

Philadelphia Dec. 30th 1840

And I tell you my dear Emma that I was grieved that your journey eastward had to be given up, the cause is too painful to me to write about, though to me it was not a surprise I had suspected for more than a year from the altered tone of your letters but never would allow myself to dwell upon it until the conviction was forced upon me. You and Matilda have ever been as sisters to me and such I trust you will ever continue, in this most unhappy affair I will take no part, but will write to both whenever I can by the same mail as I do now, and we will not talk upon the subject in its progress but when the suit is terminated you shall tell me of the result in my letter to Matilda I have not alluded to it in any way and never shall unless she speaks of it to me, but to you who must have known through Mary that I had heard of it, I could not avoid it, now dearest let it rest, God grant that peace may one day be restored among you. How much I should like to see your darling baby what a consolation he must be to you among your many sorrows, I wish our dear Mary had the same companion it would be an occupation and amusement to her, her deep affliction has very much saddened her, she does not speak of Phil, but delights to dwell upon her childhood days at our house and talks constantly of you. I could see by the expression of her countenance when she alluded to those days that

that Phil was in her thoughts. She is comfortably fixed at his and her husband is all attention but she suffers from the want of occupation she has no sewing of course that she is obliged to do, and does not visit on account of her deep mourning, and you know never had much taste for reading, so that she says when she gets up in the morning one of her first thoughts is, how shall I contrive some occupation to pass away the day, she was bitterly disappointed that you did not come and looks forward with much pleasure to her journey to Belvedere which she says she shall take as soon as the Spring opens, how I would like to take the journey with her but I shall have a world of things to do at that season for I expect to be head gardener myself and have a man to dig occasionally only, so that our table need not depend upon Fulton market for vegetables as it did last summer. I expected to have been settled at Piermont before this time but circumstances have prevented it, when I leave here though I shall remain but a week or ten days in New York to purchase some few more necessaries in the way of furniture and then take my place in our home. I paid a visit there of a few days in the autumn and took possession of Charles' room for the time, I was quite delighted with the country and situation and think we have every reason to rejoice at George's being so placed and as far as place of residence can give happiness we have every prospect of enjoying it. Our house is a rambling sort of affair very irregular with a number of rooms of all sizes and shapes it is situated on a road to be sure but a very retired one, at the foot of wooded hills which afford romantic walks with beautiful views of the river scenery as well as of the lovely valley in the interior, I often thought of you as I wandered about those hills with the two dogs, Trugs, & Guy, for my companions, George was off at work all day and Charles was not able to walk with me, I hope I may yet have you there with me and show you all the beauties of our neighbourhood. Katy has taken possession of her room and is quite happy taking

care of the boys clothes again, getting the dogs reading the newspapers and feeling herself quite at home. Charles is busy writing another novel "Red Rover of Ramapo" which I hope he will be able to send you in the Spring together with Grey's which has passed to a second edition he wished to have sent it when the first edition came out but was unable to do so. He will be with us for this winter at any rate and I hope longer we are so near the city he can go down and come back the same day. George is well and very busy with his rail road. Ogden brought me ~~to~~ here on his way to Washington, Virginia remains in New York this winter her two babies are something of an obstacle to her moving about much this is Ogden's last session and in the Spring they will take a house and settle themselves quietly in New York, the children are very - lively - Louisa is a bright forward little fellow with fair hair blue laughing eyes and a high colour and is a most striking likeness of Pa indeed I never saw a young child so like an old person, Mary Golden, is not quite a year younger than Louisa having been born in August she is a very pretty healthy baby and wiser than young ladies of her age generally, Dr. Young Ogden has entered the Law School at Cambridge and Charles is still at York the boys are exceedingly fond of Virginia and correspond with her indeed we all love her very much and I have become quite intimate with her. Aunt Hoffman is spending the winter at Savannah with Cecilia for the health of the latter who has quite recovered since she has been in a mild climate, Eliza, Mary Murray, Susan Gilman, and by this time Susan, have each added to the family. Miss Gratz and Sara are well and send love, Percy is married to John Nathan and now in New York. So write to me soon dearest Em, direct to George's care, Piermont Rockland County N.Y. Remember me to your husband and kiss your sweet boy for me and believe you are much loved by your ever attached John H.

4th

Q

W^m Malony
Care of Dr. R. G. Malony
Belvedere —
via Chicago Illinois —

W^m Malony & have improved affectionately after you also have
the Bible. W^m Malony is in very bad health it is feared
she has dropped she is in Washington.