

Full Date September
3^d
1838.

My dearest Emma.

I have this moment received your letter, from Aunt Eliza, and too glad was I, once more to receive a letter directed to me in your hand, writing. Although I could have wished it to have been the bearer of better news, still as a letter from you, it was received with joy. I heartily sympathize with you in all your trouble, and wish to aid you, you may perhaps recollect that I always had a penchant for children, so that I have no doubt but that I would make Mr. Charles Hoffman Whitman, an extremely good nurse. I am very, very sorry for "Gratias" but I hope, by the time you receive this, that she will be much better. What a summer you must have had, but I hope that your troubles are over now and I trust that this letter will find you all in health and joy, in better spirits. Oh! if I could but be with you, I am sure I could do some thing towards improving the latter. If there is any thing in the world I wish for, it is to see you again; be lieve my dear Emma, for though I feel that other love me yet still I know that there is in your heart for me, a love, which "time cannot change, nor circumstance wear."

you can imagine how provoked I was to find on my return from Mr. May's that day in town, that I had for gotten to leave the ring for her. She was. Mary was at home, so that I had to leave the ship that I had with me with, some one, I don't know who it was, although I am sure it is a face I ought to recollect. I had the ring in my bag, and it entirely escaped my mind. I intended returning again that morning to see Mary, but I don't know how the carriage coming for me from of- ten I left the house, so that I was obliged to go out without seeing her again. I was very sorry that it so hap- pened, but I could not help it. Give her and Mary my best love, and tell them that I am very glad they arrived out in safety, but in your next ship Emma, please tell me something more about them, than you did in your last. The ring which will arrive in this, will make its own apologies. I have not yet decided upon any time for being married. It will be entirely decided by Phil's return. But must meet my dear Corn- that I will let you know in time, to come on for it. For come on you must. I will arrange all for you. For you do not know what Phil may, after being seen all Europe, take it into his head to see the Fair West and what bet- ter location could you give, than your own dear Phil? But more of that anon! Phil writes me that he will be home the 21st day of September 1839. It is a long time off, but some comfort is that the

time is growing shorter every day. You say I must tell you about your Cousin John. What can I tell you? That he is every thing that is good and kind. That you know already to find out all his good qualities you must know him. I am sure you will like him, but I wish to see enough of him to love him. He says he is sure he shall love you from all he has heard from others and from all I have told him, and with you before the same feeling towards him. I mean of liking him before knowing him. It would of course be unbecoming in me to make you a description of his aims or qualities, for of course you would only be like only half, but I will make him out as much as I can to this and give you the rest of my information. Although your Mother does not send me any message or any thing, give my best love to her and tell her, although she may have forgotten me, that I still think of her. Would you not like to have a little home news? I have not yet seen Charles, but I have seen a great deal of both Stephens lately and he told me the other evening, that Charles was in town at the Tetons. They have taken Dr. Chegaray's old school house, in Houston St. for their boarding house. It is an immense house, and I should think a very expensive one, so they must be doing well in the world. Julia is still up at Fiskhill, I believe for I have seen nothing of her. My Hoffman relations, have all given me up. Why, I can not tell, for I am sure I never intended to give them up, but last winter all them my oft repeated visits to them remained unreturned. And even Charles, who so often visited me has now forsaken me. He may wait a long time, before he will find a match that is so much attached to him as mine, and he may one day feel the loss of the love that he now despises. Uncle Ogden, has until last week continued to deny his engagement, but he acknowledged it then to Cousin David. And a friend of Miss Southard's told me that they were to be married next week! - I of course do not expect to be invited, for as yet he has never told me of his engagement. I saw Cousin David on Sunday, he said Cousin Mary was well, but had suffered very much from her close attendance on Herbert Wilkes - I can give you no more news about the Hoffman family, because I know no more. But I suppose you are interested in the Philanders, in some degree, so I will let you know what they are all about -

To begin with the eldest, Amelia. William and his family
are all well & have been, spending the summer at Schooley
Mountains. Mary is going to "come out" this winter and
Walter Will is building a magnificent new house for
the occasion. As these are the two things that you
of the greatest importance to them just now, I have
heard of nothing else for some time past. So much
for them. Aunt Eliza is over in town. She has not
been well for some time but is better now. Mary
Gallatin is going to follow Matilda's example in
February - I can imagine what a time that will be
in Berome. I think! Perhaps you will be here in town
for the Christening. Johnny has gone to Boarding School
Bellevue or out as you best know. Aunt Mary Hewitt
are all well, they have been at West Point. But Jerry
is coming to spend a week with me very soon. Mother &
Mr. Willy are engaged, but I'm not 'tired' man, being this
summer and I suppose before long will be in the "happy
by state". Have you seen any thing of Josh Jones? He
has not been to see me. Mrs. Humes, and I do
not what has become of him. I am afraid he is off
dead with me, about a foolish affair, one evening between
I am, Trueman, himself, and me. He was entirely mis-
taken that evening and I have judged his character
wrong, if he still has enalies, for a little misunder-
standing. As for Daisy, he has been uncommonly atten-
tive to me, and I like him as well as ever. Do you
recollect what a favorite you used to be? I am
as much in love with him as ever and know very
few gay men I think more highly of. I suppose you
have not heard of the death of John D. Stevens? He
died about a month since and has left one or
two more months old. He has been attending her
better Mr. Kemble, who was sick of a bilious fever,
and no doubt caught the fever. Mr. Kemble was
sick but three weeks, died, and left her little
baby only seven months old. Mr. S. was sick two
weeks and died of the same disease, and the re-
sulting sister Mrs. Richard Morris is so ill that they hard-
ly think she will live until winter. Have you heard of
the death of two of Washington Irving's brothers? Judge Siding
and Mr. Peter Irving. They say that the death of the latter
has affected Washington Irving, very much indeed. I have
not seen him since, but I have heard from him
frequently. They all that is the inhabitants of the cot-
tage all went to Geneva last week, to be present
at Theodore's wedding - He has an arrisid Miss Sam-
Southland, daughter of Judge Southland of Geneva.
It is a most excellent match for him, and I can

only say, that I think she is much too good for
him, it is a shame, that, after all his flatterings
he should get such a fine girl. He was married
by Pierre, who you know is settled here as clergyman.
Theodore is the Professor of the College, and I have
said, Mr. Professor Irving is very — happy —
I must tell you of another marriage and, although
it may blast all your hopes, yet still I think it
is my duty to tell you, so that you may not see
Cousin any more, a love which had evidently
"taken" you, when you were here. Be prepared. Ben
Frederick Prime! is married! Do you recollect
the day the carriage broke down on the Avenue?
He was married with before last to Miss Lydia
Hall of Philadelphia, daughter of Professor Hall.
They arrived yesterday at the old people's here at Hill
Glen and I spent last evening with her, I was
delighted with her, she is very pretty and whole is
now very agreeable. I have been very intimate
with Frederick ever since he has been home from
Europe, and was just in hopes that I was ma-
king some impression on him, when, lo and behold
he offered himself to Lydia Hall, and — was
accepted. — I do not think he treated either
of us / you & I, I mean / with common civility.
So engaged, without having first offered him-
self to us — I may remark he is staying with
us and sends his best love to you. I went
the other day to see Cornelia Dr. Brekan. She
is very ill, expecting to be confined every day.
Her last confinement almost killed her
and as she is so sick now, I am afraid her
future ones will be attended with serious
consequences — The dinner bell has just rung,
so farewell until after that important affair.

[illegible][illegible]

7th

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Miss Anna Nicholas
Care of the Theo: S. Whitman
Belvidere
Illinois



Ms. A. 9. 2. 30. 1