

Phil^a Jan 9th 1836

Your very affectionate letter, my dear Emma was received by me with much pleasure as I trust it expressed the feelings of a heart renewed by grace; may this my child be the commencement of a correspondence which may continue until it ~~shall~~^{shall} be the will of my Heavenly Father to remove me from this world of trial. It has long been a cause of much pain to me my dear child that I should be so entirely ignorant of those to whom I was so nearly related. I should have been gratified had our correspondence commenced previous to the death of your poor Father, as it would have been a source of comfort to him in his lonely and neglected situation; to be deserted by those who ought to love us, is a feeling, but I hope both you and your sister did occasionally write he was your Father, and no means ought to have been neglected on your part to have produced a change in his habits and course of life, as in endeavour by your affectionate perseverance to ^{induce him to} place his affections on things. It is three months this day since your poor Father's death, but hope his peace was made ere he departed hence, most cheerfully I resign him, but all is doubt and uncertainty; he did before he left us read his Bible habitually, but whether prayerfully is a matter betwixt him and his God; at his request a Bible was procured for him to take with him, God grant that its perusal may have been blessed to him, but these my dear Emma are subjects too painful to dwell on now, we must leave the rest to God. I do hope your Mother feeling as I trust she did the value of an immortal soul, did write to him on the subject; tell her I am surprised to hear that she retains any regard for me, as her long silence did lead me to think that the affection she once professed for me was long since entirely

remember me to her with christian regard. I received a letter some time since
from your sister, in answer to one from me which I have not yet replied to,
should you write to her shortly, give my love to her and say I shall soon write
her again. My health is much better than when I wrote to your sister, I am
now enabled with care to move about the house, but since May last have not
been out, but there are "light afflictions," and come from ^{the} hand of our Heavenly
Father, who doeth all things in wisdom, I desire in this and in every event of
my life to be submissive to his will. I thank you dear Emma for your kind expression
of regard for me, and hope in future we shall not be strangers to each other. Your
Aunt Maria and Cousin Betsy both desire to be remembered affectionately to you.
My brother does not know that I am writing to you, but as the child of his departed
brother you have his kindest feelings of regard, you do not know him dear Emma
or I am sure you would love him, remember him dear, with me, in your prayers.
Remember your Grandfather's health, and your Uncle Ogden and cousin Emma Sedgwick?
I have not forgotten me, present my regards to them. Writing has become
new to me, so that I fear you will find me a very dull stupid correspondent.
My only merit will be the expression of a warm interest in all which is connected
with our temporal and eternal interest. Your letters will always be acceptable
and gratifying to me, write therefore to me when ever you feel inclined, with prayers
for happiness temporal and spiritual believe me with affection

your Aunt
M. J. Nicholas



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