

Provd. Coe - Oct. 28.

Dear Harriot -

I received with much pleasure your kind letter, and it certainly should have been answered before this time had not college engagements engrossed every moment of my time. We have been preparing for exhibition, which is to be tomorrow, and I believe I am ready to speak my part, which is a literary discussion on the effects of Essay Writing on Taste & morals. Next vacation you shall see it.

It rejoiced me to hear that Ruth was recovering, though you say she has been worse since I left home. Poor Ruth looked forward to much happiness on the day of her marriage - but how sadly have her expectations been blighted - instead of that pleasure and enjoyment which so confidently expected to find in a home (as she called it, of her own) she has I doubt not, passed more truly miserable hours in the one year she has spent at Bridgeton, than in all her former life, when she lived with us all at our father's house. I need scarcely tell you that my last visit to the unfortunate girl, furnished me with a source of the most melancholy reflection - that a day passes over, but I think of her old consolate situation; and often the thoughts of her unhappiness break in upon the mirth of my gayest hours, and make me half miserable amidst a circle of merry companions.

The manner in which you speak Emma somewhat surprises me. It is doubtless much to be lamented but we are the last persons who should reproach her - she has been to long a friend in our family - than to be viewed with any other feelings than those of pity. We should recollect, that however great may be the injury which

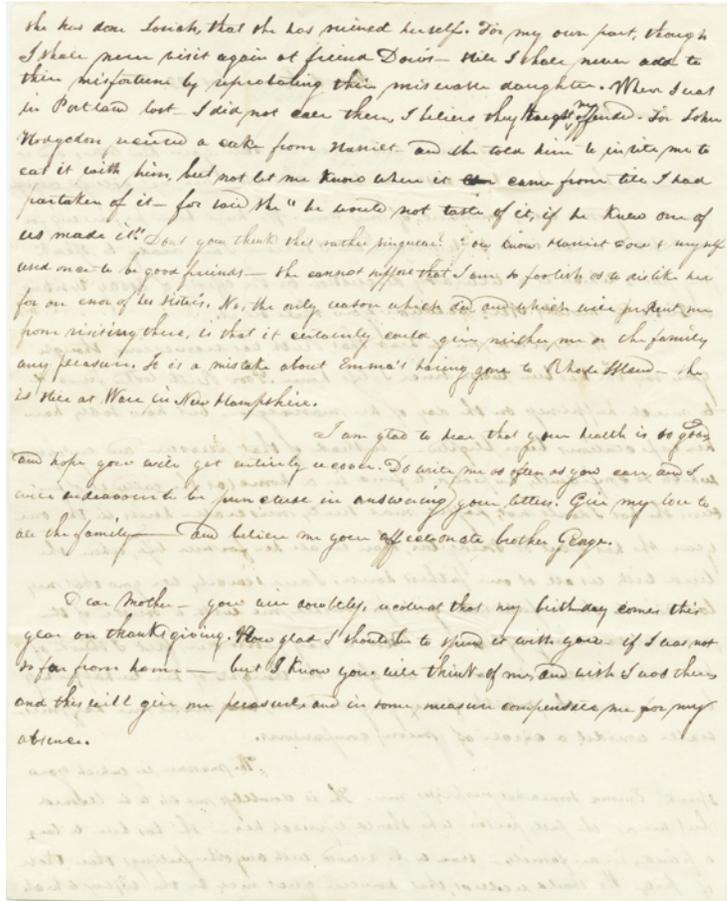
Bowd. Coll - Oct 28.

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The manner in which you speak Emma somewhat surprises me. She is doubtless much to be blamed but we are the last persons who should reproach her - she has been to long a friend in our family - than to be viewed with any other feelings than those of pity. We should recollect, that however great may be the injury which



she has done Josiah, that she has ruined herself. For my own part, though I shall never visit again at friend Dow's - Still I shall never add to their misfortune by reprobating their miserable daughter. When I was  
me  
in Portland last - I did not call them, I believe they thought ^ offended. For John Hodgdon recieved a cake from Harriet and she told him to invite me to eat it with him, but not let me know where it ~~com~~ came from till I had partaken of it - for said she "he would not taste of it, if he knew one of us made it." Dont you think this rather singular? You know Harriet Dow & myself used once to be good friends - she cannot suppose that I am so foolish as to dislike her for an error of her sister's. No, the only reason which did and which will prevent me from visiting there, is that it certainly could give neither me or the family any pleasure. It is a mistake about Emma's having gone to Rhode Island - she is still at Ware in New Hampshire.

I am glad to hear that your health is so good, and hope you will yet entirely recover. Do write me as often as you can and I will endeavour to be punctual in answering your letters. Give my love to all the family - and believe me your affectionate brother George.

Dear Mother - you will doubtly, recollect that my birthday comes this year on thanksgiving. How glad I should be to spend it with you - if I was not so far from home - but I know you will think of me, and wish I was there, and this will give me pleasure, and in some measure compensate me for my absence.