

Charles' work has appeared but I have not read it - Julia and
Grandpa are well - Miss Stairs threatened when last I had the pleasure
of seeing her to contradict the report ^{which} I made in derogation of her
character - The facts are true whatever apology may be alleged - (37)
New York. Feb: 26th 1835-

This letter was written in a great hurry and as you will perceive is
full of mistakes which I hope will be overlooked - As I have a great
horror of or myself writing (though not of receiving) dropped letters I must
now conclude by hoping you will believe me most your attached
Cousin P.R. - Surely we are about to be the witnesses of some

wonderful event, earthquake, war, or perhaps another deluge, as I am sure
nothing can now seem impossible, since I have returned an answer to
a letter, within the week ~~within~~ in which it was received - still the
dread of all the calamities which might happen has not restrain-
ed my pen; and this may be considered as an evidence of the
good effects of a little wholesome reproof, if administered in kind-
-ness; for Reproof (to digress) though perhaps from the infirmity of
our nature and the pride of man's heart, ^{it} may not be received at
the moment with a good grace, yet to the candid mind and one
desirous of knowing its faults to the end of emendation, ~~it~~ will al-
ways in the end be thankfully received, and the spirit in
which it was given duly appreciated - reproof from a friend,
from one whom we are sure has only our welfare at heart in
administering it, is ~~is much~~ of a much more salutary nature
than that received from one whom we have the slightest rea-
-son to believe may be influenced by other motives than our-
-coming from a friend, reproof for a fault often causes its cor-
-rection even though we ourselves consider our fault as altogether
trivial and scarce worthy of that name, for the sake of our monitor
we will strive for its correction, while we would not on our own
account - Thus chiding is almost always beneficial if from one
we love, for it produces the desired effect.

" if not for its own
Let for the givers sake "

This digression I am sensible is rather ^{long}, but I trust to be forgiven
as in extenuation I can plead your good example; in your last
letter I find a digression of almost an equal length -

The top of the first page is the end of the letter -

Letters may be divided with regard to their contents ~~into~~ (for I will not now consider the distinction of long and short letters) into two distinct classes. the one consisting of those imparting useful information or detailing news and scandal, and which from such a place as New-York are very easy to write; the other made up of, those which contain merely the thoughts of the writer; and this latter division may be again subdivided into those, composed of thoughts on some particular subject interesting alike to thinker and thinker (as we would say in law, to explain which terms a postscript will be necessary); and those, the subjects of which are thoughts of a general nature, which happen at the time of writing to be passing through the mind of the writer, the interest of which would be as great to any other individual, as to the person to whom they are imparted. In as much as my last letter contained an immense quantity of news (self-praise &c) so much so as to exhaust my whole stock, and from your being so very prompt I have not had time to collect a new supply, and besides as sameness is not more pleasing in correspondence than in any other of ^{our} occupations I have determined to give to this letter a character entirely distinct from any I have ever written before, it shall not contain any news (except perhaps on the last page), or shall it shed any light on information previously acquired, however obscure it may have been, in short it shall belong to the second class of letters according to the division which I have adopted above.

The ideas which naturally first suggested itself to me on writing to you under existing circumstances involved the consideration of the benefits of Promptness; in accordance ^{with} the first crude ideas which I formed on this subject, Promptness appeared not only a quality eminently calculated to ensure to its possessor the admiration of his fellow men, but seemed to be clothed with the garb even of a virtue, so highly beneficial, the results, and so great the happiness often produced by it; but even while these ideas were being committed to writing, I saw the fallacy of my views and that I had been led by your admiration of this quality, to consider it of more value than it

Have we many obligations all requiring immediate performance? we here apply your favorite quality; none will be acquitted well, in a manner worthy of ourselves; first, time will be wasted in flying from one to the other, (for to all must promptness be applied) then when we have haph finished the performance of one duty we think another is more worthy of our immediate attention, and the first is cast aside, and thus flying from one thing to another, arriving at expedition we obtain delay, and wishing all to be first, are ~~behind~~ ^{deficient} in every instance - Contrast this state of things with that which would result from the practice of my favorite quality Regularity; here every duty has its time of performance fixed, that first contracted is the first fulfilled, and thus if no other object is obtained we may at least say we have acted with Justice - The beauties of Regularity though fully estimated yet find with me but an indifferent advocate; curious of this fact I would refer you for an exemplification of her excellencies and an account of the wonders she can perform to a very excellent little work in poetry entitled "Original Poems" under the title Order - this is the same work in which is "The last dying speech and confession of Poor Pap" over which you so often wept - though I have not seen this work for several years the description of Order has survived many other of my youthful impressions - perhaps indeed time has obliterated the defects and imagination increased the beauties of this poem -

As you wished a letter I have sent you ~~it is~~ one, but one whose only claim to that epithet consists ⁱⁿ being a sheet of paper inked on three sides, sealed and directed; and here again I would ^{wish} for correction by example, make your answer long and entertaining and of the first class of letters (vid. 2nd). In accordance with a perhaps in a former part of this letter I will now impart to you such news as I am in possession of, at present, though by this means I deplete my supply for my next letter -

Since last I wrote Mary has made her appearance on the stage of public life, by appearing at a ball given by Mr. Char. King, when she was very much pleased & but as we are to spend the next winter and following summer in the country, she

5th
Miss Emma Nichols,
care of Prof. Whitman
Hamilton
Madison Co.
N.Y.



does not go out again until winter after next, she went to Mr. King's merely to acquire food for conversation for the next two years and as a foretaste of the joys or pains (whichever they may be) of "going into company" As in duty bound I accompanied her, and as I endeavor to be ^{do} on all occasion experienced much pleasure - To give a little more information the gentleman was there but, farther your deponent saith not (as we say in law) this reminds me of a promised postscript, but this must be one of my promises unfulfilled as I ^{have} much more to say of more importance and which I fear will be crowded out for want of room