

for I can then sympathize more fully with your desire to hear from home, for New York will then be home to both of us — but even if I ~~was~~ am negligent I hope that you will not follow my bad example — For you indeed there will be no excuse, but for me there may be some apology for not writing very often — You know that I am not a very good correspondent, and as I have ~~not~~ promised Mary to write to her at least once a week, I fear that you must be content to receive a letter once a month; in fact if you will promise to write me a short letter once every two weeks, I will in return write you a very long one monthly — and besides I will make Mary agree to take my place in my absence and correspond regularly with you — 'Tis true that she is not ~~a~~ much more regular than I am, but then she is a woman and her letters will be more interesting — So heartily ashamed am I of my long neglect that I have determined, now, when I do write to make you all the amends in my power by sending you a double letter, so long that it will supply the place of three ordinary ones —

As for news — I have nothing to tell, that you do not know already; Charles is living with the Wipers Seton, and has been appointed part-editor of the Mirror; Julia is in Phil. — Adelpia and George is still at Lancaster; in fact the only matters at all interesting of a public nature are Canadian news, and those you probably hear before we do; and all ~~private~~ information about individuals I expect you have long ago heard from some more attentive Correspondent —

In your last letter you say that you are enjoying the pleasures of social intercourse with civilized beings at Chicago; whether you had gone to spend a few weeks while some additions were being made to your Mansion House on Squaw Prairie — Those days of ~~the~~ happiness must now have past and I imagine you now sitting in comfort, at least, in your new abode —

To John Robert still with you & I see Mary often and she always complains that she hears from him so seldom - I hope that he will proper "out West", as all his predecessors have done; for I feel an interest, in all persons whom I have known from childhood; & so he not think of soon returning home, he has been gone now nearly a year -

Nov. 15 - I was obliged to leave my letter unfinished last night, as I had promised Mary to go with her to a party, and it was time to dress, but I shall now complete it. This was the last I had but one that, in all probability, I shall attend in New York for a long time, for we go to Washington on Monday, and when we return the season of Lent will have commenced, during which I must not go to Episcopalian, either given or go to Ball -

I am glad that you have at length thought fit to tell me something about Mr. Watty; how very unfortunate it was that you were absent from home, when he visited Square Prairie, but although you may have regretted it, I am confident that he was no less satisfied; for I thought that perhaps I might meet with him this winter but I have not been so fortunate, I do not ever know whether he has been in New York, so that I can give you no intelligence of his recent or not -

You recollect that when you went out West it was your determination to examine the members of Congress, as I suppose you have not changed your intentions I shall certainly seek for and if possible find him in Washington, so that I can give you an unprejudiced opinion with regard to his merits; I hope that he is a good man. Remember me to his wife, have nothing to say to him, or rather try to convince him of his error & politics -

You wish for information about the death of Miss Lewis, but I have none to give; she followed her father to the grave in a few weeks; at the time of his death, her health had become in a measure restored and hopes were entertained of her recovery, but that event coming so unexpectedly, produced such an effect on her already weakened frame, that she survived her parents but a short time - She died as she had lived a Christian, in the firm hope of a blessed immortality, though the report of a Reverend - It is well said that she was a good woman, for she was a Christian - a life of trouble here, and of happiness hereafter -

Don Maria is another who left the city, and is now living I believe in Utica; her heavenly father tempers the wind to the shorn lamb and she has been enabled to bear her bereavement with calmness - Her will - Mary there is still pastor of the Church at Cold Spring, where he is a parson and much beloved by his congregation -

In my ^{dear} Emma I must bring my letter to a close, for I am sure that by the time that you have read this far (if indeed you do) you will be indeed tired of me - "and you would send me one of my 'Gory-Letter' as Aunt Sam calls them, I have a great curiosity to see one, that I may know if my style has at all altered - and if it has, whether it be for the better or the worse - I never expect to write well, but where there is so much room for it, I will to improve if possible;

Mary sends her love to you, and Aunt Sam, and to all your household; Aunt Mary requested me when I wrote to remember her to - God; and all the children, send their love - Mary Hallatt joins with them in wishing you health and happiness;

Give my love to Aunt Sam, Matilda and all my little cousins and tell them (not Aunt Sam and Matilda) to be good children and not to be frightened at the Robbers, - We need not remind me that possibly you have not heard of the death of Brother the denim Lee Chief - he died a prisoner on Sullivan Island, a few weeks after his capture - The doctors say his death was caused by quinsy sore throat; and the poets say he died of a broken heart, and his great grief for his tribes misfortunes - And now my dear Emma, farewell for the present; that possibly may ever attend you will always be the wish of your attached Cousin Phil -

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Miss Emma Nicholas
care of Rev. S. S. Whitman
"Belvidere, Ill."
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