

New York Jan. 31st 1842

I had heard of your safe arrival my dearest Emma through Mrs. Gaylord's letter which she was kind enough to send us, a few days before I received the one to myself, you must indeed have had a terrible journey but I hope your baby and yourself have grown quite fat and strong again and that you will have no more cause to regret your unfortunate jaunt. I am glad to hear that you are comfortably settled at board I should think that in a place where it is so difficult to get a good servant it would be more agreeable and convenient than keeping house, though to be sure it is wearisome to be among so many people continually as one finds in a hotel or boarding house. I think your plan of having Spencer's family among you is not a judicious one, in the first place Spencer and Elizabeth though altogether excellent and capable in the work to which they have brought up would be almost useless to you, Spencer is a first-rate waiter but has no idea of out of door work, I don't believe he can ever save a stick of wood in his life, they are neither of them strong either and I believe it would be quite impossible for them to do the labour country work requires, Ohio whom Matilda proposes to take, is an excellent girl and beautiful seamstress which is the trade she has been brought up to, she has lived out here as child's nurse but is excessively delicate, and I think a stout Irish or country girl would be of much more use to her, as to Rebecca she is one of the most indolent creatures I ever saw she does nothing in the world but take care of her baby, her mother says, "she hasn't got no ambition," and her husband is not much better he is a sailor and goes to sea in the summer season but is too lazy to go out to look for work on the docks which he could get if he chose and even objects to assisting Elizabeth by going for her clothes which she washes, I try to persuade her to send him off to find his own living instead of allowing him to be dependent on her, I think to take them out West would be about as unwise a thing both for yourselves and them as you could do, they will get along much better here, where they can all get

the kind of work that suits them. I shall try to go and see Mrs. Gaylord this week I have intended to do so long ago but have been unable to pay any visits this winter. Charles has been shut up since early in December and I have spent most of my time in his room, he slipped in the street and gave himself a strain and at the same time a bruise from the top of his artificial leg, paid no attention to it for some days and took cold in it when it became so serious that the Dr. was afraid of an abscess forming and he has been leeches and blistered and poulticed and treated with caustic and all sorts of severe applications, he is now a great deal better, but cannot yet wear his artificial leg and walks only a little way on crutches, so that he is still the greater part of the time in his room, he has only been to his office two or three times in a cab, he suffered very much at first and the confinement brought on nervous headaches so that it was quite impossible for him for him even to read since he has been able to take the air though he has got rid of those and is able to occupy himself again. He has been writing a poem of about six hundred lines which will be published next week it is an Indian story, the scene is laid on Long Lake up in the Elm Lake country you know, the name is "The Vigil of Truth," it is very good I think and I hope will put some money in his purse which it is sadly in want of at present, but he has been so many times disappointed in his hopes of making money by books that I am almost in despair about it. George is at Binghamton and will should the wind go on he will be there probably for some years but should it not which I much fear he will be out of employment in the Spring.

Mrs. Stowor, Sarah Paris, writes word from Paris that she sees Mary King constantly she is in the highest spirits every night at the opera to hear Giani and enjoying herself very much I feel as if Mary were quite cut off from her mother's family forever, nothing appears to cause such a complete separation as wealth. Phil. Paulding is engaged to Catherine Irving and will take her to his marble palace in the Spring of course both families are pleased.

The Colmans I have not seen at all except passing in the street, David was very busy when Lord Liverpool was here giving him dinners and going about with him, next week Poy, Dickens will be here and I believe he is on a committee who intend to get up a grand ball for him with "talleaux vivans" from his

books, the times are bad they say and but little business doing so the people appear to spend most of their time in parties the city has never been so gay before. Miss Gatz speaks of you affectionately in her last letter indeed I rarely get a letter from her without something being said about you and Matilda in it, the love she bore your mother she has transferred to her children and takes the greatest interest in you both. She has had much affliction this winter her sister Mrs. Ben Gatz of Kentucky has died and her nephew Horatio Coting has lost his wife leaving three children the youngest only three days old. Miss Gatz wishes me much to come on and pay her a visit and I hope to be able to do so in the Spring when Charles is quite well, I never expect though to stay any length of time with my friends again four years was quite enough for me to live among them and I consider myself now settled in this boarding house, I can be perfectly contented here, though it was very irksome to me at first to be among so many strangers I feel quite at home now and have so agreeable a companion in Mrs. Anne M. Irving that when I do sit in the parlour in the evening I find it very pleasant. Matilda may remember her as Helen Dodge of Johnstown, she often speaks of your mother and your uncle Phil, and retains the most delightful recollection of them.

Charles sends his love so does Katy and Elizabeth. Give my best love to Matilda I don't believe she ever means to write to me again I should have written to her a good scolding this winter but my pen has been a great deal employed by Charles not only in copying but in writing to his dictation when he is able to go out I shall have more time to myself, I cannot occupy myself in my own room for I have no fire there and when driven out of Charles's room by visitors to him I generally take refuge with Mr. Irving so as you may well imagine I have really been compelled to spend my time idly and unprofitably; I had formed plans for my occupations of reading drawing and sewing and not one have I been able to accomplish my pencils have not even been taken out and I have read only trifling books should I remain in town next summer though as is not improbable I shall have long quiet mornings enough. Remember me affectionately to the Doctor I hope he is well and that his practice and pay increase let me hear from you as often as you are able to write and just try and make Matilda get over her laziness ever your affectionate friend
Julia H.

of the
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W. J.



Mrs. Moulton

Care of Dr. A. L. Moulton

Belvedere

Chicago Illinois

*My card has been to Mrs. J. W.
and Mary to whom I am indebted*