

my chamber door, and saying that if she were a man
I would perform the operation for her. After I came
to think of it soberly, however I was really overcome with
laughter, it seemed so execrably funny, withal.

However I was not a little discomposed, entirely for
the sake of Emma's Betrothed however for I would have
his name entirely spotless, and far above the breath of
suspicion - so down I went and told my Aunt that
she must tell me the whole extent of the rumor to
which she referred, and I would see what I could
do for the benefit of those who started the rumor. I

was not a little startled at my former burst of passion,
and my present calm and determined demeanor,
I guess she had forgotten that I was not still a boy, and that
she could talk to me, with the same effect as formerly.

Being convinced however that in some way or other she
or some one was connected with the origination of the matter.
She tried to evade my inquiries, and to shield herself rather
than to blame on others, said with a such an eye had
said so much so. My mother said "I will go and see them
at once." She thought I'd better not. "The first one to shake to
about it was Lizzie's father in drinking a glass of
a girl's name, and the second one of Mary McLean
and it was well that so for she knew all about it from
first to last. I was soon convinced that Lizzie was the
Pharisaic woman which had produced all this ferment
in the social world of L. I rebuked and lectured her
fiercely for allowing herself to believe any thing that the
vixen said, and told her that I never saw a woman so very
ready to suspect another's virtue but I ultimately found
that Lizzie was the sole generation of her own castity.

The affair reminded me somewhat of Queta.
I can't say that I much blame the people of L. for being
suspicious of the other people's virtue, for they are a cor-
rupt set themselves. As an illustration of this fact you will
hardly me, my love, if I narrate to you a circumstance which lately
occurred, within forty rods of where I am now writing. You
know I have said that I would willingly tell you anything that
I would feel free to tell my wife were we married, and I
am sure I should not conceal such a severe critique and
critical remarks and purity. A young lady of L. one of May &
Rogers' boarding houses, not long since rather unfortunately had
as Shakespeare says "a baby for her bosom"

"Ere she had a husband for her pillow," and I can vouch
that some seventeen men, in the vicinity, some married
and some single made preparations for a speedy departure
with their little stranger should claim a complimentary kinship
with their precious helms. This however, is no excuse, for their being
in the way, the most ungenerous and scandalous gossip-mongers
and scandal-makers, ever received told about that the conclusion
of my lecture, that I heard not for some years as that might be
circulated, so regard to me, so far as concerned my own dear
self, but that the name of Emma's betrothed must be kept pure &
spotless, and otherwise assumed it, must do so at his own peril.
I would, most certainly be anything but a friend to him, or her after
ward. "Well," said she somewhat sulkily, "it is not probable that any
one will ever take the pains to tell her." Just as if I could not tell her
the very first time I wrote. I feared that it would injure the character
of Lizzie, and her conduct towards me and her conversation
was so pure & lady-like even as I would wish any woman to be -
was a trusted friend, so that I might be very sorry to see her
good name so very ungenerally so very much gratified
therefore to see that my present manner towards her, which
is kind and considerate, but not very familiar is likely, in
connection with my conversation in regard to her, to re-
ceive all unpleasant impressions from the minds
of all sensible persons, who may have entertained any

I think my determination not to let it injure the character of Lizzie is quite characteristic of myself - sister has
Whenever anything is said about her, and when she is
quite frequently asked, must you do so, I usually reply
I make it a point to say that I have seen nothing in
her conduct that should not be worthy to sit up in
my sister, and that I have heard no sound opinion
of her that is not in the highest degree laudable.
But, brother, whose name would not be respected, and whose
opinion is very often valued, was not so far as
I was, in thought and act, or look, or air, or
movement, or dress, or indeed, at this calm condition
of perfect health, and all seem quite equal to
me. I am not, however, one of those who
are not willing to ask "for you, then engaged," but
found answer is "yes." Her eyes indeed look on me
as on the heroes of the mighty Romance with a sort of de-
lightful wonder, and many another such like looks were
in front, and knowledge that she is a "sinner" doubt
and distrust, being the cause of the malice at this re-
ply, and I know there is not any young man who
would not consider her daughter's honor safe with
me under all circumstances. Thus I have another proof

that forgiveness is the best thing to oppose to false-
hood. I have made quite a long story of it Emma
but are you glad or sorry that I have told you this
which I might so easily have kept from you? I see by
your own story that I have not even denied directly
the truth of the rumor. Ah, well, your love may do
for me, what mine tells me, it were quite super-
fluous for me to do so. I plead my innocence & truth.
Sunday Aug 23.
I staid at home, to write to you Sunday, but
I had a curious old book or two, and in-
stead of writing to you, I have been reading them.
I think it is now nearly time for Aunt P. to be
to return. I thought it would finish the subject,
but I am minded to write to you a good, without
interfering the different dates, at which I wrote
to you, what is it, what precedes this, at three dif-
ferent times? I was calculating the last few lines,
and was, when your letter of the 24th just was brought
I found really I could not repress a smile, when I
thought how very apropos even your remark, that you
were willing to follow me through evil as well as good re-
part? When I spoke of this in my former letter, I had
no more idea that you would so soon be called on to

