

to
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Rochester, New York
Nov 7th 1860

I have been reading almost all day and am
now just about as tired as I have been any evening during the
past week. I went to Dr Sherris Church rather late this morning.
The house was quite full and after traversing a good part of the house
without being offered a seat I left, - after having stood up during a long
prayer - and as it was too late to go any where else I came home.
There is no afternoon meeting that I know of here worth attending
so I have employed the day in patiently perusing some works in
relation to the Old English Drama, on which I am to write an essay
to be read before the class sometime near the close of the present term.
This is a subject well suited to my taste and I know it would amuse
you to see the spirit-persistence with which I investigate the
subject. I make it a sort of special study and sit down to a
big quarto of 1200 or 2000 pages with as much emphasis
as you to the perusal of the last new novel. I believe I have
been seized with a perfect mania for reading works relating to
Shakespeare and his times. The work to which I just referred has
nice wide margins and I have scored them all up with notes.
Whenever I find anything from which I feel inclined to dissent
or which meets my special approbation I write a marginal note
on it. This book has lain in the Library several years and no one
has read it before, for I find the leaves all scored, through all
the second volume, and a great part of the first. You need never ex-
pect that any library books will present a neat and pleasing appear-
ance at least not those which I am accustomed to read.

carefully for I have such an insatiable habit of making marginal notes on whatever strikes me as good or bad that I shall certainly disfigure them wonderfully. So besetting is this sin that even private libraries are scarcely safely safe from my depredating pencil. I caught myself the other day making notes in a young lady's book of poems, and have no doubt that if I should ever read in a library I should be making constant references to the authors of the plagiarized articles which ~~it contained~~. I believe I shall really feel bad when I come to him with an return for good this old book of Brooks. I have left so many of my own thoughts on the margins that it seems like something of my own, something to which I have an undoubted right. We have at length finished our Book Schemes after very much labor. I was chairman of the Committee and as soon as it was found that I could tug a rhyme, it seemed to have been a tacit understanding among them all that I must do it all. Of course, I did it like a fool as I was, and though no one seems inclined to better it every one seems to think it his peculiar privilege to growl at it; merely to think because I did it almost entirely without assistance from any one else, - something it seems almost unheard of in the history of book schemes. Those who have seen it write in pronouncing it a capital thing of the kind. It will be printed in a few days at the Exhibition will be on Friday night. It is said there will be an effort made to present them being distributed in the hall, but I guess it will be a rather difficult matter, for every Soph. in the class will carry in a lot under his coat if in no other way, & distribute them at a venture, police or no police. I am very sure I shall never undertake another thankless task of the kind and wish I had not this time. I worked all day yesterday

and nearly all last night on the infernal thing and now have the consoling reflection that not a lesson is prepared for tomorrow and one of the best Mathematicians in the class has assured me that we have as yet had nothing to compare with tomorrow's lesson. Your letter has not yet reached me I presume some of the considerate Mail officials or their parasites have waylaid them and are now considering whether they contain inflammatory matter or not. I believe you have written some time lately that you were reading Helper & had become quite a rabid little Pelliculated Black Republican of late. Well and what do you intend to do in view of the immense responsibilities which are resting on the women of America in the 19th century, as regards the crying sin of Negrophobia? Will you discard Crinoline curtail the length and amplitude of your skirts, don a pair of stonewashed cowhides & endeavor to kick your northern brethren into compliance with your peculiar tenets, & beliefs, as some of your reasonable sisters have done? Will you resign your Fiancee to even health to your political views, and pledge herself in Black & white to vote for all Republican candidates and none others (as some others of your sex have done ^{or promise to do}) before you permit him to call you wife? I suppose you will now pray more earnestly than ever before, that you may be the mother of a dozen boys in order that your old age may be consoled with the reflection that you have added twelve votes to the strength of the Republican party. I think myself that this last is the most sensible method that can be adopted by you and your sisters, being similar sentiments. You know any idea in relation to the promulgation of true principles is similar to King's plan for propagating

Christianity, which was "by legally propagating intelligent
great Christians." Well, my Dear, I will scribble down no such
be sensible for a little while, if possible. First then I will say that you
may dabble in politics as much as you please for I know you will
never carry it so far as to make yourself unwomanly & unmod-
est. Besides that, it is the business of every true American girl to
interest herself in such affairs, and inform herself in regard to
them for as one of our lecturers this winter said, "The future of our
country is more dependent on the mother who rocks the cradle
than on the Statesman who makes our laws." For now, however I
must confess that I know absolutely nothing about Politics. I don't
look into a newspaper once a month hardly, and when I do don't
read the Political news. I verily believe the Union might be dissolved
and the whole Creation go to smash without my knowing any-
thing about it unless some fierce southern fire-eaters should see fit to
hoor me with a rope. The fact is I haven't time to read Politics, and
I don't care a copper which whips. I suppose it will amount to the same
thing in the end, and the Nation will be as well off one hundred years
from now in one case, as the other. I suppose you will find me as uninformed
and stupid in regard to things happening in this present world, next summer
as can be imagined. I guess I shall have to read the papers for a few
weeks previous to Commencement in order that I may be able to carry on
an intelligent conversation in regard to every day occurrences, for it
would be a burning shame if I should go home from college and not
know whether the President was alive or dead, or how many extra
heirs the royal families of Europe had been blessed with during the year.
Rosetta would surely say "Why Albion you had better not go to college any
more!" I guess I must have written this letter pretty fast for
Seneca began one to Lucia about the time I commenced this and he has
only written about two and a half pages. I rec'd a letter from Angie a few days
since. I guess she was a bit touched by my telling her, in my last, that she did
not have time this term to write very often, and she might write if she did not
get an answer as she expected, &c; for after having written about a sheet &
a half she said she would beg my pardon for having trespassed
so long on my "precious time." I put the letter up, and am going to let her
wait a great long while to punish her for her pettish & envious spirit
and impertinent reply. Let's parlayous? I have scarcely heard from anybody
else, this year. These sleek slip away wonderful fast now that I am at work
and I don't miss anybody's letters but yours only when I think very carefully
about the matter and then I am sometimes at a loss to know who wrote
last. Adieu to the Government Abroad.

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N.Y.

Miss Emma Kilburn
Cincinnati
Ohio

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