

Philadelphia Jan. 23rd 1840

I was indeed glad to receive your letter my dearest Eliza. Three months had passed since my last letter from Squaw Prairie and until your mother's to Miss Gatz was received I felt fearful that something was the matter among you, I suppose I shall have to excuse you for awhile but you used to be so good a correspondent that I hope you will not fall into the bad habits of the rest of the family. Charles in answer to a scolding I wrote him some weeks ago says "you know we are not a letter-writing family," by the bye since I last wrote Charles has made an engagement to edit the New Yorker for the next three months, it is a weekly paper made up of reviews, tales, poetry &c. with the news of the day, he writes me word that there is no prospect of publishing his novel now, no one will venture upon it in the present state of the times, and as the international copyright law has been done away with in England he cannot sell it there to any publisher of course it is rather provoking that just as he was becoming known there he should lose all profits of his works, his other book "Wild scenes of the forest and prairie" has never been republished here, he intended that the novel should appear first. Charles has been history-publisher for the last year which puts

a few pennies in his pocket and with ^{this} other literary engagements he may chance to make I hope he may struggle on till business revives and money matters are better, I often think how fortunate it is that the want of occupation falls upon Charles instead of George, he you know is of so sanguine a disposition that he is rarely depressed and as the plan fails he tries another and always sees the bright side of every thing, George was out of employment last Spring for six weeks and was quite miserable and looked so thin and ill that I was very unhappy about him, he is still in Albany where he will be about a month longer to finish the business of his last summer's work after that I expect him here when I hope we will be able to form some plan for our future home they told me that he so distinguished himself and accomplished so much last year the only time that he has been head engineer that he will have no difficulty in getting a good permanent situation.

I told you ~~a word~~ of Mary in my letter to Matilda, you ask for particular information of which there seemed but little known when I left New York, her aunt told me they thought she had lost the hope of becoming a mother in her illness after hearing of dear Phil's death, but they did not know how what her condition was she was thin and pale but appeared well, I hope by this time you have heard from her.

I was quite sorry that you had decided against going to China as it appeared to me that you were going to live so much more comfortably and it would be a pleasant variety for

you and Matilda to visit each other occasionally, but I suppose it is better as it is as you and the Dr have so determined, I hope since you are to stay he will make haste and grow rich enough to put into execution his plans and bring you eastward. I have passed as I always do a very quiet winter here I pay a great many morning visits but as I never accept any invitations I have but few acquaintances for morning visitors you know rarely meet, Miss Gatz is in deep mourning for her brother Simon who died last summer and goes nowhere his death affected her very much she was with him the last week of his life, the family quarrel and ten years separation seemed to make the sorrow more bitter to her than it would otherwise have been, how strange that we should make to ourselves so many more afflictions than God appoints for us. Grace is I hear living very pleasantly and comfortably this winter at Washington, I should like much to accept his invitation to pay him a short visit during the season as he is at housekeeping, but I doubt whether I shall be able, I like Virginia so much that I should like to leave her letter.

Martin Hoffman was here last week on business and called to see me he told me to give his love to you all when I wrote, his three children and Lucia Gilman's six had the whooping cough when he left New York, he talks of building in the Spring on a lot which he has bought at the corner of Broome & Canal St. so you may suppose he is well off in the world, Cousin Emma will remain where she is if her landlady leaves the rent which appears probable, she keeps such a nice house that she has it wastefully

Wm. W. Wadsworth
Care of Dr. A. J. Wadsworth
Berkshire —
via Chicago - Illinois —



22

22

ful. Miss Gatz and Sara and their love the former intends
to write to your mother very soon. Lety begs to be remembered
too she says she should like much to hear about Mrs. Jones
whom you have not mentioned lately. With best love to your
mother and my dear Matilda and kind regards to the two
husbands believe me ever my dearest one your attached Julia H.