

I believe it is of a perverse and obstinate spirit, <sup>that</sup> the prophet complains when he declares, they will not listen to the voice of the charmer, charm they never so wisely - Now my dear friend, my danger is of giving too willing an ear to the charmer, without examining whether the charm be really wise, or only sweet and alluring - therefore as you value my humility, pray me no more compliments, but let me hear from you frequently, and believe me, the affection which has for so many years brightened my pleasures & solaced my cares, will ever be cherished as a blessing - You have in this had the pleasure of seeing our friend Rodman, he is much thinner than we have been accustomed to see him, but otherwise, not altered. I felt very happy, yet very sad at seeing him, to meet an old friend who has been long absent, sets ones memory in motion, and so many sorrowful recollections have been made on mine that I found myself continually, ~~instead~~ instead of enjoying the new pleasure of meeting one I have ever regarded with affection.

Rodman will tell you how well Ann looks, we spent an hour with her yesterday. I do not believe she will be shut up so soon as she says she will. She is very active and never looked better. Little Matilda is almost a prodigy, she is a great beauty too. Mary Seton appears to be a charming girl, but we cannot get her to our house and have seen her very seldom. She says she does not know the way alone & Ann never comes here. Bella Lyden has promised to bring her to pass the day with us tomorrow.

Poor Mrs. Hopkinson has lost her son, he suffered extremely, and she with unceasing care watched his pillow for three weeks. She is now ill herself of fatigue and grief. Sarah Living is also "gone to her rest" - I saw her not long before her death, her eyes were ~~so~~ brightening to everlasting life, and seemed to obtain new lustre as they closed on this world. Poor girl! since the loss of her sister Peggy she always appeared to me to languish, and yet she could not bear to think that she too should fall a victim to consumption. She did not realize to the last that, that was her disease.



you have now in your city one of the most amiable, interesting & unfortunate young men, I ever knew. I suspect of Norfolk he stays at Mr. Prosser's - and I wish if in your power, you would continue to make Washington Irving acquainted with him. I am sure he would be pleased with him, he possesses a fine mind, highly cultivated, and an assemblage of those rare qualifications which enable the human character. he is besides, unhappy, the melancholy circumstance which excited so much sympathy last summer, has completely marred this peace. he will not go into any society in New York, but if he had such a companion as Washington or James P. to brighten some of his solitary hours, I think it would render his exile more agreeable. In May he will return home, and I hope after that period will be able to seek in some foreign country, the change, which is at present necessary to engage his attention. I would have given him a letter to you, had I been sure you would like to receive him as an intimate in your family - but his feelings are so alive to neglect, that I was afraid to <sup>run</sup> the risk - or to tax your friendship, in an instance where it might have been a sacrifice to your feelings - tho' under other circumstances. I do not know any body I would more confidently recommend to your regard -

I am very happy to hear such accounts of dear Eliza. she deserves to be happy, and I hope will continue to have her enjoyments increasing as she advances - When may we expect to have the pleasure of seeing her in Phil<sup>a</sup>? Mary told me yesterday her sister was to accompany Eliza and that she looked for her in the course of ten days or a fortnight - but as you mention nothing about it I have been doubtful - I am glad you have heard from George, and hope he will make enough by his voyage, to remunerate him for all the difficulties & dangers he has endured. I rejoice in the excellent promise, God gives of future excellence, the most certain a youth can give of an amiable character, is those domestic virtues which are unequivocal marks of correct feelings. Marys affectionate attentions to you, quite won my heart last winter, and I have loved her ever since -



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New York

