myself. But by the way I use some effort to enlarge my mental capacity, and have spent, still spend much time in study for this very purpose. However I think you allow there are constitutional differences, at any rate I do, particularly since I have paid some attention to the study of phrenology.

I don't know that I hear any thing particularly new or interesting to communicate concerning your friends here. Mr. Jackson and family are well, they have adopted a little girl about 10 years of age whom they call Sarah A. Jackson. She is a very interesting lively little thing. I fear they will love her too much. Mrs. I is now on a visit to Providence. Mrs. Binney formerly Miss Paterson has been rather afflicted this winter, her husband has been quite sick and is still unable to preach. I know you will sympathize with her. There are many here in whose memory you will long live, but I expect your present friends in N. York have entirely eclipsed us all.

I should have written to my dear Emma long ago had I known to what place to direct. Dear girl how does she spend her time now, she thought of teaching, has she found a better way? Report says she is engaged to Prof. Hendrie, is it so? I want to know something about her situation, and that of her dear mother also. Do tell me how do you spend your time now? Does it pass agreeably? Do you ever think of the little chamber on the corner of Union and Richmond streets, or of a poor widow whom you hospitably warmed by your fire, and cheered by your conversation from night to night? Do you ever think how poor we were, how I went out to beg meat for Cora, and the neighbours sent us in, now a plate of buckwheat cakes, and now a dish of soup to satisfy our craving appetites? Do you think often of our nightly conversations? &c. &c. Shall I never have an opportunity of seeing you again face to face? If not allow me now to say that I never think of you but with gratitude, to our Heavenly Parent, that he permitted me to enjoy your society so long, and to you for your unvaried kindness. I speak not the language of flattery but from the overflowings of a sincerely grateful heart. And now may I ask that you would add to your many favours that of writing me another letter. You cannot write to one who would value it more. Do tell me all about your own dear self, Emma and Cora. This is what I want.

You know it is nothing for you to write when you once sit down to it. If then you have any remaining affection for an old friend, just grant her this request.

The Church here of which I believe you are still a member has been favoured with something of an awakening during the past winter about 20 have been baptised this spring and a number more will by leave of Providence follow them next Sabbath morn. Pray for us and our dear pastor that we may walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we have been called. Much love to Emma, and your own dear self from your obliged friend A. A. Hallock.

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Mr. Amos Nichols
Hamilton N.Y.

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