

Philadelphia May 9th 1869

I must say my dearest Emma I was much surprised on receiving your letter yesterday with the news of your engagement, last summer when you wrote me of the intelligent young physician who had cured Tristram I said to myself perhaps Emma may marry this young Doctor, but as you have never mentioned him since then it had passed from my mind entirely, I do now most sincerely congratulate you if you are to live West it will be happier for you to live there as a married woman that you may have one interest so great as to make you forget all the inconveniences of your situation and I fancy you will no more complain of the want of society, by the bye I don't think you could have felt so very lonely this winter as you would have had me believe here have I been wasting a great deal of sympathy on you, and I don't believe you required it at all, I hope as Dr. Malony is an eastern man he will bring you out here to see his family and your own, I feel as if in marrying you were to be more lost to me than ever, for I always looked forward to having you live part of the time with me

when we have a home of our own again which I think we must have before a very long time. I should like above all things to be at your wedding but you will I fear have to choose some other business for it will be quite impossible for us to take such a journey this summer, as to Charles settling at Rockford, I must tell you frankly I shall oppose it with all my power. I don't know what judgment Mr. Brinckerhoff and Mr. Whitman hold out to him but I cannot imagine any situation in the West which would suit him, he has no capital either to invest in Western lands and as a literary man he could succeed no where so well as in a large city and now the preference which has existed for the last two years is passing away. I doubt not that he will find some situation both suitable and profitable, your experience of Western life has not made it charming in my eyes and it seems to me that wealth would be dearly purchased by the actual sufferings in mind and body which you have all undergone in the last two years. In Rockford you will say there is more comfort and more society it may be so but yet not such as Charles has been accustomed to, and even the luxuries which the wealthy have among you such as horses and carriages cease to be such when their owner must undergo the anxiety of taking care of them himself. A bare maintenance here I should think preferable to wealth in Illinois, nor do I believe that one of the Western settlers even Mr. Whitman or Mr. Brinckerhoff would hesitate to leave there were it in their power to do so your feelings on the subject have changed in the last week greatly but if Dr. Malony found it as advantageous to him to live in our part of the world and it were not for the separation from your family would you hesitate? Put away all feeling that you have upon the subject and ask yourself frankly would you advise Charles and myself to move to the West? And then the climate too would be a great objection to me

in spite of the boasted healthfulness of Rock River I have continually heard from travellers there that the country is subject to fevers and Mr. Whitman's severe attack of last summer has not gone far to convince of the contrary. Now do not think me very unfeeling not wish to come to live among you I do wish to see you all more than I can tell you and nothing would make me happier than to spend a summer or winter with you, except to hear that you were to return here which I most earnestly pray it may one day be in your power to do. Your mother and Matilda will think it strange and foolish in me to write in this way, but they let their feelings govern their judgment, you, upon thinking of it calmly will be satisfied that I am right, and will not be offended at my unwillingness that any more of these I love should settle in Illinois. I shall leave here probably next week and after remaining a few days in New York shall pay Aunt Hoffman a visit before I go to Rock Hill, we shall know this week or the next what appointment George will have and then I will write to my dear Matilda and be able to tell her what are our plans, it is so excessively warm here that today though sitting still in a shaded room I am quite uncomfortable I long for the green fields and delightful breezes of the Highlands. Tell your mother all her friends inquire after her constantly. Mr. Biddle says she ought not to be suffered to live so far off. I saw Mrs. Paulding who was here on Monday she sent her love to all of you and said she would be delighted to have a letter from either. Miss Gatz and the girls send their love to all of you and good wishes to you. I have said word to your mother that she has improved and hopes to make a more favourable impression the next time they meet she is in truth a lovely girl. Give my love to your mother, Matilda, and Mr. Whitman, and say to Dr. Malony that I congratulate him on the wife he is to have, and now may God bless you my dear one and make you happy as you deserve. May your affectionate Aunt Julia &c

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Her



Rev. L. L. Whitman
Postmaster
Babcock
via Chicago Illinois

My dear Mr. W. to you all and Mrs. Geo. & family

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