

Philadelphia July 28th

Your letter my Dear Anne, was most truly welcome and expressed feelings so fresh and warm that I could not doubt you had cherished affection in silence during the long interval of our correspondence. I do not know that I ever was more grateful than on once again receiving your inscription, and the sweet picture of your domestic happiness was so delightful that I could not resist the temptation of sending your letter to Mrs J. Middle, with whom I often converse about you she shared my satisfaction, and sent me a new book to transmit by the first opportunity to you. The little Vol. entitled "Woman's Mission" is too good - even to be out of date - even tho the opportunity of finding a conveyance should detain it till the rebellion has ceased. I have been kept informed by Julia of all the changes in your family. Dear Emma's marriage and the increase of comfort in your parent's home - you have now I hope got through the worst difficulties of a new country, and every change must be an improvement. You have realized the hopes of a mother's heart in seeing your children happily settled, without losing their society, and above all my dear Ann, you have learned to accommodate your self to the station it has pleased providence to place you in, and this is a happiness more to be relied on, than any arising from adventitious circumstances. In replying to your enquiry about your friends here, I shall call on your sympathies for some, in whom you feel the deepest interest. Mrs Gilchrist and Anna are in Paris, it was long before Mr B. could make up her mind to go, but the unfortunate & disgraceful situation of Caroline determined her -

Mr Cowal came to America, not to claim his wife and support her, but to remove his children from her, the boy he took with him, may be placed with his brother in Maryland, leaving only the youngest girl under Caroline's protection - which independently of her removing no protection from him induced her to apply for a divorce, or at least to consult legal advisers to that effect while things were in this state. Mrs G. & Anna embarked for Europe. I have since heard that C. has abandoned the intention of freeing herself by legal interference, and believe she has left the city for the winter, to teach music in some Southern city. Poor soul, she was educated for a belle, a few literary accomplishments stood in the stead of substantial and rational acquirements, her weak mind left unprotected by religion, and she married, a man who had no other recommendation than a handsome face & person - no wonder their happiness was wrecked.

You are not so much out of the world, as not to know that Dr. Bridle has retired from "the Monitor", and is in a private station, where if he minds good reports & evil reports, he may be flattered, and perplexed by turns, as you know how the breath of fame veers about just as men's interests turn - but he looks well, and both he & Mrs Bridle enquire about you or every offer unity, and the latter a few days ago, begged that I would send you her best love - The Cadwaladers & Chapmans are well, and appear to exempt from vicissitudes, their children are married frequently, and they live wisely in their own domestic circle. Mr Rotch - and the Dr. I sometimes meet in the street, they look well - "What private griefs they have I know not" - I suppose Mr R's involvement in the Diott affair must have been a source of bitter mortification to them - and then the extreme ill health of Mr Rotch, must be a source of gloomy anticipation for a bitter deservedly dealt to them both.

You enquire how Anne is affectionately about my brother Sister Mary's family that I cannot help telling you of their trials too. I remember how you collected the girls about you and interested yourself in their concerns, sacrificed their children, and converted them, how to read them wisely.

Ellen had fallen into ill health about the time of her Father's death, and was an object of great interest to us all - about three months ago, she had a fever, and she was the happiest of mothers - but it was only lent for the short term of six weeks and her sorrow, has again bent her spirit, but I think she has improved in health, and she is a pious woman, who does not measure at the dispensations of God.

Indeed one family has been visited with many afflictions since we met, My dear Brother, from whom I last, even in life we had been long separated, was taken from us in July last, after a long suffering illness. I was with him in his last hours, but cannot dwell upon feelings which you too have experienced and would rather wrestle with than reveal, it is such trials that prepare us for our own departure - by losing one holds on life, they teach us to "commune with our own hearts & be still" -

Julia & Sara Mores send their affectionate love to you, and Emma, pray add mine, and also to Matilda, I should indeed like to see you grand children - and all your establishment, but my dearest friends are so scattered over this wide country that I almost despair of visiting them in their homes, Minnie has moved to Savannah, & Sara & Cordelia to Washington, but if I ever reach Lexington again, you know you are to meet me at my brother Ben's, perhaps too early Mores will settle in St. Lewis, he is at present in Europe, having gone out with Count Fumel as his Physician - his wife & child should the winter longer to build up his house, than as Illinois Dr. Mr M. has just been made Master in Chancery, so I think the prospect brightens, we heard the other day, that your brother George was courting Miss James of Albany, but neither Charles or Julia believe it, the lady is rich, and amiable. So send you best regards - he has been a good deal of an invalid during the last year. Ie should the winter at Haverburg, in the Legation, My dear & dear pleasant times we passed in the days of other years to return.

I wish we had the means of sending you books, which both
you & Emma seem so much to love, but except local prom-
pickets, or newspapers that might go by mail, and are of
doubtful interest to you, I fear there will be no correspondence this
winter, the fields however have a sheet pinned in it York which
occasionally contains a new play, and may reach you with little
cost, and this you shall have - I trust my dear Anne let me hear
from you as often as you can, that is whenever your kind thoughts
flow with sufficient force to break through your aversion to the pen

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Miss Anne Nicholas.

Belvidere Illinois

W2440

for tho' I cannot doubt your friendship, your letters are
angel visits, bringing me news from afar to gladden the
heart, and tho' they "be few & far between" my faith never falters
that they will come, and show me the same dear friend
unchanged & unchangeable God bless you leave
believe me with the utmost sincerely your affectionate
Peggy

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