

New York, January: 17th 1837.

My dear Emma.

As the distance which separates us must prevent any regular interchange of letters, I intend writing to you whenever I feel in the humour without waiting for an answer to my last; ~~and~~ unless perhaps you should delay for so long a time as to force me to believe that I have been forgotten amid the variety and excitement of your new mode of life - Since you have left for the Far West and settled on Rock River, I of course ~~feel~~ ^{feel} an interest in that country, I have been pleased to find in answer to my inquiries that the country is so much more delightful than I had supposed and the society is really refined and city-like, a gentleman whom I ~~so~~ conversed with the other day was talking of the pleasant evening, he spent on Rock River listening to sweet music from a piano - In fact such flattering pictures have been presented of the comforts & pleasures of your distant home, that I have been almost induced to forego my intended visit to your western wilds as I fear they are wilds no longer, and that except the pleasure of seeing you I would have no inducement for a visit to Wisconsin rather than to any other of the civilized states -

I have been expecting anxiously a letter from you written at Kishwaukee, I at yet have received only disappointment, I hope you will not cease writing because you do not receive an answer, you should remember the mails are irregular in carrying, and males in writing letters - and besides,

if we confine our letters to a ~~my~~ regular correspondence of
letter and answer we shall ~~be~~ limited to two letters a
year, as on an average I suppose you receive my letters
when about three months old - I ~~would~~ wish they were like
wine and improved by age -
Since last I wrote; Christmas has past; and to me it
has been a dull Christmas; (as far as any thing can be dull
to me, blessed as I am in every thing, ^{heart} I can wish) I could
not help recalling our gambols of last year, our merry ma-
-kings at Hell Gate, our cousins parties and all our other
frolics, this year I seem to have grown older, & I have gone
more into the world and attended balls instead of romps -
I shall always look back to ~~the~~ the Holidays of 1836 as
one of the brightest spots in an existence which has
as yet been only sunshine and flowers - Calling the other
day on Eliza Stors, we passed a pleasant hour recalling
those scenes, telling again old jokes ~~and~~ laughing at our
scenes of fun acted so often by us & lamenting your
absence; as since you are gone, our old jokes are forgotten,
or, unenjoyed, and in the midst of our gayest spirits we
are often rendered sad, by a feeling of the absence of an ac-
-tomed face and a familiar voice - but enough of regret,
we could not hope for such moments to last forever,
and should be contented that though brief we were per-
-mitted to enjoy even a transient happiness - and lest
of all does the slightest appearance of complaint become
me, who am considered happy by the world, and who
if required to express a wish of any good, would in all probability
make a foolish wish as the husbandman in the old fairy story,

Of the Three Wishes - not however from the same cause - not
from the number of my Wishes, but from their fewness -
I am still studying with Uncle Ogden who I suppose you
know has been elected to Congress - I did not call at Grandpa's
at New Year's day as the cold on that day was intense, all
the family are however well; ¶

There was a strange report circulating yesterday that one
of the Cousinhood was to change her condition, they say that
Cousin Cornelia is engaged to J L Hopkins McCracken -
remember this is only report, whether true or no, I cannot
say -

I have already written to you as has also Mary, so that
you must not suppose that our promises to write have
been forgotten - Mary showed me her letter, and by the
sight almost discouraged me from ever again writing
a letter; four pages crossed, words dashed, and immen-
-sely 'I said P's - it is truly a woman's accomplishment, at least
so my vanity suggests, as I would transfer my own deficiency
to the shoulders of the whole sex -

As I am invited this evening to Mr. Isaac Lawrence's, where
I shall probably meet Eliza Stors I had intended to have
left my letter unsealed until tomorrow in order to send
you any message which she might wish to convey, but
on second thoughts I determined, in order that you might
receive this one day sooner, (as you know, news spoil by age)
to take upon myself all responsibility, and sending her love
to you, without asking her permission -

As you may not have received my last letter, I will
renew my request that you will, picture for me his husband
that I may ~~an~~ imagine your situation, as regards locality.

and society, and be able to enter more fully into your feelings,
as I suppose they have undergone, some change since leaving
New York.

All persons in whom you take any interest are well and
happy, all your relations by blood, and all those so by
courtesy - cousins &c -

Miss Emma Nicholas
Care of Mrs. J. J. Whitman
Chicago
Illinois

S. H.

J. J.

The city has been for the last fortnight most unpropitious in
any thing that would interest you, and as my imagin-
-ation is rather weak I must conclude this letter
as usual with a little quirk. Hoping you will
believe me now as ever your affectionate cousin
B R.