is not the truth, of any by others, than had you when
you begged your assent to it & was reading Chester-
field to-day, and he says, always answer the letters of
your friend, if you have received any, before you write
any of your own thoughts or reflections. I will, for once
do and heed his instructions, for I can but think this
the beginning of my letter. I have now two of your
letters to refer to, one received yesterday, the other Mon-
day last. I have not received any before Monday,
until yesterday. I guess I will, give the first, in free-
dom and reply to it at first. O. think, my love, you
are a little the best about those bits of Emma's letters.
I have read them for your comfort, but for goodness, you talk of
retaliation! What! say we were a little outrageous just
at that time, were you not? But never a word, matches, all
our separation from your own life, sometime. I don't
see for myself, how your kissing somebody else, will
make us even, when you were before my letter, to be
account of at least, one hundred millions, of left papers,
aside from the immense overplus that I have given you
at intervals. You remember, don't you, that kiss of Hattie
Crittenden's which you, unlearned, and agreed to pay
me a hundred, interest at the rate of 100 percent per hour,
for the privilege of kissing it a while, and have not
paid me anything, as yet, except a few thousand, on
the interest, not enough to pay up the first week! And
now you talk about retaliation, and making us even, by
repaying the account when forsooth, we give my pretty little cousin
one kiss, just one little kiss, that should have been yours, and even
apologized for that! Emma need not to have asked me that
question my reference to my letters, for if I am not very much
mistaken I told her once that she might read just so much
of my letters as she judged it right, and proper for others to hear.

and you were pleased. I shall be very
glad to have Emma read to ~~say~~ ^{she} our sisters anything
in my letters which she thinks would be interesting
to them or which she wishes them to hear. Indeed I
thought them for the request and am truly glad
if I can in any manner add to their pleasure.
I must say that I consider it no small compli-
ment to me, that my letters to my Betrothed, are
not entirely devoid of interest to others, for few lovers
letters are worthy to be read by any except the Dul-
cinea to whom they are addressed, and I can but
think that the love which our dear sisters bear me
influences them in the rendering of their verdict in
regard to my epistles. My love and duty to them
calls just at this point, but I forget it, and by the bye
you may just give each one a kiss, and charge the sum
to my account, or if they will just receipt the same to
me. I'll just put up with them in that Hattie Crittenden
kiss. I mean my dear sisters brings to mind, of course,
our darling, sunny eyed, pet sister, Phillis, and that
takes me back to your letter of the 17th inst, in
which you intercede for her, so eloquently. I cannot tell

Exactly what the crime is to which you refer, unless it
be that of applying to you a title which you claim only in
prospective. If that is it just tell her that this prying
into the secrets of the future is a very serious crime. The
future is very wisely veiled from our too eager gaze.
I do not know however as she can be blamed very
much to be blamed for two reasons. First - It is
nothing more common for the little Mrs - to be applic-
ed to a lady who was admitted to the State. Patri-
mony, thus wedding cards are now often issued
three or four weeks previous to the performance of the
wedding ceremony, bearing the names of Mr & Mrs.
I should think she had good reason to sup-
pose that it would be anything but displeasing to
your ears, for if I mistake not, there is a certain
Miss Emma, who was widow not many years
gone, to write again & again, in moments of
thoughtful abstraction, for no conceivable reason, some-
times because it pleased her, Mrs. M. H. H. Ha!
Ha! Are persecutors Machiavelli? If it be anything
else, that ceases her to act the part of the "Fair Penitent,"
the fact that she has quite forgotten the offence, will be
proof positive that she has not treasured it up against
her, so you may rest your forgiveness on her lips for
me, and charge that too on my account. (I might say
tell her I hope to be as good a brother as she thinks I will.)

I am glad your Father has such high and
earnest hopes for me and it is my hope and prayer
that he nor you may ever suffer disappointment
in regard to them. You know my love that it
is my hope and expectation, God willing, and aid-
ing my efforts by his power, and purifying my
heart by his grace, to hold a high place, among the
truly noble ones of Earth. I would have true greatness,
and for that shall ever strive, and I have no fears
Love, but that you will be a fitting, worthy, yet
secure them worthy mate, for me in any, and in
every station I may occupy, be it high or low,
Noble or ignoble. (I mean not by ignoble dishonourable
but merely, not famous.) and therefore am I proud
of you, and justly proud. Your likeness which custom-
arily lies on my study table is known to my special
friends hereabouts as that of Albin's Betrothed. They
have not known until to day your name, or only
one has known it, but I received a letter from Angie,
and I mean, in which she spoke of you and that
I have read it, so now they know my secret and
will hereafter, I suppose, substitute Emma for Betrothed.

Your remarks in reference to smoking, came a bit too late, and I am glad they did, for though I love to comply with your requests, especially if they require self-sacrifice, yet I had just as lief (rest-ce pas?) Yes I had a little rather break off from a bad habit - simply because I am convinced that it is wrong, or at least prejudicial, than for any other reason. The night before receiving your letter I had been up town spending the evening with a lady friend and old acquaintance a Miss Graves - whose friendship I prize the more highly because her father was a dear friend of my Mother's - though she herself is a good deserving girl & always calls me Albion - and was returning by a road along the banks of the beautiful Housatonic, smoking and came when I concluded to do so no more, threw my cigar into the river and came upon throwing my case and its contents after it. You know how I used to love smoking. Well I have really enjoyed it the few times I have smoked it lately, but have not longed for it as I used to. My Aunt Ann keeps cigars in her shop, and has one box of prime Havanas, which I strongly suspect she intends to make me a tender of when I go to College for she does like to see me smoke, as much as you would dislike it. I feared that I might become as much of a slave to the habit as I once did, and I would not again be such for worlds. I believe it is by having avoided the shackles of habit that I have been preserved from so many degrading vices, for if one ministers to appetite in one thing he is apt to become its slave in all. This is not always the case but generally. I have been enabled once by Divine Grace to conquer the habit of smoking, and will not again contract it. I have not as yet formed an appetite for it, I promise you, terrina, as I have before promised you.

Miss Emma

Conneaut.

Stettin Co

Ohio

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Aug. 25 - 1859.

Lee Mass.

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