

Hicksville July 13th 1837

It is really shameful my dear Emma that I should have let so long a time pass without writing to you. I don't know what to say in excuse for myself but you can well imagine how I have intended to write and put it off from day to day until months have slipped away. I have been here since the fourteenth of April and shall I presume stay two months longer, though what will be our plans then or where I shall pass next winter is still uncertain, we thought a short time ago we should be quite rich, for George has accepted a situation on the *Monongahela* at 1800 a year, and Charles from the *Mirror* and *Magazine* together was to receive 2200, but these hard times have affected us as well as all others, the *Monongahela* Company have discontinued operations for the present, and though Dearborn hopes to weather the storm he is of course unable to pay out any money at present so that 1000 is taken from Charles' income, should it be only a temporary thing it will not be of any consequence for it will be better for Charles to receive his money in the large sum than in many small ones. George can have employment at Elizabethtown until August and he hopes to save enough to live on until he can get some other situation. He paid me a flying visit two months ago for he was to be on the *Monongahela* by the 1st of June but when he reached Elizabethtown he found letters

telling him the work was stopped, he looks very well and writes to me in good spirits. Charles comes up often on Saturday night and goes down early Monday morning for he has so much to do that Sunday is the only day he can spare he says he works like a steam engine, but looks very well notwithstanding. I should like exceedingly to see Susan Prairie it must look lovely now, I hope one of these days to travel out to the West and enjoy its beauties with you though probably its flowers will bloom and fade many times before that comes to pass, I am glad that you and your mother are going to keep house by yourselves I think in your servantless land it will give you less to do and I do not at all like the idea of your working so hard, I suppose you will not be very far from Matilda so that you can see each other every day, how are the children I hope Ogden retains some recollection of us though he was so young it is hardly probable, I cannot bear the idea of Matilda's children growing up without knowing me we have all three been so much like sisters that it seems hard for us to be separated. I enjoy myself here as I always do the country has been most beautiful this summer and the flowers I think must almost equal your prairie ones, I have been riding a good deal on horseback lately and I am sure it would amuse you to see me, I have made myself a black stuff dress with light sleeves and as I am as thin as I can be I must say I look very ridiculous and afford great amusement to all the little boys on the road, the 4th I passed all the morning on horseback and thought of the same day last year when you and I sat in our room in 17th street watching our neighbours and wondering what change another year would bring, I thought then I was likely to be in the same place, but how little we can guess what is to happen to us.

I have taken my dear Louisa's place as teacher in the infant Sunday school and find it a very interesting employment though fatiguing we are so far from the church that we remain from eight o'clock in the morning until after afternoon church we take some bread and beer with us and eat in the vestry room, Julia Laverly and I have fifty scholars many little barefooted mountaineers from whom I fear we dare not hope for much good, for their parents are generally most unprincipled creatures and live in most wretched dirt hovels, it is disagreeable to go to see them they tell deplorable stories of sickness and poverty which are brought on entirely by their own misconduct, and charity we know is wasted upon them, so improving the next generation by making the children come to Sunday school is all we attempt.

Do you were astonished at Mary Stevens' engagement? I heard she displayed her presents of jewelry in great delight to Coraelia and then asked if Mrs. Mrs. Graham had given her any to her dress, I cannot believe your friend Mary has a great deal of heart, I imagine she was a little ruffled by the piece, and so let her mother make up the match, the Stevens' and Gallatins are I have all enchanted. Did I tell you I had a talk with Mr. Rhineland on the day and was delighted with her she seems to be a charming woman, and spoke of you very affectionately, she said she could bear to think of Mary Rhineland's being married and leaving for she was to her as an elder daughter and quite essential to her comfort she told me her character had so much improved that now she was every thing she could wish her to be. Thank your dear mother for her letter I will certainly answer it soon, I had a few lines from Elizabeth the other day sending me up her

I hope your money matters are more prosperous they told me your
western lands are safe property. Did you hear that Mr. De Rhala was
among the families they are all at their place in the Highlands now
but I don't know where they are to live, it is impossible to sell either
town or country horse with his carriage and horses which cost about
2000 sold for 300. I am at the end of my paper and I must sleep for
a while too so good bye my dearest Charles, love to your mother and
Matilda and remembrance to the Post master I wish I could see you all
see your Julia H.



Rev. J. J. Whitwell

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letter to her to read, she tells me that she and Spencer like their
place very much and I hope they will remain, Mr. Hoffman I should
think would suit Elizabeth very well she is a religious woman
and will always give her servants more privilege in going to church
than they could have in most other places. What is the fate
of the boxes have any of them arrived yet? and which was best?