

Friday Dec. 18th 1829

Nearly three weeks ago my dear Emma I wrote half of a letter to you and then I thought it necessary to begin with an apology but ^{now} my case is too desperate for an apology to avail me any thing so my letter must ~~ever~~ go without it, Charles received a letter from Matilda yesterday, which has made my conscience trouble me still more than it did before, and you both looked so cross upon me in me in my dreams last night, that if it were only to sleep in peace I should have to write, I am sure Matilda should have been hurt at my not writing I thought she knew me too well to impute it to any thing but laziness, as to not thinking of her, how could she suppose it? I often wish for her to talk to me, and to make me talk, I find myself relapsing into my former stupidity, and by next spring I shall have lost all the agreeableness I caught from her last winter.

He has been quite sick for several days, to night he is a great deal better but is not ~~yet~~ ^{quite} ~~yet~~ yet, I presume he will attend to Miss Carter's concern as soon as he is able to go out, but money is as scarce as ever. I received your mother's letter enclosing the money for Deborah, who is in Philadelphia, Lavinia goes on in a week or two and as she knows Deborah I will send it by her and tell her to let me know how much is still due.

Matilda's account of the Whiteblossom's house was very amusing I am

afraid she will not be able to endure our New York land after them
I will promise her two new ones in the Spring unless they should
be frightened away by my stupidity before that time. They are brothers
the younger one handsome, intelligent enough and quite agreeable
as one could think the other one handsome, though his face does
not want intelligence, he has travelled a great deal and moreover
has written a book of his travels, which is exceedingly admired, it is
written in a very unaffected style and the author passes through
so many dangers and tells them so well, that Matilda's fancy would
soon make him a hero, and with all this his manners are modest almost
embarrassed, if she has a desire to know him tell her to read the
"Years in Spain" by a young American."

The fashionable world goes on more furiously you hear nothing
but - weddings, engagements and balls, frequently two parties of a night
it is strange to me that they do not all die off, but I suppose they
are used to it - 'as old as to skinning'. Elizabeth Hutchinson was married
last night with four hundred dollars upon her in lace, Mary Sands
was married to Mr. Griffin about a fortnight ago. The Ward is engaged
to Ferdinand Sands, and Catherine Van Rensselaer to Gov. Wilkins, I believe
that these are the most important events that have happened lately.

I am delighted that your school succeeds so well, I hope your scholars
will improve very fast, as to your duties my dear Emma, whenever you
feel it coming on just sit down and tell me about it - I shall always
be delighted to receive your letters and will answer, the truth is I am
so stupid now a days that I can hardly think any letters worth reading
when they are written.

Has your mother heard that David Golden has had a paralytic? he has
perfectly recovered now, his wife was very much distressed about it indeed
and the family do not like to have it known, it arose from exposure
to cold and I believe the physicians did not consider it any thing very
alarming.

Mary and Phil dined here about a fortnight ago, they asked after
you as soon as they came, their father has been quite sick again but
is much better now.

Tell Matilda that Mary Hall is still at Ling Sing and if she directs
her letters to the care of Miss Deborah I think she will receive them.

Give my love to your mother and Matilda to the latter I will write, I trust
very soon, thank your mother for her affectionate letter to me, Charles and
George would miss her if they were here. Thos. hopes Louisa will not
think he neglected her he sends his respects. Good night dear Emma

your attached aunt
Julia Hoffman

2nd

RJ

Miss Emma Nicholas

Care of Mrs. Nicholas

Whitesborough
N York

