

February 27. 1837

I have been putting off writing to you from day to day my dear Emma that I might tell you what our future plans would be, but as they perhaps may not be decided for some time I am determined to delay no longer, I have been very busy too so that indeed I could hardly find time for letters. Of course we are going to break up housekeeping, I may say have already done it for Charles is boarding at Leton's and I am staying at Duns, Katy, Elizabeth and Spencer are still in the house and will remain until the sale of the furniture which will be towards the end of March as the possession of the house is promised in the advertisement on the first of April, we hope the furniture and books will pay the debts, though we cannot tell yet how large they are the tradesmen's bills do not amount to a great deal, but private debts may be claimed which we know nothing about as yet. We retain no piece of furniture but my secretary which I am going to leave at Duns until I have again a home, as to the portraits those belonging to me I have sent to Miss Gatz, the one by Stewart will be Ogden's and the one of your mother's mother I shall send to Ogden's room and tell him that it is to be sent to Illinois when there is a good opportunity, the miniature of Sister Matilda I will take charge of until it can be sent. As to my future home it will probably, with George for living in town is too expensive for us, our friends have all been very kind to us, I have had homes offered to me from many but those you know I could not accept, I don't much whether I shall be settled any where until the Fall and then I shall be keeping house with George probably, my only difficulty for the summer is what to do as I could not put her anywhere to board without me and how to manage I don't know, it would be a

great convenience as regards money matters not to be at any expense for
boarding until the Autumn and I have had such invitations as I ^{can} ~~scarcely~~
refuse particularly from Fishell, we must come to a decision in a
few weeks. Spencer & Elizabeth will go to a place Mr. Duce wants them both
very much and I wish them to go there so that I can see them whenever
I come to town and besides they ought to be together, Spencer heard
that Murray wanted him and seems to have a fancy to go there, though
I do not think he will like it a great deal for I imagine Mary Ogden
will be a very fidgetty housekeeper, you don't know I believe that Murray
is engaged to her sister Mary and is to be married the middle of March
the Ogden family are very much delighted the Hoffmans I think do not
like it so well, Mary Ogden though a very excellent religious woman
is extremely reserved and cold in her manners and without any cheerful-
ness of disposition, I have no doubt she will bring up the children well
but her husband's house will not be pleasant to his friends whatever it
may be to himself. Elizabeth has really been a treasure to me this last
winter I don't know what we could have done without her she was
perfectly unwearied in her attentions the last two days she would
not leave the room at all and became so exhausted that she was
obliged to lie down on the floor, it was a dreadful scene dear Ann
and much as I longed for you at the time I cannot wish now that
you and your ^{mother} should have witnessed it, I thought if you could only
have remained with us the winter what a comfort it would have been,
but now I see the wisdom of your going in the fall, you have been
spent a more painful winter than you have ever passed and now
when we have been obliged to leave our home so suddenly you would
have had great trouble and inconvenience, we found it so expensive
living in the house fuel provisions &c. are so enormously dear that
we could not stay and left there last Monday, our three servants
all cried when I came away, and I could have cried too but that
I knew I ought not, I go up every fine day to see them and sit in
the kitchen and have a talk. The day I came down our little pet
Theodore came in to bid me good bye the child appeared to me dull,
and when he went home complained of a sore throat, his mother put him
to bed and sent for the doctor but the poor boy was too violently

seized with the scarlet fever for medicine to be of any avail and after
much suffering he died yesterday morning. Mr. & Mrs. Fithum are in
a dreadful distress.
My letter has been interrupted by a visit from Fanny Golden & Mrs.
Morris and Emily, they talked of nothing but you and your mother,
Fanny was very much disappointed that you should have gone without
her seeing and giving you something to remember her by, she will send
you ^{them} out I suppose as soon as she can I am to let her know if we have
any opportunity. Mrs. Morris wanted your mother's direction to write to
her, she says Caroline was dreadfully disappointed that you did not
come to Galena. Aunt Golden has been quite sick with the rheumatism
she is going to move into a three story house where she says will
always be a room for me. Mary Rhinelanders is still in town they go
out in about a fortnight she told me she had received your letter and
would write soon, her grandmother died about two weeks ago in a very
happy frame of mind and easily as if she were seeking to sleep she had
her senses to the last and gave directions about little tokens of remembrance
to her children and grandchildren. Mary & Phil have sent me some
handsome presents the former fine Thibet for a cloak, and the latter a
french camel-hair shawl both of them very handsome and the very
I most wanted, I had made up my mind to be very cold in the street with
only my bombazine when they came and I feel the comfort of them every
day. Charles has a very nice room at the Lotus and it was cheaper
than he could get any where else, I go there and sit with him in
the morning sometimes and he comes here to see me in the evening,
his magazine has not been very prosperous this last year the fire was
a great loss to him, do hope it will be better hereafter, do you receive the
Magazine? Underhill is by Charles he intends to complete it as soon as
possible and publish it, he has the plot all arranged and I think it will be
good, it may be money-making for novels sell better than any thing else,
I don't care to be rich to get out of debt and have enough to live comfortably
is all I desire. George remained with us a fortnight he was very well indeed
and is making out well the road he is on is nearly finished and when it is
done he expects to get a still better situation, he himself has a great
fancy to go south but I suppose that the climate of Pennsylvania agrees
with him so well I do not wish him to leave there we must do though what
is for the best.

Give my best love to your mother and Matilda and kiss the children I
had a little book put away for space for some time a hieroglyphical
bible a present from his uncle Charles.

I hope the rising life I shall read with George will bring me one of these
days to the West, and when I am pleasantly fixed in some village
you can easily come and spend a summer with me, we thought we
had not a happy home here but I feel sad at leaving it to make out
the catalogue and uncuttings almost made me sick. Remembrance to
Mr. W. ever your attached Julia H.



Miss Nicholas
Care of Rev. Dr. Whitwell
Chicago
Illinois

11th

for
book
11th

I suppose Miss Miller has told your mother all of Elizabeth's affairs she was
quite delighted with her letter and told me to remembrance her kindly to
Mrs. Nicholas and Miss Emma and Mr. Whitman. I sent your letter to
Miss Miller and Mr. Masters they were so anxious to hear of you, Mrs.
M. read it over and over again and cried all the time she sent a great
deal of love to you all, and some kind messages to me to know if she
could be of any use. Julia Thielie is engaged to old Samuel G. Alden
I really think she must be as crazy as her mother he is without character or
fortune and has a quantity of children.