

Oysterponds July 26<sup>th</sup> 1836

I have not forgotten my promise my dear Emma to write to you as soon as this delightful place was reached, and my Ladyship sufficiently at home in my resting place to compose my mind after another day in Steam boats. As we expected when I saw you last we left New York on Saturday morning in the New Haven boat and there we found a boat coming directly to this point, we arrived about six finding every thing as it was two years ago, with the exception of a large addition to the house which proves an addition to the comfort of it also. I have the same room I occupied before, and found the poetry still on the wall which was written then. But Mary is not here and I miss her very much. Oh that you were here, I have wished for you a thousand times. You would be so happy here. Every thing about the house is beautiful. It is very retired but not lonely. The company at present consists of the family of Judge Smith of New Haven who died in Washington last winter, a family from Say Harbour and one or two others. There is nothing in the

shape of young gentlemen here but one about 15 which is rather too young. There are four very old gentlemen here Mr. Underdonk the Bishop's Uncle, Mr. Sharpe and Alderman Furman Great's grandfather, also his brother about the same age. They form quite a venerable assemblage. As you know my penchant for married gentlemen you will not be astonished when I tell you that I have found another who is in some respects my bean ideal. It is Mr Charles Clinton of New York. He has gone with his family to East Hampton. I watched him all the time on the boat. He is very fine looking, looks like a man, rather large, not one of the Billifutian kind and very agreeable. His wife is a lovely woman. I was delighted with them & they have one of the sweetest little girls I ever saw.

The amusements here are of the most quiet kind imaginable. It is not stupid, nor our manner of living as tame as that Cornelia gives of her paternal home. We walk and talk and sew and read, and play the games, and bathe which is delightful here, the water is as clear as crystal, there are stones and crabs which sometimes cause us to feel, or rather our feet to feel, but that is nothing, shoes are a protection. The house is surrounded with birds (which are now singing sweetly), cows, sheep, horses, in short it is a complete country place exactly what I like and I think you would be pleased too. So day it rains and we shall probably neither walk nor ride. There is a waggon here that can accommodate twelve. We shall probably remain here two weeks perhaps, and then go

to East Hampton for a short time and to other places and probably return again to this place. Papa is delighted with the fishing and shooting, he looks much better now than when we left home, and that consideration alone is enough to make any place pleasant to me. When you write, do write a long letter and direct it to Oysterpods Post Office, Suffolk County, Long Island, you can also put it at Latham's on it and there can be no mistake, and do write as soon as you receive this, that I may hear from you soon. I shall send this by a private opportunity, for I think you will receive it sooner than through the Post Office. Tell me what you are doing and every thing. A letter will be so delightful, it will be like sunshine, you don't know how pleased I shall be. You will know the feeling though when you are in Belvidere. This place seems as far from the world as that, there is so little communication with any place, and no houses within three miles of any consequence. The Steam Boat is coming this afternoon and perhaps we shall have some one added to our little circle. It would be too pleasant if you were here, and sometimes I think it is as well that you are not, it would be only the more painful when you go to the west, and I should miss you so much then. However I would not give up the pleasure of having you now, if it was a possible thing, for the sake of being spared a future pain. It is worse to think about it any more and I will bid all these

disagreeable train by way. There is indeed the number  
 of Miss. I shall write to Mary and I hope to hear  
 from her occasionally. Tell me if you have seen her  
 since I left home. I don't think they will find  
 Deborah's character more delightful than before.  
 Again I will not delay writing one day if you  
 can possibly write for I am anxious to hear from you  
 and shall have it with much impatience for a letter.

Very affectionately, Eliza Allen.

W30436

44th

Miss Emma Nichols  
 Care of Judge Hoffman  
 New York.

Paid  
 Dec 16.96

thoughts depart. I hope in the pleasant home we are to  
 spend together is not far. The future seems smiling  
 and the prospect bright notwithstanding the clouds  
 we will hope, hope, and let them and all her